

WELCOME to the MISelf in Books 2021 Book List

MISelf in Books is an annual list of inclusive books for Michigan learners. The list was selected by a committee of certified school librarians who are members of Michigan Association for Media in Education ([MAME](#)). These recommendations are based on books that they see learners reading and enjoying in their libraries. The books are published in the last two years and are selected with a focus on authenticity. The list will include books for all grade levels: PreK-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Book descriptions were taken from the summaries provided by the publishers' websites.



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Preschool - First Grade

Title	Description	Grade Level
<i>Adventures with My Daddies</i> by Gareth Peter	Set off on a series of incredible adventures with an endearing, diverse family as the bedtime stories they read burst into colorful life.	PK-1
<i>Amira's Picture Day</i> by Reem Faruqi	Ramadan has come to an end, and Amira can't wait to stay home from school to celebrate Eid. There's just one hiccup: it's also school picture day. How can Amira be in two places at once?	PK-1
<i>Eyes That Kiss at the Corners</i> by Joanna Ho	This lyrical, stunning picture book tells a story about learning to love and celebrate your Asian-shaped eyes, in the spirit of <i>Hair Love</i> by Matthew A. Cherry, and is a celebration of diversity.	PK-1
<i>Fred Gets Dressed</i> by Peter Brown	This charming and humorous story was inspired by author Peter Brown's own childhood, and highlights nontraditional gender roles and self-expression.	PK-1
<i>I Sang You Down From the Stars</i> by Tasha Spillett-Sumner	This unique baby book sings with Native cultural detail, while striking a universal chord in its celebration of the blossoming of love that comes with expecting and welcoming a new baby.	PK-1
<i>In My Mosque</i> by M.O. Yuksel	Step in and discover all the rituals and wonder of the mosque in this lyrical debut picture book, perfect for fans of <i>All Are Welcome</i> and <i>The Proudest Blue</i> .	PK-1
<i>Jayden's Impossible Garden</i> by Melina Mangal	Timeless and vibrant, this story highlights the beauty of intergenerational relationships and the power of imagination and perseverance in bringing the vision of a community garden to life.	PK-1
<i>Peanut Goes For The Gold</i> by Jonathan Van Ness	A charming, funny, and heartfelt picture book that follows the adventures of Peanut, a gender nonbinary guinea pig who does everything with their own personal flare.	PK-1
<i>Ruby's Reunion Day Dinner</i> by Angela Dalton	Once a year, each of Ruby's relatives prepares a special dish to share at their family reunion. Daddy calls it their "signature dish"—and Ruby wants one of her own. She wanders through the bustling kitchen looking for inspiration. That's when she finds it— the perfect solution!	PK-1
<i>Salma the Syrian Chef</i> by Danny Ramadan	All Salma wants is to make her mama smile again. With creativity, determination, and charm, Salma brings new friends together to show Mama that even though things aren't perfect, there is cause for hope and celebration.	PK-1
<i>A Sled for Gabo</i> by Emma Othequy	<i>The Snowy Day</i> meets <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i> in this heartwarming classic in the making about a young boy who is in a new town and doesn't have much, but with the help of a loving community discovers the joys of his first snowy day.	PK-1
<i>Thao</i> by Thao Lam	Even though it's only four simple, familiar letters long, nobody can ever pronounce Thao's name. She's been called Theo, Tail, even Towel! Inspired by Thao's own childhood, this picture book is full of humor, heart, and important ideas of diversity, inclusion, and cultural pride.	PK-1
<i>Zonia's Rain Forest</i> by Juana Martinez-Neal	Explores the wonders of the rain forest with Zonia, an Asháninka girl, in her joyful outdoor adventures. The engaging text emphasizes Zonia's empowering bond with her home, while the illustrations burst with luxuriant greens and delicate details.	PK-1

Lower Elementary

Title	Description	Grade Level
<i>A Story About Afiya</i> by James Berry	Some people have dresses for every occasion but Afiya needs only one. Her dress records the memories of her childhood in this joyful celebration of a young girl's childhood.	2-3
<i>All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything</i> by Annette Bay Pimentel	Experience the true story of lifelong activist Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins and her participation in the Capitol Crawl in this inspiring autobiographical picture book. This beautifully illustrated story includes a foreword from Jennifer and backmatter detailing her life and the history of the disability rights movement.	2-3
<i>Awesomely Emma</i> by Amy Webb	Emma has limb differences, but different isn't bad, sad, or strange. It's just different! But when some accessibility problems get in the way, it ruins the fun of a class trip. Emma has to call upon her sense of inner awesome to stand up for herself and make things better.	2-3
<i>Born Ready</i> by Jodie Patterson	Jodie Patterson, activist and Chair of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation Board, shares her transgender son's experience in this important picture book about identity and acceptance.	2-3
<i>Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away</i> by Meg Medina	From Newbery Medalist Meg Medina comes the bittersweet story of two girls who will always be each other's número uno, even though one is moving away.	2-3
<i>Fauja Singh Keeps Going</i> by Simran Jeet Singh	The true story of Fauja Singh, who broke world records to become the first one hundred-year-old to run a marathon, shares valuable lessons on the source of his grit and determination to overcome obstacles.	2-3
<i>Home is in Between</i> by Mitali Perkins	From National Book Award nominee Mitali Perkins comes a sweet and innovative picture book about a first-generation immigrant child living in America.	2-3
<i>How to Solve a Problem</i> by Ashima Shiraishi	Ashima Shiraishi draws on her experience as a world-class climber in this story that challenges readers to tackle the problems in their own lives and rise to greater heights than they would have ever thought possible.	2-3
<i>I Am Every Good Thing</i> by Derrick Barnes	The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. So slow down and really look and listen, when somebody tells you—and shows you—who they are. There are superheroes in our midst!	2-3
<i>I'm Gonna Push Through</i> by Jasmyn Wright	Inspired by a mantra written for her students, Jasmyn Wright's uplifting call to "push through" is an invitation to young readers to announce their own power and to recognize and reaffirm that of others, regardless of setbacks.	2-3
<i>If Dominican Were a Color</i> by Sili Recio	People's skin can be the shade of cinnamon in cocoa or of mahogany. This exuberantly colorful, softly rhyming picture book is a gentle reminder that a nation's hues are as wide as nature itself.	2-3
<i>Itzak A Boy Who Loved the Violin</i> by Tracy Newman	This picture-book biography of violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman will inspire young readers to follow the melody within themselves.	2-3
<i>JD and the Great Barber Battle</i> by J. Dillard	J.D. has a big problem—it's the night before third grade and his mom has given him his first and worst home haircut. He takes matters into his own hands and discovers he's a genius with the clippers. How do you find out who's the best barber in town? With a great barber battle!	2-3
<i>Milo Imagines the World</i> by Matt de la Peña	Milo is on a long subway ride with his older sister. To pass the time, he studies the faces around him and makes pictures of their lives. But when the	2-3

