

2021-2022 Book List



Note: This program is designed to entice teens to read. In order to engage their interest and to provide a spur to critical thinking, the book selections include those that involve sensitive issues. The content of some of the titles may be more mature than younger students may have previously encountered. Please recognize that this is a voluntary reading program. Not every book selected will suit every student. In a democratic society, a variety of ideas must find voice. As readers, teens have the choice to read the more mature titles or to close the book.



Atta, Dean. *The Black Flamingo*. Balzer+Bray, 2020.

Join Michael as he grows up and comes into himself, a bi-racial gay man. Based on the author's experiences growing up, Atta brings Michael and his personal struggles alive in a way that allows everyone to take a step in his shoes. From his first Barbie to both discovering and hiding himself in high school to finally finding self-expression through a drag club at University, Michael shares his story with joy and heartbreak that is infinitely relatable. Written in verse, this is a beautiful story of self-acceptance and finding yourself.



van Whye, Kevin. *Date Me, Bryson Keller*. Random House Books for Young Readers, 2020.

Have you ever just been so infuriated with someone you want to date them? Or maybe you know dating will be easy for you, so you make a bet you can date a different person every week? With rules and parameters, of course. Bryson Keller takes that dare and even puts his precious Jeep on the line--or at least his ability to drive it to school. No way will he end up on the dreaded bus. The rules are simple: whoever asks him out first on Monday morning, he must say yes to or forfeit the dare. He wasn't expecting Kai Sheridan. Truthfully, Kai wasn't expecting to ask out the boy who rules Fairview High. Sometimes, fate leads us on the best paths--no matter how tumultuous they may be. Get ready because this heartfelt and hilarious story of coming out and self discovery will take you on a rollercoaster ride.



Young, Adrienne. *Fable*. Wednesday Books, 2020.

Cheating death is a way of life on a desolate island of thieves for seventeen-year-old Fable. Desperate to get off the island and find her notorious father who left her there 4 years ago, Fable convinces West, an island trader, to let her aboard his ship. They set off across the seas in search of the treasure that Fable's father owes her. Rivalries and betrayals make it hard for Fable to know who she can trust with her heart and her dreams. Faced with deadly storms and deadly people determined to keep her from finding what she seeks, Fable fights to stay alive long enough to confront her past. What she discovers could destroy what she and West have begun to build on their epic adventure, or it could be just the treasure she needs.



Jackson, Tiffany D. *Grown*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2020. ** Mature topics related to underage sex and domestic abuse**

All Enchanted Jones ever wanted was to become a singer! But the blood on her hands and loss of memory of the previous night's events have completely changed things. Before this nightmare began, Enchanted was a girl with a dream trying to adjust to her family's move to the suburbs where she's the newbie of the few black girls in her new high school. When she meets R&B artist Korey Fields, she is enamored by his charm and superstar life style and wonders if he could be her ticket to fame. But she soon discovers that his charm is a mask hiding his dark side full of control, rage, and dire consequences. Now that Korey is dead, her life and dreams are in limbo. Everyone, including Enchanted, wants to know who killed Korey Fields.



Lyga, Barry and Morgan Baden. *The Hive*. Kids Can Press, 2019.

Before the Hive, social media was out of control. Controlled by hackers, trolls, and doxxers. People were powerless against them, but the Hive fixed all of that. You make a post online that is deemed inappropriate you can be condemned; get enough condemnments and a crowd can come after you and punish you in real time. It is safer, fairer, and perfectly legal. Cassie McKinney always believed in the Hive until an edgy post she makes goes viral and whips the Hive into a frenzy and the Hive ALWAYS demands justice. Relying on a group of outcasts, Cassie is literally running for her life. As she tries to stay alive she uncovers the truth about how the Hive actually works. But can she stay ahead of the mob long enough to show the world the flaw in the program they have placed their faith and trust in?



Deonn, Tracy. *Legendborn*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2020.

Upon arriving at UNC-Chapel Hill, Bree Matthews witnesses a flying demon feeding on the energy of humans. Shortly after, a mage comes and tries to erase Bree's memory. He fails, and instead unlocks Bree's powers along with a memory of another mage in the hospital when her mother died. Wondering if this has something to do with her mom's death, she decides to join the group of mages, who call themselves the Legendborn, and enlists the help of a reluctant member who holds his own grudge against the organization. While going through her training, something or someone keeps opening the gates of hell and freeing evil creatures. The Legendborn are called to fight these creatures and save the world. They tell Bree they are descendants of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table, and that a war is coming. Bree must decide - destroy the organization or join the fight.



