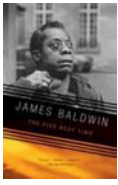


**Honor's 11th Grade Reading List**  
**Mr. Burcalow**

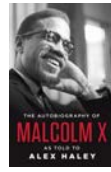
**Autobiographies, Biographies & Memoirs**



***The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin**

A powerful evocation of James Baldwin's early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document. It consists of two "letters," written on the occasion of the centennial of the Emancipation

Proclamation, that exhort Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism.



***The Autobiography of Malcolm X* with Alex Haley**

Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. His fascinating perspective on the lies and limitations of the American Dream, and the inherent racism in a society that denies its nonwhite citizens the opportunity to dream, gives extraordinary insight into the most urgent issues of today.



***Becoming*, Michelle Obama**

An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.



***A Chance in the World*, Steve Pemberton**

A rags to riches story beginning with terrifying abuse and life threatening conditions overcome by courage and resilience.



***Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson**

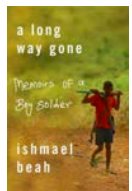
*(YA version available)*

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice--from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time.



***Funny in Farsi*, Firoozeh Dumas**

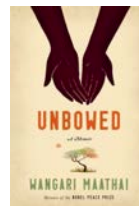
The chronicles of the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family who moved from Iran to Southern California in 1972. The book describes with humor the intersection and clash of two cultures.



***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, Ishmael Beah**

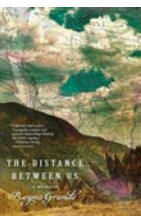
In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become

a killer? How does one stop?



***Unbowed: A Memoir*, Wangari Maathai**

Hugely charismatic, and humble, Wangari Maathai, the winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and a single mother of three, recounts her extraordinary life as a political activist, feminist, and environmentalist.



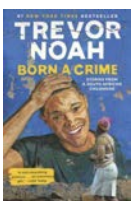
***The Distance Between Us*, Reyna Grande**

From an award-winning novelist and sought-after public speaker, an eye-opening memoir about life before and after illegally emigrating from Mexico to the United States.



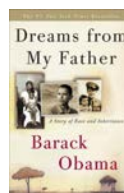
***Long Walk to Freedom*, Nelson Mandela**

The autobiography of global human rights icon Nelson Mandela who was an international hero whose dedication to the fight against racial oppression in South Africa won him the Nobel Peace Prize and the presidency there.



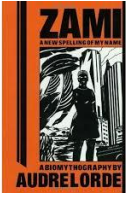
***Born a Crime*, Trevor Noah *(YA version available)***

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth.



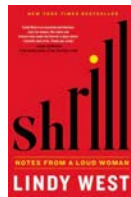
***Dreams From My Father*, Barack Obama**

In this iconic memoir of his early days, Barack Obama creates a lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir, describing growing up as the son of a black African father and a white American mother.



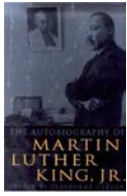
**\*Zami, Audre Lorde**

Lorde's vivid childhood memories in Harlem to her coming of age in the late 1950s, the nature of Audre Lorde's work is cyclical.



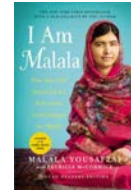
**Shrill, Lindy West**

An uproarious memoir, a feminist rallying cry in a world that thinks gender politics are tedious and that women, especially feminists, can't be funny.



**Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr.**

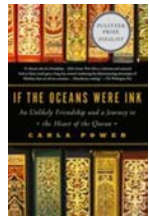
Celebrated Stanford University historian Clayborne Carson is the director and editor of the Martin Luther King Papers Project; with thousands of King's essays, notes, letters, speeches, and sermons at his disposal, Carson has organized King's writings into a posthumous autobiography.



**I Am Malala, Malala Yousafzai**

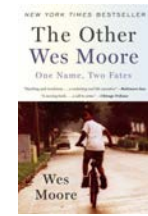
*(YA version available)*

The bestselling memoir by Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai who was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated.



