

iChange Middle Levels Book List

A Young Dancer: The Life of an Ailey Student	Valerie Gladstone	10-14 years	Iman's hectic days in Ailey's dance school show the life of a young dancer.	Race and culture
All American Boys	Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely	13 and up	A story of a police shooting is told from the perspectives of a black boy and a white boy.	Race and culture
Almost Home	Joan Baur	10 and up	Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness.	Social class
Amal Unbound	Aisha Saeed	10 and up	A Pakistani girl faces injustice along gender and class lines. She looks to the promise of education to change her fate.	Race and culture
American Born Chinese	Gene Luen Yang	12-18 years	Jin, the only Chinese American at his school, wants to be an all-American boy. He learns that it's better to be who you are. Graphic novel.	Race and culture
Amina's Voice	Hena Khan	8-12 years	A Pakistani Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her culture and belong in at school. After tragedy strikes, she may have to take a stand.	Race and culture
An Indigenous People's History of the United States	Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz	12 and up	Spanning 400 years and 500 Peoples, an exploration of U.S. history through an Indigenous lens. Good classroom reference book.	Race and culture: History
As Brave as You	Jason Reynolds	10 and up	Two brothers from Brooklyn spend the summer with their grandfather in rural Virginia. They decide to prove how brave they are but end up questioning what bravery means.	Race (Incidental)
Betty Before X	Ilyashah Shabazz	10-14 years	A fictionalized account of the life of Betty Shabazz, the wife of Malcolm X. Written by her daughter.	Race; Historical fiction
Brendan Buckley's Universe	Sundee T. Frazier	8-12 years	A biracial 10-year-old, applies his scientific problem-solving ability and newfound interest in rocks and minerals to connect with his white grandfather, the president of Puyallup Rock Club, and to learn why he and Brendan's mother are estranged.	Race and culture
Bronx Masquerade	Nikki Giovanni	13 and up	Students in a high school English class share their writing with each other in weekly poetry slam. Stories of identity	Race and culture; Ethnicity; Gender and Sexuality

			issues are woven together as they learn to appreciate and respect each other.	
Brown Girl Dreaming	Jacquelyn Woodson	10 and up	A poetic journey through the author's early years growing up black in the 1960s and 70s.	Race and culture; Historical fiction
Coraline	Neil Gaiman	8-12 years	Coraline steps through a door to find another house and another family much like her own, but maybe better.	Family identity
Crossing Jordan	Adrian Fogelin	8-12 years	Twelve-year-old Cass meets her new African-American neighbor, Jemmie, and despite their families' prejudices, they build a strong friendship around their mutual talent for running and a pact to read Jane Eyre.	Race and culture
Dear Martin	Nic Stone	13 and up	Justin is a good kid, but that doesn't matter to the police who just put him in handcuffs.	Race and culture
El Deafo	Cece Bell	8-12 years	Graphic novel memoir. Newberry Honor. Chronicles a girl's hearing loss, awkward experience with a hearing aid, and search for a friend.	Ability
Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir	Margarita Engle	12 and up	In a poetic memoir, Engle tells of growing up between Cuba and Los Angeles during the time of hostility between the U.S. and Cuba.	Race and culture; Ethnicity
Everything Everything	Nicola Yoon	12 and up	Maddy is a girl who is allergic to everything. But when a boy moves in next door, she knows she has to take a risk.	Ability
Fire Girl	Tony Abbott	10-13 years	A middle school boy's life is changed when Jessica, a girl disfigured by burns, starts attending his Catholic school while receiving treatment at a local hospital.	Ability
Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History	Keith Obrien	12 and up	Stories of five young women who fought for the right to fly.	Gender
Flying Lessons and Other Stories	Ellen Oh, editor	8-12 years	An anthology of stories by 10 of the most popular diverse authors of the day. Oh is the editor of <i>We Need Diverse Books</i> .	Race and culture
George	Alex Gino	8-12 years	When people look at George, they think they see a boy, but that's not really the case. How can she let people know who she really is?	Gender identity
Ghost	Jason Reynolds	10 and up	Running is all Ghost has ever known, but when he gets an opportunity to run on an	Race

