

## 2024 Suggested Reading for Grades 9-12

\*Unless otherwise stated all e-books and e-audiobooks are on OverDrive/Libby

### Fiction

#### **Acker, James. “The Long Run” 2023**

Sebastian Villeda is over it. Over his rep. Over his bros. Over being "Bash the Flash," fastest sprinter in South Jersey. His dad is gone, his mom is dead, and his stepfather is clueless. Bash has no idea what he wants out of life. Until he meets Sandro. Sandro Miceli is too nice for his own good. The middle child in an always-growing, always-screaming Italian family, Sandro walks around on a broken foot to not bother his busy parents. All he wants is to get out and never look back. When fate — in the form of a party that gets busted — brings these two very different boys together, neither of them could've predicted finding a love that they'd risk everything for...

**YA FIC Acker**

#### **Adia, Jade. “There Goes the Neighborhood” 2023**

Fifteen-year-old Rhea and her best friends, Zeke and Malachi, are South L.A. born and raised, but a recent wave of gentrification has been transforming the place that they call home. When an eviction notice from a greedy landlord threatens to split up the crew, Rhea and her friends manipulate social media to form a fake gang in hopes of scaring off developers. Their scheme appears to work at first ... until a murder is pegged on the nonexistent gang. Yikes. *\*Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award Winner*

**YA FIC Adia, YA FIC Pop Now Adia**

#### **Albertalli, Becky. “Imogen, Obviously” 2023**

Imogen Scott may be hopelessly heterosexual, but she's got the World's Greatest Ally title locked down. She's never missed a Pride Alliance meeting. She knows more about queer media discourse than her very queer little sister. She even has two queer best friends. There's Gretchen, and then there's Lili — newly out and newly thriving with a cool new squad of queer college friends. Imogen's thrilled for Lili, even if that means bending the truth, just a little. Like when Lili drops a tiny queer bombshell: She's told all her college friends that Imogen and Lili used to date. And none of them know that Imogen is a raging hetero — not even Lili's best friend, Tessa. Of course, the more time Imogen spends with chaotic, freckle-faced Tessa, the more she starts to wonder if her truth was ever all that straight to begin with.

**YA FIC Albertalli, YA FIC Pop Now Albertalli, e-book, e-audiobook, e-book Hoopla, e-audiobook Hoopla**

#### **Arnold, Elana K. “The Blood Years” 2023**

Frederieke Teitler and her older sister, Astra, live in a house, in a city, in a world divided. War is breaking out in Europe. First the Russians, then the Germans, invade Czernowitz. Almost overnight, Rieke and Astra's world changes, and every day becomes a struggle: to keep their grandfather's business, to keep their home, to keep their lives. Rieke has long known that she exists in a world defined by those who have power and those who do not, and as those powers

close in around her, she must decide whether holding on to her life might mean letting go of everything that has ever mattered to her—and if that’s a choice she will even have the chance to make. *\*Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner*

**YA FIC Arnold, YA FIC Pop Now Arnold, e-book**

**Benton-Walker, Terry J. “Blood Debts” 2023**

Thirty years ago, a young woman was murdered, a family was lynched, and New Orleans saw the greatest magical massacre in its history. In the days that followed, a throne was stolen from a queen. And now on the anniversary of these brutal events, Clement and Cristina Trudeau — the s16-year-old twin heirs to the powerful, magical, dethroned family — are mourning their father and caring for their sick mother. Until, by chance, they discover their mother isn’t sick — she’s cursed. Cursed by someone on the very magic council their family used to rule. Someone who will come for them next.

