

YRCA 2024

Nominees



The background is a solid teal color with several large, white, wavy, organic shapes that resemble liquid or smoke. These shapes are layered, with some appearing in front of others, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is modern and clean.

JUNIOR DIVISION

Unplugged

By: Gordon Korman

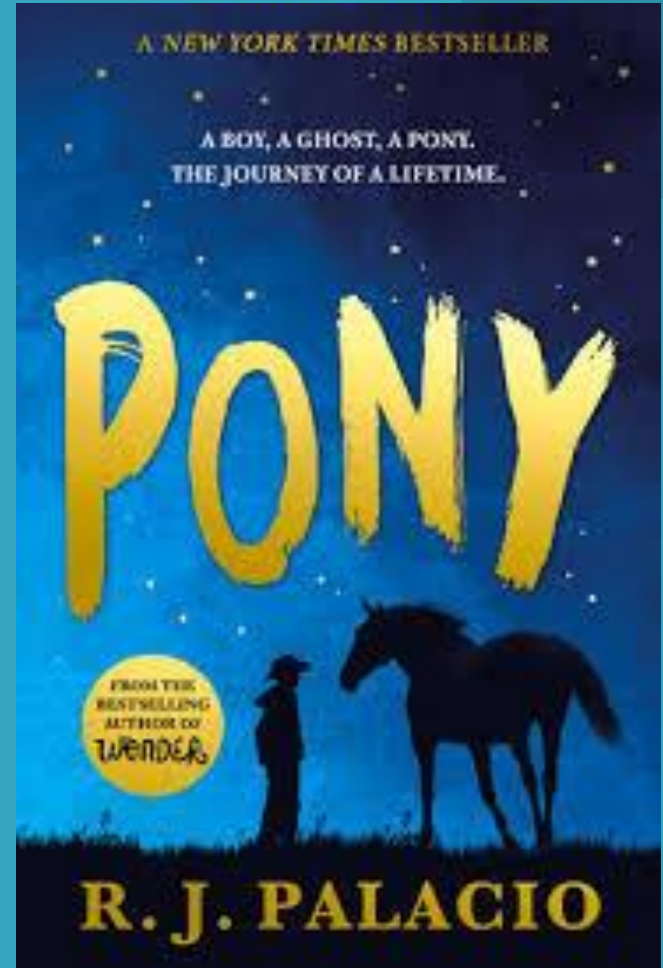
From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Unteachables*, Gordon Korman, comes a hilarious middle grade novel about a group of kids forced to “unplug” at a wellness camp—where they instead find intrigue, adventure, and a whole lot of chaos.



Pony

By: R.J. Palacio

Pony is a middle grade, historical fiction novel that incorporates elements of magical realism. When 12-year-old Silas's father is kidnapped by outlaws in 19th-century Ohio, Silas embarks on a journey to find him, accompanied by his teenage ghost companion, a magical pony, and a mysterious US Marshal.



The Lion of Mars

By: Jennifer Holm

Bell is just like any other kid. He loves cats, eats all kinds of cake, and is curious about everything. Oh, and he lives on another planet! Living on Mars comes with a ton of rules. Like don't go outside without a buddy. Always keep a glow stick in your pocket. And no contact with the kids in the other settlements. Ever. Then a virus breaks out among the grown-ups, and the children are the only ones who can help. Suddenly it's up to Bell - a regular kid in a very different world - to uncover the truth and save his family ... and possibly unite an entire planet.



