

Title	Author	Grade Level
<p>47</p> <p>47 is a young slave boy living under the watchful eye of a brutal master. His life seems doomed until he meets Tall John, a mysterious runaway slave. Soon, 47 finds himself swept up in an otherworldly battle and a struggle for liberation.</p>	Mosley, Walter	9-12
<p>After Tupac and D Foster</p> <p>The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend's lives, the world opens up for them. D comes from a world vastly different from their safe Queens neighborhood, and through her, the girls see another side of life that includes loss, foster families, and an amount of freedom that makes the girls envious. Although all of them are crazy about Tupac Shakur's rap music, D is the one who truly understands the place where he's coming from, and through knowing D, Tupac's lyrics become more personal for all of them.</p>	Woodson, Jacqueline	9-12
<p>Afterlife</p> <p>When seventeen-year-old Chuy dies in a knife fight, he finally sees that people love him, faces the consequences of his actions, and even stumbles on to what might be true love.</p>	Soto, Gary	9-12
<p>Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.</p> <p>It's the eloquent, impassioned, and frighteningly vivid true story of one man's life in a Los Angeles Chicano gang during the late '60s and early '70s. Growing up in Watts and East L.A., Rodriguez joined his first gang at age 11. By age 18, he was a veteran of gang warfare, police killings, drug overdoses, and suicides that have driven him and so many others to despair.</p>	Rodriguez, Luis J.	9-12
<p>Beacon Hill Boys</p> <p>Like other Japanese-American families in the Beacon Hill area of Seattle in the 1970s, 16-year-old Dan Inagaki's parents expect him to be an example of the "model minority." However, Dan's growing self-hatred threatens his struggle to claim an identity, falling into a spiral of rebellion that is all too all-American.</p>	Mochizuki, Ken	9-12
<p>Behind You</p> <p>After fifteen-year-old Jeremiah is mistakenly shot by police, the people who love him struggle to cope with their loss as they recall his life and death, unaware that Miah is watching over them.</p>	Woodson, Jacqueline	9-12



<p><i>Black and White</i></p> <p>Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.</p>	Volponi, Paul	9-12
<p><i>Born Confused</i></p> <p>Seventeen-year-old Indian-American, Dimple Lala, discovers that she is not Indian enough for her culture and not American enough for her community. This is a funny, thoughtful story about finding your heart, finding your culture, and finding your place in America.</p>	Hidier, Tanuja Desai	9-12
<p><i>Brave New World</i></p> <p>In the brave new world, babies are born in laboratories, and there is no violence. However, Bernard Marx feels something is missing and begins to question the absence of individuality in this world.</p>	Huxley, Aldous	9-12
<p><i>Bronx Masquerade</i></p> <p>When Wesley writes a poem for his high school English class, some of his classmates clamor to read their poems aloud, too. Soon they're having weekly poetry sessions and, one by one, the eighteen students are opening up.</p>	Grimes, Nikki	9-12
<p><i>Buddha Boy</i></p> <p>During a class project, Justin begins a friendship with Jinsen, the new and unusual student whom the whole school bullies, torments, and calls Buddha Boy. However, being friends with Buddha Boy isn't simple, especially when Justin realizes that he's going to have to take sides. What matters more: the high school social order or getting to know someone extraordinary?</p>	Koja, Kathe	9-12
<p><i>Catcher in the Rye</i></p> <p>This is the story of a sixteen-year-old boy that has just been expelled from prep school, and the author's realistic depiction of teen alienation.</p>	Salinger, J. D.	9-12
<p><i>Child Called "It"</i></p> <p>This book chronicles the unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history. It is the story of Dave Pelzer, who was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother. He had nothing or no one to turn to, but his dreams of having someone taking care of him, loving him, and calling him their son kept him alive.</p>	Pelzer, David	9-12
<p><i>Chill Wind</i></p> <p>With her welfare benefits running out and no help from her children's father, 19-year-old Aisha is forced to examine her options.</p>	McDonald, Janet	9-12
<p><i>Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice</i></p> <p>On March 2, 1955, an impassioned teenager, fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders. Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge</p>	Hoose, Phillip	9-12

