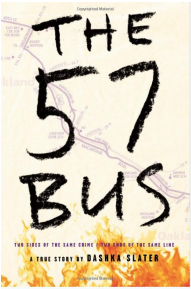



### Grades 9-12 Reading List

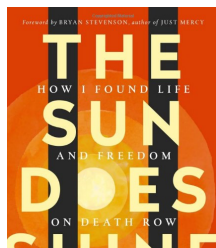
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TITLE	AUTHOR	SYNOPSIS/REVIEW	NOTES
<p><b><i>The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed Their Lives</i></b></p> 	<p>Slaterr, Dashka</p>	<p>One teenager in a skirt.            One teenager with a lighter.            One moment that changes both of their lives forever.            If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.</p> <p>Winner of the Stonewall Book Award--Mike Morgan &amp; Larry Romans Children's &amp; Young Adult Literature Award  <i>A School Library Journal</i> Best Books of 2017!  <i>A Washington Post</i> Best Book of 2017!            One of The New York City Public Library's Notable 50 Best Books for Teens!            A Kirkus Best Book of 2017            A Chicago Public Library's Best Book of 2017            YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Finalist</p>	<p>Ages 13+            NonFiction</p>
<p><b><i>Dread Nation</i></b></p> 	<p>Ireland, Justina</p>	<p><b><i>New York Times</i> bestseller * Six starred reviews</b></p> <p><b>At once provocative, terrifying, and darkly subversive, <i>Dread Nation</i> is Justina Ireland's stunning vision of an America both foreign and familiar—a country on the brink, at the explosive crossroads where race, humanity, and survival meet.</b></p>	<p>YA –            Historical Fiction/Sci-Fi/Fantasy</p>

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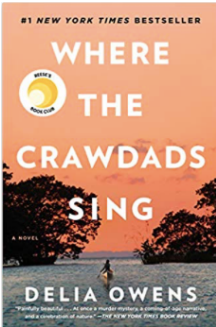
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		<p>Jane McKeene was born two days before the dead began to walk the battlefields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania—derailing the War Between the States and changing the nation forever.</p> <p>In this new America, safety for all depends on the work of a few, and laws like the Native and Negro Education Act require certain children attend combat schools to learn to put down the dead.</p> <p>But there are also opportunities—and Jane is studying to become an Attendant, trained in both weaponry and etiquette to protect the well-to-do. It's a chance for a better life for Negro girls like Jane. After all, not even being the daughter of a wealthy white Southern woman could save her from society's expectations.</p> <p>But that's not a life Jane wants. Almost finished with her education at Miss Preston's School of Combat in Baltimore, Jane is set on returning to her Kentucky home and doesn't pay much mind to the politics of the eastern cities, with their talk of returning America to the glory of its days before the dead rose.</p> <p>But when families around Baltimore County begin to go missing, Jane is caught in the middle of a conspiracy, one that finds her in a desperate fight for her life against some powerful enemies.</p> <p>And the restless dead, it would seem, are the least of her problems.</p>	
<p><b><i>The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row</i></b></p>	<p>Ray Hinton, Anthony</p>	<p>In 1985, Anthony Ray Hinton was arrested and charged with two counts of capital murder in Alabama. Stunned, confused, and only twenty-nine years old, Hinton knew that it was a case of mistaken identity and believed that the truth would prove his innocence and ultimately set him free.</p> <p>But with no money and a different system of justice for a poor black man in the South, Hinton was sentenced to death by electrocution.</p>	<p>Ages 15+ NonFiction</p>



