

# Diversity Book Talk Titles ko

[Elementary Master List](#)  
[Secondary Master List](#)

## **About this list:**

This list was collaboratively created during a virtual discussion on diverse books by the BCTLA on Feb 25, 2021. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

## **Ways to find diverse books:**

[VOYA - Voice of Youth Advocates](#)

[Booklist](#)

[Quill & Quire](#)

Twitter - [#ClassroomBookADay](#), [#WeNeedDiverseBooks](#), [#OwnVoices](#)

[School Library Journal](#)


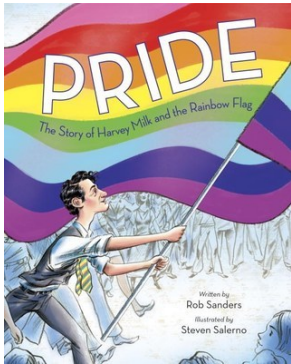
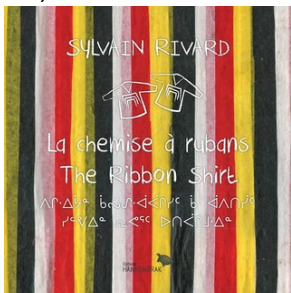
[Canadian School Libraries](#)


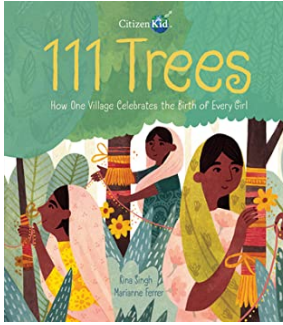
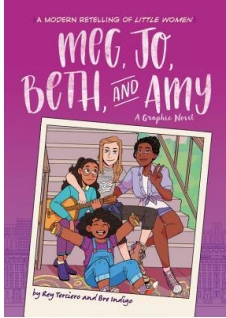
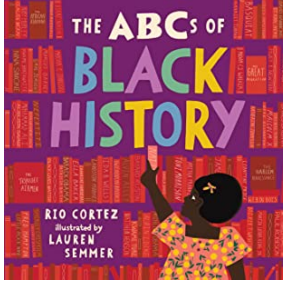
Local bookstores

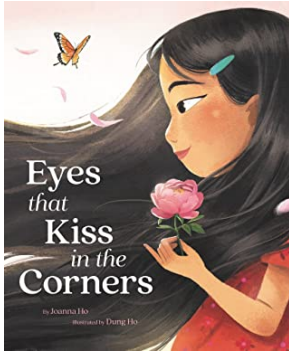
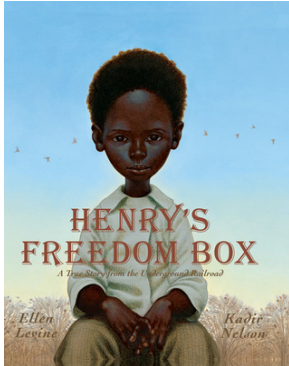
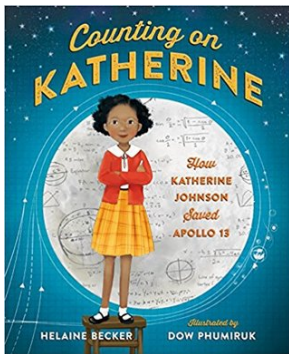
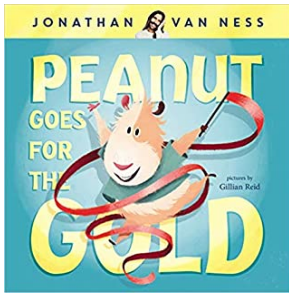
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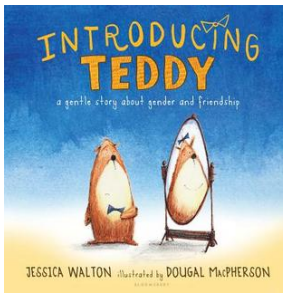
Public libraries


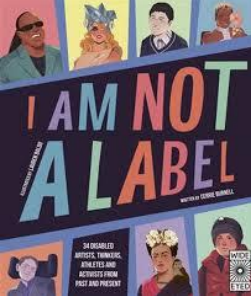
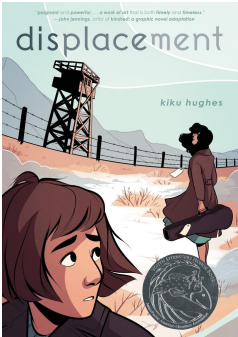
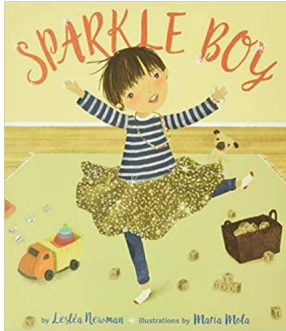
United Library Services lists