Finding Junie Kim

By: Ellen Oh

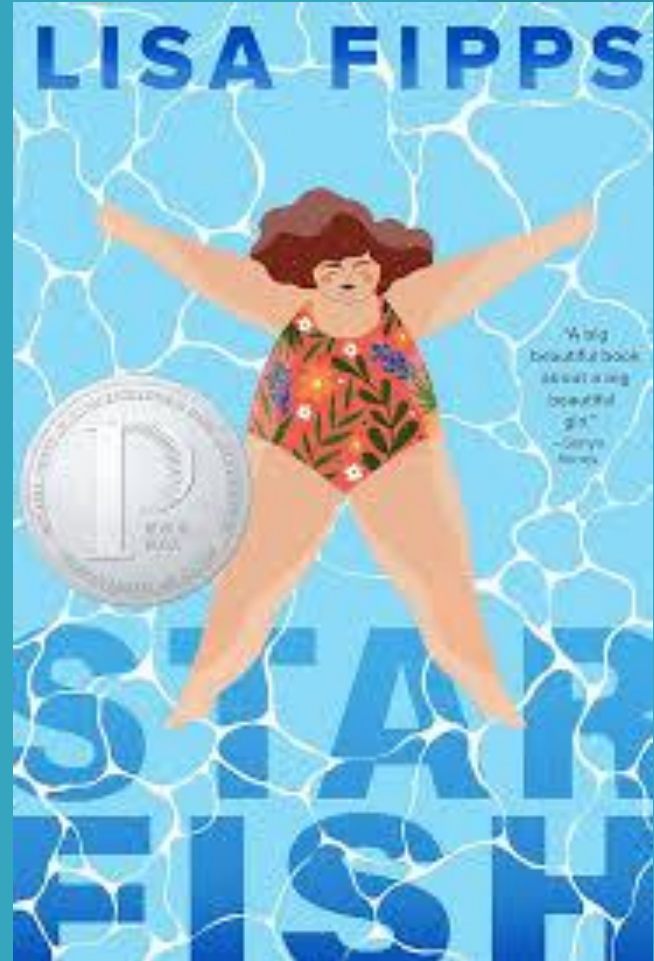
When Junie Kim is faced with middle school racism, she learns of her grandparents' extraordinary strength and finds her voice. Inspired by her mother's real-life experiences during the Korean War, Oh's characters are real and riveting.



Starfish

By: Lisa Fipps

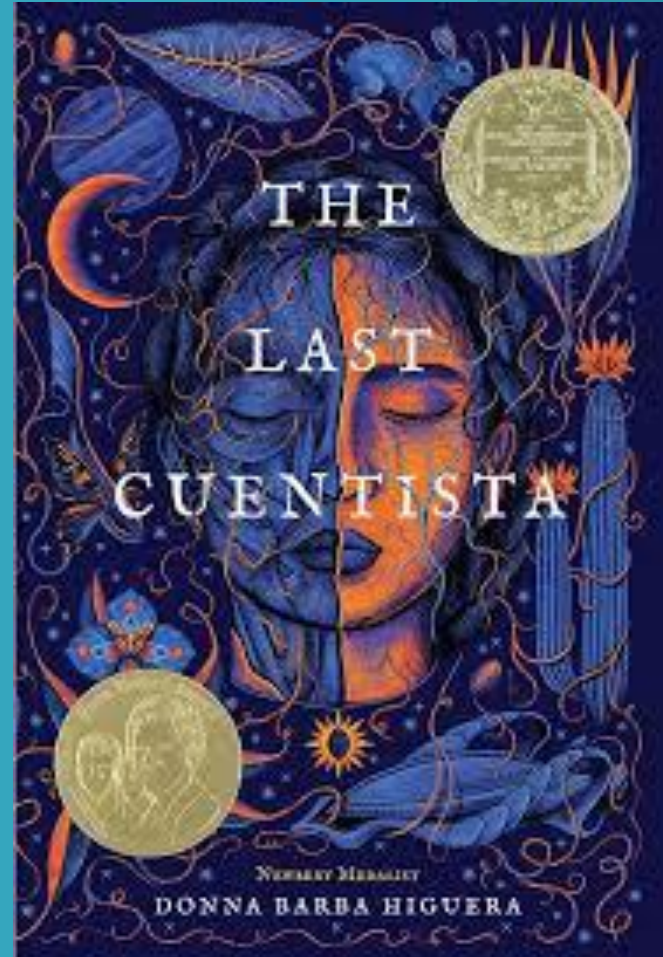
Written through a series of poems, the novel follows 12-year-old Ellie Montgomery-Hofstein and her struggles against bullying, from both family and peers, because of her weight. Through Ellie's journey, the novel explores themes of self-acceptance, social support, bullying, and standing up for yourself.



