

X: a Novel

By Ilyasah Shabazz with Kekla Magoon

YA SHABAZZ

X follows Malcolm Little from his childhood to his imprisonment for theft at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him to forge a new path and command a voice that still resonates today. Co-written by Malcolm X's daughter.

Dear Martin

By Nic Stone

YA STONE

After being wrongfully arrested by a white police officer, Justyce begins studying the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and writing letters to him to figure out how to respond to the racism around him

Lies We Tell Ourselves

By Robin Talley

YA TALLEY

In 1959 Virginia, Sarah, a black student who is one of the first to attend a newly integrated school, forces Linda, a white integration opponent's daughter, to confront harsh truths when they work together on a school project.

The Hate U Give

By Angie Thomas

YA THOMAS

Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her friend Khalil by police at a traffic stop, and soon the case makes national headlines. As some people protest Khalil's murder and others defend or excuse the officers, Starr must decide whether to speak up, possibly at the risk of her own life.

On the Come Up

By Angie Thomas

YA THOMAS

Bri wants to be a rapper more than anything. She pours her anger and pain into her 1st song, which goes viral for all the wrong reasons. Painted as a menace by the media, Bri must decide whether to let that define her or work to change the image she helped create.

Black Boy/White School

By Brian Walker

YA WALKER

When 14-year-old Anthony "Ant" Jones from the ghetto of East Cleveland, Ohio, gets a scholarship to a prep school in Maine, he finds that he must change his image and adapt to a world that never fully accepts him, but when he goes home he discovers that he no longer truly belongs there either.

This Side of Home

By Renee Watson

YA WATSON

Twins Nikki and Maya always agreed on most things, but as they head into their senior year they react differently to the gentrification of their Portland neighborhood and the white family that moves in after their best friend and her mother are evicted.

Genesis Begins Again

By Alicia D. Williams

JFIC WILLIAMS

After her family gets evicted again, Genesis starts over at a new school. Believing her black skin to be the root of her problems, Genesis tries again and again to lighten it. Slowly though, she begins to find her own strength and reasons to love who she is.

Brown Girl Dreaming

By Jacqueline Woodson

YA WOODSON

Through poetry, Woodson shares her experience growing up African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

Hush

By Jacqueline Woodson

YA WOODSON

Toswiah's life is completely upended when her family enters the witness protection program after her policeman father testifies against another officer. With a new name and new life, 12 year-old Toswiah, now Evie, tries to find her way and keep her family from falling apart.

Read, Listen, Learn:

A booklist for teens
exploring discussions of
race, privilege, and justice



Galesburg Public Library Teen Scene

Galesburg Public Library

309-343-6118

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Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You

By Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

YA 305.8009 REY

Shines a light on the history of racist ideas in America, and on ways readers can identify and remove racist thoughts from their own daily lives, inspiring hope for an antiracist future.

A Few Red Drops: the Chicago Race Riot of 1919

By Claire Hartfield

YA 305.896 HAR

In July 1919, 3 black boys went swimming in Lake Michigan, accidentally floating close to the “white” beach. An angry white man threw stones, striking and killing one of the boys. This racial beach conflict exploded into days of riots throughout Chicago.

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom

By Lynda Blackmon Lowery

YA 323.1196 LOW

Shares the story of the youngest person to complete the momentous Selma to Montgomery March, describing her frequent imprisonments for her participation in nonviolent protests and how she felt about her involvement in historic Civil Rights events.

The Port Chicago 50

By Steve Sheinkin

YA 940.5453 SHE

Presents an account of the 1944 civil rights protest involving hundreds of African-American Navy servicemen who were unjustly charged with mutiny for refusing to work in unsafe conditions after the deadly Port Chicago explosion.

March, Book One

March, Book Two

March, Book Three

By John Lewis

GRAPHIC 323.11 LEWIS

This graphic novel trilogy is a first-hand account of Congressman John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation.

Tyler Johnson Was Here

By Jay Coles

YA COLES

Marvin’s world is turned upside down when his twin brother, Tyler, is killed by a white police officer. As his mother falls apart and his brother is now a hashtag, Marvin must come to grips with what justice and freedom really mean. Inspired by events from the author’s childhood.

Fire from the Rock

By Sharon Draper

YA DRAPER

In 1957, Sylvia Patterson's life--that of a normal African American teenager--is disrupted by the impending integration of Little Rock's Central High when she is selected to be one of the first black students to attend the previously all white school. Includes author's note and related websites.

I’m Not Dying with You Tonight

By Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal

YA JONES

Two girls—one black, one white—are thrown together when the football game they attend explodes into a race riot. They aren’t friends and barely know each other, but Lena and Campbell must rely on each other to get through.

How it Went Down

By Kekla Magoon

YA MAGOON

When 16-year-old Tariq Johnson is shot to death, his community is thrown into an uproar because Tariq was black and the shooter, Jack Franklin, is white. In the aftermath everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events agree.

Monster

By Walter Dean Myers

GRAPHIC MYERS

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, 16-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.

A Good Kind of Trouble

By Lisa Moore Ramée

JFIC RAMEE

After attending a powerful protest, 12 year-old Shayla starts wearing an armband to school to support the Black Lives Matter movement. But when the school gives her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose between her education and her identity.

All American Boys

By Jason Reynolds

YA REYNOLDS

When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.

Long Way Down

By Jason Reynolds

YA REYNOLDS

Will’s brother Shawn was just murdered, so he’s taken Shawn’s gun to go after his killer. As he rides the elevator down, Will is joined by people who knew his brother—some of them dead— while he thinks about whether to go through with it. Told in verse, the whole novel takes place in 60 seconds.

Black Brother, Black Brother

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

JFIC RHODES

Suspended unjustly from the elite prep school where he’s one of the only black boys, Donte studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.

Betty Before X

By Ilyasah Shabazz with Renee Watson

JFIC SHABAZZ

Raised by her aunt until she is six, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement.