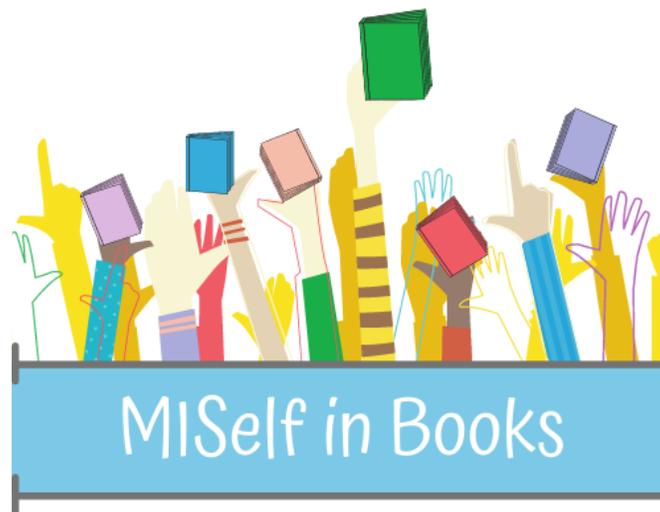


WELCOME to the MISelf in Books 2020 Book List

MISelf in Books is an annual list of diverse books for Michigan learners. The list was selected by a committee of certified school librarians who are members of Michigan Association for Media in Education ([MAME](#)). These recommendations are based on books that they see learners reading and enjoying in their libraries. The books are all published in the last two years and written by #ownvoice authors and will include books for all grade levels: PreK-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12.



Jump to:

[Preschool - First Grade](#)

[Lower Elementary](#)

[Upper Elementary](#)

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)

[Preschool -
First Grade](#)

[Lower
Elementary](#)

[Upper
Elementary](#)

[Middle
School](#)

[High
School](#)

Preschool - First Grade

Title	Description	Grade Level
<i>Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao</i> by Kat Zhang	Amy loves to make bao with her family. But it takes skill to make the bao taste and look delicious. And <i>her</i> bao keeps coming out all wrong. Then she has an idea that may give her a second chance.	PK-1
<i>The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story</i> by Aya Khalil	Kanzi wraps herself in the beautiful Arabic quilt her teita (grandma) in Cairo gave her and writes a poem in Arabic about the quilt. Her teacher sees the poem and gets the entire class excited about creating a “quilt” (a paper collage) of their names in Arabic.	PK-1
<i>Bedtime for Sweet Creatures</i> by Nikki Grimes	Mommy needs to wrangle her sweet creature in bed so that the whole family can sleep. From tigers to squirrels to snakes, the little boy dodges around his bedtime, until he is tired enough to finally sleep.	PK-1
<i>Bilal Cooks Daal</i> by Aisha Saeed	Six-year-old Bilal is excited to help his dad make his favorite food of all-time: daal! The slow-cooked lentil dish from South Asia requires lots of ingredients and a whole lot of waiting. Bilal wants to introduce his friends to daal. They’ve never tried it!	PK-1
<i>A Girl Like Me</i> by Angela Johnson	Empower young readers to embrace their individuality, reject societal limitations, and follow their dreams. This book brings together a poem by author Angela Johnson and Nina Crews’s distinctive photo collage illustrations to celebrate girls of color.	PK-1
<i>Hair Love</i> by Matthew A. Cherry	Zuri’s hair has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Zuri knows it’s beautiful. When Daddy steps in to style it, he has a lot to learn. But he LOVES his Zuri, and he’ll do anything to make her happy.	PK-1
<i>The King of Kindergarten</i> by Derrick Barnes	Starting kindergarten is a big milestone and the little boy of this story is ready to make his mark! He’s up to the challenge, taking new experiences in stride! He can’t wait to tell his proud parents all about his achievements and then wake up to start another day.	PK-1
<i>The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh</i> by Supriya Kelkar	Harpreet Singh has a different color for every mood and occasion. He especially takes care with his patka—his turban—making sure it always matches his outfit. When his family moves to a new city, everything just feels gray. Can he find a way to make life bright again?	PK-1
<i>Ohana Means Family</i> by Ilima Loomis	Join the family, or ohana, as they farm taro for poi to prepare for a traditional luau celebration.	PK-1
<i>Papa, Daddy, and Riley</i> by Seamus Kirst	Riley is Papa’s princess and Daddy’s dragon. She loves her two fathers! When Riley’s classmate asks her which dad is her real one, Riley is confused. She doesn’t want to have to pick one or the other.	PK-1
<i>Sumo Joe</i> by Mia Wenjen	Sumo Joe is a gentle big brother to his little sister. He and his friends are also sumo wrestlers. They observe sumo’s ultimate rule: no girls allowed! When Sumo Joe’s little sister wants to join the fun, Sumo Joe is torn between sumo, and being a big brother.	PK-1
<i>They, She, He Easy as ABC</i> by Maya Gonzalez	<i>They, She, He easy as ABC</i> shows that including everyone is all part of the dance. It’s easy. As the dance begins the kids proclaim, “ <i>No one left out and everyone free,</i> ” in a sing-song rhyme about inclusion.	PK-1
<i>Under my Hijab</i> by Hena Khan	As a young girl observes six very different women in her life who each wear the hijab in a unique way, she also dreams of the rich possibilities of her own future, and how she will express her own personality through her hijab.	PK-1

Lower Elementary

Title	Description	Grade Level
Farah Rocks Fifth Grade by Susan Muaddi Darraj	Farah is excited to attend the Magnet Academy. But when a new girl starts bullying Farah's little brother she begins to second-guess her choice to leave him behind at Harbortown Elementary/Middle School. Determined to handle it on her own, Farah comes up with a plan.	2-3
Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Keith Noble Maillard	Told in lively and powerful verse <i>Fry Bread</i> is a depiction of a modern Native American family. Fry bread is food. Fry bread is time. Fry bread is nation. Fry bread is us.	2-3
It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book about Gender Identity by Theresa Thorn	Some people are boys. Some people are girls. Some people are both, neither, or somewhere in between. This straightforward exploration of gender identity will give children a fuller understanding of themselves and others.	2-3
Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You by Sonia Sotomayor	In <i>Just Ask</i> , children with all sorts of challenges are represented. As the kids work together to build a community garden, asking questions of each other along the way, this book encourages readers to do the same.	2-3
Just Like Me by Vanessa Brantley Newton	An ode to the girl with scrapes on her knees and flowers in her hair, and every girl in between, this book will have kids poring over it to find a poem that's just for them.	2-3
Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration by Samara Cole Doyon	Told by a succession of exuberant young narrators, <i>Magnificent Homespun Brown</i> is a story -- a song, a poem, a <i>celebration</i> -- about feeling at home in one's own beloved skin.	2-3
Maiden and the Princess by Daniel Haack	In this modern fairy tale, a strong, brave maiden is invited to attend the prince's royal ball, but at the dance, she ends up finding true love in a most surprising place.	2-3
Mindy Kim by Lyla Lee	In this chapter book series follow Mindy Kim, a young Asian American Girl, on her adventures of family and friendship.	2-3
The Paper Kingdom by Helena Ku Rhee	An office at night is reimagined as a fantastical kingdom of paper complete with friendly dragons. <i>The Paper Kingdom</i> expresses the joy and spirit of a loving family who turn a routine and ordinary experience into something much grander.	2-3
Planet Omar Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian	Omar and his family have just moved, and he is NOT excited about starting at a new school. But when Omar makes a new best friend, things start looking up. Follow Omar's enormous imagination and goofy family help him get through life's ups and downs.	2-3
Priya Dreams of Marigolds and Masala by Meenal Patel	<i>Priya Dreams of Marigolds & Masala</i> is a celebration of the special bond between grandparents and grandchildren, the threads that connect each of us to our heritage, and the power of sharing our traditions with others.	2-3
The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad	With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab.	2-3
Sadiq and the Desert Star by Siman Nuurahi	When Sadiq's father leaves on a business trip, he worries he'll miss his baba. But Baba has a story for Sadiq: the story of the Desert Star. Learning about Baba's passion for the stars sparks Sadiq's interest in outer space.	2-3
Tiny Feet Between the Mountain by Hanna Cha	A young Korean girl, Soe-In, must come up with a clever idea to help a spirit tiger solve a gigantic problem and save her village. While she's at it, she just may prove that the smallest people often have the biggest, bravest hearts.	2-3

