

Best Books for Middle School and High School Libraries

Presented January 20, 2021

for Morris County School Media Association

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FICTION

Albert, Melissa. *The Night Country*. Flatiron Books, 2020. 331p. (Grades 9-12)

In the sequel to Albert's *Hazel Wood*, Alice has escaped the Hinterland but she wasn't the only one. Hinderand ex-story characters are also roaming the streets of New York City. As Alice tries to find her human place in the world again, she is drawn back into the darkness when ex-stories are being killed and she is the number one suspect. Alice is determined to find the real murderer and keep the remaining characters alive. Meanwhile, Ellory Finch's adventures in the Hinterland are coming to an end and he seeks to find his way home.

Albertalli, Becky and Saeed, Aisha. *Yes No Maybe So*. Balzer + Bray, 2020. 436p.
(Grades 9-12)

Jamie is spending his summer working on a state senate campaign and helping coordinate his younger sister's Bat Mitzvah. He is extremely self-conscious about his awkwardness, which is legendary among his classmates. A couple of chance encounters reunite him with Maya, a friend from his childhood. Maya's parents are separating and she is struggling with her best friend's distancing herself from her as Sara prepares to leave for college. Maya and Jamie end up working together to canvass for their candidate and as the weeks go by, their relationship develops. A viral photo of them about to kiss jeopardizes everything, especially because Maya's Muslim parents have made it clear that they do not want her dating while she is in high school. Jamie and Maya find their way back to each other while they learn that they can make a difference in politics.

Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Bob*. Harper, 2020. 340p. (Grades 4-7)

In this sequel to *The One and Only Ivan*, Bob the scrappy dog is finally living in a safe home where he is well cared for, but when he is visiting his friends Ivan and Ruby in their animal sanctuary, a tornado hits and he has to work to save as many animals as he can, meeting up with a sister he thought he had lost forever in the process.

Ali, S.K. and Aisha Saeed. *Once Upon an Eid : Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices*. Harry N. Abrams, 2020. 304p. (Grades 4-7)

A collection of short stories that celebrate Eid. Each story contains different Eid traditions and showcases the love of family, identity, and food. Contains an explanation of the two Eid holidays in the Editor's Introduction.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. *The Inheritance Games*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2020. 384p. (Grades 8-12)

Avery Grambs is just trying to get through high school while dreaming of earning enough money to travel the world when she's older. When a young man named Grayson arrives to tell her that she's needed at the will reading of his billionaire grandfather, she thinks it has to be some kind of joke. Little does she know that Tobias had always loved games, and this game is his greatest yet. He leaves his entire fortune to Avery with the only caveat that she has to live in his mansion for one year's time. While Grayson thinks she's a con-woman and Tobias' other three grandsons' playing their own games while solving the puzzles and riddles Tobias left behind- Avery must prove that she's not just a piece of the puzzle, but a player in the game.

Cesare, Adam. *Clown in a Cornfield*. Harper, 2020. 346p. (Grades 10-12)

Quinn and her father move from Philadelphia to a small town in Missouri. After losing her mother to a drug overdose, they are ready for a change of pace and a job as a general practitioner suddenly opened up in Kettle Springs, so her father can leave his high pressure job as an emergency room physician. The job even comes with a partially furnished house. Quinn's first day of school gets off to a bad start when a teacher lumps her in with some popular kids he deems difficult, and she is sent to an in-school suspension where she learns a bit more about the town and Frendo, the town's clown mascot who seems to be everywhere. The following day is Founders Day and her new friends, who video everything, pull a prank that puts some people in danger. That night, at a party on a farm, Frendo starts attacking those in attendance with a crossbow. Chaos ensues, and it turns out that there are multiple Frendos attacking and killing as many teens as they can. While this is going on, Quinn's father is abducted and held captive so he can tend to wounded Frendos. Quinn works with troubled Jack and her neighbor Rusty to shoot down as many of the killer Frendos as they can, but there is always something working against them. Eventually, they are able to make their way to safety and learn that a group of Kettle Springs adults had grown tired of youthful hijinks, and decided the only way to prevent tragedy was to preemptively kill an entire generation of children.