	boy in the suit gets off on the same stop as Milo—walking the same path, going to the exact same place—Milo realizes that you can't really know anyone just by looking at them.	
<u><i>My First Day</i> by Phung Nguyen Quang</u>	The rainy season has come to the Mekong Delta, and An, a young Vietnamese boy, sets out alone in a wooden boat armed only with a single oar. Although daunted by the dark unknown, he knows it will all be worth it when he reaches his destination—one familiar to children all over the world.	2-3
<u><i>The Power of Her Pen: the Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne</i> by Lisa Cline-Ransome</u>	Ethel Payne always had an ear for stories. Seeking truth, justice, and equality, Ethel followed stories from her school newspaper in Chicago to Japan during World War II. Ethel wasn't afraid to ask the tough questions, earning her the title, "First Lady of the Black Press."	2-3
<u><i>R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul</i> by Carole Boston-Weatherford</u>	Aretha Franklin was born to sing. This authoritative, rhythmic, Coretta Scott King Illustration Award–winning picture book biography will captivate young readers with Aretha's inspiring story.	2-3
<u><i>Ways to Grow Love</i> by Renee Watson</u>	The Hart family is experiencing a lot of changes, and Ryan needs to grow her patience in many ways, find ways to share the love, meet new challenges, and grow into the leader her mom and dad named her to be.	2-3
<u><i>We Are Water Protectors</i> by Carole Lindstrom</u>	Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, <i>We Are Water Protectors</i> issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption in this bold and lyrical picture book.	2-3
<u><i>We Wait for the Sun</i> by Katie McCabe</u>	A cherished memory from Dovey Johnson Roundtree's childhood, this magical experience speaks to the joy that pulsed through her life, even under the shadow of Jim Crow. This is a resonant, beautiful story told through one exquisite page turn after another.	2-3

Upper Elementary

Title	Description	Grade Level
<i>Abby, Tried and True</i> by Donna Gephart	Abby Braverman has to find a way to navigate seventh grade without her best friend, help keep her brother’s spirits up during difficult treatments, and figure out her surprising new feelings for the boy next door.	4-8
<i>All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team</i> by Christina Soontornvat	News of the missing team spreads, launching a seventeen-day rescue operation involving thousands of rescuers from around the globe. As the world sits vigil, people begin to wonder: how long can a group of ordinary kids survive in complete darkness with no food or clean water?	4-8
<i>Allergic: a Graphic Novel</i> by Megan Wagner Lloyd	Maggie loves animals and thinks a new puppy to call her own is the answer, but when she goes to select one on her birthday, she breaks out in hives and rashes. She’s severely allergic to anything with fur! Can Maggie outsmart her allergies and find the perfect pet?	4-5
<i>Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids</i> edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith	This collection of intersecting stories by both new and veteran Native writers bursts with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and Native pride. Young protagonists will meet relatives from faraway, mysterious strangers, and sometimes one another (plus one scrappy rez dog).	4-8
<i>The Barren Grounds</i> by David A. Robertson	Morgan and Eli are brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They each feel disconnected, from their culture and each other, and struggle to fit in at school and at their new home -- until they find a secret place, walled off in an unfinished attic bedroom.	4-8
<i>Black Boy Joy</i> edited by Kwame Mbalia	Celebrate the joys of Black boyhood with stories from seventeen bestselling, critically acclaimed Black authors—including Jason Reynolds, Jerry Craft, and Kwame Mbalia!	4-8
<i>Chunky</i> by Yehudi Mercado	Yehudi Mercado draws inspiration from his childhood struggle with his weight while finding friendship with his imaginary mascot, Chunky, as he navigates growing up in a working class Mexican-Jewish family.	4-5
<i>Class Act</i> by Jerry Craft	Eighth grader Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying “You have to work twice as hard to be just as good.” As the pressures mount, will Drew find a way to bridge the divide so he and his friends can truly accept each other? And most importantly, will he finally be able to accept himself?	4-8
<i>The Deep and Dark Blue</i> by Niki Smith	After a terrible political coup usurps their noble house, Hawke and Grayson flee to stay alive and assume new identities, Hanna and Grayce. As the twins learn more about their new surroundings and themselves, they begin to hatch a plan to avenge their family and retake their royal home.	4-5
<i>Efrén Divided</i> by Ernesto Cisneros	Efrén worries about his parents; although he’s American-born, his parents are undocumented. His worst nightmare comes true one day when Amá doesn’t return from work. Now more than ever, Efrén must channel his inner Soperboy to help take care of and try to reunite his family.	4-8
<i>Flight of the Puffin</i> by Ann Braden	One small act of kindness ripples out to connect four kids and help each one summon up the thing they need most, whether it’s bravery, empathy, or understanding. They also realize they matter—and that they’re not flying solo anymore.	4-8
<i>Hazel Bly and the Deep Blue Sea</i> by Ashley Herring Blake	Hazel Bly used to live with her perfect family in sunny California. But when a kayaking trip goes horribly wrong, Mum is suddenly gone forever and Hazel is left with crippling anxiety and a jagged scar on her face in this poignant yet hopeful story of a girl navigating grief, trauma, and friendship.	4-8