**YA FIC Benton-Walker, YA FIC Pop Now Benton-Walker, e-book, e-audiobook**

**Brooks, Nick. “Promise Boys” 2023**

The prestigious Urban Promise Prep school might look pristine on the outside, but deadly secrets lurk within. When the principal ends up murdered on school premises and the cops come sniffing around, a trio of students — J.B., Ramón, and Trey — emerge as the prime suspects. They had the means, they had the motive ... and they may have had the murder weapon. But with all three maintaining their innocence, they must band together to track down the real killer before they are arrested. Or is the true culprit hiding among them? *\*Odyssey Award Winner for Audiobook*

**YA FIC Brooks, YA FIC Pop Now Brooks, e-book, e-audiobook**

**Burton, Gabi. “Sing Me to Sleep” 2023**

Saoirse Sorkova survives on lies. As a soldier-in-training at the most prestigious barracks in the kingdom, she lies about being a siren to avoid execution. At night, working as an assassin for a dangerous group of mercenaries, Saoirse lies about her true identity. And to her family, Saoirse tells the biggest lie of all: that she can control her siren powers and doesn't struggle constantly against an impulse to kill.

**YA FIC Burton, YA FIC Pop Now Burton**

**Caletti, Deb. “Plan A” 2023**

Ivy can’t entirely believe it when the plus sign appears on the test. She didn’t even know it was possible from ... what happened. But it is, and now she is, and instead of spending the summer working at the local drugstore and swooning over her boyfriend, Lorenzo, suddenly she’s planning a cross-country road trip to her grandmother’s house on the West Coast, where she can legally obtain an abortion. And while Ivy can’t run from the incessant pressure of others’ opinions about her body or from her own expectations and insecurities, she discovers a new world of healing and hope. As the women she encounters share their stories, she chips away at the stigma, silence, and shame surrounding reproductive rights while those collective experiences guide her to her own rightful destination.

**YA FIC Caletti, YA FIC Pop Now Caletti**

**Capriglione, Melissa. “Basil and Oregano” 2023**

Porta Bella Magiculinary Academy is the finest school for the art of cooking with magic, and Basil Eyres is determined to be the top student. On the first day of her senior year, Arabella Oregano, the daughter of a renowned chef, joins the academy for her senior year as well. The two are instantly smitten with each other, but Basil senses there’s something Arabella is hiding from her. Still, the two work together to stand out from the class as the end of year culinary festival approaches. But when Arabella’s secret is revealed, Basil is faced with the hardest decision of her life, which has the potential to throw her future aspirations in jeopardy.

**YA GN Capriglione, YA GN Pop Now Capriglione**

**Carpenter, Nora Shalaway. “Ab(solutely) Normal: Short Stories That Smash Mental Health Stereotypes” 2023**

In this inspiring, unflinching, and hope-filled mixed-genre collection, 16 diverse and notable authors draw on their own lived experiences with mental health conditions to create stunning works of fiction that will uplift and empower you, break your heart and stitch it back together stronger than before. Through powerful prose, verse, and graphics, the characters in this anthology defy stereotypes as they remind readers that living with a mental health condition doesn’t mean that you’re defined by it.

**YA FIC Carpenter, YA FIC Pop Now Carpenter**

**Cheng, Linda. “Gorgeous Gruesome Faces” 2023**

After a shocking scandal that abruptly ended her teen popstar career, 18-year-old Sunny Lee spends her days longing for her former life and cyberstalking her ex-BFF and groupmate, Candie. The two were once inseparable, but that was before the tragedy and heartache they left in their wake. Now, Sunny and Candie are attending a new K-pop workshop. Candie might be there chasing stardom, but Sunny can’t resist the chance to finally confront their traumatic history. Because she still can’t figure out what happened that horrible night when Mina, the third in their tight-knit trio, jumped to her death.

**YA FIC Cheng, YA FIC Pop Now Cheng**

**Cottingham, Kayla. “This Delicious Death” 2023**

Four best friends, one music festival, and a cooler filled with human organs: This summer is about to get gory.

**YA FIC Cottingham, YA FIC Pop Now Cottingham, e-book, e-audiobook, e-book Hoopla**

**Dean, Benjamin. “The King is Dead” 2023**

Heavy is the crown James has been born to wear, especially as the first Black heir to the British throne. But with his father’s recent passing, and with a new boyfriend to hide, James is woefully unprepared for the sudden shine of public scrutiny. When his secrets come spilling forth across tabloid pages and the man he thought he loved has suddenly disappeared, James finds himself on the precipice of ruin. As every detail of his life becomes public knowledge, his sense of safety is shattered and the people he trusts the most become the likeliest suspects.

