



Frederick Law Olmsted 156 Library

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Recommended Recreational Reading: Summer 2021

Upper Elementary/Middle School

Suggested grade level- 5-7

Amari and the Night Brothers (Supernatural Investigations, 1) by B.B. Alston

“This series debut is sure to be a hit with late elementary students and middle graders who are fans of “Harry Potter,” “Percy Jackson,” and the Men in Black movies. An excellent middle grade fantasy that will attract an immediate fan base and leave kids eager for more.” -- School Library Journal (starred review)

“The author weaves magical whimsy with honest, realistically portrayed circumstances, allowing Amari’s literal #BlackGirlMagic to shine even when she doesn’t believe in herself. This timely, energetic, first-person narrative moves quickly with clear descriptions, a thrilling buildup, and strong messages about profiling. An impressive debut series opener.” -- Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing by Sheila Turnage

**Starred Review* More tightly focused than Turnage’s Newbery Honor book, *Three Times Lucky* (2012), this absorbing sequel quickly reacquaints readers with the Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, setting and its quirky inhabitants, while introducing a few new characters and another mystery for Mo and her friend Dale (aka the Desperado Detective Agency) to solve. Each question they answer leads to another: Who was the girl whose ghost haunts the dilapidated Old Tupelo Inn, which operated from 1880 to 1938? How did she die? Who killed her? Why does she still haunt the inn? When a sixth-grade history project sends Mo, Dale, and their classmates out to interview elderly residents, the pieces of the puzzle gradually move into place—with an occasional nudge from the ghost herself. The intrepid Mo LoBeau, who narrates the story, gives full credit to her best buddy, the occasionally trepid Dale, and slowly warms up to Harm, an initially cocky newcomer whose*

family history is intertwined with the mystery. The portrayal of Dale's attitude toward his father, now in prison, is handled with sensitivity and perceptiveness. Turnage's ability to create convincing characters and her colorful use of language combine to make this a fresh, droll, rewarding return trip to Tupelo Landing. Grades 4-6. --Carolyn Phelan/Booklist

Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez – Pura Belpre Award

"Delightfully weird, this is unlike any other book in the middle grade canon. Hernandez has managed to include conflict and excitement into his first novel for young people . . . Fans who enjoyed Madeleine L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time and Rick Riordan's works will love Sal and Gabi, as will readers looking for upbeat fiction with Spanish-speaking characters. Hernandez offers a rip-roaring and emotionally resonant sci-fi adventure. A must-have for middle school or upper elementary libraries . . ." –School Library Journal (starred review)

Any Day With You by Mae Respicio

Kaia and her family live near the beach in California, where the fun of moviemaking is all around them. Kaia loves playing with makeup and creating special effects, turning her friends into merfolk and other magical creatures.

This summer, Kaia and her friends are part of a creative arts camp, where they're working on a short movie to enter in a contest. The movie is inspired by the Filipino folktales that her beloved Tatang, her great-grandfather, tells. Tatang lives with her family and is like the sparkle of her special-effects makeup. When Tatang decides that it is time to return to his homeland in the Philippines, Kaia will do anything to convince him not to go. – Amazon

Finally, Something Mysterious by Doug Cornett

Paul Marconi has always thought that Bellwood was a strange town, but also a boring one. Not much for an eleven-year-old to do. Fires are burning nearby, Paul's parents are obsessed with winning a bratwurst contest, and his best friend, one of the founding members of their only-child detective club, the One and Onlys, is about to acquire a younger sister, sort of undoing their whole reason for existing. But then! Hundreds of rubber duckies have appeared on the lawn of poor Mr. Babbage without any explanation. Finally! There is something that Paul and his friends can actually investigate. – Amazon

Serafina and the Black Cloak (Book 1) by Robert Beatty

Pat Conory Southern Book Prize-- A brave and unusual girl named Serafina lives secretly in the basement of the grand Biltmore Estate amidst the splendor of the Gilded Age. Serafina's pa, the estate's maintenance man, has warned her to keep herself hidden from the fancy folk who live on the floors above, but when children at the estate start disappearing, Serafina and her friend Braeden Vanderbilt must work together to solve a dark and dangerous mystery.- Amazon

