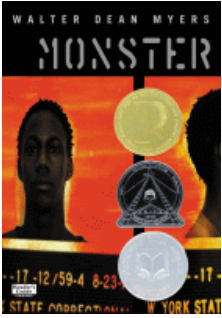
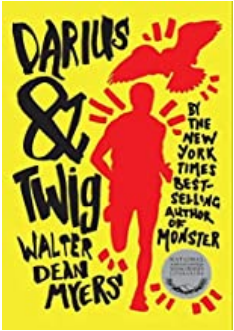
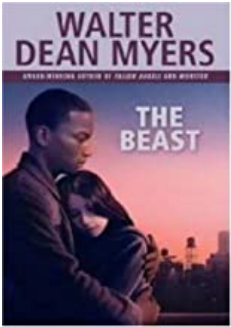
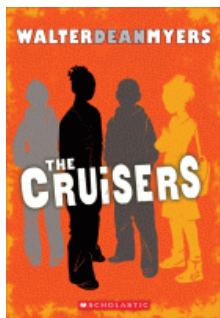


Black History Month 7th Grade Suggestions

Below are some suggestions of books that are available in the school library and through Sora. If you are interested in any titles just come down to the library and we will be more than happy to check them out to you.

Walter Dean Myers ([Sora offerings](#) for the author)

	Monster By Walter Dean Myers FIC MYE Sora While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. Coretta Scott King Honor
	Darius and Twig By Walter Dean Myers FIC MYE Sora Growing up in Harlem, 16-year-old Darius feels overwhelmed by his situation; he is bullied at school, his father is rarely around, and his mother is depressed. In order to escape, Darius writes, and his first-person narration in this novel explores his efforts to find purpose and solace in a world that feels far too constricting. Thankfully, Darius has his best friend, Twig, whose success at track gives Darius hope that he can one day expand his writing talents and find his own measure of happiness. Their interactions lend hope and resolve to both, but can they succeed when their whole world seems designed to set them up to fail? Coretta Scott King Honor
	The Beast By Walter Dean Myers FIC MYE A visit to his Harlem neighborhood and the discovery that the girl he loves is using drugs give sixteen-year-old Anthony Witherspoon a new perspective both on his home and on his life at a Connecticut prep school.

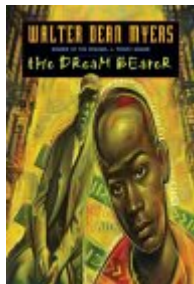


The Cruisers

By Walter Dean Myers

FIC MYE

Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy, learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, The Cruiser, to try to make peace.

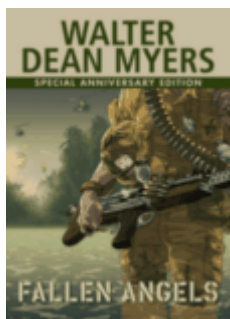


The Dream Bearer

By Walter Dean Myers

FIC MYE

One day, while playing basketball with his friend Loren, twelve-year-old David encounters a homeless man who calls himself Moses Littlejohn. Mr. Moses is a dream bearer who claims to be over 300 years old. Mr. Moses tells the curious David stories that mirror the African American experience over past centuries. He also helps David come to grips with his volatile home life.



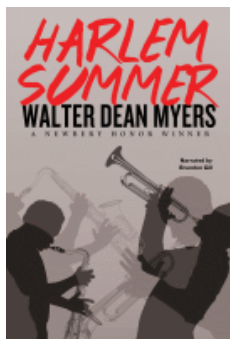
Fallen Angels

By Walter Dean Myers

FIC MYE

[Sora](#)

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

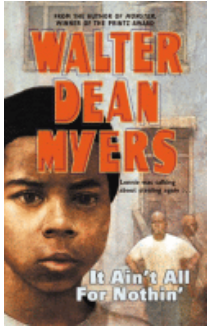


Harlem Summer

By Walter Dean Myers

FIC MYE

It's 1925 and Mark Purvis is a 16-yr-old with a summer to kill. He'd rather jam with his jazz band (they need the practice), but is urged by his parents to get a job. As an assistant at The Crisis, a magazine for the "new Negro," Mark rubs shoulders with Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen. He's invited to a party at Alfred Knopf's place. He's making money, but not enough, and when piano player Fats Waller entices him and his buddies to make some fast cash, Mark finds himself crossing the gangster Dutch Schultz.