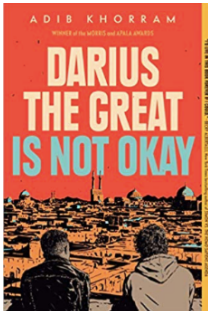

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		<p>He spent his first three years on Death Row at Holman State Prison in agonizing silence—full of despair and anger toward all those who had sent an innocent man to his death. But as Hinton realized and accepted his fate, he resolved not only to survive, but find a way to live on Death Row. For the next twenty-seven years he was a beacon—transforming not only his own spirit, but those of his fellow inmates, fifty-four of whom were executed mere feet from his cell. With the help of civil rights attorney and bestselling author of <i>Just Mercy</i>, Bryan Stevenson, Hinton won his release in 2015.</p> <p>With a foreword by Stevenson, <i>The Sun Does Shine</i> is an extraordinary testament to the power of hope sustained through the darkest times. Destined to be a classic memoir of wrongful imprisonment and freedom won, Hinton’s memoir tells his dramatic thirty-year journey and shows how you can take away a man’s freedom, but you can’t take away his imagination, humor, or joy.</p>	
<p><b><i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i></b></p> 	<p>Owens, Delia</p>	<p><b>#1 <i>New York Times</i> Bestseller</b>  <b>More than 4 million copies sold</b>  <b>A Reese Witherspoon x Hello Sunshine Book Club Pick</b></p> <p><b>"I can't even express how much I love this book! I didn't want this story to end!"--Reese Witherspoon</b></p> <p><b>"Painfully beautiful."--<i>The New York Times Book Review</i></b></p> <p>For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her</p>	<p>Fiction, Ages 15+</p>

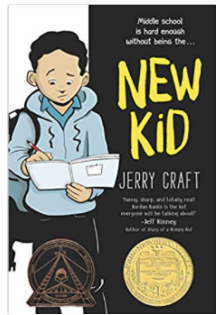
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		<p>wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.</p> <p><i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.</p>	
<p><b><i>Darius the Great is Not Okay</i></b></p> 	<p>Khorrarn, Adib</p>	<p>Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He’s a Fractional Persian—half, his mom’s side—and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life.</p> <p>Darius has never really fit in at home, and he’s sure things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn’t exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and everything changes. Soon, they’re spending their days together, playing soccer, eating faludeh, and talking for hours on a secret rooftop overlooking the city’s skyline. Sohrab calls him Darioush—the original Persian version of his name—and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he’s Darioush to Sohrab.</p> <p>Adib Khorram’s brilliant debut is for anyone who’s ever felt not good enough—then met a friend who makes them feel so much better than okay.</p>	<p>Ages 12+</p>
<p><b><i>The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees</i></b></p> 	<p>Brown, Don</p>	<p><b>Sibert Honor Medalist · New York Public Library Best Of 2018 · The Horn Book’s Fanfare 2018 list · Kirkus Best Books of 2018 · YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Winner</b></p>	<p>Graphic Novel</p>

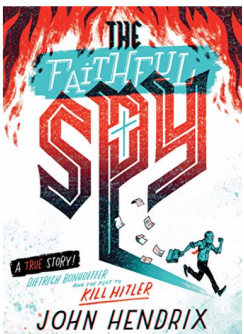

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		<p><b>In the tradition of two-time Sibert honor winner Don Brown’s critically acclaimed, full-color nonfiction graphic novels <i>The Great American Dust Bowl</i> and <i>Drowned City</i>, <i>The Unwanted</i> is an important, timely, and eye-opening exploration of the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, exposing the harsh realities of living in, and trying to escape, a war zone.</b></p> <p>Starting in 2011, refugees flood out of war-torn Syria in Exodus-like proportions. The surprising flood of victims overwhelms neighboring countries, and chaos follows. Resentment in host nations heightens as disruption and the cost of aid grows. By 2017, many want to turn their backs on the victims. The refugees are the unwanted.</p> <p>Don Brown depicts moments of both heartbreaking horror and hope in the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis. Shining a light on the stories of the survivors, <i>The Unwanted</i> is a testament to the courage and resilience of the refugees and a call to action for all those who read.</p>	
<p><b><i>New Kid</i></b></p> 	<p>Craft, Jerry</p>	<p><b>Winner of the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Author Award, and Kirkus Prize for Young Readers’ Literature!</b></p> <p><b>Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang, <i>New Kid</i> is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft.</b></p> <p>Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.</p>	<p>Graphic Novel – Ages 10+</p>

