

Black Creators

Fiction & Graphic Novels

Contemporary Fiction

Alexander, Kwame. *Booked*. Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Also by Kwame Alexander: *The Crossover*.

Baptist, Kelly. *Isaiah Dunn is My Hero*. Isaiah is now the big man of the house, but his little sister, Charlie, asks too many questions, and Mama's gone totally silent. At least he can count on his best friend, Sneaky.

Barron, Rena. *Maya and the Rising Dark*. A twelve-year-old girl discovers her father is the keeper of the gateway between our world and The Dark, and when he goes missing she'll need to unlock her own powers and fight a horde of spooky creatures set on starting a war.

Binns, B.A. *Courage*. Ever since T'Shawn's dad died, his mother has been struggling, but he hopes she'll be able to cover the costs when he's offered a spot on a prestigious diving team.

Callender, Kacen. *King and the Dragonflies*. In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself. Also by Kacen Callender: *Hurricane Child*.

Chase, Paula. *Turning Point*. Best friends Rasheeda and Monique navigate the ups and downs of a teenager's summer, Mo at home in the Cove, Sheeda at a ballet-intensive sleepaway. Also by Paula Chase: *Dough Boys; So Done*.

Colbert, Brand. *The Only Black Girls in Town*. In a predominately white California beach town, the only two black seventh-graders find hidden journals that uncover family secrets and speak to past race relations.

Davis, Tanita S. *Serena Says*. After her best friend, JC, has a kidney transplant, Serena feels that they are falling out of touch, especially as JC makes a new best friend in the hospital.

Draper, Sharon. *Blended*. Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school. Also by Sharon Draper: *Out of My Mind*.

Frazier, Sundee Tucker. *Cleo Edison Oliver, Playground Millionaire* (series). Cleo Edison Oliver is full of money-making ideas, but things get complicated when she has to keep her business running, be there for her friends, and deal with teasing about being adopted. Also by Sundee Tucker Frazier: *The Other Half of My Heart*.

Getten, Kereen. *When Life Gives You Mangos*. Twelve-year-old Clara loves living on an island! But last summer, a hurricane hit and Clara can't remember what happened after that.

Giles, L.R. *The Last Last-Day-of-Summer* (series). As summer winds down, Otto and Sheed are craving just a little more time for fun. When a mysterious man appears with a camera that literally freezes time, they will have to work to save their town—and each other.

Grimes, Nikki. *Garvey's Choice*. Garvey's father has always wanted him to be athletic, but Garvey is interested in anything but sports. When his only friend encourages him to join the school chorus, his life changes. Also by Nikki Grimes: *Words with Wings*.

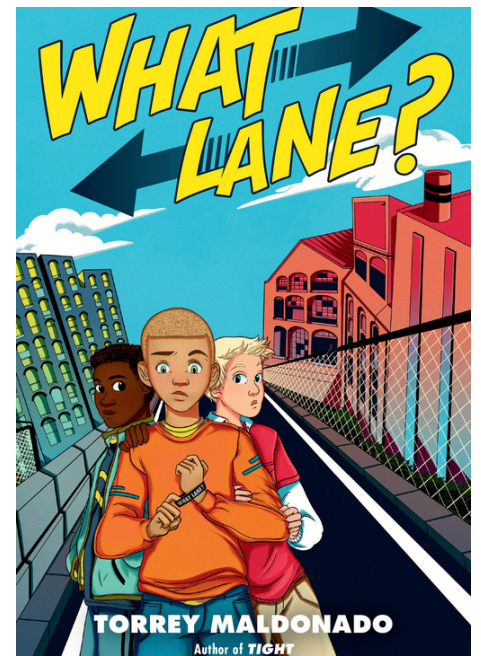
Harrington, Janice. *Catching a Story Fish*. Keet never wanted to leave Alabama; at her new school, the kids tease her about her southern accent and she goes quiet. When her beloved grandfather has a stroke. Keet is determined to reel him back to her by telling him stories.

Hyman, Fracaswell. *Mango Delight* (series). When seventh-grader Mango accidentally breaks her BFF Brooklyn's new cell phone, her life falls apart. But Brooklyn's planned revenge—signing up Mango to audition for the school musical—backfires when Mango wins.

