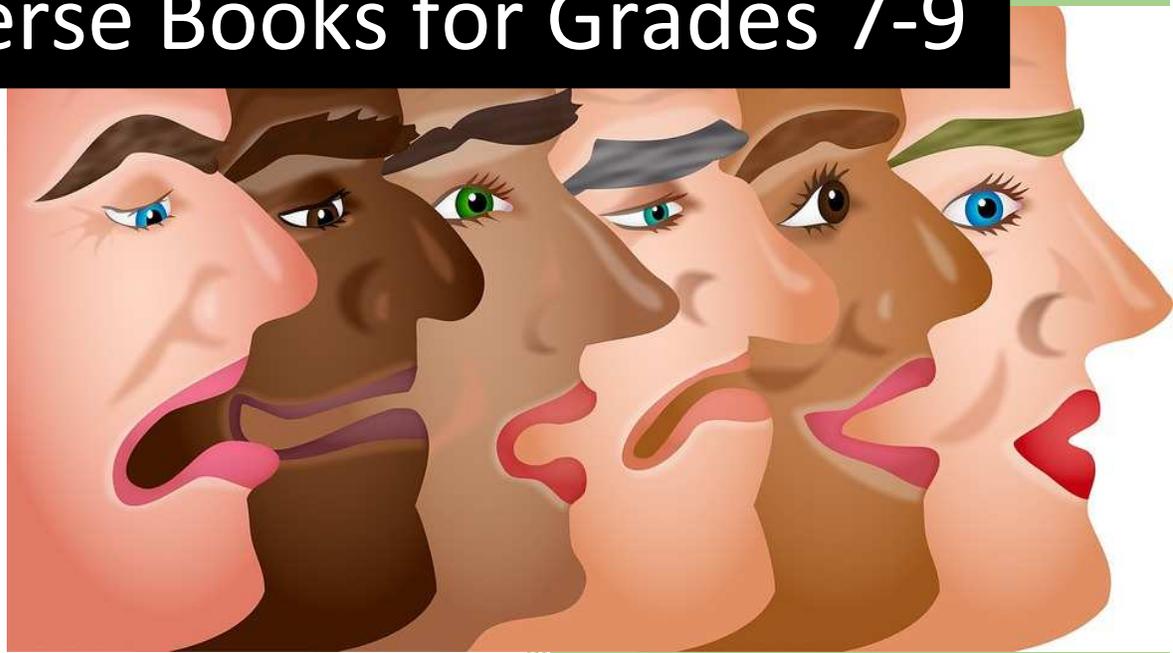


2017

Diverse Books for Grades 7-9



Novels-in-Verse (Grades 7-9)

Alexander, Kwame. *Booked*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. Print.

Twelve-year-old Nick is a soccer-loving boy who absolutely hates books. In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel *The Crossover*, soccer, family, love, and friendship take center stage as Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents' divorce, stand up to a bully, and impress the girl of his dreams. These challenges—which seem even harder than scoring a tie-breaking, game-winning goal—change his life, as well as his best friend's.

Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. Print.

As their winning season unfolds, things begin to change. When Jordan meets a girl, the twins' bond unravels. Josh and Jordan must grow up on and off the court and realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family. Told in dynamic verse, this fast and furious middle grade novel bounces with rhythm and bursts with heart.

Atkins, Jeannine. *Stone Mirrors: The Sculpture and Silence of Edmonia Lewis*. New York: Atheneum for Young Readers, 2017. Print.

A sculptor of historical figures starts with givens but creates her own vision. Edmonia Lewis was just such a sculptor, but she never spoke or wrote much about her past, and the stories that have come down through time are often vague or contradictory. Some facts are known: Edmonia was the daughter of an Ojibwe woman and an African-Haitian man. She had the rare opportunity to study art at Oberlin, one of the first schools to admit women and people of color, but lost her place after being accused of poisoning and theft, despite being acquitted of both. She moved to Boston and eventually Italy, where she became a successful sculptor.

Burg, Ann E. *Serafina's Promise: A Novel in Verse*. New York: Scholastic, 2015. Print.

In a poor village outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Serafina works hard to help her family, but dreams of going to school and becoming a doctor—then the earthquake hits and Serafina must summon all her courage to find her father and still get medicine for her sick baby brother as she promised.

Grimes, Nikki. *Dark Sons*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010. Print.