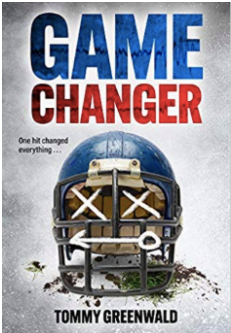
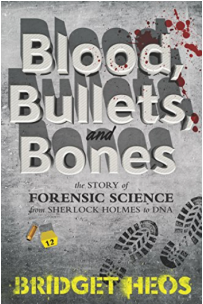
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<p><b><i>The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler</i></b></p> 	<p>Hendrix, John</p>	<p>Adolf Hitler’s Nazi party is gaining strength and becoming more menacing every day. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor upset by the complacency of the German church toward the suffering around it, forms a breakaway church to speak out against the established political and religious authorities. When the Nazis outlaw the church, he escapes as a fugitive. Struggling to reconcile his faith and the teachings of the Bible with the Nazi Party’s evil agenda, Bonhoeffer decides that Hitler must be stopped by any means possible!</p> <p>In his signature style of interwoven handwritten text and art, John Hendrix tells the true story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor who makes the ultimate sacrifice in order to free the German people from oppression during World War II.</p>	<p>Graphic Novel, Nonfiction</p>
<p><b><i>Odd One Out</i></b></p> 	<p>Stone, Nic</p>	<p>From the #1 <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author of <i>Dear Martin</i> comes an honest and touching depiction of friendship, first love, and everything in between. Perfect for fans of <i>Love, Simon</i> and <i>What If It's Us</i>.</p> <p>Courtney Cooper and Jupiter Sanchez (Coop &amp; Jupe!) have been next-door neighbors and best friends since they were seven-years-old. She's his partner-in-crime and other half. But lately, Cooper can't ignore he might want something more than friendship from Jupiter.</p> <p>When Rae Chin moves to town she can't believe how lucky she is to find Coop and Jupe. Being the new kid is usually synonymous with pariah, but around these two, she finally feels like she belongs. She's so grateful she wants to kiss him...and her.</p> <p>Jupiter has always liked girls. But when Rae starts dating Cooper, Jupe realizes that the only girl she ever really imagined by his side was <i>her</i>.</p> <p>One story. Three sides. No easy answers.</p>	<p>Realistic Fiction, Ages 13+</p>

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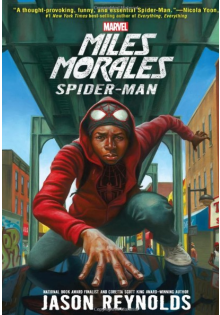
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<p><b>Game Changer</b></p> 	<p>Greenwald, Tommy</p>	<p>Thirteen-year-old Teddy Youngblood is in a coma fighting for his life after an unspecified football injury at training camp. His family and friends flock to his bedside to support his recovery—and to discuss the events leading up to the tragic accident. Was this an inevitable result of playing a violent sport, or was something more sinister happening on the field that day? Told in an innovative, multimedia format combining dialogue, texts, newspaper articles, transcripts, an online forum, and Teddy’s inner thoughts, <i>Game Changer</i> explores the joyous thrills and terrifying risks of America’s most popular sport.</p>	<p>Sports fiction, Ages 10+</p>
<p><b>Blood, Bullets, and Bones: The Story of Forensic Science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA</b></p> 	<p>Heos, Bridget</p>	<p><i>Blood, Bullets, and Bones</i> provides young readers with a fresh and fascinating look at the ever-evolving science of forensics.</p> <p>Since the introduction of DNA testing, forensic science has been in the forefront of the public’s imagination, thanks especially to popular television shows like <i>CSI: Crime Scene Investigation</i>. But forensic analysis has been practiced for thousands of years. Ancient Chinese detectives studied dead bodies for signs of foul play, and in Victorian England, officials used crime scene photography and criminal profiling to investigate the Jack the Ripper murders. In the intervening decades, forensic science has evolved to use the most cutting-edge, innovative techniques and technologies.</p> <p>In this book, acclaimed author Bridget Heos uses real-life cases to tell the history of modern forensic science, from the first test for arsenic poisoning to fingerprinting, firearm and blood spatter analysis, DNA evidence, and all the important milestones in between. By turns captivating and shocking, <i>Blood, Bullets, and Bones</i> demonstrates the essential role forensic science has played in our criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Nonfiction, Ages 13+</p>
<p><b>Becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx</b></p>	<p>Manzano, Sonia</p>	<p>Set in the 1950s in the Bronx, this is the story of a girl with a dream. Emmy award-winning actress and writer Sonia Manzano plunges us</p>	<p>Memoir, Ages 12+</p>



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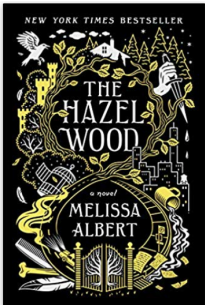
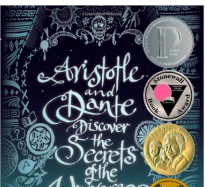
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		<p>into the daily lives of a Latino family that is loving--and troubled. This is Sonia's own story rendered with an unforgettable narrative power. When readers meet young Sonia, she is a child living amidst the squalor of a boisterous home that is filled with noisy relatives and nosy neighbors. Each day she is glued to the TV screen that blots out the painful realities of her existence and also illuminates the possibilities that lie ahead. But--click!--when the TV goes off, Sonia is taken back to real-life--the cramped, colorful world of her neighborhood and an alcoholic father. But it is Sonia's dream of becoming an actress that keeps her afloat among the turbulence of her life and times. Spiced with culture, heartache, and humor, this memoir paints a lasting portrait of a girl's resilience as she grows up to become an inspiration to millions.</p>	
<p><b>Miles Morales</b></p> 	<p>Reynolds, Jason</p>	<p><i>"Everyone gets mad at hustlers, especially if you're on the victim side of the hustle. And Miles knew hustling was in his veins."</i></p> <p>Miles Morales is just your average teenager. Dinner every Sunday with his parents, chilling out playing old-school video games with his best friend, Ganke, crushing on brainy, beautiful poet Alicia. He's even got a scholarship spot at the prestigious Brooklyn Visions Academy. Oh yeah, and he's Spider Man.</p> <p>But lately, Miles's spidey-sense has been on the fritz. When a misunderstanding leads to his suspension from school, Miles begins to question his abilities. After all, his dad and uncle were Brooklyn jack-boys with criminal records. Maybe kids like Miles aren't meant to be superheroes. Maybe Miles should take his dad's advice and focus on saving himself.</p> <p>As Miles tries to get his school life back on track, he can't shake the vivid nightmares that continue to haunt him. Nor can he avoid the relentless buzz of his spidey-sense every day in history class, amidst his teacher's lectures on the historical benefits of slavery and the</p>	<p>A Marvel YA Novel</p>




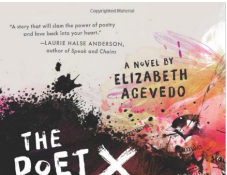
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		<p>modern-day prison system. But after his scholarship is threatened, Miles uncovers a chilling plot, one that puts his friends, his neighborhood, and himself at risk. It's time for Miles to suit up.</p>	
<p><b><i>The Hazel Wood</i></b></p> 	<p>Albert, Melissa</p>	<p><b>Welcome to Melissa Albert's <i>The Hazel Wood</i>—the fiercely stunning <i>New York Times</i> bestseller everyone is raving about!</b></p> <p>Seventeen-year-old Alice and her mother have spent most of Alice’s life on the road, always a step ahead of the uncanny bad luck biting at their heels. But when Alice’s grandmother, the reclusive author of a cult-classic book of pitch-dark fairy tales, dies alone on her estate, the Hazel Wood, Alice learns how bad her luck can really get: Her mother is stolen away—by a figure who claims to come from the Hinterland, the cruel supernatural world where her grandmother's stories are set. Alice's only lead is the message her mother left behind: “Stay away from the Hazel Wood.”</p> <p>Alice has long steered clear of her grandmother’s cultish fans. But now she has no choice but to ally with classmate Ellery Finch, a Hinterland superfan who may have his own reasons for wanting to help her. To retrieve her mother, Alice must venture first to the Hazel Wood, then into the world where her grandmother's tales began—and where she might find out how her own story went so wrong.</p>	<p>Fantasy, Ages 12+</p>
<p><b><i>Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</i></b></p> 	<p>Saenz, Benjamin Alire</p>	<p>This Printz Honor Book is a “tender, honest exploration of identity” (<i>Publishers Weekly</i>) that distills lyrical truths about family and friendship.</p> <p>Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts</p>	<p>Ages 12+</p>