Collins, Suzanne. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. Scholastic, 2020. 512p.
(Grades 6 & up)

The prequel to the Hunger Games Trilogy follows the life of young Coriolanus Snow before he appears as the evil President Snow in the original three book series. The hunger games were merely an ugly war between district tributes when Corniolanus is tasked with mentoring Lucy Gray Baird, the District 12 tribute, as his last chance to win the prize money he needs to pay for university. The once wealthy Snow family lost everything when the war destroyed District 13 and their entire fortune. Things get more complicated for Corniolanus when he starts to have feelings for Lucy. He finds himself caught between his desire to survive at any cost and being a good person. When Dr. Gaul, game maker and mentor, pulls Corniolanus into his demented plans to make the games a great spectacle, he needs to decide which side he wants to land on. Collins manages to make Corniolanus a sympathetic character conflicting with the man we know from the original series.

Gino, Alex. *Rick*. Scholastic Press, 2020. 223p. (Grades 5-7)

Rick is starting middle school, along with his best friend, Jeff, who has a reputation for being a bully. Jeff's behavior makes Rick uncomfortable but he can't bring himself to end the friendship. After Rick starts attending his school's Rainbow Spectrum Club, an organization to support LGBTQ + students, and has some heart to heart talks with his grandfather, he finally finds the strength to stand up to Jeff. Melissa, the main character from Gino's previous book has a part in helping Rick realize he needs to do the right thing. Rick also learns that it is okay to not feel an attraction to anyone and that there is no rush in trying to figure out who he likes.

Harrison, Margot. *The Glare*. Little, Brown and Company, 2020. 327p. (Grades 9-12)

Hedda and her mother have been living off the grid on a ranch for the past ten years, ever since Hedda's childhood addiction to technology, which she calls "The Glare," caused her to act out in scary ways. Now Hedda is back in the Bay Area, staying in her childhood home with her father, stepmother and half brother, and discovers that The Glare is a real game hidden in the dark web that causes its players to go insane after losing. When her new friends succumb to The Glare, Hedda tries to uncover the true origins of the game and learns that her father is behind it all..

Higuera, Donna Barba. *Lupe Wong Won't Dance*. Levine Querido, 2020. 236p. (Grades 4-7)

When seventh-grader Lupe finds out that she has to square dance in PE, she is outraged and does everything in her power to prevent the school from making students participate. She has to do well so she can get an A in the class because her Uncle Hector promised that a perfect report card would lead to her getting to meet her idol, pitcher Fu Li Hernandez, who is half Chinese and half Mexican, just like she is. Trying to stop square dancing ends up damaging her friendship with Andy, while her other best friend has been spending time with their lab partner Gordon and leaving her out of things. In the end, Lupe manages to embrace square dancing in her own way, repair her friendships, and finally meet Fu Li.

Ifueko, Jordan. *Raybearer*. Amulet, 2020. 368p. (Grades 9-12)

Sixteen year old Tarisai of Swana has spent all her years training to become a member of the Council of Eleven. The Council is sworn to advise and protect the Crown Prince. However, there are many mysteries surrounding Tarisai. Her mother, known only as The Lady, is an infrequent visitor to the home Tarisai shares with her caregivers and tutors. When the day comes for Tarisai to travel to the empire of Aritsar to compete for a seat on the council, she is thrilled for a chance to become part of a family. She is drawn to the acceptance and bond that ties the prince to his council members. However, The Lady has had a different plan all along. Tarisai has been tasked with gaining the prince's trust and then killing him. Once she realizes that completing the bond will bring about the death of the prince, she struggles to find the truth and do whatever it takes to change her fate.

Ireland, Justina. *Deathless Divide*. Balzer + Bray, 2020. 551p. (Grades 8-12)

In this sequel to *Dread Nation*, trained zombie killers Jane and Katherine are split up after the town of Nicodemus is overrun with zombies as a result of mad scientist Gideon trying to develop a vaccine to protect people from turning after they have been bitten. Jane is bitten as they are trying to flee and Katherine has to leave her for dead. It turns out that the immunization really did work, and Jane is still alive, but has to have her arm amputated where she was bitten. She and Katherine take very different paths west, but they eventually meet up in San Francisco, where they try to help as many survivors as they can and confront Gideon in his latest settlement.