<u>Healer of the Water Monster by Brian Young</u>	When Nathan goes to visit his grandma at her mobile summer home on the Navajo reservation, he knows he's in for a pretty uneventful summer, with no electricity or cell service. But Nathan finds someone extraordinary in need of help. Now Nathan must summon all his courage to save his new friend.	4-8
<u>Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom by Sangu Mandanna</u>	For fans of the Aru Shah and Serpent's Secret series, this action-packed fantasy-adventure sees a girl's drawings of Indian mythology spring to vivid life—including the evil god who seeks to enter the real world and destroy it.	4-5
<u>Ophie's Ghosts by Justina Ireland</u>	Ophelia Harrison used to live in a small house in the Georgia countryside. But that was before the cruel act that took her home and her father from her. A sweeping tale of the ghosts of our past that won't stay buried, starring an unforgettable girl named Ophie.	4-5
<u>Pepper's Rules for Secret Sleuthing by Briana McDonald</u>	Nancy Drew meets Harriet the Spy in this action-packed and heartfelt debut middle grade following an overzealous amateur sleuth as she investigates a shocking family secret—and unravels the mystery of her developing feelings for girls.	4-5
<u>Sharice's Big Voice by Sharice Davids</u>	When Sharice Davids was young, she never thought she'd be one of the first Native American women in Congress. During her campaign, she heard from a lot of doubters. But here's the thing: Everyone's path looks different and everyone's path has obstacles.	4-5
<u>The Ship We Built by Lexie Bean</u>	Tender and wise, <i>The Ship We Built</i> is about the bravery it takes to stand up for yourself—even to those you love—and the power of finding someone who treasures you for everything you are.	4-8
<u>Something to Say by Lisa Moore Ramee</u>	Eleven-year-old Jenae doesn't have any friends—and she's just fine with that. Then a new student shows up at school. Jenae would do almost anything to avoid speaking up in front of an audience—including risking the first real friendship she's ever had.	4-8
<u>Stamped (For Kids) by Sonja Cherry-Paul (Adapter), Jason Reynolds (Author), Ibram X. Kendi (Author)</u>	This book takes readers on a journey from present to past and back again. Kids will discover where racist ideas came from, identify how they impact America today, and meet those who have fought racism with antiracism. Along the way, they'll learn how to identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their own lives.	4-5
<u>Starfish by Lisa Fipps</u>	Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to be her own fabulous self.	4-8
<u>That Thing about Bollywood by Supriya Kelkar</u>	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. But then something strange happens and Sonali suspects it has something to do with her own mismanaged emotions. Can she figure it out before it's too late?	4-5
<u>Three Keys by Kelly Yang</u>	Mia Tang thinks she's going to have the best year ever. She and her parents are the proud owners of the Calivista Motel, Mia gets to run the front desk with her best friend, Lupe, and she's finally getting somewhere with her writing! But as it turns out, sixth grade is no picnic...	4-5
<u>Too Bright to See by Kyle Lukoff</u>	It's the summer before middle school and Bug's best friend Moira has decided the two of them need to prepare. Bug doesn't particularly want to spend more time trying to understand how to be a girl. Besides, there's something more important to worry about: trying to figure out why a ghost is haunting Bug's home.	4-8
<u>The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez by Adrianna Cuevas</u>	All Nestor Lopez wants is to live in one place for more than a few months and have dinner with his dad. He definitely doesn't want anyone to find out his deepest secret: that he can talk to animals. Now it's up to Nestor's	4-5

	extraordinary ability and his new friends to catch the tule vieja—and save a place he might just call home.	
<u>Twins by Varian Johnson</u>	Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran — a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president, and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. Can their bond survive?	4-5
<u>Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre by Carole Boston Weatherford</u>	This picture book sensitively introduces young readers to the Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the worst incidents of racial violence in our nation's history, and concludes with a call for a better future.	4-5
<u>Watercress by Andrea Wang</u>	Driving through Ohio, a young girl's parents stop suddenly when they spot watercress growing wild in a ditch. Why can't her family get food from the grocery store? But when her mother shares a story, the girl learns to appreciate the fresh food they foraged in this moving autobiographical story of a child connecting with her heritage.	4-5
<u>When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller</u>	Would you make a deal with a magical tiger? This uplifting story brings Korean folklore to life as a girl goes on a quest to unlock the power of stories and save her grandmother.	4-8
<u>The Year I Flew Away by Marie Arnold</u>	Gabrielle is excited to be moving from Haiti to America. Unfortunately, her parents won't be able to join her yet and she'll be living with relatives she has never met. She promises her parents that she will behave, but life proves to be difficult. Gabrielle is a funny and engaging heroine you won't soon forget.	4-5

Middle School

Title	Description	Grade Level
<u>Abby, Tried and True</u> by <u>Donna Gephart</u>	Abby Braverman has to find a way to navigate seventh grade without her best friend, help keep her brother's spirits up during difficult treatments, and figure out her surprising new feelings for the boy next door.	4-8
<u>All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team</u> by <u>Christina Soontornvat</u>	News of the missing team spreads, launching a seventeen-day rescue operation involving thousands of rescuers from around the globe. As the world sits vigil, people begin to wonder: how long can a group of ordinary kids survive in complete darkness, with no food or clean water?	4-8
<u>Almost Flying</u> by <u>Jake Maia Arlow</u>	In this unabashedly queer middle grade debut, a week-long amusement park road trip becomes a true roller coaster of emotion when Dalia realizes she has more-than-friend feelings for her new bestie.	6-8
<u>Amari and the Night Brothers</u> by <u>B.B. Alston</u>	Amari Peters has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive. So when she finds a ticking briefcase in his closet, she's certain the secretive organization holds the key to locating Quinton—if only she can wrap her head around the idea of magicians, fairies, aliens, and other supernatural creatures all being real.	6-8
<u>Ana on the Edge</u> by <u>A.J. Sass</u>	Ana-Marie Jin, the reigning US Juvenile figure skating champion, is not a frilly dress kind of kid. When Hayden, a transgender boy new to the rink, mistakes Ana for a boy, Ana doesn't correct him. Ana realizes that it's tricky juggling two different identities. With a major competition approaching, Ana must decide whether telling everyone the truth is worth risking years of hard work and sacrifice.	6-12
<u>Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids</u> edited by <u>Cynthia Leitich Smith</u>	This collection of intersecting stories by both new and veteran Native writers bursts with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and Native pride. Young protagonists will meet relatives from faraway, mysterious strangers, and sometimes one another (plus one scrappy rez dog).	4-8
<u>Angel of Greenwood</u> by <u>Randi Pink</u>	Isaiah Wilson is, on the surface, a town troublemaker, but he is hiding that he is an avid reader and secret poet, never leaving home without his journal. Angel Hill is a loner, mostly disregarded by her peers as a goody-goody. Only then, Isaiah, Angel, and their peers realize who their real enemies are.	6-12
<u>The Barren Grounds</u> by <u>David A. Robertson</u>	Morgan and Eli are brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They each feel disconnected, from their culture and each other, and struggle to fit in at school and at their new home -- until they find a secret place, walled off in an unfinished attic bedroom.	4-8
<u>Becoming (Young Adult Edition)</u> by <u>Michelle Obama</u>	Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her. <i>Becoming</i> is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.	6-12
<u>Before the Ever After</u> by <u>Jacqueline Woodson</u>	ZJ's dad is everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's beloved by millions. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. As ZJ contemplates his new reality, he has to figure out how to hold on tight to family traditions and recollections of the glory days.	6-8
<u>Black Boy Joy</u> edited by <u>Kwame Mbalia</u>	Celebrate the joys of Black boyhood with stories from seventeen bestselling, critically acclaimed Black authors—including Jason Reynolds, Jerry Craft, and Kwame Mbalia!	4-8
<u>The Blackbird Girls</u> by <u>Anne Blankman</u>	A reactor at the nuclear power plant has exploded. Neighbors Valentina and Oksana find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with	6-8