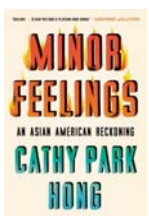
**If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship into the Journey to the Heart of the Quran, Carla Power**

An eye-opening story of how the author and her longtime friend Sheikh Mohammad Akram Nadwi found a way to confront ugly stereotypes and persistent misperceptions that were cleaving their communities. The unlikely friendship between a secular American and a madrasa-trained sheikh.



**The Other Wes Moore, Wes Moore**

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence?



**Minor Feelings, Cathy Park Hong**

A ruthlessly honest, emotionally charged, and utterly original exploration of Asian American consciousness and the struggle to be human. Part memoir and part cultural criticism, this collection is vulnerable, humorous, and provocative--and its relentless and riveting pursuit of vital questions around family and friendship, art and politics, identity and individuality, will change the way you think about our world.



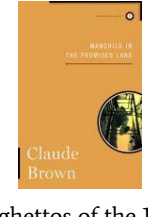
**+Laughing at My Nightmare, Shane Burcaw**

Describes the challenges the author faces as a twenty-one-year-old with spinal muscular atrophy. From awkward handshakes to having a girlfriend and everything in between, Burcaw handles his situation with humor and a "you-only-live-once" perspective on life.



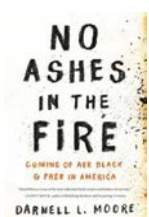
**The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace, Jeff Hobbs**

A heartfelt, and riveting biography of the short life of a talented young African-American man who escapes the streets of Newark for Yale University only to succumb to the dangers of the inner city when he returns home.



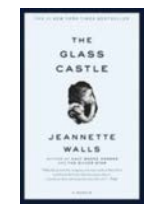
**Manchild in the Promised Land, Claude Brown**

This thinly fictionalized account of Claude Brown's childhood as a hardened, streetwise criminal trying to survive the toughest streets of Harlem has been heralded as the definitive account of everyday life for the first generation of African Americans raised in the Northern ghettos of the 1940s and 1950s.



**No Ashes in the Fire, Darnell Moore**

From a leading journalist and activist comes a brave, beautifully wrought memoir. When Darnell Moore was fourteen, three boys from his neighborhood tried to set him on fire. They cornered him while he was walking home from school, harassed him because they thought he was gay, and poured a jug of gasoline on him. He escaped, but just barely. It wasn't the last time he would face death. Three decades later, Moore is an award-winning writer, a leading Black Lives Matter activist, and an advocate for justice and liberation. In No Ashes in the Fire, he shares the journey taken by that scared, bullied teenager who not only survived, but found his calling.



**The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls**

A remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.



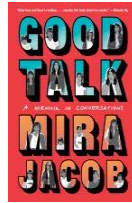
### Come On In by Adi Alsaid

This exceptional and powerful anthology explores the joys, heartbreaks and triumphs of immigration, with stories by critically acclaimed and bestselling YA authors who are shaped by the journeys they and their families have taken from home--and to find home.

WELCOME From some of the most exciting bestselling and up-and-coming YA authors writing today...journey

from Ecuador to New York City and Argentina to Utah...from Australia to Harlem and India to New Jersey...from Fiji, America, Mexico and more...

Come On In. With characters who face random traffic stops, TSA detention, customs anxiety, and the daunting and inspiring journey to new lands...who camp with their extended families, dance at weddings, keep diaries, teach ESL...who give up their rooms for displaced family, decide their own answer to the question "where are you from?" and so much more... Come On In illuminates fifteen of the myriad facets of the immigrant experience, from authors who have been shaped by the journeys they and their families have taken from home--and to find home.