Jackson, Holly. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*. Delacorte, 2020. 400p. (Grades 9-12)

High school student Andie Bell's disappearance seemed like a cut and dry case when her boyfriend, Sal Singh, was found in the woods killed by apparent suicide. Although Andie's body was never found, the police conclude that Sal was responsible for her kidnapping and murder. Pipa Fitz-Amobi has always doubted that Sal, her friend and classmate, was the murderer. When it is time to choose a topic for her senior capstone project, she chooses to investigate the disappearance of Andie and Sal's apparent suicide. With the help of Ravi, Sal's younger brother, Pipa uncovers some unsavory information about Andie as well as the real reason Sal's friends could not provide an alibi for the night of Andie's disappearance. All the while, someone in town is watching as Pipa and Ravi get closer and closer to finding out the truth. She needs to find the real killer before it is too late.

Johnson, Leah. *You Should See Me in a Crown*. Scholastic Press, 2020. 336p. (Grades 8-12)

When Liz Lightly realizes she didn't get the scholarship she was hoping to receive to go to her mother's alma mater, the only way she can get the money in time would be to somehow get crowned Prom Queen of her Indiana school. The only problem is, she's too black, too poor, and more used to fading into the background than standing out. When she starts to fall for the new girl also running for Prom Queen, Liz realizes that maybe she needs to start being herself and not worry so much about what others think. But it's never easy standing out, and Rachel, a natural shoo-in for Prom Queen, will do anything to win- even if it means outing Liz to the entire school.

Johnson, Maureen. *The Hand on the Wall*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2020. 369p. (Grades 9-12)

This is the third and final book featuring amateur sleuth Stevie and the seemingly cursed boarding school, Ellingham Academy that attracts one tragedy after another, including the deaths of several students. Flashbacks help the reader understand what caused the older crimes that originally drew Stevie to the isolated school. In the present day, a fierce blizzard rages and a small group of students stays behind to get to the bottom of things. Stevie finally solves the mystery that has been haunting the school since it reopened. It turns out that one of the faculty members will stop at nothing to ensure the school founder's fortune will remain at school.

LaCour, Nina. *Watch Over Me*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2020. 272p. (Grades 6-12)

When Mila ages out of the foster care system, she jumps at the opportunity to take an internship at a remote farm house on the Northern California coast. She has always longed for a place to call home. The farm seems like it could be just what she is looking for. Farm owners Terry and Julia welcome her with open arms. The farm serves as an oasis for many foster children trying to recover and move beyond their pasts. When moments from her past begin showing up, Mila realizes that the farm may be special in ways she could never imagine. There are ghosts hovering around the farm and everyone acts as though it is perfectly normal. Mila must decide if she is ready to face the events of her childhood and her mother's abandonment. Her childhood memories are scattered throughout the story and readers will not discover the whole truth until the very end.

Lee, Lylah. *I'll Be the One*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2020. 336p. (Grades 8-10)

Skye Shin plans to win the new American based, Korean talent show - You'll Be My Shining Star. She's a fantastic dancer and an amazing singer. The only problem is...she's fat. From the start, one of the judges agrees she will never be able to be a K-Pop star without losing weight, which causes her to bully and shame Skye at every turn. Skye's own mother can barely watch her performances without worrying that people believe she's a bad mother for not making her diet, and constantly criticizes her for not hiding herself away. With the help of her friends and fellow contestants, Skye plans to show the world they're wrong and that being fat doesn't mean she can't succeed. But first she has to navigate her own insecurities and the fact that she's falling for her competition- social media celebrity, Henry Cho.

Lockhart, E. *Again, Again*. Delacorte Press, 2020. 288p. (grades 8-12)

Adelaide was ready to spend her summer with her boyfriend Mikey, but he broke up with her and bailed on their summer plans. Now she is spending her days walking dogs for her father's colleagues at the boarding school where he works and she attends. She is at the dog park with her charges when she meets Jack, a boy who briefly attended the same school and made an impact on her. From this point, *Again, Again* shows what happens between Adelaide and Jack in multiple timelines, although all roads lead to her heart getting broken. While Adelaide is trying to navigate her complicated love life, she is also coping with her younger brother's addiction issues and rebuilding their sibling relationship.