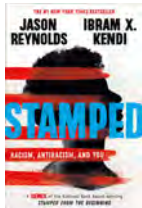
Giles, Lamar. *Not So Pure and Simple*. Harper Teen, 2020. ** Mature topics related to sex education**

Del has had a huge crush on the very popular Kiera since elementary school. Now in high school, he believes he has an opportunity to finally date his dream girl. When Kiera signs up for the "Purity Pledge" at church, Del signs up as well, believing this is his opportunity to spend more time with Kiera and ultimately date her. Del's parents sign him up for the "Healthy Life" class being offered at his high school. When Del's Purity Pledge peers find out he's in the Healthy Life class, they convince him to ask questions related to sex education in the Healthy Living class because their parents have not given them permission to take the class. You will laugh out loud as Del spies for his fellow Purity Pledgers and their quest to understand things related to male puberty. While Del tries to use the new knowledge to date Kiera, all of the Purity Pledgers are finally learning valuable lessons that have been denied to them.



Marshall, Kate Alice. *Rules for Vanishing*. Viking Books for Young Readers, 2019.

A haunted forest, a vengeful ghost girl, a creepy summoning ritual. It's all an urban legend-- just a kid's game. At least that's what Sara thought until her sister Becca disappeared in those woods. A year later, all Sara has left is a broken family, her missing sister's disturbing journal, and a friend group that won't even talk to her. If Sara and her ex-friends join up to look for Becca, what else will they find? Or rather- what will find them? This gripping novel uses chilling interviews, witness testimonies, and video transcripts to tell a truly original- and terrifying- horror story.



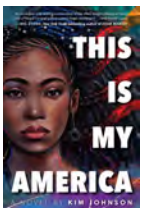
Reynolds, Jason and Ibram X, Kendi. *Stamped*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2020.

This is the history book that needs to be included in standard education: the true African American history. Key movements, ideas, and figures from America's conception through the #BlackLivesMatter movement are framed in the competing ideas of "haters" (segregationists) and "cowards" (assimilationists) in the hopes that learning this information will create antiracists of us all.



Hesse, Monica. *They Went Left*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2020.

Today, connecting with your family is seldom a problem thanks to cell phones and the internet. Yet, imagine how impossible it would be to reconnect with your missing family if you lived in Germany at the end of World War II. As Zofia's family arrived at the concentration camp, some of her family went to the left - to the gas chambers - and she and her brother, Abek, went to the right. When Zofia and Abek were separated in the camp, her last words to him were a promise that she now desperately wants to keep as she begins her search for him. But how can an eighteen-year-old Jewish girl locate her younger brother amidst the rubble of a shattered world? Zofia meets others who are rebuilding their lives, but finding Abek seems impossible, until one day her search is over. Or is it?



Johnson, Kim. *This Is My America*. Random House, 2020.

Tracy Beaumont knows one thing—her father is innocent. She has been writing to Innocent X for seven years to try to get them to take on her father's case before his time runs out on death row. Then one night the police arrive to arrest her track star brother, Jamal, for killing a white girl. With her brother on the run, Tracy is desperately trying to find out what really happened down at the Pike between her brother and Angela. Time is running out for her father and brother; will Tracy be able to uncover truth in time to save them?



Solomon, Rachel Lynn. *Today Tonight Tomorrow*. Simon Pulse, 2020.

Today Rowan Roth hates Neil McNair. They have competed fiercely all throughout high school, and this budding romance novelist cannot wait to get away from him for good. The last straw comes when Neil is named class valedictorian, leaving Rowan with only one more way to beat him. Tonight she plans to win the ultimate senior class scavenger hunt called Howl, a game of elimination that will take the students all over Seattle. But when Rowan overhears the other seniors scheming to knock her and Neil out of the running, her plans change. Begrudgingly she joins forces with Neil, and slowly begins to question why they have always been bitter enemies. Tomorrow Rowan Roth might even fall in love with Neil McNair.



Zolidis, Don. *War and Speech*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2020.

At Eaganville School for the Arts, the debate team reigns supreme. The varsity debate team are treated like gods and the coach, Joey Sparks, rules them with an iron fist. New girl Sydney wants to infiltrate and take down the debate team from the inside out. With the help of her friends, Sydney sets out to make it to Nationals and tear the team apart. But could winning on the debate stage be her ticket out of her life of being a perpetual loser?



Torres Sanchez, Jenny. *We Are Not from Here*. Philomel Books, 2019.

Imagine things being so bad that one day you decide to leave your home, the people you love and part of yourself in search for a better life, in the hope of having a future – any future. You are willing to risk it all, even riding La Bestia, the Death Train. Join Chico, Pulga, and Pequeña as they travel from Guatemala, going through Mexico following La Bestia and hoping to make it to the U.S. border. This story is inspired by real, current events and once you take this journey with them, you will never be the same.



Longo, Jennifer. *What I Carry*. Random House, 2020.

Muir has been in foster care since birth. With each placement, she developed strict rules to protect herself from disappointment. If she finds herself feeling attached to a family, she calls her social worker for a new placement, but before she leaves, she takes a reminder to carry to the next home. She travels light so she can leave quickly. She is about to age out of the system when she turns 18, so she only has to make it through senior year before she is on her own. Her last placement is at Francine's on an island off the coast of Seattle. As Muir unpacks each of the things she carries, readers learn about her, and as she spends more time on the island, she learns that being vulnerable and trusting others, while scary, doesn't have to be bad.