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?

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.

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.

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.
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.

A Song Below Water by Bethany C. Morrow
Tavi 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.

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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.

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.

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.

Interment 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.

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?

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 Candance 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.

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.

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