**YA FIC Dean, YA FIC Pop Now Dean**

**Ferguson, Jen. “Those Pink Mountain Nights” 2023**

Over-achievement isn't a bad word — for Berlin, it's the goal. She's securing excellent grades, planning her future, and working a part-time job at Pink Mountain Pizza, a legendary local business. Who says she needs a best friend by her side? Dropping out of high school wasn't smart — but it was necessary for Cameron. Since his cousin Kiki's disappearance, it's hard enough to find the funny side of life, especially when the whole town has forgotten Kiki. To them, she's just another missing Native girl. People at school label Jessie a tease, a rich girl — and honestly, she's both. But Jessie knows she contains multitudes. Maybe her new job crafting pizzas will give her the high-energy outlet she desperately wants. When the weekend at Pink Mountain Pizza takes unexpected turns, three teen employees will have to acknowledge the various ways they've been hurt — and how much they need each other to hold it all together.

**YA FIC Ferguson, YA FIC Pop Now Ferguson**

**Furedi, Chelsey. “Project Nought” 2023**

Ren Mittal's last memory in the year 1996 is getting on a bus to visit his mystery pen pal Georgia. When he wakes up in 2122, he thinks he might be hallucinating. Tech conglomerate Chronotech sponsors a time-travel program to help students in 2122 learn what history was really like from real-life subjects who've been transported into the future, and Ren is one of them. What if Chronotech isn't the benevolent organization they claim to be, and he and his fellow subjects are in great danger?

**YA GN Furedi, YA GN Pop Now Furedi, e-book**

**Gibbs, Shawnee and Gibbs, Shawnelle. “Ghost Roast” (2024)**

For as long as she can remember, Chelsea Grant has tried everything she can think of to distance herself from the disastrous damage her father does to her social life. It's not easy to shake her reputation as Ghost Girl when Dad keeps advertising his business as a "paranormal removal expert" in big, bold, loud letters all over New Orleans. This year, Chelsea's all grown up, attending one of the most prestigious high schools in the city, and she's finally made friends with the popular crowd. Things are looking up — until a night on the town backfires spectacularly, landing her in hot water at home. Her punishment? Working for her dad at Paranormal Removal Services. All. Summer. Worst of all, her new job reveals an unexpected secret she has to keep: While Dad hunts ghosts with his own DIY tech, Chelsea can actually see them. And when she meets Oliver, a friendly spirit, at the fancy mansion her dad is getting a handsome fee to exorcize, she realizes she has to save his after-life, even if it risks everything her father's worked for.

**YA GN Gibbs, YA GN Pop Now Gibbs**

**Graves, Byron. “Rez Ball” 2023**

These days, Tre Brun is happiest when he is playing basketball on the Red Lake Reservation high school team — even though he can't help but be constantly gut-punched with memories of his big brother, Jaxon, who died in an accident. When Jaxon's former teammates on the varsity team offer to take Tre under their wing, he sees this as his shot to represent his Ojibwe rez all the way to their first state championship. This is the first step toward his dream of playing in

the NBA, no matter how much the odds are stacked against him. But stepping into his brother's shoes as a star player means that Tre can't mess up. Not on the court, not at school, and not with his new friend, gamer Khiana, who he is definitely not falling in love with. After decades of rez teams almost making it, Tre needs to take his team to state. Because if he can live up to Jaxon's dreams, their story isn't over yet. *\*American Indian Youth Literature Award Winner*  
*\*William C. Morris Award Winner*

**YA FIC Graves, YA Pop Now Graves, e-book**

**Hazelwood, Ali. "Check & Mate" 2023**

Mallory Greenleaf is done with chess. Every move counts nowadays. After the sport led to the destruction of her family four years earlier, Mallory's focus is on her mom, her sisters, and the dead-end job that keeps the lights on. That is, until she begrudgingly agrees to play in one last charity tournament and inadvertently wipes the board with notorious "Kingkiller" Nolan Sawyer: current world champion and reigning Bad Boy of chess. Nolan's loss to an unknown rookie shocks everyone. What's even more confusing? His desire to cross pawns again. What kind of gambit is Nolan playing? The smart move would be to walk away. Resign. Game over. But Mallory's victory opens the door to sorely needed cash prizes and despite everything, she can't help feeling drawn to the enigmatic strategist.