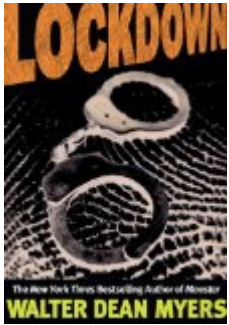


It ain't All for Nothin'

By Walter Dean Myers

FIC MYE

A young black boy must decide whether to go along with his father, who is a thief, or reject his father's way of life and risk losing him.

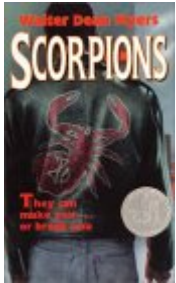


Lockdown

By Walter Dean Myers

FIC MYE

After stealing prescription pads in an attempt to make money for his family, Maurice "Reese" Anderson was caught and sent to a juvenile detention center. Twenty-two months later, Reese, now 14, is given the chance to work release shifts at an elderly home. Although Reese is able to finally make some friends, he also meets a disgruntled old resident named Mr. Hoofe, who, despite being standoffish and suspicious, begins to open up to Reese and make him rethink his own situation. Back at his correction facility, Reese attempts to stay out of trouble as his parole hearing approaches but must make a life-altering choice when he witnesses a young inmate being assaulted by older boys.

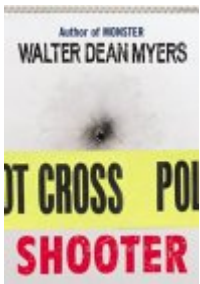


Scorpions

By Walter Dean Myers

FIC MYE

After reluctantly taking on the leadership of the Harlem gang, the Scorpions, Jamal finds that his enemies treat him with respect when he acquires a gun--until a tragedy occurs.

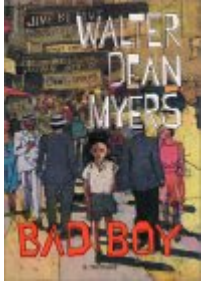


Shooter

By Walter Dean Myers

FIC MYE

After a tragic school shooting, multiple voices help piece together exactly why senior Len committed suicide after shooting a star football player. Among the voices is African American student, Cameron, who like Len, felt like an outsider in his aggressively racist high school. This riveting book will make readers delve into previous pages in search of details as they consider each character's role in the incident.



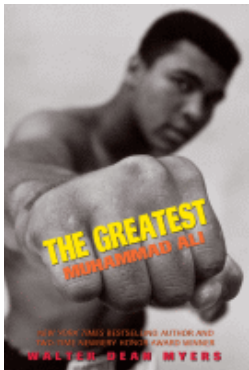
Bad Boy: A Memoir

By Walter Dean Myers

BIO MYE

[Sora](#)

As a boy, Myers was quick-tempered and physically strong, always ready for a fight. He also read voraciously—he would check out books from the library and carry them home, hidden in brown paper bags in order to avoid other boys' teasing. He aspired to be a writer (and he eventually succeeded). But as his hope for a successful future diminished, the values he had been taught at home, in school, and in his community seemed worthless, and he turned to the streets and to his books for comfort.

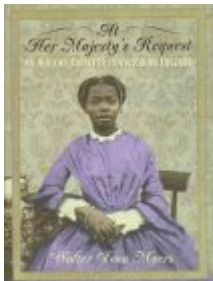


The Greatest: Muhammad Ali

By Walter Dean Myers

796.83 MYE

A biography of the champion boxer and political activist, Muhammad Ali.

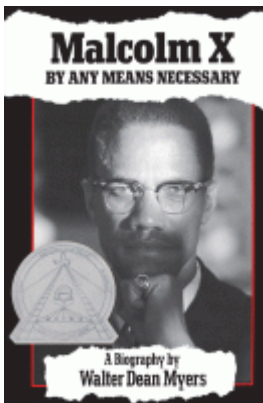


At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England

By Walter Dean Myers

BIO MYE

Biography of the African princess saved from execution and taken to England where Queen Victoria oversaw her upbringing and where she lived for a time before marrying an African missionary.