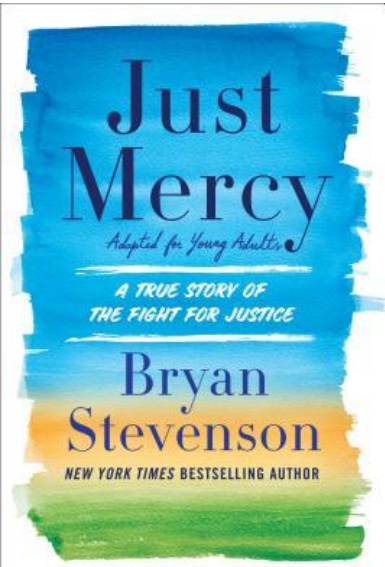
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		<p>a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.</p> <p>Stonewall Award winner, the Pura Belpre Award winner, the Lambda Literary Award winner, and a finalist for the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award.</p>	
<p><b>Monday's Not Coming</b></p> 	<p>Jackson, Tiffany D.</p>	<p>Monday Charles is missing, and only Claudia seems to notice. Claudia and Monday have always been inseparable—more sisters than friends. So when Monday doesn't turn up for the first day of school, Claudia's worried.</p> <p>When she doesn't show for the second day, or second week, Claudia knows that something is wrong. Monday wouldn't just leave her to endure tests and bullies alone. Not after last year's rumors and not with her grades on the line. Now Claudia needs her best—and only—friend more than ever. But Monday's mother refuses to give Claudia a straight answer, and Monday's sister April is even less help.</p> <p>As Claudia digs deeper into her friend's disappearance, she discovers that no one seems to remember the last time they saw Monday. How can a teenage girl just vanish without anyone noticing that she's gone?</p>	<p>Ages 13+</p>
<p><b>The Poet X</b></p> 	<p>Acevedo, Elizabeth</p>	<p>Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.</p> <p>But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she</p>	<p>Ages 13+</p>


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		<p>catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about.</p> <p>With Mami’s determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school’s slam poetry club, she doesn’t know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can’t stop thinking about performing her poems.</p> <p>Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.</p>	
<p><b><i>Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults)</i></b>  <b><i>A True Story of the Fight for Justice **</i></b></p> 	<p>Brian Stevenson</p>	<p>In this very personal work--adapted from the original #1 bestseller, which the New York Times calls "as compelling as To Kill a Mockingbird, and in some ways more so"--acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom. Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice.</p>	<p>13+</p>

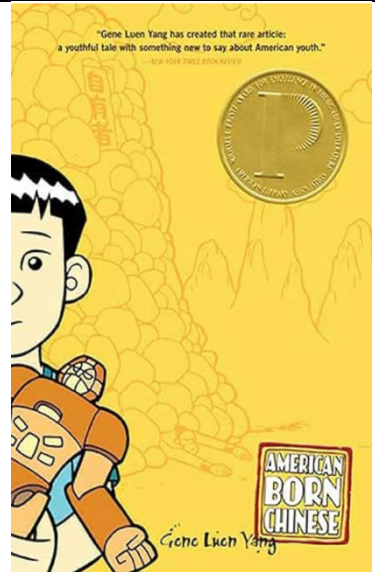
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<p><b>Pumpkinheads **</b></p> 	<p>Rainbow Rowell and Faith Erin Hicks</p>	<p>Deja and Josiah are seasonal best friends. Every autumn, all through high school, they’ve worked together at the best pumpkin patch in the whole wide world. (Not many people know that the best pumpkin patch in the whole wide world is in Omaha, Nebraska, but it definitely is.) They say good-bye every Halloween, and they’re reunited every September 1. But this Halloween is different—Josiah and Deja are finally seniors, and this is their last season at the pumpkin patch. Their last shift together. Their last good-bye. Josiah’s ready to spend the whole night feeling melancholy about it. Deja isn’t ready to let him. She’s got a plan: What if—instead of moping and the usual slinging lima beans down at the Succotash Hut—they went out with a bang? They could see all the sights! Taste all the snacks! And Josiah could finally talk to that cute girl he’s been mooning over for three years . . . What if their last shift was an adventure?</p>	<p>13+</p>
<p><b>American Born Chinese **</b></p>	<p>Gene Luen Yang</p>	<p>A tour-de-force by <i>New York Times</i> bestselling graphic novelist Gene Yang, <i>American Born Chinese</i> tells the story of three</p>	<p>Graphic Novel Fiction Netflix Adaptation</p>

