



MHS Library Book List

This list recognizes the current issues in our society and attempts to educate and build community through representational media and the #ownvoices movement.

Titles on the district and state lists may include titles with controversial topics or language, all titles have been selected for their important themes and content. In addition, some movies do have an R rating. If you have concerns with the suggested selections, please consider working with your student to find a suitable replacement with which you are more comfortable. You are not limited to the provided lists.

Fiction

The Loop (Ben Oliver)

Life inside The Loop-the futuristic death row for teens under eighteen-is one long repetitive purgatory. But when news of the encroaching chaos in the outside world reaches the inmates and disorder begins to strike, the prison becomes the least of their worries.

Science Fiction/Action

The Inheritance Games (Jennifer Barnes)

When a Connecticut teenager inherits vast wealth and an eccentric estate from the richest man in Texas, she must also live with his surviving family and solve a series of puzzles to discover how she earned her inheritance. *Mystery*

Anatomy: a love story (Dana Schwartz)

Hazel Sinnett is a medical student in 19th century Scotland who, after being kicked out because of her gender, works with new attractive acquaintance Jack Curren to procure dead bodies to study, but they soon discover secrets buried in the heart of Edinburgh society. *Historical Fiction/Mystery*

Dread Nation (Justina Ireland)

America is changed forever when the dead begin to prowl battlefields during the Civil War. The horror births a new nation and a different type of slavery, in which laws force Native and Negro children to attend combat schools and receive training to put down the dead. *Horror/Historical Fiction*

Run (John Lewis)

This astounding graphic novel tells the story of an often overlooked chapter of civil rights history through the eyes of Congressman John Lewis, one of the Big Six leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington. *Historical/graphic novel*

The Midnight Library (Matt Haig)

Between life and death there is a library, and within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. To see how things would be if you had made other choices . . . Would you have done anything different, if you had the chance to undo your regrets? *Fantasy*

Heartstopper (Alice Oseman)

Shy and softhearted Charlie Spring sits next to rugby player Nick Nelson in class one morning. A warm and intimate friendship follows, and that soon develops into something more for Charlie, who doesn't think he has a chance. But Nick is struggling with feelings of his own, and as the two grow closer and take on the ups and downs of high school, they come to understand the surprising and delightful ways in which love works. *Realistic Fiction/graphic novel*

Kneel (Candace Buford)

When his best friend is unfairly arrested and kicked off the team, Russell Boudreaux kneels during the national anthem in an effort to fight for justice and, in an instant, falls from local stardom to become a target of hatred. *Sports/Realistic Fiction*

Wrong Side of the Court (H. N. Khan)

Dreaming of being the world's first Pakistani to be drafted into the NBA, fifteen-year-old Fawad Chaudhry must convince his mother to let him try out for the basketball team while dealing with the neighborhood bully. *Sports/Realistic Fiction*

The astonishing color of after : a novel (Emily X. R. Pan)

After her mother's suicide, grief-stricken Leigh Sanders travels to Taiwan to stay with grandparents she never met, determined to find her mother who she believes turned into a bird. *Realistic Fiction*



Water Dancer (Ta-Nehisi Coates)

Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her—but was gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he's ever known. *Historical Fiction/Fantasy*

Internment (Samira Ahmed)

A terrifying, futuristic United States where Muslim-Americans are forced into internment camps, and seventeen-year-old Layla Amin must lead a revolution against complicit silence. *Science Fiction/dystopian*

I am not your perfect mexican daughter (Erika Sanchez)

Poignant but often laugh-out-loud funny contemporary YA novel about losing a sister and finding yourself amid the pressures, expectations, and stereotypes of growing up in a Mexican-American home. *Realistic Fiction*

The Firekeeper's Daughter (Angeline Boulley)

Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths. *Mystery*

White Smoke (Tiffany D. Jackson)

Believing her new home to actually be alive, especially when her brother almost dies, Marigold and her new blended family won't be safe until she brings the truth to light once and for all. *Horror*

Nonfiction

The betrayal of Anne Frank : a cold case investigation (Rosemary Sullivan)

Who betrayed Anne Frank and her family? And why? Despite the many works devoted to Anne's story, none has ever conclusively explained how these eight people managed to live in hiding undetected for over two years--and who or what finally brought the Nazis to their door. Retired FBI agent Vincent Pankoke and a team of investigators pored over tens of thousands of pages of documents--some never before seen--and interviewed scores of descendants of people familiar with the Franks. They pieced together the months leading to the arrest--and came to a conclusion.