**YA FIC Hazelwood, YA FIC Pop Now Hazelwood, e-book, e-audiobook**

**Hicks, Faith Erin. "Hockey Girl Loves Drama Boy" 2023**

It should have been a night of triumph for Alix's hockey team. But her mean teammate Lindsay decided to start up with her usual rude comments and today Alix, who usually tries to control her anger, let it finally run free. Alix lashes out and before she knows it, her coach is dragging her off Lindsay, and the invitation to the Canada National Women's U18 Team's summer camp is on the line. She needs to learn how to control this anger, and she is sure Ezra, the popular and poised theater kid from her grade is the answer. So, she asks for his help. But as they hang out and start to get closer, Alix learns that there is more to Ezra than the cool front he puts on. And that maybe this friendship could become something more.

**YA GN Hicks, YA GN Pop Now Hicks**

**King, A.S. "The Collectors: Stories" 2023**

From David Levithan's story about a non-binary kid collecting pieces of other people's collections to Jenny Torres Sanchez's tale of a girl gathering types of fire while trying not to get burned to G. Neri's piece about 1970's skaters seeking opportunities to go vertical — anything can be collected and in the hands of these award-winning and bestselling authors, any collection can tell a story. Nine of the best YA novelists working today have written fiction based on a prompt from Printz-winner A.S. King (who also contributes a story) and the result is itself an extraordinary collection. *\*Michael L. Printz Award Winner*

**YA FIC King, YA FIC Pop Now King, e-audiobook**

**Lee, Sher. "Fake Dates & Mooncakes" 2023**

Dylan Tang wants to win a Mid-Autumn Festival mooncake-making competition for teen chefs — in memory of his mom, and to bring much-needed publicity to his aunt's struggling Chinese

takeout in Brooklyn. Enter Theo Somers: charming, wealthy, with a smile that makes Dylan's stomach do backflips. AKA a distraction. Their worlds are sun-and-moon apart, but Theo keeps showing up. He even convinces Dylan to be his fake date at a family wedding in the Hamptons. In Theo's glittering world of pomp, privilege, and crazy rich drama, their romance is supposed to be just pretend, but Dylan finds himself falling for Theo. For real. Then Theo's relatives reveal their true colors — but with the mooncake contest looming, Dylan can't risk being sidetracked by rich-people problems. Can Dylan save his family's business and follow his heart — or will he fail to do both?

**YA FIC Lee, YA Pop Now Lee, e-book, e-audiobook**

**Lockington, Mariama J. "Forever is Now" 2023**

Sadie was already managing generalized anxiety when, while being dumped by the girlfriend who made her feel safe, she witnesses police violently attacking another Black girl. The events trigger a debilitating panic that prevents her from leaving home, even to attend the protest that she wants to participate in. Instead of spending the summer interning at the local creative writing center, Sadie has to relearn how to exist in the world as a bisexual Black person with anxiety and agoraphobia and, eventually, how to use her voice, find joy, and move beyond the safety of her home. *\*Schneider Family Book Award Winner*

**YA FIC Lockington, YA FIC Pop Now Lockington**

**Muniz, Deya. "The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich" 2023**

Lady Camembert wants to live life on her own terms, without marriage. Well, without marrying a man, that is. But the law of the land is that women cannot inherit. So, when her father passes away, she does the only thing she can: She disguises herself as a man and moves to the capital city of the Kingdom of Fromage to start over as Count Camembert. But it's hard to keep a low profile when the beautiful Princess Brie, with her fierce activism and great sense of fashion, catches her attention. Camembert can't resist getting to know the princess, but as the two grow closer, will she be able to keep her secret?