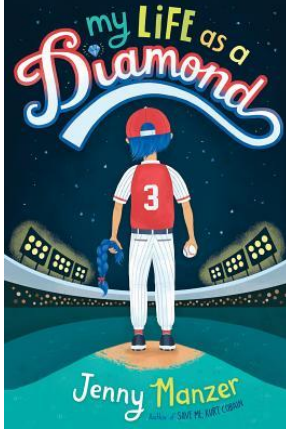
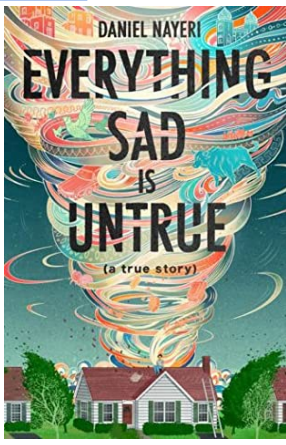
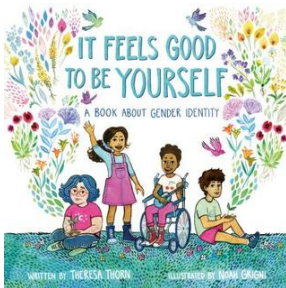
Elementary Master List (K-7)			
Title	Author	Age/Grade Range	Reason for recommending it?
<p><a href="#">Sulwe</a></p> 	Lupita Nyong'o	Gr. 2-7	This is a touching story about a young girl who feels bad about the colour of her skin. Beautiful illustrations accompany this story about overcoming the insults of others.
<p><a href="#">Pride: The Harvey Milk Story</a></p> 	Rob Sanders	Grade 2-9	The story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag.
<p><a href="#">/La chemise à rubans/ The Ribbon Shirt</a> (category E or NF)</p> 	Sylvain Rivard (Editions Hannenorak) (own voice)	English grades k-3 Grades 1-3 immersion francais	Multilingual (encourages language sharing), explains the importance of colours, ribbon shirts in aboriginal culture.
<p><a href="#">La couverture/The Blanket/Maksa</a> (NF or E category)</p>	Sylvain Rivard (Editions Hannenorak) (own voice)	Grades 3-4 french and english	Multilingual, explains importance of colour in blankets, mentions blankets have brought disease.

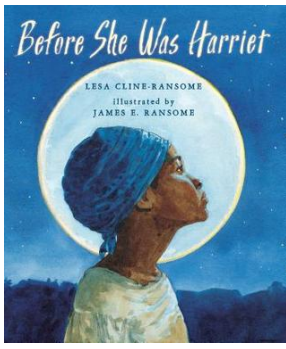
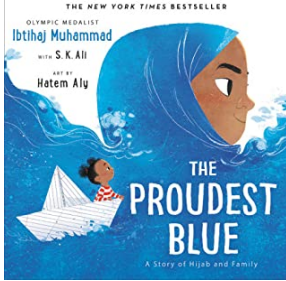
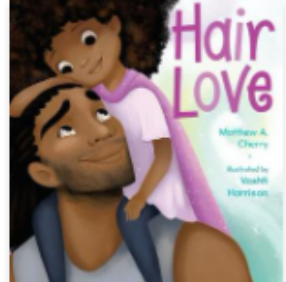
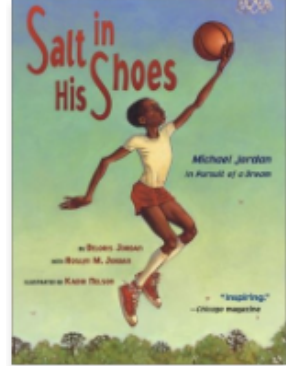
			
<p><a href="#">111 Trees: How One Village Celebrates the Birth of Every Girl</a></p> 	<p>Rina Singh</p>	<p>Grade 2 to 12</p>	<p>Based on a true story set in India about Gender Inequality.</p>
<p><a href="#">Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy</a></p> 	<p>Rey Tercerio and Bre Indigo</p>	<p>Grade 4 to 12</p>	<p>A modern, graphic retelling of Little Women in which Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy are all offspring of a blended, interracial family that lives in a New York City apartment.</p> <p>* Graphic Novel</p>
<p>Akissa (graphic novel collection of titles)</p>	<p>Marguerite Aboutet (own voice)</p>	<p>Grades 4-7 French immersion. English translation now English grades 4-7</p>	<p>A girl growing up in Ivory Coast and her day to day life. Mischievous, short stories.</p>
<p><a href="#">The ABCs of Black History</a></p> 	<p>Rio Cortez (own voice)</p>	<p>Gr. 2-12</p>	<p>Looking at historical and current figures and events around US blacks.</p>
<p><a href="#">Eyes That Kiss in the Corners</a></p>	<p>Joanna Ho</p>	<p>K-4</p>	<p>Celebrates the shape of the Asian eye; references to some cultural</p>

