

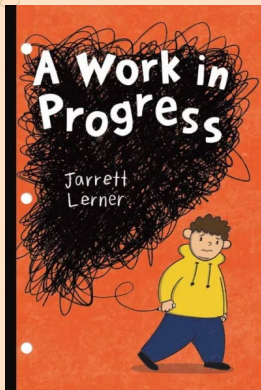


White Plains High School Summer Reading Recommendations 2024

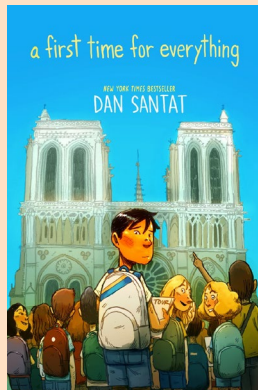
Checkout these titles for each grade level.

Available in the WPHS Library Media Center & The White Plains Public Library.

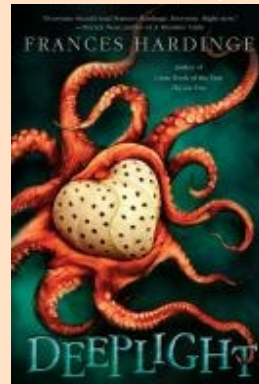
Rising 9th Graders



A Work in Progress, by Jarrett Lerner. A young boy struggles with body image in this poignant middle grade journey to self-acceptance told through prose, verse, and illustration.

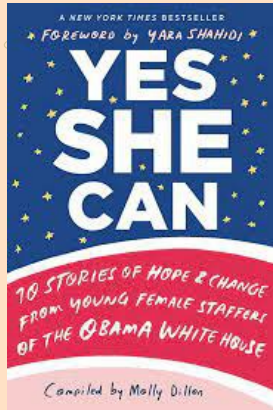


A First Time for Everything, by Dan Santat. A memoir written in a graphic novel format, follows a series of firsts for Santat while on a European tour for teens during the summer between 8th grade and high school.

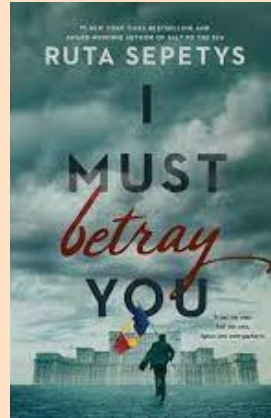


Deeplight, by Frances Hardinge. "The gods are dead. Decades ago, they turned on one another and tore each other apart. Nobody knows why. But are they really gone forever? When 15-year-old Hark finds the still-beating heart of a terrifying deity, he risks everything to keep it out of the hands of smugglers, military scientists, and a secret fanatical cult so that he can use it to save the life of his best friend, Jelt. But with the heart, Jelt gradually and eerily transforms. How long should Hark stay loyal to his friend when he's becoming a monster--and what is Hark willing to sacrifice to save him?"--Amazon.

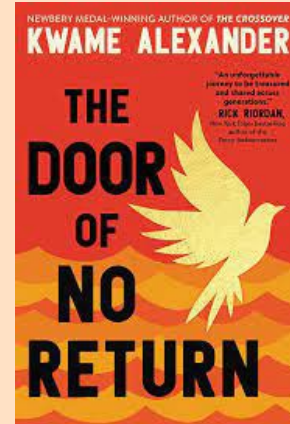
Rising 9th Graders



Yes, She Can: 10 Stories of Hope & Change from Young Female Staffers of the Obama White House, compiled by Molly Dillon. They were teens when Barack Obama announced he was running for president. They came of age in the Obama Era. And then they joined his White House. Here are ten inspiring, never-before-told stories from diverse young women who got. Stuff. Done. They recall--fondly and with humor and a dose of humility--what it was like to literally help run the world.

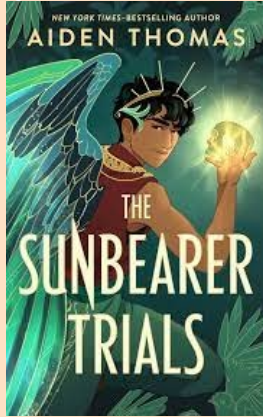


I Must Betray You, by Ruta Sepetys. In a country governed by isolation, fear, and a tyrannical dictator, seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, but he decides to use his position to try to outwit his handler, undermine the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country.