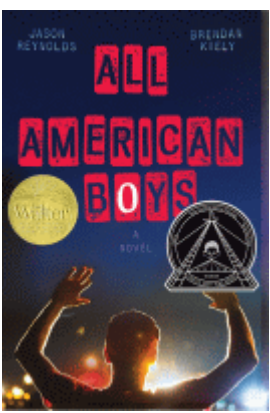
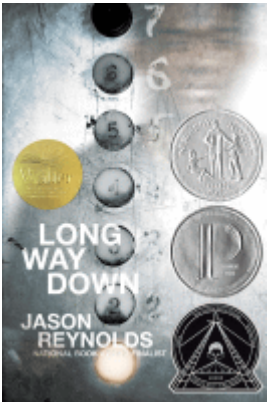


Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary

By Walter Dean Myers

BIO XMA

Chronicles the life of controversial militant leader Malcolm X.

	Ghost By Jason Reynolds FIC REY Sora If they can get their acts together, Ghost, Lu, Patina, and Sunny—four kids with widely different backgrounds and explosive personalities—could potentially become their middle school track team's elite squad, and maybe even qualify for the Junior Olympics. Ghost has outstanding natural talent, but no formal training, and his discipline is lacking ever since his father chased him and his mother out of the house. He will have to do everything he can to stay on track, physically and figuratively, to be the best sprinter in the city.
	All American Boys By Jason Reynolds FIC REY Sora When 16-year-old Rashad Butler, an African-American student at the local high school, is beaten by a white police officer at the local corner store, his classmate Quinn Collins witnesses the event. Quinn, a member of the varsity basketball team who has been raised by the officer since his own father died in Afghanistan, will be forced to face the mounting racial tension among his teammates, many who are Rashad's friends, his classmates, and the entire community. Told in the alternating voices of Rashad and Quinn, this story portrays the truth that racism in American is sadly still alive. It will take the bravery of both boys to step forward and speak against injustice.
	Long Way Down By Jason Reynolds FIC REY Sora As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.

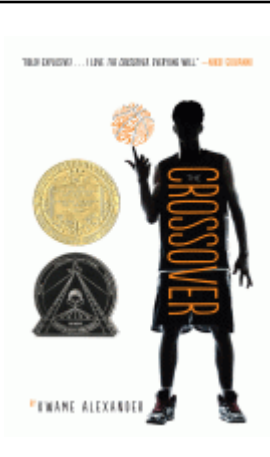


Ain't Burned All the Bright

By Jason Reynolds
FIC REY

Contains an interplay of verses and images that discuss the experiences of being black in the United States amidst a variety of contemporary issues, such as the killing of George Floyd, COVID-19, screen addiction, environmental destruction, police brutality, and discusses ways to find solace and inspiration in the world.

Kwame Alexander

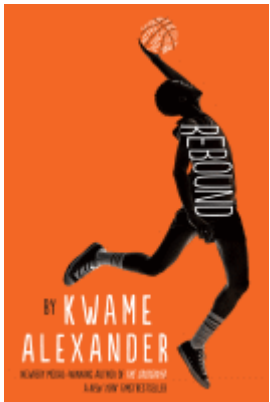


The Crossover

By Kwame Alexander
FIC ALE

[Sora](#)

Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are stars on their high school basketball team, taught by their father, a professional player in Europe before his health forced him to quit. Josh is better known by his nickname, Filthy McNasty, because he has mad ball skills and mad beats, too, making up rhymes even while he is dribbling past some unsuspecting guard. Josh has always assumed that he and Jordan would follow in their dad's footsteps and go pro, but with their father's deteriorating health, and the presence of a polarizing new girl at school, the future is anything but certain.



Rebound

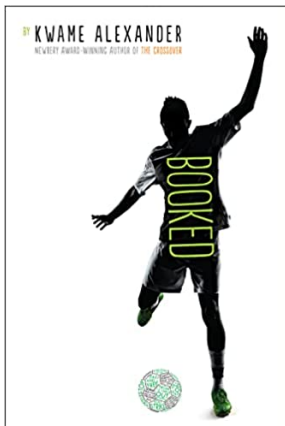
By Kwame Alexander

FIC ALE

[Sora](#)

Prequel to Crossover

In the summer of 1988, twelve-year-old Chuck Bell is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past.