### Good Talk by Mira Jacob

A graphic memoir about American identity, interracial families, and the realities that divide us, from the acclaimed author of *The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing*. Like many six-year-olds, Mira Jacob's half-Jewish, half-Indian son, Z, has questions about everything. At first they are innocuous enough, but as tensions from the 2016 election spread from the media

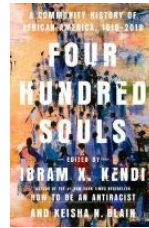
into his own family, they become much, much more complicated. Trying to answer him honestly, Mira has to think back to where she's gotten her own answers: her most formative conversations about race, color, sexuality, and, of course, love. Written with humor and vulnerability, this deeply relatable graphic memoir is a love letter to the art of conversation--and to the hope that hovers in our most difficult questions.



### All Boys Aren't Blue, George Johnson

In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson explores his childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia. From the memories of getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, this young-adult memoir weaves together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys. Both

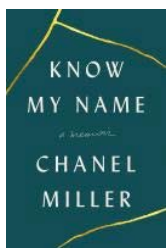
a primer for teens eager to be allies as well as a reassuring testimony for young queer men of color, *All Boys Aren't Blue* covers topics such as gender identity, toxic masculinity, brotherhood, family, structural marginalization, consent, and Black joy. Johnson's emotionally frank style of writing will appeal directly to young adults.



### Four Hundred Souls, Ibram X Kendi & Keisha N Blain

The story begins in 1619--a year before the Mayflower --when the White Lion disgorges "some 20-and-odd Negroes" onto the shores of Virginia, inaugurating the African presence in what would become the United States. It takes us to the present, when African Americans, descendants of those on the White Lion

and a thousand other routes to this country, continue a journey defined by inhuman oppression, visionary struggles, stunning achievements, and millions of ordinary lives passing through extraordinary history. *Four Hundred Souls* is a unique one-volume "community" history of African Americans. The editors, Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain, have assembled ninety brilliant writers, each of whom takes on a five-year period of that four-hundred-year span. The writers explore their periods through a variety of techniques: historical essays, short stories, personal vignettes, and fiery polemics.

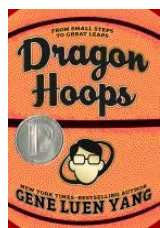


### Know My Name by Chanel Miller

She was known to the world as Emily Doe when she stunned millions with a letter. Brock Turner had been sentenced to just six months in county jail after he was found sexually assaulting her on Stanford's campus. Her victim impact statement was posted on BuzzFeed, where it instantly went viral--viewed by eleven million people within four days, it was translated globally and read on the floor of Congress;

it inspired changes in California law and the recall of the judge in the case. Thousands wrote to say that she had given them the courage to share their own experiences of assault for the first time. Now she reclaims her identity to tell her story of trauma, transcendence, and the power of words. It was the perfect case, in many ways--there were eyewitnesses, Turner ran away, physical evidence was immediately secured. But her struggles with isolation and shame during the aftermath and the trial reveal the

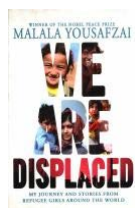
oppression victims face in even the best-case scenarios. Her story illuminates a culture biased to protect perpetrators, indicts a criminal justice system designed to fail the most vulnerable, and, ultimately, shines with the courage required to move through suffering and live a full and beautiful life.



### Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

In his latest graphic novel, *Dragon Hoops*, New York Times bestselling author Gene Luen Yang turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches. Gene understands stories--comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him "Stick" and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost

interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons's lives, but his own life as well.

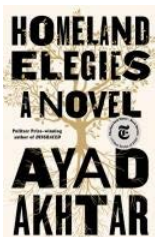


### We are Displaced by Malala Yousafzai

In this powerful book, Nobel Peace Prize winner and New York Times bestselling author Malala Yousafzai introduces the people behind the statistics and news stories about the millions of people displaced worldwide. After her father was murdered, María escaped in the middle of the night with her mother. Zaynab was out of school for two years as she fled war

before landing in America. Her sister, Sabreen, survived a harrowing journey to Italy. Ajida escaped horrific violence, but then found herself battling the elements to keep her family safe. Malala's experiences visiting refugee camps caused her to reconsider her own displacement -- first as an Internally Displaced Person when she was a young child in Pakistan, and then as an international activist who could travel anywhere in the world except to the home she loved. In *We Are Displaced*, Malala not only explores her own story, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her journeys -- girls who have lost their community, relatives, and often the only world they've ever known.

