

Suggested Reading for Grade 6 and up 2020

Fiction

Acevedo, Elizabeth. *With the Fire on High* (2019)

From the New York Times bestselling author of the National Book Award longlist title *The Poet X* comes a dazzling novel in prose about a girl with talent, pride, and a drive to feed the soul that keeps her fire burning bright. Ever since she got pregnant freshman year, Emoni Santiago's life has been about making the tough decisions – doing what has to be done for her daughter and her abuela. The one place she can let all that go is in the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness. Even though she dreams of working as a chef after she graduates, Emoni knows that it's not worth her time to pursue the impossible. Yet despite the rules she thinks she has to play by, once Emoni starts cooking, her only choice is to let her talent break free.

YA FIC ACEVEDO, e-book, e-audio

Ahmed, Samira. *Internment* (2019)

Internment is a terrifying, futuristic United States where Muslim-Americans are forced into internment camps, and seventeen-year-old Layla Amin must lead a revolution against complicit silence.

YA FIC AHMED, YA PLAYAWAY AHMED, e-book, e-audio

Allen, Kate. *The Line Tender* (2019)

Following a tragedy that further alters the course of her life, twelve-year-old Lucy Everhart decides to continue the shark research her marine biologist mother left unfinished when she died years earlier.

YA FIC ALLEN, e-book, e-audio

Barron, Rena. *Kingdom of Souls* (2019)

Born into a family of powerful witchdoctors, Arrah yearns for magic of her own. But each year she fails to call forth her ancestral powers, while her ambitious mother watches with growing disapproval. There's only one thing Arrah hasn't tried, a deadly last resort: trading years of her own life for scraps of magic. When the Kingdom's children begin to disappear, Arrah is desperate to find the culprit. She uncovers something worse. The long-imprisoned Demon King is stirring. And if he rises, his hunger for souls will bring the world to its knees... unless Arrah pays the price for the magic to stop him.

YA FIC BARRON, e-book, e-audio

Bognanni, Peter. *This Book is Not Yet Rated* (2019)

Seventeen-year-old movie-lover Ethan, the de facto manager of Minneapolis's crumbling Green Street Cinema, teams with a motley crew to try to save the landmark from destruction. YA FIC BOGNANNI, e-book, e-audio

Cameron, Sharon. *The Light in Hidden Places* (2020)

Sixteen-year-old Catholic Stefania Podgórska has worked in the Diamant family's grocery store for four years, even falling in love with one of their sons, Izio; but when the Nazis come to Przemyl, Poland, the Jewish Diamants are forced into the ghetto (and worse). Izio's brother Max manages to escape, and Stefania embarks on a dangerous course – protecting 13 Jews in her attic, caring for her younger sister, Helena, and keeping everything secret from the two Nazi officers who are living in her house.

YA FIC CAMERON, e-book, e-audio

Charbonneau, Joelle. *Verify* (2019)

When Meri Beckley looks at the peaceful Chicago streets, she feels pride in the era of unprecedented hope and prosperity over which the governor presides. But when her mother is killed, Meri suddenly has questions that no one else seems to be asking. And when she tries to uncover her mother's state of mind in her last weeks, she finds herself drawn into a secret world with a history she didn't know existed. Faced with a choice between accepting the 'truth' or embracing a world the government doesn't want anyone to see, the wrong words can get Meri killed.

YA FIC CHARBONNEAU, e-book, e-audio

Elston, Ashley. *The Lying Woods* (2018)

Owen Foster is pulled from his elite New Orleans boarding school when his father's assets are seized and, back in his small town, begins to piece together his father's past despite mounting danger.

YA FIC ELSTON, e-audio

Emezi, Akwaeke. *Pet* (2019)

In a near-future society that claims to have gotten rid of all monstrous people, a creature emerges from a painting seventeen-year-old Jam's mother created, a hunter from another world seeking a real-life monster.

YA FIC EMEZI, e-book, e-audio

England, M. K. *The Disasters* (2018)

Nax and a handful of other space Academy washouts are the only surviving pilots after the school is hijacked by terrorists, but in order to spread the truth about the attack, Nax and his fellow failures must execute a dangerous heist.

