

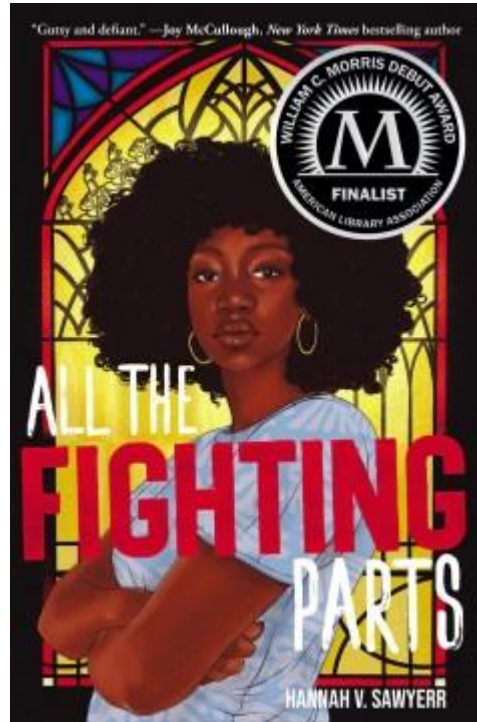
2025-2026



**South Carolina
Young Adult Book Award
Nominees**

All The Fighting Parts

By Hannah V. Sawyerr



Click
for
video

In the wake of being sexually assaulted by her pastor, sixteen-year-old Amina struggles to regain her footing until she finds the strength within herself to confront her abuser in court.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1 – 4.3

Artifice

By Sharon Cameron



Isa de Smit grew up in her parents' art gallery in Amsterdam, but in the middle of the war she survives by selling fake paintings to the Nazis while trying to help her friend, Truus, smuggle Jewish babies to safety--but in 1943 it is hard to know who to trust.



Click
for
video

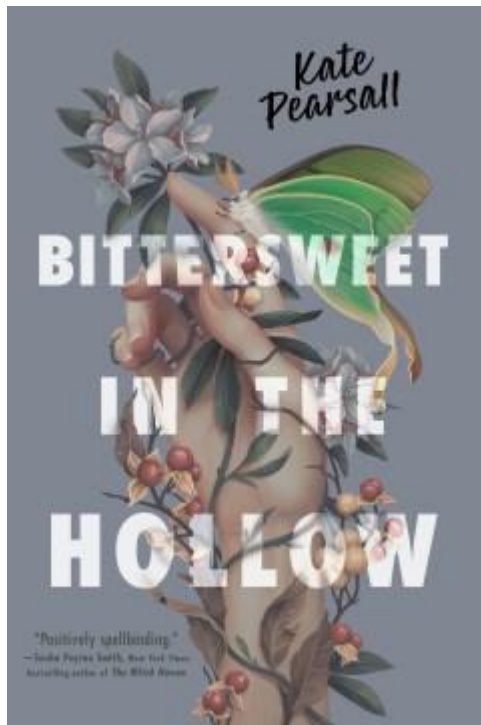
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 7.1 -7.2



Bittersweet in the Hollow

By Kate Pearsall



When a girl goes missing in her secluded Appalachian town, seventeen-year-old Linden, who can taste other people's emotions, recovers haunting memories of her own disappearance and explores the legend of the Moth-Winged Man, leading her to wonder if there are some secrets best left buried.



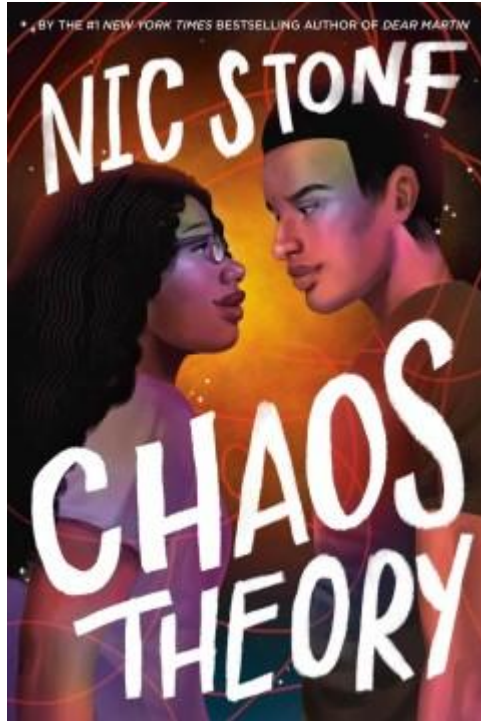
Click
for
video

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1-4.3

Chaos Theory

By Nic Stone



Click
for
video

A senior at Windward Academy, Shelbi, who has a diagnosed mental illness, keeps to herself until she forms a connection with Andy Criddle, who is battling addiction, but the closer they get, the more the past threatens to pull them apart.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 11.1