segregation again as a key plaintiff in <i>Browder v. Gayle</i> , the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of Montgomery and swept away the legal underpinnings of the Jim Crow South.		
<i>Copper Sun</i> Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.	Draper, Sharon	9-12
<i>Crashboomlove: A Novel in Verse</i> After his father leaves home, sixteen-year-old Cesar Garcia lives with his mother, and struggles through the painful experiences of growing up as a Mexican-American high school student.	Herrera, Juan Felipe	9-12
<i>Darkness Before Dawn</i> Recovering from the recent suicide of her ex-boyfriend, senior class president Keisha Montgomery finds herself attracted to a dangerous, older man.	Draper, Sharon	9-12
<i>Discovering Wes Moore</i> The author, a Rhodes scholar and combat veteran, analyzes factors that influenced him as well as another man of the same name and from the same neighborhood who was drawn into a life of drugs and crime and ended up serving life in prison. Focusing on the influence of relatives, mentors, and social expectations, Wes illustrates how such things could lead them on different paths.	Moore, Wes	9-12
<i>Ear, the Eye and the Arm</i> In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.	Farmer, Nancy	9-12
<i>Fallen Angels</i> A coming-of-age tale for young adults set in the trenches of the Vietnam War in the late 1960s. This is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service when his dream of attending college falls through. Sent to the front lines, Perry and his platoon come face-to-face with the Vietcong, and the real horror of warfare. However, violence and death aren't the only hardships. As Perry struggles to find virtue in himself and his comrades, he questions why black troops are given the most dangerous assignments, and why the U.S. is there at all.	Myers, Walter Dean	9-12
<i>Fever, 1793</i> In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.	Anderson, Laurie Halse	9-12
<i>Finding Fish</i> Born in prison to a single mother, Antwone Fisher was a ward of Cleveland's foster care system until he was taken in by a family who subjected him to verbal and sexual abuse throughout his adolescence. At 17, Fish escaped, only to suffer the hardships of life on the streets. Enlisting in the U.S. Navy, he found a "family" of his own. However,	Fisher, Antwone	9-12

before he could make peace with his past, he had to discover who he really was and where he came from.		
<i>Finding Miracles</i> Milly Kaufman is an ordinary American teenager living in Vermont. This is until she meets Pablo, a new student at her high school. His exotic accent, strange fashion sense, and intense interest in Milly force her to confront her identity as an adopted child from Pablo's native country.	Alvarez, Julia	9-12
<i>First Part Last</i> Bobby's a classic urban teenager. He's restless. He's impulsive. But the thing that makes him different is this: He's going to be a father. His girlfriend, Nia, is pregnant, and their lives are about to change forever. Instead of spending time with friends, they'll be spending time with doctors, and next, diapers. They have options: keeping the baby, adoption. They want to do the right thing. If only it was clear what the right thing was.	Johnson, Angela	9-12
<i>Forged by Fire</i> When Gerald was a child he was fascinated by fire. But fire is dangerous and powerful, and tragedy strikes. His substance-addicted mother is taken from him. Then he loses the loving generosity of a favorite aunt. A brutal stepfather with a flaming temper and an evil secret makes his life miserable. The one bright light in Gerald's life is his little half-sister. Gerald faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved.	Draper, Sharon	9-12
<i>Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story</i> An inspiring story of an inner-city youngster with poor grades and little motivation, who, at age 33, became one of the most respected neurosurgeons in the world, and Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University Hospital.	Lewis, Gregg	9-12
<i>Growing Up in Slavery: Stories of Young Slaves as Told by Themselves</i> Ten slaves, all under the age of 19, tell stories of enslavement, brutality, and dreams of freedom in this collection culled from full-length autobiographies.	Taylor, Yuval	9-12
<i>Hole in My Life</i> In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was an aspiring writer looking for adventure, cash for college tuition, and a way out of a dead-end job. For \$10,000, he recklessly agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with a ton of hashish from the Virgin Islands to New York City, where he and his partners sold the drug until federal agents caught up with them. For his part in the conspiracy, Gantos was sentenced to serve up to six years in prison. During those years, Gantos dedicated himself fully into writing, ultimately overcome the worst experience of his life.	Gantos, Jack	9-12
<i>Honeysuckle House</i> An all-American girl with Chinese ancestors and a new immigrant from China find little in common when they meet in their fourth grade classroom. However, they are both missing their best friends, and soon	Cheng, Andrea	9-12

