

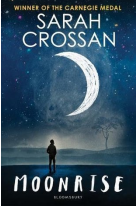


Note: This program is designed to entice teens to read. In order to engage their interest and to provide a spur to critical thinking, the book selections include those that involve sensitive issues. The content of some of the titles may be more mature than younger students may have previously encountered. Please recognize that this is a voluntary reading program. Not every book selected will suit every student. In a democratic society, a variety of ideas must find voice. As readers, teens have the choice to read the more mature titles or to close the book.



Acevedo, Elizabeth. *The Poet X*. HarperCollins, 2018.

Xiomara Batista has a voice she can't use in her home in Harlem. Xiomara struggles with figuring out who she is, especially because of the image her mother has for her. Religion, prayer, and Confirmation classes compete with the real world experiences where being curvy means sometimes Xiomara has to speak with her knuckles. When Xiomara's English teacher invites her to join a school slam poetry club, she can't stop thinking about performing poetry and finds that being silent is not an option.



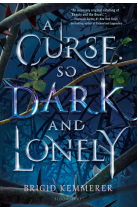
Crossan, Sarah. *Moonrise*. Bloomsbury YA, 2017.

"You can know all the facts you want about a person...but you'll never know for sure what's driving his heart." Joe, Ed, and Angela grew up without a dad and with a junkie mom, but at least they had each other. Until the day Ed doesn't come home. It's been 10 years since Joe last saw Ed when he hears that Ed finally has been given his execution date as he waits on death row. Joe decides it's finally time to get rid of the excuses and spend all the time he can with his brother, no matter what the truth of his crime is, as they fight for appeals to save his life. How do you find yourself while in the midst of losing others? When your family has been broken, how do you make yourself whole?



Hawkins, Rachel. *Prince Charming*. Penguin Books, 2019.

Daisy Winters is unique. She has mermaid-red hair, a quirky personality, lives in Florida, but most importantly, is sister to the woman who is about to marry the Crown Prince of Scotland. Daisy has already caused problems, which has landed her frequently in the tabloids. The Royal family has appointed the charming Miles to teach her proper etiquette, but the prince's roguish younger brother is trying to bring her along on his scandalous adventures. What happens next is a roller coaster of royalty, love, and some serious fun.



Kemmerer, Brigid. *A Curse So Dark and Lonely*. Bloomsbury YA, 2018.

Prince Rhen, the heir to Emberfell, is cursed. He's doomed to repeat the autumn of his 18th year until he finds true love. Each time he fails, he is turned into a vicious beast hell-bent on destroying his castle, family, and very nearly his kingdom. After so many failures, Emberfell and his people are barely hanging on. Harper Lacy is always being underestimated. Her life in Washington, DC, is no walk in the park, but she's learned to be tough and not let anything hold her back, including her cerebral palsy or the death of her mother. When she's sucked into Rhen's world, nothing seems to make sense, yet as she spends more time with Rhen in his kingdom, she begins to realize what's at stake. As Rhen discovers that Harper is not like the other girls, he begins to hope again. But there are powerful forces at work, and it will take more than just a broken curse to save Harper, Rhen, and his kingdom.



Noni, Lynette. *Whisper*. KCP Loft, 2018.

"Words are too precious to throw around carelessly. Words demand respect. They are beautiful; they are terrible. They are a gift and a curse. I will never forget what they can do. Because words have cost me everything." For over two years, she hasn't spoken a word. She hasn't even uttered her name. Known simply as Subject Six Eight Four or Jane Doe, only she knows the secret power of her words -- something her evaluators at Lengard, a secret government facility, cannot imagine. Enduring experiments and finding that she doesn't know who to trust, will Jane Doe learn to trust herself enough to risk? What if the power of your words could change the world? Would you speak?



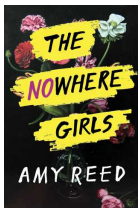
Norton, Preston. *Neanderthal Opens the Door to the Universe*. Disney-Hyperion, 2018.

What happens when the star quarterback partners up with a huge loser to make their high school suck less? Aaron Zimmerman returns to Happy Valley High school after a near death experience and claims God gave him a list of problems to address. He recruits Cliff Hubbard (nicknamed Neanderthal because he's 6'6", 250 pounds) to help. Cliff and Aaron work their way through the list involving a vindictive English teacher, a computer hacker, a Jesus Teens cult, drug dealers and the meanest bully at HVHS. While fixing a broken school isn't as easy as it seems, the unlikely pair attempt to do so with humor and heart.



Pearson, Mary E. *Dance of Thieves*. Henry Holt & Co., 2018.

Reformed thief Kazimyr and her comrades who make up the Rahtan, Queen Zezelia's elite guard, are sent to investigate wrongdoings in the Ballenger outlaw dynasty, who claim to be among the first nations and as such do not recognize the rule of the queen. The Rahtan arrive at Hell's Mouth to find that the Ballenger's former leader has died, and Jase, his son, is now in charge. When circumstances throw the Jase and Karimyr together they must unite to save their lives. As they struggle to uphold their own secret motives and complete their missions, they realize they might just lose their hearts along the way.