			elite track team, he has to prove himself, to his teammates and to himself.	
Ghost Boys	Jewell Parker Rhodes	10-14 years	Moving story about a black boy killed by police, draws parallels to history.	Race
Go Tell It on the Mountain	James Baldwin	12 and up	James Baldwin's classic first novel, a coming of age story set in Harlem.	Race
Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls	Elena Favili	8 years and up	Bedtime stories of fierce and colorful women.	Gender
Gracefully Grayson	Amy Polonsky	11 and up	An introverted 6th grader begins to come into her own as she transitions.	Gender identity
Harbor Me	Jacquelyn Woodson	10 and up	Six friends share their stories and realize that together they are braver and ready to face life's challenges.	Intersectionality; Race: Gender: Social Class
Hello, Universe	Erin Entrada Kelly	8-12 years	Disaster leads to friendship between four diverse middle schoolers who come together for a dramatic rescue and to put a bully in his place.	Intersectionality; Race, Gender
Hidden Figures	Margot Lee Shetterly	12 and up	The story of black women mathematicians at NASA.	Race and culture
I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala	Rigoberta Menchú	14 and up	True story of a Guatemalen peasant woman who decided to take action. Called "a gruesome account of repression, gut-wrenching poverty and vicious racism."	Race and ethnicity.
If I Ever Get out of Here	Eric Gansworth	YA	Story of a cross racial friendship set on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation in 1975.	Race
Illegal	Elon Colfer	10-14 years	Ebo sets out to find his brother who has disappeared. He leaves Ghana and follows his brother to Europe in search of a better life.	Immigration
Kinda Like Brothers	Coe Booth	8-12 years	When his mother takes in a twelve-year-old foster boy, Jarrett is forced to share his room and his friends with the new boy.	Family identity
Lily and Dunkin	Donna Gephart	12 and up	Two outsider characters, a transgender girl and a bipolar boy, drive this compelling story.	Gender identity; Ability
Little Fires Everywhere	Celeste Ng	YA	Exploration of the impact of race on friendships and much more.	Race, alternative families
Lucky Broken Girl	Ruth Behar	10 and up	A young Cuban-Jewish girl adjusts to her new life in New York City when her American dream is derailed.	Race and ethnicity.

Mango Delight	Fracaswell Hyman	9-13 years	Mango must make tough choices about the kind of friend she wants to have and the kind of friend she wants to be.	Race (Incidental)
Map of Salt and Stars	Zeyn Joukhadar	13 and up	Twin narratives of two Syrian girls, both coming of age, yet 800 years apart. Captures the courage of those who persist through exile.	Immigration; Race and ethnicity; Gender and Sexuality
March	John Lewis and Andrew Aydin	12 and up	Graphic novel trilogy that chronicles the early life and civil rights work of the legendary Georgia congressman.	Race
Mustaches for Maddie	Chad Morris and Shelly Brown	8-11 years	12-year old Maddie is cast as Juliet in the school play and her social status is looking up. When she finds out she has a brain tumor, she must find courage and compassion.	Ability
My Copper Sun	Sharon Draper	13 and up	Inspiring story of an African girl sold into slavery. Shows the horrors of slavery, but also the process of making life and culture through love of family and community.	Race and culture
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass	Frederick Douglass	12 and up	Douglass's 1845 memoir and treatise against abolition.	Race; History
No Ordinary Day	Deborah Ellis	9-12 years	Valli has always been afraid of the lepers living on the other side of the train tracks in the coal town of Jharia, India, so when a chance encounter with a doctor reveals she also has leprosy, Valli rejects help and begins an uncertain life on the streets.	Race and culture; Ability
Not My Idea: A Book about Whiteness	Anastasia Higginbotham	8-12 years	A book for white parents and children about the impact of racism.	Race
One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance	Nikki Grimes	10-14 years	A poetic and artistic homage to the artists of the Harlem Renaissance.	Race; History
Out of My Mind	Sharon Draper	10 and up	11-year-old Melody has cerebral palsy. Her genius isn't recognized. In fact, she's seen as mentally challenged by her doctors, teachers and classmates. How can she let them know who she really is?	Ability
Piecing Me Together	Renee Watson	12 and up	Jade want to get out of her poor neighborhood so she goes to a private school where she feels like an outsider.	Race; Social Class
Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America	Sharon Robinson	8-12 years	A heart-warming portrayal by Jackie Robinson's daughter	Race and culture; History