Booked

By Kwame Alexander

FIC ALE

[Sora](#)

Nick Hall, a bright eighth-grader, has trouble paying attention in class. Most of his brain time is taken up daydreaming about soccer, or the girl he likes, or his bully problem. Meanwhile, problems at home give him other things to worry about, but he gets help from his best friend and teammate Coby, as well as rapping librarian “The Mac,” who points Nick to inspiring literature when his dreams of soccer take a disappointing turn



Solo

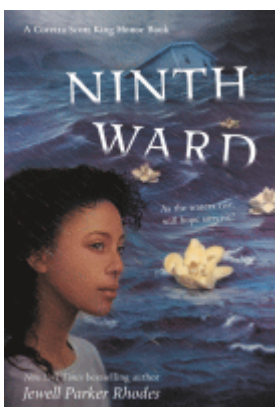
By Kwame Alexander

FIC ALE

[Sora](#)

Authors Alexander and Hess present a powerful verse novel about 17-year-old Blade Morrison, the son of rock star Rutherford Morrison whose erratic behavior has been blasted on tabloid and magazine covers for years. Blade's mother has been dead for a decade. His sister embraces the edgy lifestyle that comes with being the child of a drugged-out, bad-boy rock star. But Blade wants more. And when he learns he's actually adopted, he sees a glimmer of hope in finding his birth mother—a journey that takes him to a small village in Ghana.

Jewell Parker Rhodes



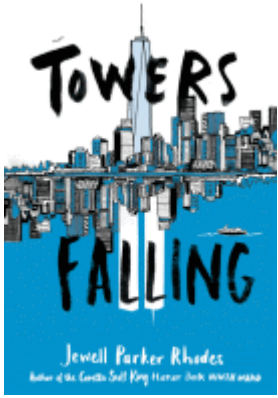
Ninth Ward

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

FIC RHO

[Sora](#)

Twelve-year-old Lanesha, a social outcast with an ability to see ghosts, has lived with her 82-year-old caretaker, Mama Ya-Ya, ever since her teenage mother died in childbirth. Then Mama Ya-Ya has visions of a powerful hurricane approaching their city, New Orleans. Lanesha must rely on Mama Ya-Ya's strength and the ghostly presence of her mother to keep her afloat - physically and emotionally - when Hurricane Katrina strikes the Ninth Ward. FIC RHO



Towers Falling

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

FIC RHO

[Sora](#)

Fifth-grader Deja lives with her family in a shelter in New York City. When her teacher gives her class assignments related to the attacks on the Twin Towers, Deja wonders why she should care so much about something that happened before she was even born. But as she investigates 9/11, she learns things about her friends and her family she never imagined.

Nicola Yoon



The Sun is Also a Star

By Nicola Yoon

FIC YOO

[Sora](#)

Natasha wakes up with one goal—to prevent the deportation of her family back to Jamaica. And she only has 12 hours to do it. Daniel is a poet, torn between the life he wants and the life his Korean family expects of him as he makes his way toward an interview that will secure his place in an Ivy League medical program. When the two meet on the busy streets of NYC, they are both surprised to fall quickly and deeply in love as fate seems to unexpectedly intertwine their lives.



Everything, Everything

By Nicola Yoon

FIC YOO

[Sora](#)

Biracial 18-year-old Madeline has severe combined immunodeficiency, or “bubble baby disease,” an extremely rare condition that makes her allergic to the world. Her only human contact for her whole life has been her mother and her nurse Carla. All that changes when Olly and his troubled family move in next door. Madeline is drawn to Olly from the moment she first sees him, but how can she ever get to know him if going outside could kill her? Is Olly worth the risk? Even if he isn't, Madeline decides to take her life into her own hands for a change.