What Happens Next by Claire Swinarski

Astronomy-obsessed Abby McCourt should be thrilled about the solar eclipse her small town of Moose Junction is about to witness, but she's not. After her older sister Blair was sent away for an eating disorder, Abby has been in a funk. Desperate to dull the pain her sister's absence has left, she teams up with a visiting astronomer to help track down his long-lost telescope. Though this is supposed to take Abby's mind off the distance between her and Blair, what she finds may bring her closer to her sister than she ever thought possible. - Amazon

Take Back the Block by Chrystal D. Giles

"The story echoes contemporary realities that, as its culmination indicates, take an entire community to confront, and it will undoubtedly push readers into action. An ambitious invitation for young readers that delivers promise for all." —Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

"This impressive debut is notable for its depiction of how gentrification pushes the working-class poor out of neighborhoods, as well as substantive ways that communities can protest, all for a middle grade audience. Wes is a humorous, likable, relatable narrator. . . . Giles has crafted an outstanding depiction of the nuances of gentrification as well as the struggle and joys of working-class Black families and communities." —School Library Journal, Starred Review

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson – Coretta Scott King Award

Jacqueline Woodson recounts her experiences growing up as a black girl in 1960s and 1970s South Carolina and New York in this award-winning memoir in verse. – Skokie Library

Sheets by Brenna Thummler (graphic novel)

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY -- Marjorie Glatt, 13, pulls triple duty in her life. She navigates the cliques and challenges of school, takes care of her brother and deeply depressed father, and runs Glatt's Laundry, her deceased mother's business. But her balancing act wavers thanks to two arrivals: Mr. Saubertuck, who is scheming to acquire the laundry's building for his new spa, and Wendell, a ghost clad in traditional white sheets. Wendell seeks friendship, but he fouls up Marjorie's work each night, making difficult customers even more unbearable and perhaps necessitating the sale to Saubertuck. To make things right with Marjorie, Wendell may need to reveal himself and the ways of ghosts, which could land him in deeper trouble. With washed-out coloring, many wordless panel sequences of Marjorie alone, and simply drawn facial expressions, the artwork effectively illustrates Marjorie's sense of isolation. Thummler's debut graphic novel tempers references to Marjorie's adult-size responsibilities with a lighter splash of the supernatural to create a smart story about friendship and grit.

I Can Make This Promise by Christine Day

In this debut novel, a young girl discovers her grandmother's Hollywood aspirations and her mother's Suquamish and Duwamish ancestry. Edie knows that her white Dad is American and that her Native American mom was adopted into a white family, but that's almost all she knows of her heritage. Day (tribally enrolled, Upper Skagit) captures the angst, embarrassment, and uncertainty of many Indigenous people whose parents or grandparents were separated from their communities by adoption or residential school placement. Day details Indigenous culture with skill and nuance and crafts complex relationships between multidimensional characters. The depiction of the painful history of Native peoples who were separated from their families and taken from their ancestral homeland is straightforward and honest. – School Library Journal

We Belong by Cookie Hiponia Everman

An extraordinarily beautiful novel-in-verse, this important debut weaves a dramatic immigrant story together with Pilipino mythology to create something wholly new.

Stella and Luna know that their mama, Elsie, came from the Philippines when she was a child, but they don't know much else. So one night they ask her to tell them her story. As they get ready for bed, their mama spins two tales: that of her youth as a strong-willed middle child and immigrant; and that of the young life of Mayari, the mythical daughter of a god. Both are tales of sisterhood and

motherhood, and of the difficult experience of trying to fit into a new culture and having to fight for a home and acceptance. Glorious and layered, this is a portrait of family and strength for the ages.

Garden of My Imaan by Farhana Zia

Aliya is an Indian-American Muslim preteen trying to make her way through school and life, riding the various divides between the conservative and liberal interpretations of her religion, standing up to the school bully, working up the nerve to talk to her crush and to run for student council, all while dealing with her annoying younger brother and fasting for Ramadan during Thanksgiving. – Publisher's Weekly

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

Winner of the 2017 Newbery Medal, The New York Times Bestseller, A New York Public Library Best Book of 2016, Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2016, Publishers Weekly Best Book of 2016, School Library Journal Best Book of 2016, Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2016, and 2017 Booklist Youth Editors' Choice.

“A modern fable about a witch named Xan, who accidentally gives a baby moonlight instead of starlight, and the child, Luna, who grows up to be magical and dangerous. Factor in a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, a swamp monster, a not-so dormant volcano, and a mysterious woman with a tiger's heart and, well, you've got something truly magical.”—NW Book Lovers

Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga – Newbery Honor Book

Sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Cincinnati when her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude worries about the family members who were left behind as she adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.