	Valentina's estranged grandmother. Both of them discover something they've wished for: a best friend. But how far would you go to save your best friend's life? Would you risk your own?	
<i>The Chance to Fly</i> by Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz	Nat Beacon loves a lot of things: her dog Warbucks, her best friend Chloe, and competing on her wheelchair racing team to name a few. But there's one thing she's absolutely obsessed with: musicals! She's never actually been in a musical though, or even seen an actor who uses a wheelchair for mobility on stage. Would someone like Nat ever get cast?	6-8
<i>Cinderella is Dead</i> by Kalynn Bayron	It's 200 years after Cinderella found her prince, but the fairy tale is over. Sixteen-year-old Sophia would much rather marry Erin, her childhood best friend, than parade in front of suitors. This fresh take on a classic story will make readers question the tales they've been told, and root for girls to break down the constructs of the world around them.	6-12
<i>City of the Plague God</i> by Sarwat Chadda	Characters from the Epic of Gilgamesh populate this high-stakes contemporary adventure in which all of Manhattan is threatened by the ancient god of plagues. To succeed, they'll have to conquer sly demons, treacherous gods, and their own darkest nightmares.	6-8
<i>Class Act</i> by Jerry Craft	Eighth grader Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying "You have to work twice as hard to be just as good." As the pressures mount, will Drew find a way to bridge the divide so he and his friends can truly accept each other? And most importantly, will he finally be able to accept himself?	4-8
<i>Dress Coded</i> by Carrie Firestone	Molly Frost is FED UP... Because it's impossible to find shorts that are longer than her fingertips. Because girls' bodies are not a distraction. Because middle school is hard enough. And so Molly starts a podcast where girls can tell their stories, and before long, her small rebellion swells into a revolution.	6-8
<i>Efrén Divided</i> by Ernesto Cisneros	Efrén worries about his parents; although he's American-born, his parents are undocumented. His worst nightmare comes true one day when Amá doesn't return from work. Now more than ever, Efrén must channel his inner Soperboy to help take care of and try to reunite his family.	4-8
<i>Elatsoe</i> by Darcie Little Badger	Imagine an America very similar to our own, with homework, best friends, and pistachio ice cream. But this America has been shaped dramatically by the magic, monsters, knowledge, and legends of its peoples, those Indigenous and those not. The picture-perfect façade of Willowbee masks gruesome secrets, and Elatsoe will rely on her wits, skills, and friends to tear off the mask and protect her family.	6-12
<i>Everything Sad is Untrue</i> by Daniel Nayeri	At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (whom everyone calls "Daniel") stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. Like Scheherazade in a hostile classroom, Daniel weaves a tale to save his own life: to stake his claim to the truth. And it is (a true story).	6-12
<i>Fighting Words</i> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	In this powerful novel that explodes the stigma around child sexual abuse and leavens an intense tale with compassion and humor, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley tells a story about two sisters, linked by love and trauma, who must find their own voices before they can find their way back to each other.	6-8
<i>Finding Junie Kim</i> by Ellen Oh	Junie Kim just wants to fit in. She tries not to draw attention to herself. But when racist graffiti appears at her school, Junie must decide between staying silent or speaking out. And as racism becomes more pervasive, Junie taps into the strength of her ancestors and finds the courage to do what is right.	6-8
<i>Flight of the Puffin</i> by Ann Braden	One small act of kindness ripples out to connect four kids and helps each one summon up the thing they need most, whether it's bravery, empathy, or understanding. They also realize they matter—and that they're not flying solo anymore.	4-8