McManus, Karen. *The Cousins*. Delacorte Press, 2020. 337p. (Grades 9-12)

Gull Cove Island is off the coast of Massachusetts and home to the Story family. Abraham Story created a luxury oasis before he passed away leaving behind his wife, Mildred, and four adult children. Shortly after, the children receive a letter from Mildred. Through her lawyer, they are informed that they have been disinherited. The only explanation is a note that states “you know what you did”. Not one of them has any idea what it means. Decades later, the Story grandchildren, Millie, Aubrey and Jonah, are invited to spend the summer working at the family resort. The cousins are practically strangers and have met their grandmother. Aside from the chance to get to know their grandmother, they are determined to find out what happened that got their parents disinherited. The trio sets out on an adventure that will eventually lead them down a dark path. The mystery of what happened so many years ago unfolds slowly as Millie, Aubrey and Jonah uncover the Story family secrets but will they ever find out what the ominous note really means.

McSmith, Tobly. *Stay Gold*. HarperTeen, 2020. 368p. (Grades 9-12)

When Pony's military family is moved yet again, he decides he just wants to be normal at this school. Not that transgender kid - he wants to pass and be accepted as a guy. For a while, things are going great. He somehow attracted the attention of a funny cheerleader, Georgia, and he's raising money for his top surgery by helping out a dying actor clean up his estate. But when he's honest with Georgia after they kiss...she doesn't take it that well. Officially friend-zoned, Pony works on convincing Georgia to give him another shot while trying to figure out if he can remain silent on issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community. But when two of his friends get outed at the homecoming dance, he decides to speak his truth and tell the school he's transgender. *Warning: contains physical violence against a transgender person and slurs.*

McWilliams, Kelly. *Agnes at the End of the World*. Little, Brown and Company, 2020. 417p. (Grades 9-12)

Sisters Agnes and Beth have only ever known life in Red Creek, a religious settlement in Arizona. Once a month, Agnes defies the orders of the Prophet and meets in secret with a nurse to get the insulin her younger brother Ezekiel needs to manage his Type 1 diabetes. Beth has a blossoming romance with Cory, the son of one of Red Creek's leaders. After Beth and Cory are caught in a compromising position, Beth is punished and told she will have to marry Cory's father and become a sixth wife. Meanwhile, Agnes has learned from Matilda's son that a highly infectious virus called Petra is overspreading The Outside, causing people and animals alike to become infected and huddle in nests. When Petra makes its way to Red Creek, Agnes must summon all of her courage and run away with Ezekiel, leaving her family behind. The special powers she was born with that she has been forced to tamp down help save her and a few other survivors she meets. Eventually she makes her way back to Red Creek and helps rebuild society.

Sass, Adam. *Surrender Your Sons*. Flux, 2020. 392p. (Grades 9-12)

Connor Major wasn't sure if he was ready to come out to his religious zealot mother. When Arios, his older boyfriend, pushes him to take the plunge with promises that everything will be ok and easier, Connor tells his mom and finds himself completely cut off from Arios, his friends and most of the world. Just when he thinks that his mom might be coming around, Connor is violently kidnapped from his bedroom and taken to Nightlight Ministries, a conversion camp "hidden" on a remote island off the coast of Costa Rica. Nightlife is more like a nightmare. Campers are subjected to emotional and physical abuse on a daily basis. Connor's only objective is doing whatever it takes to get home but his priorities change when he gets caught up in plans to get all the campers off the island and expose their many secrets. The group of campers quickly realizes that the director and staffers are willing to do whatever it takes to keep Nightlight's secrets. In one very long day, Connor and his new friends become caregivers, protectors, leaders, fighters and survivors.

Stolarz, Laurie Faria. *Jane Anonymous*. Wednesday Books, 2019. 306p. (Grades 8-12)

"Jane" was abducted shortly before the start of her senior year of high school. She was able to escape the room where she was being held after seven months, but readjusting to her old life is nearly impossible, especially because she no longer knows how to relate to her parents and her closest friend, Shelley. The only person she feels a connection to is Mason, another teen who was held captive with her. As pieces of her story come together, it becomes clear that Mason isn't who he said he was and Jane has to find a way to accept what really happened when she was in captivity.

Sumner, Jamie. *Tune It Out*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2020. 275p. (Grades 6-8)

Louise and her mother live a nomadic lifestyle, packing up and moving on whenever her mother feels they can find a better place to live or they need to run away from something. Louise has a beautiful singing voice, but she does not enjoy performing as much as her mother would like. She cannot stand loud noises or being touched and gets overwhelmed easily in crowds. She hasn't even been to school since a teacher recommended she get evaluated for services, a suggestion her mother will not stand for. After a car accident, social services get involved and send Louise to Nashville to live with her aunt and uncle. For the first time, she has a proper home, is attending school and making friends, but is struggling with simultaneously missing her mother and resenting her for putting her in danger. Additionally, she is dealing with a diagnosis of Sensory Processing Disorder and learning how to adapt to uncomfortable situations.

