**Book Lists**- **curated by the Middle School Quality Initiative**

\*Denotes mature content - book may be better suited to older middle school students.

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| --- | --- |
| Identity/Culture/Sexuality | Coming of Age |
| ***The Word Collector***, Peter H. Reynolds, *490L*  ***Last Stop on Market Street***, Matt de la Pena, *Level M/610L*  ***Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian***, Sherman Alexie\*, *Level Z+/600L*  ***Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda***, Albertalli, *Level Z+/HL640L*  ***The First Rule of Punk*,** Celia C. Perez, *Level T/670L*  ***Piecing Me Together***, Renee Watson, *Level Z/680L*  ***Mexican Whiteboy***, Matt de la Pena\*, *Level Z+/680L*  ***Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut,*** Derrick Barnes, *700L*  ***Clayton Bird Goes Underground***, Williams-Garcia, *Level V/710L*  ***You Bring the Distant Near***, Mitali Perkins, *Level Z+/HL720L*  ***I am Not your Perfect Mexican Daughter***, Erika L.Sanchez, *730L*  ***I’ll Give You the Sun***, Jandy Nelson, *Level Z+/HL740L*  ***The Mighty Miss Malone,*** Christopher Paul Curtis, *Level U/750L*  ***George***, Alex Gino, *Level Z/790L*  ***The Jumbies*** by P.Baptiste 680L  ***Everything I Never Told You***, Celeste Ng, *870L*  ***What Girls are Made Of***, Elana K. Arnold, *900L*  ***The Rise of the Jumbies*** by Patrice Baptiste. 690L  ***Nightmare Detective*** by Monk Inyang  ***Struttin’ with Some Barbeque*** by Patricia Hruby-Powell 900L | ***Love***, Matt de la Pena  ***Eleanor & Park***, Rainbow Rowell, *Level Z+/580L*  ***The Education of Margot Sanchez***, L. Rivera, *Z+/580L*  ***The Skin I’m In***, Sharon Flake, *Level W/670L*  ***American Street***, Ibi Zoboi\*, *Level Z+/HL690L*  ***Ghost,* *Patina*** and ***Sunny***, Jason Reynolds, *Level Y/710L*  ***The (R)evolution of Evelyn Serrano***, *Level W/720L*  ***The Thing About Jellyfish***, Andrea Beach, *Level Y/740L*  ***Wonder***, R.J. Palacio, *Level V/790L*  ***The Harlem Charade***, Natasha Tarpley, *Level W/800L*  ***Freak the Mighty***, Rodman Philbrick, *Level W/930L*  ***Halfway: A Memoir***, Tom Macher  ***The Life and Times of Benny Alvarez,*** Peter Johnson  ***Us, In Progress: Short Stories about Young Latinos***  by Lulu Delacre 740L  ***After the Sho****t* by Randy Ribay HL730L  ***Harbor Me*** by Jacqueline Woodson 630L  ***Louisiana’s Way Home***, by Kate Di Camillo  ***The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*** by Pablo Cartaya 750L |
| Social Issues | Poetry (Novels in Verse) |
| ***Ghost Boys,*** Jewell Parker Rhodes, *HL360L*  ***The Hate U Give***, Angie Thomas, *Level Z+/590L*  ***Allegedly***, Tiffany D. Jackson\*, *HL620L*  ***Who Am I Without Him?***, Sharon G. Flake, *650L*  ***Monster***, Walter Dean Myers,*Level Z/670L*  ***Dear Martin***, Nic Stone, *HL720L*  ***All American Boys***, Kiely & Reynolds, *Level X/770L*  ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness***, Michelle Alexander, *Level Z+/1390L*  ***Pride,*** by Ibi Zoboi 760L | ***Solo***, Kwame Alexander, *Level Z+/640L*  ***Long Way Down***, Jason Reynolds, *Level Z+/720L*  ***As Brave As You***, Kwame Alexander, *Level X/750L*  ***The Crossover***, Kwame Alexander, *Level Z/750L*  ***The Poet X****,* Elizabeth Acevedo *Lexile 800L*  ***Locomotion***, Jacqueline Woodson, *Level V*  ***Peace, Locomotion***, Jacqueline Woodson, *860L*  ***Brown Girl Dreaming***, Jacqueline Woodson, *Level U/990L*  ***Under the Mesquite****,* Guadalupe Garcia McCall, *990L* |
| Historical | Graphic Novels |
| ***Full of Beans,*** Jennifer L. Holm, *490L*  ***Mighty Miss Malone***, Christopher Paul Curtis, *Level U/750L*  ***One Crazy Summer****,* Rita Williams-Garcia, *Level V/750L*  ***March*** *(trilogy)*, John Lewis & A. Aydin, *Level W/GN760L*  ***Chains***, Laurie Halse Anderson, *Level Z/780L*  ***Escape from Aleppo,*** N. H. Senzai, *880L*  ***Watsons Go to Birmingham***, C. Paul Curtis, *Level U/920L*  ***Bud, Not Buddy***, Christopher Paul Curtis, *Level U/950L*  ***Little Leaders***, Vashti Harrison, *Level Z/1050L*  ***If I Ever Get Out of Here*** by Eric Gansworth 870L  ***The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano*** by Sonia Manzano 720L  ***Flygirl*** by Sherri L. Smith 580L  ***Ahimsa*** by Supriya Kellar 830L | ***Bone***, Jeff Smith, *Level S/GN380L*  ***The Nameless City,*** Faith Erin Hicks***,*** *Level S/GN390L*  ***Drama***, Raina Telgemeier, *Level U, 400L*  ***Smile***, Raina Telgemeier, *Level X/410L*  ***American Born Chinese***, Gene Luen Yang, *Level Z/530L*  ***Black Panther: A Nation Under Our Feet****,* Ta-Nehisi Coates  ***I Am Alfonso Jones***, Tony Medina, *Level Z+/GN640L*  ***Miles Morales: Spider Man***, Jason Reynolds, *Level Z/710L*  ***Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked World*** by P. Bagieu  ***New Kid*** by Jeremy Craft GN320 |
| Dystopian/Fantasy | Series |
| ***Aru Shah and the End of Time*,** Roshani Chokshi, *630L*  ***Children of Blood and Bone****,* Tomi Adeyemi, *HL670L*  ***Trail of Lightning*,** by Rebecca Roanhorse HL700L  ***Shadowshaper***, Daniel Jose Older, *Level Z+/690L*  ***Divergent***, Veronica Roth, Level Z/*700L*  ***Noggin***, J.C.Whaley, HL*760L*  ***Maze Runner***, James Dashner, *Level X/770L*  ***The Hunger Games***, Suzanne Collins*, Level Z/810L*  ***The Dove Chronicles***, Karen Bao, *Level Z+/860L*  ***The Giver***, Lois Lowry, *Level Y/760L* | **My Hero Academia**, by Kohei Horikoshi  **Dogman**, by Dav Pilkey*, 390L*  **The Bad Guys**, by Aaron Nlabey, *~530L*  **Middle School**, by James Patterson and others, *~650L*  **Captain Underpants**, by Dav Pilkey*, ~700L*  **Harry Potter**, by J.K. Rowling, *880L*  **Jack and Louisa**, by A. Keenan-Bolger, *~900L*  **I Survived**, by Lauren Tarshis, *~900L*  **Diary of a Wimpy Kid**, by Jeff Kinney, *~1000L*  **Dork Diaries**, by Rachel Renee Russell |

