

# YOUNG ADULT FICTION CORE COLLECTION

## SECOND EDITION

### 50 Cent (Musician), 1975-

**Playground**; with Aura Moser. Razorbill 2011 314p \$17.99  
Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. Bullies -- Fiction

ISBN 978-1-59514-434-8; 1-59514-434-X

Thirteen-year-old Butterball doesn't have much going for him. He's teased about his weight. He hates the Long Island suburb his mom moved them to so she could go to nursing school and start her life over. He wishes he still lived with his dad in New York City where there's always something happening, even if his dad doesn't have much time for him. Still, that's not why he beat up Maurice on the playground.

"Readers who were ever confused about having a gay parent, or being overweight, or going through a parental breakup, or just wanting to fit in and be accepted by their peers, will relate to Butterball. 50 Cent's debut young adult novel is a quick read that will be great for discussions on a variety of important and timely topics." Voice Youth Advocates

### Abbott, Ellen Jensen

**Watersmeet**. Marshall Cavendish 2009 341p il \$16.99  
Grades: 6 7 8 9 10

1. Fantasy fiction

ISBN 978-0-7614-5536-3; 0-7614-5536-1

LC 2008-315

Fourteen-year-old Absina escapes the escalating violence, prejudice, and religious fervor of her home town, Vranille, and sets out with a dwarf, Haret, to seek the father she has never met in a place called Watersmeet.

"The relationship between Abisina and Haret is warm and engaging, and the dialogue between them cleverly captures the slow development of their camaraderie. . . . Fans of Ursula Le Guin's character-driven fantasies will enjoy this story of Abisina's quest to unify both her divided country and her divided self." Bull Cent Child Books

### Abdel-Fattah, Randa

★ **Does** my head look big in this? Orchard Books 2007 360p \$16.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10 11 12

1. School stories 2. Muslims -- Fiction 3. Australia -- Fiction 4. Clothing and dress -- Fiction

ISBN 0-439-91947-9; 978-0-439-91947-0

LC 2006-29117

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. "Grades seven to ten." (Bull Cent Child Books)

"While the novel deals with a number of serious issues, it is extremely funny and entertaining." SLJ

★ **Ten** things I hate about me. Orchard Books 2009 297p \$16.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. School stories 2. Muslims -- Fiction 3. Lebanese -- Fiction 4.

Australia -- Fiction 5. Prejudices -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-0-5450-5055-5; 0-5450-5055-3

LC 2008-13667

This novel is set in Australia. Jamilia, known in school as Jamie, tries to hide her Muslim heritage from her classmates, until her conflicted feelings become too difficult for her to bear. "Grades six to nine." (Bull Cent Child Books)

A "message of the importance of self-disclosure to maintain loving relationships of all kinds plays itself out as Jamie learns to negotiate her roles as daughter, sister, and friend. Readers will also get an enlightening look at post-9/11 racial tensions outside the U.S. and the problems they pose for Muslim teens." Bull Cent Child Books

### Abrahams, Peter

★ **Bullet** point. HarperTeen 2010 294p \$16.99  
Grades: 9 10 11 12

1. Prisoners -- Fiction 2. Criminal investigation -- Fiction 3. Father-son relationship -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-0-06-122769-1; 0-06-122769-2

LC 2009-25440

The only thing seventeen-year-old Wyatt knew about his biological father was that he was serving a life sentence, but circumstances and a new girlfriend bring them together, and soon Wyatt is working to prove his father's innocence.

"Edgier and sexier than most YA novels dare, Abrahams' thriller wrenches guts with a Richard Price-like facility. Readers will be as ir-retrievably drawn in as Wyatt." Booklist

**Reality** check. HarperTeen 2009 330p \$16.99; lib bdg \$17.89; pa \$8.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. School stories 2. Gambling -- Fiction 3. Social classes -- Fiction 4. Missing persons -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-0-06-122766-0; 0-06-122766-8; 978-0-06-122767-7 lib bdg; 0-06-122767-6 lib bdg; 978-0-06-122768-4 pa; 0-06-122768-4 pa

LC 2008-22593

After a knee injury destroys sixteen-year-old Cody's college hopes, he drops out of high school and gets a job in his small Montana town, but when his ex-girlfriend disappears from her Vermont boarding school, Cody travels cross-country to join the search.

