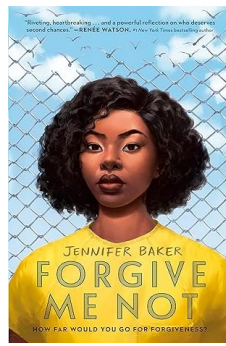


Come Home Safe by Brian Buckmire

Siblings Reed and Olive know the rules. When Reed is confronted by police while riding the subway home from school, the rules don't seem to work. Olive witnesses what happens to her brother and when she has her own encounter months later, even she wonders what she can do to make sure she always comes home safe.

This Town is on Fire by Pamela N. Harris

A lot is up in the air in Naomi Henry's life. With so much uncertainty, she feels lucky to have a best friend like Kylie to keep her grounded. Then a video of Kylie calling the cops on two black teens goes viral. As tensions in her town escalate, how far will Naomi go to figure out who she wants to be?

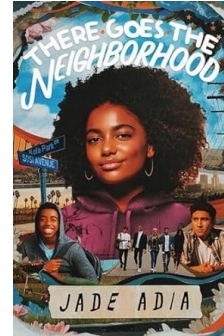


Forgive Me Not by Jennifer Baker

After driving drunk and causing the accident that kills her little sister, Violetta is incarcerated. Her family does not forgive her, leaving Violetta with a hard choice: remain in a juvenile detention center or face the Trials—grueling tests of strength and character designed to rehabilitate and prove her remorse.

There Goes the Neighborhood by Jade Adia

Rhea's neighborhood is fading away. As more white people flock to their latest edgy urban paradise, more of Rhea's friends and family are pushed out. Rhea decides its time to push back. With her friends, they create the illusion of gang violence in the neighborhood. But is anyone really safe when you're fighting power with fear?

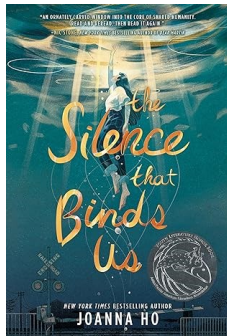


I Rise by Marie Arnold

Ayo has spent her life helping See Us, the civil rights organization her mother founded, battle police brutality and racial injustice. As the streets of Harlem crackle with tension and violence, Ayo must look to her ancestors for guidance. Does she have what it takes to lead the very movement she was so desperate to escape from?

The Silence that Binds Us by Joanna Ho

May prefers hoodies over dresses and wants to become a writer. When her brother Danny dies by suicide, May's world is shattered. In the aftermath, racist accusations are hurled and May tries to challenge these through her writing. Who gets to tell our stories and who gets silenced?



Shut Up, This is Serious by Carolina Ixta

Belen Dolores Itzel del Toro wants the normal stuff but nothing is normal in East Oakland. In fact things are hella complicated. Her father left her family, she's at risk of not graduating and her best friend is pregnant. What future is there for girls like her?



Rana Joon and the One & Only Now by Shideh Etaat

Rana Joon is far from the perfect Iranian girl— she smokes weed , loves Tupac and she has a secret: she likes girls. To honor her best friend Louie, who died a year ago, Rana enters the rap battle he dreamed of competing in. To get herself to the stage, Rana will have to learn to speak her truth and live in the one and only now.



Urban Fiction for Teens



Compiled by Monroe County
Library System
Teen Services Librarians 2024

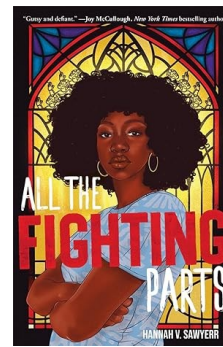
Promise Boys by Nick Brooks

The Urban Promise Prep School promises to turn boys into men. Students JB, Ramon and Trey are forced to follow the prestigious programs strict rules. When principal Moore is murdered, the trio emerges as the case's prime suspects. With all three maintaining their innocence, they must band together to track the real killer down. Is the true culprit hiding among them?



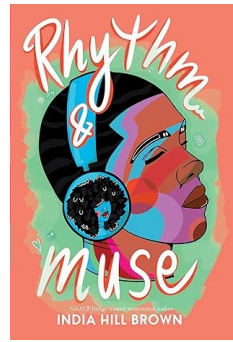
All the Fighting Parts by Hannah V. Sawyerr

Amina Conteh has always believed in using her words as her weapon—even when it gets her in trouble. The same voice Amina uses to fight falls quiet the night she is sexually assaulted. After that her life starts to unravel. Amina wonders who will support her when her attacker is everyone's favorite community leader.