<u><i>From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement</i> by Paula Yoo</u>	A compelling account of the killing of Vincent Chin, the verdicts that took the Asian American community to the streets in protest, and the groundbreaking civil rights trial that followed. A bar fight turns fatal, leaving a Chinese American man beaten to death at the hands of two white men. The protests that followed led to a federal civil rights trial—the first involving a crime against an Asian American—and galvanized what came to be known as the Asian American movement.	6-12
<u><i>The Gilded Ones</i> by Namina Forna</u>	Sixteen-year-old Deka lives in fear and anticipation of the blood ceremony that will determine whether she will become a member of her village. Already different from everyone else because of her unnatural intuition, Deka prays for red blood so she can finally feel like she belongs.	6-8
<u><i>The Girl and the Ghost</i> by Hanna Alkaf</u>	Suraya is delighted when her witch grandmother gifts her a pelesit, who she names Pink. The two quickly become inseparable. But Suraya doesn't know that pelesits have a dark side—and when Pink's shadows threaten to consume them both, they must find enough light to survive . . . before they are both lost to the darkness.	6-8
<u><i>Hazel Bly and the Deep Blue Sea</i> by Ashley Herring Blake</u>	Hazel Bly used to live with her perfect family in sunny California. But when a kayaking trip goes horribly wrong, Mum is suddenly gone forever and Hazel is left with crippling anxiety and a jagged scar on her face in this poignant yet hopeful story of a girl navigating grief, trauma, and friendship.	4-8
<u><i>Healer of the Water Monster</i> by Brian Young</u>	When Nathan goes to visit his grandma at her mobile summer home on the Navajo reservation, he knows he's in for a pretty uneventful summer, with no electricity or cell service. But Nathan finds someone extraordinary in need of help. Now Nathan must summon all his courage to save his new friend.	4-8
<u><i>King and the Dragonflies</i> by Kacen Callender</u>	Kingston James is sure his brother Khalid has turned into a dragonfly. Khalid still visits in dreams, and King must keep these secrets to himself as he watches grief transform his family. It would be easier if King could talk with his best friend, Sandy Sanders. But just days before he died, Khalid told King to end his friendship with Sandy. And then Sandy goes missing,...	6-8
<u><i>Land of the Cranes</i> by Aida Salazar</u>	Nine-year-old Betita knows she is a crane. Papi has told her the story, even before her family fled to Los Angeles to seek refuge from cartel wars in Mexico. In cruel and inhumane conditions, each day threatens to tear them down. Will Betita and her family ever be whole again?	6-8
<u><i>Last Gate of the Emperor</i> by Kwame Mbalia and Prince Joel Makonnen</u>	Yared Heywat lives an isolated life in Addis Prime. Suddenly, all the stories Yared's uncle told him are coming to life and somehow Yared is at the center of them. Yared must search for his uncle... and answers to his place in a forgotten, galaxy-spanning war.	6-8
<u><i>Lupe Wong Won't Dance</i> by Donna Barba Higuera</u>	Lupe Wong is determined to be the first female pitcher in the Major Leagues. She's also championed causes her whole young life. Not since Millicent Min, Girl Genius has a debut novel introduced a character so memorable, with such humor and emotional insight.	6-8
<u><i>The Magic Fish</i> by Trung Le Nguyen</u>	Real life isn't a fairytale. But Tién still enjoys reading his favorite stories with his parents. It's hard enough trying to communicate with your parents, but for Tién, he doesn't even have the right words because his parents are struggling with their English. Is there a Vietnamese word for what he's going through?	6-12
<u><i>Nubia: Real One</i> by L.L. McKinney</u>	Can you be a hero...if society doesn't see you as a person? Nubia has always been a little bit...different. Every time she comes to the rescue, she's reminded of how people see her: as a threat. Her moms do their best to keep her safe, but Nubia can't deny the fire within her, even if it means people assume the worst.	6-12
<u><i>One Real American: The Life of Ely S. Parker.</i></u>	Ely S. Parker (1828–1895) is one of the most unique but little-known figures in US history. A member of the Seneca (Iroquois) Nation, Parker was an	6-12

<u>Seneca Sachem and Civil War General by Joseph Bruchac</u>	attorney, engineer, and tribal diplomat. Joseph Bruchac provides an expertly researched, intimate look at a man who achieved great success in two worlds yet was caught between them.	
<u>A Place at the Table by Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan</u>	A timely, accessible, and beautifully written story exploring themes of food, friendship, family and what it means to belong, featuring sixth graders Sara, a Pakistani American, and Elizabeth, a white, Jewish girl taking a South Asian cooking class taught by Sara's mom.	6-8
<u>Poisoned Water: How the Citizens of Flint, Michigan, Fought for Their Lives and Warned the Nation by Candy J Cooper and Marc Aronson</u>	Citizens of Flint protested that the water was dangerous. Despite what seemed so apparent from the murky, foul-smelling liquid pouring from the city's faucets, officials refused to listen. They treated the people of Flint as the problem, not the water, which was actually poisoning thousands. Based on original reporting by a Pulitzer Prize finalist and an industry veteran.	6-12
<u>Red, White, and Whole by Rajani LaRocca</u>	A heartbreakingly hopeful novel in verse about an Indian American girl whose life is turned upside down when her mother is diagnosed with leukemia.	6-8
<u>The Sea In Winter by Christine Day</u>	It's been a hard year for Maisie Cannon, ever since she hurt her leg and could not keep up with her ballet training and auditions. Her blended family is loving and supportive, but how can she keep pretending to be strong when on the inside she feels as rolling and cold as the ocean?	6-8
<u>The Ship We Built by Lexie Bean</u>	Tender and wise, <i>The Ship We Built</i> is about the bravery it takes to stand up for yourself—even to those you love—and the power of finding someone who treasures you for everything you are.	4-8
<u>Something to Say by Lisa Moore Ramee</u>	Eleven-year-old Jenae doesn't have any friends—and she's just fine with that. Then a new student shows up at school. Jenae would do almost anything to avoid speaking up in front of an audience—including risking the first real friendship she's ever had.	4-8
<u>Snapdragon by Kat Leyh</u>	Kat Leyh's <i>Snapdragon</i> is a magical realist graphic novel about a young girl who befriends her town's witch and discovers the strange magic within herself.	6-12
<u>Starfish by Lisa Fipps</u>	Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to be her own fabulous self.	4-8
<u>Strong as Fire. Fierce as Flame by Supriya Kelkar</u>	Meera's future has been planned for her for as long as she can remember. As she prepares to leave her family to live with her husband's—just as her strict religion dictates - Indian soldiers mutiny against their British commanders. Will Meera do her part to take down the British colonists? How much fire must a girl face to finally write her own destiny?	6-8
<u>Too Bright to See by Kyle Lukoff</u>	It's the summer before middle school and Bug's best friend Moira has decided the two of them need to prepare. Bug doesn't particularly want to spend more time trying to understand how to be a girl. Besides, there's something more important to worry about: trying to figure out why a ghost is haunting Bug's home.	4-8
<u>Tornado Brain by Cat Patrick</u>	A powerful story of friendship, sisters, and forgiveness, <i>Tornado Brain</i> is an achingly honest portrait of a young girl trying to find space to be herself. Inspired by her own neurodiverse child, Cat Patrick writes with authenticity and sincerity in her depiction of Frankie in what is ultimately a love letter to neurodiverse children everywhere.	6-12
<u>Turtle Boy by M. Evan Wolkenstein</u>	Seventh grade is not going well for Will Levine. Kids at school bully him because of his funny-looking chin. And for his bar mitzvah community service project, he's forced to go to the hospital to visit RJ, an older boy struggling	6-8

	with an incurable disease.	
<i>What Stars are Made Of</i> by Sarah Allen	Libby was born with Turner Syndrome, and that makes some things hard. But she has lots of people who love her, and that makes her pretty lucky. Does she have what it takes to care for the sister that has always cared for her? And what will it take for the universe to notice?	6-8
<i>When You Trap a Tiger</i> by Tae Keller	Would you make a deal with a magical tiger? This uplifting story brings Korean folklore to life as a girl goes on a quest to unlock the power of stories and save her grandmother.	4-8
<i>While I Was Away</i> by Waka T. Brown	When Waka's parents suspect she can't understand the basic Japanese they speak to her, they make a drastic decision to send her to Tokyo to live for several months with her strict grandmother. Forced to say goodbye to her friends, Waka is plucked from her straight-A-student life in rural Kansas and flown across the globe, where she faces the culture shock of a lifetime.	6-8

