

Black History Month Booklist Recommendations for YA

Fiction

1. **"The Gilded Ones"** by Namina Forna (2020)
A fantasy novel with a powerful heroine at its core, addressing themes of self-worth, identity, and freedom within an Afrofuturistic setting.
YA F FOR, e-book, e-audiobook
2. **"Concrete Rose"** by Angie Thomas (2021)
A prequel to *The Hate U Give*, this novel focuses on Maverick Carter, Starr's father, as a young man trying to navigate his life in a rough neighborhood while grappling with family, responsibility, and choices that will shape his future.
YA F THO, e-book, e-audiobook
3. **"This Is My America"** by Kim Johnson (2020)
This gripping story follows Tracy, a high school senior determined to free her father, wrongly imprisoned on death row. A powerful exploration of race, justice, and family loyalty, it's an important reflection on the state of the criminal justice system.
YA F JOH
4. **"The Black Kids"** by Christina Hammonds Reed (2020)
Set in Los Angeles during the 1992 riots, this novel examines the intersection of race, identity, and privilege. It focuses on Ashley, a Black teen, and her experience with the complexities of being a Black kid at a predominantly white school during a time of social unrest.
YA F HAM
5. **"Legendborn"** by Tracy Deonn (2020)
A modern-day fantasy rooted in Arthurian legend, *Legendborn* follows Bree, a teen who uncovers hidden secrets about a group of magical beings. This novel combines Black history, folklore, and magic, with themes of grief and self-discovery.
YA F DEO, e-audiobook
6. **"Wings of Ebony"** by J. Elle (2021)
A gripping fantasy novel about Rue, a Black teen from a tough neighborhood in Houston who discovers she's part of a magical world. As she faces betrayal and uncovers hidden truths about her origin, the novel explores themes of community and power.
YA F ELL
7. **"Love Radio"** by Ebony LaDelle (2022)
"Hitch" meets "The Sun Is Also a Star" in this witty and romantic teen novel about a self-professed teen love doctor with a popular radio segment who believes he can get a girl who hates all things romance to fall in love with him in only three dates.
YA F LAD

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Nonfiction

1. **"Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents"** by Isabel Wilkerson (2022)
A landmark work examining the unspoken caste system in America and its deep roots in the history of slavery.
305.51 WIL YA non-fiction, e-audiobook
2. **"The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person"** by Frederic Joseph
This book takes an honest look at race, privilege, and responsibility in ways that resonate deeply for younger readers looking to be part of social change.
305.8 JOS YA non-fiction
3. **"The Beautiful Struggle: A Memoir"** by Ta-Nehisi Coates (2021)
An exceptional father-son story from the National Book Award–winning author of *Between the World and Me* about the reality that tests us, the myths that sustain us, and the love that saves us.
YA B COA
4. **"All Boys Aren't Blue"** by George M. Johnson (2020)
In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson's *All Boys Aren't Blue* explores their childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia.
e-book
5. **"A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919"** by Claire Hartfield (2018)
This mesmerizing narrative nonfiction draws on contemporary accounts as it traces the roots of an explosion that had been building for decades in race relations, politics, business, and clashes of culture.
305.89 HAR YA non-fiction, e-book
6. **"We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide"** by Carol Anderson with Tonya Bolden (2018)
This young adult adaptation of the New York Times bestselling *White Rage* is essential antiracist reading for teens.
323.11 AND YA non-fiction, e-book
7. **"Proud: Living My American Dream"** by Ibtihaj Muhammad (2018)
The inspiring and critically acclaimed all-American story of faith, family, hard work, and perseverance by Olympic fencer, activist, New York Times bestselling author, and Time "100 Most Influential People" honoree Ibtihaj Muhammad.
YA B MUH
8. **"Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir"** by Nikki Grimes (2019)
In her own voice, acclaimed author and poet Nikki Grimes explores the truth of a harrowing childhood in a compelling and moving memoir in verse.
YA B GRI, CD YA X B GRI, e-audiobook