**YA GN Muniz, YA GN Pop Now Muniz, e-book**

**Nazemian, Abdi. "Only This Beautiful Moment" 2023**

It's 2019 and Moud is an out gay teen living in Los Angeles with his distant father, Saeed. When Moud gets the news that his grandfather in Iran is dying, he accompanies his dad to Tehran, where the revelation of family secrets will force Moud into a new understanding of his history, his culture, and himself. In 1978, Saeed is an engineering student with a promising future ahead of him in Tehran. But when his parents discover his involvement in the country's burgeoning revolution, they send him to safety in America, a country Saeed despises. And even worse — he's forced to live with the American grandmother he never knew existed. The year is 1939, and Bobby, the son of a calculating Hollywood stage mother, lands a coveted MGM studio contract. But the fairy-tale world of glamour he's thrust into has a dark side. Set against the backdrop of Tehran and Los Angeles, this tale of intergenerational trauma and love is an ode to the fragile bonds of family, the hidden secrets of history, and all the beautiful moments that make us who we are today. *\*Stonewall Book Award Winner*

**YA FIC Nazemian, YA FIC Pop Now Nazemian, e-book, e-audiobook Hoopla**

**Paige, Danielle. “Wish of the Wicked” 2023**

Everyone knows a fairy godmother helped Cinderella get to the ball. But no one knows why. For centuries, Farrow's family – the Entente-have been magical advisors to the Queen. Their wisdom and foresight kept the Thirteen Queendoms in harmony. Until a new queen, Magrit, takes power, outlaws magic, and executes the Entente. Only Farrow survives, with her magic warped beyond repair. She can now use it only to fulfill the feeble wishes of commoners. Since that day, Farrow has dreamed of revenge. All it will take is a young woman named Cinderella who dreams of true love. With one night, one chance to reclaim her magic and destroy the queen, Farrow will stop at nothing.

**YA FIC Paige, YA Pop Now Paige**

**Park, Patricia. “Imposter Syndrome and Other Confessions of Alejandra Kim” 2023**

Alejandra Kim doesn't feel like she belongs anywhere. At her wealthy Manhattan high school, her súper Spanish name and súper Korean face do not compute to her mostly white "woke" classmates and teachers. In her Jackson Heights neighborhood, she's not Latinx enough. Even at home, Ale feels unwelcome. And things at home have only gotten worse since Papi's body was discovered on the subway tracks. Ale wants nothing more than to escape the city for the wide-open spaces of the prestigious Wyder University. But when a microaggression at school thrusts Ale into the spotlight — and into a discussion she didn't ask for — Ale must discover what it means to carve out a space for yourself to belong.

**YA FIC Park, YA FIC Pop Now Park, e-book, e-audiobook**

**Reintgen, Scott. “A Door in the Dark” 2023**

After a failed and disastrous party trick, rich teen Theo Brood must use the public portal home for the holidays from Balmerick University. With the scholarship kids. A fight breaks out. In the chaos, the portal spell malfunctions. All six students are snatched from the safety of the school's campus and set down in the middle of nowhere. And one of them is dead on arrival. Ren Monroe has been in survival mode her entire life, including proving she's the best wizard in her generation at school. But no magic could prepare her for the tangled secrets the rest of the group is harboring, or for what's following them through the dark woods.

**YA FIC Reintgen, YA FIC Pop Now Reintgen, e-book**

**Rogers, Shannon C.F. “I'd Rather Burn Than Bloom” 2023**

Some girls call their mother their best friend. Marisol? She could never relate. She and her mom were forever locked in an argument with no beginning and no end. But when her mother dies suddenly, Marisol is left with no one to fight against, haunted by all the things that she both said and didn't say. And when Marisol sleeps with her best friend's boyfriend — and then punches said best friend in the face — she's left alone, with nothing but a burning anger. And Marisol is determined to stay angry. After all, there's a lot to be angry about. But as a new friendship begins to develop, Marisol reluctantly starts to open up, and to the possibility there's something else on the other side of that anger — something more to who she is, and who she could be. *\*Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Winner*

