

YA ALP

**Perfect Shot** by Elaine Marie Alphin

Brian uses basketball to block out memories of his girlfriend and her family who were shot to death in their garage. The girls' father is put on trial for the crime. Brian saw something on the day of the murders that he thinks might affect the case.

YA BEN

**The Colored Garden** by O. H. Bennett

Sarge visits his grandmother Ruth's farm in the wake of his parents' separation. Ruth tends the old slave cemetery as a beautiful flower garden and, during this pivotal summer in Sarge's life, she tells him the adventures of the dead slaves. Listening to Ruth and observing the behavior of the adults around him, he learns that some secrets we keep, while others keep us.

YA BOO

**Tyrell** by Coe Booth

Fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so that he won't end up in jail like his father.

YA DAV

**Played** by Dana Davidson

When one of Ian's boys dares him to get Kylie Winship to sleep with him in just three weeks, he thinks it will be a breeze. If he succeeds he'll be down with the most popular crew in his high school. Kylie has a gut feeling that something's up when Ian starts pursuing her.

YA DRA

**Forged by Fire** by Sharon Draper.

Gerald, who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father, faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved.

YA EVA

**I'm Late** by Mari Evans

"Moonlight," she said. "I'm pregnant." Moon had started down the steps. He stopped and turned around. "You what?" "I'm pregnant and you know it's yours so don't try t'say it ain't." Moon stood there not moving, looking dead at her. "Well, say something," she said, the words "I'm pregnant," hanging in the air between them. "Naw you didn't," he thought.

YA FLA

**Bang!** by Sharon Flake

Mann hates his father. Since his younger brother Jason was killed by a stray bullet, life for Mann is changed forever. He hates guns. His father becomes cold to him, overly protective and thinks his son is too soft for the streets. He takes Mann and his best friend Kee-Lee on a camping trip and leaves them to find their way back.

YA FLA

**Who Am I Without Him?: Short Stories about Girls and the Boys in their Lives** by Sharon Flake

Hilarious and anguished, these 10 short stories about growing up black today speak with rare truth about family, friends, school, and especially about finding a boyfriend.

YA FRO

**Keesha's House** by Helen Frost

Seven teens facing such problems as pregnancy, closeted homosexuality, and abuse each describe in poetic forms what caused them to leave home and where they found home again.

YA HAR

**Imani in Never Say Goodbye** by Jackie Hardrick

Seventeen-year-old Imani's hopes for getting into Howard University on a basketball scholarship are nearly dashed during her tumultuous senior year, primarily due to her friend and teammate Dominique's rapid descent into drug abuse. When Dominique collides with her during practice it results in a broken wrist and, it would seem, a whole set of broken dreams for Imani.

YA HOU

**New Boy** by Julian Houston

Fifteen-year-old Rob Garrett wants nothing more than to escape the segregated South and prove himself. But in late 1950s Virginia, opportunity doesn't come easily to an African American, so Rob's parents take the unusual step of enrolling their son in a Connecticut school, where he will have the best education available. He will also be the first student of color in the school's history.

YA HUN

**Around the Way Girls** by Angela Hunter

There's a saying in Brooklyn that if you come from that part of town you're from 'around the way. Here is a fast paced look at

the life of some street smart women who think they know it all but are about to get the lessons of their lives.

FIC KID

**Secret Lives of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd

It's 1964, the year of the Civil Rights Act in Sylvan S.C. After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

YA LAN

**Blood is Thicker** by Paul Langan

Hakeem can't take it anymore. When his dad gets sick and moves the family to Detroit to live at his uncle's house, his cousin Savon gives him a cold welcome. Hakeem hates sharing a bedroom with Savon and spends his time working in his uncle's store. More robberies are happening in the area, and Savon has been sneaking out at night. One night Hakeem decides to follow him.

