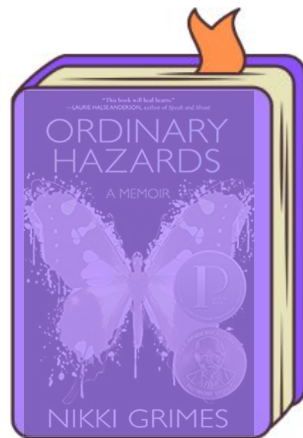
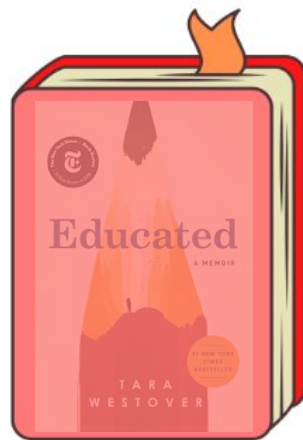
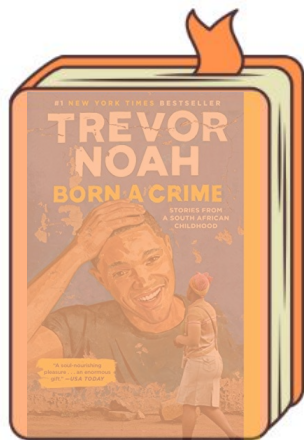
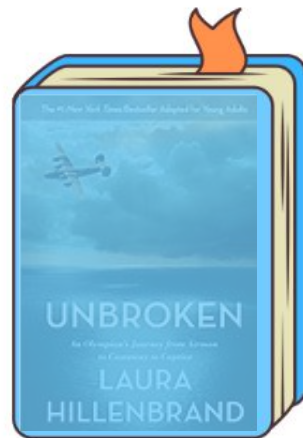
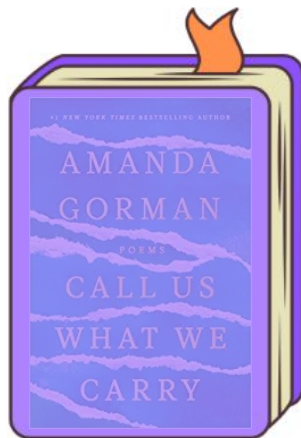
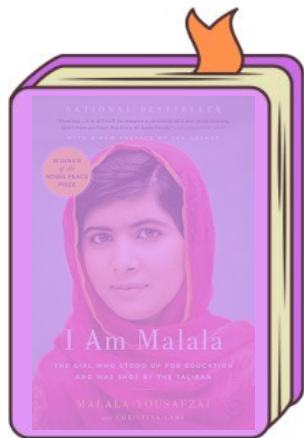
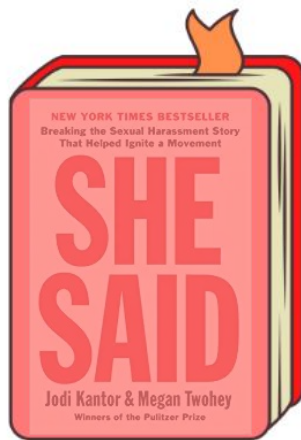
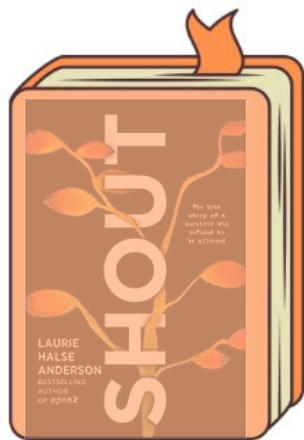




Let's Get Real

YA Nonfiction Book Recs





YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You read and enjoyed *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- You enjoy learning about the legal field and criminal justice system
- You enjoy discussing systemic oppression and/or capital punishment.
- You like a book that has been adapted into a movie or you're a Michael B. Jordan fan



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Justice, Injustice and Oppression
- Restoration and Empathy
- US Criminal Justice System
- Media and Public Opinion

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

← Click the title on each page for a Book Talk or author interview.