"Abrahams writes a fine thriller that is pitched to attract everyone from reluctant readers to sports fans to romantic idealists." Voice Youth Advocates

### Abrams, Amir

**Hollywood** High. Dafina KTeen Books 2012 310 p. (pre-bind) \$20.80; (paperback) \$9.95  
Grades: 9 10 11 12

1. School stories 2. Teenage pregnancy -- Fiction  
ISBN 0606263780; 0758263171; 9780606263788; 9780758263179  
LC 2012418660

Content From  
Previous Edition

YOUNG ADULT FICTION CORE COLLECTION  
SECOND EDITION

This book is told by four high school narrators, all spoiled daughters of entertainment industry elites, "including ex-New Yorker London, tabloid queen Rich and . . . Spencer. Heather . . . supports her alcoholic mother with her own acting career and struggles with an Adderall addiction. Drama escalates practically within milliseconds. . . . Much of the drama involves competition over boys." (Kirkus)

**Acampora, Paul**

**Defining Dulcie.** Dial Books 2006 168p hardcover o.p. pa \$6.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. Bereavement -- Fiction 2. Runaway teenagers -- Fiction  
ISBN 0-8037-3046-2; 978-0-8037-3046-5; 0-14-241183-3 pa; 978-0-14-241183-4 pa

LC 2005-16186

When sixteen-year-old Dulcie's father dies, her mother makes a decision to move them to California, where Dulcie makes an equally radical decision to steal her dad's old truck and head back home.

"Strong and quirky characters who see life as an inextricable mix of sadness and humor, sorrow and hope, are the hallmark of this memorable first novel." SLJ

**Ackley, Amy**

**Sign language;** a novel. Viking 2011 392p \$16.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. School stories 2. Death -- Fiction 3. Fathers -- Fiction 4. Bereavement -- Fiction 5. Family life -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-0-670-01318-0; 0-670-01318-8

LC 2011003001

Teenaged Abby must deal with her feelings about her father's cancer and its aftermath while simultaneously navigating the difficult problems of growing up.

"This is an amazing debut novel for readers who appreciate contemporary teen fiction. It is both moving and realistic, a result of the well-crafted family relationships. The author succeeds in creating genuine connections that manage not to feel forced or rushed, despite the pace of the story, which spans three years." Voice Youth Advocates

**Acosta, Marta**

**Dark companion;** Marta Acosta. Tom Doherty Assoc. 2012 364 p. (hardcover) \$17.99

Grades: 9 10 11 12

1. School stories 2. Orphans -- Fiction 3. Supernatural -- Fiction 4. Private schools -- Fiction 5. Schools -- Fiction 6. Boarding schools -- Fiction  
ISBN 0765329646; 9780765329646; 9781429988292

LC 2012011656

This book tells the story of Jane Williams. "Orphaned at the age of six, [she] has grown up in a series of foster homes, learning to survive in the shadows of life. . . . [S]he manages to win a scholarship to the exclusive Birch Grove Academy. There, for the first time, Jane finds herself accepted by a group of friends. She even starts tutoring the headmistress's gorgeous son, Lucien." But, the "more she learns about Birch Grove's recent past, the more Jane comes to suspect that there is something sinister going on. . . . As Jane begins to piece together the answers to the puzzle, she must find out why she was brought to Birch Grove—and what she would risk to stay there." (Publisher's note)

**Adams, Richard**

**Watership Down;** Scribner classics ed.; Scribner 1996 429p \$30; pa \$15

Grades: 6 7 8 9 10

1. Allegories 2. Rabbits -- Fiction

ISBN 0-684-83605-X; 0-7432-7770-8 pa

First published 1972 in the United Kingdom; first United States edition 1974 by Macmillan

"Faced with the annihilation of its warren, a small group of male rabbits sets out across the English downs in search of a new home. Internal struggles for power surface in this intricately woven, realistically told adult adventure when the protagonists must coordinate tactics in order to defeat an enemy rabbit fortress. It is clear that the author has done research on rabbit behavior, for this tale is truly authentic." Shapiro Fic for Youth. 3d edition

**Adler, Emily**

**Sweet 15;** by Emily Adler and Alex Echevarria. Marshall Cavendish 2009 240p \$16.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. School stories 2. Family life -- Fiction 3. Puerto Ricans -- Fiction 4. Quinceañera (Social custom) -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-0-7614-5584-4; 0-7614-5584-1

LC 2008-21391

Shortly before her fifteenth birthday, Destiny Lozada's traditional Puerto Rican mother and feminist older sister hijack her quinceañera, each pushing her own agenda and ignoring the possibility that Destiny, a skateboarding tomboy, might have her own ideas about the coming-of-age ritual she is about to participate in.