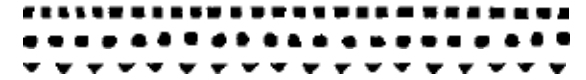
YA LAN

**The Gun** by Paul Langan

A former bully, Tyray Hobbs, vows revenge after the "new kid" Darrell who he used to torment defends himself and beats up Tyray in the lunchroom in front of the whole school. Faced with the torment of his peers, Tyray decides that the only way he can get back his reputation is to buy a gun and really show Darrell who is in charge.



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# Books for African American Teens

## Part I



All teens will be able to relate to stories with African American characters.

## Teen Books

YA MCD

**Brother Hood** by Janet McDonald

Sixteen-year-old Nate, an academically gifted student who attends an exclusive private boarding school, straddles two cultures as he returns home for occasional visits to see his family and “gangsta crew” in Harlem, New York.

YA MOW

**Way Past Cool** by Jess Mowry

Living by a strict code of honor, two rival gangs of boys on Oakland's tough streets--the Friends and the Crew--find a common enemy in Deek, the 16-year-old drug dealer who cruises their neighborhood, controlling by intimidation.

YA MYE

**Crystal** by Walter Dean Meyers

Being a superstar isn't as easy as many think, as Crystal finds out when the dark side of modeling threatens to envelop her. She must decide on her own what she wants more, to be a beautiful model or to be herself.

YA MYE

**Glory Field** by Walter Dean Myers

Spanning nearly 250 years of African American history this emotionally charged saga of the Lewis family traces an ongoing battle for freedom and equality. It begins with young Muhammad Bilal's journey from Africa in 1753, and continues through the Civil War, Great Depression and civil rights movement. The story ends with a 1990s family reunion set on the plantation where Muhammad was a slave.

YA MYE

**Street Love** by Walter Dean Myers

Told in short poems, teens in Harlem tell a story of anger, loss, and love across social-class lines. Damien, 17, is a basketball champion and an academic star, accepted into a top college. His parents want him to date middle-class Roxanne, but he falls in love with gorgeous Junice, 16, who is desperate to protect her little sister after their single-parent mom is sentenced to 25 years for dealing drugs.

YA SCH

**Someone to Love Me** by Anne Schraff

There was no way she was going to tell her mother what Bobby did. When Cindy arrives at Bluford for her freshman year, she had had trouble back at home with her absent mother, and her mother's boyfriend. All that changes when she meets Bobby, an older handsome young man.

YA SOU

**Coldest Winter Ever** by Sister Souljah

Ghetto-born, Winter is the young, wealthy daughter of a prominent Brooklyn drug-dealing family. Smart and sexy, she knows and loves the streets like the curves of her own body. But when a cold winter wind blows her life in a direction she doesn't want to go, her street smarts and skills are put to the test.

YA WIL

**Broken China** by Lori Aurelia Williams

China Cup Cameron is a 14-year-old single mother with only her paralyzed Uncle Simon for support. She takes on tremendous personal debt in hopes of a beautiful funeral after her daughter dies.

YA WOO

**Emako Blue** by Brenda Woods

Monterey, Savannah, Jamal, and Eddie have never had much to do with each other until Emako Blue shows up at chorus practice; but just as the lives of the five Los Angeles high school students become intertwined, tragedy tears them apart.

YA WOO

**Hush** By Jacqueline Woodson

When Toswiah Green's policeman father testifies against a fellow officer, the family members must change their identities and move to a different city. Now Toswiah is Evie Thomas and that's the least of the changes.

YA B Fantasia Fan

**Life is Not a Fairy Tale** by Fantasia

Fantasia offers a deeply emotional look at her rise to the top and the life-altering revelations she came to during her lowest moments along the way. With a spirit as strong as her voice, she speaks with heartfelt, humorous frankness about what it takes to get off the wrong path and onto the right one.


YA B Notorious B.I.G. COK

**Unbelievable: The Life, Death and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G.** by Cheo Hodari Coker

Before he rocketed to fame as Biggie, Christopher Wallace was a young black man growing up in Brooklyn with a loving single mother. Biggie, an honors student who dropped out of school to sell drugs, soon discovered that he had a gift for rocking the mike.




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# Books for African American Teens

## Part II



All teens will be able to relate to stories with African American characters.

## Teen Books