			<p>stories/legends; the phoenix= the female</p>
<p><a href="#">Henry's Freedom Box</a></p> 	<p>Ellen Levine</p>	<p>3-8</p>	<p>Henry Brown, born a slave in the American south, mails himself to freedom in the north.</p>
<p><a href="#">Counting on Katherine</a></p> 	<p>Helaine Becker</p>	<p>K-5</p>	<p>Mathematician Katherine Johnson overcomes racism, sexism and segregation to become one of the first African-American women to work for NASA. Her efforts save the Apollo 13 mission from disaster.</p>
<p><a href="#">Peanut Goes for the Gold</a></p> 	<p>Jonathan van Ness</p>	<p>Grade K to 3</p>	<p>A warm positive story about empowering positivity. Main character is referenced as 'they'.</p>
<p><a href="#">Introducing Teddy</a></p>	<p>Jessica Walton</p>	<p>Grades K to 3</p>	<p>A gentle story about gender and friendship. Teddy wants to be referred to as Tilly. The transition is painless as the characters are great friends. Based on author's own transgender father</p>

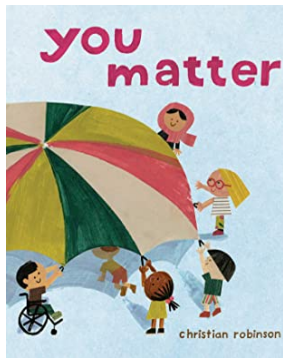



			
<p><a href="#">I Am Every Good Thing</a></p> 	Derrick Barnes	K to 7	A beautifully illustrated book that “celebrates all the things that make you such a force of nature”
<p><a href="#">Crown: An ode to the fresh cut</a></p> 	Derrick Barnes	K to 7	“This rhythmic, read-aloud title is an unbridled celebration of the self-esteem, confidence, and swagger boys feel when they leave the barber’s chair—a tradition that places on their heads a figurative crown, beaming with jewels, that confirms their brilliance and worth and helps them not only love and accept themselves but also take a giant step toward caring how they present themselves to the world.”
<p><a href="#">Mustafa</a></p> 	Marie-Louise Gay	K to 5	Mustafa and his family move to a different county. Slowly, Mustafa starts to feel that this new place is really his home.
<p><a href="#">Seeing Gender (Chronicle Books)</a></p>	Iris Gottlieb	6-12	Beautiful, artistically rendered book that breaks down our illusions about gender. Accessible format where

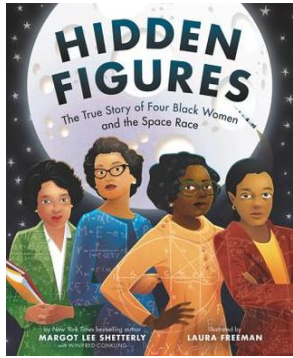
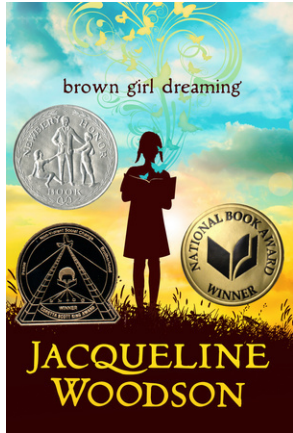
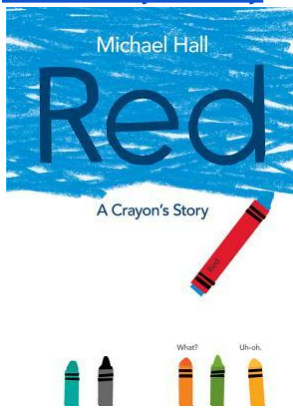
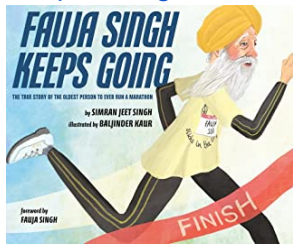
			<p>Gottlieb ‘mines history and pop culture for the stories and people who have shaped the conversation on gender.’</p>
<p><a href="#">I Am Not a Label</a> (Wide Eyed Books)</p> 	<p>Cerrie Burnell</p>	<p>4-12</p>	<p>An anthology of tales about disabled artists, athletes, activists, thinkers, writers, performers and dreamers - where their differences are embraced.</p>
<p><a href="#">Displacement</a> (First Second books)</p> 	<p>Kiku Hughes</p>	<p>6-12</p>	<p>Beautiful graphic novel where a young teen is transported back to the 1940s Japanese American internment camp where her late grandmother was forcibly relocated to during WWII. Highlights the intergenerational impact of trauma/ redemptive power of memory.</p>
<p><a href="#">Sparkle Boy</a></p> 	<p>Leslea Newman</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>Tells the story of Casey, a little boy who loves everything glittery and sparkly. When he wears a skirt to the library, other kids don't understand and tell him boys can't wear skirts. His parents are supportive and even his big sister eventually stands up for him.</p>
<p><a href="#">from the stars in the sky to the fish in the sea</a></p>	<p>Kai Cheng Thom</p>	<p>Grade K-4</p>	<p>Highlights the unique aspects of a child (with a positive spin) who is struggling with identity</p>