The burning blue : the untold story of Christa McAuliffe and NASA's Challenger disaster (Kevin Cook)

The untold story of a national trauma--NASA's Challenger explosion--and what really happened to America's Teacher in Space, illuminating the tragic cost of humanity setting its sight on the stars

Girlhood: Teens around the world in their own voices (Masuma Ahuja)

All around the world, girls are going to school, working, dreaming up big futures--they are soccer players and surfers, ballerinas and chess champions. Yet we know so little about their daily lives. We often hear about challenges and catastrophes in the news, and about exceptional girls who make headlines. But even though the health, education, and success of girls so often determines the future of a community, we don't know more about what life is like for the ordinary girls, the ones living outside the headlines.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You (Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi)

A timely, crucial, and empowering exploration of racism--and antiracism--in America for young adults. This is a book about the here and now. A book to help us better understand why we are where we are. A book about race.

An Indigenous People's History of the United States [YA version] (Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz)

A history of the United States for young people told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples, revealing how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the U.S. empire.

One Person, No Vote [YA or adult version] (Dr. Carol Anderson)

Chronicles a related history: the rollbacks to African American participation in the vote since the 2013 Supreme Court decision that eviscerated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Known as the Shelby ruling, this decision effectively allowed districts with a demonstrated history of racial discrimination to change voting requirements without approval from the Department of Justice. Focusing on the aftermath of Shelby, Anderson follows the astonishing story of government-dictated racial discrimination unfolding before our very eyes as more and more states adopt voter suppression laws.

All Out: the No Longer Secret Stories of Queer Teens Throughout the Ages

Take a journey through time and genres to discover stories where queer teens live, love and shape the world around them. Seventeen young adult authors across the queer spectrum have come together to create a collection of beautifully written diverse historical fiction for teens.



The Bomber Mafia : a dream, a temptation, and the longest night of the second World War (Malcolm Gladwell)

In The Bomber Mafia, Malcolm Gladwell weaves together the stories of a Dutch genius and his homemade computer, a band of brothers in central Alabama, a British psychopath, and pyromaniacal chemists at Harvard to examine one of the greatest moral challenges in modern American history.

Everything you wanted to know about Indians but were afraid to ask [Young Reader's Edition] (Anton Treuer)

An essential book of questions and answers for Native and non-Native young readers alike. Ranging from "Why is there such a fuss about nonnative people wearing Indian costumes for Halloween?" to "Why is it called a 'traditional Indian fry bread taco'?" to "What's it like for natives who don't look native?" to "Why are Indians so often imagined rather than understood?", and beyond, Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask (Young Readers Edition) does exactly what its title says for young readers, in a style consistently thoughtful, personal, and engaging.

The 1619 Project (Nikole Hannah-Jones)

The animating idea of The 1619 Project is that our national narrative is more accurately told if we begin not on July 4, 1776, but in late August of 1619, when a ship arrived in Jamestown bearing a cargo of twenty to thirty enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival inaugurated a barbaric and unprecedented system of chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is sometimes referred to as the country's original sin, but it is more than that: It is the country's very origin. The 1619 Project tells this new origin story, placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are as a country

Call me American : the extraordinary true story of a young Somali immigrant (Abdi Nor Iftin)

In Somalia, Abdi Nor Iftin grew up amidst a blend of cultures. As he grew older, he spent his days following his father, a basketball player, through the bustling streets of the capital city of Mogadishu. But when the threat of civil war reached Abdi's doorstep, his family was forced to flee to safety. Through the turbulent years of war, young Abdi found solace in popular American music and films. Nicknamed Abdi the American, he developed a proficiency for English that connected him--and his story--with news outlets and radio shows, and eventually gave him a shot at winning the annual U.S. visa lottery.