<u><i>Where Are You From?</i> by Yamile Saied Mendez</u>	<p>When a girl is asked where she's from none of her answers seems to be the right one. Unsure about how to reply, she turns to her loving abuelo for help. He doesn't give her the response she expects. She gets an even better one.</p>	<p>2-3</p>
<u><i>Yasmin Series</i> by Saadia Faruqi</u>	<p>Yasmin is a second-grader who's always on the lookout for those moments that help her solve life's problems. A creative thinker and explorer, Yasmin and her multi-generational Pakistani American family are ready for anything.</p>	<p>2-3</p>
<u><i>Your Name is a Song</i> by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow</u>	<p>Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the beauty, history, and magic behind names.</p>	<p>2-3</p>

Upper Elementary

Title	Description	Grade Level
Lalani of the Distant Sea by Erin Entrada Kelly	When Lalani Sarita's mother falls ill with an incurable disease, Lalani embarks on a dangerous journey across the sea in the hope of safeguarding her own future.	3-7
The Only Black Girls in Town by Brandy Colbert	Alberta has been the only black girl in town for years. Alberta's best friend is the closest thing she has to a sister, but there are some things even she can't understand. When the bed and breakfast across the street finds new owners, Alberta is ecstatic to learn the family is black. They have a daughter just like her, but becoming friends will not be as easy as Alberta first thinks.	3-7
Rick by Alex Gino	Rick's gotten to middle school, and new doors are opening. One of them leads to the school's Rainbow Spectrum club, where kids of many genders and identities congregate. Rick wants his own life to be understood. Even if it means breaking some old friendships and making some new ones.	3-7
Clean Getaway by Nic Stone	Set against the backdrop of the segregation history of the American South, take a trip with eleven-year-old boy, Scoob and his G'ma to discover the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem.	4-5
Ghost Squad by Claribel A. Ortega	Lucely and Syd cast a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits, wreaking havoc throughout St. Augustine. Together, they must join forces with Syd's witch grandmother, Babette, and her tubby tabby, Chunk, to reverse the curse to save the town.	4-5
A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Ramee	Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. But in junior high, she's suddenly questioning who her best friends are. Shay's sister, Hana, is involved in Black Lives Matter, but Shay doesn't think that's for her. After experiencing a powerful protest, Shay decides some rules are worth breaking.	4-5
I Can Make this Promise by Christine Day	In her debut middle grade novel--inspired by her family's history--Christine Day tells the story of a girl who uncovers her family's secrets--and finds her own Native American identity.	4-5
Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis and Traci Sorell	Regina Petit's family has always been Umpqua, and living on the Grand Ronde reservation is all ten-year-old Regina has ever known. When the federal government signs a bill into law that says Regina's tribe no longer exists, Regina becomes "Indian no more" overnight. With no good jobs available in Oregon, Regina's father signs the family up for the Indian Relocation program and moves them to Los Angeles. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face to face with the viciousness of racism.	4-7
Once Upon An Eid by Aisha Saeed and S.K. Ali	Once Upon an Eid is a collection of short stories that showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid!	4-5
The Queen of Physics by Teresa Robeson	When Wu Chien Shiung was born in China 100 years ago, most girls did not attend school; no one considered them as smart as boys. But her parents felt differently. This engaging biography follows Wu Chien Shiung as she battles sexism and racism to become what <i>Newsweek</i> magazine called the "Queen of Physics" for her work on beta decay.	4-5
Sal & Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Alberto Pablo Hernandez	In order to heal after his mother's death, Sal learned how to meditate. No one expected him to be able to take it further. Turns out he can reach into time and space to retrieve things from other universes. Sal doesn't talk about his	4-5