discover other connections.		
<p><i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i></p> <p>Uprooted from their family home in the Dominican Republic, the four Garcia sisters (Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofia) arrive in New York City in 1960 to find a life far different from the genteel existence of maids, manicures, and extended family they left behind. With bright humor and rare insight, Julia Alvarez vividly evokes the tensions and joys of belonging to two distinct cultures.</p>	Alvarez, Julia	9-12
<p><i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i></p> <p>This memoir traces focal points in Maya Angelou's life. Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment, and face prejudices in the South. At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked, and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns about love for herself, and the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors.</p>	Angelou, Maya	9-12
<p><i>If You Come Softly</i></p> <p>Both Elisha (Ellie) and Jeremiah (Miah) attend Percy Academy, a private school where neither quite fits in. Ellie is wrestling with family demons, and Miah is one of the few African-American students. The two of them find each other, and fall in love -- but they are hesitant to share their newfound happiness with their friends and families, who will not understand. At the end, life makes the brutal choice for them: Jeremiah is shot and killed, and Ellie now has to cope with the consequences.</p>	Woodson, Jacqueline	9-12
<p><i>Imani All Mine</i></p> <p>In her world where poverty, racism, and danger are daily struggles, fourteen-year-old unwed mother, Tasha, uses her savvy and humor to uncover the good hidden around her. Tasha's voice speaks directly to both the special pain of poverty and the universal, unconquerable spirit of youth.</p>	Porter, Connie	9-12
<p><i>Jimi and Me</i></p> <p>After his father is murdered, Keith and his mother try desperately to pick up the pieces of their lives. However, his father's death has left them devastate, both emotionally and financially. Forced to leave Brooklyn and move in with his aunt, Keith urgently clings to every last reminder of, his dad, discovering comfort in his own music, and that of the late legend, and his father's idol, Jimi Hendrix.</p>	Adoff, Jamie	9-12
<p><i>Keesha's House</i></p> <p>Seven teens facing such problems as pregnancy, closeted homosexuality, and abuse each describe in poetic forms what caused them to leave home, and where they found home again.</p>	Frost, Helen	9-12
<p><i>Legend of Buddy Bush</i></p> <p>The day Uncle Goodwin "Buddy" Bush came from Harlem all the way back home to Rehobeth Road in Rich Square, North Carolina, is the day twelve-year-old Pattie Mae Sheals' life changes forever. He unsettles the dust and brings fresh ideas to Rehobeth Road. When Buddy's deliberate</p>	Moses, Shelia	9-12

inattention to the protocol of 1947 North Carolina lands him in jail for a crime he didn't commit, Pattie Mae and her family are suddenly set on a long hard road that leads from loss and rage to forgiveness and pride.		
<p><i>Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny</i></p> <p>Offering inspirational advice in a down-to-earth style, this unique compilation of letters provides wisdom, guidance, and heartfelt insight to help the reader chart their own path to success. Based on the author's motivational speaking at inner-city schools across the country, the letters deal with the tough issues that face young people today.</p>	Harper, Hill	9-12
<p><i>Letters to a Young Sister: DeFINE Your Destiny</i></p> <p>This book unfolds as a series of letters written by older brother Hill to a universal Young Sistah. She's up against the same challenges as every young woman: from relating to her parents and dealing with peer pressure, to juggling schoolwork and crushes and keeping faith in the face of heartache. In his straight-talking style, Hill helps his young sister build self-confidence, self-reliance, self-respect, and encourages her on her journeys towards becoming a strong and successful woman.</p>	Harper, Hill	9-12
<p><i>Life is Funny</i></p> <p>The lives of a number of young people of different races, economic backgrounds, and family situations, living in Brooklyn, New York, become intertwined over a seven-year period. From the outside, they're simply a group of urban teenagers. But from the inside, they're some of the most complex people you'll ever meet.</p>	Frank, E.R.	9-12
<p><i>Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</i></p> <p>Twenty-five years old, Ishmael Beah, tells his riveting story. At the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts as a child soldier.</p>	Beah, Ishmael	9-12
<p><i>Lord of the Flies</i></p> <p>A classic tale about a group of English schoolboys who are plane-wrecked on a deserted island. At first it seems as though it is all going to be great fun; but the fun before long becomes furious, and life on the island turns into a nightmare of panic and death. As ordinary standards of behavior collapse, the whole world the boys know collapses with them.</p>	Golding, William	9-12
<p><i>MAUS: A Survivor's Tale, Part 1</i></p> <p>By addressing the horror of the Holocaust through cartoons, the author captures the everyday reality of fear and is able to explore the guilt, relief, and extraordinary sensation of survival. It also discusses how the children of survivors are in their own way affected by the trials of their parents.</p>	Spiegelman, Arthur	9-12
<p><i>Mississippi Trial, 1955</i></p> <p>At first Hiram is excited to visit his hometown in Mississippi. Once there, he crosses paths with Emmett Till, an African-American teenager from Chicago, who is also visiting for the summer. Hiram witnesses firsthand</p>	Crowe, Chris	9-12

