

The Book List

“It's not that I think kids should only read themselves, but everyone needs a starting point.” - Jason Reynolds, author.



[Author's note: This list is by no means exhaustive, but my goal is just that, to provide a starting point.]

FICTION

Young Adult

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
Booked by Kwame Alexander
American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang
The Grisha Trilogy by Leigh Bardugo
Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo
Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard
Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon
Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel
100 Sideways Miles by Andrew Smith
Grasshopper Jungle by Andrew Smith
Winger by Andrew Smith
Stand-off by Andrew Smith
Darius & Twig by Walter Dean Myers
All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven
Love Letters to the Dead by Ava Dellaira
Goodbye Stranger by Rebecca Stead
Illuminae by Amie Kaufman
The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness
Dumplin' by Julie Murphy
Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children series by Ransom Riggs
How it Went Down by Kekla Magoon
Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina
The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen
Every Day by David Levithan
Another Day by David Levithan
Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan
Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan
JACQUELINE WOODSON
Caminar by Skila Brown
I Am J by Chris Beam
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
Kindred by Octavia Butler
Shadowshaper by Daniel Jose Older
Tell the Wolves I'm Home by Carol Rifka Brunt
Mexican WhiteBoy by Matt De La Pena
Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty by G. Neri, Randy Duburke
The Vigilante Poets of Selwyn Avademy by Kate Hattemer
Glory O'Brien's History of the Future by A.S. King
Standing Against the Wind by Traci L. Jones
Freakboy by Kristin Elizabeth Clark
X: A Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz
Gabi, a Girl in Pieces by Isabel Quintero

Please Ignore Vera Dietz by A.S. King
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B by Teresa Toten
The Walls Around Us by Nova Ren Suma
The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender by Leslye Walton
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Saenz
Openly Straight by Bill Konisberg
Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley
The Difference Between You and Me by Madeleine George
The Miseducation of Cameron Post by emily m. danforth
Beautiful Music for Ugly Children by Kristin Cronn-Mills
Fat Angie by e.E. Charlton-Trujillo
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng
We Were Liars by E. Lockhart
Since You've Been Gone by Morgan Matson
The Museum of Intangible Things by Wendy Wunder
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
An Abundance of Katherines by John Green
Fault in Our Stars by John Green
Looking for Alaska by John Green
If I Stay by Gayle Forman
Where She Went by Gayle Forman
Lagoon by Nnedi Okorafor
Leaving Atlanta by Tayari Jones
The Professor's Daughter by Emily Raboteau
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez
In the Time of Butterflies by Julia Alvarez
Caucasia by Danzy Senna
The Girl Who Fell from the Sky by Heidi Durrow
This is How you Lose Her by Juno Diaz
The Sellout by Paul Beatty
The White Boy Shuffle by Paul Beatty
Erasure by Percival Everett
Falling into Place by Amy Zhang
Say What You Will by Cammie McGovern
Zac and Mia by A.J. Betts
Anatomy of a Misfit by Andrea Portes
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
The Impossible Knife of Memory by Laurie Halse Anderson
Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock by Matthew Quick
Everything Leads to You by Nina LaCour
Let's Get Lost by Adi Alsaid
Where Things Come Back by John Corey Whaley
Jellicoe Road by Melina Marchetta
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
Monster by Walter Dean Myers
Daughter of Smoke & Bone series by Laini Taylor

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli
The Beginning of Everything by Robyn Schneider
Every Last Word by Tamara Ireland Stone
More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera
To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han
Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell
Carry On by Rainbow Rowell
Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman
This Song Will Save Your Life by Leila Sales
The Girl with the Magic Hands by Nnedi Okorafor
Tales of the Madman Underground by John Barnes
Dirt Bikes, Drones, and Other Ways to Fly by Conrad Wesselhoeft
Paperweight by Meg Haston
A Darker Shade of Magic by V.E. Schwab
Hoops by Walter Dean Myers
Dope Sick by Walter Dean Myers
Lockdown by Walter Dean Myers
The Black Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds
I Crawl Through It by A.S. King
Emmy & Oliver by Robin Benway
The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness
Black Boy White School by Brian F. Walker
Anything Could Happen by Will Walton
Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell
The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey
The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen by Susin Nielsen
The Book of Lost Things by John Connolly
The Storied Life of A.J. Filkry by Gabrielle Zevin
Zand and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina by Rodman Philbrick
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
Ana of California by Andi Teran
Hold Tight, Don't Let Go by Laura Rose Wagner
George by Alex Gino
The Queen of Kentucky by Alecia Whitaker
Weird Girl and What's His Name by Meagan Brothers
The Summer We Got Free by Mia McKenzie
Vengeance Road by Erin Bowman
The Last Boy and Girl in the World by Siobhan Vivian
The Paper Magician by Charlie Holmberg
Egg & Spoon by Gregory Maguire
Dr. Bird's Advice for Sad Poets by Evan Roskos
Friends with Boys by Faith Erin Hicks
A Step Toward Falling by Cammie McGovern
Not if I See You First by Eric Lindstrom
In Real Life by Jessica Love
Hotlanta by Denene Millner and Mitzi Miller
Blankets by Craig Thompson
A Man Called Ove by Backman Frederik