**More Book Choices - Click the links to learn more about these titles**

**2020 New York Times Best Sellers**

**Middle Grades:**

[***The One and Only Bob***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AijUV-dbERI) **by Katherine Applegate**

[***The Complete Cookbook for Young Chefs***](https://shop.americastestkitchen.com/young-chefs-cookbook.html)**by America’s Test Kitchen**

[***Wonder***](https://wonderthebook.com/books/wonder) **by R.J. Palacio**

[***Refugee***](https://www.alangratz.com/writing/refugee/) **by Alan Gratz**

[***Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AGga-PRyy8) **by Jeff Kinney**

[***Wings of Fire: Legends: Dragaonslayer***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Os4YCzWzipA) **by Tui Sutherland**

[***A Wolf Called Wander***](http://rosanneparry.com/a-wolf-called-wander/) **by Rosanne Parry**

[***A Tale of Magic…***](https://thelandofstories.com/ataleofmagic) **by Chris Colfer**

[***Clean Getaway***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zKomZFZGoI) **by Nic Stone**

[***Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSS2kkXsaZ8) **by Kwame Mbalia**

**Young Adult:**

[***Stamped***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFas9f-6K3I) **by Jason Reynolds and Ibran X. Kendi**

[***The Hate U Give***](https://www.harpercollins.com/childrens/thehateugive-1/) **by Angie Thomas**

[***One if Us is Lying***](https://www.karenmcmanus.com/one-of-us-is-lying) **by Karen M. McManus**