"Destiny's resolution, the engaging dialogue, boys, gossip, best friends, fashion, texting, the first kiss and the city of New York all play a part in this charming, fresh and funny coming-of-age novel that will entertain teen readers, especially girls." Kirkus

**Adlington, L. J.**

**Cherry Heaven.** Greenwillow Books 2008 458p \$16.99; lib bdg \$17.89

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. Science fiction 2. Orphans -- Fiction

ISBN 978-0-06-143180-7; 0-06-143180-X; 978-0-06-143181-4 lib bdg; 0-06-143181-8 lib bdg

LC 2007-24679

Kat and Tanka J leave the wartorn city, move with their adoptive parents to the New Frontier, and are soon settled into a home called Cherry Heaven, but Luka, an escaped factory worker, confirms their suspicion that New Frontier is not the utopia it seems to be.

"In this complex, absorbing, and sometimes disquieting novel, Adlington creates a world that is distinctly different from our own, yet chillingly familiar." Booklist

★ **The diary** of Pelly D. Greenwillow Books 2005 282p hardcover o.p. pa \$8.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. Science fiction

ISBN 0-06-076615-8; 0-06-076617-4 pa

LC 2004-52258

"On the planet Home From Home, Toni V is a brute laborer, a barely educated member of the Demolition Crew that is busy pulverizing the bombed-out remains of City Five's central plaza. Pelly D is a hip member of the swank elite who used to live in an exclusive apartment fronting the plaza. Their stories come together when Toni V uncovers Pelly D's diary in the debris. . . . Middle school, high school." (Horn Book)

"Adlington has crafted an original and disturbing dystopian fantasy told in a smart and sympathetic teen voice." Booklist

LIST OF FICTIONAL WORKS  
SECOND EDITION

Content From  
Previous Edition

**Agard, John**

The **young inferno**; written by John Agard; illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura. Frances Lincoln Children's 2009 un il \$19.95  
Grades: 8 9 10 11 12

1. Novels in verse 2. Hell -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-1-84507-769-3; 1-84507-769-5

"The narrative poems in this short book are accessible and have important things to say about the state of the human race. . . . The hoodie-wearing protagonist . . . awakens in a strange and frightening forest. A dark man appears and introduces himself as the tale-teller Aesop: he is to be the teen's escort through Hell. . . . As the pair travels through the Circles of Hell, they see the sins of mankind. . . . The scribbled, heavy-lined black ink and watercolor illustrations convey exactly the right mood for a book about a modern-day expedition into Hell. This will be a great book to pair with a discussion about Dante's *Inferno* and/or poetic structure." SLJ

**Agell, Charlotte**

**Shift**. Henry Holt and Co. 2008 230p \$16.95

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. Science fiction 2. Religion -- Fiction 3. Family life -- Fiction 4. Resistance to government -- Fiction 5. Environmental degradation -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-0-8050-7810-7; 0-8050-7810-X

LC 2007-46942

In fifteen-year-old Adrian Havoc's world, HomeState rules every aspect of society and religious education is enforced but Adrian, refusing to believe that the Apocalypse is at hand, goes north through the Deadlands and joins a group of insurgents.