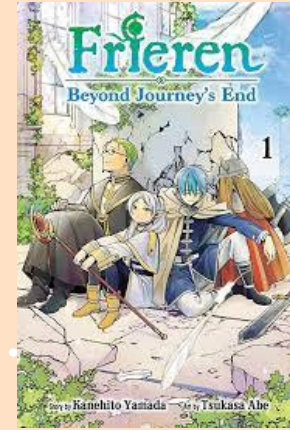


The Door of No Return, by Kwame Alexander. From the Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award winning author Kwame Alexander, comes the first book in a searing, breathtaking trilogy that tells the story of a boy, a village, and the epic odyssey of an African family. In his village in Upper Kwanta, 11-year-old Kofi loves his family, playing *oware* with his grandfather and swimming in the river Offin. He's warned though, to never go to the river at night. His brother tells him "*There are things about the water you do not know.*" *Like what?* Kofi asks. "*The beasts.*" His brother answers. One fateful night, the unthinkable happens and in a flash, Kofi's world turns upside down. Kofi soon ends up in a fight for his life and what happens next will send him on a harrowing journey across land and sea, and away from everything he loves.

Rising 9th Graders

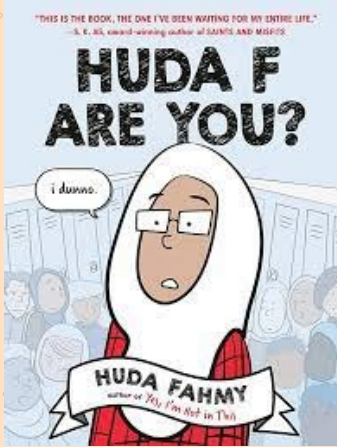


The Sunbearer Trials, by Aiden Thomas. Transgender demigod Teo is unexpectedly selected for the Sunbearer Trials, a fierce competition among demigod heroes where the winner sacrifices the loser to Sol, their blood fueling the Sun Stones that protect Reino del Sol.

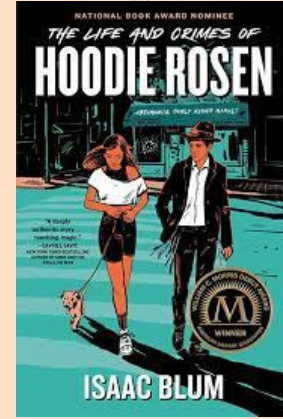


Frieren: Beyond Journey's End (Volumes 1 – 6), by Kanehito Yamada. Elf mage Frieren and her courageous fellow adventurers have defeated the Demon King and brought peace to the land. But Frieren will long outlive the rest of her former party. How will she come to understand what life means to the people around her? Decades after their victory, the funeral of one her friends confronts Frieren with her own near immortality. Frieren sets out to fulfill the last wishes of her comrades and finds herself beginning a new adventure.

Rising 9th Graders

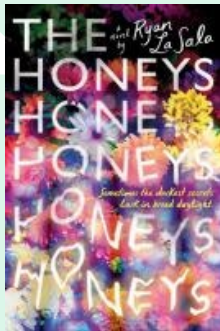


Huda F Are You?, by Huda Fahmy. A graphic novel about a young American Muslim growing up and figuring out who she is. Huda and her family just moved to Dearborn, Michigan, a small town with a big Muslim population. But Huda doesn't fit in--when everyone is Muslim, there's no Muslim clique like there was in her last town, and Huda's not a sporty hijabi or a fashionista hijabi or a gamer hijabi. She's just Huda, and she's not sure what that means. She tries on all kinds of identities and friends, but nothing fits quite right. Until she realizes she can get back to the basics.



