

To be Young and Black in America...

Historical Fiction about the African American experience for teens

***American Splendor: Unsung Hero* by Harvey Pekar (YP FIC PEKAR)**

Comics icon Harvey Pekar tells the story of Robert McNeill, a black teenager fighting in Vietnam. McNeill has to face danger and racism at home on an American military base and in the jungles of Vietnam in this amazing story based on Robert McNeill's accounts.

***Bayou* by Jeremy Love (YP FIC LOVE)**

Lee Wagstaff is the daughter of a black sharecropper in the depression-era town of Charon, Mississippi. When her white playmate is snatched by agents of an evil creature known as Bog, Lee's father is accused of kidnapping. Lee's only hope is to follow Lily's trail into this fantastic and frightening alternate world and trek across a hauntingly familiar Southern Neverland in an effort to rescue Lily and save Lee's father from being lynched.

***Chains: Seeds of America* by Laurie Halse Anderson (YP FIC ANDERSON, YP AD FIC ANDERSON)**

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

***Copper Sun* by Sharon M. Draper (YP FIC DRAPER)**

Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.



***Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue* by Julius Lester (YP FIC LESTER)**

When gambling debts and greed enter into the Butler household, Pierce Butler decides to host the biggest slave auction in American history and breaks a promise by selling Emma, his most-valued slave and caretaker of his children--a decision that brings about unthinkable consequences.

***Evvyy's Civil War* by Miriam Brenaman (YP FIC BRENAMAN)**

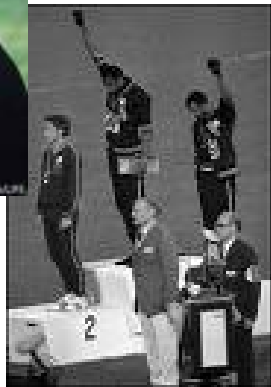
In Virginia in 1860, on the verge of the Civil War, fourteen-year-old Evvy chafes at the restrictions that her society places on both women and slaves.

***47* by Walter Mosley (YP FIC MOSLEY)**

Number 47, a fourteen-year-old slave boy growing up under the watchful eye of a brutal master in 1832, meets the mysterious Tall John, who introduces him to a magical science and also teaches him the meaning of freedom.

***The Glory Field* by Walter Dean Myers (YP FIC MYERS)**

Follows a family's two hundred forty-one year history, from the capture of an African boy in the 1750s through the lives of his descendants, as their dreams and circumstances lead them away from and back to the small plot of land in South Carolina that they call the Glory Field.



***Hang a Thousand Trees With Ribbons: The Story of Phillis Wheatley* by Ann Rinaldi (YP FIC RINALDI)**

A fictionalized biography of the eighteenth-century African woman who, as a child, was brought to New England to be a slave, and after publishing her first poem when a teenager, gained renown throughout the colonies as an important black American poet.

***Harlem Summer* by Walter Dean Myers (YP FIC MYERS)**

In 1920s Harlem, sixteen-year-old Mark Purvis, an aspiring jazz saxophonist, gets a summer job as an errand boy for the publishers of the groundbreaking African American magazine, "The Crisis," but soon finds himself on the enemy list of mobster Dutch Shultz.

***Let the Circle be Unbroken* by Mildred D. Taylor (YP FIC TAYLOR)**

Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive.

***The Letter Writer: A Novel* by Ann Rinaldi (YP FIC RINALDI)**

A young girl who serves as letter writer for her blind stepmother is haunted by her unwitting role in Nat Turner's Rebellion, one of the bloodiest slave uprisings in the history of America.

***M+O 4Evr* by Tonya Cherie Hegamin (YP FIC HEGAMIN)**

In parallel stories, Hannah, a slave, finds love while fleeing a Maryland plantation in 1842, and in the present, Opal watches her life-long best friend, Marianne, pull away and eventually lose her life in the same Pennsylvania ravine where Hannah died.

***Mare's War* by Tanita S. Davis (YP FIC DAVIS)**

Teens Octavia and Tali learn about strength, independence, and courage when they are forced to take a car trip with their grandmother, who tells about growing up black in 1940s Alabama and serving in Europe during World War II as a member of the Women's Army Corps.

***Mississippi Trial, 1955* by Chris Crowe (YP FIC CROWE)**

In Mississippi in 1955, a sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African American from Chicago.

***Music of Summer* by Rosa Guy (YP FIC GUY)**

The attractive, sophisticated young African-Americans gathered at Cape Cod have their own set of economic and color prejudices; but, Sarah, the darkest-skinned, begins to see more clearly the duties and hope of her ancestry.

***Riot* by Walter Dean Myers (YP FIC MYERS)**

From a "New York Times"-bestselling author comes an innovative novel about the Civil War draft riots in New York City. Tackling hotbed issues of war, race, justice, and equality, Myers chronicles this forgotten moment in history in the same groundbreaking style of his "Monster."

***Rites of Passage: Stories about Growing up by Black Writers from Around the World* edited by Tonya Holden (YP FIC RITES)**

Seventeen stories about the experiences of young people of African descent around the world, by such authors as Toni Cade Bambara, John Henrik Clarke, Njabulo Ndebele, and Barbara Burford

***Road to Memphis* by Mildred D. Taylor (YP FIC TAYLOR)**

Sadistically teased by two white boys in 1940's rural Mississippi, a black youth severely injures one of the boys with a tire iron and enlists his friend Cassie's help in trying to flee the state and a lynch mob.

***Sky: A Novel in Three Sets and an Encore* by Rod Townley (YP FIC TOWNLEY)**

In New York City in 1959, fifteen-year-old Alec Schuyler, at odds with his widowed father over his love of music, finds a mentor and friend in a blind, black jazz musician.

***A Summer of Kings* by Han Nolan (YP FIC NOLAN)**

Over the course of the summer of 1963, fourteen-year-old Esther Young discovers the passion within her when eighteen-year-old King-Roy Johnson, accused of murdering a white man in Alabama, comes to live with her family.

***Time's Memory* by Julius Lester (YP FIC LESTER)**

Ekundayo, a Dogon spirit brought to America from Africa, inhabits the body of a young African-American slave on a Virginia plantation, where he experiences loss, sorrow, and reconciliation in the months preceding the Civil War.

***Toning the Sweep* by Angela Johnson (YP FIC JOHNSON)**

On a visit to her grandmother Ola, who is dying of cancer in her house in the desert, fourteen-year-old Emmie hears many stories about the past and her family history and comes to a better understanding of relatives both dead and living.

***Walking Mary* by James VanOosting (YP FIC VANOOSTI)**

To escape problems with both of her parents throughout her childhood in the 1940s and 50s, Pearl Harbor Keenan reaches out to Walking Mary, a strange old woman who meets every single passenger train that pulls into the Framburg depot.

***War Comes to Willy Freeman* by James Lincoln Collier (YP FIC COLLIER)**

A free thirteen-year-old black girl in Connecticut is caught up in the horror of the Revolutionary War and the danger of being returned to slavery when her patriot father is killed by the British and her mother disappears.

***Wrango* by Brian Burks (YP FIC BURKS)**

When young George McJunkin leaves his home in Texas and joins a cattle drive along the Chisholm Trail, he experiences the hardships of being a Black cowboy after the Civil War.