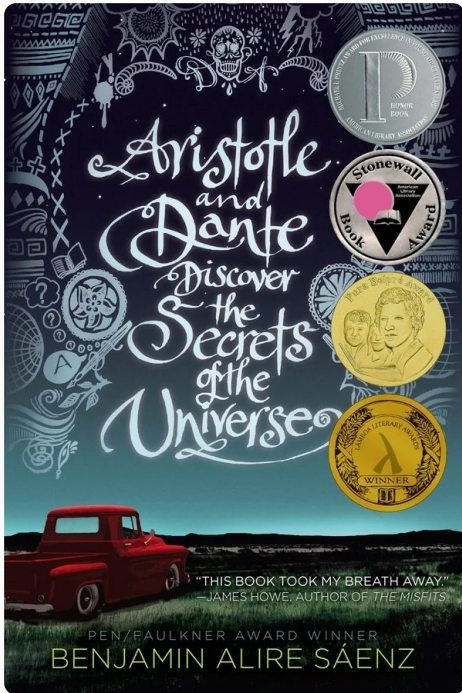


9th-12th Grade Booklist

All the books on this list are included in the 2026-2027 School Year Rainbow Library collection. With each title is a full-text review, along with the awards the title has won. We encourage you to use this information when making book recommendations to students or when discussing these titles with families or other school staff.

Rainbow Library books are selected based on reviews from major journals, such as School Library Journal, Kirkus, and Booklist Reviews, and feedback from hundreds of educators and school librarians who previously received Rainbow Library sets. The grade range for each title follows School Library Journal (or, if unavailable, another reputable journal). Nearly all these titles have won awards or been featured on reputable lists, such as the American Library Association (ALA) Rainbow Book List.

To purchase LGBTQ+ affirming titles for grades K-12, please visit **bookshop.org/shop/RainbowLibrary**. A portion of proceeds goes back to supporting this program.

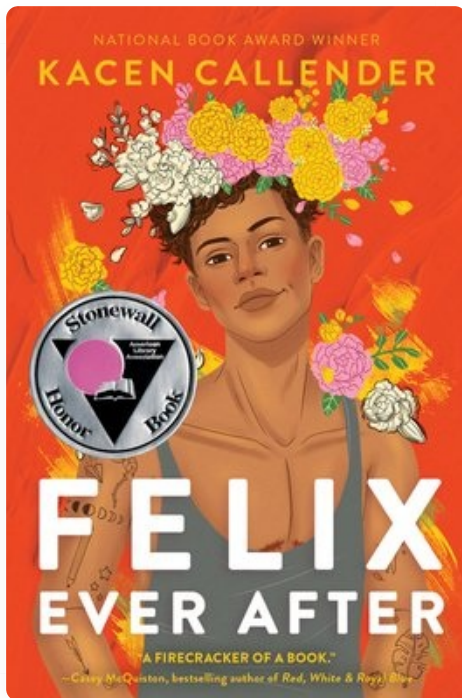


Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe / Aristóteles y Dante descubren los secretos del universo (English/Spanish editions)

Benjamin Alire Sáenz (Author)

A Time Best YA Book of All Time (2021)

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.



Felix Ever After

Kacen Callender (Author)