The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen, by Isaac Bloom. Hoodie Rosen's life isn't that bad. Sure, his entire Orthodox Jewish community has just picked up and moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, but Hoodie's world hasn't changed that much. He's got basketball to play, studies to avoid, and a supermarket full of delicious kosher snacks to eat. The people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in at once, but that's not Hoodie's problem. That is, until he meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary--who happens to be the daughter of the headstrong mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town. And things only get more complicated when Tregaron is struck by a series of antisemitic crimes that quickly escalate to deadly violence. As his community turns on him for siding with the enemy, Hoodie finds himself caught between his first love and the only world he's ever known.

Rising 10th Graders



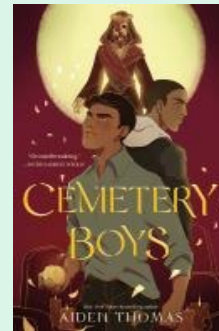
The Honeys, by Ryan La Sala.

"Twin teens Caroline and Marshall (who is genderfluid and goes by Mars) grew up attending summer camp at the very exclusive and expensive Aspen Conservancy in the Catskills. Mars hasn't gone in years, but when Caroline arrives home from Aspen unexpectedly and tries to kill Mars but ends up dead herself, he insists on taking her place there to discover the reason for her behavior. Upon arriving, Mars can sense the decay beneath the polished surface, but the longer he is there the less reliable his mind becomes. Between the distraction of cute, smart Wyatt and the friendship of Caroline's camp sisterhood, The Honeys, Mars finds it more and more difficult to focus even as he is drawn closer to Aspen's dark truth." - Allie Stevens, School Library Journal.



Clap When You Land, by Elizabeth Acevedo.

Sixteen-year-olds Camino Rios, of the Dominican Republic, and Yahaira Rios, of New York City, are devastated to learn of their father's death in a plane crash and stunned to learn of each other's existence. A novel in verse told in two voices.

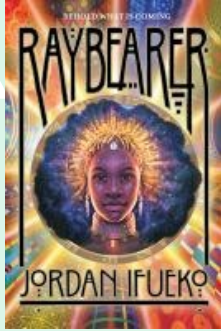


Cemetery Boys, Aiden Thomas.

When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his true gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza, he performs the ritual himself, and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free.

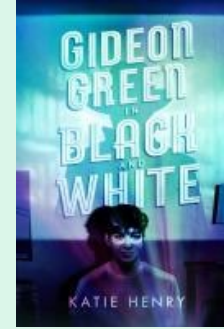
However, the ghost he summons is actually Julian Diaz, the school's resident bad boy, and Julian is not about to go quietly into death. He's determined to find out what happened and tie off some loose ends before he leaves. Left with no choice, Yadriel agrees to help Julian, so that they can both get what they want. But the longer Yadriel spends with Julian, the less he wants to let him leave.

Rising 10th Graders



Raybearer by Jordan Ifueko.

Nothing is more important than loyalty. But what if you've sworn to protect the one you were born to destroy? Tarisai has always longed for the warmth of a family. She was raised in isolation by a mysterious, often absent mother known only as The Lady. The Lady sends her to the capital of the global empire of Aritsar to compete with other children to be chosen as one of the Crown Prince's Council of 11. If she's picked, she'll be joined with the other Council members through the Ray, a bond deeper than blood. That closeness is irresistible to Tarisai, who has always wanted to belong somewhere. But The Lady has other ideas, including a magical wish that Tarisai is compelled to obey: Kill the Crown Prince once she gains his trust. Tarisai won't stand by and become someone's pawn--but is she strong enough to choose a different path for herself? With extraordinary world-building and breathtaking prose, *Raybearer* is the story of loyalty, fate, and the lengths we're willing to go for the ones we love.



Gideon Green in Black and White, by Katie Henry

Truly Devious meets *Turtles All the Way Down* in critically acclaimed author Katie Henry's YA contemporary comedic mystery, a hilarious send-up of the hardboiled detective genre that spotlights family, friendship, and love.