Instructions for Dancing

By Nicola Yoon

FIC YOO

[Sora](#)

Swearing off love after her father's affair, high school senior Evie Thomas begins having visions of happy couples' breakups after seeing them together. Having given up her romance novels, she reads "Instructions for Dancing" and signs up for dance classes at a local studio. There she meets X, who becomes her dance partner, teaching her to forgive and open up her heart again.

Individual Titles



Concrete Rose

By Angie Thomas

FIC THO

[Sora](#)

Prequel to The Hate U Give

Seventeen-year-old Maverick "Mav" Carter begins dealing drugs for the King Lords as a way to help support his family while his father is in jail. When he learns that his girlfriend is pregnant, his focus shifts and he tries to make a clean break from drug dealing. However, a loved one's murder makes it difficult to forget his old ties, and he must figure out for himself the meaning of loyalty, manhood, and responsibility.



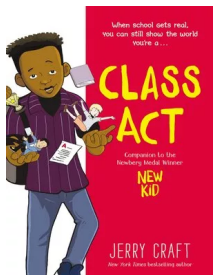
New Kid

By Jerry Craft

FIC CRA,

[Sora](#)

Seventh grade African American boy Jordan Banks dutifully travels from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale private Riverdale Academy Day School. As one of the few kids of color in his new school, Jordan feels out of place. He doesn't really fit in with his new classmates, and it begins to feel like his neighborhood friends live in a different world. Jordan finds comfort in his art as he tries to navigate both worlds.



Class Act

By Jerry Craft

FIC CRA

[Sora](#)

Drew, who attends the prestigious Riverdale Academy Day school with his friends Liam and Jordan, tries to reckon with his status as one of the few kids of color in the school. While he knows he must work hard, he finds it difficult when he sees he isn't offered the same opportunities as other students. When his friendships begin to suffer under the pressure, Drew must find a way to bridge the gap and help his friends see him for who he really is.



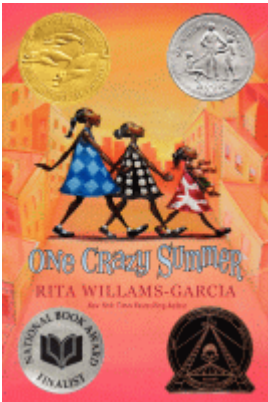
Stars Beneath Our Feet

By David Barclay Moore

FIC MOO

[Sora](#)

Lolly is having a terrible time--his brother Jermaine got in a fight and then got shot. He doesn't know how to go on, but using the two giant bags of LEGOs his mom's girlfriend gave him, Lolly finds himself caught up in making a gigantic city--so big it goes outside his apartment. Then, he and his friend Vega get jumped by a few older guys, and Lolly will have to decide either to join a "crew" and get revenge, or find a different path.



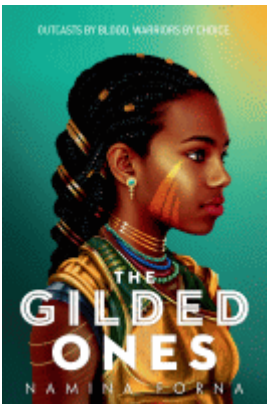
One Crazy Summer

By Rita Williams-Garcia

FIC WIL

[Sora](#)

In the summer of 1968, 11-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters travel from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know. Much to their surprise, they arrive to a cold welcome and discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. Left without an option, Delphine attempts to make the best of things while attending the day camp but remains skeptical of the hateful words spouted by the camp instructors.



The Gilded Ones

By Namina Forna

FIC FOR

[Sora](#)

When sixteen-year-old Deka fails her village's blood ritual to join their ranks, she also mysteriously repels deathshriek monsters and is dubbed a demon. Attempts to assassinate her fail, and her only option seems to be to join the ranks of the alaki in the capitol city, who are training to destroy the deathshrieks. But the more Deka learns about those who recruited her, the more she suspects their motives.



