

## **Fiction:**

**Alexander, Kwame.** *The Door of No Return.* 418 p.

A novel in verse about a boy escaping slave owners during the nineteenth century.

**Barnes, Jennifer Lynn.** *The Inheritance Games.* 376 p. (the entire series!)

When a Connecticut teenager inherits vast wealth and an eccentric estate from the richest man in Texas, she must also live with his surviving family and solve a series of puzzles to discover how she earned her inheritance.

**Benedict, Marie.** *The Personal Librarian.* 341 p.

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. Pierpont Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture on the New York society scene and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps build a world-class collection. But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white--her complexion is dark because she is African American.

**Blum, Isaac.** *Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen.* 218 p.

Hoodie Rosen's life isn't that bad. Sure, his entire Orthodox Jewish community has just picked up and moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, but Hoodie's world hasn't changed that much. He's got basketball to play, studies to avoid, and a supermarket full of delicious kosher snacks to eat. The people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in at once, but that's not Hoodie's problem. That is, until he meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary--who happens to be the daughter of the headstrong mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town. And things only get more complicated when Tregaron is struck by a series of antisemitic crimes that quickly escalate to deadly violence. As his community turns on him for siding with the enemy, Hoodie finds himself caught between his first love and the only world he's ever known.

**Brooks, Geraldine.** *Horse.* 401 p.

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history Kentucky, 1850. Jarrett, an enslaved groom, and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. As the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name painting

the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack.

**Hesse, Monica. *They Went Left*. 366 p.**

Zofia, a teenage Holocaust survivor, travels across post-war Europe as she searches for her younger brother and seeks to rebuild her shattered life.

**Johnson, Maureen. *The Box in the Woods*. 383 p.**

After solving the greatest unsolved mystery of the century, Stevie Bell goes undercover as a camp counselor to investigate the strange going-ons at Camp Wonder Falls--the site of the infamous "Box in the Woods" murders.

**Kemp, Laeken. *Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet*. 343 p.**

Told in two voices, Pen, whose dream of taking over her family's restaurant has been destroyed, and Xander, a new, undocumented, employee seeking his father, form a bond.

**Kenwood, Nina. *It Sounded Better in My Head*. 262 p.**

In the months between high school and university, eighteen-year-old Natalie must deal with her parents breaking up, her best friends getting together, and her own budding romance.

**Lamb, Sacha. *When the Angels Left the Old Country*. 400 p.**

Uriel the angel and Little Ash (short for Ashmedai) are the only two supernatural creatures in their shtetl (which is so tiny, it doesn't have a name other than Shtetl). The angel and the demon have been studying together for centuries, but pogroms and the search for a new life have drawn all the young people from their village to America. When one of those young emigrants goes missing, Uriel and Little Ash set off to find her. But there are obstacles ahead of them as difficult as what they've left behind.

**Mendez, Yamile Saied. *Furia*. 357 p.**

Seventeen-year-old Camila Hassan, a rising soccer star in Rosario, Argentina, dreams of playing professionally, in defiance of her fathers' wishes and at the risk of her budding romance with Diego.

**Menon, Sandhya. *There's Something About Sweetie*. 378 p.**

Told in two voices, disappointed-in-love Ashish Patel and self-proclaimed fat athlete Sweetie Nair begin to find their true selves while dating under contract.

**Oh, Anxi. *The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sky*. 325 p.**

In this retelling of the Korean legend The tale of Shim Cheong, sixteen-year-old Mina is swept away to the Spirit Realm, where, assisted by a motley crew of demons, gods, and lesser spirits, she sets out to awaken the sleeping Sea God and save her homeland and family from deadly storms.

**Reynolds, Hannah. *The Summer of Lost Letters*. 374 p.**

The discovery of a packet of old letters sends seventeen-year-old Abby Schoenberg to Nantucket to unravel a family mystery about her grandmother's past, but things get complicated when Abby meets the cute grandson of a prominent family who wants to stop her from investigating.

**Schwab, V. E. *Gallant*. 338 p.**

Olivia Prior has grown up at the grim Merilance School for Girls with no no past except for her one treasure, her mother's journal, so when a letter arrives inviting her to come home to ruinous manor, Gallant, she seizes the chance to find out about her family.

**Sepetys, Ruta. *I Must Betray You*. 319 p.**

Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force.

**Tahir, Sabaa. *All My Rage*. 374 p.**

A family extending from Pakistan to California, deals with generations of young love, old regrets, and forgiveness.

**Yoon, Nicola. *Instructions for Dancing*. 285 p.**

After picking up a book from the library, Yvette--who has given up on love--gains the ability to see how other people's romantic relationships will end.

**Zoboi, Ibi Aanu. *Pride*. 289 p.**

When the wealthy Darcy family moves in across the street, Zuri wants nothing to do with their two teenage sons, even as her older sister, Janae, starts to fall for the charming Ainsley. She especially can't stand the judgmental and arrogant Darius. Yet as Zuri and Darius are forced to find common ground, their initial dislike shifts into an unexpected understanding. But with four wild sisters pulling her in different directions, cute boy Warren vying for her attention, and college applications hovering on the horizon, Zuri fights to find her place in Bushwick's changing landscape, or lose it all.