YA FIC ENGLAND, e-book, e-audio

Foley, Jessie Ann. *Sorry For Your Loss* (2019)

As the youngest of eight, painfully average Pup Flanagan is used to flying under the radar. He's barely passing his classes. He lets his longtime crush walk all over him. And he's in no hurry to decide on a college path. The only person who ever made him think he could be more was his older brother Patrick. But that was before Patrick died suddenly, leaving Pup with a family who won't talk about it and acquaintances who just keep saying, "sorry for your loss." When Pup excels at a photography assignment he thought he'd bomb, things start to come into focus. His dream girl shows her true colors. An unexpected friend exposes Pup to a whole new world, right under his nose. And the photograph that was supposed to show Pup a way out of his grief ultimately reveals someone else who is still stuck in their own. Someone with a secret regret Pup never could have imagined.

YA FIC FOLEY, e-book, e-audio

Gonzales, Sophie. *Only Mostly Devastated* (2020)

When his aunt's illness keeps Ollie in North Carolina, he hopes his summer fling with Will can grow into something more, but at school Will proves to be a completely different – and firmly closeted – man in this contemporary re-imagining of *Grease*.

YA FIC GONZALES, e-book, e-audio

Henry, Katie. *Let's Call it a Doomsday* (2019)

Ellis Kimball, sixteen, whose anxiety disorder causes her to prepare for the imminent end of the world, meets Hannah, who claims to know when it will happen.

YA FIC HENRY, e-book, e-audio

Johnson, Maureen. *Truly Devious* (2018)

When Stevie Bell, an amateur detective, begins her first year at a famous private school in Vermont, she sets a plan to solve the cold case involving the kidnapping of the founder's wife and daughter shortly after the school opened.

YA FIC JOHNSON, YA PLAYAWAY JOHNSON, e-book, e-audio

King, A. S. *Dig* (2019)

Only a generation removed from being simple Pennsylvania potato farmers, Gottfried and Marla Hemmings managed to trade digging spuds for developing subdivisions and now sit atop a seven-figure bank account, wealth they've declined to pass on to their adult children or their teenage grandchildren. Now the five teenagers are lost in a tangled maze of family secrets. One of the teens sells pot; one has cancer; all are estranged from the family. As they come together for Easter dinner, will they be able to find their ways back to each other? Michael L. Printz Award Winner 2020.

YA FIC KING, e-book, e-audio

Lee, Stacy. *The Downstairs Girl* (2019)

1890, Atlanta. By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel Caroline Payne, the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for 'the genteel Southern lady.'

YA FIC LEE, e-book, e-audio

Lloyd-Jones, Emily. *The Bone Houses* (2019)

When risen corpses called 'bone houses' threaten Ryn's village because of a decades-old curse, she teams up with a mapmaker named Ellis to solve the mystery of the curse and destroy the bone houses forever.

YA FIC LLOYD-JONES, e-book, e-audio

Lu, Marie. *The Kingdom of Back* (2020)

Desperate to be forever remembered for her music, Nannerl Mozart makes a dangerous pact with a mysterious stranger from a magical land, which may cost her everything.

YA FIC LU, e-book, e-audio

Magoon, Kekla. *Light it Up* (2019)

Told from multiple viewpoints, Shae Tatum, an unarmed, thirteen-year-old black girl, is shot by a white police officer, throwing their community into upheaval and making it a target of demonstrators.

YA FIC MAGOON, e-book

Mejia, Tehlor Kay. *We Set the Dark on Fire* (2019)

Dani must question everything she's worked for as she learns about the corruption of the Median government.

YA FIC MEJIA, e-book, e-audio

Philippe, Ben. *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* (2018)

When Norris, a Black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as clichés from "a bad 90s teen movie." William C. Morris YA Debut Award Winner 2020.

YA FIC PHILIPPE, e-book, e-audio

Sepetys, Ruta. *The Fountains of Silence* (2019)

At the Castellana Hilton in 1957 Madrid, eighteen-year-old Daniel Matheson connects with Ana Moreno through photography and fate as Daniel discovers the incredibly dark side of the city under Generalissimo Franco's rule.

YA FIC SEPETYS, YA PLAYAWAY SEPETYS, CD FIC SEPETYS, e-book, e-audio

Shah, London. *The Light at the Bottom of the World* (2019)

Teenaged Leyla McQueen, who lives beneath the ruins of a submerged London in 2099, joins a prestigious submersible race in the hope of clearing her father's name before encountering government corruption and a hidden world.