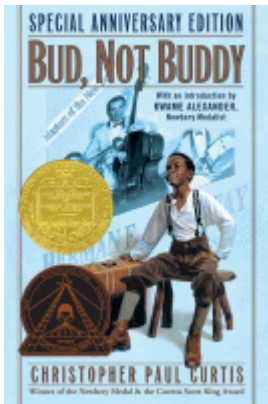
Clap When You Land

By Elizabeth Acevedo

FIC ACE

[Sora](#)

Camino Rios, a talented swimmer and midwife assistant, lives in the Dominican Republic and wants to go to Columbia University in New York City, where her father works most of the year. Her very different half-sister, Yahaira Rios, a dark-skinned, lesbian, chess champion, lives in Manhattan but quit speaking to their father when she learned he had another wife in the Dominican Republic. The lives of the two girls collide when their father dies in an airplane crash. In alternating voices, the girls grieve their father and begin to uncover the family secrets he kept for decades. Then, despite their differences, the girls begin to bond over--and forgive--their imperfect father.



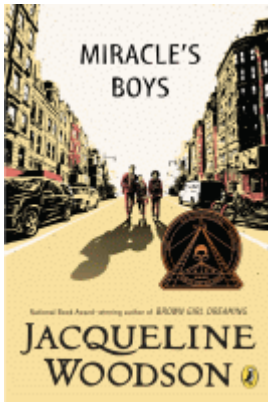
Bud, Not Buddy

By Christopher Paul Curtis

FIC CUR

[Sora](#)

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

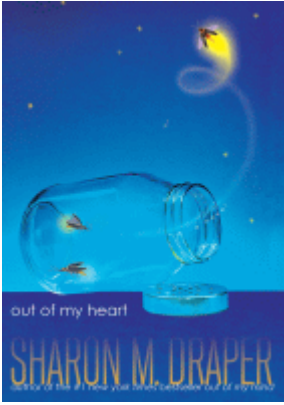


Miracle's Boys

By Jacqueline Woodson

FIC WOO

Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother.



Out of My Heart

By Sharon M Draper

FIC DRA

A year older (twelve) and with her trusty Medi-talker by her side, Melody is determined to try new experiences and sets her sights on Camp Green Glades, a summer camp for kids with disabilities. There, she develops a crush on a campmate and finds kids who understand and support her while she tries out zip-lining and horseback riding.



Dear Martin

By Nic Stone

FIC STO

[Sora](#)

African American teen Justyce McAllister is bound for the Ivy League; top of his class, set for the future. None of that matters to his private school classmates who think he has been given unfair advantages just because he is black. Conversely, none of it matters to his former friends with whom he grew up in his rough neighborhood, who think he has assimilated to "white culture," especially since he is dating a biracial girl and also feels attracted to his white debate partner. Everything comes to a head when Justyce and his friend Manny are cruising together with their music too loud and they draw the fury of an off-duty white cop.



Dear Justyce

By Nic Stone

FIC STO

[Sora](#)

Sequel to Dear Martin

Incarcerated teen Quan Banks writes letters to Justyce McCallister, with whom he bonded years before over family issues, about his experiences in the American juvenile justice system.



Stella by Starlight

By Susan M. Draper

FIC DRA

[Sora](#)

After years of relative peace, the Ku Klux Klan returns to Bumblebee, North Carolina. Stella and her brother Jojo are out late one night when they see the white-robed figures burning a cross. Bumblebee's African American community is gripped with fear. They know that they are alone and must deal with this problem themselves. Stella sees all this, but she has a fiery spirit and refuses to give in to fear. Stella focuses on the good things like family, friends, potluck dinners in neighbors' backyards—and finally a peaceful march to a voting place, where three registered black voters make history.

Nonfiction



March (Trilogy) Graphic Novels

By John Lewis

323.1 LEW

[Sora Book 1](#)

[Sora Book 2](#)

[Sora Book 3](#)

Presents a graphic telling of the true story of Congressman John Lewis, who was a founder of the Nashville Student Movement and participated in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement in such actions as the March on Washington.