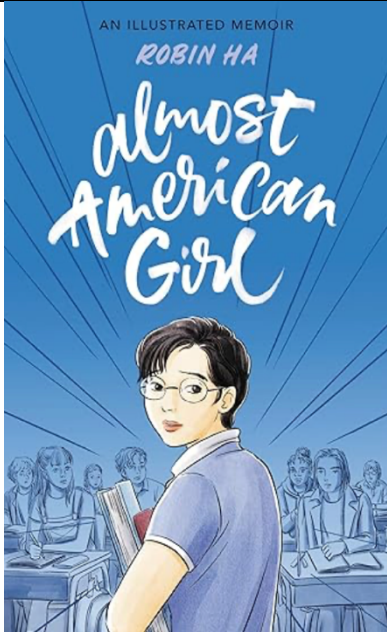
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		<p>apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. <i>American Born Chinese</i> is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax.</p> <p><i>American Born Chinese</i> is the winner of the 2007 Michael L. Printz Award, a 2006 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature, the winner of the 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album: New, an Eisner Award nominee for Best Coloring, a 2007 Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year, and a <i>New York Times</i> bestseller. Gene Luen Yang was the fifth the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and is a MacArthur Fellow, a recipient of what's popularly known as the MacArthur "Genius" Grant.</p>	
<p><b><i>Almost America Girl</i>**</b></p>	<p>Robin Ha</p>	<p>For as long as she can remember, it's been Robin and her mom against the world. Growing up as the only child of a</p>	<p>Graphic Novel Memoir</p>

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		<p>single mother in Seoul, Korea, wasn't always easy, but it has bonded them fiercely together.</p> <p>So when a vacation to visit friends in Huntsville, Alabama, unexpectedly becomes a permanent relocation—following her mother's announcement that she's getting married—Robin is devastated.</p> <p>Overnight, her life changes. She is dropped into a new school where she doesn't understand the language and struggles to keep up. She is completely cut off from her friends in Seoul and has no access to her beloved comics. At home, she doesn't fit in with her new stepfamily, and worst of all, she is furious with the one person she is closest to—her mother.</p> <p>Then one day Robin's mother enrolls her in a local comic drawing class, which opens the window to a future Robin could never have imagined.</p> <p>This nonfiction graphic novel with four starred reviews is an excellent choice for teens and also accelerated tween readers, both for independent reading and units on immigration, memoirs, and the search for identity.</p>	
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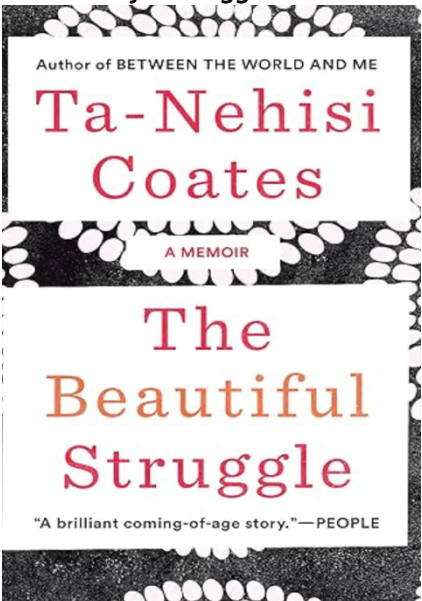
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<p><b>Bomb**</b></p> 	<p>Steve Sheinkin</p>	<p>n December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned three continents.</p> <p>In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists, led by "father of the atomic bomb" J. Robert Oppenheimer, was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.</p> <p>“This superb and exciting work of nonfiction would be a fine tonic for any jaded adolescent who thinks history is 'boring.' It's also an excellent primer for adult readers who may have forgotten, or never learned, the remarkable story of how nuclear weaponry was first imagined, invented and deployed—and of how an international arms race began well before there was such a thing as an atomic bomb.” —<i>The Wall Street Journal</i></p>	<p>Non-Fiction Movie: Oppenheimer</p>
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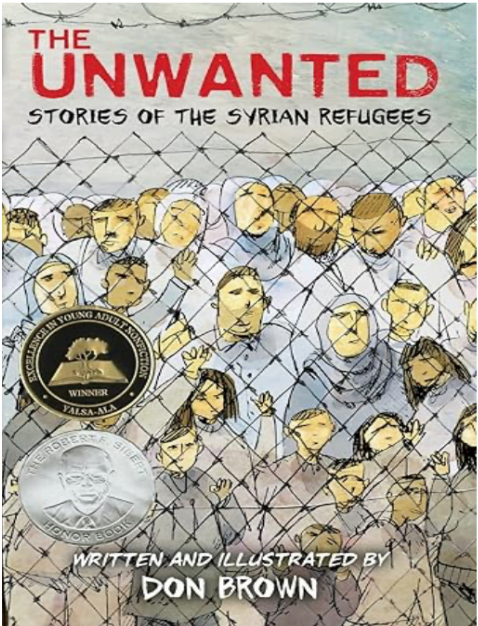
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		<p>“This is edge-of-the seat material that will resonate with YAs who clamor for true spy stories, and it will undoubtedly engross a cross-market audience of adults who dozed through the World War II unit in high school.” —<i>The Bulletin</i> (starred review)</p>	
<p><i>The Beautiful Struggle**</i></p> 	<p>Ta-Nehisi Coates</p>	<p>Paul Coates was an enigmatic god to his sons: a Vietnam vet who rolled with the Black Panthers, an old-school disciplinarian and new-age believer in free love, an autodidact who launched a publishing company in his basement dedicated to telling the true history of African civilization. Most of all, he was a wily tactician whose mission was to carry his sons across the shoals of inner-city adolescence—and through the collapsing civilization of Baltimore in the Age of Crack—and into the safe arms of Howard University, where he worked so his children could attend for free.</p> <p>Among his brood of seven, his main challenges were Ta-Nehisi, spacey and sensitive and almost comically miscalibrated for his environment, and Big Bill, charismatic and all-too-ready for the challenges of the streets. <i>The Beautiful Struggle</i> follows their divergent paths through this turbulent period, and their father’s steadfast efforts—assisted by</p>	<p>Memoir</p>