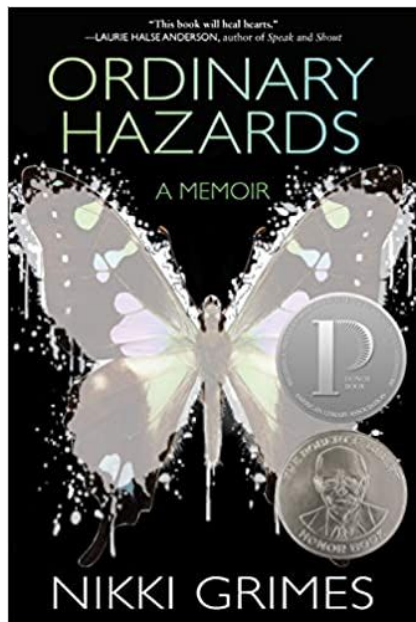
"Unfairness in the justice system is a major theme of our age. . . . This book brings new life to the story by placing it in two affecting contexts: [Bryan] Stevenson's life work and the deep strain of racial injustice in American life. . . . You don't have to read too long to start cheering for this man. Against tremendous odds, Stevenson has worked to free scores of people from wrongful or excessive punishment, arguing five times before the Supreme Court. . . . The book extols not his nobility but that of the cause, and reads like a call to action for all that remains to be done. . . . The message of the book, hammered home by dramatic examples of one man's refusal to sit quietly and countenance horror, is that evil can be overcome, a difference can be made. *Just Mercy* will make you upset and it will make you hopeful. . . . Stevenson has been angry about [the criminal justice system] for years, and we are all the better for it."—**Ted Conover**, *The New York Times Book Review*

Select the books to return to the "shelf" →



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy free verse poetry.
- You enjoy memoirs.
- You are interested in discussions surrounding mental health.
- You are interested in discussions surrounding Child Services / foster care.
- You read and enjoyed *Brown Girl Dreaming*.



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Mental Health
- Identity and Voice
- Overcoming Adversity
- Education
- Abuse and Neglect

Trigger Warnings:
Abuse/Neglect
Sexual Assault

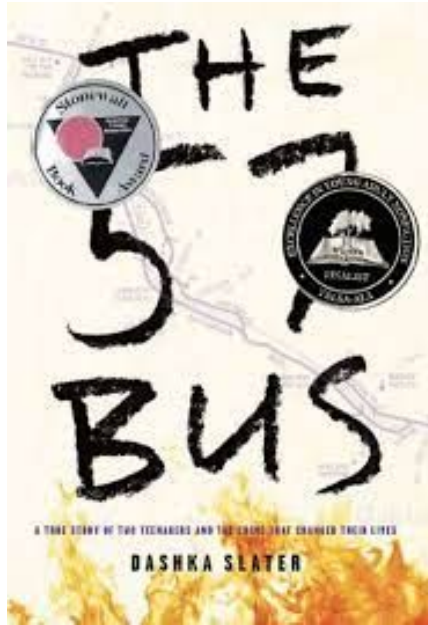
Ordinary Hazards By: Nikki Grimes

"For award-winning children's and YA author Grimes, writing, faith, and determination were the keys to surviving her tumultuous childhood. Grimes recounts her story as a memoir in verse, writing with a poet's lyricism through the lens of memory fractured by trauma. Fans of her poetry and prose will appreciate this intimate look at the forces that shaped her as an artist and as a person determined to find the light in the darkest of circumstances. A raw, heartbreaking, and ultimately uplifting story of trauma, loss, and the healing power of words."—**Kirkus Reviews**



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You like to discuss topics relating to Social Justice.
- You like to explore topics relating to LGBTQIA+ and/or the Criminal Justice System.
- You enjoy investigative journalism.
- You enjoy stories told from multiple POVs



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Adolescent Crime vs. Adult Crime
- Inclusivity
- Discrimination and Social Justice
- Redemption and Forgiveness

The 57 Bus by: Dashka Slater

"With a journalist's eye for overlooked details, Slater does a masterful job debunking the myths of the hate-crime monster and the African-American thug, probing the line between adolescent stupidity and irredeemable depravity. Few readers will traverse this exploration of gender identity, adolescent crime, and penal racism without having a few assumptions challenged. An outstanding book that links the diversity of creed and the impact of impulsive actions to themes of tolerance and forgiveness." —*Kirkus* **starred review**



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy learning about Japanese culture/traditions
- You enjoy learning about WWII and Internment Camps
- You enjoy Graphic Novels and memoirs.
- You are a fan of Star Trek (George Takei).