<p>how the local whites mistreat blacks who refuse to "know their place." When Emmett's tortured dead body is found floating in a river, Hiram is determined to find out who could do such a thing. But what will it cost him to know?</p>		
<p>Monster</p> <p>While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.</p>	Myers, Walter Dean	9-12
<p>Names Will Never Hurt Me</p> <p>On the fateful one-year anniversary of the killing of a fellow student, the paths of four teens will cross in ways they never imagined. On this day, teasing, racism, loneliness, and secrets bring each of them to the breaking point. Now they must help each other prevent a tragedy. The voices of these four teens weave together in prose-poetry to create a powerful read.</p>	Adoff, Jamie	9-12
<p>Not as Crazy as I Seem</p> <p>Some kids say Devon's crazy, but he knows better. However, Devon calls it "controlling things." His doctor calls it obsessive-compulsive disorder. When Devon starts at a new school, his compulsions start to get him in trouble, and before long he realizes that his only choice is to confront his behaviors and the events that trigger them.</p>	Harrar, George	9-12
<p>Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream</p> <p>In the Newark, New Jersey, ghetto where the authors grew up, no one was expected to become an achiever in any way. Poor kids from broken homes were much more likely to become heroin addicts or, if they were lucky, drug dealers. However, George Jenkins, Sampson Davis, and Rameck Hunt didn't succumb to peer pressure; they thrived on it. Prodding each other toward their goals, this trio succeeded, each becoming a doctor.</p>	Jenkins, George, Davis, Sampson, and Hunt, Rameck	9-12
<p>Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida</p> <p>Fourteen-year-old Manny Hernandez wants to be more than just a penny. He wants to be a vato firme, the kind of guy people respect. However, that's not easy when your father is abusive, your brother can't hold a job, and your mother scrubs the house as if she can wash her troubles away.</p>	Martinez, Victor	9-12
<p>Real Time</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Tomas Wanninger is on a mission: to find out what his grandfather, a Nazi officer, did during World War II. On the day he arrives in Jerusalem, a devastating event changes his life in this timely and suspenseful story.</p>	Kass, Prina Moed	9-12
<p>So B. It</p> <p>Although she lives an unconventional lifestyle with her mentally disabled mother and their doting neighbor, Bernadette, Heidi has a lucky streak that has a way of pointing her in the right direction. When a mysterious word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi's thirst for the truth leads her on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her</p>	Weeks, Sarah	9-12

past.		
<p>Spellbound</p> <p>Raven never expected to be a mother at sixteen. Is she going to be just another high school dropout, a project girl with few prospects? Could be, except Raven has ambition. Still, when is she going to find the time to finish school? Then her older sister tells her about a spelling bee that promises the winner a scholarship for college. Spelling? There isn't a subject she's worse at. However, once Raven's got her mind set, nothing gets in her way.</p>	McDonald, Janet	9-12
<p>Step From Heaven</p> <p>Young Ju's Korean family is attempting to adapt to their new life in America. There will be many struggles along the way which include, finding jobs and overcoming the language barrier. Things get worse when Young Ju's father becomes abusive, and she must take action.</p>	Na, An	9-12
<p>Tears of a Tiger</p> <p>After a car accident kills Robert, Andy doesn't know if he can go on. He's consumed with guilt for driving the night of the accident after a long evening of drinking and partying.</p>	Draper, Sharon	9-12
<p>To Kill A Mockingbird</p> <p>Three years in the life of eight-year-old Scout Finch and her brother, Jem. Three years punctuated by the arrest and trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. This is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up.</p>	Lee, Harper	9-12
<p>Touching Spirit Bear</p> <p>After Cole's anger erupts into violence, he avoids going to prison by agreeing to participate in an alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice. Banished to a remote Alaskan island, he is mauled by the mysterious white bear in a Native-American legend. Hideously injured, Cole waits for his death, and his thoughts shift from anger to humility. To survive, he must stop blaming others and take responsibility for his life.</p>	Mikaelsen, Ben	9-12
<p>We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success</p> <p>Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. However, when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. It took a lot of determination and a lot of support from one another. Despite all the hardships along the way, the three succeeded.</p>	Davis, Sampson, Jenkins, George, Hunt, Rameck, and Draper, Sharon	9-12