[***Chain of Gold***](https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Chain-of-Gold/Cassandra-Clare/The-Last-Hours/9781481431873) **by Cassandra Clare**

[***Clap When You Land***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9zwVipEhU0) **by Elizabeth Acevedo**

[***The Betrothed***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2VDHZtsDVU) **by Kiera Cass**

[***Children of Virtue and Vengeance***](https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250170996)**by Tomi Adeyemi**

[***One of Us is Next***](https://www.karenmcmanus.com/one-of-us-is-next) **by Karen M. McManus**

[***A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bk8kkFzLovU) **by Holly Jackson Delacorte**

[***Five Feet Apart***](https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Five-Feet-Apart/Rachael-Lippincott/9781534437357) **by Rachael Lippincott with Mikki Daightry and Tobias Iaconis**

**MSQI Recommends These New Titles - Click the links to learn more about these titles**

* [**From the Desk of Zoe Washington,**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6S42sB9B3tU) **by Janae Marks**
* [**Efren Divided**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM0_wzeYabI)**, by Ernesto Cisner**
* [**Ghost Squad**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6aKmv8d00w)**, by Claribel A. Ortega**
* [**Stand Up, Yumi Chung!**](https://vimeo.com/407689879)**, by Jessica Kim**
* [**My Life as a Potato**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWCd7-qCrbU)**, by Arianne Costner**
* [**Middle School’s a Drag: you Better Werk!**](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/576773/middle-schools-a-drag-you-better-werk-by-greg-howard/)**, by Greg Howard**
* [**A Place at the Table**](https://www.hmhbooks.com/shop/books/A-Place-at-the-Table/9780358116684)**, by Laura Shovan and Saadia Faruqi**
* [**Dress Coded**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeyoDwIVJik)**, by Carrie Firestone**
* [**Martin McLean, Middle School Queen**](https://www.amazon.com/Martin-McLean-Middle-School-Queen/dp/1454935707)**, by Alyssa Zaczek**
* [**Wink,**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVr7d5DAtbs) **by Rob Harrell**
* [**The Only Black Girls in Town**](https://www.brandycolbert.com/)**, by Brandy Colbert**
* [**Mindy Kim and the Yummy Seaweed Business,**](https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Mindy-Kim-and-the-Yummy-Seaweed-Business/Lyla-Lee/Mindy-Kim/9781534440074) **by Lyla Lee**
* [**Stepping Stones**](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/607641/stepping-stones-by-lucy-knisley/) **by Lucy Knisley**
* [**Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen!**](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/602207/get-a-grip-vivy-cohen-by-sarah-kapit/)**, by Sarah Kapit**
* [**Maya and the Rising Dark**](https://www.hmhbooks.com/shop/books/Maya-and-the-Rising-Dark/9781328635181)**, by Rena Barron**
* [**Snapdragon,**](https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250171122) **by Kat Leyh**
* [**Race to the Sun,**](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/610810/race-to-the-sun-by-rebecca-roanhorse/) **by Rebecca Roanhorse**
* [**The Year the Maps Changed,**](https://www.facebook.com/HachetteAustralia/videos/158031902289649/) **by Danielle Binks**
* [**The List of Things That Will Not Change**](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/532710/the-list-of-things-that-will-not-change-by-rebecca-stead/)**, by Rebecca Stead**
* [**Gloom Town,**](https://www.hmhbooks.com/shop/books/Gloom-Town/9780358164494) **by Ronald L. Smith**
* [**Black Brother, Black Brother,**](http://jewellparkerrhodes.com/children/books/black-brother-black-brother/) **by Jewell Parker Rhodes**
* [**Stella Diaz Never Gives Up**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5poiVbF9MvY)**, by Angela Dominguez**
* [**Show Me a Sign,**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0_jtOuwMC8) **by Ann Clare LeZotte**
* [**Cemetery Boys**](https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250250513)**, by Aiden Thomas**
* [**The Queen Bee and Me**](https://www.gillianmcdunn.com/the-queen-bee-and-me)**, by Gillian McDunn**
* [**Infinity Son,**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCq8-Tf5MYA) **by Adam Silvera**
* [**Finally, Something Mysterious**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5Mqh3fpCoI)**, by Doug Cornett**
* [**Eva Evergreen: Semi Magical Witch,**](https://www.julieabebooks.com/eva-evergreen) **by Julie Abe**
* [**Hollowpox: The Hunt for Morrigan Crow**](https://www.hachette.com.au/jessica-townsend/hollowpox-the-hunt-for-morrigan-crow-nevermoor-3)**, by Jessica Townsend**