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng
The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri
What I Did. By Jason
Boxers & Saints by Gene Luen Yang
Nimona by Noelle Stevenson
The Weight of Feathers by Anne-Marie McLemore
The Game of Love and Death by Martha Brockenbrough
Like Water on Stone by Dana Walrath
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Trouble by Non Pratt
The Anatomical Shape of a Heart by Jenn Bennett
The Maze Runner by James Dashner
A Study in Charlotte by Brittany Cavallaro
Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Perez
If You Could Be Mine by Sara Farizan
Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel by Sara Farizan
Ash by Malinda Lo
The Smell of Other People's Houses by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock
Into White by Randi Pink
A Fierce and Subtle Poison by Samantha Mabry
The May Queen Murders by Sarah Jude
Red Rising series by Pierce Brown
The Love that Split the World by Emily Henry
The Girl from Everywhere by Heidi Heilig
The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner
Finding Audrey by Sophie Kinsella
Blackhearts by Nicole Castroman
My Heart and Other Black Holes by Jasmine Warga
Made You Up by Francesca Zappia
P.S. I Still Love You by Jenny Han
All the Rage by Courney Summers
Shadowlands by Kate Brian
Pointe by Brandy Colbert
Sway by Kat Spears
Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness
Exit, Pursued by a Bear by E.K. Johnston
The Wrath & the Dawn by Renee Ahdieh
Up From the Sea by Leza Lowitz
Unbecoming by Jenny Downham
Revolution by Jennifer Donnelly
The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl by Issa Rae
Tiny Pretty Things by Sona Charaipotra & Dhonielle Clayton
This Side of Home by Renee Watson
Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper
The Porcupine of Truth by Bill Konisberg
A Tyranny of Petticoats: 15 Stories of Belles, Bank Robbers & Other Badass Girls by Jessica Spotswood
Promise of Shadows by Justina Ireland
Into the Dangerous World by Julie Chibbaro

Juliet Takes a Breath by Gabby Rivera
When We Collided by Emery Lord
Rebel of the Sands by Alwyn Hamilton
Dreamology by Lucy Keating
Bellweather Rhapsody by Kate Racculia
The Other Side of Eve by Paul Ikin
Bright Lights, Dark Nights by Stephen Emond
Conviction by Kelly Loy Gilbert
Under a Painted Sky by Stacey Lee
The Underground Railroad: A Novel by Colson Whitehead
The Nothing Girl by Jodi Taylor
The Hired Girl by Laura Amy Schlitz
Cirque Du Freak by Darren Shan
Book of Shadows by Cate Tiernan
The 100 by Kass Morgan
Tell Me Three Things by Julie Buxbaum
Holding Smoke by Elle Cosimano
Devil and the Bluebird by Jennifer Mason-Black
Passenger by Alexandra Bracken
Rebel Bully Geek Pariah by Erin Jade Lange
The Art of Not Breathing by Sarah Alexander
My Name is Not Easy by Debby Dahl Edwardson
I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson
Go Ask Alice by Beatrice Sparks
Endangered (Ape Quartet) by Eliot Schrefer
No Crystal Stair: A Documentary Novel of the Life and Work of Lewis Michaux, Harlem Bookseller by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Heaven series by Angela Johnson
Don't Fail Me Now by Una LaMarche
Nothing But Drama by ReShonda Tate Billingsley
Endangered by Lamar Giles
Flygirl by Sherri L Smith
The Good Braider by Terry Farish
High School High by Shannon Freeman
The Kayla Chronicles by Sherri Winston
Kendra by Coe Booth
Love is the Drug by Alaya Dawn Johnson
Mare's War by Tanita S Davis
Not Otherwise Specified by Hannah Moskowitz
On the Come Up by Hannah Weyer
Pinned by Sharon G. Flake
Camo Girl by Kekla Magoon
Sound by Alexandra Duncan
Step to This by Nikki Carter
See No Color by Shannon Gibney
Taking Flight by Michaela DePrince
Above Us Only Sky by Michelle Stone-Young