PS Be Eleven	Rita Williams-Garcia	8-12 years	After spending the summer with her mother and the Black Panthers, Delphine comes home to a year of turbulent changes. She learns not to grow up too fast.	Race and culture; Historical fiction
Purple Hibiscus	Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche	13 and up	Explores the impact of colonialism through the eyes of a Nigerian teenager.	Race; Ethnicity; Colonialism; Gender and Sexuality
Refugee	Alan Gratz	9-12 years	Weaves together the stories of 3 children: a Jewish boy fleeing Nazi Germany; a Cuban girl in 1994; and a Syrian boy in 2015.	Immigration and exile
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor	11 and up	A black family struggles to maintain their dignity against racism and social injustice in depression era Mississippi.	Race; Historical Fiction
Same Sun Here	Silas House and Neela Vaswani	9-12 years	A twelve-year-old Indian immigrant in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son become pen pals, and eventually best friends, through a series of revealing letters exploring such topics as environmental activism, immigration, and racism.	Immigration; Race and ethnicity
Secret Life of Bees	Suu Monk Kidd	12 and up	The story of a young white girl in the late sixties. Lily runs away from her abusive father and takes refuge with 3 black sister.	Race; Historical fiction
Serafina and the Black Cloak	Robert Beatty	10-13 years	Serafina's adventures requires that she face her darkest enemy and delve into the mystery of her own identity.	Historical fiction; Strong female character
Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda	Becky Albertelli	12 and up	Simon loves theater, but when the drama concerns his not-so-open gay identity, he's pushed way out of his comfort zone.	Gender and sexuality
Sit In: How Four Friends Stood up by Sitting Down	Andrea Davis Pickney	7-12 years	Describes the historic sit-ins at the Woolworth lunch counter by 4 college students.	Race; History
Speak	Laurie Halse Anderson	12-18 years	Melinda becomes increasingly isolated until, through her artwork, she is able to face what happened to her.	Gender and sexuality
Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You	Jason Reynolds, Ibram Kendi	13 and up	A revised versions of Kenid's brilliant <i>Stamped from the Beginning</i> . Great for teens and parents.	Race
Sunrise over Fallujah	Walter Dean Myers	12 and up	Birdy, a young recruit from Harlem, find himself in the middle of a war.	Race; Ethnicity; Social class
Symptoms of Being Human	Jeff Garvin	12 and up	Riley struggles with normal high school issues, but Riley is gender fluid and not exactly out. A blog creates an outlet and a way to find acceptance.	Gender and sexuality

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Sherman Alexie	12 and up	Junior is coming of age on a reservation. His life is changed when he enrolls in a private school.	Race; Social class; Gender and sexuality
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	12 and up	A wordless graphic novel that captures the immigrant experience through the journey of one man. Recipient of numerous awards.	Immigration
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	12 and up	11-year-old Liesel, a foster girl living in Germany during the Holocaust, encounters a Jewish man living in a basement. They share a love of books and stories.	Cultural identity
The Crossover	Kwame Alexaner	10-12 years	Told in rhyme this story of 2 middle school aged brothers on and off the court packs an emotional punch.	Race
The Dreamer	Pam Munoz Ryan	9 and up	A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world.	Race and culture
The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas	12 and up	16-year-old Starr moves between the world of her neighborhood and her elite private school. She struggles to reconcile her worlds when her friend is killed by a police officer.	Race
The House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros	13 and up	Growing up in Chicago, Esperanza tries to discover who she is and how she fits into the world around her. Told through short vignettes.	Race and culture
The Janitor's Boy	Andrew Clements	8-12 years	Fifth grader Jack finds himself the target of ridicule at school when it becomes known that his father is one of the janitors, and he turns his anger onto his father.	Social class
The Other Side	Jacqueline Woodson	6-12 years	Classic book about an interracial friendship back in the day.	Race
The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream	Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt	12 and up	The true story of three inner city men from New Jersey who made a pact and followed it to fulfill their dreams of a better life.	Race; Social class
The Power Book: What it Is, Who Has It and Why	Claire Saunders, et al	8-11 years	An exploration an analysis of personal, social and potlical power and how to use it for the good. Features stories of historical change makers such as Ghandi, King, and others.	Intersectionality; History; Politics
The Stars beneath Our Feet	David Barclay Moore	10 and up	A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death in this outstanding debut	Race