Come Home Safe

By Brian Buckmire



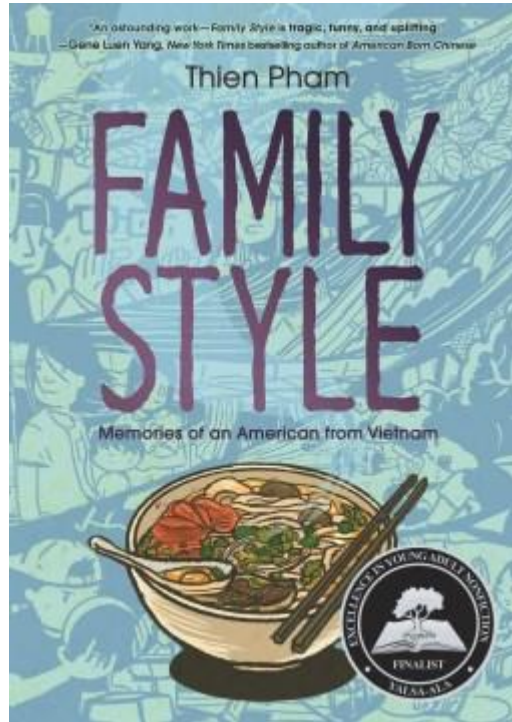
When two Black siblings, Reed and Olivia, are accused of crimes they didn't commit, they must find a way to prove their innocence, in this powerful novel exploring the pain, truths and hopes that come with growing up as a person of color in America.



[Standards](#)
ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 13.2-13.3

Family Style: memories of an American from Vietnam

By Thien Pham



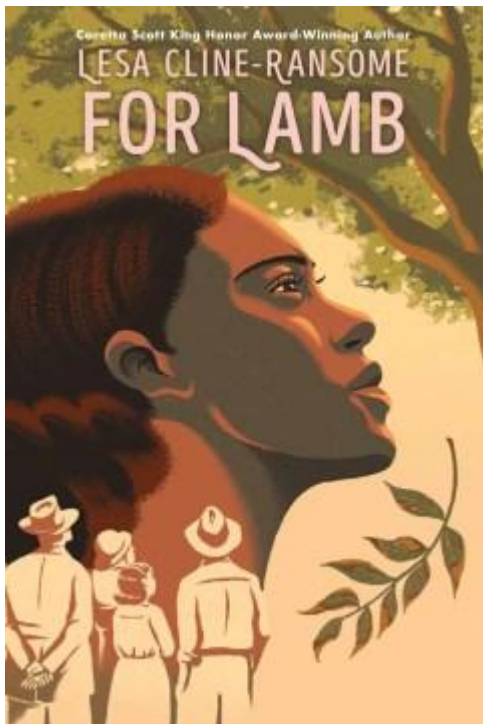
Told through the lens of meaningful food and meals, this graphic novel chronicles the author's childhood immigration to America where food takes on new meaning as he and his family search for belonging, for happiness and for the American dream.

[Standards](#)

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 13.2-13.3

For Lamb

By Lesa Cline- Ransome



In 1930s Jackson, Mississippi, quiet, studious and naive girl Lamb tentatively accepts the friendly overtures of a white girl, which sets in motion a series of events that end in tragedy.