"The story is made particularly compelling by the economy and lyricism of the writing style. . . . Readers seeking contemplative and philosophical science fiction will find this a haunting exploration of government gone awry and one boy's steadfast pursuit of justice." Bull Cent Child Books

**Aguirre, Ann**

**Enclave**. Feiwel & Friends 2011 262p \$16.99

Grades: 8 9 10

1. Horror fiction 2. Fantasy fiction 3. Dystopian fiction 4. Apocalyptic fiction 5. Zombies -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-0-312-65008-7; 0-312-65008-6

LC 2010031039

In a post-apocalyptic future, fifteen-year-old Deuce, a loyal Huntress, brings back meat while avoiding the Freaks outside her enclave, but when she is partnered with the mysterious outsider, Fade, she begins to see that the strict ways of the elders may be wrong—and dangerous. "Grades six to eight." (Bull Cent Child Books)

"In this skilled though violent postapocalyptic thriller, Deuce has newly earned the rank of Huntress. . . . It's her duty to provide meat for her loveless, draconian enclave, deep beneath the streets of a ruined city, as well as to defend it against cannibalistic Freaks, who are gradually eliminating the scattered human survivors of a vaguely remembered plague. . . . Aguirre . . . has created a gritty and highly competent heroine, an equally deadly sidekick/love interest, and a fascinating if unpleasant civilization." Publ Wkly

**Horde**; by Ann Aguirre. Feiwel & Friends 2013 422 p.  
\$17.99

Grades: 8 9 10

1. Science fiction 2. Dystopian fiction 3. Monsters -- Fiction  
ISBN 1250024633; 9781250024633

This book, by Ann Aguirre, is the conclusion to the *Enclave* trilogy. "Salvation is surrounded, monsters at the gates, and this time, they're not

going away. When Deuce, Fade, Stalker and Tegan set out, the odds are against them. But the odds have been stacked against Deuce from the moment she was born. She might not be a Huntress anymore, but she doesn't run. With her knives in hand and her companions at her side, she will not falter, whether fighting for her life or Fade's love." (Publisher's note)

"Deuce's skills from her Huntress days come in handy when a horde of mutant "Freaks" descends upon the humans of her post-apocalyptic world, but trusting some of the enemy turns out to be a worthwhile risk. Relationships, including Deuce's romance with Fade, soften a bloody tale; as in previous compelling installments, readers should suspend disbelief for Deuce's background-belying vocabulary and emotional intelligence." (Horn Book)

**Outpost**; by Ann Aguirre. Feiwel & Friends 2012 320 p.  
\$17.99

Grades: 8 9 10

1. Monsters -- Fiction 2. Teenagers -- Fiction 3. Survival skills -- Fiction 4. Science fiction 5. Survival -- Fiction 6. Teenage girls -- Fiction  
ISBN 0312650094; 9780312650094

LC 2011287957

In this book by Ann Aguirre "months have passed since Deuce and her band of survivors joined Salvation, a fortified settlement in the middle of Freak-infested land. While Tegan, Fade, and Stalker find helpful community roles, Deuce struggles to adjust to life where, as a female, she is forbidden from fighting. When the Freaks evolve into more cunning foes, however, Deuce's superior combat skills are instrumental in establishing an outpost to protect the town." (Booklist)

"When this follow-up to *Enclave* (2011) begins, trained Huntress Deuce and fellow travelers Fade, Stalker and Tegan have lived two months amid the town of Salvation's affluence, strict gender roles and relative freedom from the putrid, slaving, mindless Freaks who plague their world... Overall, an engaging world and forward-moving plot with a resolution that promises new settings and challenges in Book 3." (Kirkus)

**Ahdieh, Renée**

The **rose** and the dagger. Renée Ahdieh. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers 2016 432 p. Map

Grades: 9 10 11 12

1. Romance fiction 2. Fantasy fiction 3. Blessing and cursing -- Fiction  
9780399171628, \$17.99; 9780698185906, \$53.97

LC 2015049227

In this novel, by Renée Ahdieh, a sequel to "The Wrath and the Dawn," "Shahzad has been torn from the love of her husband Khalid, the Caliph of Khorasan. She once believed him a monster, but his secrets revealed a man tormented by guilt and a powerful curse. . . . Reunited with her family, who have taken refuge with enemies of Khalid, and Tariq, her childhood sweetheart, she should be happy. But Tariq now commands forces set on destroying Khalid's empire." (Publisher's note)

"Shahzad's brazen ingenuity and fiery devotion, and every other character's overflowing shame, rage, compassion, pain, loyalty, frustration, desire, loneliness, guilt, grief, and oily ambition. Above all there is the shattering, triumphant catharsis of love-between man and woman, parent and child, teacher and student, sisters and cousins, friends old and new." Kirkus