THEMES / TOPICS:

- American Democracy and Civic Engagement
- Racism and War
- History and Education
- Family and Community

They Called Us Enemy By: George Takei

"This evocative memoir shares stories of the nation's past, draws heartbreaking parallels to the present, and serves as a cautionary tale for the future."— *School Library Journal* (starred review)



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You are a fan of Orange is the New Black, Encanto, or Jane the Virgin.
- You enjoy stories of hope and resilience.
- You enjoy memoir-style and/or rags to riches stories.
- You enjoy discussing topics related to immigration.



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Family
- Patriotism
- Overcoming Adversity
- Immigration
- Rags to Riches/
American Dream

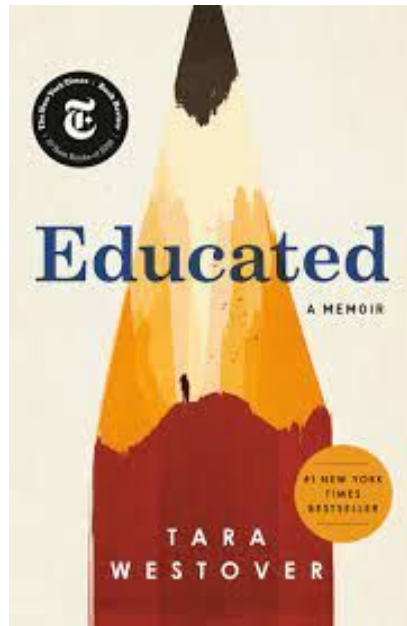
In the Country we Love by: **Diane Guerrero & Michelle Burford**

"Guerrero relates her struggle to hold her life together, get through high school and college, and find her feet in the world--challenges that will resonate with many readers...[She] writes with humor and heartbreaking honesty. Offering readers the story she needed to hear as a child, Guerrero shines a light on this country's flawed immigration system, eloquently calling for reform without diminishing her appreciation for the opportunities US citizenship has afforded her. **A timely and enlightening read.**"—*Booklist*



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You like drama and reality television (think TLC)
- You enjoy memoir-style books.
- You enjoy stories of hope and resilience.
- You believe in the power of the American Dream, rags to riches stories.



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Memory, History, & Subjectivity
- Education
- Devoutness vs. Delusion
- Family, Abuse, Entrapment
- Identity
- Mental Health

Educated By: Tara Westover

Trigger Warning:
Abuse/Neglect

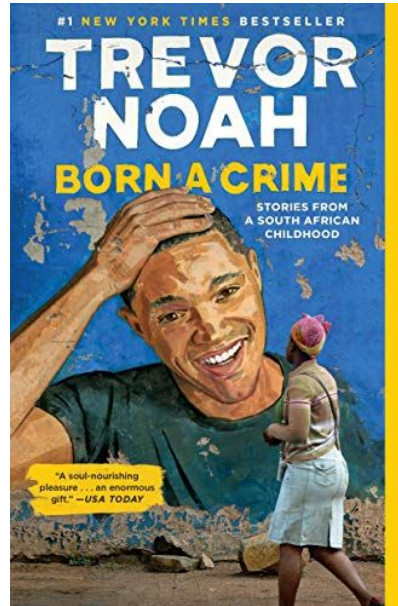
“Tara Westover is living proof that some people are flat-out, boots-always-laced-up indomitable. Her new book, *Educated*, is a heartbreaking, heartwarming, best-in-years memoir about striding beyond the limitations of birth and environment into a better life. . . . ★★★★★ out of four.”—**USA**

Today



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy comedy and/or The Daily Show.
- You enjoy short stories.
- You are interested in the history of apartheid/racism in South Africa.



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Racism, Apartheid, and Cycle of Poverty
- Overcoming Adversity
- Identity and Community
- Growth through Religion and Education

Born a Crime By: Trevor Noah

“Noah’s childhood stories are told with all the hilarity and intellect that characterizes his comedy, while illuminating a dark and brutal period in South Africa’s history that must never be forgotten.”—*Esquire*



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy learning about Korean culture/traditions
- You enjoy Graphic Novels
- You are interested in Art/Drawing



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Immigration and Racism
- Identity
- Korean Culture
- Family