That Thing about Bollywood by Supriya Kelkar

Bollywood takes over in this contemporary, magical middle grade novel about an Indian American girl whose world turns upside down when she involuntarily starts bursting into glamorous song-and-dance routines during everyday life.

You know how in Bollywood when people are in love, they sing and dance from the mountaintops? Eleven-year-old Sonali wonders if they do the same when they're breaking up. The truth is, Sonali's parents don't get along, and it looks like they might be separating.

Sonali's little brother, Ronak, is not taking the news well, constantly crying. Sonali would never do that. It's embarrassing to let out so many feelings, to show the world how not okay you are. But then something strange happens, something magical, maybe. When Sonali gets upset during a field trip, she can't bury her feelings like usual—instead, she suddenly bursts into a Bollywood song-and-dance routine about why she's upset! - Amazon

New Kid by Jerry Craft- Winner of the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Author Award, and Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature

“An engrossing, humorous, and vitally important graphic novel that should be required reading in every middle school in America.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

“This is more than a story about being the new kid—it's a complex examination of the micro- and macroaggressions that Jordan endures from classmates and teachers. Highly recommended for all middle grade shelves.” (School Library Journal (starred review))

"This engaging story offers an authentic secondary cast and captures the high jinks of middle-schoolers and the tensions that come with being a person of color in a traditionally white space."
(Publishers Weekly (starred review))

Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransom – Coretta Scott King Book Award; Parent's Choice Gold Award

"An engaging, quick, and relatable read that skillfully incorporates themes of race, class, post-war American life in the North and South, and a bit of Langston Hughes' poetry. This is a story that will stay with readers long after they've finished it."—School Library Journal, Starred Review

"Written in short chapters, this crisply paced book is full of historical details of the Great Migration and the role a historic branch library played in preserving African American literary culture."—The Horn Book, Starred Review

Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks by Jason Reynolds- Finalist, National Book Awards 2019 for Young People's Literature

"Reynolds' gift for capturing the voices and humanity of urban teens is on full display.... Brims with humor, pathos, and the heroic struggle to grow up." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review

"This is storytelling at its finest, a true masterpiece." -- Booklist, starred review

"The perfect book to hand to reluctant middle grade readers, who will relate to the hectic and uncertain lives of these characters." -- School Library Journal, starred review

Honeybees and Frenemies by Kristi Wientge

The summer after sixth grade has barely started, but it's already a disaster for Flor. Her best friend will be away, and Flor must dress in a mattress costume to help her father's faltering store. As if that weren't bad enough, their town of Honeydale, Ohio is celebrating its 50th Honey Festival with a competition of past winners of the Queen Bee pageant. Flor's struggles with the complexities of friendship and family are realistic and relatable in this engaging coming-of-age journey. – Publisher's Weekly

From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks

*#1 Kids Indie Next List * Parents Magazine Best Book of the Year * Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Book of the Year * SLJ Best Book of the Year * Kirkus Best Book of the Year * Junior Library Guild Selection * Edgar Award Nominee * Four Starred Reviews*

Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Even if it means hiding his letters and her investigation from the rest of her family. Everyone else thinks Zoe's worrying about doing a good job at her bakery internship and proving to her parents that she's worthy of auditioning for Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge.

But with bakery confections on one part of her mind, and Marcus's conviction weighing heavily on the other, this is one recipe Zoe doesn't know how to balance. The only thing she knows to be true: Everyone lies. – Amazon

The Only Black Girls in Town by Brandy Colbert

"The Only Black Girls in Town is a tender, humorous, and suspenseful story about navigating the turbulent waters of middle school friendship. Alberta and Edie prove that Blackness is not a monolith and remind us that if you keep looking, there's always more to see and learn about the people and places we love. Colbert's middle grade debut is an unputdownable tale. Readers will want to hang out with Alberta and Edie long after the story ends." -- Amazon

The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barkley Moore- Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent

"Moore tells Lolly's story of survival with the right mix of humor and hope to balance violence, fear, denial and deprivation. That's a tall order. To succeed is a celebration. The power of adults as influencers and confidants, nurturing by words, deeds, and acts of kindness large and small, fuels every page of this novel. It's a book in which art is celebrated, being different is an act of resistance, and acceptance, not resignation, is the answer." —The New York Times

