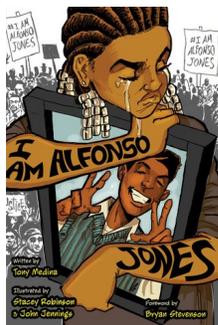


***This is My America* by Kim Johnson**

Every week, seventeen-year-old Tracy Beaumont writes letters to Innocence X, asking the organization to help her father, an innocent Black man on death row. After seven years, Tracy is running out of time. Then the unthinkable happens. Tracy's older brother is accused of killing a white girl. Will Tracy and her family survive the uncovering of the skeletons of their Texas town's racist history that still haunt the present?



***I Am Alfonso Jones* by Tony Medina**

Alfonso Jones can't wait to play the role of Hamlet in his school's hip-hop rendition of the classic Shakespearean play. But as he is buying his first suit, an off-duty police officer mistakes a clothes hanger for a gun, and he shoots Alfonso. The focus on police brutality and the Black Lives Matter movement, as in Hamlet, the dead shall speak—and the living yield even more surprises.

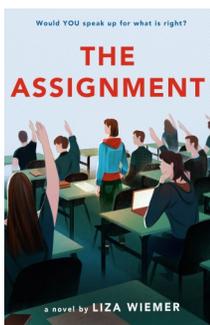
***Light It Up* by Kekla Magoon**

A girl walks home from school. She's tall for her age. She's wearing her winter coat. Her headphones are in. She's hurrying. She never makes it home. In the aftermath, one fact remains: a police officer has shot and killed an unarmed thirteen-year-old girl. The community is thrown into upheaval, leading to unrest, a growing movement to protest the senseless taking of black lives, and the arrival of white supremacist counter demonstrators.



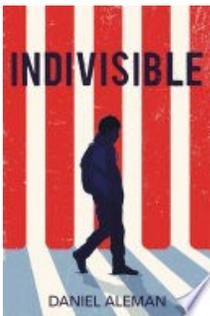
***The Assignment* by Liza Wiemer**

When an assignment given by a favorite teacher instructs a group of students to argue for the Final Solution, a euphemism used to describe the Nazi plan for the genocide of the Jewish people, Logan March and Cade Crawford are horrified and decide they must take a stand. What does it take for tolerance, justice, and love to prevail?



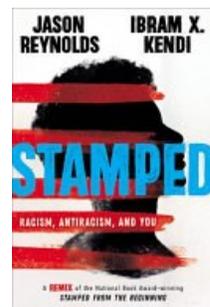
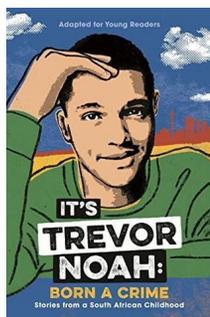
***Indivisible* by Daniel Aleman**

When Mateo returns from school one day to find that his parents have been taken by ICE, he realizes that his family's worst nightmare has become a reality. With his parents' fate and his own future hanging in the balance, Mateo must figure out who he is and what he is capable of, even as he's forced to question what it means to be an American.



***It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah**

Trevor Noah shares his story of growing up in South Africa, at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child like him to exist. But he did exist--and the often-misbehaved Trevor used his smarts and humor to navigate a harsh life under a racist government.



***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi**

The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This narrative shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

***On the Come Up* by Angie Thomas**

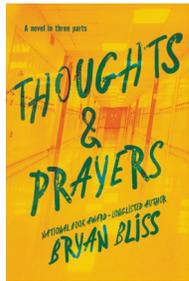
Sixteen-year-old Bri, an aspiring rapper, finds herself stereotyped and depicted as a "hoodlum" following the release of her debut song, written in response to being assaulted by school security guards. This book is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you; and about how, especially for young black people, freedom of speech isn't always free.



Compiled by Monroe County Library System
Teen Services Librarians 2022

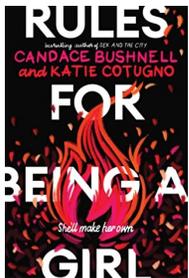
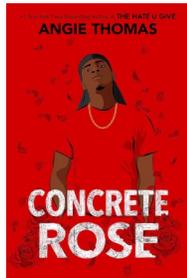
Thoughts & Prayers by Bryan Bliss

Claire, Eleanor, and Brezzen have little in common. Except for the fact that a year ago, they all hid under the same staircase and heard the shots that took the lives of some of their classmates and a teacher. Now, each one copes with the trauma as best as they can as the world around them keeps moving. This is a story about gun violence, but more importantly it is the story of what happens after the reporters leave and the news cycle moves on to the next tragedy. It is the story of three unforgettable teens who feel forgotten.



Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas

Concrete Rose is the prequel to *The Hate You Give*, following Maverick Carter's life as he becomes a teen father. He must decide between staying in the gang his father was a part of or changing everything and getting out for his new son.



Rules for Being a Girl by Candace Bushnell, Katie Cotugno

It starts before you can even remember: You learn the rules for being a girl. . . . A fierce, propulsive novel about a girl who is preyed upon by a manipulative teacher and finds the power to fight back.

Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi, Yusef Salaam

One fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. 'Boys just being boys' turns out to be true only when those boys are white. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal Shahid's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it?



Watch Us Rise by Renee Watson, Ellen Hagan

Jasmine and Chelsea are sick of the way women are treated even at their progressive high school, so they decide to start a Women's Rights Club. They post everything online—and soon they go viral. But with such positive support, the club is also targeted by online trolls. When things escalate, the principal shuts the club down. Jasmine and Chelsea will risk everything for their voices—and those of other young women—to be heard.



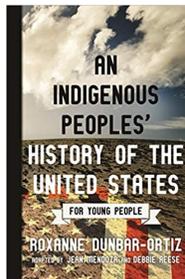
A Song Below Water by Bethany C. Morrow

Tavia must hide her siren powers. Effie is fighting her own family struggles. Together, these best friends must navigate through the perils of high school's junior year. But everything changes in the aftermath of a siren murder trial that rocks the nation. Soon, nothing seems safe. To save themselves from drowning, it's only Tavia and Effie's unbreakable sisterhood that proves to be the strongest magic of all.



An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Going beyond the story of America as a country "discovered" by a few brave men in the "New World," Indigenous human rights advocate Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz reveals the roles that settler colonialism and policies of American Indian genocide played in forming our national identity.



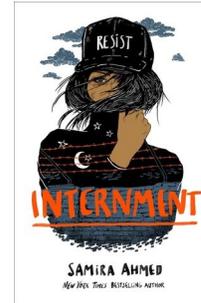
This Time Will Be Different by Misa Sugiura

Katsuyamas never quit—but seventeen-year-old CJ doesn't even know where to start. Then her mom decides to sell their family's flower shop—to the family who swindled CJ's grandparents when thousands of Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps during WWII. Soon a rift threatens to splinter CJ's family, friends, and their entire Northern California community; and for the first time, CJ has found something she wants to fight for.



Internment by Samira Ahmed

Rebellions are built on hope. Set in a horrifying near-future United States, seventeen-year-old Layla Amin and her parents are forced into an internment camp for Muslim American citizens. With the help of newly made friends also trapped within the internment camp, her boyfriend on the outside, and an unexpected alliance, Layla begins a journey to fight for freedom, leading a revolution against the internment camp's Director and his guards.



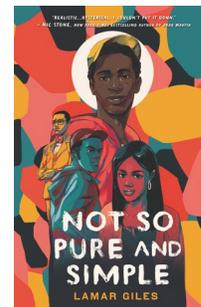
Don't Ask Me Where I'm From by Jennifer De Leon

First-generation American LatinX Liliana Cruz does what it takes to fit in at her new nearly all-white school. But when family secrets spill out and racism at school ramps up, she must decide what she believes in and take a stand.



Not So Pure and Simple by Lamar Giles

Giles's book is the perfect mix of exploring social issues and developing interesting characters and storylines to carry those social messages. Del has had a crush on Kiera Westing since they were in kindergarten together. Now that she's finally single in their Junior year, Del would do anything to win her over. Which is how he finds himself inadvertently joining a Purity Pledge. This book takes on toxic masculinity, purity culture, slut shaming, and so much more.



Kneel by Candace Buford

"Please rise for the national anthem." Desperate for change, Rus kneels during the national anthem. In one instant, he falls from local stardom and becomes a target for hatred. But he's not alone. With the help of his best friend and an unlikely ally, Rus will fight for his dreams, and for justice.