Thomas, Aiden. *Cemetery Boys*. Swoon Reads, 2020. 342p. (Grades 7-10)

Yadriel just wants to be a real brujo and help his family assist souls to their final resting place, but his father and family does not believe he would be bestowed the blessing from Lady Death because he's transgender. Sneaking out with his cousin, Yadriel performs the ceremony to completion, but right after they realize one of their cousins, Miguel, has passed. Determined to prove to his family he is a real brujo, Yadriel sets out to find Miguel's body and set him free. Instead of Miguel, Yadriel finds Julian Diaz, a bad boy from his school and quite recently deceased. Not knowing what happened to him, Julian is determined to make sure his friends are okay before he leaves the land of the living. Yadriel is forced to assist him, and soon they are growing closer as they try to get to the bottom of what happened to Julian, while also searching for the murdered Miguel. On Días de los Muertos, Julian is finally ready to leave, but having grown closer to the other boy, Yadriel is forced to wrestle with what he knows must be done and his feelings. But before he can finally untether Julian, he finds out his Tio was behind a magical ceremony to harness dark power, using the human sacrifices of Julian, Miguel, and others to get it, and now Yadriel is the only one that can stop him.

Turner, Megan Whalen. *Return of the Thief*. Greenwillow Books, 2020. 464p. (Grades 7-12)

The last installment in *The Queen's Thief* series that started in 1996. Told through the viewpoint of Pheris Mostrus Erondites, the grandson of Baron Erondites, one of the High King Eugenides greatest enemies. Pheris is born with an infirmity that always makes people overlook him and think he is not as smart as he is. Unable to walk well because of a bad leg and the inability to communicate verbally, he is surprised to become the heir to the Baron. With this new rise in standing, he also becomes the High King's newest attendant. Before, Pheris was always overlooked and able to make people believe he was not as smart as he really was, but Eugenides is more shrewd than most. Pheris recounts the events leading up to the Mede War and the lengths his king goes through to keep the three countries of Eddis, Attolia, and Sounis united against their common enemy and staying on the good side of the gods, even while Pheris' own grandfather continues to plot and scheme against the king.

Weisenberg, Marit. *The Insomniacs*. Flatiron Books, 2020. 324p. (Grades 9-12)

Ever since she sustained a concussion at a diving competition, Ingrid can't sleep. Her diving coach keeps pressuring her to return to the pool before she is ready. Her single mother works the overnight shift at her hospital job and Ingrid is left to her own devices during the hours she struggles the most. Home alone every night, Ingrid tries to piece together what happened just before her failed dive and figure out what is going on in the abandoned house next door. Van, her neighbor across the street, and her former friend, is having similar issues, unable to piece together what happened at a gathering with his friends and girlfriend, all of whom are acting oddly towards him. Ingrid and Van patch up their friendship and help each other figure out what happened so they can finally get some sleep. Eventually they realize that the diving coach has been having a highly inappropriate relationship with Van's ex-girlfriend and Ingrid's world completely shatters before she can start to get back on the right track.

Zoboi, Ibi and Salaam, Yusef. *Punching the Air*. Balzar & Bray. 2020. 400p. (Grades 6-12)
Co-author, Yusef Salaam, is one of the infamous Exonerated Five. Yusef and his friends were freed from prison after serving seven years for a crime they did not commit. Although this story is not biographical, sixteen year old Amal Shahid is a fictional character that suffers from the same injustices. Amal is a talented art student who attends a fancy school but his life does not mirror that of his classmates. So when chaos erupts one night at the park, Amal is arrested for assaulting a white boy. With genuine innocence, he holds onto the hope that the truth will set him free. This novel in verse is narrated by Amal. The reader follows him throughout his trial and the events that lead him to his current situation. His poems, art and stories are spread throughout the book.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Anderson, L.H. *Wonder Woman Tempest Tossed* (L. del Duca, Illustrator). DC Comics, 2020. 208p. (Grades 6-12)

Princess Diana of Themyscira, knows that on her 16th “born day” she will celebrate her acceptance into the warrior tribe of the Amazons. On that very day, the islanders are alerted that boats carrying refugees are in trouble. While the warriors do what they can to help those close to the island, Diana spots a boat of children far out into the ocean. Without hesitation, she rushes to save them. Her bravery saves everyone but the barrier that protects her home closes and she can not return. She finds herself in a dangerous world with cruelties that she never could have imagined. Diana seeks to find a place in her new home. As she starts to understand how the real world works, she is determined to become a warrior of the people and fight against the injustices they endure.