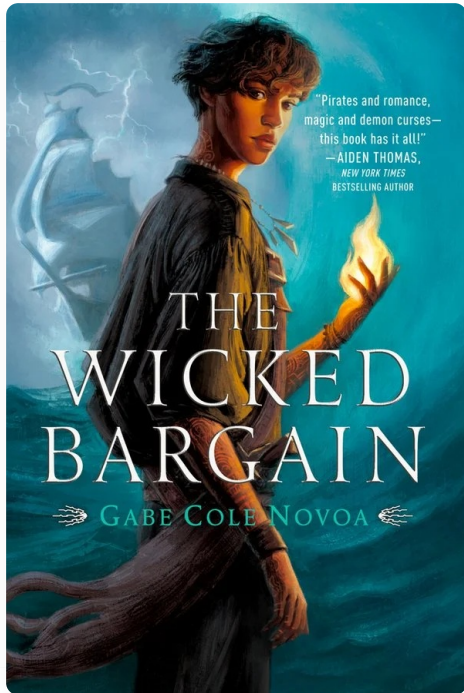
Felix Love has never been in love—and, yes, he's painfully aware of the irony. He desperately wants to know what it's like and why it seems so easy for everyone but him to find someone. What's worse is that, even though he is proud of his identity, Felix also secretly fears that he's one marginalization too many—Black, queer, and transgender—to ever get his own happily-ever-after. When an anonymous student begins sending him transphobic messages—after publicly posting Felix's deadname alongside images of him before he transitioned—Felix comes up with a plan for revenge. What he didn't count on: his catfish scenario landing him in a quasi-love triangle. But as he navigates his complicated feelings, Felix begins a journey of questioning and self-discovery that helps redefine his most important relationship: how he feels about himself. *Felix Ever After* is an honest and layered story about identity, falling in love, and recognizing the love you deserve.



We Set the Dark on Fire

Tehlor Kay Mejia (Author)

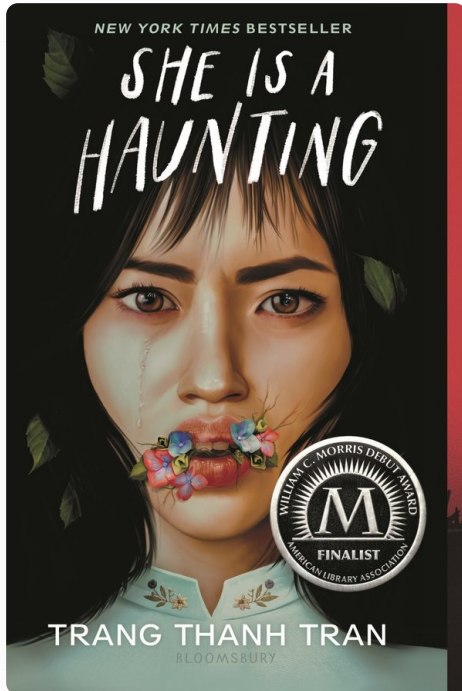
At the Medio School for Girls, distinguished young women are trained for one of two roles in their polarized society. Depending on her specialization, a graduate will one day run a husband's household or raise his children. Both paths promise a life of comfort and luxury, far from the frequent political uprisings of the lower class. Daniela Vargas is the school's top student, but her pedigree is a lie. She must keep the truth hidden or be sent back to the fringes of society. And school couldn't prepare her for the difficult choices she must make after graduation, especially when she is asked to spy for a resistance group desperately fighting to bring equality to Medio. Will Dani cling to the privilege her parents fought to win for her, or will she give up everything she's strived for in pursuit of a free Medio—and a chance at a forbidden love?



The Wicked Bargain

Gabe Cole Novoa (Author)

On Mar León de la Rosa's sixteenth birthday, el Diablo comes calling. Mar is a transmasculine nonbinary teen pirate hiding a magical ability to manipulate fire and ice. But their magic isn't enough to reverse a wicked bargain made by their father, and now el Diablo has come to collect his payment: the soul of Mar's father and the entire crew of their ship. When Mar is miraculously rescued by the sole remaining pirate crew in the Caribbean, el Diablo returns to give them a choice: give up their soul to save their father by the harvest moon, or never see him again. The task is impossible—Mar refuses to make a bargain, and there's no way their magic is a match for el Diablo. Then Mar finds the most unlikely allies: Bas, an infuriatingly arrogant and handsome pirate—and the captain's son; and Dami, a gender-fluid demonio whose motives are never quite clear. For the first time in their life, Mar may have the courage to use their magic. It could be their only redemption—or it could mean certain death.