	ability, but when he meets Gabi, he knows she is someone he can work with.	
<i>Show Me a Sign</i> by Ann Clare LeZotte	Set in 1805, Mary Lambert, who is deaf, has always felt safe and protected on Martha's Vineyard. Many people there are deaf and nearly everyone can communicate in sign language. But recent events have delivered change. Her struggle to save herself probes our perceptions of ability and disability. It will make you forever question your own ideas about what is normal.	4-5
<i>Stand Up, Yumi Chang</i> by Jessica Kim	On the outside, Yumi Chung suffers from #shygirlproblems and kids calling her "Yu-MEAT" because she smells like her family's Korean barbecue restaurant. On the inside, Yumi is ready for her Netflix stand-up special. Her notebook is filled with mortifying memories that she's reworked into comedy gold. All she needs is a stage and courage.	4-5
<i>Stargazing</i> by Jen Wang	Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic and though they both grew up in the same Chinese-American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known. When they're least expecting it, catastrophe strikes. After relying on Moon for everything, can Christine find it in herself to be the friend Moon needs?	4-5
<i>The Undeclared</i> by Kwame Alexander	This poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes.	4-5
<i>Ways to Make Sunshine</i> by Renee Watson	Ryan Hart loves to spend time with her friends, loves to invent recipes, and has a lot on her mind. Her dad finally has a new job, but money is tight. That means changes like selling their second car and moving into a new (old) house. But Ryan is a girl who knows how to make sunshine out of setbacks. Because Ryan is all about trying to see the best.	4-5
<i>Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice</i> by Mahogany L. Browne, with Elizabeth Acevedo and Olivia Gatwood	<i>Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice</i> is a collection of poems by women that reflects the joy and passion in the fight for social justice, tackling topics from discrimination to empathy, and acceptance to speaking out.	4-5

Middle School

Title	Description	Grade Level
The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman	When Viji and her sister, Rukku, run away to live on their own, the situation could not be more grim. Life on the streets of the teeming city of Chennai is harsh for girls considered outcasts, but the sisters manage to find shelter on an abandoned bridge. There they befriend Muthi and Arul, two boys in a similar predicament, and the four children bond together and form a family.	5-8
Free Lunch by Rex Ogle	<i>Free Lunch</i> is the story of Rex's efforts to navigate his first semester of sixth grade—who to sit with, not being able to join the football team, Halloween in a handmade costume, classmates and a teacher who take one look at him and decide he's trouble—all while wearing secondhand clothes and being hungry. It is a story that illuminates the lived experience of poverty in America.	5-8
From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks	Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed.	5-8
A High Five for Glenn Burke by Phil Bildner	A heartfelt and relatable novel, weaving the real history of Los Angeles Dodger and Oakland Athletic Glenn Burke--the first professional baseball player to come out as gay--into the story of a middle-school kid learning to be himself.	5-8
Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya	After a fight at school leaves him facing suspension, Marcus and his family decide to regroup for a week in Puerto Rico. Marcus is more interested in finding his father, who is somewhere on the island. Through a series of misadventures that take Marcus all over Puerto Rico in search of the elusive Mr. Vega, Marcus meets a colorful cast of characters who show him the many faces of fatherhood. And he even learns a bit of Spanish along the way.	5-8
Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park	<i>Prairie Lotus</i> is a book about a girl determined to fit in and realize her dreams. Hanna, a half-Asian girl in a small town in America's heartland, lives in 1880. Hanna's adjustment to her new surroundings, and the townspeople's prejudice against Asians, is at the heart of the story.	5-8
What Lane? by Torrey Maldonado	Stephen should be able to do anything his friends do, right? So when they dare each other to sneak into an abandoned building, he doesn't think it's his lane, but he goes. Here's the thing, though: <i>Can</i> he do <i>everything</i> his friends can? As a mixed kid, he feels like he's living in two worlds with different rules. He's been noticing that strangers treat him differently than his white friends.	5-8
American as Paneer Pie by Supriya Kelkar	An Indian-American girl who struggles to navigate her two very different lives: the one at home, where she can be herself, and the one at school, where she is teased for her culture. When a racist incident rocks her small town, she must decide to continue to remain silent or find her voice.	6-8
Any Day With You by Mae Respicio	Kaia and her friends are part of a creative arts camp, where they're working on a short movie to enter in a contest. The movie is inspired by the Filipino folktales that her beloved Tatang, her great-grandfather, tells. When Tatang decides that it is time to return to his homeland in the Philippines, Kaia will do anything to convince him not to go.	6-8
Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes	This is a powerful coming-of-age story about two brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, and the complex ways in which they are forced to navigate the world, all while training for a fencing competition.	6-8