Gideon's short-lived run as a locally famous boy detective ended when middle school started, and everyone else--including his best friend, Lily--moved on while Gideon kept holding on to his trench coat, fedora, and his treasured film noir collection. Now he's sixteen and officially retired. That is, until Lily shows up suddenly at Gideon's door, needing his help. He might be mad at her for cutting him off with no explanation, but Gideon can't turn down a case. As a cover, Gideon joins Lily on the school paper. Surprisingly, he finds himself warming up to the welcoming, close-knit staff . . . especially Tess, the cute, witty editor-in-chief. But as the case gets bigger than Gideon or Lily could have anticipated, Gideon must balance his black-and-white quest for the truth with the full colors of real life--or risk a permanent fade to black.

Rising 10th Graders



Other Ever Afters: New Queer Fairy Tales, by Melanie Gillman

Booklist (July 2022 (Vol. 118, No. 21))

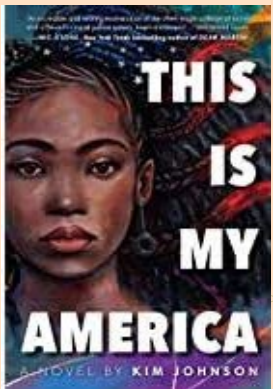
Grades 7-12. *Other Ever Afters* is a delightful collection of comics showcasing new stories inspired by traditional fairy tales and folklore. While Gillman created several of the tales for 24-hour-comics-day projects, other stories, like "New Name," are debuting here. Readers follow a diverse cast of characters through events such as an arrogant princess proposing to the local goose girl; monster folk, like mermaids and giants, turning out to be more understanding than most people; or a knight learning that there is more to life than sacrifice and duty. All the stories are short and self-contained, much like in a traditional illustrated book of fairy tales. They are also bookended by an illustrated introduction and conclusion that aptly set the themes of independence, community, and fairness seen throughout the book. Gillman's soft lines and pastel colors also lend a fantastical feel to the stories that belies the incisive lessons and commentary woven into the words. A work of fresh twists and many queer happily-ever-afters for all lovers of fairy tales.



Our Colors, by Gengoroh Tagame

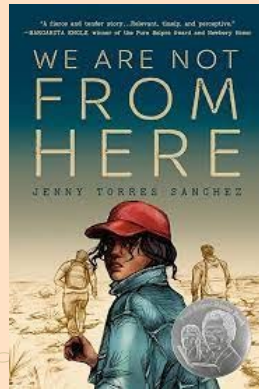
A gay high school student finds the courage to reveal his sexuality to friends and family through an unexpected friendship with a local cafe owner. Sora knows he's gay but is terrified of telling anyone. He masks his true feelings from his parents; his best girlfriend, Nao; and especially his crush, Yoshioka. Hiding his sexuality becomes a strain, and seeking relief, he flees school to visit the ocean. His impulsive trip leads to a chance meeting with a welcoming local cafe owner, Mr. Amamiya. Sora discovers in Amamiya a confidant who is both gay and willing to listen, and their conversations and confessions lead both to healing and renewed confidence. Sora's coming out is a multistep process, alternating between yearning and lingering fear, and Tagame's tale is meditative and powerful. As Sora finds the courage to tell Nao and his parents about himself, Tagame's pacing for every awkward conversation and weighty silence is resonant and true to life. There are no romantic high jinks or dramatic reveals, and Tagame's artwork eschews exaggeration. Tagame uses Sora's sketches, painted illustrations, and his observations on colors to reveal his state of mind. VERDICT Tagame's tender title is both a compelling work of art and a testament to how transformative finding community is for young LGBTQIA+ people, with a reach outside of dedicated manga fans. Give this title to readers looking for a realistic and character-driven portrait of gay life. -Robin Brenner © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

Rising 11th Graders



This Is My America, by Kim Johnson

Sending weekly letters to an organization she hopes will save her innocent father from death row, 17-year-old Tracy uncovers racist community secrets when her track star brother is wrongly accused of murder. A first novel. Simultaneous eBook.