The Last Cuentista

By: Donna Barba Higuera

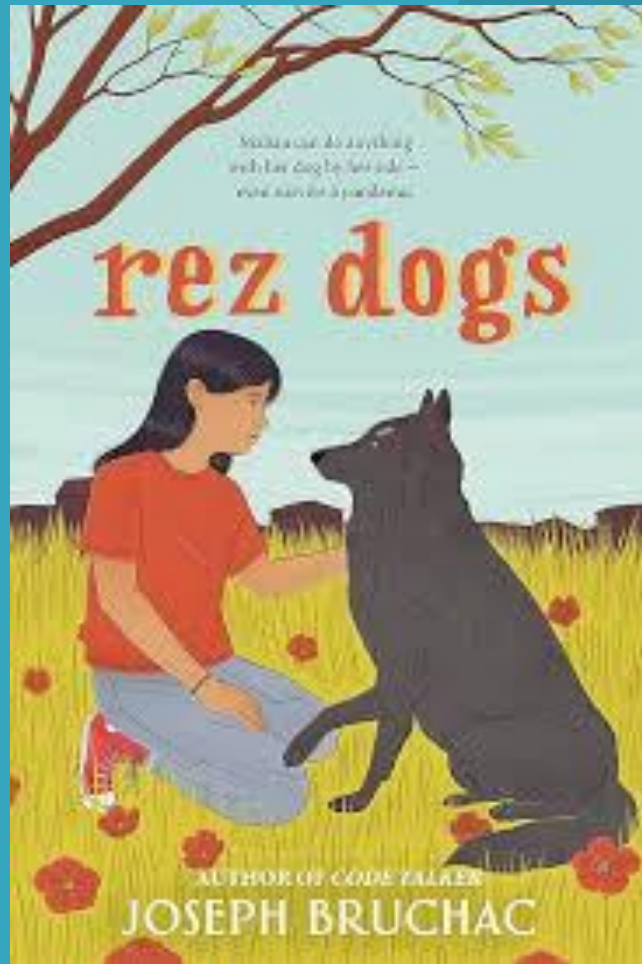
Relocating to a new planet after Earth is destroyed, 12-year-old Petra Peña's suspended animation fails during the 370-year journey, so when all the other children are mysteriously reprogrammed and the adults purged, Petra becomes the lone bringer of Earth's now forbidden stories and her grandmother's Mexican folklore.



Rez Dogs

By: **Joseph Bruchac**

Rez Dogs is a timely verse novel set during the coronavirus pandemic on the Wabanaki reservation about a girl named Malian, her grandparents, and a dog that becomes her best friend.



The Accidental Apprentice

By: Amanda Foody

To Barclay's horror, he faces a fate far worse than being eaten: he unwittingly bonds with a Beast and is run out of town by an angry mob. Determined to break this bond and return home, Barclay journeys to find the mysterious town of Lore Keepers, people who have also bonded with Beasts and share their powers.



The image features a teal background with several abstract, darker teal shapes that resemble organic, flowing forms. Centered on this background is the text "INTERMEDIATE DIVISION" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines, with "INTERMEDIATE" on the top line and "DIVISION" on the bottom line.

**INTERMEDIATE
DIVISION**

Tokyo Ever After

By: Emiko Jean

Follows Izumi, a Japanese-American teen who lives with her solo mother, who discovers that she's actually a secret Japanese princess. In her search to learn more about her heritage and family, Izumi follows her father, the Crown Prince, back to Japan and confronts what it means to be royalty.



Six Crimson Cranes

By: Elizabeth Lim

After losing control and using forbidden magic, Princess Shiori and her brothers have been banished and cursed by her stepmother. Together they must try to end the curse and save their kingdom from their stepmother.



A Snake Falls to Earth

By: Darcie Little Badger

The novel follows two characters: Nina, a Lipan Apache girl, and Oli, a cottonmouth kid who lives in the land of spirits and monsters. Although they initially have no knowledge of one another, events in their individual worlds brings them together.