A Haunting Collection by Mary Downing Hahn: Deep and Dark and Dangerous, All the Lovely Bad Ones, and Wait till Helen Comes

Mysterious disappearances! Ghost appearances! From the supernatural to the downright scary, these three spooky stories from award-winning author Mary Downing Hahn are sure to send shivers down readers' spines. Mysterious photographs, ghostly old houses, and all things supernatural await readers in these three frightful tales. – Amazon

Me and Sam-Sam Handle the Apocalypse by Susan Vaught

Middle-schooler Jesse is neurodivergent and bullied at school; when she befriends new kid Springer, who also identifies as having autism spectrum disorder, she at least no longer has to deal with the bullying alone. When Jesse's dad, a teacher at the town high school, is arrested for allegedly stealing from the library fund, she and Springer form the "Observant But Weird In a Good Way Detective Agency" to investigate. This is a deeply smart and considerate little mystery, and while Jesse calls it on the solution, she still has to deal with some more personal things after this case is settled. An author's note about neurodivergence adds context. (BCCB April 2019)- Amazon

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky (A Tristan Strong Novel, Book 1) (Tristan Strong, 1) by Kwame Mbalia

This epic tale is worthy of the endorsement of Rick Riordan, who wrote the preface in this novel. A guaranteed edge-of-your-seat read aloud for upper elementary and middle school fans of tall tales, mythology, and folkloric literary adventures. —School Library Journal

Mbalia's African American and West African gods (with villains tied to U.S. chattel slavery and the Middle Passage specifically) touch on the tensions between the cultures, a cultural nuance oft overlooked. Readers who want more than just a taste of Alke will be eager for future books. —Kirkus

Mbalia expertly weaves a meaningful portrayal of family and community with folklore, myth, and history—including the legacy of the slave trade—creating a fast-paced, heroic series starter.

—Publishers Weekly

Grade 8 and Up

Hot Dog Girl by Jennifer Dugan

Elouise (Lou) Parker is determined to have the absolute best, most impossibly epic summer of her life. There are just a few things standing in her way:

- *She's landed a job at Magic Castle Playland . . . as a giant dancing hot dog.*
- *Her crush, the dreamy diving pirate Nick, already has a girlfriend, who is literally the princess of the park. But Lou's never liked anyone, guy or otherwise, this much before, and now she wants a chance at her own happily ever after.*
- *Her best friend, Seeley, the carousel operator, has always been up for anything, but she's decidedly not on board when it comes to Lou's quest to set her up with the perfect girl or Lou's scheme to get close to Nick. - Amazon*

Sanctuary by Paola Mendoza & Abby Sher

Gr 7 Up—Undocumented siblings Valentina and Ernesto confront life-threatening dangers as they try to get from the East Coast to California, a sanctuary state. Set in the near future, many elements of the story—border walls, raids, abusive human smugglers—already exist today. Rooted in Mendoza’s work with undocumented people, this chilling narrative is a realistic exploration of the diversity and trauma of undocumented immigrant experiences.

Piecing Me Together by Renae Watson -- Newbery Award 2017

Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.

All-American Muslim Girl by Nadine Jolie Courtney

“#Own voices author Courtney incorporates a diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints among Allie’s Muslim friends and family, creating a vibrant cast of characters who compellingly portray the individual nuances of religious experience. The result is a layered and thoughtful exploration of spiritual awakening that never condescends to teen readers, exploring feminism, prayer, and religious ritual, family bonds across cultures and generations, white privilege, LGBTQ inclusion, and grief in authentic and heartfelt ways. . .Religion is rarely handled with such wisdom and depth in YA, or discussed so lovingly.” –School Library Journal, starred review

Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir, by Margarita Engle –Pura Belpre Book Award

"Reflecting on her childhood in Los Angeles and her Cuban heritage, Engle’s memoir in verse is, indeed, nothing short of enchanting. Descriptions of Cuba as a tropical paradise and the home of her beloved abuelita come alive in the spare free-verse poems. She evocatively addresses weighty issues, such as her mother’s homesickness, being bicultural, the challenge of moving homes and schools, the Cuban Revolution, and negotiating an identity that is being torn apart by politics and social attitudes at complete odds with her feelings and experiences... “Booklist, May 2015, STARRED REVIEW