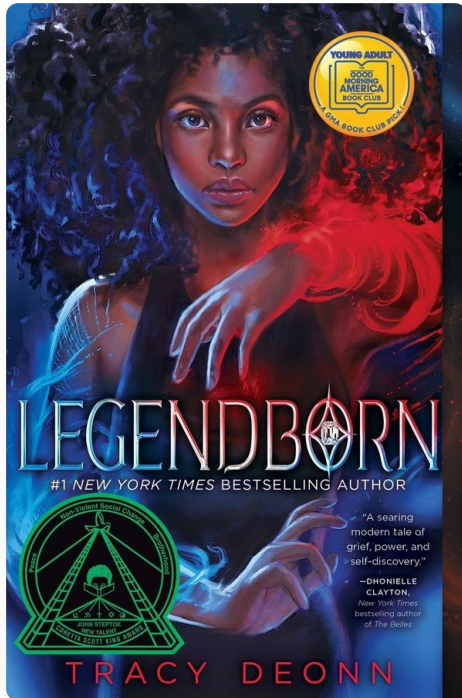
She Is a Haunting

Trang Thanh Tran (Author)

William C. Morris Debut Award Finalist

Instant New York Times and Indie Bestseller

When Jade Nguyen arrives in Vietnam for a visit with her estranged father, she has one goal: survive five weeks pretending to be a happy family in the French colonial house Ba is restoring. She's always lied to fit in, so if she's straight enough, Vietnamese enough, American enough, she can get out with the college money he promised. But the house has other plans. Night after night, Jade wakes up paralyzed. The walls exude a thrumming sound while bugs leave their legs and feelers in places they don't belong. She finds curious traces of her ancestors in the gardens they once tended. And at night Jade can't ignore the ghost of the beautiful bride who leaves cryptic warnings: Don't eat. Neither Ba nor her sweet sister Lily believe that there is anything strange happening. With help from a delinquent girl, Jade will prove this house—the home they have always wanted—will not rest until it destroys them. Maybe, this time, she can keep her family together. As she roots out the house's rot, she must also face the truth of who she is and who she must become to save them all.



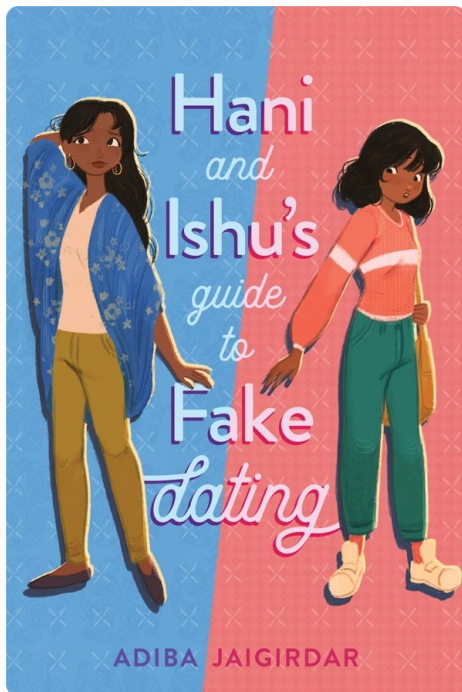
Legendborn

Tracy Deonn (Author)

An Instant New York Times Bestseller

Winner of the Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent

After her mother dies in an accident, sixteen-year-old Bree Matthews wants nothing to do with her family memories or childhood home. A residential program for bright high schoolers at UNC-Chapel Hill seems like the perfect escape—until Bree witnesses a magical attack her very first night on campus. A flying demon feeding on human energies. A secret society of so called “Legendborn” students that hunt the creatures down. And a mysterious teenage mage who calls himself a “Merlin” and who attempts—and fails—to wipe Bree's memory of everything she saw. The mage's failure unlocks Bree's own unique magic and a buried memory with a hidden connection: the night her mother died, another Merlin was at the hospital. Now that Bree knows there's more to her mother's death than what's on the police report, she'll do whatever it takes to find out the truth, even if that means infiltrating the Legendborn as one of their initiates. She recruits Nick, a self-exiled Legendborn with his own grudge against the group, and their reluctant partnership pulls them deeper into the society's secrets—and closer to each other. But when the Legendborn reveal themselves as the descendants of King Arthur's knights and explain that a magical war is coming, Bree has to decide how far she'll go for the truth and whether she should use her magic to take the society down—or join the fight.



Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating

Adiba Jaigirdar (Author)

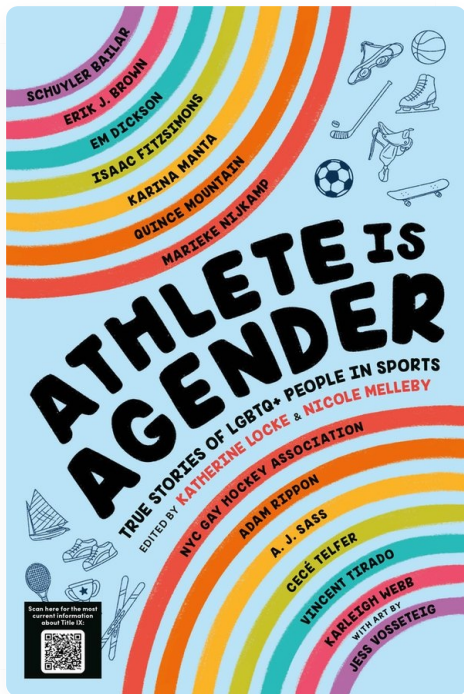
Everyone likes Humaira “Hani” Khan—she's easy going and one of the most popular girls at school. But when she comes out to her friends as bisexual, they invalidate her identity, saying she can't be bi if she's only dated guys. Panicked, Hani blurts out that she's in a relationship...with a girl her friends absolutely hate—Ishita “Ishu” Dey. Ishu is the complete opposite of Hani. She's an academic overachiever who hopes that becoming head girl will set her on the right track for college. But Ishita agrees to help Hani, if Hani will help her become more popular so that she stands a chance of being elected head girl. Despite their mutually beneficial pact, they start developing real feelings for each other. But relationships are complicated, and some people will do anything to stop two Bengali girls from achieving happily ever after.



The Passing Playbook

Isaac Fitzsimons (Author)

Fifteen-year-old Spencer Harris is a proud nerd, an awesome big brother, and a David Beckham in training. He's also transgender. After transitioning at his old school leads to a year of isolation and bullying, Spencer gets a fresh start at Oakley, the most liberal private school in Ohio. At Oakley, Spencer seems to have it all: more accepting classmates, a decent shot at a starting position on the boys' soccer team, great new friends, and maybe even something more than friendship with one of his teammates. The problem is, no one at Oakley knows Spencer is trans—he's passing. But when a discriminatory law forces Spencer's coach to bench him, Spencer has to make a choice: cheer his team on from the sidelines or publicly fight for his right to play, even though it would mean coming out to everyone—including the guy he's falling for.



Athlete Is Agender: True Stories of LGBTQ+ People in Sports

Katherine Locke (Edited by), Nicole Melleby
(Edited by)

Find your strength in: Adam Rippon's unbelievable journey from figure-skating Olympic alternate to the first openly gay Olympic medalist in his sport; CeCé Telfer's career as a trans track star and her unwavering commitment to run for the future freedom of trans athletes; em dickson's relationship to eir gender identity and how sailing, a sport that doesn't categorize athletes by gender, helped em embrace eir power and identity, and many other invaluable true stories. Featuring testimonies by world-class athletes and award-winning children's book authors, as well as profiles on culture-defining figures like Megan Rapinoe and Billie Jean King, Athlete Is Agender is a lifesaving book not to be missed.



Check, Please!

Ngozi Ukazu (Author)

New York Public Library - Best Books for Teens

The Boston Globe - Best YA of the Year

Ignatz Award - Outstanding Comic

William C. Morris Award - Finalist

Eric Bittle has been a junior figure skating champion, a vlogging sensation, and a talented amateur pâtissier—but nothing could have prepared him for freshman year on the Samwell University hockey team. College hockey is a whole new game, with hard checks, intense practices, and one very attractive—but moody—team captain: Jack. Check, Please!: #Hockey collects the first half of Ngozi Ukazu's beloved webcomic series, a hilarious, heartwarming coming-of-age story about hockey, friendship, and taking a chance on love. This edition features updated artwork and a curated selection of Bitty's most memorable tweets. Perfect for fans of Heartstopper and Heated Rivalry, this is a story about sports, broships, and finding love in the most unexpected places.