The Bones of Ruin

By: Sarah Raughley

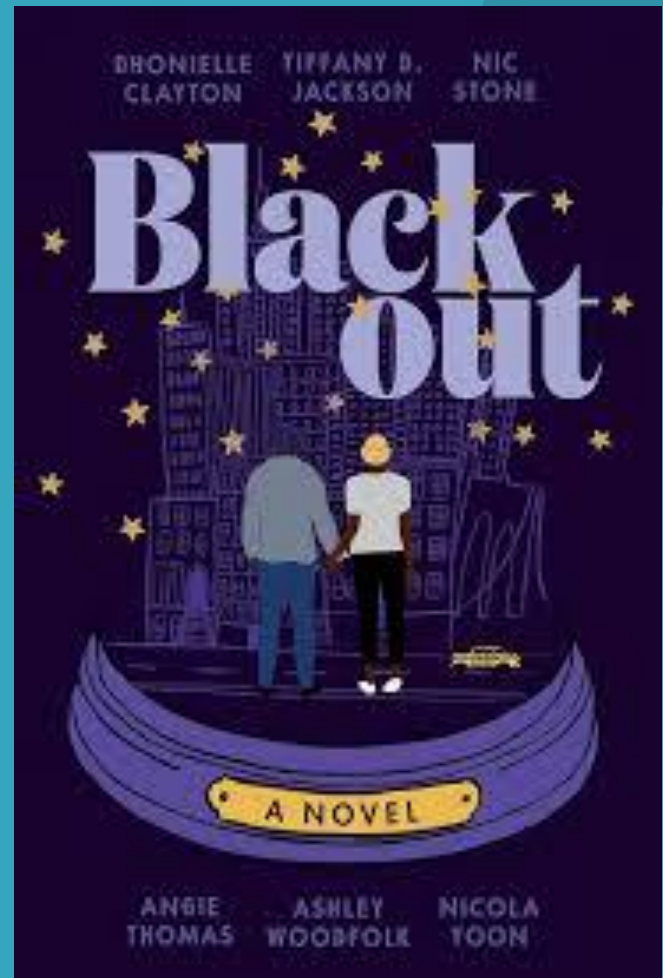
explores Victorian London through the eyes of an African tightrope walker in her new novel *The Bones of Ruin*. Her protagonist Iris is haunted by a past she cannot remember and, in a desperate bid for clues, enters the Tournament of Freaks — a deadly competition for people with supernatural abilities.



Blackout

By: Dhonielle Clayton (Multiple Authors)

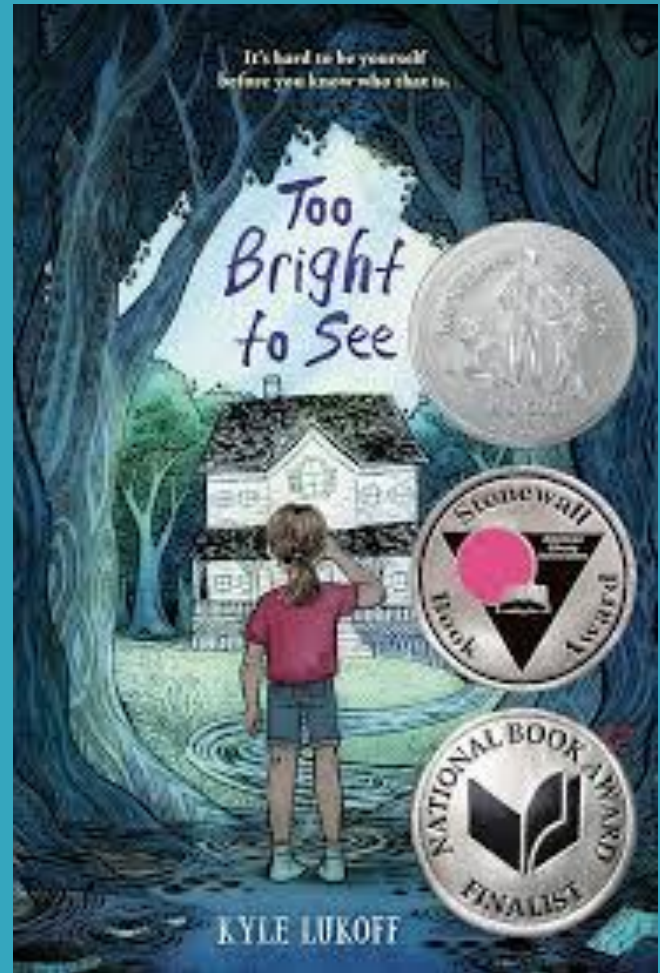
Blackout follows thirteen teenagers in six interlinked stories which celebrate Black love. After a summer heatwave causes a citywide power outage in New York City, Black teens explore love, friendships, and hidden truths over the course of a single day.