**Authors We Recommend Always:**

Alexander, Kwame

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Bruchac, Joseph

Crutcher, Chris

Dessen, Sarah

Green, John

King, A. S.

Levithan, David

Reynolds, Jason

Sepetys, Ruta  
Stone, Nic  
Strasser, Todd

Thomas, Angie  
Trueman, Terry  
Zusak, Markus

## Non-Fiction

**Cherrix, Amy.** *In The Shadow of the Moon.* 322 p.

You've heard of the space race, but do you know the whole story?

The most ambitious race humankind has ever undertaken was masterminded in the shadows by two engineers on opposite sides of the Cold War—Wernher von Braun, a former Nazi officer living in the US, and Sergei Korolev, a Russian rocket designer once jailed for crimes against his country—and your textbooks probably never told you. Von Braun became an American hero, recognized the world over, while Korolev toiled in obscurity. These two brilliant rocketeers never met, but together they shaped the science of spaceflight and redefined modern warfare. From Stalin's brutal Gulag prisons and Hitler's concentration camps to Cape Canaveral and beyond, their simultaneous quests pushed science—and human ingenuity—to the breaking point.

**Grann, David.** *Killers of the Flower Moon : The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI.* 322 p.

The Osage Indian tribe in Oklahoma was once home to the wealthiest people in the world. Black gold was the source of their income after they were driven to unwanted land. But soon others became jealous and wanted the riches. Many found ways to try to hold the Osage down, unable to access their money or head rights. Then many of the Osage started turning up dead by suspicious means. This became one of the first major investigations for the FBI. This narrative nonfiction will take readers along to follow the case from the beginning to the end with the members of the Osage and the FBI investigators. Fans of true crime and intrigue must read this real-life multi-murder mystery.

**Jarrow, Gail.** *American Murderer.* 159 p.

Imagine microscopic worms living in the soil. They enter your body through your bare feet, travel to your intestines, and stay there for years sucking your blood like vampires. You feel exhausted. You get sick easily. It sounds like a nightmare, but that's what happened in the American South during the 1800s and early 1900s. Doctors never guessed that hookworms were making patients ill, but zoologist Charles Stiles knew better. Working with one of the first public health organizations, he and his colleagues treated the sick and showed Southerners how to protect themselves by wearing shoes and using outhouses so that the worms didn't spread. Although hookworm was eventually controlled in the United States, the parasite remains a serious health problem throughout the world.

**Ogle, Rex. *Abuela, Don't Forget Me.* 198 p. autobiography**

Rex Ogle captures and celebrates the powerful presence of a woman he could always count on--to give him warm hugs and ear kisses, to teach him precious words in Spanish, to bring him to the library where he could take out as many books as he wanted, and to offer safety when darkness closed in. Throughout a coming of age marked by violence and dysfunction, Abuela's red-brick house in Abilene, Texas, offered Rex the possibility of home, and Abuela herself the possibility for a better life.

**Sandler, Martin W. *Picturing a Nation: The Great Depression's Finest Photographers Introduce America to Itself.* 165 p.**

Picturing a Nation is a book that informs readers about life in the Great Depression. It is mostly pictures that show what life was like for Americans in all walks of life. I love how the photographs make you respect the people in them. They also show the perseverance of humanity. It also makes a stand against racism and sexism. I wish there had been more stories about people who had been photographed. This is a great book for all ages.

**Sepetys, Ruta. *You: The Story.***

You: The Story is a powerful how-to book for aspiring writers that encourages you to look inward and excavate your own memories in order to discover the authentic voices and compelling details that are waiting to be put on the page. Masterfully weaving in humorous and heartfelt stories from her own life that illustrate an aspect of the craft of writing (such as plot, character development, or dialogue), Sepetys then inspires readers with a series of writing prompts and exercises.

**Shapiro, Ari. *Best Strangers in the World.* 244 p.**

From the beloved host of NPR's All Things Considered, a stirring memoir-in-essays that is also a love letter to journalism.

**Notable Non-Fiction Authors:**

Steve Sheinkin	Bill Bryson	Lawrence Wright
Jon Krakauer	Malcolm Gladwell	Jeannette Walls
Yuval Noah Harari	Siddhartha Mukherjee	Elizabeth Kolbert

## **Graphic Fiction**

**Bogart, Matthew and Jesse Holden. *Incredible Doom, v.1.* 266 p.**

Four teens find their lives entwined when they connect to Evol BBS, a dial-in bulletin board system from the early days of the Internet.

**Brown, Lisa. *The Phantom Twin*. 208p.**

Isabel and Jane are the Extraordinary Peabody Sisters, conjoined twins in a traveling carnival freak show—until an ambitious surgeon tries to separate them and fails, causing Jane's death. Isabel has lost an arm and a leg but gained a ghostly companion: Her dead twin is now her phantom limb. Haunted, altered, and alone for the first time, can Isabel build a new life that's truly her own?