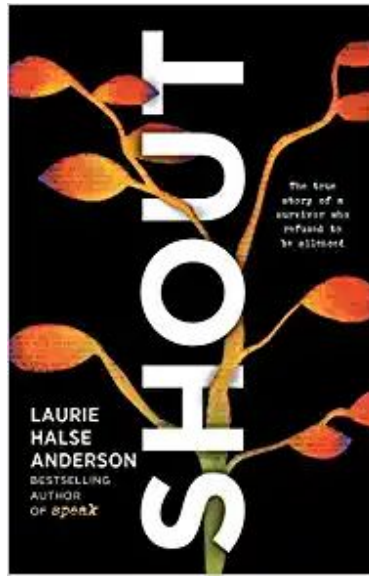
Almost American Girl By: Robin Ha

“With unblinking honesty and raw vulnerability [and] presented in full-color splendor, her energetic style mirrors the constant motion of her adolescent self, navigating the peripatetic turbulence toward adulthood.” — **ALA Booklist (starred review)**



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy poetry / stories in verse
- You read and enjoyed *Speak*.
- You are interested in supporting survivors of sexual assault and abuse.



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Identity
- Speaking Up and Speaking Out
- Survival of Sexual Assault
- Courage and Advocacy

Trigger Warning:
Sexual Assault

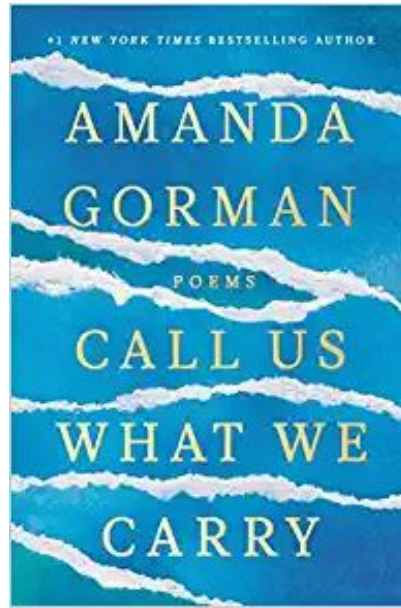
***Shout* By: Laurie Halse Anderson**

"A powerful testament that bears witness not just to [Anderson's] own pain, and the pain of others similarly abused, but also to the power of speaking persistently, time and time again, about topics that most people don't want to hear." --*The Los Angeles Review of Books*



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy analyzing poetry.
- You heard and enjoyed “The Hill We Climb” at the inauguration.
- You enjoy reflecting on themes and making connections to your own life, historical events and other texts.
- You WANT to reflect on the year 2020



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Identity
- Grief and Memory
- Self-Progression and Self-Reflection

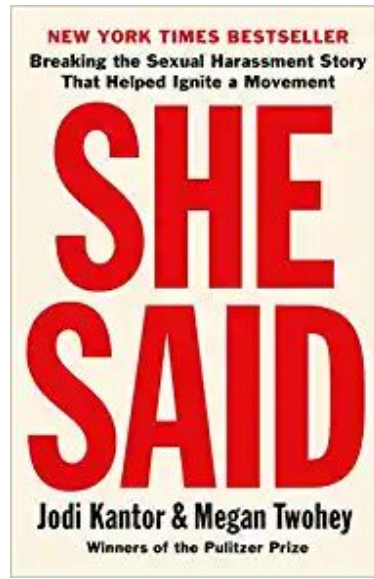
Call Us What We Carry By: Amanda Gorman

“In seven sections and through poems that often experiment with form, the book sets out to tell the story of the COVID-19 pandemic from a collective point of view, with Gorman exploring the grief, hope and wisdom that come from a period of shared tragedy. —***Time.com***”



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy investigative journalism.
- You enjoy true crime
- You are interested in the Harvey Weinstein case.
- You enjoy suspense and drama
- You are interested in how the Hollywood elite live and operate.



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Investigative Journalism
- Sexual Abuse and Assault
- Power and Corruption
- Courage and Voice
- Collective Action

**Trigger Warning:
Sexual Assault**

She Said By: Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey

"A binge-read of a book, propelled, for the most part, by a clear, adrenaline-spiking ticktock of how their stories came together, and studded with all manner of new astonishing details...This is Kantor and Twohey's story and one everyone should read for a panoply of reasons. By simply recounting their reporting, the two offer a masterful explanation of how a man like Weinstein is allowed to abuse his power and many women for so long in something approaching plain sight...In many ways, "She Said" is more significant than "All the President's Men," and not just because journalism is currently under siege, financially and politically, in a way it was not in the 1970s. There was a finite number of people responsible for the crimes of the Nixon administration; the alleged crimes of Harvey Weinstein are also the crimes of our culture, and they continue to be committed every day by many men all around the world. Although now, one hopes, without as much silence, secrecy and cultural complacency." — **Los Angeles Times Review**



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy true crime or tv shows like Criminal Minds.
- You enjoy reading about criminal justice / mysteries.
- You enjoy a journalistic style.