## Fiction



### Homeland Elegies by Ayad Akhtar

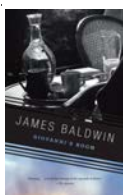
A deeply personal work about identity and belonging in a nation coming apart at the seams, *Homeland Elegies* blends fact and fiction to tell an epic story of longing and dispossession in the world that 9/11 made. Part family drama, part social essay, part picaresque novel, at its heart it is the story of a father, a son, and the country they both call home. Pulitzer

Prize-winning author Ayad Akhtar forges a new narrative voice to capture a country in which debt has ruined countless lives and the gods of finance rule, where immigrants live in fear, and where the nation's unhealed wounds wreak havoc around the world. Akhtar attempts to make sense of it all through the lens of a story about one family, from a heartland town in America to palatial suites in Central Europe to guerrilla lookouts in the mountains of Afghanistan, and spares no one--least of all himself--in the process.



### \**Real Life*, Brandon Taylor

Almost everything about Wallace, an introverted African-American transplant from Alabama, is at odds with the lakeside Midwestern university town where he is studying for a biochem degree. For reasons of self-preservation, he has kept a distance even from his own friends. But a series of confrontations with colleagues, and an unexpected encounter with a young straight man, conspire to fracture his defences, while revealing hidden currents of resentment and desire that threaten the equilibrium of their community.



### \**Giovanni's Room*, James Baldwin

A groundbreaking novel about love and the fear of love is set among the bohemian bars and nightclubs of 1950s Paris. In the 1950s Paris of American expatriates, liaisons, and violence, a young man finds himself caught between desire and conventional morality.



**\*Since I Laid My Burden Down, Brontez Purnell**

A raw, funny, and uninhibited stumble down memory lane, Purnell's debut novel explores how one man's early sexual and artistic escapades grow into a life.



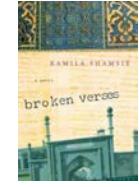
**The Summer We Got Free, Mia McKenzie**

At one time a wild young girl and a brilliant artist, Ava Delaney changes dramatically after a violent event that rocks her entire family. When a mysterious woman arrives unexpectedly for a visit, her presence stirs up the past and ghosts and other restless things emerge.



**The Other Side of Paradise, Staceyann Chin**

From the iconic and charismatic star of "Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam" comes this brave and fiercely candid memoir about growing up in Jamaica by performer, activist, and writer Chin.



**Broken Verses, Kamila Shamsie**

A sharp, thrilling journey through modern-day Pakistan, a carefully coded mystery, and an intimate mother-daughter story that asks how we forgive a mother who leaves.



**Buddha's Orphans, Samrat Upadhyay**

Nepal's political upheavals of the past century is a backdrop to the story of an orphan boy, Raja, and the girl he is fated to love, Nilu, a daughter of privilege. Their love scandalizes both families and takes readers through time and across the globe.



**A Place For Us, Fatima Mirza**

A deeply moving and resonant story of love, identity, and belonging as an Indian wedding gathers a family back together, parents Rafiq and Layla must reckon with the choices their children have made, an astonishingly tender-hearted novel of identity and belonging, and a resonant portrait of what it means to

be an American family today.



**Arabian Jazz, Diana Abu-Jaber**

A Jordanian widower and his grown daughters try to make a home for themselves in upstate New York. The book depicts the discomfort of being in their ancestral land and in the States.



**Girl in Translation, Jean Kwok**

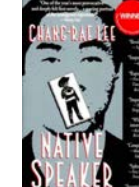
An immigrant girl is forced to choose between two worlds and two futures. When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker

in the evenings. An unforgettable and classic novel of an American immigrant, of hardship and triumph, heartbreak and love, and all that gets lost in translation.