YA FIC SHAH, e-audio

Silvera, Adam. *Infinity Son* (2020)

In a world where some people are born with powers and some people take them, brothers Emil and Brighton Rey get swept up in a supernatural war generations in the making.

YA FIC SILVERA, e-book, e-audio

Sook, Kim Hyun. *Banned Book Club* (2020)

When Kim Hyun Sook started college in 1983, she was ready for her world to open up. After acing her exams and sort-of convincing her traditional mother that it was a good idea for a woman to go to college, she looked forward to soaking up the ideas of Western Literature far from the drudgery she was promised at her family's restaurant. But literature class would prove to be just the start of a massive turning point, still focused on reading but with life-or-death stakes she never could have imagined. As Hyun Sook soon discovered, in a totalitarian regime, the delights of discovering great works of illicit literature are quickly overshadowed by fear and violence as the walls close in.

YA GN SOOK

Stiefvater, Maggie. *Call Down the Hawk* (2019)

Ronan Lynch is a dreamer. He can pull both curiosities and catastrophes out of his dreams and into his compromised reality. Jordan Hennessy is a thief. The closer she comes to the dream object she is after, the more inextricably she becomes tied to it. Carmen Farooq-Lane is a hunter. Her brother was a dreamer... and a killer. She has seen what dreaming can do to a person. And she has seen the damage that dreamers can do. But that is nothing compared to the destruction that is about to be unleashed.

YA FIC STIEFVATER, YA PLAYAWAY STIEFVATER, e-book, e-audio

Takei, George. *They Called Us Enemy* (2019)

A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon - and America itself - in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

GN TAKEI, e-book

Tamaki, Mariko. *Harley Quinn: Breaking Glass* (2019)

With just five dollars and a knapsack to her name, fifteen-year-old Harleen Quinzel is sent to live in Gotham City. She's not worried, though - she's battled a lot of hard situations as a kid, and knows her determination and outspokenness will carry her through life in the most dangerous city in the world. And when Gotham's finest drag queen, Mama, takes her in, it seems like Harley has finally found a place to grow into her most 'true true' with new best friend Ivy at Gotham High. But when Mama's drag cabaret becomes the next victim in the wave of gentrification that's taking over the neighborhood, Harley's fortune takes another turn. Now Harleen is mad. In turning her anger into action, she is faced with two choices: Join activist Ivy, who's campaigning to make the neighborhood a better place to live, or team up with her anarchist friend Jack, who plans to take down Gotham one corporation at a time.

YA GN TAMAKI, e-book

Tang, Andrea. *Rebelwing* (2020)

At New Columbia Preparatory Academy in a near-future Washington, D.C., black market smuggler Prudence Wu and friends Anabel, Alex, and Cat become key players in a conflict with the United Continental Confederacy.

YA FIC TANG, e-book, e-audio

Watson, Renee, and Ellen Hagan. *Watch Us Rise* (2019)

Frustrated by the way women are treated—even at their progressive New York City high school—two best friends start a Women's Rights Club, post their essays and poems online, and watch it go viral, attracting positive support as well as trolls.

YA FIC WATSON, e-book

White, Kiersten. *The Guinevere Deception* (2019)

Sent by a banished Merlin to protect King Arthur, a sixteen-year-old impersonating the deceased Guinevere struggles to fit in at Camelot where the magic she practices is banished.

YA FIC WHITE, e-book, e-audio

Williams, Lily, and Karen Schneemann. *Go With the Flow* (2020)

Sophomores Abby, Brit, Christine, and Sasha are fed up. Hazelton High never has enough tampons. Or pads. Or adults who will listen. Sick of an administration that puts football before female health, the girls confront a world that shrugs—or worse, squirms—at the thought of a menstruation revolution. They band together to make a change. It's no easy task, especially while grappling with everything from crushes to trig to JV track but they have each other's backs. That is, until one of the girls goes rogue, testing the limits of their friendship and pushing the friends to question the power of their own voices. Now they must learn to work together to raise each other up. But how do you stand your ground while raising bloody hell?