We Are Not from Here, by Jenny Torres Sanchez

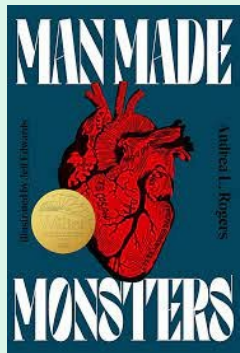
Three teenagers, Pulga, Chico, and Pequeña, are desperate to leave the terror, violence, and corruption of their hometown. They embark on a treacherous journey, to escape Guatemala through Mexico, and attempt to reach the U.S. border by stowing away on La Bestia, "the name given by migrants to the train that claims the limbs and lives of many who flee violence." A tale of the survival and family that will have gripped until the very end.



All My Rage, by Sabaa Tahir

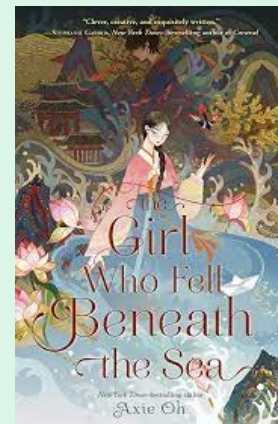
A family extending from Pakistan to California deals with generations of young love, old regrets, and forgiveness. Salahudin is embroiled with taking care of his ailing mother, Misbah, and the family hotel business. Noor is navigating the push-pull of wanting to go to college and make a better life for herself than what her uncle has planned. Misbah, Salahudin, and Noor weave their voices together in this breathtaking narrative of grief, found family, and racism.

Rising 11th Graders



Man Made Monsters, by Andrea L. Rogers

Chilling stories tell about generations of a Cherokee family's encounters with the supernatural and violence. Beginning on the Trail of Tears, when Ama is turned into the Undead, and continuing through 2039, the stories of Ama's various family members and descendants are told. Each chapter can be read as a standalone short story; the entries are tied together by characters from one story appearing in later ones. Ama is featured in many of the chapters, appearing to help and guide her current family members through various trials and tribulations. The stories from the 1800s are odes to European horror. In the 1900s, ghosts, werewolves, and revenge are the main topics, and during the 2000s, most of the characters are dealing with violence—dating, gun, and domestic. Traumatic events are primarily alluded to, then described in detail. Most chapters end without a clear understanding of what happened to the various characters. The narrative incorporates Cherokee history, words, and customs. One section focuses on Deer Woman, a Cherokee myth, who avenges women and children. The themes throughout are family love and tribal ties.



The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea, by Axie Oh

In this gorgeous fantasy novel, Oh gives a spin to the classic Korean folktale of Shim Cheong, the devoted daughter. When Shim Cheong is to be sacrificed to the sea god in an attempt to end the woes of their land, a young girl named Mina jumps into the water instead—her brother, Joon, is Shim Cheong's beloved, and Mina, the devoted sister, cannot bear to see her brother's heart break. After descending into the sea god's spirit realm, she is relieved of her soul and, with it, her voice, as she is left to find a way to bring the world to rights. Nicely paced and beautifully written, this engrossing fantasy is packed with memorable characters, starting with the headstrong Mina and including the mysterious Shin, with whom she becomes inexplicably tied. The spirit world is vibrantly described and full of colorful, fleshed-out characters. Mina's first-person narrative gives readers deep insight into her thoughts and memories, heightening the otherworldly experience and keeping readers turning the pages. A perfect fit for readers who love Spirited Away.

Rising 12th Graders



More Than Just a Pretty Face, by Syed M. Masood.

Danyal Jilani gets by in high school by putting in as little effort as possible, and he dreams of a future where he can pursue his true passions. In his case, this means culinary arts and wooing the most beautiful (and unattainable) girl in school. His carefree world comes to an abrupt halt when Danyal is forced to participate in an exclusive school-wide academic competition. Concurrently, he is also introduced to Bisma, an intriguing bridal candidate with a deeply painful past. Although there are some clunky moments of dialogue in this debut novel, Masood finds his groove in this high-stakes coming-of-age story. He places Danyal at an intersection between South Asia and America, and it is a pleasure to watch Danyal's growth and development as he grapples with both historical prejudices against India and contemporary prejudices within his own community. This is also one of the first YA novels that prominently features the atrocities of the 1943 Bengal Famine. It is refreshing to read an #OwnVoices novel that portrays Islam as it is for many Muslim American teenagers: a belief and culture that can be beautiful, complex, occasionally long-winded, and often sagacious

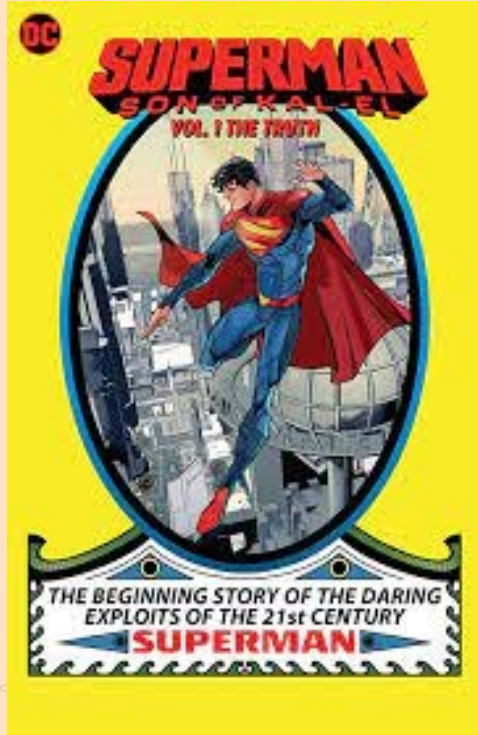
Rising 12th Graders

What I Carry, by Jennifer Longo

Soon-to-be 18-year-old Muiriel (Muir) has been in Seattle's foster care system since infancy. Moving to her final foster house before aging out, she knows exactly what to do: keep her head down, don't get attached, and pack only what she can carry. When Muir's new housing situation starts to feel like a real home, she must figure out if some things she carries are okay to let go. This novel begins as the story of a teen girl in the foster care system that blossoms into a book full of diverse stories on tough topics. Muir's experience in lifelong foster care has led to attachment issues, but other characters have their own baggage to share. Her best friend, Kira (who is of Japanese descent), is bullied in school and is healing from her family's history of being prisoners in internment camps. Zola, Muir's former foster sister, is moved back and forth from foster homes to her family and faces prejudice as a black child in foster care, which is highlighted alongside Muir's experience as white child. An author's note provides more resources on the foster system and how the author's experience inspired this story.



Rising 12th Graders



Superman Son of Kal-El, Volume 1: The Truth, by Tom Taylor, art by John Timms. Originally published in single magazine form in *Superman: Son of Kal-El* 1-6"--Title page verso.; "DC"--Front cover. "Jonathan Kent has his own ideas about Superman's role in the world. When his father leaves Earth, the son of Superman and Lois Lane steps into his father's large boots and dons the symbol of hope embodying everything the Man of Steel stands for--and then some. The new Superman strives to be a more proactive champion for real change and social justice in the world. In the process, he makes some powerful enemies. When Jon gets in the middle of an international incident, he also places himself in the crosshairs of Henry Bendix, tyrannical ruler of the island nation of Gamorra, and his super-powered terrorist agents. Luckily, John has some help in the form of a new Gamorran friend, Jay Nakamura, a journalist from the underground news source known as *The Truth*, who helps open Jon's eyes to the evils in the world that could be more powerful than the new Man of Steel."

Recommended for all grades

Be Not Far from Me, by Mindy McGinnis

Seventeen-year-old Ashley is comfortable in the Tennessee wilderness, having grown up camping, hiking, and hunting in the Smokies. Her mother left when she was young, and while her father could not always afford to buy food or clothes, he did teach her survival skills. In Ashley's own words, she's on everyone's apocalypse-survival team. One summer night, Ashley and her friends hike into the wilderness to throw a party deep in the Smokies. In their remote small town, friendships are based more on geography than common interests, and Ashley quickly becomes annoyed by and insecure about the actions of some of the people at the party. When she stumbles upon her boyfriend having sex with his ex-girlfriend in the woods, Ashley takes off running. Drunk, devastated, and shoeless, Ashley sustains a serious injury before passing out. When she wakes, she realizes that she is lost in the wilderness without any supplies, and it will be days before anyone realizes that she's in trouble. She begins the journey to find her way home, contending with infection, starvation, thirst, and wild animals along the way. McGinnis is known for writing tough female protagonists and gritty realism, and she holds nothing back in this latest novel. Ashley is angry, vulnerable, smart, and compelling, and her journey is marked by setbacks, terror, and plenty of gross-out moments.