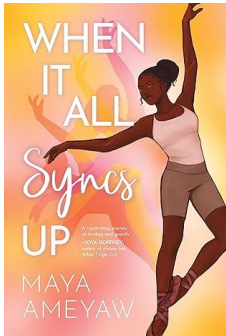
Rhythm & Muse by India Hill Brown

Darren Armstrong lives in his head, he's always been happy to play the part of the observer. When transfer student Delia Dawson, host of “Dillie D in the Place to Be” podcast puts out a call for a theme song for the pod, one of Darren's side projects is mysteriously submitted. Is he ready to step out of the shadows and take the lead in his own life?



When It All Syncs Up by Maya Ameyaw

Ballet is Aisha's life. When she is denied another opportunity because she doesn't look the part, switching to art school seems like the perfect plan. But when discrimination in her new ballet class awakens old traumas, Aisha must find strength in herself and place trust in others to make her next move.



Chaos Theory by Nick Stone

Shelbi hasn't bothered making friends at Windward Academy. She's a senior and won't be there very long. Andy Criddle has had far too much to drink and things are about to get worse. When Shelbi sees Andy at his lowest, she can relate so she reaches out. There's no doubt their connection has them both seeing stars but the closer they get, the more the past threatens to pull their universe apart.

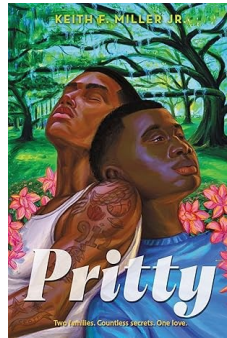


Ever Since by Alena Bruzas

Virginia makes bad choices, in fact she's “That Kind of Girl” according to the whispers. When she starts spending time with Rumi, she breaks from tradition and doesn't hook up with him. While their relationship grows in secret, Virginia discovers Rumi's younger sister is being groomed for abuse. The abuser is a respected member of the community but Virginia knows who he is and what he does.

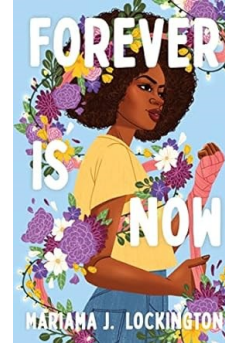
Pretty by Keith F. Miller, Jr.

Jay is a soft soul in a world of concrete. He simply blends into the background to everyone, except when it comes to Leroy. Whispered rumors over the murder of a young journalist and long brewing territory tensions hang like a dark cloud over Jay's and Leroy's neighborhood. Now they must puzzle through secrets hiding in plain sight before someone else gets hurt.



Forever is Now by Mariama J. Lockington

Sadie feels safe, wrapped in her girlfriends arms. When the two witness an incident of police brutality, Sadie's whole world is upended. Meanwhile protests are taking place all over the city. Sadie wants to be a part of it, to use her voice and effect change. But how do you show up for your community when you can't even leave your house?



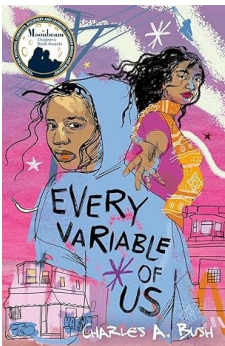
Invisible Son by Kim Johnson

Andre Jackson is determined to reclaim his identity. But returning from juvie doesn't feel like coming home. When you are wrongfully accused of a crime, when a virus shuts everything down and when the girl you love moves on, life can change in an instant.



Every Variable of Us by Charles A. Bush

After Philly teen Alexis Duncan is injured in a gang shooting, her dreams of a college scholarship and pro basketball career vanish in an instant. As she shifts her interests to the school's STEM team, will Alexis's own doubts and old loyalties pull her back into harm's way?



The Weight of Blood by Tiffany D. Jackson

When Springville residents—the ones still alive—are questioned about what happened on prom night, they all have the same explanation—Maddy did it. Madison Washington has always been an easy target for bullies. When her deepest secret is revealed—she is biracial—the curtain is pulled back on Springville High's racist roots.



How You Grow Wings by Rimma Onoeta

Two sisters. Two very different paths. Cheta is sharp-tongued and stubborn where Zam is timid. Can one save the other from her own disastrous choices?