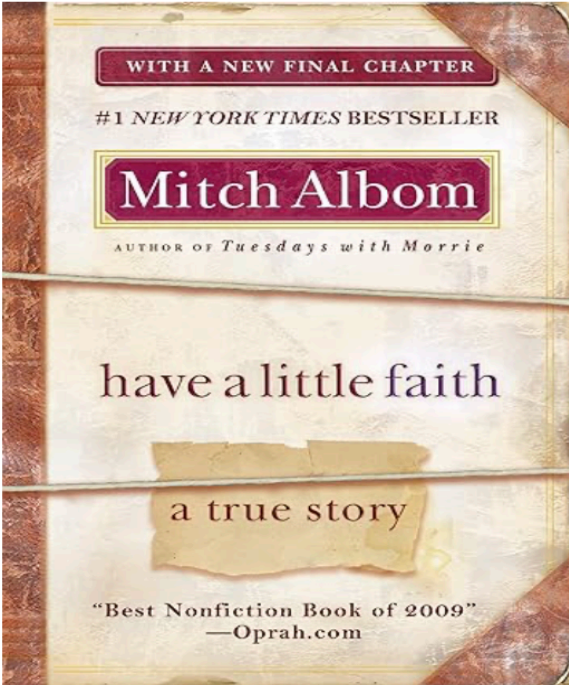
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		<p>mothers, teachers, and a body of myths, histories, and rituals conjured from the past to meet the needs of a troubled present—to keep them whole in a world that seemed bent on their destruction.</p> <p>With a remarkable ability to reimagine both the lost world of his father’s generation and the terrors and wonders of his own youth, Coates offers readers a small and beautiful epic about boys trying to become men in black America and beyond.</p>	
<p><i>The Unwanted: Stories of Syrian Refugees**</i></p> 	<p>Don Brown</p>	<p><b>In the tradition of two-time Sibert honor winner Don Brown’s critically acclaimed, full-color nonfiction graphic novels <i>The Great American Dust Bowl</i> and <i>Drowned City</i>, <i>The Unwanted</i> 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.</b></p> <p>Starting in 2011, refugees flood out of war-torn Syria in Exodus-like proportions. The surprising flood of victims overwhelms neighboring countries, and chaos follows. Resentment in host nations heightens as disruption and the cost of aid grows. By 2017, many want to turn their</p>	<p>Graphic Novel Non-Fiction</p>