Recommended for all grades

Grown, by Tiffany D. Jackson

Seventeen-year-old Enchanted Jones occupies many roles. She's the responsible older sister who helps out her overworked parents, but she's still the little girl who loves Disney movies. She's quiet and uncertain, but longs to step into the spotlight-and at an open call for aspiring singers, she gets her chance when pop star Korey Fields convinces her parents to let her tour with him. Enchanted becomes the victim of the manipulative Korey, who keeps her a prisoner and preys on her sexually. When Korey winds up dead, Enchanted becomes a prime suspect. While Jackson keeps readers in her thrall as she weaves back and forth in time, some of her plot twists feel implausible. Still, her arresting use of figurative language evokes an authentic portrait of a vulnerable teenager torn between infatuation and terror, convinced that there's no way out. Borrowing heavily from the case of singer R. Kelly, who has long faced accusations of rape and abuse, Jackson urges readers to question why our culture is so quick to excuse powerful men and so eager to depict Black women and girls as complicit in their own abuse.

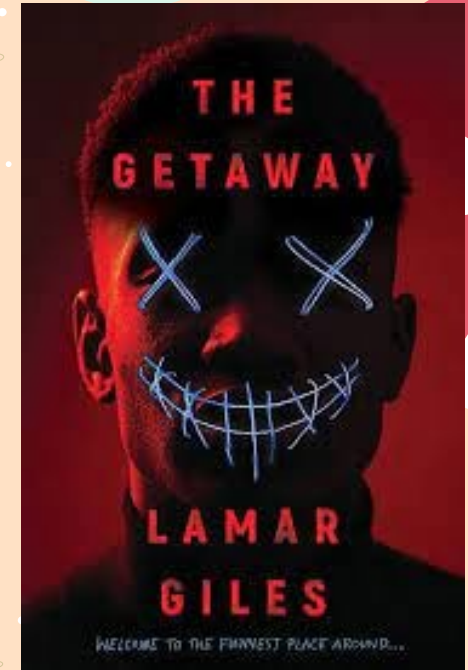


Recommended for all grades



The Getaway, by Lamar Giles

As the world outside is plagued with severe climate change, poverty, and racism, Black teen Jay feels lucky his family was chosen to live in Karloff Country. Inside the Karloff walls is a renowned destination resort with theme parks, upscale hotels, restaurants, and shops. Helpers keep the resort running, so Jay splits his time with going to school, working at a theme park, and hanging with his crew: fellow Black teens Zeke and Connie, and Chelle, who, much to her grandfather's dismay, is the biracial heir to the Karloff empire. But soon the troubles of the outside world start to seep into Karloff; Connie disappears overnight, and residents are suddenly placed under lockdown as coordinated attacks occur worldwide. Jay is still grateful to be living in a safe zone-until the typical resort crowds disappear and the Trustees arrive with new demands. Karloff Country marketing campaigns interspersed within the text lead to initial connections between Karloff and the promised magic of Disneyworld. But the advertisements extolling a commitment to safety and equality quickly begin to underscore the glaring difference in Karloff's marketing and intended purpose. The Trustees have complete power over the Helpers, each described as a person of color, and their brutality ranges from the zap of electricity to a modern-day lynching, rapidly shifting ideas of Disneyworld to those of slavery. Nonstop action, increasingly dangerous risks, and themes of racism and classism will keep readers engaged and flying through this one-and rethinking that planned resort vacation.



2023 Top Ten Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults

Ain't Burned All the Bright. By Jason Reynolds. Read by the author and a full cast. 2022. 40min. Simon & Schuster Audio, \$19.99 (9781797137544).