			
<p><a href="#">My Life as a Diamond</a></p> 	<p>Jenny Manzer</p>	<p>Grade 4+</p>	<p>Transgender teen uses a family move to help him identify as a boy going into middle school</p>
<p><a href="#">Everything Sad is Untrue</a></p> 	<p>Daniel Nayeri</p>	<p>Grade 5+</p>	<p>Iranian teen in US weaves his somewhat tragic life story into a beautiful 'truth' that is both safe and transformative</p>
<p><a href="#">It's Good to be Yourself</a></p> 	<p>Theresa Thorn</p>	<p>Grade K-7</p>	<p>Book written by trans ally, illustrated by trans, helps to build vocabulary and understanding around LGBTQ identity, very respectful and current</p>
<p><a href="#">Before She Was Harriet</a></p>	<p>Lesa Cline-Ransome</p>	<p>Grade 2-7</p>	<p>Historical verse recounting th many roles Harriet Tubman played in her life; illustrations help to tell about slavery, civil war, and freedom</p>

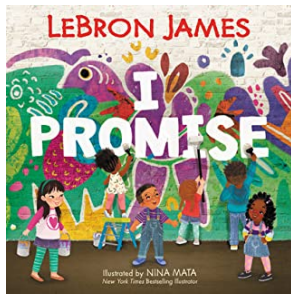
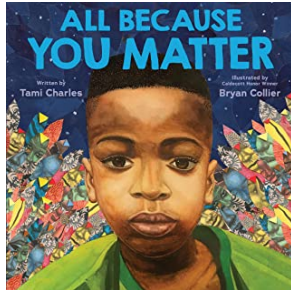

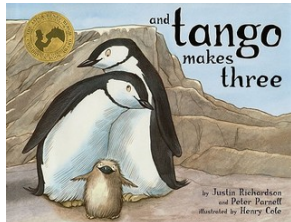
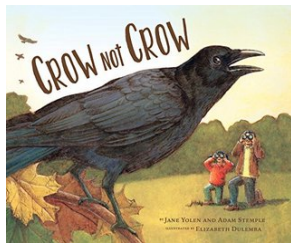
			
<p><a href="#">Proudest Blue</a></p> 	<p>Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali</p>	<p>Grade K-4</p>	<p>Young child explains her love and Pride for her older sisters and her Faith through the hijab</p>
<p><a href="#">Hair Love</a></p> 	<p>Matthew Cherry</p>	<p>K-5</p>	<p>Mommy's away, so Daddy has to step in to help Zuri with her hair. He has a lot to learn, but would do anything for his daughter.</p>
<p><a href="#">Salt in his Shoes</a></p> 	<p>Michael Jordan</p>	<p>3-8</p>	<p>The story of Michael Jordan as a child, when he worried he may never be tall enough to play basketball. His mother teaches him what it really takes to be a star - determination and hard work.</p>
<p><a href="#">You Matter</a></p>	<p>Christian Robinson</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>This story shows how everyone is connected and everyone matters.</p>


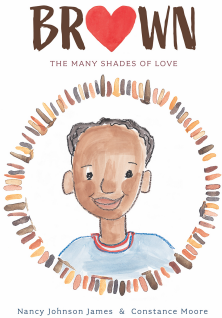


			
<p><a href="#">Crossover</a></p> 	Kwame Alexander	6-8	The novel, told in a series of poems, follows Josh and his twin brother JB through a difficult year of family turmoil and self-discovery.
<p><a href="#">When Stars are Scattered</a></p> 	Victoria Jameson	5-8	<p>Omar lives in a refugee camp in Kenya with his brother, Hassan. Life there is difficult, so when Omar has a chance to attend school, he knows this is an opportunity to change his life for the better. The only problem is that going to school means leaving his nonverbal brother alone every day.</p> <p>* Graphic Novel</p>
<p><a href="#">The New Kid</a></p> 	Jerry Craft	4-6	Jordan Banks' parents send him to a prestigious private school. As one of only a few students of colour, Jordan doesn't feel like he belongs. As time goes on, begins to feel like he doesn't belong in his neighbourhood either.
<p><a href="#">Hidden figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race</a></p>	Margo-Lee Shelterly with Winnifred Conkling	3-8	Hidden figures tells the story of four black women, their battles against gender and racial barriers and their amazing contributions to NASA.