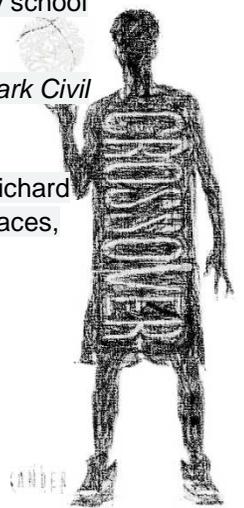
Alternating poems compare and contrast the conflicted feelings of Ishmael, son of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, and Sam, a teenager in New York City, as they try to come to terms with being abandoned by their fathers and with the love they feel for their younger stepbrothers.

Neri, Greg, and Jesse Joshua Watson. *Chess Rumble*. New York, NY: Lee & Low, 2007. Print.

Branded a troublemaker due to his anger over everything from being bullied to his sister's death a year before, Marcus begins to control himself and cope with his problems at home and at his inner-city school when an unlikely mentor teaches him to play chess.

Powell, Patricia Hruby, and Shadra Strickland. *Loving vs. Virginia: A Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case*. San Francisco: Chronicle, 2017. Print.

In 1955, in Caroline County, Virginia, amidst segregation and prejudice, injustice and cruelty, two teenagers fell in love. Their life together broke the law, but their determination would change it. Richard and Mildred Loving were at the heart of a Supreme Court case that legalized marriage between races, and a story of the devoted couple who faced discrimination, fought it, and won.



Graphic Novels (Grades 7-9)

Blackman, Malorie, Ian Edginton, and John Aggs. *Noughts & Crosses: The Graphic Novel Adaptation*. London: Doubleday, 2015. Print.

Callum and Sephy are teenagers living on different sides of a racial divide. Callum is from the despised group of Noughts, Sephy belongs to the elite Crosses. Their childhood friendship turns to first love, but is threatened when strict racial and sexual taboos lead those around them to violent acts with tragic consequences.

Lagos, Joseph, and Steve Walker. *The Sons of Liberty*. Vol. 1. New York: Random House, 2010. Print.

In Colonial America, Graham and Brody are slaves on the run-until they gain extraordinary powers. At first they keep a low profile. But their mentor has another idea-one that involves the African martial art dambe . . . and masks. Out of print but available in eBook format.

McKay, Sharon E., and Daniel Lafrance. *War Brothers: The Graphic Novel*. Toronto: Annick, 2013. Print.

Jacob is a 14-year-old Ugandan who is sent away to a boys' school. Once there, he assures his friend Tony that they need not be afraid -- they will be safe. But not long after, in the shadow of the night, the boys are abducted. Marched into the jungle, they are brought to an encampment of the feared rebel soldiers. They are told they must kill or be killed, and their world turns into a terrifying struggle to endure and survive.

Montclare, Brandon, Amy Reeder Hadley, Natacha Bustos, Tamra Bonvillain, and Travis Lanham. *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur*. Vol. 1. New York, NY: Marvel Worldwide, 2016. Print. Moon Girl.

Lunella Lafayette is a preteen super genius who wants to change the world-but learned the hard way that it takes MORE than just big brains. Fearful of the monstrous INHUMAN genes inside her, life is turned upside down when a savage, red-scaled tyrant is teleported from prehistoric past to a far-flung future we call TODAY. The pair are many things, and together the most amazing Marvel Team-Up.

Neri, Greg, and Randy DuBurke. *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*. New York: Lee & Low, 2010. Print.

Eleven-year old Roger is trying to make sense of his classmate Robert "Yummy" Sandifer's death, but first he has to make sense of Yummy's life. Yummy could be as tough as a pit bull sometimes. Other times he was as sweet as the sugary treats he loved to eat. Was Yummy some sort of monster, or just another kid? As Roger searches for the truth, he finds more and more questions. How did Yummy end up in so much trouble? Did he really kill someone? And why do all the answers seem to lead back to a gang-the same gang to which Roger's older brother belongs? Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty is a compelling graphic dramatization based on events that occurred in Chicago in 1994. This gritty exploration of youth gang life will force readers to question their own understandings of good and bad, right and wrong.

Sims, Guy A., Dawud Anyabwile, and Walter Dean Myers. *Monster: A Graphic Novel*. New York, NY: Amistad, an Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2015. Print.