American Road Trip by Patrick-Flores Scott

With a strong family, the best friend a guy could ask for, and a budding romance with the girl of his dreams, life shows promise for Teodoro “T” Avila. But he takes some hard hits the summer before senior year when his nearly perfect brother, Manny, returns from a tour in Iraq with a devastating case of PTSD. In a desperate effort to save Manny from himself and pull their family back together, T’s fiery sister, Xochitl, hoodwinks her brothers into a cathartic road trip. Told through T’s honest voice, this is a candid exploration of mental illness, socioeconomic pressures, and the many inescapable highs and lows that come with growing up—including falling in love. –Macmillan

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (The Hunger Games) by Suzanne Collins

From the author of a modest little series called The Hunger Games, this new installment is being plugged as a prequel, but past that it’s shrouded in secrecy. You didn’t hear it from us, but scuttlebutt says the story will begin on the morning of the reaping of the Tenth Hunger Games. -- Goodreads

Delicates by Brenna Thummler (graphic novel)

"A strong second foray into Marjorie and Wendell’s slightly spooky world, this tale will be best appreciated by readers who can maturely manage difficult content about depression and suicidal thoughts." – School Library Journal

"This title encapsulates the rockiness of navigating the friendships and troubled emotional states of middle school, with a dash of friendly paranormal elements to lighten the mood." – Booklist

"Delicates is a sophisticated, beautiful graphic novel that gets to the heart of being a teenager." – Foreword Reviews [Starred Review]

"Delicates is a subtle, beautifully drawn story that will make your heart ache with empathy and hope." -- Kat Leyh, creator of Snapdragon

Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs

Awards: New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age, Junior Library Guild Selection, Americas Awards Commended Title, Heartland Award, Southwest Book Award, Notable Books for Global Society.

"When falling crop prices threaten his family with starvation, fifteen-year-old Victor Flores heads north in an attempt to "cross the wire" from Mexico into the United States so he can find work and send money home. But with no coyote money to pay the smugglers who sneak illegal workers across the border, Victor must struggle to survive as he jumps trains, stows away on trucks, and hikes grueling miles through the Arizona desert." --Amazon

The Sun Is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

"The story of how two teens meet and spend 12 fateful hours together in New York City: Jamaican American Natasha Kingsley has 24 hours until her family of four is deported to their native Jamaica, and Korean American Daniel Bae wants to be a poet but feels forced to make his parents happy and attends a college interview with a Yale alum" – Common Sense Media

The Moon and More and Just Listen by Sarah Dessen

The newest book by Sarah Dessen-- Sometimes you think you have it all. Great friends, a loving boyfriend, and a strong sense of personal identity. But unexpected things can happen. People come and go. The appearance of a new boy in your life can turn your world upside down. It might make you throw all caution to the wind – or bring you back closer to earth. What if he is hiding secrets of his own? Is it better to be safe than sorry? –Penguin Random House

No Slam Dunk by Mike Lupica

A fast-paced, heartfelt story for basketball fans that proves being a good teammate remains the most important quality in basketball—and in life, from New York Times bestselling author Mike Lupica. “Wes' father always told him that there was only one ball in basketball. That you had to know when to take it yourself and when to give it up, that finding the right balance was key. So at every practice and game, Wes tries his best to be a good basketball player and, above all, a good teammate. As the season kicks off, Wes finds that not everyone on his team has the same idea. All-star player and the Hawks' point guard, Danilo "Dinero" Rey seems determined to hold the spotlight and the ball, even if it means costing his team the game. If Wes is to lead the Hawks to the playoffs, he'll need to find new ways to dish out an assist—even if it means his most important one comes off the court”—M. Lupica Official Website

Slay by Brittany Morris

Seventeen-year-old narrator Kiera is (secretly) the creator of the hugely popular multiplayer gaming community SLAY, which is rooted in Black culture. When a troll disrupts SLAY – and an act of real-life violence follows – Kiera must investigate the events without losing herself or compromising her creation. Morris has truly captured the holistic experiences of many Black gamers. - Horn Book

The Haunting of Sunshine Girl, Book 1 by Paige McKenzie

Sunshine and her mom, Kat, have just moved from sunny Austin, Texas, to gloomy Ridgmont, Washington. But Sunshine immediately sense the creepiness of her new home: extreme changes in temperature, the feeling of a distinct presence, and eventually, the voice, laughter, and footsteps of a young child who may have met a tragic fate. Soon, Kat begins acting distant and odd, and Sunshine learns that she's not a normal teenager after all but rather a special breed of person with a special gift, one she must accept before she loses her mother for good. – Common Sense Media

The Crossover (The Crossover Series) by Kwame Alexander

New York Times bestseller · Newbery Medal Winner · Coretta Scott King Honor Award · 2015 YALSA 2015 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults · 2015 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers · Publishers Weekly Best Book · School Library Journal Best Book · Kirkus Best Book

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander.