			novel that celebrates community and creativity.	
The Truth as Told by Mason Butte	Leslie Connor	8-12 years	A learning-disabled 7th grader deals with with the complexity of heartbreak and hope after the death of his friend.	Ability
The Unforgotten Coat	Frank Cotrell Boyce	8-12 years	When two immigrant brothers declare Julie to be their "Good Guide," which means she is responsible for welcoming the brothers to their new home, life gets complicated.	Immigration; Social class; Gender and sexuality
The War I Finally Won	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	9-12 years	In this work of historical fiction (WWII), Ada finds that freedom is not only the ability to choose, but the courage to make the right choice.	Historical fiction
The War that Saved My Life	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	9-12 years	A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.	Ability
The Watson's Go to Birmingham	Christopher Paul Curtis	10 and up	The classic story of 10-year-old Kenny and his family who moves to Birmingham and land in the middle of a movement.	Race; Historical fiction
The Westing Game	Ellen Raskin	12 and up	A diverse set of characters is called together to compete to win the inheritance of an eccentric millionaire.	Race; Gender
The Women Who Caught the Babies: A Story of African American Midwives	Eloise Greenfield	9-12 years	A blend of prose, poetry, archival photographs that documents and celebrates the work of midwives.	Race; Gender and Sexuality
There There	Tommy Orange	12 and up	12 characters from Native communities travel to a powwow. They're connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize.	Race and culture
Tilly and the Crazy Eights	Monique Gray Smith		Tilly drives eight elders on a road trip and embarks on a transformative journey.	Race and culture; Gender and sexuality
Totally Joe	James Howe	11 and up	Joe knows he's gay, and he wants to be respected.	Gender and sexuality
Watch Us Rise	Renee Watson and Ellen Hagan	12 and up	Jasmine and Chelsea start a women's rights club at their progressive high school. When the club gets shut down, they have to take action.	Race and Culture; Intersectionality; Gender and sexuality
We Are Not Yet Equal	Carol Anderson	12-18 years	Anderson examines 5 watershed moments in civil rights history in which the nation squandered opportunities for social justice and instead re-institutionalized white supremacy.	Race; History; Politics

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices	Wade Hudson and Cheryl Hudson	8-12 years	50 foremost authors of diverse children's books answer the question, "In this divisive world, what shall we tell our children?" In poetry, prose, letters, personal essays and more, this book empowers children to build a better world.	Race, Gender, History, Politics
When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead	8-12 years	After falling out with her best friend, Miranda starts getting mysterious notes that seem to predict the future.	Gender; Friendships
Witness	Karen Hess	8-12 years	When the KKK moves into a small Vermont town in 1924, 12-year-old Leanora, an African American girl, and 6-year-old Esther, a Jewish girl, are no longer safe. Who will bear witness?	Race and culture
Wonder	R. J. Palacio	7-12 years	A 10-year-old boy with a facial deformity heads to school for the first time seeking friendship and the freedom to be himself.	Ability
Zoe in Wonderland	Brenda Woods	8-12 years	Zoe feels she can never measure up to her perfect older sister. When she makes an unlikely friend, she finds unexpected adventure.	Race (Incidental)