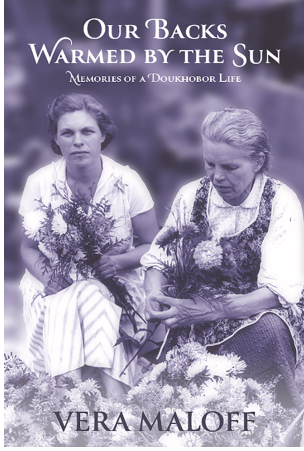
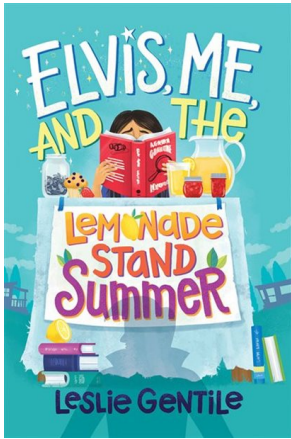
			
<p><a href="#">Brown Girl Dreaming</a></p> 	<p>Jacqueline Woodson</p>	<p>5-8</p>	<p>Jacqueline Woodson's poems show what it was like growing up as an African-American in the USA in the 1960's and 70's.</p>
<p><a href="#">Red: a Crayon Story</a></p> 	<p>Hall</p>	<p>K-12</p>	<p>No matter what Red does, Red can only colour blue. Everyone encourages Red to be red, and Red tries. Eventually, Red realizes that being true to oneself is what's important, and it's OK not to be or do what's expected.</p>
<p><a href="#">Fauja Singh Keeps Going</a></p> 	<p>Simran Jeet Singh</p>	<p>3-8</p>	<p>The story of Fauja Singh, the first 100-year-old to run a marathon.</p>
<p><a href="#">Ways to Make Sunshine</a></p>	<p>R. Watson</p>	<p>gr. 2-4</p>	<p>Ryan Hart knows life can be tough, but she is determined to look on the bright side of things.</p>

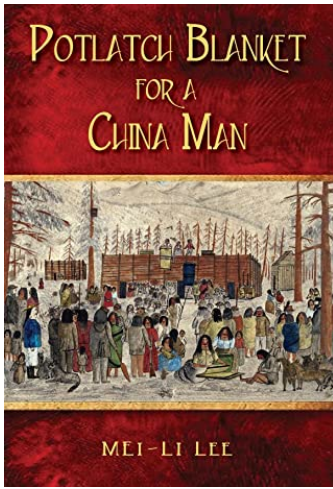
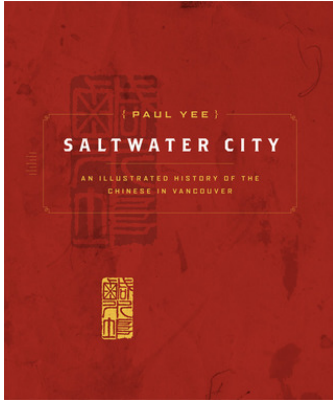

			
<p><a href="#">Genesis Begins Again</a></p> 	A. Williams	5-7	Powerful story of young girl trying to make her way, despite her complicated family life and list of things she hates about herself, like her skin and hair.
<p><a href="#">A Patchwork Path</a></p> 	Betty Stroud	K-5	A patchwork quilt doubles as a set of hidden clues that lead to the Underground Railway and freedom in Canada.
<p><a href="#">The Stone Thrower</a></p> 	Jael Ealy Richardson	K-5	The stone thrower tells the story of Chuck Ealey, an amazing quarterback player who was determined to play football and get an education despite the racial discrimination he experienced daily. This book touches on the immigration experience and is on Adrienne Gear's list (Reading and Writing across Canada).
<p><a href="#">I Promise</a></p>	Lebron James	K-3	This touching picture book shows that goals are set through the promises we make in the present.

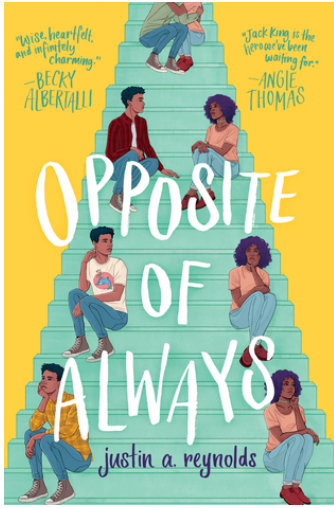

			
<p><a href="#">All Because You Matter</a></p> 	Tami Charles	2-5	In this picture book , author Tami Charles tells her son, and all black children, that they matter, now and always.
<p><a href="#">Viola Desmond Will Not Be Budged</a></p> 	Jody Nyasha Warner	2-5	This book tells the story of Canadian business woman, Viola Desmond, and her arrest at a Nova Scotian movie theatre for not sitting in the 'coloured' section.
<p><a href="#">Tango Makes Three</a></p> 	Richardson & Parnell	K-5	Two male penguins adopt an egg and make a family at the Central Park Zoo.
<p><a href="#">Crow not Crow</a></p> 	Yolen	K-5	Touching story of a father teaching his daughter about birdwatching.
<p><a href="#">King and the Dragon Flies</a></p>	Callender		When King's brother, Khalid, dies, two things happen. First, King is convinced his brother has turned into a dragonfly.