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Whitley, Jeremy, M. Goodwin, Jung Ha Kim, and Shawn Gaborin. *Princeless*. Vol. 1. Pittsburgh, PA: Action Lab Entertainment, 2015. Print. Princeless. Princess Adrienne is tired of being locked in a tower, waiting around to be rescued by a prince. She escapes from the tower with the help of her guardian dragon, Sparky, and with her plucky sidekick Bedelia, Adrienne sets off on a quest to rescue her sisters who are suffering the same fate.

Wilson, G. Willow, Adrian Alphona, Ian Herring, and Joe Caramagna. *Ms. Marvel*. New York: Marvel Worldwide, 2014. Print.

Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City - until she is suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the all-new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm! As Kamala discovers the dangers of her newfound powers, she unlocks a secret behind them as well. Is Kamala ready to wield these immense new gifts? Or will the weight of the legacy before her be too much to handle? Kamala has no idea either. But she's comin' for you, New York!

Interracial Dating / Racial Identity (Grades 7-11)

It's Not All Black and White: Multiracial Youth Speak out. Toronto: Annick, 2012. Print.

Through poems, interviews, and short essays, a group of young people describe being biracial, multiracial, or of mixed race. These poignant firsthand accounts reflect the unique and varied voices of the writers, whose backgrounds range from Caribbean, Vietnamese, and Latin American to Native American, Spanish, and Irish, among others.

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. *Does My Head Look Big in This?* New York: Scholastic, 2008. Print. Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style.

Flake, Sharon. *The Skin I'm in.* New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion for Children, 1998. Print. Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love, who she is, and what she looks like.

Kerbel, Deborah. *Mackenzie, Lost and Found.* Toronto: Dundurn, 2008. Print. Fifteen-year-old Mackenzie Hill knows something is up when she arrives home to find her father making a home-cooked dinner, instead of his standard delivery pizza. But nothing prepares her for the bombshell announcement: Mackenzie and her dad, alone since the death of her mother a year ago, are moving to Jerusalem, where her father has taken a position as a visiting professor at a university. The adjustment from life in Canada to life in Israel is dramatic - though it's eased somewhat when Mackenzie is befriended by an American girl in her new school. The biggest shock of all comes when Mackenzie faces the wrath of her new friends, new community, and even her own father after she begins dating a Muslim boy.

LaMarche, Una. *Like No Other.* NY, NY: Razorbill, an Imprint of Penguin Group (USA), 2014. Print.

Devorah, a Hasidic Jewish girl, and Jaxon, an African-American book-smart nerd have spent their entire lives in Brooklyn, on opposite sides of the same street. Their paths never crossed . . . until one day, they did.

Levin, Michael, and Jack Pannell. *Lunch Money Can't Shoot.* N.p.: Morgan James Pub, 2017. Print.

When the urban neighborhood where William "Lunch Money" Barnes lives becomes too rough, his mother moves his family in the middle of the school year to an all-white suburb 50 miles away. The good-natured Barnes runs into one problem: everyone, including the middle school's basketball coach, assumes that since he is African American and from the inner city, he must be great at basketball and can save the school team's season. Unfortunately, Barnes is not an athlete, and contrary to assumptions about black kids, he's terrible at basketball! Trouble arises when the school discovers that Lunch Money Can't Shoot!

Walters, Eric. *Black and White.* Toronto: Puffin Canada, 2009. Print.

Thomas and Denyse have a lot in common. They both love basketball and sugar on their popcorn, but they have one major difference: Thomas is white and Denyse is black. Some people start making racist remarks when they go out, and their parents warn them of the hardships ahead. They can't understand what the big deal is, but will the pressure of this relationship break them apart?

Wright, Bil. *When the Black Girl Sings: A Novel.* NY: Simon Pulse, 2009. Print.

Adopted by white parents and sent to an exclusive Connecticut girls' school where she is the only black student, fourteen-year-old Lahni Schuler feels like an outcast, particularly when her parents separate, but after attending a local church where she hears gospel music for the first time, she finds her voice.

Yoon, Nicola. *The Sun Is Also a Star.* N.p.: Doubleday Canada, 2016. Print.

Two teens--Daniel, the son of Korean shopkeepers, and Natasha, whose family is here illegally from Jamaica--cross paths in New York City on an eventful day in their lives--Daniel is on his way to an interview with a Yale alum, Natasha is meeting with a lawyer to try and prevent her family's deportation to Jamaica--and fall in love.