**YA FIC Rogers, YA FIC Pop Now Rogers**

**Scalzi, John. “Starter Villain” 2023**

Charlie's life is going nowhere fast. A divorced substitute teacher living with his cat in a house his siblings want to sell, all he wants is to open a pub downtown, if only the bank will approve his loan. Then his long-lost uncle Jake dies and leaves his supervillain business (complete with island volcano lair) to Charlie. But becoming a supervillain isn't all giant laser death rays and lava pits. Jake had enemies, and now they're coming after Charlie. His uncle might have been a stand-up, old-fashioned kind of villain, but these are the real thing: rich, soulless predators backed by multinational corporations and venture capital. It's up to Charlie to win the war his uncle started against a league of supervillains. But with unionized dolphins, hyperintelligent talking spy cats, and a terrifying henchperson at his side, going bad is starting to look pretty good. *\*Alex Award Winner*

**SCI FI Scalzi, e-book**

**Schaeffer, Rebecca. “City of Nightmares” 2023**

Ever since her sister became a man-eating spider and slaughtered her way through town, 19-year-old Ness has been terrified — terrified of some other Nightmare murdering her, and terrified of ending up like her sister. Because in Newham, the city that never sleeps, dreaming means waking up as your worst fear. Soon Ness will find herself at the center of a criminal syndicate conspiracy, in a city where crooked politicians and sinister cults reign and dreaming means waking up as your worst nightmare.

**YA FIC Schaeffer, YA FIC Pop Now Schaeffer, e-book, e-audiobook**

**Tison, Ari. “Saints of the Household” 2023**

Max and Jay have always depended on one another for their survival. Growing up with a physically abusive father, the two Bribri American brothers have learned that the only way to protect themselves and their mother is to stick to a schedule and keep their heads down. But when they hear a classmate in trouble in the woods, instinct takes over and they intervene, breaking up a fight and beating their high school's star soccer player to a pulp. This act of violence threatens the brothers' dreams for the future and their beliefs about who they are. As the true details of that fateful afternoon unfold over the course of the novel, Max and Jay grapple with the weight of their actions, their shifting relationship as brothers, and the realization that they may be more like their father than they thought. They'll have to reach back to their Bribri roots to find their way forward. *\*Pura Belpré Award Winner \*Walter Dean Myers Award Winner*

**YA FIC Tison, YA FIC Pop Now Tison, e-book**

**Urban, Diana. “Lying in the Deep” 2023**

After being jilted by her ex-boyfriend and best friend, Jade couldn't be more ready to embark on the adventure of a lifetime — 11 countries in 4 months, all from the luxurious Campus on Board ship — and to wedge an entire globe between her and the people who broke her heart. But when Jade discovers the backstabbing couple are also setting sail, her obsession with them grows and festers, leading to a shocking murder. And as their friends begin to drop like flies,



Jade and her new crush must race to clear her name and find the killer they're trapped at sea with before anyone else winds up in body bags.

**YA FIC Urban, YA Pop Now Urban, e-book**

**Williams, Lily and Schneemann, Karen. "Look on the Bright Side" 2023**

A new year of school is starting, and Brit finds herself struggling with feelings for a seemingly rude boy from class who might have a soft side. Meanwhile, Christine can't deny that she likes her best friend Abby as more than just a friend. The only question is, does Abby have feelings for Christine, too? And will their feelings for each other mess things up in their friend group? Misunderstandings, betrayal, and jealousy are bound to get in the way. But hey! Look on the bright side: They're in this together. Always.

**YA GN Williams, YA GN Pop Now Williams, e-book, e-audiobook**

**Zoboi, Ibi. "Nigeria Jones" 2023**

Warrior Princess. That's what Nigeria's father calls her. He's raised her as part of the Movement, a Black separatist group based in Philadelphia. Nigeria is homeschooled and vegan and participates in traditional rituals that connect her and other kids from the group to their ancestors. But when her mother — the perfect matriarch to their Movement — disappears, Nigeria's world is upended. She finds herself taking care of her baby brother and stepping into a role she doesn't want. Nigeria's mother had secrets. She wished for a different life for her children, which includes sending her daughter to a private Quaker school outside of their strict group. Despite her father's disapproval, Nigeria attends the school with her cousin, Kamau, and Sage, who used to be a friend. There, she slowly begins to blossom and expand her universe. As Nigeria searches for her mother, she starts to uncover a shocking truth. One that will lead her to question everything she thought she knew about her life and her family. *\*Coretta Scott King Book Award Winner*

