

## **Just Be 'Tween' Us (Ages 10 & Up)**

***The Madman of Piney Woods*** by Christopher Paul Curtis

*If you've read the novel, "Elijah of Buxton," you're going to enjoy this sequel. Benji and Red are not friends, they don't even live in the same town. A forensic competition brings the two together and they discover that they have more in common than they imagined. Both of them have encountered a strange presence in the forest, watching them, tracking them. Could the Madman of Piney Woods be real? J Curtis*

***Sabotage, Sedition and Sunday Acts of Rebellion*** by David Aretha

*An historical account of African-American slaves who fought for their freedom on slave ships, plantations, and wherever else they were held against their will. Well-known slave rebellions such as Denmark Vesey in 1822, and Nat Turner in 1831, are revealed in this novel. J NF*

***Unstoppable Octobia May*** by Sharon G. Flake

*It's 1953 and ten-year-old Octobia May lives in her Aunt's boarding house in the South, surrounded by an African-American community which has its own secrets and internal racism. Mr. Davenport, the man in room 204 is very strange, which attributes to Octobia spending her days wondering if Mr. Davenport is really a vampire—or something else entirely. J Flake*

## **Just Us Teens (14 & Up)**

***Because They Marched: The People's Campaign for Voting Rights that Changed America*** by Russell Freedman

*Through black and white photos this book captivates the demonstrations big and small: from sit-ins and "wade-ins" to the well-known Selma schoolteachers' march and "Bloody Sunday" at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Freedman details day-by-day the culminating several-thousand-strong march to Montgomery, which spurred the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. YA 323.1196 Fr*

***Boy in the Black Suit*** by Jason Reynolds

*Matt wears a black suit every day. No, not because his mom died—although she did, and it sucks. But he wears the suit for his gig at the local funeral home, which pays way better than the Cluck Bucket, and he needs the income since his dad can't handle the bills (or anything, really) on his own. An affecting story of a teenager's path through pain, but one whose faults offset its strengths. YA*

***Bronxwood*** by Coe Booth

*Tyrell's father is just out of jail, and Tyrell doesn't know how to deal with that. It's bad enough that his brother Troy is in foster care and that his mother is no help whatsoever. Now there's another thing up in his face, just when he's trying to settle down. Will Tyrell survive the temptation? YA*

**Caught Up** by Amir Abrams

Sixteen-year-old Kennedy Simms is from the suburbs and is attracted to boys who wear sagging jeans and smell of marijuana smoke—boys her more conservative friends disapprovingly call "thugs" and "hoodlums." But Kennedy's bored with dating the nerds her parents and friends like; she's determined to break out of her safe world in a gated community and experience life. It's bad news when Kennedy meets Malik, who thrills and romances her. It isn't until a catastrophic event happens in Kennedy's life that she sees the error of her ways, though by then it may be too late. **YA Fiction**

**Darius & Twig** by Walter Dean Myers

Two best friends, a writer and a runner, deal with bullies, family issues, social pressures, and their quest for success coming out of Harlem. **YA Fiction**

**Hold Tight, Don't Let Go** by Laura Rose Wagner

A vivid story of two teenage cousins, Nadine and Magdalie, raised as sisters, who survive the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The girls are inseparable, making the best of their new circumstances in a refugee center until Nadine's father who lives in Miami, sends for her but not Magdalie. They're both are devastated. Will they ever see each other again? **YA Fiction**

**March: Book One** by John Lewis

Congressman Lewis's commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington D.C., and from receiving beatings from state troopers, to receiving the Medal of Freedom awarded to him by President Barack Obama, the first African-American president. **Fiction Lewis**

**The Perfect Place** by Teresa E. Harris

Twelve-year-old Treasure and her younger sister, Tiffany, are tired of moving from place to place every time her unreliable father leaves the family. While their mother goes to search for him; the girls must move in with Great-Aunt Grace, in Black Lake, Virginia, where segregation lingers, and Grace is a nightmare—at least on the surface. **J Fiction Harris**

**The Harlem Hellfighters** by Max Brooks

This is a graphic novel about the first African-American regiment to fight in World War One. Though they returned as heroes, this African-American unit faced tremendous discrimination, even from their own government. The Harlem Hellfighters, as the Germans called them, fought courageously on—and off—the battlefield to make Europe, and America, safe for democracy. **Fiction**

**X: A Novel** by Ilyasah Shabazz

The story opens with Malcolm's departure from Michigan as a teen; and it follows him through his time in Boston and Harlem, culminating with his conversion to Islam. While in prison in 1948, Malcolm changed his name to reflect his muslim beliefs. Malcolm X was an important historical figure and this novel reveals that a person can rise through adversity to make a positive difference in the world. **YA Fiction**

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