Sequel to: *The wrath and the dawn*

The **wrath** and the dawn. Renée Ahdieh. PutnamJuvenile 2015 416 p. Illustration; Map

Grades: 9 10 11 12

Fairy tales 2. Love -- Fiction 3. Murder -- Fiction 4. Kings and rulers

YOUNG ADULT FICTION CORE COLLECTION  
SECOND EDITION

Content From  
Previous Edition

-- Fiction 5. Magic -- Fiction  
0399171614; 9780399171611, \$17.99

LC 2014046249

In this book, by Renée Ahdieh, “the brave Shahrzad volunteers to marry the Caliph of Khorasan after her best friend is chosen as one of his virgin brides and is summarily murdered the next morning. She uses her storytelling skills, along with well-placed cliff-hangers, to keep herself alive while trying to discover a way to exact revenge on the Caliph. However, the longer she stays in the palace, the more she realizes there’s more going on than just a murderous prince.” (School Library Journal)

“It’s not a completely faultless debut—the prose very occasionally turns purple, but that’s a minor offense; the characters are redeemingly nuanced and well crafted. Even more impressive, Ahdieh is in complete control of her plot, tightly spooling out threads of the richly layered story just as surely as Shahrzad herself. The result is that the reader can’t help but be absorbed by the time the crescendoing conclusion come-and-in true Arabian Nights fashion, it’s a cliff-hanger. Like the caliph, we will just have to wait for the rest.” Booklist

**Albertalli, Becky**

★ **Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens agenda.** Becky Albertalli. Balzer + Bray, an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers 2015 320 p.

Grades: 9 10 11 12

1. Friendship -- Fiction 2. Gays -- Fiction 3. High schools -- Fiction  
4. Pen pals -- Fiction 5. Schools -- Fiction 6. Secrets -- Fiction 7.  
Gay teenagers -- Fiction 8. School stories  
0062348671; 9780062348678, \$17.99

LC 2014022536

**Morris Award (2016)**

In this novel by Becky Albertalli, “sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. Now change-averse Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone before he’s pushed out—without alienating his friends, compromising himself, or fumbling a shot at happiness.” (Publisher’s note)

“While Simon is focused on Blue, other characters go on journeys of their own, and the author is careful not only to wrap up Simon’s story, but to draw attention to the stories the romance plot might overshadow in lesser hands. Funny, moving and emotionally wise.” Kirkus

**Alban, Andrea**

**Anya’s war.** Feiwel and Friends 2011 188p \$16.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. Jews -- China -- Fiction 2. Jewish refugees -- Fiction 3. Abandoned children -- Fiction 4. Sino-Japanese Conflict, 1937-1945 -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-0-312-37093-0; 0-312-37093-8

LC 2010-37089

In 1937, the privileged and relatively carefree life of a fourteen-year-old Jewish girl, whose family emigrated from Odessa, Ukraine, to Shanghai, China, comes to an end when she finds an abandoned baby, her hero, Amelia Earhart, goes missing, and war breaks out with Japan. Based on the author’s family history.

“Most moving are the scenes with the full cast of family characters, who are irritating, irritable, funny, surprising, mean, and prejudiced. Alban also explores the complexities of Anya’s Jewish community. . . . An important addition to literature about WWII refugees.” Booklist

**Albin, Gennifer**

**Crewel.** Farrar Straus Giroux 2012 368 p. (hardcover)  
\$17.99

Grades: 8 9 10 11

1. Spiritual gifts 2. Secrecy -- Fiction 3. Psychics -- Fiction 4.

Science fiction

ISBN 0374316414; 9780374316419; 9780374316440

LC 2011043930

In author Gennifer Albin’s book, “sixteen year-old Adelice Lewys has a secret: she wants to fail. Gifted with the ability to weave time with matter, she’s exactly what the Guild is looking for, and in the world of Arras, being chosen as a Spinster is everything a girl could want. . . . It also means the power to embroider the very fabric of life . . . [and] Adelice isn’t interested. Not that her feelings matter, because she slipped and wove a moment at testing, and they’re coming for her—tonight. Now she has one hour . . . to escape.” (genniferalbin.com)

**Alegria, Malin**

**Estrella’s quinceanera.** Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers 2006 272p \$14.95

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. Mexican Americans -- Fiction 2. Quinceañera (Social custom) -- Fiction

ISBN 0-689-87809-5

Estrella’s mother and aunt are planning a gaudy, traditional quinceañera for her, even though it is the last thing she wants.

