Ghost Boys
by Jewell Parker Rhodes
After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
by Mildred D Taylor
A black family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination the children do not understand.

The Cruisers
by Walter Dean Myers
Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy, learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, The Cruiser, to try to make peace.

The Parker Inheritance
by Varian Johnson
Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure. When she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow book-worm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert.

One Crazy Summer
by Rita Williams-Garcia
After travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, Delphine and her two sisters discover that their mother, a dedicated poet, wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

Brown Girl Dreaming
by Jacqueline Woodson
In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.

Updated 01/28/19

The Journey of Little Charlie
by Christopher Paul Curtis
When his sharecropper father is killed, leaving the family in debt, twelve-year-old Little Charlie makes a deal to accompany fearsome plantation overseer Cap'n Buck north in pursuit of fugitives.

Midnight Without a Moon
by Linda Williams Jackson
Rose Lee Carter, an African-American girl, dreams of life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields, but when Emmett Till is murdered and his killers are acquitted, Rose is torn between seeking her destiny outside of Mississippi or staying and being a part of an important movement.

It All Comes Down to This
by Karen English
Wanting to participate in community activities but feeling marginalized in her new, all-white 1965 Los Angeles neighborhood, 12-year-old Sophie struggles with household dynamics until the riots in nearby Watts and the unfair arrest of a friend make her realize that her life is more complicated than she realized. By the Coretta Scott King Honor Award-winning author of the Carver Chronicles. Simultaneous eBook. 20,000 first printing.

Garvey’s Choice
by Nikki Grimes
Preferring science and reading to the sports his father wants him to pursue, insecure Garvey comforts himself with food and endures teasing by bullies before joining the school chorus, where his musical talents help him accept himself and bond with his father.

As Brave As You
by Jason Reynolds
When Genie and his older brother spend their summer in the country with their grandparents, he learns a secret about his grandfather and what it means to be brave.

Patina
by Jason Reynolds
A newbie to the track team, Patina "Patty" Jones must learn to rely on her family and teammates as she tries to outrun her personal demons.

Betty Before X
by Ilyasah Shabazz
A powerful middle-grade novel about the childhood activism of Malcolm X’s wife, written by their daughter, describes how young Betty finds confidence and purpose by volunteering for the Housewives League in 1945 Detroit, learning skills and developing awareness that inspires her future as a Civil Rights icon.

Love Double Dutch!
by Doreen Spicer-Dannelly
Kayla must salvage her double Dutch dreams after her parents’ rocky relationship takes her away from Brooklyn - and her beloved team - to spend the summer in North Carolina.

The Harlem Charade
by Natasha Tarpley
After Elvin’s grandfather is attacked, Jin, Alexandra, and Elvin band together to find out who is responsible, a search that leads them into conflict with a politician with plans to turn Harlem into an amusement park.

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground
by Rita Williams-Garcia
Feeling most alive when he plays music with his grandfather, aspiring bluesman Clayton Byrd is devastated when his grandfather passes away and his mother forbids him from playing the blues, losses that compel him to run away in the hope of joining other bluesmen on the road.

You Don’t Know Me But I Know You
by Rebecca Barrow
Ignoring a letter written years earlier by her biological mother, Audrey attempts to fill in the missing pieces of her life until an unexpected pregnancy compels her to learn the truth about the history and choices that led to her own existence.