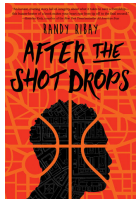


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Reed, Amy. *The Nowhere Girls*. Simon Pulse, 2017.

Grace, Rosina, and Erin, though being vastly different, come together to form the anonymous group, the Nowhere Girls. What starts as an act of vengeance for a fellow classmate's rape grows into a movement where a large group of girls at Prescott High unite to resist the misogynistic culture of their school. Told in alternating perspectives, this book puts on blast the idea of rape culture while exploring serious and deep questions about teen girls and sexuality. (Mature content)

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Ribay, Randy. *After the Shot Drops*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.

Told from two perspectives, former friends and basketball teammates Benedict "Bunny" and Nasir have a falling out after Bunny suddenly transfers to an elite private school to play basketball with a better chance of being drafted. Bunny starts to second guess his decision as he tries to navigate his two worlds: his new, mostly white school, and his neighborhood and old community who feel abandoned. At the same time, Nasir is pressured to sabotage Bunny's games to help his cousin. As Bunny tries to repair his friendship, Nasir must decide if family or friends are more important, or if the two can be the same thing.

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Schaeffer, Rebecca. *Not Even Bones*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.

Nita has grown up working for the black market. Her mother murders supernatural people and sells them; Nita's job is to simply dissect them for their useful body parts. Then one day her mother brings home a living target, but Nita cannot bring herself to dissect him alive. Instead she helps him escape only to find herself sold to the black market in his place because she, too, has supernatural abilities. With no help in sight, Nita must do the unthinkable to survive.

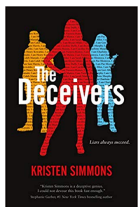
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Shusterman, Neal and Jarrod. *Dry*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018.

When water, our most precious resource, is suddenly unavailable in California due to a devastating drought, 16-year old Alyssa and her younger brother, Garrett, begin the fight of their lives. They embark on a journey to find water and have no choice but to join forces with Jacqui, Henry, and Kelton, although they are unsure who to trust. In a story that will leave the reader feeling constantly thirsty, Alyssa and her companions struggle not to descend into the mindless violence that seems to have overtaken society. This gripping dystopian work keeps the reader guessing until the very last page, and also raises questions about the very real possibility that this could become our reality.

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Simmons, Kristen. *The Deceivers*. Tor Teen, 2019.

Brynn Hilder is eager to get away from her run down neighborhood and her Mom's loser boyfriend. When she is recruited to the elite academy Vale Hall, she jumps at the chance for a new start. She didn't get into the school because of academics; it was because of her ability to swindle and bamboozle, because this is a school for aspiring con artists. Brynn is asked to help the school with its mission to rid the city of corrupt officials, and soon realizes she is in way over her head. The fast-paced fun in *The Deceivers* is intriguing and will keep the reader interested as the twists and turns build mystery.

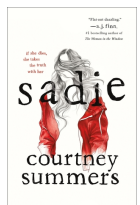
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Slater, Dashka. *The 57 Bus*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux (Byr), 2017.

The paths of two high school students from Oakland, California, overlapped for eight short minutes each day. Otherwise, Sasha and Richard, teens from this very diverse city, would probably never have even met. Sasha attended a small private school and lived in a middle-class neighborhood. Richard lived in a crime-ridden part of the city and attended a large public school. A decision made one afternoon on their bus ride home from school put them in an international spotlight. This reckless act left Sasha, a white agender teen, severely burned, and Richard, a black teen, charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. Is it possible for any good to come out of this true story of two teens and the crime that changed their lives?

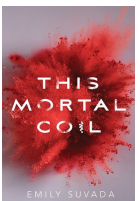
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Summers, Courtney. *Sadie*. Wednesday Books, 2018.

"I can't take another dead girl." That is what May Beth told West McCray when she contacted the reporter to help locate her missing nineteen year old granddaughter Sadie. Because the cops stopped looking for Sadie's sister's murderer, claiming the case has gone cold, distraught and grief driven Sadie decides to take matters into her own hands. Tune into West's suspenseful true-crime podcast as he follows the clues to try to find Sadie before she ends up the next victim.

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Suvada, Emily. *This Mortal Coil*. Simon Pulse, 2017.

Catarina Agatta is a DNA hacking genius living in the future where a plague is killing the human population and technology can change and heal a person's DNA. Cat's father, Dr. Lachlan Agatta, is the last hope for saving humanity by defeating the plague. While working on the cure, he is kidnapped by the Cartaxus organization. After surviving two years on her own, Cole, a Cartaxus soldier, has come to tell Cat her father is dead and she is the only one who can decode her father's notes. Cat has been taught by her father not to trust Cartaxus. Can she trust Cole? Should she believe her father? Can she even trust herself?

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