High School Grades 9-12

The Field Guide to the North American Teenager by Ben Philippe

William C. Morris YA Debut Award Winner! A hilarious YA contemporary realistic novel about a witty Black French-Canadian teen who moves to Austin, Texas, and experiences the joys, clichés, and awkward humiliations of the American high school experience—including falling in love. Perfect for fans of Nicola Yoon, When Dimple Met Rishi, and John Green. – Amazon

Tweet Cute by Emma Lord

"From meme wars to social media marketing, Lord accurately depicts various sides of today's online culture. Amid all the digital hoopla is an engaging story about family loyalty and pursuing one's own passions. ... A just-right combination of sweet and cheesy." - Kirkus

"A precursor to the way teen love stories will be told for years to come." - Booklist

"Filled with humor, heart, and a dose of social media reality...debut author Lord packs a punch in this adorably fun novel." - School Library Journal

"Gossip Girl meets Mean Girls mixed with To All the Boys I've Loved Before with a touch of You've Got Mail. It's basically impossible not to like." - Hypable on Tweet Cute

Charming As a Verb by Ben Philippe

Haitian American Henri will do just about anything to achieve his dream of going to Columbia, even if it means betraying the girl he loves. A diverse cast of characters, racial tensions, and ethical dilemmas make this so much more than just a simple romance.- School Library Journal review

Super Fake Love Song by David Yoon

Live action role-play aficionado Sunny maintains a case of mistaken identity so that the beautiful new girl Cirrus will think that he is a rock star. Sunny studies and imitates his big brother in an attempt to woo Cirrus, but ultimately has to figure out who he really is and what he values. This romantic comedy explores identity, familial relationships, high school politics, and first loves with wit and emotional honesty. – School Library Journal Review

From Little Tokyo, With Love by Sarah Kuhn

On the outside, Rika's life seems like a fairytale. However, Rika would be the first to tell you that her life is anything but—she's an orphan living with two bossy cousins, works hard for her aunt's business, and doesn't fit the princess mold. But then Rika begins to rethink her mindset when she locks eyes with Grace Kimura, America's Rom-Com sweetheart. Rika thinks Grace is her birthmother and embarks on a journey to prove this true. Deep down though, Rika knows real life doesn't have fairy-tale endings and she wonders if her search will provide the happy ending she wants. – from SHEREADS

Sunkissed by Kasie West

Avery always used music and the help of the internet to escape. After falling out with her best friend and being dragged to a remote family camp, Avery soon realizes she'll need a new outlet. When her chances at a fun summer seem impossible, Avery meets Brooks. But Brooks is a staffer which means he's off limits. As Avery's summer progresses, she embarks on a journey of self- discovery with the

opportunity to go as far as possible to figure out who she is and who she wants to be. – from SHEREADS

Take Me Home Tonight by Morgan Matson

Ferris Bueller’s Day Off meets Nick and Nora’s Infinite Playlist in this romp through the city that never sleeps from the New York Times bestselling author of Since You’ve Been Gone. Kat and Stevie—best friends, theater kids, polar opposites—have snuck away from the suburbs to spend a night in New York City. They have it all planned out. They’ll see a play, eat at the city’s hottest restaurant, and have the best. Night. Ever. What could go wrong? Over the course of a wild night in the city that never sleeps, both Kat and Stevie will get a wake-up call about their friendship, their choices...and finally discover what they really want for their future. – SHEREADS

The Gilded Ones by Namina Forma

THE INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER!