Ha, Robin. *Almost American Girl*. Harper Alley, 2020. 228p. (Grades 8-12)

An autobiographical graphic novel that tells the story of Robin’s (Chuna is her Korean name) moving to America with her mother to follow the American Dream and starting middle school in Alabama while barely knowing any English. Robin has to deal with a new step-family- where her cousins don’t like her, no friends, and going through classes not understanding a word. She just wishes she could be back in Seoul, and her mother, the one person who has always been there for her, is of no help. When she finally gets to go to a comic shop and start taking classes, life in Alabama isn’t so terrible, but her mother uproots her once again to move to Virginia. With actual ESL classes, Robin blossoms in her new environment, but she always wonders if leaving Korea was the right choice until she visits once again.

Feder, Tyler. *Dancing at the Pity Party*. Dial Books, 2020. 208p. (Grades 6-12)

Tyler Feder shares a graphic memoir about the death of her mother, Rhonda. Tyler is the oldest of three girls and 19 years old when the family learns that their mother has stage 4 ovarian cancer. She has just finished her freshman year of college. Her summer break becomes a blur of doctor appointments, chemo, bad news and helping care for her mother. Rhonda Feder was the heart of this close knit family. She passed away in the spring of Tyler's sophomore year and the family was at her side. This book is a tribute to Rhonda's life. Readers go through every changing aspect of grief as Tyler talks about what it is like to lose a mother at the point in life where you are not a child but not yet an adult. Alongside the grief of loss, Tyler shares some of her favorite memories with humor and love. For anyone who is a member of the "dead moms club", this illustrated memoir is a great read.

Reynolds, Jason and Danica Novgordoff. *Long Way Down : The Graphic Novel*. Atheneum, 2020. 208p. (Grades 10-12)

After Will witnesses his older brother Shawn's fatal shooting, he knows what he has to do. There are 3 rules to follow: no crying, no snitching, and revenge. Will is certain he knows who did it, an old friend of Shawn's who moved to a different part of the neighborhood in Dark Sons territory. The next morning, armed with Shawn's gun, he takes the elevator down- 7 floors. But at each floor he meets someone from his past who tells their story and puts doubt into his mind on if the rules are really the right way to live, and on the last stop- his brother, Shawn, breaks rule #1- no crying. Then the elevator reaches the final floor, the reader is left not knowing what impossible choice Will makes.

Williams, Lily and Schneemann, Karen. *Go With the Flow*. First Second, 2020. 336p. (Grades 7-10)

When Sasha gets her first period at school and the tampon dispenser in the bathroom is empty - her new friends help her out. Her predicament causes the artist and activist, Abby, to start writing a blog about periods and the injustices that girls face at school and in the world. The school's dispensers are always empty, and why should girls have to pay for pads and tampons anyway? The girls try to talk to the administration about the issue, but when the change they want to make isn't happening fast enough, Abby takes matters into her own hands with consequences that affect all of the girls.

NONFICTION

Elliott, Zetta. *Say Her Name : Poems to Empower*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2020. 96p. (Grades 8 & up)

Named after the #SayHerName campaign launched by the African American Policy Forum, these poems range from tributes to victims of police brutality, to celebrating activists, but also poems that empower and celebrate. A good introduction to poetry with information in the back explaining the inspiration, history, and people that helped shape them.

Reynolds, J. & Kendi X, Ibram. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*. Little, Brown. 2020. 304p. (Grades 6 & up)

Jason Reynolds begins his book emphasizing “this is not a history book” or at least not the typical history book. In his own relatable words, he documents the history of racism and how its ideology can be found in politics, literature and media. From the Civil War to #Blacklivesmatter, Jason speaks to young people in a way that will keep them engaged while learning the significance of racism in our country. The timing of this book could not be better as we struggle to make our way in a fiercely divided country. This is a great pick for parents and teachers who are looking for ways to start conversations with your kids.