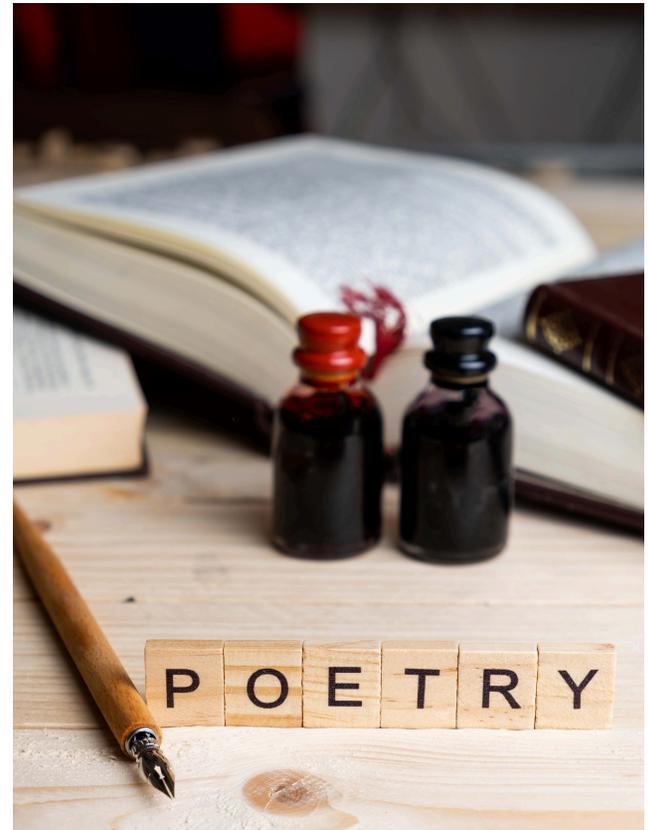


Novels in Verse

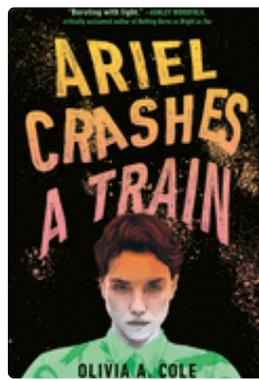


 **Monroe County Library System**

Prepared by MCLS Teen Services Librarians, 2026

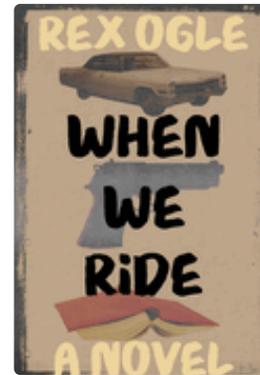
Ariel Crashes a Train by Olivia A. Cole

Ariel struggles with intrusive thoughts and ritualistic behaviors, which worsen when her older sister goes to college and Ariel is left alone with her controlling parents. Her best friend suggests that Ariel may have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, but since Ariel's parents don't support therapy, she is left to seek treatment on her own.



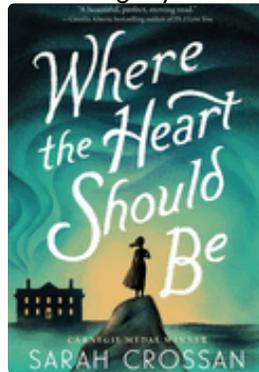
When We Ride by Rex Ogle

High school senior Benny has worked hard to become top of his class so he can go to a good college, while his best friend Lawson struggles to get by. To make money for his family, Lawson begins selling weed and asks Benny to drive him when dealing. When Lawson starts dealing harder drugs, Benny must choose between his future and remaining loyal to his friend.



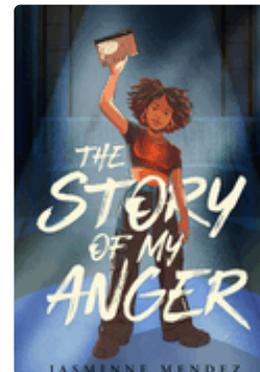
Where the Heart Should Be by Sarah Crossan

In 1847, while Ireland is devastated by the effects of the Irish potato famine, 16 year-old Nell finds herself entering into a forbidden romance with her wealthy landlord's son, Johnny. Will she be able to keep her love a secret and keep her family safe as anxieties about the famine grow?



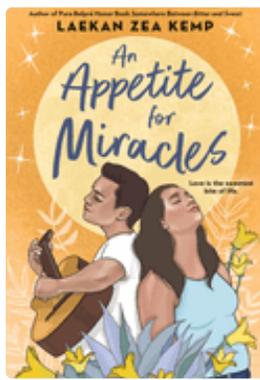
The Story of My Anger by Jasmine Mendez

Texas high schooler Yuli stands up against racism and censorship at her school by forming a new club. Through guerilla theater resistance protests, Yuli, a trusted teacher, and members of her school explore the art of activism and rage.



An Appetite for Miracles by Laekan Zea Kemp

Danna tries to use food as a way to help recover the memories of her grandfather with dementia. Raul plays guitar for the elderly to help him cope with his mother being wrongly incarcerated two years ago. Romance blooms between the two when they meet and work together to heal Danna's grandfather.



A Bird in the Air Means We Can Still Breathe by Mahogany Browne

Fiction and poetry combine as four teens try to remain hopeful while navigating lockdown in New York City during the Covid-19 pandemic.



One Step Forward by Marcie Flinchum Atkins

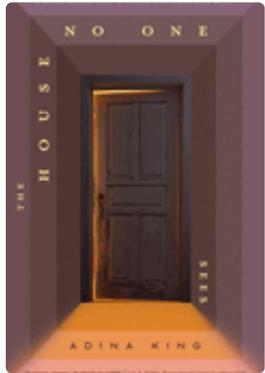
A novel in verse set during World War I following the activism of Matilda Young, the youngest American suffragist imprisoned for protesting for the women's right to vote.