YA GN WILLIAMS, e-book

Wilson, Kip. *White Rose* (2019)

White Rose tells the story of Sophie Scholl, a young German college student who challenges the Nazi regime during World War II as part of the White Rose, a non-violent resistance group.

YA FIC WILSON, e-book

Winter, Julian. *How to be Remy Cameron* (2019)

Under pressure to write a flawless essay defining who he is and who he wants to be, Remy embarks on an emotional journey toward reconciling the outward persona everyone knows and the real Remy Cameron within.

YA FIC WINTER, e-book

Non-fiction

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Shout: A Poetry Memoir* (2019)

Bestselling author Laurie Halse Anderson is known for the unflinching way she writes about, and advocates for, survivors of sexual assault. Now, inspired by her fans and enraged by how little in our culture has changed since her groundbreaking novel *Speak* was first published twenty years ago, she has written a poetry memoir that is as vulnerable as it is rallying, as timely as it is timeless. In free verse, Anderson shares reflections, rants, and calls to action woven between deeply personal stories from her life that she's never written about before. Searing and soul-searching, this important memoir is a denouncement of our society's failures and a love letter to all the people with the courage to say #MeToo and #TimesUp, whether aloud, online, or only in their own hearts. *Shout* speaks truth to power in a loud, clear voice—and once you hear it, it is impossible to ignore.

YA BIO ANDERSON, YA PLAYAWAY BIO ANDERSON, e-book, e-audio

Blumenthal, Karen. *Jane Against the World* (2020)

A history of the fight for reproductive rights in the United States. Tracing the path to the landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade* and the continuing battle for women's rights, Blumenthal examines the root causes of the current debate around abortion and repercussions that have affected generations of American women. This book intends to facilitate difficult discussions and awareness of a topic that is rarely touched on in school but affects each and every young person. Includes a glossary of legal and medical terms, timeline, and information about significant Supreme Court cases.

YA 973 BLUMENTHAL, e-book, e-audio

Bronski, Michael. Adapted by Richie Chevat. *A Queer History of the United States for Young People* (2019)

Through engrossing narratives, letters, drawings, poems, and more, the book encourages young readers, of all identities, to feel pride at the accomplishments of the LGBTQ people who came before them and to use history as a guide to the future.

YA 306.766 BRONSKI, e-book

Curlee, Lynn. *The Great Nijinsky: God of Dance* (2019)

This book presents the life and career of the legendary Russian dancer and choreographer, describing his famous roles, his relationship with Sergei Diaghilev, director of the Ballets Russes, and his descent into mental illness in later life. YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Honor Book 2020.

YA BIO NIJINSKY, e-book

Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. Adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese. *An Indigenous People's History of the United States for Young People* (2019)

Going beyond the story of America as a country "discovered" by a few brave men in the "New World," Indigenous human rights advocate Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz reveals the roles that settler colonialism and policies of American Indian genocide played in forming our national identity. The original academic text is fully adapted by renowned curriculum experts Debbie Reese and Jean Mendoza, for middle-grade and young adult readers to include discussion topics, archival images, original maps, recommendations for further reading, and other materials to encourage students, teachers, and general readers to think critically about their own place in history.

YA 970.0049 DUNBAR-ORTIZ, e-book

Favreau, Mark. *Spies: The Secret Showdown Between America and Russia* (2019)

An account of the Cold War spies whose survival depended on carefully orchestrated deceptions as they fought in the shadows to help avert global nuclear war and, in so doing, changed the global landscape in ways that are still felt today.

YA 327.1273 FAVREAU, e-book

Fleming, Candace. *The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh* (2020)

A riveting biography of one of America's most celebrated heroes, and most complicated, troubled men, Charles Lindbergh.

YA BIO LINDBERGH, e-book, e-audio

Grimes, Nikki. *Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir* (2019)

Growing up with a mother suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and a mostly absent father, Nikki Grimes found herself terrorized by babysitters, shunted from foster family to foster family, and preyed upon by those she trusted. At the age of 6, she poured her pain onto a piece of paper – and discovered the magic and impact of writing. For many years, Nikki's notebooks were her most enduring companions. In this inspiring memoir that will resonate with young readers and adults, Nikki shows how the power of those words helped her conquer the hazards – ordinary and extraordinary – of her life. Robert F. Sibert Informational Honor Book 2020.