“A dark feminist tale spun with blood and gold. Must read!” –Dhonielle Clayton, New York Times bestselling author of The Belles

The most anticipated fantasy of 2021. In this world, girls are outcasts by blood and warriors by choice. Get ready for battle. – Penguin Random House

I Hope You Get This Message by Farah Naz Rishi

News stations across the country are reporting mysterious messages that Earth has been receiving from a planet—Alma—claiming to be its creator. If they’re being interpreted correctly, in seven days Alma will hit the kill switch on their “colony” Earth. True or not, for teenagers Jesse Hewitt, Cate Collins, and Adeem Khan, the prospect of this ticking time bomb will change their lives forever. Jesse, who has been dealt one bad blow after another, wonders if it even matters what happens to the world. Cate, on the other hand, is desperate to use this time to find the father she never met. And Adeem, who hasn’t spoken to his estranged sister in years, must find out if he has it in him to forgive her for leaving. With only a week to face their truths and right their wrongs, Jesse, Cate, and Adeem’s paths collide as their worlds are pulled apart. – Amazon

Fat Chance, Charlie Vega by Crystal Maldonado

Charlie Vega is a lot of things. Smart. Funny. Artistic. Ambitious. Fat. People sometimes have a problem with that last one. Especially her mom. Charlie wants a good relationship with her body, but it's hard, and her mom leaving a billion weight loss shakes on her dresser doesn't help. The world and everyone in it have ideas about what she should look like: thinner, lighter, slimmer-faced, straighter-haired. Be smaller. Be whiter. Be quieter. But there's one person who's always in Charlie's corner: her best friend Amelia. Slim. Popular. Athletic. Totally dope. So when Charlie starts a tentative relationship with cute classmate Brian, the first worthwhile guy to notice her, everything is perfect until she learns one thing--he asked Amelia out first. So is she his second choice or what? Does he even really see her?

The Box in the Woods by Maureen Johnson

Booklist starred review, Kirkus Reviews starred review, Publishers Weekly starred review

Amateur sleuth Stevie Bell needs a good murder. After catching a killer at her high school, she’s back at home for a normal (that means boring) summer. But then she gets a message from the owner of Sunny Pines, formerly known as Camp Wonder Falls—the site of the notorious unsolved case, the

Box in the Woods Murders. Back in 1978, four camp counselors were killed in the woods outside of the town of Barlow Corners, their bodies left in a gruesome display. The new owner offers Stevie an invitation: Come to the camp and help him work on a true crime podcast about the case. Stevie agrees, as long as she can bring along her friends from Ellingham Academy. Nothing sounds better than a summer spent together, investigating old murders. But something evil still lurks in Barlow Corners. When Stevie opens the lid on this long-dormant case, she gets much more than she bargained for. The Box in the Woods will make room for more victims. This time, Stevie may not make it out alive. - Amazon

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

“In Margaret Atwood’s dystopian future, environmental disasters and declining birthrates have led to a Second American Civil War. The result is the rise of the Republic of Gilead, a totalitarian regime that enforces rigid social roles and enslaves the few remaining fertile women. At once a scathing satire, an ominous warning, and a tour de force of narrative suspense, ‘The Handmaid’s Tale is a modern classic.’ Publisher’s Weekly

The Testaments: A Sequel to The Handmaid’s Tale by Margaret Atwood

More than fifteen years after the events of The Handmaid’s Tale, the theocratic regime of the Republic of Gilead maintains its grip on power, but there are signs it is beginning to rot from within. At this crucial moment, the lives of three radically different women converge, with potentially explosive results. “Margaret Atwood’s powers are on full display . . . Everyone should read The Testaments.”—Los Angeles Times; “A fast, immersive narrative that’s as propulsive as it is melodramatic.”—Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times; “The women of Gilead are more fascinating than ever.”—NPR; “Powerful, revealing, and engaging.”—Boston Globe

Dear Martin by Nic Stone- William C. Morris YA Debut Novel Award

Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack. -Amazon

Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros

"Like Eduardo Galeano, John Dos Passos and John Steinbeck, Cisneros writes along the borders where the novel and social history intersect. In this lovingly told and poetic novel, she uses the storytelling art to give the voiceless ones a voice, and to find the border to the past, imbuing the struggles of her family and her countries with the richness of myth."—Los Angeles Times

“A wonderful book . . . evoking life’s absurdity and possibility, tragedy and transcendence. . . . Combines the thematic richness of the most ambitious literature with the delight in character and plot of the most engrossing page-turner.”—Chicago Sun-Times

“Cisneros is a writer for all people. This is a novel of families, home life and finding yourself in the world’s greater landscape.”—USA Today

