



## Black Brother, Black Brother

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

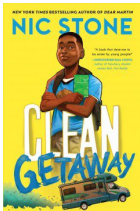
Routinely compared to his lighter-skinned brother, a black boy at an elitist prep school is unfairly suspended in the wake of an incident involving the school bully, whom he tries to defeat in a fencing competition.



## Betty Before X

by Ilyasah Shabazz

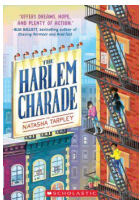
Raised by her aunt until she is six, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement.



## Clean Getaway

by Nic Stone

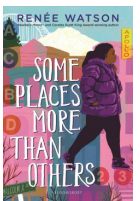
An 11-year-old boy confronts the realities of race relations, past and present, as he and his grandmother take a mysterious and unplanned Spring Break road trip through the once-segregated American South.



## The Harlem Charade

by Natasha Tarpley

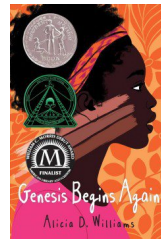
After Elvin's grandfather is attacked, Jin, Alexandra, and Elvin band together to find out who is responsible. The search leads them into conflict with a politician with plans to turn Harlem into an amusement park.



## Some Places More Than Others

by Renée Watson

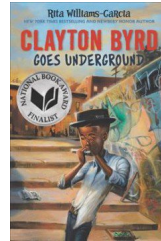
Amara visits her father's family in Harlem for her twelfth birthday, hoping to better understand her family and herself, but New York City is not what she expected.



## Genesis Begins Again

by Alicia Williams

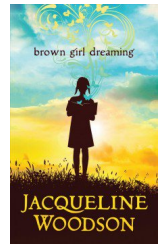
Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.



## Clayton Byrd Goes Underground

by Rita Williams-Garcia

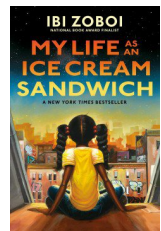
Feeling most alive when he plays music with his grandfather, Clayton Byrd is devastated when his grandfather dies and his mother forbids him from playing the blues. So he runs away in hopes of joining other bluesmen on the road.



## Brown Girl Dreaming

by Jacqueline Woodson

In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, Woodson describes growing up black in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.



## My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich

by Ibi Aanu Zobo

In the summer of 1984, twelve-year-old Ebony-Grace of Huntsville, Alabama, visits her father in Harlem, where her fascination with outer space and science fiction interfere with her finding acceptance.



# Black Books Matter:

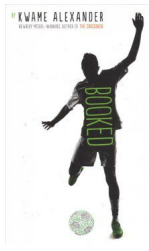
## Middle Grade Books Starring Protagonists of Color



WILTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

137 Old Ridgefield Road - Wilton, CT - 06897

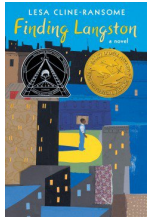
[www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) 203.762.3950



## Booked

by Kwame Alexander

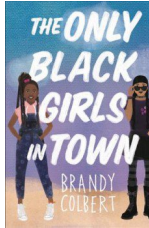
Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books.. But he learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.



## Finding Langston

by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.

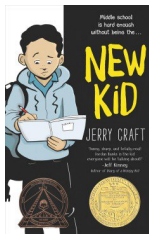


## The Only Black Girls in Town

by Brandy Colbert

Ecstatic to hear that another African American family has moved into town, surfer Alberta attempts to make friends with homesick newcomer Edie,

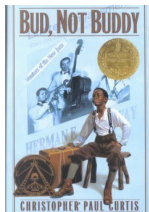
who helps her uncover painful local secrets in a box of old journals.



## New Kid

by Jerry Craft

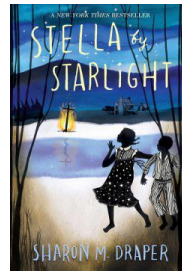
After his parents send him to a prestigious private school known for its academics, artist Jordan Banks finds himself torn between two worlds.



## Bud, Not Buddy

by Christopher Paul Curtis

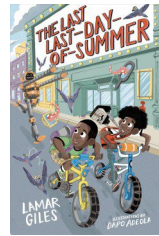
Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.



## Stella by Starlight

by Sharon M. Draper

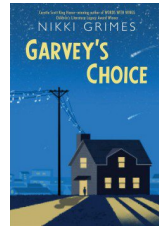
Growing up in the segregated South, Stella and her little brother have always accepted the disparities in treatment. But when they witness a terrible event, they are compelled to fight back and trigger fundamental changes.



## The Last Last-Day-of-Summer

by L. R. Giles

When adventurous cousins Otto and Sheed Alston accidentally extend the last day of summer by freezing time, they end up having to fight evil in order to get things back on track.

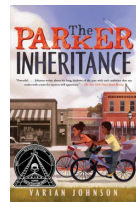


## Garvey's Choice

by Nikki Grimes

Overweight Garvey prefers science and reading to the sports his dad pushes him to play. Additionally, he is bullied at school. But when he joins the school chorus he discovers a talent

that may just change things.



## The Parker Inheritance

by Varian Johnson

Spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, Candice discovers the letter that sent her grandmother on a treasure hunt. Candice and her new friend

Brandon set off to expose the injustice once committed against a local African American family.



## For Black Girls Like Me

by Mariama Lockington

Explores the complexities of family, race, sisterhood, and belonging through the eyes of an African American girl adopted into a white family.



## Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

by Kwame Mbalia

Haunted by the bus accident that ended his best friend's life, seventh grader

Tristan Strong dreads visiting his grandparents' Alabama farm. After arrival, however, he falls into a world of burning seas, iron monsters and exhausted black folk heroes who need his help to save their world.



## From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

An unexpected letter from her incarcerated father has Zoe scrambling to determine his innocence, all while preparing for a cooking-show competition.

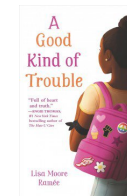


## The Stars Beneath Our Feet

by David Barclay Moore

Lolly Rachpaul is still reeling from the shooting death of his older brother. When his mother's girlfriend

gives him legos, he is able to build a fantastical city at a Harlem community center and begin to find his own way--without gang alliances.

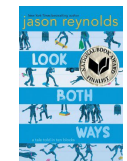


## A Good Kind of Trouble

by Lisa Moore Ramée

After attending a powerful protest, Shayla starts wearing an armband to school to support the Black Lives Matter movement. But when the school gives

her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose between her education and her identity.



## Look Both Ways : a Tale Told in Ten Blocks

by Jason Reynolds

A collection of short stories that take place on the same day. They follow 10 kids walking home from school, who oddly don't notice a very unusual event.