Johnson, Varian. *The Great Greene Heist* (series). Jackson Greene has a reputation as a prankster, but is trying to go straight. Yet, when it looks like Keith Sinclair may steal the election for school president from Jackson's friend Gabriela, he has to leap into action.

Jones, Joy. *Jayla Jumps In*. After learning that her mother was a Double Dutch champion, eleven-year-old Jayla forms a team hoping to stand out in her big, quirky family.

Kendall, Christine. *The True Definition of Neva Beane*. Twelve-year-old Neva and her older brother Clayton have been left with their grandparents for the summer, and she is having a difficult time dealing with the changes in both their lives.



Lockington, Mariama. *For Black Girls Like Me*. Eleven-year-old Makeda dreams of meeting her African American mother, while coping with problems in her white adopted family, moving, and being homeschooled.

Magoon, Kekla. *The Season of Styx Malone*. Caleb and Bobby Gene's new neighbor Styx Malone oozes cool, promising the brothers that together they can pull off the Great Escalator Trade—exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream. Also by Kekla Magoon: *Camo Girl; Robyn Hoodlum* (series); *How it Went Down*.

Maldonado, Torrey. *What Lane?* Biracial sixth-grader Stephen questions society after he notices the way strangers treat him when he hangs out with his white friends and learns about the Black Lives Matter movement. Also by Torrey Maldonado: *Tight*.

Marks, Janae. *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*. Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime.

Moore, David Barclay. *The Stars Beneath our Feet*. Unable to celebrate the holidays in the wake of his older brother's death, Lolly struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city at the Harlem community center.

Ramee, Lisa Moore. *Something to Say*. A shy girl resists a newcomer who wants to make friends, before the two are paired for a class assignment that she hopes will secure her position on the debate team. Also by Lisa Moore Ramee: *A Good Kind of Trouble*.

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Contemporary Fiction cont.

Reynolds, Jason. *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks*. A collection of short stories that all take place in the same day about kids walking home from school. Also by Jason Reynolds: *As Brave as You*; *Track* (series).

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Black Brother, Black Brother*. Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place. Also by Jewell Parker Rhodes: *Bayou Magic*.

Spicer-Dannelly, Doreen. *Love Double Dutch!* Kayla must salvage her double Dutch dreams after her parents' rocky relationship takes her away from Brooklyn to spend the summer in the South.

Stone, Nic. *Clean Getaway*. William "Scoob" Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble. When G'ma, Scoob's favorite person on Earth, asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he's in the RV faster than he can say "freedom!"

Stoudemire, Amar'e. *Home Court* (series). Between sports, school, and working for his father, eleven-year-old Amar'e's life is full, but when a group of older boys start hogging the local basketball court he knows that he has to do something to help.

Strong, Karen. *Just South of Home*. Twelve-year-old Sarah wants to spend her summer months reading her favorite science books and bossing around her younger brother, Ellis, but when their troublesome cousin Janie arrives, Sarah's plans are squashed.

Tarpley, Natasha. *The Harlem Charade*. Seventh-graders Jin, Alexandra, and Elvin investigate who attacked Elvin's grandfather, leading them to missing art masterpieces, and into conflict with an ambitious politician who wants to turn Harlem into an historic amusement park.

Watson, Renee. *Piecing Me Together*. Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school, Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.

Williams, Alicia. *Genesis Begins Again*. Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground*. Feeling most alive when he's playing the blues with his grandfather, Clayton is devastated when his grandfather dies and his mother forbids him from playing music, losses that compel him to run away.

Winston, Sherri. *Jada Sly, Artist & Spy*. Jada Sly, artist and spy with a flair for all things French, is on a mission to find her missing mom, who she believes was also a spy. Also by Sherri Winston: *The Kayla Chronicles*; *President of the Whole Fifth Grade* (series); *The Sweetest Sound*.

Woods, Brenda. *Zoe in Wonderland*. Introverted, daydream-prone Zoe is afraid her real life will never be as exciting as her imaginary one. Also by Brenda Woods: *The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond*.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Before the Ever After*. ZJ's friends help him cope when his father, a professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career. Also by Jacqueline Woodson: *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*; *Harbor Me*; *If You Come Softly*.