**American Born Chinese, Gene Yang**

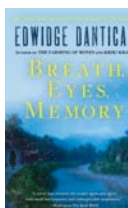
Graphic Novel depicting Jin Wang who starts at a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn't want to be associated with an FOB like him. Jin just wants to be an all-American boy, because he's in love with an all-American girl. But is this possible?



**Native Speaker, Chang-rae Lee**

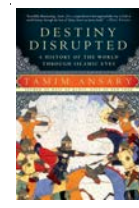
Henry Park has spent his entire life trying to become a true American--a native speaker. Park's harsh Korean upbringing has taught him to hide his emotions, to remember everything he learns, and most of all to feel an overwhelming sense of alienation - all helped to shape him as a natural spy. These attributes however,

put a strain on his marriage to his white wife. This is a book about fathers and sons and about the desire to connect with the world rather than stand apart from it.



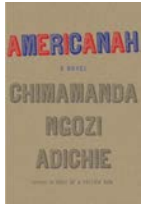
**Breath, Eyes, Memory, Edwidge Danticat**

At the age of twelve, Sophie Caco is sent from her impoverished Haitian village to New York to be reunited with a mother she barely remembers. There she discovers secrets that no child should ever know, and a legacy of shame that can be healed only when she returns to Haiti.



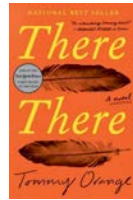
**Destiny Disrupted by Tamim Ansary**

The Western narrative of world history largely omits a whole civilization. This is the history of the world from the Islamic point of view, and restores the centrality of the Muslim perspective, ignored for a thousand years.



### **Americanah by Chimamanda Adichie**

A story of love and race centered around a young man and woman from Nigeria who face difficult choices and challenges in the countries they come to call home, a richly told story set in today's globalized world.



### **There, There, Tommy Orange**

The story of twelve unforgettable characters, Urban Indians living in Oakland, California, who converge and collide on one fateful day. As we learn the reasons that each person is attending the Big Oakland Powwow--some generous, some fearful, some joyful, some violent--momentum builds toward a shocking yet inevitable conclusion that changes everything.



### **The Cairo Trilogy by Naguib Mahfouz**

A magnificent epic trilogy of colonial Egypt: Palace Walk, Palace of Desire and Sugar Street is the engrossing story of a Muslim family in Cairo during Britain's occupation of Egypt in the early decades of the twentieth century. It traces three generations of the family of tyrannical

patriarch Al-Sayyid Ahmad Abd al-Jawad, who rules his household strictly while living a secret life of self-indulgence.



### **Long Way Down, Jason Reynolds**

National Book Award finalist and New York Times bestseller Jason Reynolds's fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds--the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.



### **Sing, Unburied Sing, Jesmyn Ward**

The archetypal road novel in rural twenty-first-century America. An intimate portrait of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle, journeying through Mississippi's past and present, examining the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power--and limitations--of family bonds



### **Bee Season, Myla Goldberg**

An ordinary girl with an exceptional gift for spelling, young Eliza Naumann embarks on the rough-and-tumble spelling bee circuit, where her quirky family will collide with the harsh realities of life.



### **Parable of the Sower, Octavia E. Butler**

The time is 2025. The place is California, where small walled communities must protect themselves from hordes of desperate scavengers and a roaming band of people addicted to a drug that activates a desire to burn, rape and murder. When one small community is overrun, Lauren Olamina, an eighteen-year-old black woman with

the hereditary trait of 'hyperempathy' - which causes her to feel others' pain as her own - sets off on foot along the dangerous coastal highways, moving north into the unknown.



### **American Street, Ibi Zoboi**

Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find 'une belle vie'--a good life in America. But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins; the grittiness of Detroit's west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own. Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?

**\*Books featuring characters who are LGBTQ+  
+Books featuring characters who are differently abled**