Too Bright Too See

By: Kyle Lukoff

tells the story of Bug, an 11-year-old transgender boy coming to terms with his identity after the death of his uncle. Lukoff, a transgender man, has written several books about young trans people, based in part on his own experiences. In addition to being a coming-of-age story, *Too Bright to See* is also a ghost story. Bug lives in an old house that he believes is haunted by many spirits, including the ghost of his uncle.




Zara Hossain Is Here

By: Sabina Khan

Explores the complicated relationship between identity, culture, family, and love. The main character, Zara Hossain is a seventeen-year-old Pakistani immigrant who has been leading a fairly typical life in Texas since her family moved there for her father's work



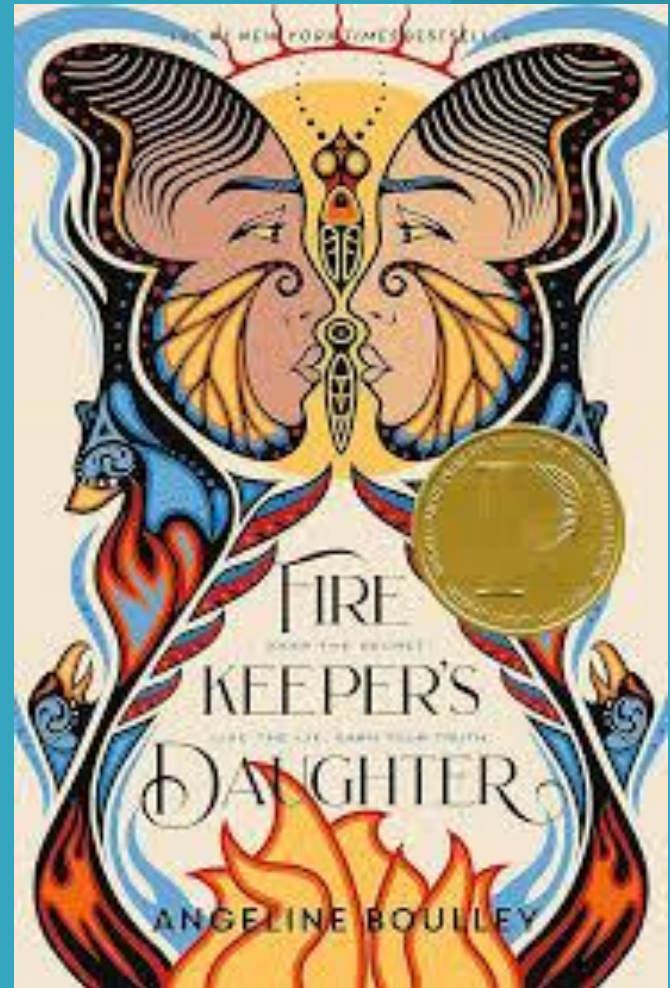
The image features a teal background with several abstract, darker teal shapes that resemble organic, flowing forms. Centered on this background is the text "SENIOR DIVISION" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: "SENIOR" on the top line and "DIVISION" on the bottom line. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

SENIOR DIVISION

Firekeeper's Daughter

By: Angeline Boulley

Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother.



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. As the son of a former gang legend, Mav does that the only way he knows how: dealing for the King Lords. With this money he can help his mom, who works two jobs while his dad's in prison.