			<p>Second, King stops hanging out with his best friend, Sandy, because Khalid told King that Sandy is 'gay.' When Sandy needs King's help to escape his abusive father, King puts everything else aside to help his friend.</p>
<p><a href="#">Brown: the Many Shades of Love</a></p> 	<p>N. J. James</p>	<p>K-4</p>	<p>A young boy describes all the shades of brown in his family.</p>


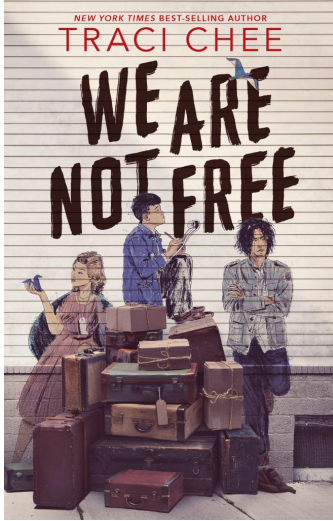
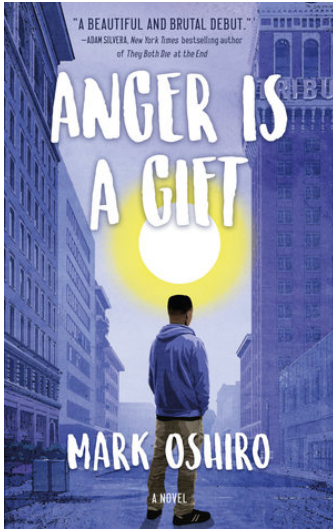
Secondary Master List (8-12)

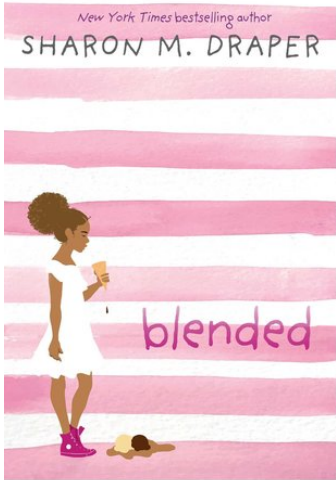
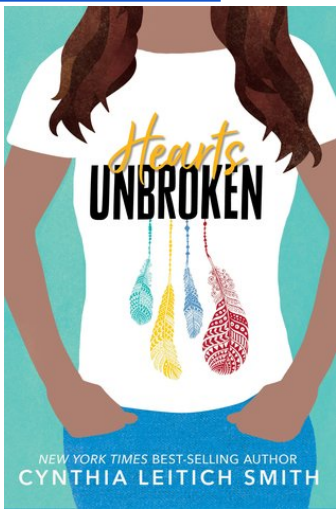
Title	Author	Age/Grade Range	Reason for recommending it?
<p><a href="#">Our Backs Warmed by the Sun (2020)</a></p> 	<p>Vera Maloff (BC Author)</p>	<p>Grade 10-12</p>	<p>Positive look at Diversity of Doukhobors and historical marginalization; invisible race Social Justice 12</p>
<p><a href="#">Elvis, Me and the Lemonade Stand Summer</a></p> 	<p>Leslie Gentile (BC Author)</p>	<p>Grade 6-9 (Lit circle book)</p>	<p>Deals with the subtle racism and overt racism that Indigenous people experience. Follows the story of 11 year old Truly Bateman who is abandoned by her white family and taken in by an Indigenous family. BC author.</p> <p><a href="#">Also found in Elementary List</a></p>
<p><a href="#">Potlatch Blanket for a Chinaman</a></p>	<p>Mei-Li Lee (Mary) author - Victoria (BC Author)</p>	<p>Grade 11-12</p>	<p>BC history spanning the Fraser Valley of a number of ethnic groups, with Teacher's Guide Social Justice 12, First Nations 12, Social Studies 11, Comparative Cultures 12</p>

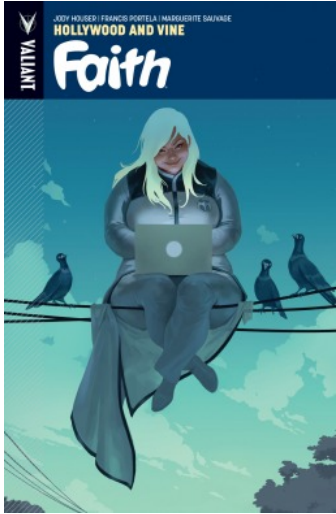

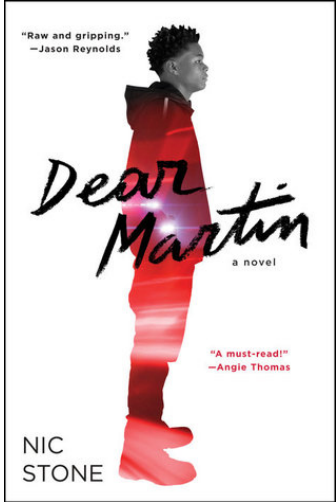
 <p>POTLATCH BLANKET FOR A CHINA MAN</p> <p>MEI-LI LEE</p>			
<p><a href="#">Saltwater City</a></p>  <p>(PAUL YEE) SALTWATER CITY AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE CHINESE IN VANCOUVER</p>	Paul Yee		History of Chinese in Vancouver
<p><a href="#">Banned Book Club</a></p>  <p>KIM HYUN-SOOK KO HYUNG-JU RYAN ESTRADA BANNED BOOK CLUB</p>	Ko hyung - Ju	Gr 8-10's	Non Fiction Graphic Novel; Republic of Korea; 1980's - Korean and Asian characters; Discusses political climate of regimes so many be appreciated by older grades.

