

Autobiography of My Dead Brother

By Walter Dean Myers

Call no. F / Mye

Jesse pours his heart and soul into his sketchbook to make sense of life in his troubled Harlem neighborhood and the loss of a close friend.

A Terrible Secret

By Ginetter Anfousse

Call no. F / Anf

Sixteen-year-old Maggie has a secret about the real cause of her brother's death buried deep inside, but when she finally goes to the police she feels a real sense of freedom at last.

Prep

By Jake Coburn

Call no. F / Cob

One-time tag-artist, Nick tries to come to terms with the death of a friend, to protect the brother of his would-be girlfriend, to escape the violence of wealthy New York City prep school hoods, and to figure out who he really is.

NONFICTION

Why Do People Join Gangs?

By Julie Johnson

Call number: 364.1 / Joh

Presents information on gangs including how they are formed, what activities gangs get involved in, and what types of people join gangs. Also addresses the issues of bullying and gives advice to students on how to handle bullying.

Crews: Gang Members Talk to Maria Hinojosa

NPR reporter Maria Hinojosa interviews young gang members, asking tough questions about how they see the future and what they have to say about their experiences. *Crews* is a sampling, sometimes heartening, sometimes shocking, of Maria's interviews.

Life in Prison

By Stanley "Tookie" Williams

Call number: 365.6 / Wil

Co-founder of the notorious Crips gang, "Tookie" Williams writes about the brutal reality of life in prison. It is his mission to end gang warfare and to teach young readers to make intelligent decisions for their lives and not to follow in his footsteps.

Making smart choices about violence, gangs, and bullying

By Matthew Monteverde

Call number: 303.6 / Mon

Content includes: Teens and violence -- Why do teens choose violence? -- Avoiding violent situations -- The outcomes of choosing violence -- Living with outcomes of your choices.

Gangs: Stories of Life and Death from the Streets

Edited by Sean Donahue

Call number: 364.4 / Gan

A collection of stories from various authors depicting the lifestyles of different types of gangs, from 19th-century New York gangs to England's brutal soccer hooligans. These stories will take you into the gritty reality of gangster life and death.

Voices from the Streets: Young Former Gang Members Tell Their Stories

By S. Beth Atkin

Call number: 364.1 / Voi

Why do kids join gangs? What happens if they want to quit and stay out? This collection of photographs, poems, and interviews with former gang members is from different regions of the U.S. Girls and boys, from ages 13 to 20 reveal bits of their personal history - the good as well as the bad.

Problems With Gangs

***Available in Sylvester Middle
School Library***

FICTION

Scorpions

By Walter Dean Myers

Call no. F / Mye AR 3.6/6.0

Jamal, who is pressured to become leader of the Scorpions gang, worries about school, family, and the rough kids on the street. When a fellow gang member gives him a gun, Jamal suddenly gains a new level of respect from his enemies. This Newberry Honor selection gives a realistic look at a boy who wants to do the right thing but gets caught up in the culture of gangs and violence.

Outsiders

By S.E. Hinton

Call no. F / Hin AR 4.7/7.0

Ponyboy is fourteen, tough and confused, yet sensitive behind his bold front. Since his parents' death, his loyalties have been to his brothers and his gang, the Greasers. When his best friend, Johnny, kills a member of a rival gang, the Socs, a nightmare begins and quickly envelops Ponyboy in a turbulent chain of events. Written by Hinton when she was only 16, the story still speaks to teens today.

That Was Then, This is Now

By S.E. Hinton

Call no. F / Hin AR 4.6/5.0

Ever since Mark's parents died, he's been living with Bryon, a friend who is more like a brother. They've been inseparable - until recently. Something seems to be changing between them. Will girls, gangs, and drugs ruin their relationship?

Party Girl

By Lynne Ewing

Call no. F / Ewi AR 4.7/4.0

"We used to sit on the playground and plan our weddings, tracing long flowing white gowns in the sand with sticks. Then in sixth grad - I can't remember the day it happened - a stone rolled in front of our futures. We dropped the sticks and our dreams and started planning our funerals instead." Kata, who just lost her best friend to gang violence, must cope with the loss, her alcoholic mother and her murderous hunger for revenge against her friend's killers.

Drive-by

By Lynne Ewing

Call no. F / Ewi AR 3.6/3.0

Jimmy was always joking around. That's what Tito thought he was doing that night at the library. But when the gang car sped away, and Jimmy lay motionless on the ground, Tito knew that his brother was dead. The gang then begins a destructive path to recover the cash that Jimmy had taken. After being bullied, badgered, and threatened with death, Tito knows what he has to do. This novel is fast-paced with a lot of action, telling the aftermath of a gang-related shooting.

I Call Them Angels

By Susan Delia Fay

Call no. F/Fay

A concerned woman priest known as la Maestra describes how she works with and attempts to help teenagers who are in violent gangs.

The Music Thief

By Peni R. Griffin

Call no. F/Gri

Living in San Antonio, Texas, eleven-year-old Alma tries to cope with the drive-by shooting death of her favorite Latina singer, as well as deal with the struggles of her various family members, and finds herself doing something she knows is wrong.

Romiette and Julio

By Sharon M. Draper

Call no. F / Dra AR 4.7/10.0

Sixteen-year-old Julio Montague's parents have moved their family to Cincinnati, Ohio, in order to get Julio out of his gang-ridden high school in Texas. Julio sees himself as a Spanish lover. Romiette Cappelle, is the daughter of successful African-American parents and the granddaughter of college professors. When these two meet in an Internet chat room, neither of them has any idea they go to the same high school. When Romiette and Julio meet in person, they know they are fated to be together, but as in the Shakespearean play, they are thwarted in love; a local gang, the Devildogs, is set on keeping Romiette away from the "foreigner."

Parrot in the Oven

By Victor Martinez

Call no. F / Mar AR 6.1/7.0

Manny's tiny house in the projects is the scene for many angry arguments - even threats at rifle point. Manny steps onto a battlefield at every turn, whether he is collecting his alcoholic father from the local pool hall or withstanding ethnic slurs from a neighborhood gang. But as some of his wounds heal, Manny slowly begins to understand the sense of self that he can derive from his role within this difficult household.

Rite of Passage

By Richard Wright

Call no. F / Wri

Fifteen-year-old Johnny Gibbs loves his parents, respects his teachers and is a model student. That is, until his world falls apart. He is told that he is really a foster child and that he must go to live with another family. To escape this fate, he runs off into the streets of Harlem and meets up with a gang that wants him to participate in a mugging.

Your Move

By Eve Bunting

Call no. F / Bun

When ten-year-old James' gang initiation endangers his six-year-old brother Isaac, they find the courage to say, "Thanks, but no thanks."

Gang War

By Paul Kropp

Call no. F / Kro

Jack and the Punks think they're tough, but Charlie and the Saints don't like getting pushed around so the two gangs fight it out in the last rumble.

Junebug in Trouble

By Alice Mead

Call no. F / Mea

Despite having moved out of the rough housing project where he grew up, ten-year-old Junebug continues to encounter crime, gangs, and violence.