“A sprawling, exuberant hopscotch through a century of family history. . . Cisneros seduces us with her knitted tales, great and small, and her message is all the more powerful for its shimmering clarity.” –Time Out New York

Foolish Hearts by Emma Mills- Top Ten YA Books 2019 (YALSA)

"Mills (This Adventure Ends) thoughtfully explores the nuances of all kinds of relationships, both friendly and romantic. . . Through these friendship struggles and romances old and new, Mills evokes the high stakes and vast rewards of trust, intimacy, and honesty." –Publishers Weekly, starred review

The Poet X (A novel in verse) by Elizabeth Acevedo- winner of the Pura Belpre Award

Acevedo has crafted a living, breathing world in Xiomara, and you can tell that from the very first page. Her unique voice, coupled with an engaging story about acceptance, rebellion, and identity in this Dominican-American teen, makes The Poet X a powerful read. --Amazon

Children of Blood and Bone (Legacy of Orisha) by Tomi Adeyemi

"Powerful, captivating, and raw—Adeyemi is a talent to watch. Exceptional." –Kirkus, Starred Review

"Adeyemi's devastating debut is a brutal, beautiful tale of revolution, faith, and star-crossed love." –Publishers Weekly, Starred Review

"... Adeyemi keeps it fresh with an all-black cast of characters, a meaningful emphasis on fighting for justice, a complex heroine saving her own people, and a brand of magic made more powerful by the strength of heritage and ancestry. Perfect for fans of the expansive fantasy worlds of Leigh Bardugo, Daniel Jose ´ Older, and Sabaa Tahir." –Booklist, Starred Review

"...A refreshing YA fantasy with an all–West African cast of characters that should be on every shelf." –School Library Journal, Starred Review

An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir

“[An Ember in the Ashes] thrusts its readers into a world marred by violence and oppression yet does so with simple prose that can offer moments of loveliness in its clarity. This complexity makes Ember a worthy novel—and one as brave as its characters.” –The New York Times Book Review

“Tahir’s deft, polished debut alternates between two very different perspectives on the same brutal world, deepening both in the contrast. In a tale brimming with political intrigue and haunted by supernatural forces, the true tension comes from watching Elias and Laia struggle to decide where their loyalties lie.” –Publishers Weekly, starred review

NON-FICTION

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People (ReVisioning History for Young People) by Jean Mendoza (Adapter), Debbie Reese (Adapter), Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Author)

Going beyond the story of America as a country “discovered” by a few brave men in the “New World,” Indigenous human rights advocate Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz reveals the roles that settler colonialism and policies of American Indian genocide played in forming our national identity.

The original academic text is fully adapted by renowned curriculum experts Debbie Reese and Jean Mendoza, for middle-grade and young adult readers to include discussion topics, archival images,

original maps, recommendations for further reading, and other materials to encourage students, teachers, and general readers to think critically about their own place in history.

We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World by Malala Yousafzai

"A stirring and timely book that strips the political baggage from the words 'migrant' and 'refugee,' telling the deeply personal stories of displacement and disruption that were lived by Yousafzai and nine other girls. ... [In] all these accounts, hope emerges as a kind of belligerent reaction to pain and loss."—The New York Times Book Review

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

"Teens are often searching for their place in the world, in Stamped, Reynolds gives context to where we are, how we got here, and reminds young people—and all of us—that we have a choice to make about who we want to be. This unapologetic telling of the history of racism in our nation is refreshingly simple and deeply profound. This is the history book I needed as a teen."

—Renée Watson, New York Times bestselling and Newbery Honor-winning author of Piecing Me Together

Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives- Amazon

FOR THE TEEN WHO LIKES TO WRITE

Find Your Voice: A Guided Journal for Writing Your Truth by Angie Thomas

Write fearlessly. Write what is true and real to you.

In this guided journal, #1 New York Times bestselling author Angie Thomas shares advice and best practices for developing a true-to-you writing project.

Includes step-by-step craft tips, writing prompts, and exercises for:

- *Discovering story ideas*
- *Creating memorable characters*
- *Realizing your setting*
- *Shaping your story*
- *Writing your “zero draft”*
- *And more!*

*With 24 illustrated inspirational quotes from Angie’s acclaimed novels *The Hate U Give* and *On the Come Up*, and plenty of blank pages for your own words, *Find Your Voice* will ignite your creativity and help you bring your own unique stories to life. – Amazon*