**YA FIC Zoboi, YA FIC Pop Now Zoboi, e-book, e-audiobook Hoopla**

## **Nonfiction**

**Aberg-Riger, Ariel. "America Redux: Visual Stories from Our Dynamic History" 2023**

"America Redux" explores the themes that create our shared sense of American identity and interrogates the myths we've been telling ourselves for centuries. With iconic American catchphrases as chapter titles, these 21 visual stories illuminate the astonishing, unexpected, sometimes darker sides of history that reverberate in our society to this very day — from the role of celebrity in immigration policy to the influence of one small group of white women on education to the effects of "progress" on housing and the environment, to the inspiring force of collective action and mutual aid across decades and among diverse groups.

**YA 973 Aberg-Riger, YA Pop Now 973 Aberg-Riger**

**Bagieu, Pénélope. "Layers: A Memoir" 2023**

Pénélope Bagieu never thought she'd publish a graphic memoir. But when she dusted off her old diaries (no, really — this book is based on her actual diaries), she found cringe-worthy, hilarious, and heartbreaking stories begging to be drawn. In Layers, Bagieu reflects on her

childhood and teen years with her characteristic wit and unflinching honesty. The result is 15 short stories about friendship, love, grief, and those awkward first steps toward adulthood.

**YA GN Bagieu, YA GN Pop Now Bagieu**

**Bell, Darrin. “The Talk” 2023**

Darrin Bell was six years old when his mother told him he couldn't have a realistic water gun. She said she feared for his safety, that police tend to think of little Black boys as older and less innocent than they really are. While coming of age in Los Angeles — and finding a voice through cartooning — Bell becomes painfully aware of being regarded as dangerous by white teachers, neighbors, and police officers and thus of his mortality. And now, Bell must decide whether he and his own six-year-old son are ready to have The Talk. *\*Alex Award Winner*

**YA GN Bell, YA GN Pop Now Bell, e-book**

**Florio, John and Shapiro, Ouisie. “Doomed: Sacco Vanzetti, and the End of the American Dream” 2023**

In the early 1920s, a Red Scare gripped America. Many of those targeted were Italians, Eastern Europeans, and other immigrants. When an armed robbery resulting in the death of two people broke headlines in Massachusetts, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti — both Italian immigrants — were quick to be accused. A heated trial ensued, but through it all, the two men maintained their innocence. The controversial case quickly rippled past borders as it became increasingly clear that Sacco and Vanzetti were fated for a death sentence. Protests sprang up around the world to fight for their lives. Learn the tragic history we dare not repeat.

**YA 345.73 Florio, YA Pop Now 345.73 Florio**

**Krosoczka, Jarrett J. “Sunshine: How One Camp Taught Me About Life, Death, and Hope” 2023**

When Jarrett was in high school, he was part of a program that sent students to be counselors at a camp for seriously ill kids and their families. Going in, Jarrett was worried: Wouldn't it be depressing, to be around kids facing such a serious struggle? Wouldn't it be grim? But instead of the shadow of death, Jarrett found something else at Camp Sunshine: the hope and determination that gets people through the most troubled of times. Not only was he subject to some of the usual rituals that come with being a camp counselor (wilderness challenges, spooky campfire stories, an extremely stinky mascot costume), but he also got a chance to meet some extraordinary kids facing extraordinary circumstances. He learned about the captivity of illness, for sure, but he also learned about the freedom a safe space can bring.

**YA GN Krosoczka, YA GN Pop Now Krosoczka, YA PLAYAWAY Krosoczka, e-book**

**Locke, Katherine. “Gender Rebels: 30 Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender Expansive Heroes Past and Present” 2023**

Explore the history of trans and nonbinary people throughout the world in this gorgeously illustrated nonfiction book for young teens. Readers will be educated and enlightened about gender-expansive people who have made a difference in our history and who continue to help raise awareness of diversity and inclusion in current society. Introductory materials give readers an insight into pronoun usage, the history of the word "transgender," and more before

providing engaging and fascinating information about thirty trans, gender-expansive, and nonbinary people who have helped shape our world.