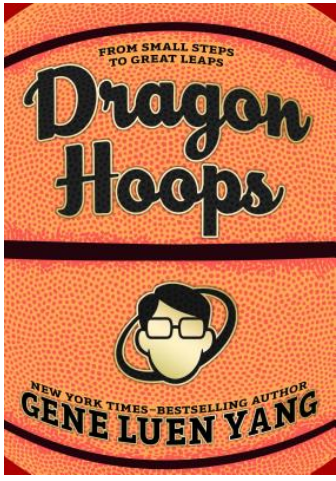
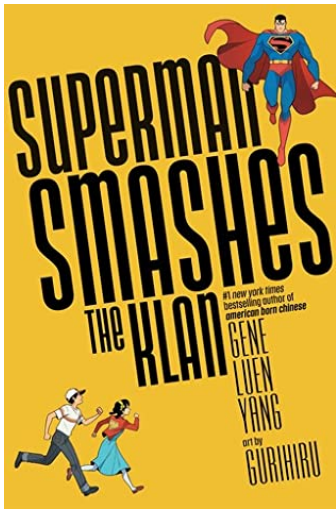

Love IRK	Teal <Ove	Gr. 9-12 ( Age of protagonist is Gr. 12)	Hi/Lo Reader - Lorimer Sidestreet Print Series Romance novels for LGBTQ2+ Alex is transgender and develops an online relationship with a gay boy. Enjoyable reads and not overly graphic
<a href="#">UVIC Transgender Archives (New)</a>	Digitized Collection	Gr 12	Primary documents < <a href="https://www.uvic.ca/transgenderarchives/">https://www.uvic.ca/transgenderarchives/</a> >
<a href="#">Opposite Of Always</a> 	Justin A. Reynolds	Grade 10+	Time Loop! Rom-com
<a href="#">Dead Weight</a> 	Terry Blas	Grade 6+	Body Positivity, Murder mystery, Graphic Novel
<a href="#">Parachutes</a>	Kelly Yang	Grade 10+	Immigration and homestay - great connections for international students. Other themes: Race relations, Friendship,




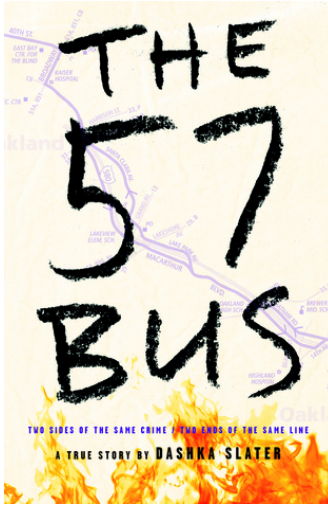
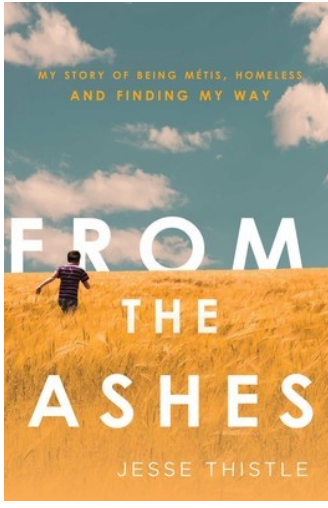
 <p>NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR <b>KELLY YANG</b> <b>PARACHUTES</b></p>			<p>Wealth divide, Rape. A real page turner! Mature content warning.</p>
<p><a href="#">We are not free</a></p>  <p>NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR <b>TRACI CHEE</b> <b>WE ARE NOT FREE</b></p>	<p>Traci Chee</p>	<p>Grade 8+</p>	<p>Historical fiction. Japanese Americans in WW2 forced into internment camps. Big award winner.</p>
<p><a href="#">Anger is a gift</a></p>  <p>"A BEAUTIFUL AND BRUTAL DEBUT." —ADAM SILVERA, New York Times bestselling author of They Both Die at the End <b>ANGER IS A GIFT</b> <b>MARK OSHIRO</b> A NOVEL</p>	<p>Mark Oshiro</p>	<p>Grade 10+</p>	<p>Racial tensions, anger, present day. Good addition to The Hate U Give - similar themes but more about the systemic issues of underfunding in schools vs overfunding of paramilitary policing. Authentic voice.</p>
<p><a href="#">Blended</a></p>	<p>Sharon M. Draper</p>	<p>Grade 3+</p>	<p>Easy read, race relations, mixed race family. Black-American.</p>