“Alegria writes about Mexican American culture, first love, family, and of moving between worlds with poignant, sharp-sighted humor and authentic dialogue.” Booklist

**Alender, Katie**

**Bad girls don’t die.** Hyperion Books 2009 352p \$15.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. School stories 2. Sisters -- Fiction 3. Demoniac possession -- Fiction

ISBN 978-1-4231-0876-4; 1-4231-0876-0

LC 2008-46179

When fifteen-year-old Lexi’s younger sister Kasey begins behaving strangely and their old Victorian house seems to take on a life of its own, Lexi investigates and discovers some frightening facts about previous occupants of the house, leading her to believe that many lives are in danger.

This “novel is both a mystery and a trip into the paranormal. . . . With just enough violence, suspense, and romance to keep readers turning pages, this . . . will be a popular addition to any YA collection.” Booklist

Followed by: From bad to cursed (2011)

**The dead girls of Hysteria Hall.** Point, an imprint of Scholastic Inc. 2015 336 p.

Grades: 7 8 9 10 11 12

1. Asylums -- fiction 2. Families -- Pennsylvania -- fiction 3. Family life -- Fiction 4. Ghost stories 5. Ghosts -- Fiction 6. Haunted houses -- Fiction 7. Horror stories 8. Horror tales 9. Psychiatric hospitals -- Fiction 10. Secrecy -- fiction 11. Secrets -- Fiction 12. Sisters -- Fiction 13. Horror fiction 14. Pennsylvania -- Fiction  
9780545639996, \$18.99

LC 2014046681

In this book, by Katie Alender, “Delia’s new house isn’t just a house. Long ago, it was the Piven Institute for the Care and Correction of Troubled Females—an insane asylum. . . . However, many of the inmates were not insane, just defiant and strong willed. Kind of like Delia herself. But the house still wants to keep “troubled” girls locked away. So, in the most horrifying way, Delia becomes trapped. And that’s when she learns that the house is also haunted.” (Publisher’s note)

“Alender creates a fascinating, eerie world that turns on a nicely original use of time and features constantly interesting characters. Delia is likable and sympathetic even as she strikes out, and the house itself becomes a character, as readers wonder who or what is at the root of the evil that lurks there. The final confrontation will have readers curling their toes. A

LIST OF FICTIONAL WORKS  
SECOND EDITION

really scary and original ghost story, well told. Read it with the lights on.” Kirkus

**Alexander, Jill S.**

**Paradise.** Feiwel and Friends 2011 246p \$16.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. Love stories 2. Drums -- Fiction 3. Family life -- Fiction 4. Bands (Music) -- Fiction 5. Country music -- Fiction  
ISBN 0312605412; 9780312605414

LC 2010050900

Teenaged Paisley Tillery dreams a career as a professional drummer will take her out of her small Texas town, but when her country rock band gets a handsome new lead singer from Paradise, Texas, those dreams may change.

“Strong, rural Southern storytelling and mother-daughter conflict are integral parts of the plot. . . . Alexander’s simmering plot is . . . driven by a complex story and multiple, complex characters.” SLJ

The **sweetheart** of Prosper County. Feiwel and Friends 2009 212p \$16.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10

1. Texas -- Fiction 2. Bullies -- Fiction 3. Bereavement -- Fiction 4. Mother-daughter relationship -- Fiction  
ISBN 978-0-312-54856-8; 0-312-54856-7

LC 2008-34757

In a small East Texas town largely ruled by prejudices and bullies, fourteen-year-old Austin sets out to win a ride in the next parade and, in the process, grows in her understanding of friendship and helps her widowed mother through her mourning.

“This is a warm, humorous story. . . . A refreshing picture of teen angst, with realistic dialogue and memorable characters.” SLJ

**Alexander, Kwame**

★ **Booked.** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2016 320 p.