<u><i>Genesis Begins Again</i> by Alicia D. Williams</u>	This is the story of a thirteen-year-old girl who is filled with self-loathing and must overcome internalized racism and a verbally abusive family to finally learn to love herself.	6-12
<u><i>Get a Grip</i> Vivy Cohen by Sarah Kapit</u>	Vivy Cohen wants to play baseball. Ever since her hero, Major League star pitcher VJ Capello, taught her how to throw a knuckleball at a family fun day for kids with autism, she's been perfecting her pitch. And now she knows she's ready to play on a real team.	6-8
<u><i>I Am the Night Sky</i> by Next Wave Muslim Initiative Writers</u>	During an era characterized by both hijabi fashion models and enduring post-9/11 stereotypes, ten Muslim American teenagers came together to explore what it means to be young and Muslim in America today. Through poems, essays, artwork, and stories, they aim to show their true selves, to build connection, and to create inclusive and welcoming communities for all.	7-12
<u><i>Keep It Together</i>. Keiko Carter by Debbi Michiko Florence</u>	Seventh grade is supposed to be a game changer. And Keiko thinks she's got it covered, especially with Audrey and Jenna by her side. Her trio is ready to tackle life together. But when Audrey decides they need boyfriends before Fall Ball, it looks like things may be changing in all the wrong ways. Keiko feels pulled in two directions.	6-8
<u><i>My Life As An Ice Cream Sandwich</i> by Ibi Zoboi</u>	Ebony-Grace Norfleet, the sci-fi-obsessed granddaughter of one of the first black engineers to integrate NASA. Set in Harlem in the early days of hip-hop, <i>My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich</i> is a moving and hilarious story of a girl finding a place and a voice in a world that's changing at warp speed.	6-8
<u><i>Other Words for Home</i> by Jasmine Warga</u>	Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives.	6-8
<u><i>Redwood and Ponytail</i> by K.A. Holt</u>	Told in verse in two voices, with a chorus of fellow students, this is a story of two girls, opposites in many ways, who are drawn to each other; Kate appears to be a stereotypical cheerleader. Tam is tall, athletic and frequently mistaken for a boy, but their deepening friendship inevitably changes and reveals them in ways they did not anticipate.	6-12
<u><i>When Stars are Scattered</i> by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed</u>	Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future, but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.	6-8