Youngblood, Leslie. *Love Like Sky*. Eleven-year-old Georgie is still adjusting to leaving Atlanta for a small town and having a stepfather when her six-year-old sister, Peaches, suddenly becomes very ill.

Historical Fiction

Bond, Victoria. *Zora and Me* (series). A fictionalized account of Zora Neale Hurston's childhood with her best friend Carrie as they learn about life, death, and the differences between truth, lies, and pretending.

Bradby, Marie. *Some Friend*. In 1963, Pearl, an eleven-year-old in Fairfax, Virginia, learns about the real nature of friendship.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Leaving Lymon*. Lymon is being raised by his loving grandparents, with whom he shares a love of music. When he's sent on a journey to a Northern city far from the country life he loves—and the version of himself he knows—Lymon struggles to find his way. Also by Lesa Cline-Ransome: *Finding Langston*.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Journey of Little Charlie*. When his sharecropper father is killed in an accident and leaves the family in debt, twelve-year-old Little Charlie agrees to accompany fearsome plantation overseer Cap'n Buck as he travels to the north. Also by Christopher Paul Curtis: *The Madman of Piney Woods*; *Mighty Miss Malone*.

Davis, Tanita S. *Mare's War*. Teen girls learn about strength, independence, and courage from their grandmother, who tells about growing up Black in 1940s Alabama and serving in Europe during World War II.

Draper, Sharon. *Stella By Starlight*. When Klan activities causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

English, Karen. *It All Comes Down to This*. In 1965, Sophie's family becomes the first African Americans to move into their upper middle-class neighborhood in Los Angeles. When riots erupt in nearby Watts, she learns that life is more complicated than it seemed.

Flake, Sharon. *Unstoppable Octobia May*. In 1953, ten-year-old Octobia May lives in her Aunt's boarding house in the South, surrounded by an African American community which has its own secrets and internal racism.

Jackson, Linda Williams. *Midnight Without a Moon* (series). Rose Lee Carter dreams of life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields during the summer of 1955, but when Emmett Till is murdered and his killers are acquitted, Rose is torn between seeking her destiny outside of Mississippi or staying and being a part of an important movement.

Johnson, Varian. *The Parker Inheritance*. Candice is spending the summer in the house that belonged to her grandmother. When she finds the letter that once sent her grandmother on a disastrous treasure hunt, she is caught up in the mystery to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against a local African American family.

Magoon, Kekla. *The Rock and the River and Fire in the Streets*. After Dr. King's assassination, fourteen-year-olds Sam and Maxie weigh joining the Black Panthers or the nonviolent civil rights movement.

Mbalia, Kwame. *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* (series). Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky.

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *No Crystal Stair: A Documentary Novel of the Life and Work of Lewis Michaux, Harlem Bookseller*. The story of a man with a passion for knowledge and of a bookstore whose influence has become legendary.

Neri, Greg. *Ghetto Cowboy*. After being sent from Detroit to Philadelphia to live with the father he's never known, Cole gets involved with a group of African American "cowboys" who rescue horses and use them to steer youths away from drugs and gangs.

Parsons, Karyn. *How High the Moon*. Ella seeks information about her father while enjoying a visit with her mother, a Boston jazz singer, then returns to the harsh realities of segregated South Carolina.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Ghost Boys*. After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till. Also by Jewell Parker Rhodes: *Ninth Ward*; *Sugar*; *Towers Falling*.

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Robinet, Harriette. *Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues*. Twelve-year-old Alfa Merryfield, his older sister, and their grandmother struggle for rent money, food, and their dignity as they participate in the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott in the summer of 1956. Also by Harriette Robinet: *Children of the Fire*; *Missing from Haymarket Square*.

Robinson, Sharon. *The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend*. Eight-year-old Steve Satlow is thrilled when Jackie Robinson moves into his neighborhood in Brooklyn in 1948, although many of his neighbors are not.

Shabazz, Ilyasah. *Betty Before X*. 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. Also by Ilyasah Shabazz: *X: A Novel*.