High School

Title	Description	Grade Level
Ana on the Edge by A.J. Sass	Ana-Marie Jin, the reigning US Juvenile figure skating champion, is not a frilly dress kind of kid. When Hayden, a transgender boy new to the rink, mistakes Ana for a boy, Ana doesn't correct him. Ana realizes that it's tricky juggling two different identities. With a major competition approaching, Ana must decide whether telling everyone the truth is worth risking years of hard work and sacrifice.	6-12
Angel of Greenwood by Randi Pink	Isaiah Wilson is, on the surface, a town troublemaker, but is hiding that he is an avid reader and secret poet, never leaving home without his journal. Angel Hill is a loner, mostly disregarded by her peers as a goody-goody. Only then, Isaiah, Angel, and their peers realize who their real enemies are.	6-12
Becoming (Young Adult Edition) by Michelle Obama	Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her. <i>Becoming</i> is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.	6-12
Between Perfect and Real by Ray Stoeve	Dean Foster knows he's a trans guy but he wonders if maybe it would be easier to wait until college to come out. But as he plays Romeo every day in rehearsals, Dean realizes he wants everyone to see him as he really is now—not just on the stage, but everywhere in his life. Can playing a role help Dean be his true self?	9-12
The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person by Joseph Frederick	Writing from the perspective of a friend, Frederick Joseph offers candid reflections on his own experiences with racism and conversations with prominent artists and activists about theirs—creating an essential read for white people who are committed anti-racists and those newly come to the cause of racial justice.	9-12
Blackout by Dhonielle Clayton et. al.	Six critically acclaimed, bestselling, and award-winning authors bring the glowing warmth and electricity of Black teens in love to this charming, hilarious, and heartwarming novel that shines a bright light through the dark.	9-12
Can't Take That Away by Steven Salvatore	An empowering and emotional debut about a genderqueer teen who finds the courage to stand up and speak out for equality when they are discriminated against by their high school administration.	9-12
The Cat I Never Named by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess	The stunning memoir of a Muslim teen who, even in the brutality of war, never wavered in her determination to obtain an education, maintain friendships, and even find a first love—and the cat who gave comfort, hope, and maybe even served as the family's guardian spirit.	9-12
Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn Bayron	It's 200 years after Cinderella found her prince, but the fairy tale is over. Sixteen-year-old Sophia would much rather marry Erin, her childhood best friend, than parade in front of suitors. This fresh take on a classic story will make readers question the tales they've been told, and root for girls to break down the constructs of the world around them.	6-12
Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas	If there's one thing seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter knows, it's that a real man takes care of his family. Life's not perfect, but with a fly girlfriend and a cousin who always has his back, Mav's got everything under control. Until, that is, Maverick finds out he's a father. Loyalty, revenge, and responsibility threaten to tear Mav apart, especially after the brutal murder of a loved one. He'll have to figure out for himself what it really means to be a man.	9-12
The Cost of Knowing by Brittney Morris	For 16-year-old Alex, having a secret superpower is more of a curse than a blessing. Ever since his parents' deaths, Alex can see into the future. Rather than giving Alex an advantage, this supernatural gift gives him endless	9-12

	anxiety. The clock is ticking, and he must journey into his ancestral past and grapple with what it means to be a man. This portrait of Black boys as sensitive, vulnerable, and complex is refreshing, unfolding within a powerful and provocative narrative about brotherly love and the insidiousness of racism.	
Counting Down with You by Tashie Bhuiyan	Karina Ahmed has a plan. Keep her head down, get through high school without a fuss, and follow her parents' rules—even if it means sacrificing her dreams. When her parents go abroad to Bangladesh for four weeks, Karina expects some peace and quiet. Instead, one simple lie unravels everything. T-minus twenty-eight days until everything returns to normal—but what if Karina no longer wants it to?	9-12
Elatsoe by Darcie Little Badger	Imagine an America very similar to our own, with homework, best friends, and pistachio ice cream. But this America has been shaped dramatically by the magic, monsters, knowledge, and legends of its peoples, those Indigenous and those not. The picture-perfect façade of Willowbee masks gruesome secrets, and Elatsoe will rely on her wits, skills, and friends to tear off the mask and protect her family.	6-12
Everything Sad is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri	At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (whom everyone calls “Daniel”) stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. Like Scheherazade in a hostile classroom, Daniel weaves a tale to save his own life: to stake his claim to the truth. And it is (a true story).	6-12
Fat Chance, Charlie Vega by Crystal Maldonado	A sensitive, funny, and painfully honest coming-of-age story with a wry voice and tons of chisme, <i>Fat Chance, Charlie Vega</i> tackles our relationships to our parents, our bodies, our cultures, and ourselves.	9-12
Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley	Angeline Boulley's debut novel, <i>Firekeeper's Daughter</i> , is a groundbreaking YA thriller about an Ojibwe teen who must root out the corruption in her community, perfect for readers of Angie Thomas and Tommy Orange.	9-12
The Forest of Stolen Girls by June Hur	After her father vanishes while investigating the disappearance of 13 young women, a teen returns home to pick up the trail in this YA historical mystery from the author of <i>The Silence of Bones</i> .	9-12
From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement by Paula Yoo	A compelling account of the killing of Vincent Chin, the verdicts that took the Asian American community to the streets in protest, and the groundbreaking civil rights trial that followed. A bar fight turns fatal, leaving a Chinese American man beaten to death at the hands of two white men. The protests that followed led to a federal civil rights trial—the first involving a crime against an Asian American—and galvanized what came to be known as the Asian American movement.	6-12
Furia by Yamile Saied Mendez	A powerful contemporary YA novel for fans of <i>The Poet X</i> and <i>I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i> set in Argentina, about a rising soccer star who must put everything on the line—even her blooming love story—to follow her dreams.	9-12
The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna	Sixteen-year-old Deka lives in fear and anticipation of the blood ceremony that will determine whether she will become a member of her village. Already different from everyone else because of her unnatural intuition, Deka prays for red blood so she can finally feel like she belongs.	6-12
Happily Ever Afters by Elise Bryant	Tessa Johnson has never felt like the protagonist in her own life. She's rarely seen herself reflected in the pages of the romance novels she loves. The only place she's a true leading lady is in her own writing. She's well on her way to having her own real-life love story, but is it the one she wants, after all?	9-12
How It All Blew Up by Arvin Ahmadi	At turns uplifting and devastating, <i>How It All Blew Up</i> is Arvin Ahmadi's most powerful novel yet, a celebration of how life's most painful moments can live	9-12