High School

Title	Description	Grade Level
<i>Almost American Girl</i> by Robin Ha	A graphic novel memoir about a Korean-born, non-English-speaking girl who is transplanted from Seoul to Huntsville, Alabama, and struggles with extreme culture shock and isolation, until she discovers her passion for comic arts.	9-12
<i>The Avant-Guards</i> by Carly Usdin	Former sports star Charlie is struggling to find her place amongst a student body full of artists who seem to know exactly where they're going. When the school's basketball team unexpectedly attempts to recruit her, Charlie's won over by the charming team captain, Liv, in this touching tale about finding what you're looking for... on and off the court.	9-12
<i>Banned Book Club</i> by Kim Hyun Sook and Ryan Estrada	Hyun Sook shares a dramatic true story of political division, fear-mongering, anti-intellectualism, the death of democratic institutions, and the relentless rebellion of reading.	9-12
<i>Birthday</i> by Meredith Russo	Morgan and Eric are bonded for life after being born on the same day at the same time. We meet them once a year on their birthday. As they grow, Eric figures out who he is and how he fits into the world. Morgan makes the difficult choice to live as her true self. Over the years, they drift apart, come together and realize how inextricably they are a part of each other.	9-12
<i>Butterfly Yellow</i> by Thanhha Lai	In the final days of the Việt Nam War, Hằng takes her little brother to the airport, determined to find a way to safety in America. In a split second, Linh is ripped from her arms and Hằng is left behind in the war-torn country. Six years later, Hằng has made the brutal journey from Việt Nam and is now in Texas as a refugee.	9-12
<i>By Any Means Necessary</i> by Candice Montgomery	On the day Torrey officially becomes a college freshman, he gets a call that might force him to drop out before he's even made it through orientation: the bee farm his beloved uncle Miles left him after his tragic death is being foreclosed on.	9-12
<i>Cemetery Boys</i> by Aiden Thomas	A trans boy determined to prove his gender to his traditional Latinx family summons a ghost who refuses to leave in Aiden Thomas's paranormal YA debut Cemetery Boys.	9-12
<i>Clap When You Land</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo	Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic, but when Camino arrives at the airport she sees crowds of crying people. In New York City, Yahaira Rios learns that her father has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance—and Papi's secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality and their lives are forever altered.	8-12
<i>Color Outside the Lines (Anthology)</i> ed. Sangu Mandanna	This modern, groundbreaking YA anthology explores the complexity and beauty of interracial and LGBTQ+ relationships where differences are front and center. This is a collection of stories about young, hopeful people in love.	8-12
<i>Dark and Deepest Red</i> by Anna-Marie McLemore	Summer, 1518. A strange sickness sweeps through Strasbourg: women dance in the streets, some until they fall down dead. As rumors of witchcraft spread, suspicion turns toward Lavinia and her family.	9-12
<i>Don't Ask Me Where I'm From</i> by Jennifer De Leon	First-generation American LatinX Liliana Cruz does what it takes to fit in at her new nearly all-white school. But when family secrets spill out and racism at school ramps up, she must decide what she believes in and take a stand.	9-12
<i>The Downstairs Girl</i> by Stacey Lee	By day, Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column. When her column becomes wildly popular, she uses it to address some of society's ills, but she's not prepared for the backlash that follows when her column challenges	9-12

	ideas about race and gender.	
<i>Dragon Hoops</i> by Gene Luen Yang	Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. But Gene doesn't get sports. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page.	8-12
<i>Felix Ever After</i> by Kacen Callender	Felix Love has never been in love. He desperately wants to know what it's like. It seems so easy for everyone but him. Even though he is proud of his identity, Felix also secretly fears that he's one marginalization too many—Black, queer, and transgender—to ever get his own happily-ever-after.	9-12
<i>The Field Guide to the North American Teenager</i> by Ben Philippe	Norris Kaplan is clever, cynical, and quite possibly too smart for his own good. A black French Canadian, he knows from watching American sitcoms that those three things don't bode well when you are moving to Austin, Texas. Plunked into a new high school and sweating a ridiculous amount from the oppressive Texas heat, Norris finds himself cataloging everyone he meets.	9-12
<i>Frankly in Love</i> by David Yoon	Frank Li is a Korean-American kid who is caught between their parents' traditional expectations and their own upbringing. His parents have one rule when it comes to romance—"Date Korean"—which proves complicated when Frank falls for Brit Means, who is smart, beautiful—and white.	9-12
<i>Gravity</i> by Sarah Deming	When Gravity Delgado walks into Brooklyn boxing gym and starts working with the legendary Coach Thomas, she joins a true melting pot of fighters. At the gym, Gravity finds the unexpected: the father she's never had in her coach, not one but two romantic prospects, and, most importantly, a love and skill for boxing.	9-12
<i>Home Home</i> by Lisa Allen-Agostini	Fans of Monday's Not Coming and Girl in Pieces will love this award-winning novel about a girl on the verge of losing herself and the unlikely journey to recovery after she is removed from anything and everyone she knows to be home.	9-12
<i>I Wish You All the Best</i> by Mason Deaver	When Ben De Backer comes out to their parents as nonbinary, they're thrown out of their house. Struggling with an anxiety disorder they try to keep a low profile in a new school. But Ben's attempts to survive the last half of the year unnoticed are thwarted when Nathan decides to take Ben under his wing.	9-12
<i>In the Neighborhood of True</i> by Susan Kaplan Carlton	After her father's death, Ruth Robb and her family moved from New York City to Atlanta in the summer of 1958—the land of debutantes, sweet tea, and the Ku Klux Klan. In her new hometown, Ruth quickly figures out she can be Jewish or she can be popular, but she can't be both.	9-12
<i>Internment</i> by Samia Ahmed	Set in a horrifying near-future United States, Layla Amin and her parents are forced into an internment camp for Muslim American citizens. With the help of friends and an unexpected alliance, Layla begins a journey to fight for freedom, leading a revolution against the camp's Director and his guards.	9-12
<i>Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me</i> by Mariko Tamaki	The day they got together was the best one of Freddy's life, but nothing's made sense since. Laura Dean is popular, funny, and SO CUTE but she can be really thoughtless, even mean. Their on-again, off-again relationship has Freddy's head spinning. So when Freddy consults the services of a local mystic she isn't thrilled with the advice she receives.	9-12
<i>Let Me Hear a Rhyme</i> by Tiffany Jackson	Quadir and Jarrell are not okay letting their best friend Steph's tracks lie forgotten after he's killed. Enlisting the help of Steph's sister, Jasmine, Quadir and Jarrell come up with a plan to promote Steph's music under a new rap name. As the pressure of keeping their secret grows they are forced to confront the truth about what happened to Steph.	8-12