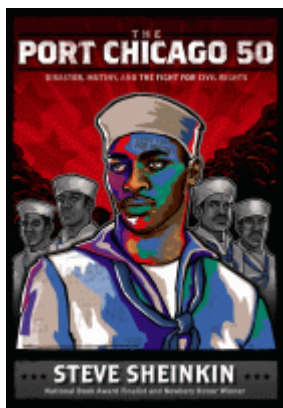
Run

John Lewis

328.73 LEW

[Sora](#)

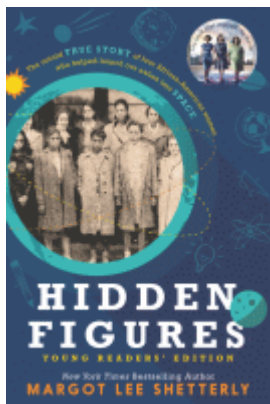
Graphic novel memoir describes Civil Rights activist and former congressman John Lewis' experiences dealing with the negative consequences of being involved in the 1960s protests, such as the ensuing violence that continued to take place against blacks, the push-back from fearmongers, and the rebellion among allies who thought change didn't come quickly enough and didn't reach far enough.



The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights

by Steve Sheikin
940.54 SHE

On July 17, 1944, a horrible explosion rocked the naval base at California's Port Chicago. It was a segregated base, and the explosion hit the African-American side the hardest. Over 300 sailors, of all skin colors, died. In the following month over 200 sailors refuse to go back to work, resulting in 50 being jailed and court-martialed for dereliction of duty. Thankfully this event did not end in complete tragedy, as it helped to end segregation in America's military.



Hidden Figures (Young Readers Edition)

By Margot Lee Shetterly
510.92 SHE

[Sora](#)

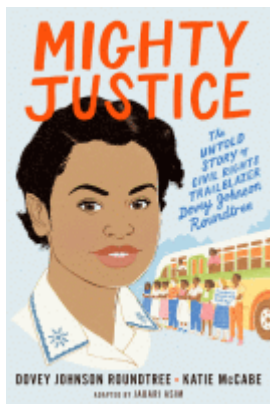
Explores the true story of four African American female mathematicians recruited by the U.S. government during World War II to work at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory. Their job involved being "human computers," using pencils, slide rulers, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would allow rockets and astronauts to be launched out of the atmosphere.



Chasing Space

By Leland Melvin
BIO MEL

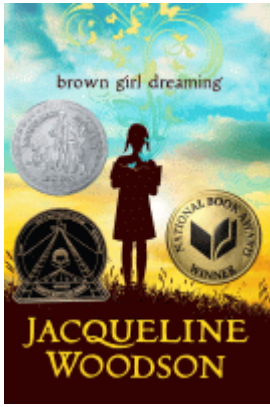
Highlights the life and career of former NFL football player Leland Melvin who, after an injury forced him to give up football, joined NASA and became an astronaut. Includes text-related activities and color photographs.



Mighty Justice (Young Readers Edition)

By Katie McCabe
BIO ROU

Biography of Dovey Johnson Roundtree, an African American woman who predated Rosa Parks and the Freedom Riders in the civil rights movement in her efforts to join the U.S. Army as one of the first Black women to join its ranks. She would go on to become an attorney in segregated courtrooms in Washington, D.C., and finally as a female minister in the AME church.



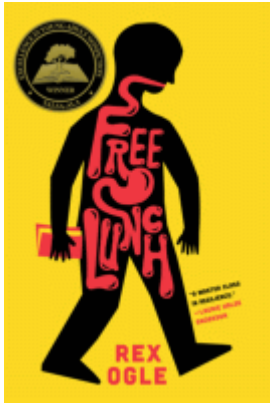
Brown Girl Dreaming

By Jacqueline Woodson

BIO WOO

[Sora](#)

Free verse autobiography of Jacqueline Woodson about her childhood growing up in the sixties and seventies in both the North and the South, from South Carolina to Brooklyn, New York.



Free Lunch

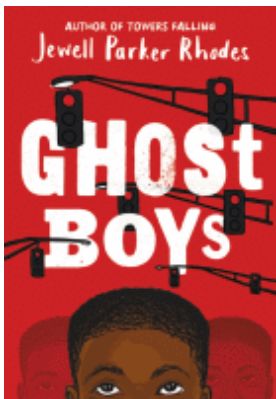
By Rex Ogle

BIO OGL

[Sora](#)

The author reveals the humiliation that came with the daily outing of his family's hunger and poverty in sixth grade when he had to announce that he participated in his school's free lunch program. While constantly hungry, Ogle also recounts how much he craved the love of family in the face of his parents' abuse and brutality.