Poetry/Novels in Verse

Punching the Air (Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salam)

Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal 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? With spellbinding lyricism, award-winning author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam tell a moving and deeply profound story about how one boy is able to maintain his humanity and fight for the truth in a system designed to strip him of both.

Call Us What We Carry (Amanda Gorman)

The luminous poetry collection by #1 New York Times bestselling author and presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman captures a shipwrecked moment in time and transforms it into a lyric of hope and healing. In Call Us What We Carry, Gorman explores history, language, identity, and erasure through an imaginative and intimate collage. Harnessing the collective grief of a global pandemic, this beautifully designed volume features poems in many inventive styles and structures and shines a light on a moment of reckoning

Milk & Honey (Rupi Kaur)

A collection of poems that looks at survival through experiences of violence, abuse, love, and loss.

And We Rise: The Civil Rights Movement in Poems (Erica Martin)

A powerful, impactful, eye-opening journey that explores through the Civil Rights Movement in 1950s-1960s America in spare and evocative verse, with historical photos interspersed throughout.

I Don't Want to be Crazy (Samantha Schutz)

A poetry memoir in which the author tells of the pressures that led her to suffer debilitating anxiety attacks, and the path she took to coping and recovery.

Ink knows no borders: poems of the immigrant and refugee experience

This collection of poems addresses the many issues confronting first- and second- generation young adult immigrants and refugees, such as cultural and language differences, homesickness, social exclusion, human rights, racism, stereotyping, and questions of identity



Movies

Dunkirk (Netflix)

Allied soldiers from Belgium, the British Commonwealth and Empire, and France are surrounded by the German Army and evacuated during a fierce battle in World War II. [PG-13](#)

The Boy who Harnessed the Wind (Netflix)

A young boy is thrown out of the school he loves when his family can no longer afford the fees. He sneaks into the library and learns how to build a windmill to save his village from a famine. [PG](#)

13th (Netflix)

An in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality. [TV-MA](#)

Get Out (Amazon Prime)

A young African-American visits his white girlfriend's parents for the weekend, where his simmering uneasiness about their reception of him eventually reaches a boiling point. [R](#)

Lady Bird (Netflix)

In 2002, an artistically inclined seventeen-year-old girl comes of age in Sacramento, California [R](#)

Wind River (Netflix)

A veteran hunter helps an FBI agent investigate the murder of a young woman on a Wyoming Native American reservation. [R](#)

Summer of Soul (Hulu)

Documentary about the legendary 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival which celebrated African-American music and culture and promoted Black pride and unity. [PG-13](#)

Podcasts

Startalk Radio (Neil Degrasse Tyson)

Science, pop culture and comedy collide on StarTalk Radio! Astrophysicist and Hayden Planetarium director Neil deGrasse Tyson, his comic co-hosts, guest celebrities and scientists discuss astronomy, physics, and everything else about life in the universe.

You're Wrong About (Sarah Marshall)

Sarah is a journalist obsessed with the past. Every week she reconsiders a person or event that's been miscast in the public imagination.

This American Life (National Public Radio)

An American weekly hour-long radio program produced in collaboration with Chicago Public Media and hosted by Ira Glass featuring essays, memoirs, field recordings, short fiction, and found footage.

Well-read Black Girl (Gloria Edim)

Writer and founder of the Well-Read Black Girl book club Gloria Edim is a book lover who brings readers and writers together to celebrate the written word.

Native Stories (Indigenous peoples of the world)

A podcast featuring native stories from around the world

1619 (New York Times)

An audio series on how slavery has transformed America, connecting past and present through the oldest form of storytelling.

Throughline (National Public Radio)

The past is never past. Every headline has a history. Join us every week as we go back in time to understand the present. These are stories you can feel and sounds you can see from the moments that shaped our world.

Hey YA (Book Riot)

From great new books to favorite classic reads, from news to the latest in on-screen adaptations, Hey YA is here to elevate the exciting world of young adult lit.