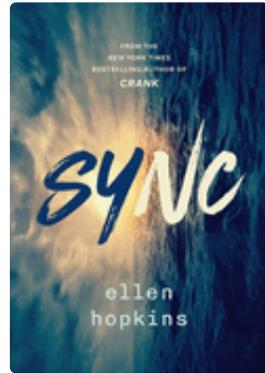
Wild Dreamers by Margarita Engle

Two teens passionate about conservation, Ana and Leandro, connect at a wilderness park in California and work to start a rewilding club at their school. While the two work together to build wildlife crossings to help pumas in their community find each other, they also work to find themselves by overcoming personal struggles.





The House No One Sees by Adina King
Penny no longer lives with her mother who struggles with an opioid addiction. On her 16th birthday, a worrying text from her mother forces her back to their old home where she must confront painful memories and past trauma.



Sync by Ellen Hopkins
Told in dual perspectives through unsent letters, two twins separated by the foster system struggle with their new families while missing each other.



(S)kin by Ibi Zoboi
15 year-old Marisol is a soucouyant, a witch who must shed her skin each New Moon to draw from the souls around her. 17 year-old Genevieve struggles with a skin condition and being kept awake all night by new babies in her house. The two are drawn together by ancient magic and a family secret, and work to explore how their lives are connected.

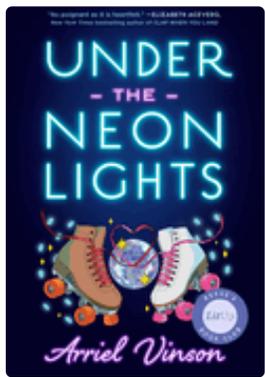
The Leaving Room by Amber McBride
Gospel is the Keeper of the Leaving Room: a purgatory where young people stop before they are sent off to their afterlife. Gospel's work is changed when she falls in love with another Keeper, Melodee, and the two work to find a way out of the Leaving Room.



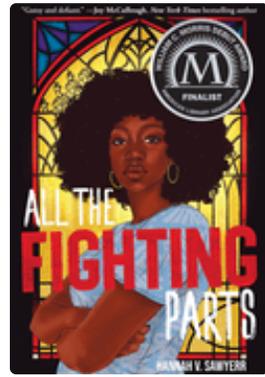
Truth Is by Hannah Sawyerr
High school senior Truth turns to her slam poetry club to express her emotions after choosing to get an abortion. This creates tension in her community and with her best friend when her slam poem about her abortion goes viral.



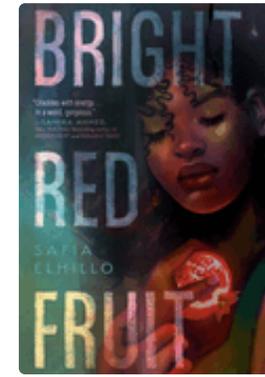
Sunrise Nights by Jeff Zentner
Jude, a photographer who struggles with anxiety, and Florence, a dancer with an eye injury, connect during an evening together on the last day of their summer arts camp. A three-year slow burn unfolds when the two promise to go no contact for the whole year as they work on finding themselves.



Under the Neon Lights by Arriel Vinson
16 year-old Jaelyn's summer takes a turn for the better when she meets a cute boy at her neighborhood roller rink, her favorite place in town. But as gentrification takes over her predominantly Black neighborhood and apartment complexes replace beloved businesses, Jaelyn reaches a breaking point when her roller rink is the next to shut down.

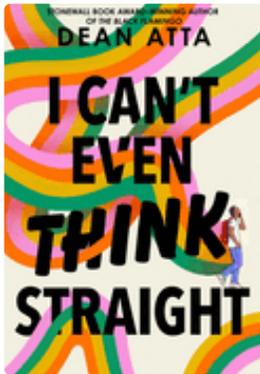


All the Fighting Parts by Hannah Sawyerr
Loud and proud 16 year-old Amina has always used her voice to lash out at injustice. However, her voice quiets after an instance of sexual assault from her pastor, and she distances herself from her loved ones out of fear that they will not believe her. When an opportunity to fight her abuser in court arrives, Amina must find the strength to regain her voice.



Bright Red Fruit by Safia Elhillo
16 year-old Samira is grounded for the summer except for attending poetry workshops. Seeking freedom and understanding, Samira finds acceptance on an online forum with a man named Horus, who becomes more controlling with each message. Will Samira's newfound connections in her poetry workshop be enough to free her from her new toxic relationship?

I Can't Even Think Straight by Dean Atta
Aspiring writer Kai is ready to come out, but closeted best friend Matt asks him not to, fearing what others may think of them. This doesn't stop a rumor from spreading that Kai and Matt are dating, causing Matt to grow distant. As Kai struggles with this new dynamic, the thoughts and feelings he puts in his poetry starts to erupt in real life.



I Am the Swarm by Hayley Chewins
The women of the Strand family are magical, and their gifts manifest when they turn 15. Nell's mother's age changes each day and her sister bleeds music. When Nell's own magic manifests itself as swarms of different bugs based on her feelings, she tries to suppress them, locking down her emotions in the process.



Louder Than Hunger by John Schu
Since the 7th grade Jake has been giving into "the Voice" in his head that tells him to starve himself and exercise more. When adults in his life notice his worsening eating disorder, Jake is sent to a rehab facility to get better. There, he must find a way to quiet the voice in his head and cope with his past of bullying and body image issues.

