

### ***Pick the Lock***

**A. S. King, 2024**

While Jane's rockstar mother tours the world to support the family, Jane lives in a Victorian mansion with her family, Milorad the gardener, and his rat Brutus. After touring, Jane's father confines her mother in a series of human-sized pneumatic tubes. For Jane, this all seems normal until she suddenly gains access to the files for a lifetime of security-camera videos. **(J, S)**



### ***Throwback***

**Maurene Goo, 2023**

Sam has always butted heads with her mom, Priscilla, a first-generation Korean American and former high school cheerleader who expects Sam to want the same all-American nightmare. After a huge blowup, Sam is desperate to get away from her mom, but instead, finds herself thrown back. Way back. To her shock, Sam lands in the '90s ...with her teenage mom, Priscilla. **(J,S)**



### ***Twenty-Four Seconds From Now***

**Jason Reynolds, 2024**

In a series of moments spanning two years, Neon navigates the progression of his relationship with Aria, culminating in a case of the jitters as the two intend to take the next big step in their relationship. **(S)**



### ***We Are Big Time***

**Hena Khan, 2024**

Aliya is new to Wisconsin, and everything feels different than Florida. The Islamic school is bigger, the city is colder, and her new basketball team is... well, they stink. Aliya's still excited to have teammates and their new coach really understands basketball. This season should be a blast... if they could just start to win. **(M, J)**



### ***Hooky (series)***

**Miriam Bonastre Tur, 2021-**



Dani and Dorian have missed the bus to magic school and must scramble to find a mentor to teach them before their parents find out. **(M)**

**These titles have been selected by a committee of Teen Services Librarians in Monroe County (NY). Selections were based upon the excellent quality of the writing, as well as popular appeal. These and other fine books for teenagers are available through your local library. Blurbs adapted from publisher marketing.**

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# **RAVE REVIEWS 2025**

Books for readers in grades 6-12 suggested by a committee of MCLS Teen Services Librarians.



**Monroe County  
Library System**

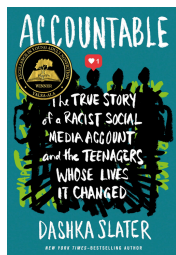


Each title includes an age level indicator: (M=middle school, J=junior high, and S=senior high). Some of these books are also available to download as ebooks or audiobooks. Use the Libby app or visit: [www.libraryweb.overdrive.com/](http://www.libraryweb.overdrive.com/)

## **Accountable**

**Dashka Slater, 2023**

In 2017, a high school student created a private social media account to be "funny," but the racist jokes were not funny -- nor were they private. The school's students, parents, educators, and media had to deal with the repercussions of — and try to find ways through — the bullying, pain, and lawsuits. **(S)**



## **Belle of the Ball**

**Mari Costa, 2023**

High-school senior and notorious wallflower Hawkins finally works up the courage to remove her mascot mask and ask out her longtime



crush: Regina Moreno, head cheerleader, overachiever, and all-around popular girl.

There's only one problem: Regina's already dating Chloe Kitagawa, athletic all-star. **(J, S)**

## **Cursed Princess Club (series)**

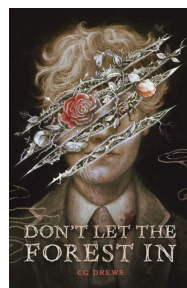
**Lambcat, 2023-**

Gwendolyn is a bit...different. Unlike her royal sisters, Gwendolyn fears being rejected by her betrothed and runs away into the forest. There, Gwendolyn encounters the Cursed Princess Club and learns to embrace her uniqueness. **(J, S)**

## **Divine Rivals (series)**

**Rebecca Ross, 2023-**

Iris's mother is suffering from addiction, and her brother is missing from the front lines of war. To combat her worries, Iris types letters to her brother and slips them beneath her wardrobe door. With help from a magical typewriter, a rival reporter discovers the letters, and the two forge an unexpected connection that will follow them to the front lines of battle. **(S)**



## **Don't Let the Forest In**

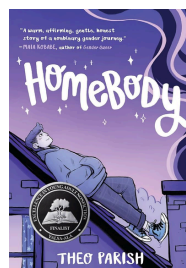
**C. G. Drews, 2024**

Andrew returns to boarding school in the fall, still pining for his best friend Thomas. But when Thomas acts cagey after his parents go missing, Andrew learns more about what is happening in the forest. **(S)**

## **Girlmode**

**Magdalene Visaggio, Paulina Ganucheau, 2024**

As the newest kid at school and newly transitioned, Phoebe's just trying to blend in while she figures out who she is. But with her mom checked out, her dad still adjusting to having a daughter, and no guidebook on how to be a girl, that isn't going to be easy. **(J, S)**



## **Homebody**

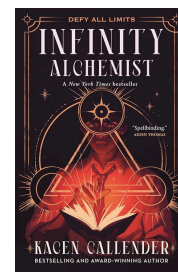
**Theo Parish, 2024**

Theo takes us through their experiences with the hundred arbitrary and unspoken gender binary rules of high school. Tiny everyday moments lead up to Theo finding the term nonbinary, which finally strikes a chord. **(J, S)**

## **Hungry Ghost**

**Victoria Ying, 2023**

Valerie is quiet, studious, and above all, thin. No one, not even her best friend, knows that she has been bingeing and purging for years. But when tragedy strikes, Val finds herself reassessing her priorities, her choices, and her body. **(S)**



## **Infinity Alchemist (series)**

**Kacen Callender, 2024-**

Only an elite few are legally permitted to study alchemy, so when Ash is rejected by the school, he takes a job as the groundskeeper, practicing alchemy in secret. Then he receives a surprise offer: his secret will be kept if he helps find the legendary Book of Source, a text that gives its reader extraordinary power. **(S)**

## **King's Beast (series)**

**Rei Toma, 2021-**

When they were children, Rangetsu's twin brother was ripped from her arms and sent to the palace to attend Prince Tenyou as a beast-servant. Now in a world that promises only bitterness, Rangetsu's one hope at avenging her brother is to disguise herself as a man and find a way into the palace. **(J, S)**



## **Louder Than Hunger**

**John Schu, 2024**

Jake would do anything to avoid being the weird kid, the outsider—including shrinking himself down to nothing. But the less he eats, the bigger he feels. How long can Jake punish himself before he truly disappears? **(M)**