Smith, Ronald L. *Hoodoo*. In 1930s Alabama, twelve-year-old Hoodoo Hatcher is the only member of his family who seems unable to practice folk magic, but when a mysterious man called the Stranger puts the entire town at risk from his black magic, Hoodoo must learn to conjure to defeat him.

Smith, Sherri L. *Flygirl*. During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Air Force Service Pilots.

Watson, Renee. *Some Places More Than Others*. Amara visits her father's family in Harlem for her twelfth birthday, hoping to better understand her family and herself, but New York City is not what she expected.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer* (series). Sisters Delphine, Vonetta and Fern Gaither are growing up in the late 1960s and early '70s, getting to know their Black Panther mother, idolizing the Jackson 5 and spending time with their traditional Southern grandmother.

Woods, Brenda. *The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA*. Twelve-year-old Gabriel gains new perspective when he becomes friends with Meriwether, a Black World War II hero who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South.

Zoboi, Ibi Aanu. *My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich*. In the summer of 1984, twelve-year-old Ebony Grace of Huntsville, Alabama, visits her father in Harlem, where her fascination with outer space and science fiction interfere with her finding acceptance.

Graphic Novels

Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover*. Thirteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Barnes, Daniel. *The Black Mage* (TEEN). When St. Ivory Academy, a historically white wizarding school, opens its doors to its first-ever black student, everyone believes that the wizarding community is finally taking its first crucial steps toward inclusivity. Or is it?

Craft, Jerry. *New Kid* (series). Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

Ewing, Eve L. *Ironheart* (TEEN, series). Riri Williams, the armored hero called Ironheart, is thrown for a loop when an old acquaintance from back in Chicago re-enters her life! Now, Ironheart is caught between her need for independence and her obligations at M.I.T.—and when an old friend is kidnapped, she needs to make some tough decisions!

Gill, Joel Christian. *Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History and Strange Fruit II* (GN 973.049 GIL). A collection of stories from early African American history that represent the oddity of success in the face of great adversity. Each of the illustrated chapters chronicles an uncelebrated African American, plus historical and cultural commentary on heroes whose stories are not often found in history books. Includes the tales of Henry 'Box' Brown, who escaped from slavery by mailing himself to Philadelphia; Alexander Crummel and the Noyes Academy, the first integrated school in America, established in the 1830s; Marshall 'Major' Taylor, a.k.a. the Black Cyclone, the first Black champion in any sport; Cathay Williams, the only known female buffalo soldier, and Eugene Bullard, a fighter pilot who flew for France during World War II.

Gill, Joel Christian. *Tales of the Talented Tenth, Bass Reeves and Bessie Stringfield* (GN BIO REE and STR) True adventures of amazing African Americans! Revel in the stories of a man who escaped slavery and became one of the most successful lawmen of the Old West and the woman who became known as The Motorcycle Queen of Miami!



Johnson, Varian. *Twins*. Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran—a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president, and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good?

Lewis, John. *March: Book One/Two/Three* (series, GN BIO LEW) 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.

Neri, Greg. *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*. (TWEEN) Based on the true story of Robert "Yummy" Sandifer, an eleven-year-old African American gang member from Chicago who shot a young girl and was then shot by his own gang members.

Nicholas, Jamar. *Leon: Protector of the Playground*. Hip kid superhero Leon takes on super-villains like Broccoli Rob and Urine Nathan, bullies plotting from detention, and rogue hall monitors.

Walker, David. *The Life of Frederick Douglass* (GN BIO DOU). From Douglass's life as a young enslaved man through his forbidden education to his escape and growing prominence as a speaker, abolitionist, and influential cultural figure during the Civil War and beyond, this is a portrait of the man who stood up and spoke out for freedom and equality.

Wright, Michelle. *Audrey's Magic Nine* (series). Orphan Audrey is adopted by a suburban white couple who want to give her an "excellent life." Her schedule fills up with piano, gymnastics, and French lessons, leaving little time for Audrey's one true passion: drawing. But when her toy puppet, Asa, comes to life and tells Audrey about how he and eight other beings (the titular "magic nine") were banished to Earth from their world by an evil witch, Audrey sketches out a plan to help.