All My Rage. By Sabaa Tahir. Read by a full cast. 2022. 10.5hr. Listening Library, \$69 (9780593502235).

Azar on Fire. By Olivia Abtahi. Read by Alex McKenna. 2022. 9hr. Listening Library, \$63 (9780593610305).

The Door of No Return. By Kwame Alexander. Read by Kobna Holdbrook-Smith. 2022. 3.5hr. Hachette Audio, \$65 (9781668616437).

The Honeys. By Ryan La Sala. Read by Pete Cross. 2022. 11hr. Scholastic Inc. Audiobooks, \$83.99 (9781338853186).

The Silence That Binds Us. By Joanna Ho. Read by Raechel Wong. 2022. 11.5hr. HarperCollins Publishers, Inc. HarperTeen, \$72.02 (9780063059375).

Skin of the Sea. By Natasha Bowen. Read by Yetide Badaki. 2022. 11.5 hr. Listening Library, \$75 (9780593343692).

The Sunbearer Trials. By Aiden Thomas. Read by André Santana. 2022. 13.5hr. Macmillan Audio/Macmillan Young Listeners, \$59.99 (9781250866189).

Vinyl Moon. By Mahogany L. Browne. Read by Bahni Turpin. 2022. 5hr. Listening Library, \$38 (9780593506462).

The Weight of Blood. By Tiffany D. Jackson. Read by a full cast. 2022. 11hr. HarperCollins Publishers Inc./Katherine Tegen Books, \$72.07 (9780063029170).

2023 Great Graphic Novels for Teens Top Ten

Free Speech Handbook: A Practical Framework for Understanding Our Free Speech Protections. By Ian Rosenberg. Art by Mike Cavallaro. 2021. 266p. First Second, hardcover, \$28.99 (9781250619754). General Adult. 323.4430853.

Frieren: Beyond Journey's End (Volumes 1 – 6) By Kanehito Yamada. Art by Tsukasa Abe. General Adult

Frizzy. By Claribel A. Ortega. Art by Rose Bousamra. 2022. 224p. First Second, paper, \$12.99 (9781250259639). Gr. 4-6. 741.5973. Graphic novel.

Huda F Are You? By Huda Fahmy. Art by the author. 2021. 184p. Dial Books for Young Readers, paper, \$14.99 (9780593324318). Gr. 7-9. 741.5973.

Mamo, vol. 1. By Sas Milledge. Art by the author. 2022. 224p. Boom! Studios, paper, \$14.99 (9781684158171). Gr. 4-6. 741.5973.

Other Ever Afters: New Queer Fairy Tales. By Melanie Gillman. Art by the author. 2022. 240p. Random House Graphic, paper, \$17.99 (9780593303184). Gr.7-9. 741.5973.

Our Colors. By Gengoroh Tagame. Art by the author. 2022. 528p. Pantheon Books, hardcover, \$32.50 (9781524748562). General Adult. 741.5952.

Scout Is Not a Band Kid. By Jade Armstrong. Art by the author. 2022. 272p. Random House Graphic, paper, \$12.99 (9780593176221). Gr.4-6. 741.5973.

Superman Son of Kal-El, vol. 1: The Truth. By Tom Taylor. Art by John Timms. 2022. 160p. DC Comics, hardcover, \$24.99 (9781779515322). General Adult. 741.5973.

Welcome to St. Hell: My Trans Teen Misadventure. By Lewis Hancox. Art by the author. 2022. 304p. Graphix, paper, \$14.99 (9781338824438). Gr.7-9. B/306.76.



These awards have been developed to encourage the joy of reading for pleasure and to give the teens in New York State the opportunity to participate in honoring their favorite books. It is sponsored by the School Library Media Section of the New York Library Association, which represents the school libraries of the state.

<https://sites.google.com/view/ssl-mobile/awards-and-scholarships/3-apples-award>

THE 2022/23 THREE APPLES BOOK AWARD FINALISTS FOR TEENS ARE.

Read, read, read and read some more!
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