Available on Sora only (ebooks)

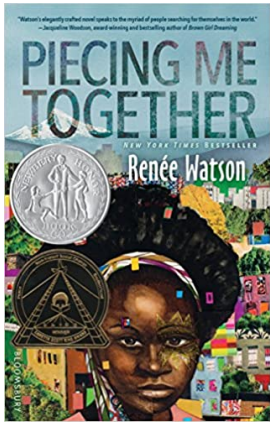


Ghost Boys

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

[Sora](#)

Seventh-grader Jerome is mistakenly shot by a white police officer, and as a ghost, observes the turmoil in his community as a result of his death. He then meets the ghost of Emmett Till who helps Jerome understand how systemic racism led to his death, but also understand how far the effects of his death really go by introducing him to the grieving daughter of the police officer who struggles with her father's actions.

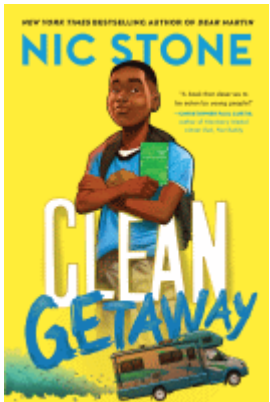


Piecing Me Together

By Renée Watson

[Sora](#) Only

Each day African American teen Jade Butler shuttles to a private, mostly white school where she's accepted a scholarship. Intent on taking advantage of every opportunity she can to rise above the poverty in which she lives, Jade tries to find her place in a world where she teeters between the privilege of her classmates and the racial tension and fear of her neighborhood.

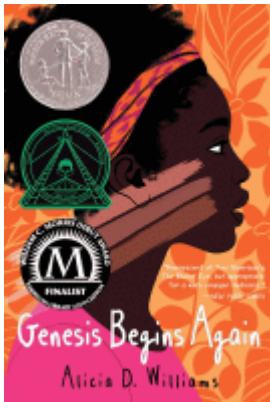


Clean Getaway

By Nic Stone

[Sora](#)

William Lamar, known as "Scoob," goes on a road trip through the South with his grandmother in her recreational vehicle, visiting some of the major sites in the Civil Rights movement and learning about how people like him have been treated.



Genesis Begins Again

By Alicia Williams

[Sora](#)

Thirteen-year-old Genesis keeps a list of all the things she hates about herself--she's up to ninety-six--the last of which is her very dark skin. Her gambling-addict father has once again lost their rent money, so Genesis moves in with her grandmother who claims that none of this would've happened if her mother had married a light-skinned man. At school, Genesis tries out for the talent show, but is ashamed of her dark skin, so she tries a number of skin-lightening techniques to no avail. She is now faced with either getting that list to 100 and beyond, or learning to love the skin she has.



Monday's Not Coming By Tiffany D. Jackson

[Sora](#) Only

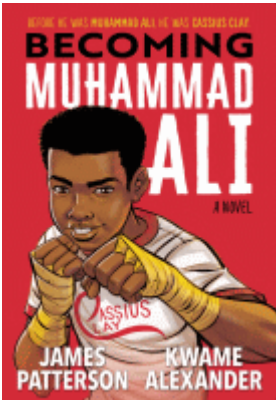
When Claudia comes back from summer vacation, her best friend Monday is gone. They've been friends since childhood, and now no one can tell her what happened. In fact, nobody even seems concerned about Monday's disappearance. Claudia is determined to find out where her friend is and what happened to her.



I'm Not Dying with You Tonight By Gilly Segal

[Sora](#)

Lena and Campbell, two high school girls with different styles and social circles are thrown together when a massive fight at a football game leads to a riot as racial tension heats up. The two form an unlikely friendship and both learn about different points of view from living in different parts of the same city.



Becoming Muhammad Ali By James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

[Sora](#)

Provides a biography of the early life of boxer and activist Muhammad Ali through verse written from his perspective and first-person essays told by his best friend Lucky. Discusses what it was like growing up in segregated Louisville, Kentucky, the important family members in his life, and how he began training at the Columbia Boxing Gym at age twelve.