<u><i>Like a Love Story</i> by Abdi Nazemian</u>	It's 1989 in New York City, and for three teens, the world is changing. Reza knows he's gay, but all he knows of gay life are the media's images of men dying of AIDS. Judy worships her uncle Stephen, a gay man with AIDS who devotes his time to activism. Art is Judy's best friend, their school's only out and proud teen. This is the story of their friendship.	9-12
<u><i>The Love & Lies of Rukhsana Ali</i> by Sabina Khan</u>	Rukhsana Ali tries her hardest to live up to her conservative Muslim parents' expectations, but lately she's finding that harder and harder to do. With only a few more months to go before her new life at Caltech, her parents catch her kissing her girlfriend Ariana. All of Rukhsana's plans fall apart.	9-12
<u><i>Michigan vs. the Boys</i> by Carrie S. Allen</u>	Michigan Manning lives for hockey and this is her year to shine. Until she gets some crushing news: budget cuts will keep the girls' hockey team off the ice this year. If she wants colleges to notice her, Michigan has to find a way to play. There's still one team left in town. The boys' team isn't exactly welcoming, but Michigan's prepared to prove herself.	9-12
<u><i>Not So Pure and Simple</i> by L.R. Giles</u>	Del has had a crush on Kiera Westing since kindergarten. And now she's finally available. So when Kiera volunteers for an opportunity at their church, Del's right behind her. Though he quickly realizes he's inadvertently signed up for a Purity Pledge.	8-12
<u><i>Our Wayward Fate</i> by Gloria Chao</u>	Ali Chu knows that as the only Asian person at her school she must be bland as white toast to survive. Her autopilot existence is disrupted when she finds out that a new kid in school is also Taiwanese.	9-12
<u><i>Parachutes</i> by Kelly Yang</u>	They're called parachutes: teenagers dropped off to live in private homes and study in the US while their wealthy parents remain in Asia. Claire Wang never thought she'd be one of them, until her parents pluck her from her privileged life in Shanghai and enroll her at a high school in California.	9-12
<u><i>Patron Saints of Nothing</i> by Randy Ribay</u>	A coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder.	9-12
<u><i>Pet</i> by Akwaeke Emezi</u>	There are no more monsters anymore, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. With doting parents and a best friend named Redemption, Jam has grown up with this lesson. But when she meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colours and claws she must reconsider what she's been told.	9-12
<u><i>Sick Kids In Love</i> by Hannah Moskowitz</u>	Isabel has one rule: no dating. It's easier, safer, better, for the other person. She's got issues. She's got secrets. She's got rheumatoid arthritis. But then she meets another sick kid and she considers breaking that rule for him.	8-12
<u><i>The Silence Between Us</i> by Alison Gervais</u>	Deaf teen Maya moves across the country and must attend a hearing school for the first time. As Maya looks past graduation nothing, not even an unexpected romance, will derail her pursuits. But when people in her life ask her to question parts of her deaf identity, Maya stands proudly, never giving in to the idea that her deafness is a disadvantage.	9-12
<u><i>Slay</i> by Brittney Morris</u>	By day, Kiera Johnson is an honors student, a math tutor, and one of the only Black kids at Jefferson Academy. But at home, she joins hundreds of thousands of Black gamers who duel worldwide in the secret multiplayer online role-playing card game, SLAY.	9-12
<u><i>Spin</i> by Lamar Giles</u>	One murdered DJ. Two sworn enemies. An obsessive fandom. A crusade for justice that turns deadly. Get ready for a dark & deadly thriller about life & death & hip-hop.	9-12
<u><i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You</i> by Jason Reynolds</u>	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 book <i>Stamped from the Beginning</i> reveals the history of	9-12

	racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future.	
<i>Surviving the City</i> by Tasha Spillett	Miikwan and Dez are best friends. Miikwan is Anishinaabe; Dez is Inninew. Together, the teens navigate the challenges of growing up. When Dez's grandmother becomes too sick, Dez is told she can't stay with her anymore. With the threat of a group home looming, Dez disappears.	9-12
<i>This Time will be Different</i> by Misa Sugiura	Katsuyamas is happy helping her aunt at their family's flower shop. Her mom decides to sell the shop—to the family who swindled CJ's grandparents when thousands of Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps during WWII. Soon a rift threatens to splinter CJ's family, friends, and their entire community. CJ has finally found something she wants to fight for.	9-12
<i>Tigers, Not Daughters</i> by Samantha Mabry	The Torres sisters dream of escape. In the summer after her senior year of high school, Ana, the oldest sister, falls to her death from her bedroom window. A year later, her three younger sisters, Jessica, Iridian, and Rosa, are still consumed by grief. Their dream of leaving Southtown now seems out of reach. But then strange things start happening around the house. The sisters begin to wonder if Ana really is haunting them.	9-12
<i>Unscripted</i> by Nicole Kronzer	Zelda Bailey-Cho has her future all planned out. She's thrilled when she lands a spot on the coveted varsity team at a prestigious improv camp, which means she'll get to perform for professional scouts. But even though she's hardworking and talented, Zelda's also the only girl on Varsity, so she's the target for humiliation from her teammates.	9-12
<i>The Voice in My Head</i> by Dana Davis	For Indigo Phillips, life has always been her and her identical twin—Violet. The perfectly dressed, gentle, popular sister. But now Violet is terminally ill and plans to die on her own terms. Now, Indigo doesn't know how to face life without the only person who really understands her.	9-12
<i>We Are Not From Here</i> by Jenny Torres Sanchez	In this striking portrait of lives torn apart, the plight of migrants at the U.S. southern border is brought to light through poignant, vivid storytelling. An epic journey of danger, resilience, heartache, and hope.	9-12
<i>We Set the Dark on Fire</i> by Tehlor Kay Mejia	In this daring and romantic fantasy debut, society wife-in-training Dani has a great awakening after being recruited by rebel spies and falling for her biggest rival.	9-12
<i>The Weight of Our Sky</i> by Hanna Alkaf	A music loving teen with OCD does everything she can to find her way back to her mother during the historic race riots in 1969 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in this heart-pounding literary debut.	9-12
<i>When You Were Everything</i> by Ashley Woodfolk	This heartfelt and ultimately uplifting novel follows a teenage friendship through two concurrent timelines—ultimately proving that even endings can lead to new beginnings.	9-12
<i>Who Put This Song On?</i> by Morgan Parker	Life may be a never-ending hamster wheel of agony, but Morgan finds her crew of fellow outcasts, blasts music like there's no tomorrow, discovers what being black means to her, and puts her mental health first. She decides that she will always be intense, ridiculous, passionate, and sometimes hilarious. After all, darkness doesn't have to be a bad thing. Darkness is just real.	8-12
<i>With the Fire on High</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo	Emoni Santiago's life has been about making the tough decisions—doing what has to be done for her daughter and her abuela. Although she dreams of working as a chef, 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.	9-12

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