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Mystery / Crime Solving
- Murder
- Criminal Justice

***In Cold Blood* By: Truman Capote**

"The best documentary account of an American crime ever written ... The book chills the blood and exercises the intelligence ... harrowing." —*The New York Review of Books*



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy graphic novels and/or autobiographies.
- You enjoy reading or learning about the history of the Civil Rights movement.



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Civil Rights
- Activism
- Courage and Hope
- Perseverance

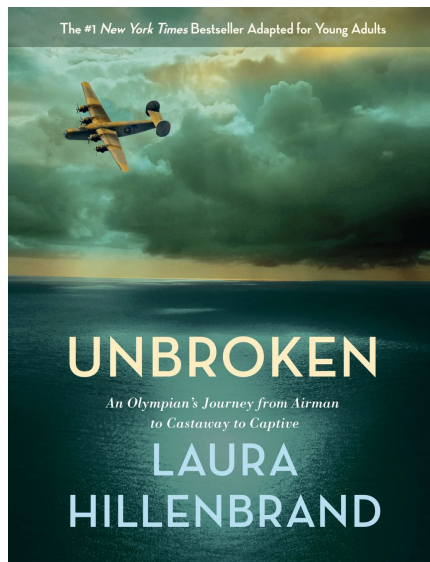
March By: John Lewis

"An astonishingly accomplished graphic memoir that brings to life a vivid portrait of the civil rights era, Lewis' extraordinary history and accomplishments, and the movement he helped lead... its power, accessibility and artistry destine it for awards, and a well-deserved place at the pinnacle of the comics canon." - **NPR**



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy history or WWII Stories.
- You enjoy sports.
- You read and enjoyed *Seabiscuit* (same author)



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Survival, Resilience, Redemption
- War
- Identity
- Belief and Faith
- Perseverance and Will

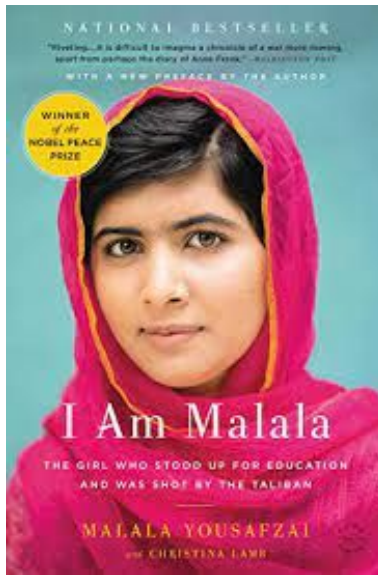
Unbroken By: Laura Hillenbrand

“Magnificent . . . incredible . . . [Hillenbrand] has crafted another masterful blend of sports, history and overcoming terrific odds; this is biography taken to the nth degree, a chronicle of a remarkable life lived through extraordinary times.”—*The Dallas Morning News*



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You read enjoyed *The Diary of Anne Frank* or other memoir-style books.
- You enjoy stories of hope and resilience.
- You enjoy learning about the history of war and conflict in the Middle East.



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Women's Rights
- The Power of Education
- Religion, Interpretations and Stereotypes

I Am Malala By: Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai

"Riveting.... Co-written with Christina Lamb, a veteran British journalist who has an evident passion for Pakistan and can render its complicated history with pristine clarity, this is a book that should be read not only for its vivid drama but for its urgent message about the untapped power of girls.... It is difficult to imagine a chronicle of a war more moving, apart from perhaps the diary of Anne Frank. With the essential difference that we lost that girl, and by some miracle, we still have this one."—**Marie Arana, Washington Post**



YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS ONE IF:

- You enjoy short stories / essays.
- You have a hard time focusing on one topic for too long.
- You enjoy reading about and reflecting on current events



THEMES / TOPICS:

- Identity
- Speaking Up and Speaking Out
- Hope
- Courage and Advocacy

***How I Resist: Activism and Hope for a New Generation* By: Maureen Johnson**

"Candor and passion radiate from the 30 voices raised in this trenchant and timely compendium of interviews, essays, reflections, illustrations, and poems." -- *Publisher's Weekly*

"[Maureen Johnson] has done an exceptional job calling on different voices to share their wisdom and thoughts on making a difference" -- *School Library Journal*