Grades: 5 6 7 8 9

1. Soccer -- fiction 2. Books and reading -- fiction 3. Friendship -- fiction  
9780544570986, \$16.99; 0544570987

LC 2015033312

In this novel by Kwame Alexander “soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read.” (Publisher’s note)

“Alexander scores again with this sports-themed verse novel, a companion to his Newbery Medal-winning *The Crossover*. Eighth grader Nick, a devoted soccer player and fan, enjoys some friendly competition with his best friend, Coby. What Nick doesn’t like is words—neither the ones in the dictionary that his linguistics professor father wrote (and is making him read) nor the ones he learns in his honors English class. But the school’s quirky rapping librarian, Mr. Mac, helps Nick discover both a love of reading and a way to connect with the girl of his dreams. . . . Emotionally resonant and with a pace like a player on a breakaway, Nick’s story will have readers agreeing: “The poems/ were cool./ The best ones were/ like bombs,/ and when all the right words/ came together/ it was like an explosion./ So good, I/ didn’t want it to end.” PW

★ The **crossover**; a basketball novel. by Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2014 240 p. \$16.99

Grades: 7 8 9 10 11 12

1. Rap music 2. Novels in verse 3. Twins -- Fiction 4. Brothers

-- Fiction 5. Basketball -- Fiction 6. Fathers and sons -- Fiction 7. African Americans -- Fiction  
ISBN 0544107713; 9780544107717

LC 2013013810

Newbery Medal (2015)

Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor Book (2015)

In this novel, by Kwame Alexander, “12-year old Josh Bell . . . and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he’s got mad beats, too, that tell his family’s story in verse. . . . Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story’s . . . climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.” (Publisher’s note)

“Twins Josh and Jordan are junior high basketball stars, thanks in large part to the coaching of their dad, a former professional baller who was forced to quit playing for health reasons, and the firm, but loving support of their assistant-principal mom...Despite his immaturity, Josh is a likable, funny, and authentic character. Underscoring the sports and the fraternal tension is a portrait of a family that truly loves and supports one another. Alexander has crafted a story that vibrates with energy and heart and begs to be read aloud. A slam dunk.” (School Library Journal)

**He said, she said;** by Kwame Alexander. Harper, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers 2013 336 p. (hardcover bdg.) \$17.99

Grades: 9 10 11 12

1. High school students -- Fiction 2. Man-woman relationship -- Fiction 3. Love -- Fiction 4. Schools -- Fiction 5. High schools -- Fiction 6. African Americans -- Fiction 7. Protest movements -- Fiction  
ISBN 006211896X; 9780062118967; 9780062118974

LC 2012043496

“Claudia Clarke--sharp, opinionated, and Harvard-bound--is the only girl who isn’t impressed by quarterback Omar “T-Diddy” Smalls. Omar takes a bet that he can win Claudia over, and when his usual seduction tactics fail, he applies his social clout to Claudia’s cause du jour. His burgeoning social awareness and transformation from carefree jock to true campus leader are satisfying and convincing.” (Horn Book)

**Alexander, Shannon Lee**

**Love** and other unknown variables. Shannon Lee Alexander. Entangled Teen 2014 329 p.

Grades: 9 10 11 12

1. Chemistry 2. Love stories 3. Physics 4. Terminally ill -- Fiction 5. Love -- Fiction  
1622664671; 9781622664672, \$16.99

This book by Shannon Lee Alexander “is told from the perspective of Charlie Hanson, a senior at Brighton School of Mathematics and Science. His life is planned out for him until he meets Charlotte Finch. She is ill, but this is a secret she does not immediately share. At Charlotte’s urging and without knowing why, Charlie begins a prank campaign at Brighton in spite of the consequences to his future.” (Library Media Connection)

“The characters’ quirky affinities—Charlie’s for math, Charlotte’s for drawing, Ms. Finch’s for literature—paint a world of passion and personality. A heartwarming YA story of love and entering the unknown territories of adulthood.” Kirkus

**Alexie, Sherman, 1966-**

★ The **absolutely** true diary of a part-time Indian; art by Ellen Forney. Little, Brown 2007 229p il \$18.99

Grades: 8 9 10

1. School stories 2. Friendship -- Fiction 3. Family life -- Fiction 4.