YA BIO GRIMES

Heiligman, Deborah. *Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship"* (2019)

A true account of the attack and sinking of the passenger ship SS City of Benares, which was evacuating children from England during WWII. YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Honor Book 2020.

YA 940.5429 HEILIGMAN, e-book, e-audio

Hutchinson, Shaun David. *Brave Face: A Memoir* (2019)

"I wasn't depressed because I was gay. I was depressed and gay." Shaun David Hutchinson was 19. Confused. Struggling to find the vocabulary to understand and accept who he was and how he fit into a community in which he couldn't see himself. The voice of depression told him that he would never be loved or wanted, while powerful and hurtful messages from society told him that being gay meant love and happiness weren't for him. A million moments large and small over the years all came together to convince Shaun that he couldn't keep going, that he had no future. And so, he followed through on trying to make that a reality. Thankfully, Shaun survived, and over time, came to embrace how grateful he is and how to find self-acceptance. In this courageous and deeply honest memoir, Shaun takes listeners through the journey of what brought him to the edge and what has helped him truly believe it does get better.

YA BIO HUTCHINSON, e-book, e-audio

Kendi, Ibram. Adapted by Jason Reynolds. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* (2020)

The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited. Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas—and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

YA 305.8 KENDI, e-book

Koch, Melissa. *Forest Talk: How Trees Communicate* (2019)

Trees are essential. They provide water, shelter, and food for millions of plant and animal species, including humans. They deliver proven health benefits, and they capture and store carbon, which combats climate change. Yet trees are in trouble. Forests are struggling to adapt to climate change, and deforestation is a major threat. Recently, researchers and citizen scientists made the surprising revelation that trees communicate with each other through an underground system of soil fungi and other methods. Meet the tree scientists and learn more of their fascinating discoveries.

YA 635.977 KOCH, e-book

Marrin, Albert. *A Light in the Darkness: Janusz Korczak, His Orphans, and the Holocaust* (2019)

A Polish Jew on the eve of World War II, Janusz Korczak turned down opportunities for escape in order to stand by the children in his orphanage as they became confined to the Warsaw Ghetto. Dressing them in their Sabbath finest, he led their march to the trains and ultimately perished with his children in Treblinka. Marrin examines not just Korczak's life but his ideology of children: that children are valuable in and of themselves, as individuals. He contrasts this with Adolf Hitler's life and his ideology of children: that children are nothing more than tools of the state. YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Honor Book 2020.

YA 940.5318 MARRIN, e-book, e-audio

Ogle, Rex. *Free Lunch* (2019)

Free Lunch is the story of Rex Ogle's first semester in sixth grade. Rex and his baby brother often went hungry, wore secondhand clothes, and were short of school supplies. Grounded in the immediacy of physical hunger and the humiliation of having to announce it every day in the school lunch line, Rex's is a compelling story of a more profound hunger – that of a child for his parents' love and care. YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Winner 2020.

YA BIO OGLE, e-book

Rich, KaeLyn. *Girls Resist! A Guide to Activism, Leadership, and Starting a Revolution* (2018)

An activism handbook for teen girls ready to fight for change, social justice, and equality. Take on the world and make some serious change with this handbook to everything activism, social justice, and resistance. With guides to everything from picking a cause, planning a protest, and raising money to running dispute-free meetings, promoting awareness on social media, and being an effective ally. Get this handbook to crush inequality, start a revolution, and resist!

YA 320.473 RICH, e-book, e-audio

Wein, Elizabeth. *A Thousand Sisters: The Heroic Airwomen of the Soviet Union in World War II* (2019)

In the early years of World War II, Josef Stalin issued an order that made the Soviet Union the first country in the world to allow female pilots to fly in combat. Led by Marina Raskova, these three regiments, including the 588th Night Bomber Regiment—nicknamed the “night witches”—faced intense pressure and obstacles both in the sky and on the ground. Some of these young women perished in flames. Many of them were in their teens when they went to war. This is the story of Raskova's three regiments, women who enlisted and were deployed on the front lines of battle as navigators, pilots, and mechanics. It is the story of a thousand young women who wanted to take flight to defend their country, and the woman who brought them together in the sky. YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Honor Book 2020.

YA 940.5449 WEIN, YA PLAYAWAY 940.5449 WEIN, e-book, e-audio