	alongside the riotous, life-changing joys of discovering who you are.	
How We Fall Apart by Katie Zhao	Katie Zhao's YA debut is an edge-of-your-seat drama set in the pressure-cooker world of academics and image at Sinclair Prep, where the past threatens the future these teens have carefully crafted for themselves. <i>How We Fall Apart</i> is the irresistible, addicting, Asian-American recast of <i>Gossip Girl</i> that we've all been waiting for.	9-12
Hurricane Summer by Asha Bromfield	In this sweeping debut, Asha Bromfield takes readers to the heart of Jamaica, and into the soul of a girl coming to terms with her family, and herself, set against the backdrop of a hurricane.	9-12
The Infinity Courts by Akemi Dawn Bowman	From award-winning author Akemi Dawn Bowman comes an incisive, action-packed tale that explores big questions about technology, grief, love, and humanity.	9-12
Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Malinda Lo	America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone, including Chinese Americans like Lily. With deportation looming over her father—despite his hard-won citizenship—Lily and Kath risk everything to let their love see the light of day.	9-12
Legendborn by Tracy Deonn	Filled with mystery and an intriguingly rich magic system, Tracy Deonn's YA contemporary fantasy <i>Legendborn</i> offers the dark allure of <i>City of Bones</i> with a modern-day twist on a classic legend and a lot of Southern Black Girl Magic.	9-12
List of Ten by Halli Gomez	A harrowing yet hopeful account of a teen living with Tourette Syndrome and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder . . . and contemplating his own mortality.	9-12
Long Way Down. The Graphic Novel by Jason Reynolds	Will's older brother, Shawn, has been shot. Dead. Will feels a sadness so great, he can't explain it. But in his neighborhood, there are the rules. And there's always someone else who knows to follow the rules. . . <i>Long Way Down</i> is now a gripping, galvanizing graphic novel, with haunting artwork by Danica Novgorodoff.	9-12
Love is a Revolution by Renée Watson	In <i>Love Is a Revolution</i> , plus size girls are beautiful and get the attention of the hot guys, the popular girl clique is not shallow but has strong convictions and substance, and the ultimate love story is not only about romance but about how to show radical love to the people in your life, including to yourself.	9-12
Luck of the Titanic by Stacey Lee	From the author of <i>The Downstairs Girl</i> comes the richly imagined story of Valora and Jamie Luck, twin British-Chinese acrobats traveling aboard the <i>Titanic</i> on its ill-fated maiden voyage.	9-12
The Magic Fish by Trung Le Nguyen	Real life isn't a fairytale. But Tién still enjoys reading his favorite stories with his parents. It's hard enough trying to communicate with your parents as a kid, but for Tién, he doesn't even have the right words because his parents are struggling with their English. Is there a Vietnamese word for what he's going through?	6-12
Nubia: Real One by L.L. McKinney	Can you be a hero...if society doesn't see you as a person? Nubia has always been a little bit...different. Every time she comes to the rescue, she's reminded of how people see her: as a threat. Her moms do their best to keep her safe, but Nubia can't deny the fire within her, even if it means people assume the worst.	6-12
Odessa by Jonathan Hill	Eight years ago an earthquake—the Big One—hit along the Cascadia fault line, toppling cities and changing landscapes all up and down the west coast of the United States. Life as we know it changed forever. But for Vietnamese-American Virginia Crane, life changed shortly after the earthquake, when her mother left and never came back.	9-12

<u>One of the Good Ones by Maika and Maritza Moulite</u>	When teen social activist and history buff Kezi Smith is killed under mysterious circumstances after attending a social justice rally, her devastated sister Happi and their family are left reeling in the aftermath. As Kezi becomes another immortalized victim in the fight against police brutality, Happi begins to question the idealized way her sister is remembered.	9-12
<u>One Real American: The Life of Ely S. Parker, Seneca Sachem and Civil War General by Joseph Bruchac</u>	Ely S. Parker (1828–1895) is one of the most unique but little-known figures in US history. A member of the Seneca (Iroquois) Nation, Parker was an attorney, engineer, and tribal diplomat. Joseph Bruchac provides an expertly researched, intimate look at a man who achieved great success in two worlds yet was caught between them.	6-12
<u>The Passing Playbook by Isaac Fitzsimons</u>	Fifteen-year-old Spencer Harris is a proud nerd, an awesome big brother, and a David Beckham in training. He's also transgender. After transitioning at his old school leads to a year of isolation and bullying, Spencer gets a fresh start at Oakley, the most liberal private school in Ohio.	9-12
<u>Perfect on Paper by Sophie Gonzales</u>	In Sophie Gonzales' <i>Perfect on Paper</i> , <i>Leah on the Offbeat</i> meets <i>To All the Boys I've Loved Before</i> : a bisexual girl who gives anonymous love advice to her classmates is hired by the hot guy to help him get his ex back	9-12
<u>Perfectly Parvin by Olivia Abtahi</u>	Olivia Abtahi's debut is as hilarious as it is heartfelt—a delightful tale where, amid the turmoil of high school friendships and crushes, being yourself is always the perfect way to be.	9-12
<u>Poisoned Water: How the Citizens of Flint, Michigan, Fought for Their Lives and Warned the Nation by Candy J Cooper and Marc Aronson</u>	Citizens of Flint protested that the water was dangerous. Despite what seemed so apparent from the murky, foul-smelling liquid pouring from the city's faucets, officials refused to listen. They treated the people of Flint as the problem, not the water, which was actually poisoning thousands. Based on original reporting by a Pulitzer Prize finalist and an industry veteran.	6-12
<u>Punching the Air by Yusef Salaam and Ibi Zoboi</u>	Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, because of a biased system, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated. Then, one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white.	9-12
<u>Running by Natalia Sylvester</u>	When fifteen-year-old Cuban American Mariana Ruiz's father runs for president, Mari starts to see him with new eyes. A novel about waking up and standing up, and what happens when you stop seeing your dad as your hero—while the whole country is watching.	9-12
<u>Sia Martinez and the Moonlit Beginning of Everything by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland</u>	It's been three years since Sia Martinez's mom disappeared. Sia wants to move on, but it's hard in her tiny Arizona town where people refer to her mom's deportation as "an unfortunate incident." Sia knows that her mom must be dead, but every new moon Sia drives into the desert and lights San Anthony and la Guadalupe candles to guide her mom home.	9-12
<u>A Sitting in St. James by Rita Williams-Garcia</u>	An astonishing novel about the interwoven lives of those bound to a plantation in antebellum America is an epic masterwork—empathetic, brutal, and entirely human—and essential reading for both teens and adults grappling with the long history of American racism.	9-12
<u>Snapdragon by Kat Leyh</u>	Kat Leyh's <i>Snapdragon</i> is a magical realist graphic novel about a young girl who befriends her town's witch and discovers the strange magic within herself.	6-12
<u>Some Other Now by Sarah Everett</u>	Before she kissed one of the Cohen boys, Jessi Rumfield knew what it was like to have a family—even if, technically, that family didn't belong to her. She'd spent her childhood in the house next door, challenging Rowan Cohen to tennis matches while his older brother, Luke, studied in the background and Mel watched over the three like the mother Jessi always wished she had.	9-12

<u>Stay Gold by Tobly McSmith</u>	Debut author Tobly McSmith delivers a coming-of-age teen love story about a transgender boy who's going stealth at his new Texas high school and a cisgender girl who is drawn to him, even as she's counting down the days until graduation.	9-12
<u>Somebody Give This Heart a Pen by Sophia Thakur</u>	From acclaimed performance poet Sophia Thakur comes a stirring collection of coming-of-age poems exploring issues of identity, difference, perseverance, relationships, fear, loss, and joy. From youth to school to family life to falling in love and falling back out again—the poems draw on the author's experience as a young mixed-race woman trying to make sense of a lonely and complicated world. With a strong narrative voice and emotional empathy, this is poetry that will resonate with all young people, whatever their background and whatever their dreams.	9-12
<u>These Feathered Flames by Alexandra Overy</u>	When twin heirs are born in Tourin, their fates are decided at a young age. As the princesses come to understand everything their roles entail, they'll discover who they can trust, who they can love—and who killed their mother.	9-12
<u>These Violent Delights by Chloe Gong</u>	The year is 1926, and Shanghai hums to the tune of debauchery. A blood feud between two gangs runs the streets red, leaving the city helpless in the grip of chaos. At the heart of it all is eighteen-year-old Juliette Cai, a former flapper who has returned to assume her role as the proud heir of the Scarlet Gang—a network of criminals far above the law. Their only rivals in power are the White Flowers, who have fought the Scarlets for generations. And behind every move is their heir, Roma Montagov, Juliette's first love...and first betrayal.	8-12
<u>This is My Brain in Love by I.W. Gregorio</u>	Jocelyn Wu has just three wishes for her junior year: To make it through without dying of boredom, to direct a short film with her BFF Priya Venkatram, and to get at least two months into the year without being compared to or confused with Peggy Chang, the only other Chinese girl in her grade. Will Domenici has two goals: to find a paying summer internship, and to prove he has what it takes to become an editor on his school paper.	8-12
<u>Three Things I Know Are True by Betty Culley</u>	Life changes forever for Liv when her older brother, Jonah, accidentally shoots himself with his best friend Clay's father's gun. Now Jonah needs round-the-clock care just to stay alive, and Liv feels like she's the only person who can see that her brother is still there inside his broken body.	9-12
<u>Tornado Brain by Cat Patrick</u>	A powerful story of friendship, sisters, and forgiveness, Tornado Brain is an achingly honest portrait of a young girl trying to find space to be herself. Inspired by her own neurodiverse child, Cat Patrick writes with authenticity and sincerity in her depiction of Frankie in what is ultimately a love letter to neurodiverse children everywhere.	6-12
<u>We Are Not Free by Traci Chee</u>	Fourteen teens who have grown up together in Japantown, San Francisco. Fourteen teens who form a community and a family, as interconnected as they are conflicted. Fourteen teens whose lives are turned upside down when over 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry are removed from their homes and forced into desolate incarceration camps. In a world that seems determined to hate them, these young Nisei must rally together as racism and injustice threaten to pull them apart.	9-12
<u>We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration by Frank Abe and Tamiko Nimura</u>	Three voices. Three acts of defiance. One mass injustice. The story of camp as you've never seen it before. Japanese Americans complied when evicted from their homes in World War II -- but many refused to submit to imprisonment in American concentration camps without a fight.	8-12
<u>When They Call You a Terrorist (Young Adult Edition) by Patrisse Khan-Cullors</u>	From one of the co-founders of the Black Lives Matter movement comes a poetic memoir and reflection on humanity. Necessary and timely, Patrisse Khan-Cullors' story asks us to remember that protest in the interest of the most vulnerable comes from love. Leaders of the Black Lives Matter	9-12

	<p>movement have been called terrorists, a threat to America. But in truth, they are loving women whose life experiences have led them to seek justice for those victimized by the powerful.</p>	
<p><u>Wings of Ebony by J. Elle</u></p>	<p>“Make a way out of no way” is just the way of life for Rue. But when her mother is shot dead on her doorstep, life for her and her younger sister changes forever. In this riveting, keenly emotional debut fantasy, a Black teen from Houston has her world upended when she learns about her godly ancestry and must save both the human and god worlds.</p>	<p>9-12</p>
<p><u>You Should See Me in a Crown by Leah Johnson</u></p>	<p>Liz Lighty has always believed she's too black, too poor, too awkward to shine in her small, rich, prom-obsessed midwestern town. But it's okay -- Liz has a plan that will get her out of Campbell, Indiana, forever. But when the financial aid she was counting on unexpectedly falls through, Liz's plans come crashing down . . . until she's reminded of her school's scholarship for prom king and queen. Will falling for the competition keep Liz from her dreams . . . or make them come true?</p>	<p>9-12</p>

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School Librarian
Harbor Lights Middle School and Macatawa Bay Middle School
West Ottawa Public Schools

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