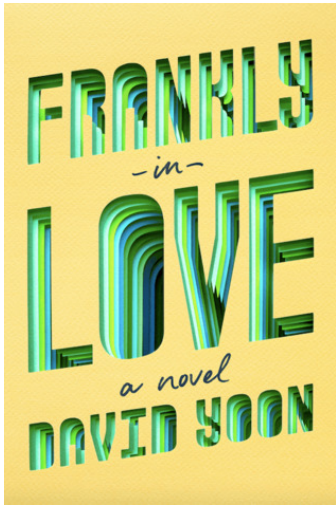
 <p>New York Times bestselling author <b>SHARON M. DRAPER</b></p> <p>blended</p>			
<p><a href="#">The Best At It</a></p>  <p>"Exuberant... Every middle schooler will find themselves in this book." —SOMAN CHAKRABARTY, New York Times bestselling author of <i>The School for Good and Evil</i></p> <p><b>THE BEST AT IT</b></p> <p>MAULIK PANCHOLY</p>	Maulik Pancholy	Grade 6+	East Indian. Perseverance and finding your place; being the best you. Traditional conservative family vs. LGBTQ. Bullying. Identifying with your culture. Second generation immigrants. You'll cry buckets.
<p><a href="#">Hearts Unbroken</a></p>  <p><b>Hearts UNBROKEN</b></p> <p>NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR <b>CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH</b></p>	Cynthia Leitich Smith	Grade 8+	Race relations. How to be you. Indigenous. Middle class / WASPish racism.
<p><a href="#">Faith</a></p>	Jody Houser	Grade 8+	Body image, atypical superhero story. Female plus size superhero. Not sexualizing female superheroes.

			
<p><a href="#">All We Left Behind</a></p> 	<p>Danielle R. Graham</p>	<p>Grade 8+</p>	<p>Historical Fiction. Local to BC - Gulf Islands. Canadian internment of Japanese in WW2.</p>
<p><a href="#">Dear Martin / Dear Justyce</a></p> 	<p>Nic Stone</p>	<p>Grade 8+</p>	<p>Timely. Juvenile detention system. Race relations.</p>
<p><a href="#">Dragon Hoops</a></p>	<p>Gene Luen Yang</p>	<p>Grade 8+</p>	<p>It's GLY need we say more?! Basketball, true story</p>

			<p>based on GLYs own history as a Comp Sci teacher. David vs Goliath story. History of Basketball.</p>
<p><a href="#">Superman smashes the Klan</a></p> 	<p>Gene Luen Yang</p>	<p>Grade 5+</p>	<p>Traditional superhero story, very rooted in anti-racist philosophy.</p>
<p><a href="#">Homes</a></p> 	<p>Abu Bakr al Rabeeah, Winnie Yeung</p>	<p>Grade 8+</p>	<p>Short, accessible read. True Story. Iraqi family trying to find a safer life.</p>
<p><a href="#">Miles Morales: Spider-Man</a></p>	<p>Jason Reynolds</p>	<p>Grade 5+</p>	<p>Reluctant readers love it. Hits the lovers of Into the Spiderverse / Miles Morales PS4/PS5 game. Action and adventure.</p>

			<p>Race relations. Trick them into reading something deeper.</p>
<p><a href="#">The Poet X</a></p>	<p>Elizabeth Acevedo</p>	<p>Grade 10+</p>	<p>Novel in verse. Powerful. Teen angst - a better version of finding yourself and your voice than Catcher in the Rye. Questioning your face.</p>
<p><a href="#">Long Way Down</a></p>	<p>Jason Reynolds</p>	<p>Grade 8+</p>	<p>Novel in verse. Gang shootings. Vengeance.</p>
<p><a href="#">Punching The Air</a></p>	<p>Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam</p>	<p>Grade 8+</p>	<p>Wrongful conviction. Prison reform. Novel-in-verse.</p>

			
<p><a href="#">57 Bus</a></p> 	<p>Dashka Slater</p>	<p>Grade 8+</p>	<p>Non-fiction. Stupid acts vs hate crimes. How do you live with hurting someone else / being hurt?</p>
<p><a href="#">From the Ashes</a></p> 	<p>Jesse Thistle</p>	<p>Grade 10+</p>	<p>Poverty, vicious cycles, education. A lot like a diverse version of Educated.</p>
<p><a href="#">Frankly in Love</a></p>	<p>David Yoon</p>	<p>Grade 10+</p>	<p>Fun! Korean boy wants to date a white girl, but family doesn't want him to. Funny and heartfelt. Asian-American.</p>



[When Dimple Met Rishi](#)



Sandhya Menon

Grade 10+

Rom-com. Inspiration for Mismatched on Netflix. Indian / Pakistani culture.


<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Age/Grade Range</b>	<b>Reason for recommending it?</b>