Middle Grades

Hurricane Boy by Laura Roach Dragon
My Name's Not Friday by Jon Walter
The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill
As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds
So Not the Drama by Paula Chase
The Fox and the Star by Coralie Bickford-Smith
Some Kind of Happiness by Claire Legrand
The Doldrums by Nicholas Gannon
Paper Things by Jennifer Richard Jacobson
The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall
Wish Girl by Nikki Loftin
Disgruntled by Asali Solomon
Ruby on the Outside by Nora Raleigh Baskin
Friends for Life by Andrew Norriss
The Mysterious Benedict Society series by
Valiant by Sarah McGuire
Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms by Katherine Rundell
The Trilogy of Two by Juman Malouf
Drama by Raina Telgemeier
Maybe a Fox by Kathi Appelt
Swim That Rock by John Rocco
Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai
Lily and Dunkin by Donna Gephart
Running Out of Night by Sharon Lovejoy
Courage for Beginners by Karen Harrington
Nora & Kettle by Lauren Nicolle Taylor
Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar
Paper Wishes by Lois Sepahban
Towers Falling by Jewell Parker Rhodes
The Saturday Boy by David Fleming
Anna and the Swallow Man by Gavriel Savit
Night on Fire by Ronald Kidd
Nest by Esther Ehrlich
House Arrest by K.A. Holt
The Marvels by Brian Selznick
The Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
Copper Sun by Sharon Draper
Heap House by Edward Carey
A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielsen
The Pull of the Ocean by Jean-Claude Mourlevat
Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes by Jonathan Auxier
The Night Gardener by Johathan Auxier
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo

El Deafo by Cece Bell
Forged by Fire by Sharon M. Draper
Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
The Boneshaker by Kate Milford
The Broken Lands by Kate Milford
The Seeds of America Trilogy by Laurie Halse Anderson
The Aviary by Kathleen O'Dell
When the Black Girl Sings by Bil Wright
Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Girls Like Us by Gail Giles
The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata & Julia Kuo
Vanished by Sheela Chari
Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere by Julie T. Lamana
Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
Finding Someplace by Denise Lewis Patrick
Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics by Chris Grabenstein
Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman
Pax by Sara Pennypacker
Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan
Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper
The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm
Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley
The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin
The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making (series) by Catherynne M. Valente
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
Standing Against the Wind by Traci L. Jones
Horten's Miraculous Mechanisms: Magic, Mystery, & a Very Strange Adventure by Lissa Evans
The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba by Margarita Engle
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson
Beautiful Darkness by Fabien Vehlmann
True & Nelle by G. Neri
The Land of Forgotten Girls by Erin Entrada Kelly

NON-FICTION

The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls

Drowned City by Don Brown

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March by Elspeth Leacock, Susan Buckley, and Lynda Blackmon Lowery (PICTURE BOOK?)

March: Volumes 1 and 2 by John Lewis

Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out by Susan Kuklin

Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir by Liz Prince

The Fluency of Light: Coming of Age in a Theater of Black and White by Aisha Sabatini Sloan

Buck: A Memoir by M.K. Asante

Dancing with the Devil in the City of God: Rio de Janeiro on the Brink by Juliana Barbassa

Detroit: An American Autopsy by Charlie LeDuff

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson

Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem by Rosalyn Schanzer

Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America by Melissa Harris-Perry

Freedom Summer: The Savage Season of 1964 that Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy by Bruce Watson

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

Lies My Teacher Told Me by James W. Loewen

I Am Troy Davis by Jen Marlowe

Race to Incarcerate: A Graphic Retelling

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois

Billie Holiday: The Musician and the Myth by John Szwed

While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age During the Civil Rights Movement by Carolyn Maull McKinstry

What We See When We Read by Peter Mendelsund

Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History by Joel Christian Gill

Honor Girl: A Graphic Memoir by Maggie Thrash

Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art by Scott McCloud

Rethinking Normal: A Memoir in Transition by Katie Rain Hill

The Lightning Dreamer: Cuba's Greatest Abolitionist by Margarita Engle

Lincoln's Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinkin

Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War by Steve Sheinkin

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip M. Hoose

The Reason Why I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism by Naoki Higashida

Hana's Suitcase: A True Story by Karen Levine

The Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson

The Fangirl's Guide to the Galaxy: A Handbook for Girl geeks by Sam Maggs

Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith by Deborah Heiligman

How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous by Georgia Bragg

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia by Candace Fleming

Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Sheinkin

Assuming Names by Tanya Thompson

Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom by Sue Macy

They Called Themselves the K.K.K. The Birth of an American Terrorist Group by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

We Should Hang Out Sometime: Embarrassingly, A True Story by Josh Sundquist

The Pregnancy Project by Gaby Rodriguez with Jenna Glatzer

Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas by Jim Ottaviani

The Dark Game: True Spy Stories from Invisible Ink to CIA Moles by Paul B. Janeczko