

Urban Literature for Teens

YOUNG ADULT TITLES

Booth, Coe **Tyrell**

Living in a homeless shelter, Tyrell must decide whether to follow in his incarcerated father's footsteps.

Buckhanon, Kalisha **Upstate**

Can Natasha's love for Antonio survive after he is sent to prison?

Copeland, Deborah **The Kids at Latimar High**

Lauren, a student and journalist in the Bronx learns to balance complex social situations

Cross, Kathleen **Schooling Carmen**

Carmen DuPre thinks her good looks entitle her to what she wants, until a medical condition threatens her face and teaches her there is more to life than looks.

Draper, Sharon **November Blues**

A teen's hazing accident death has lasting affects on his cousin and pregnant girlfriend.

Flake, Sharon **Bang!**

Kee-lee is traumatized by gun violence in his neighborhood, especially since his little brother was a victim of a bullet.

Flake, Sharon **The Skin I'm In**

Maleeka's dark skin makes her uncomfortable until she learns how to love herself and how she looks.

Grimes, Nikki **Bronx Masquerade**

An open-mic poetry slam brings teens together, sharing their stories of growing up in the ghetto.

Johnson, Angela **The First Part Last**

In this 2004 winner of the Coretta Scott King and Printz Awards, Bobby shares the story of raising his daughter Feather on his own.

King, Katina **Ride Wit' Me**

Forbidden love in a modern Romeo and Juliet story set on the streets of Chicago.

McDonald, Janet **Chill Wind**

Aisha struggles to support her young children after receiving a termination of welfare benefits notice.

McDonald, Janet **Harlem Hustle**

Eric "Hustle" Sampson, a high school dropout, believes his chance at rap stardom is around the corner.

Myers, Walter Dean **Autobiography of My Dead Brother**

This novel explores the frequent occurrence of death by young urban males by gunfire.

Myers, Walter Dean **Monster**

While on trial for accomplice to murder, Steve Harmon retells the details of the proceedings through film scripts and journals.

Simone, Ni-Ni **A Girl Like Me**

A radio contest puts Elite, who has a crack-addicted mother and is secretly raising her siblings on her own, close to Haneef, a performing artist. Will her dreams come true?

Sitomer, Alan **Homeboyz**

Teddy "T-bear" Anderson seeks revenge for his sister's death.

Van Diepen, Allison **Street Pharm**

For the number one dealer on the streets, success is about survival.

Whyman, Matt **Boy Kills Man**

Thirteen-year-old blood brothers are drawn to the dangerous streets of Colombia.

Williams, KaShamba ***Dymond in the Rough***

A high school freshman finds herself lying to be with her new boyfriend, Kyle.

Williams, Lori Aurelia ***Broken China***

China Cup Cameron deals with single motherhood and personal tragedy.

SHORT STORIES AND POETRY

Flake, Sharon ***Who Am I Without Him?***

This Coretta Scott King Honor Book collects stories about young urban teen girls and their challenges growing into young women.

Grimes, Nikki ***Dark Sons***

Alternating poems compare the loss of a father for both the biblical Abraham and Sam, a New York teen.

Teenage Bluez

Collection of six short stories about teens making mistakes and making their way in the world.

Weatherford, Carole Boston ***Becoming Billie Holiday***

Jazz vocalist looks back on her early years in this fictional memoir.

SERIES

Chase, Paula

Divine, L.

Langan, Paul, ed.

Millner, Denene

Various Authors

Del Rio Bay Clique

Drama High

Bluford

Hotlanta

Kimani Tru

ADULT BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULT READERS

Black Artemis ***Explicit Content***

Two girls perform hip hop music together until they are betrayed by their label, Explicit Content.

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

Classic story of one man's life in Harlem.

Brown, Tracy ***White Lines***

An urban love story about a runaway teen and drug addiction survival.

Poole, Daaimah ***Got a Man***

Malik needs to figure out what to do with his baby's mother and his new love interest.

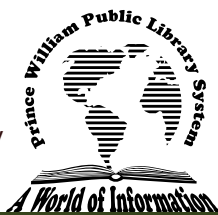
Sapphire ***Push***

A heart wrenching story of parental abuse and hope through healing.

Souljah, Sister ***Midnight: A Gangster Love Story***

On the streets of Brooklyn a young man deals with his Islamic values and revolving love interests.

Most books may be found in Young Adult Fiction & Paperbacks at the Bull Run and Chinn Park Regional Libraries, and at Central and Potomac Community Libraries. They may also be available in the Neighborhood Libraries.



Compiled by Youth Services Librarian Sarah Wright
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