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		<p>backs on the victims. The refugees are the unwanted.</p> <p>Don Brown depicts moments of both heartbreaking horror and hope in the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis. Shining a light on the stories of the survivors, <i>The Unwanted</i> is a testament to the courage and resilience of the refugees and a call to action for all those who read.</p>	
<p><b>Have a Little Faith**</b></p> 	<p>Mitch Albom</p>	<p>In <i>Have a Little Faith</i>, Mitch Albom offers a beautifully written story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds -- two men, two faiths, two communities -- that will inspire readers everywhere. Albom's first nonfiction book since <i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>, <i>Have a Little Faith</i> begins with an unusual request: an eighty-two-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy.</p> <p>Feeling unworthy, Albom insists on understanding the man better, which throws him back into a world of faith he'd left years ago. Meanwhile, closer to his current home, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor -- a reformed drug dealer and convict -- who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof.</p> <p>Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white,</p>	<p>Non-Fiction</p>

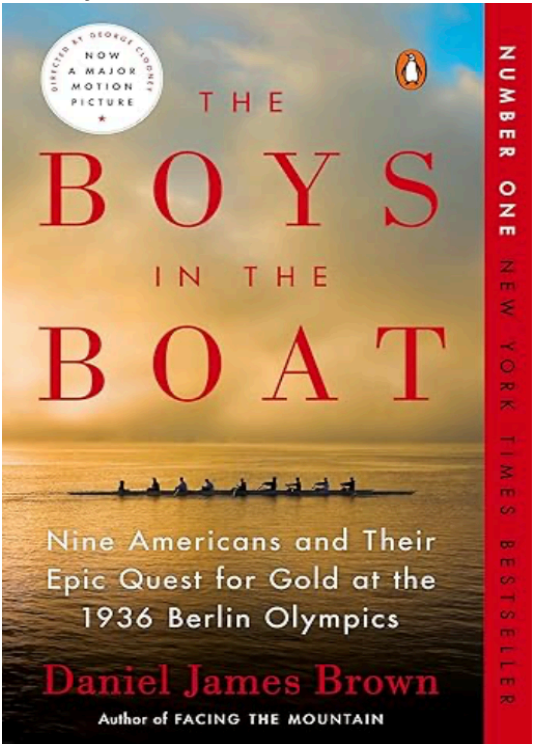
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		<p>impoverished and well-to-do, Albom observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat.</p> <p>As America struggles with hard times and people turn more to their beliefs, Albom and the two men of God explore issues that perplex modern man: how to endure when difficult things happen; what heaven is; intermarriage; forgiveness; doubting God; and the importance of faith in trying times. Although the texts, prayers, and histories are different, Albom begins to recognize a striking unity between the two worlds -- and indeed, between beliefs everywhere. In the end, as the rabbi nears death and a harsh winter threatens the pastor's wobbly church, Albom sadly fulfills the rabbi's last request and writes the eulogy. And he finally understands what both men had been teaching all along: the profound comfort of believing in something bigger than yourself.</p> <p><i>Have a Little Faith</i> is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.</p>	
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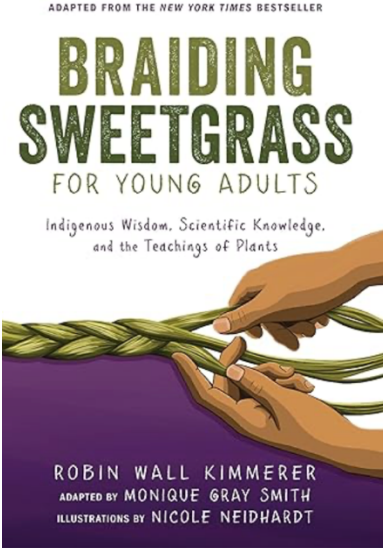
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<p><b>The Boys in the Boat **</b></p> 	<p>Daniel James Brown</p>	<p>For readers of <i>Unbroken</i>, out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant.</p> <p>It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington’s eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys’ own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a</p>	<p>Non-Fiction Movie</p>

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		<p>chronicle of one extraordinary young man’s personal quest.</p>	
<p><b><i>Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants **</i></b></p> 	<p>Robin Wall Kimmerer</p>	<p>Drawing from her experiences as an Indigenous scientist, botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer demonstrated how all living things—from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen—provide us with gifts and lessons every day in her best-selling book <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i>. Adapted for young adults by Monique Gray Smith, this new edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth’s oldest teachers: the plants around us. With informative sidebars, reflection questions, and art from illustrator Nicole Neidhardt, <i>Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults</i> brings Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the lessons of plant life to a new generation.</p>	<p>Non-Fiction Illustrated</p>