YA 920 Locke, YA Pop Now 920 Locke

**Myer, Sarah. “Monstrous: A Transracial Adoption Story” 2023**

Sarah has always struggled to fit in. Born in South Korea and adopted at birth by a white couple, she grows up in a rural community with few Asian neighbors. People whisper in the supermarket. Classmates bully her. She has trouble containing her anger in these moments — but through it all, she has her art. She's always been a compulsive drawer, and when she discovers anime, her hobby becomes an obsession. Though drawing and cosplay offer her an escape, she still struggles to connect with others. And in high school, the bullies are louder and meaner. Sarah's bubbling rage is threatening to burst.

**YA GN Myer**

**Pham, Thien. “Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam” 2023**

Thien's first memory isn't a sight or a sound. It's the sweetness of watermelon and the saltiness of fish. It's the taste of the foods he ate while adrift at sea as his family fled Vietnam. After the Pham family arrives at a refugee camp in Thailand, they struggle to survive. Things don't get much easier once they resettle in California. And through each chapter of their lives, food takes on a new meaning. Strawberries come to signify struggle as Thien's mom and dad look for work. Potato chips are an indulgence that bring Thien so much joy that they become a necessity. Behind every cut of steak and inside every croissant lies a story. And for Thien Pham, that story is about a search — for belonging, for happiness, for the American dream.

**YA GN Pham, YA GN Pop Now Pham**

**Rusch, Elizabeth. “The 21: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the U.S. Government over Climate Change” 2023**

The Twenty-One is a gripping legal and environmental thriller that tells the story of 21 young people and their ongoing case against the U.S. government for denying their constitutional right to life and liberty. A rich, informative read, “The Twenty-One” stars the young plaintiffs and their attorneys; illuminates the workings of the United States’ judicial system and the relationship between government, citizens’ rights, and the environment; and asks readers to think deeply about the future of our planet.

**YA 363.7387 Rusch, YA Pop Now 363.7387 Rusch**

**Shepard, Ray Anthony. “A Long Time Coming: A Lyrical Biography of Race in American from Ona Judge to Barack Obama” 2023**

This YA biography-in-verse of six important Black Americans from different eras, including Ona Judge, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Martin Luther King Jr., and Barack Obama, chronicles the diverse ways each fought racism and shows how much — and how little — has changed for Black Americans since our country’s founding.

**YA 305.8009 Shepard, YA Pop Now 305.8009 Shepard**

**Sheinkin, Steve. “Impossible Escape: A True Story of Survival and Heroism in Nazi Europe” 2023**

It is 1944. A teenager named Rudolph (Rudi) Vrba has made up his mind. After barely surviving nearly two years in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, he knows he must escape. Even if death is more likely. Rudi’s schoolmate Gerta Sidonová and her family fled from Slovakia to Hungary, where they live under assumed names to hide their Jewish identity. But Hungary is beginning to cave under pressure from German Nazis. Her chances of survival become slimmer by the day. The clock is ticking. A true story of two Jewish teenagers racing against time during the Holocaust — one in hiding in Hungary, and the other in Auschwitz, plotting escape.

**YA 940.5318 Sheinkin, YA Pop Now 940.5318 Sheinkin, e-book, e-audiobook**

**Slater, Dashka. “Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed” 2023 \*YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Winner**

When a high school student started a private Instagram account that used racist and sexist memes to make his friends laugh, he thought of it as “edgy” humor. Over time, the edge got sharper. Then a few other kids found out about the account, and pretty soon, everyone knew. Ultimately, no one in the small town of Albany, California, was safe from the repercussions of the account’s discovery. Not the girls targeted by the posts. Not the boy who created the account. Not the group of kids who followed it. Not the adults — educators and parents — whose attempts to fix things too often made them worse. In the end, no one was laughing, and everyone was left wondering: What does it mean to be held accountable for harm that takes place behind a screen? *\*YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Winner*

**YA 371.829 Slater, YA Pop Now 371.829 Slater, e-book, e-audiobook**