**Dutton, Talia. *M is for Monster*. 211 p.**

Inspired by: Frankenstein - Mary Shelley. Bringing her sister back to life, scientist Dr. Frances Ai is faced with a dilemma when the girl who rises from the slab is clearly not Maura and wants nothing to do with Frances's attempts to turn her into something she's not.

**Esguerra, A. C. *Eighty Days*.**

Jay, a pilot who enjoys his peaceful life of flying, finds himself drawn into adventure and danger when he meets and falls for a mysterious thief, Fix, in this thrilling and cinematic aviation tale.

**Murray, Duane. *Better Place*. 160 p.**

Dylan just moved to a new house, with no friends, and a mother who doesn't have time for him. Luckily, he has his grandad. Together, they are Red Rocket and Kid Cosmo, who save the universe every day with the power of imagination! But one day, Dylan learns that his grandad is suddenly gone... to a "better place." Now, Kid Cosmo will have to save the day, all by himself.

**Okorafor, Nnedi and Brame, David. *After the Rain*. 128 p.**

*After the Rain* is a graphic novel adaptation of Nnedi Okorafor's short story "On the Road." The drama takes place in a small Nigerian town during a violent and unexpected storm. A Nigerian-American woman named Chioma answers a knock at her door and is horrified to see a boy with a severe head wound standing at her doorstep. He reaches for her, and his touch burns like fire. Something is very wrong. Haunted and hunted, Chioma must embrace her heritage in order to survive. John Jennings and David Brame's graphic novel collaboration uses bold art and colors to powerfully tell this tale of identity and destiny.

**Santat, Dan. *A First Time for Everything*. 308 p.**

Funny, heartwarming, and poignant, *A First Time for Everything* is a feel-good coming-of-age memoir based on New York Times bestselling author and Caldecott Medal winner Dan Santat's awkward middle school years. It celebrates a time that is universally challenging for many of us, but also life-changing as well.

**Smith, Niki. *The Golden Hour*. 237 p.**

After an active shooter event, young Manuel Soto is struggling with PTSD and derealization, and he learns to cope through photography. When he befriends two classmates, he finds himself beginning to open up more to the world.

**Torres, J and Namisato, David. *Stealing Home*. 112 p.**

When a boy struggles after moving to a Japanese internment camp during WWII, baseball shows him another way to approach life. Sandy Saito is a happy boy who reads comic books and is obsessed with baseball --- especially the Asahi team, the pride of his Japanese Canadian community. But when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, his life, like that of every other North American of Japanese descent, changes forever. His family is forced to move to a remote internment camp, and his father must spend months away from them. Sandy, his mother and his brother cope as best they can with the difficulties at the camp. Over time, Sandy comes to realize that life is a lot like baseball. It's about dealing with whatever is thrown at you, however you can. And it's about finding your way home.

**Tynion, James. *Wynd Book One: Flight of the Prince*. 256 p.**

In a world where magical heritage is punishable by death, a young boy named Wynd must hide his true identity – and pointy ears – from everyone in Pipetown, even if it means he'll never have the normal life he wants. But when his secret is threatened, Wynd is forced to leave his home behind to embark on a dangerous quest that will put him at the heart of a royal conspiracy beyond imagination. Now on the run with the boy of his dreams, his best friend Oakley, and a literal prince, Wynd will have to embrace the magic within himself if he wants to save them from the shocking dangers that await!

## **Graphic Non - Fiction**

**Ball, Alverne. *Across the Tracks: Remembering Greenwood, Black Wall Street, and the Tulsa Race Massacre*. 55 p.**

Greenwood is a prosperous city for Black Americans, until a deadly confrontation begun by a white mob ensues, leading to the massacre of 300 Black Americans in Tulsa. Greenwood's development and recovery are explored in this graphic novel.

**Brown, Don. *In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years after the 9/11 Attacks*. 121 p.**

This graphic nonfiction uses the experiences of real individuals to tell the story of what happened on 9/11—not only the single event, but also the effects it had for years on people.

**Brown, Don. *The Unwanted*. 103 p.**

*The Unwanted* is an important, timely, and eye-opening exploration of the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, exposing the harsh realities of living in, and trying to escape, a war zone.

**Smith, Tommie. *Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice*. 200 p.**

In this stunningly illustrated graphic memoir, 1968 Olympic gold medalist Tommie Smith recounts how his love of running and his passion for activism resulted in one of the most enduring images in sports history and the fight for civil rights.

**Page, Tyler. *Button Pusher*. 244 p.**

Tyler's brain is different. Unlike his friends, he has a hard time paying attention in class. He acts out in goofy, over-the-top ways. Sometimes, he even does dangerous things—like cut up a bus seat with a pocket knife or hang out of an attic window. To the adults in his life, Tyler seems like a troublemaker. But he knows that he's not. Tyler is curious and creative. He's the best artist in his grade, and when he can focus, he gets great grades. He doesn't want to cause trouble, but sometimes he just feels like he can't control himself.