Iron Widow

By: Xiran Jay Zhao

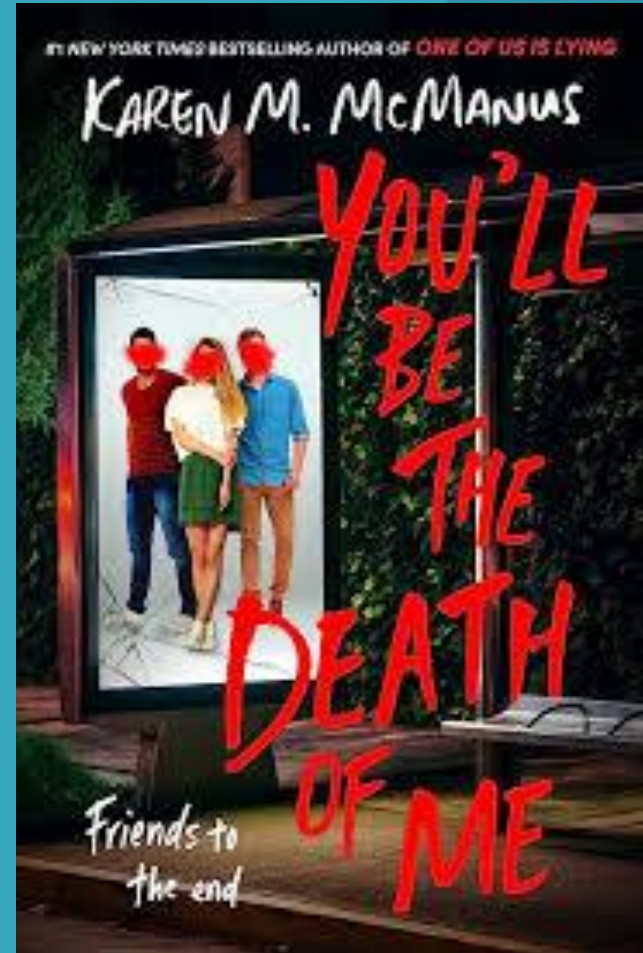
The novel is a mecha reimagining of the rise of China's first and only female Emperor Wu Zetian set in the nation of Huaxia, a futuristic reinterpretation of Medieval China.



You'll Be the Death of Me

By: Karen M. McManus

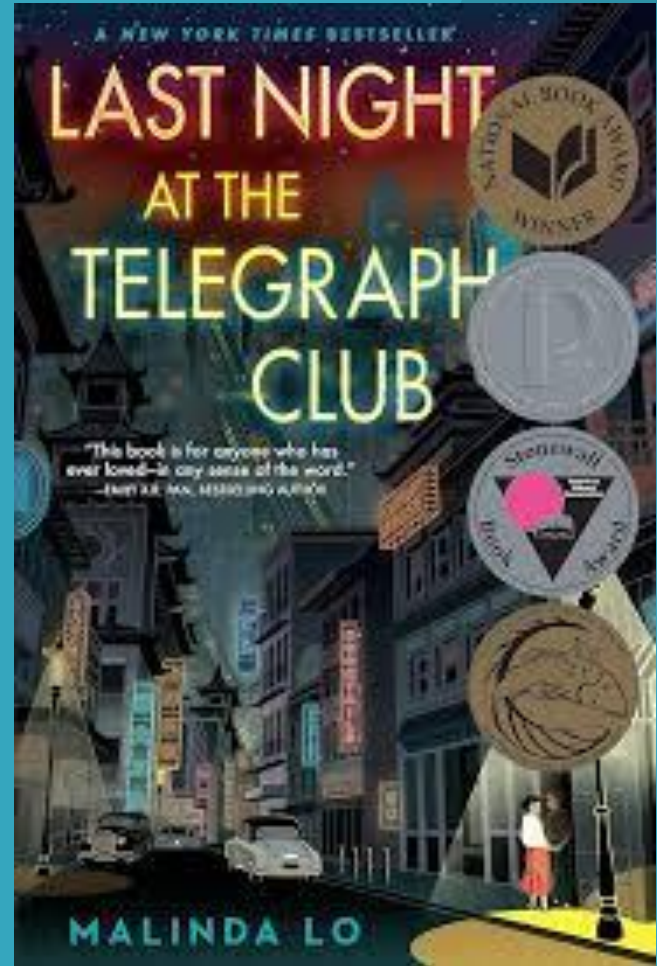
The novel tells the story of three former friends—Mateo Wojcik, Ivy Sterling-Shepard, and Cal O'Shea-Wallace—whose impulsive decision to skip school has deadly consequences. As the trio try to solve the mystery and clear their names, they each struggle to hide secrets of their own.



Last Night at the Telegraph Club

By: Malinda Lo

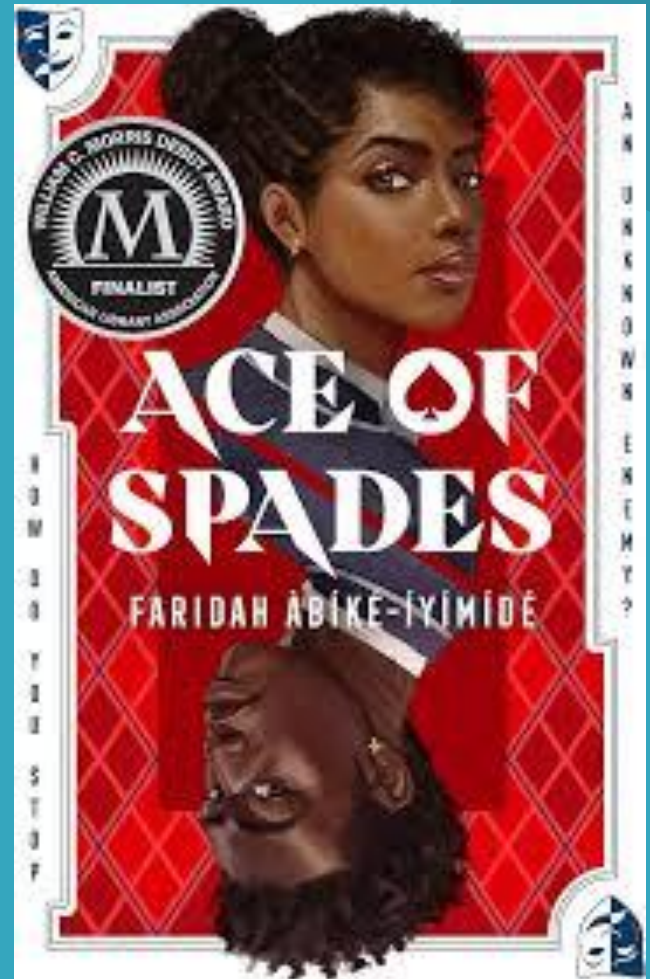
novel centering on the experience of Lily Hu, a teenager in 1950s San Francisco, as she comes to terms with her sexuality while also dealing with the prevalent societal racism toward Chinese Americans. Lily comes across an ad for the titular Telegraph Club in the newspaper and then discovers that one of her classmates, Kath, has been to the nightclub. The story proceeds over the course of five months with an epilogue that takes place a year later as Lily and Kath navigate their relationship and the secrecy that comes with the LGBTQ+ community in the mid-20th century.



Ace of Spades

By: Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

It is a thriller that follows the struggles and injustices faced by the only two Black students at a prestigious American private high school.



Better Than the Movies

By: Lynn Painter

Lynn Painter's adorable young adult rom-com *Better Than the Movies* is about Liz Buxbaum, a fabulously eccentric high schooler coping with the grief of having lost her mom--while navigating the sparkly idea--and messy reality--of romance, with the inspiration of her mom's favorite romantic comedies.



The Prison Healer

By: Lynette Noni

The Prison Healer by Lynette Noni centres around 17-year-old Kiva who lives in a prison after being captured by soldiers when she was a young child. Arrested at the time with her father, the old prison healer, Kiva has now taken his place tending to sick inmates and inducting new arrivals through a torturous ritual.