Click
for
video

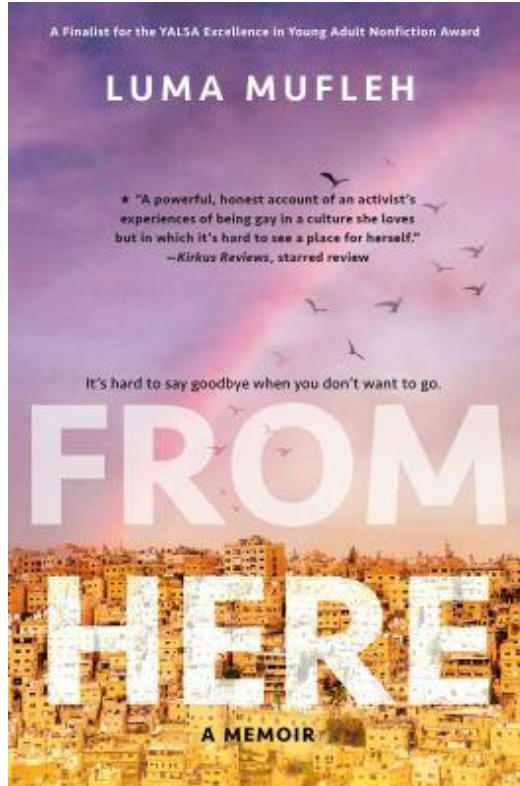
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1 – 4.3
ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 13.2 – 13.3



From Here: a Memoir

by Luma Mufleh



Click
for
video

Refugee advocate Luma Mufleh writes of her tumultuous journey to reconcile her identity as a gay Muslim woman and a proud Arab-turned-American refugee. (Publisher)

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1 – 4.3

Give Me Sign

By Anna Sortino



Ready for a change, Lilah, who suffers from hearing loss, becomes a counselor at a summer camp for the deaf and blind where she finds a community and a gorgeous Deaf counselor who volunteers to help her with her signing, stealing her heart in the process.



Click
for
video

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 11.1

Going Dark
By Melissa De la Cruz



When 19-year-old Josh returns from Rome without his budding influencer girlfriend Amelia, he immediately becomes a suspect in her disappearance, but as college sophomore and hacker Harper attempts to clear his name, she unearths secrets from both Josh and Amelia's past.

[Standards](#)

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 10.1

Gone Wolf

By Amber McBride



Click
for
video

In the future, a Black girl known only as Inmate Eleven is kept confined—to be used as a biological match for the president's son, should he fall ill. She is called a Blue—the color of sadness. She lives in a small room with her dog, who is *going wolf* more often—he's pacing and imagining he's free. Inmate Eleven wants to *go wolf* too—she wants to know why she feels so Blue and what is beyond her small-small room. (MacMillian Publishers)

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 7.1 -7.2



House of Marionne

By J. Elle



To keep her mother safe, 17-year-old Quell is inducted into a debutante society of magical social elites called the Order that will go to deadly lengths to defend its wealth and power, forcing her to choose between embracing her forbidden magic or risk losing everything.



Click
for
video

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 7.1



The Library of Shadows

By Rachel Moore



Click
for
video

Enrolling in the third most haunted school in the country in the hope of finding her dead father, Este Logano instead finds Mateo, an annoying real ghost, and soon discovers that following her father's footsteps might be more dangerous than she ever anticipated.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 11.1

Promise Boys

By Nick Brooks



Click
for
video

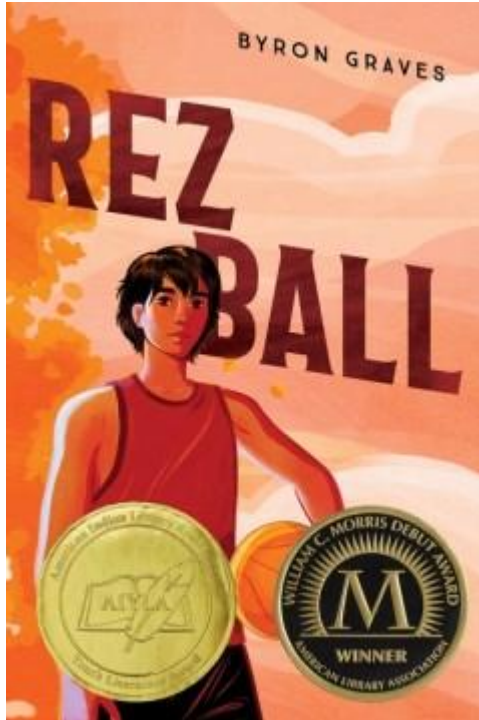
Becoming prime suspects in the murder of their principal known for doling out extreme discipline, three Urban Promise Prep School students team up to catch the real killer and clear their names.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 8.1

Rez Ball

By Byron Graves



When the varsity basketball team members take him under their wing, Tre Brun, representing his Ojibwe reservation, steps into his late brother's shoes as star player but soon learns he can't mess up--not on the court, not in school and not in love.



Click
for
video

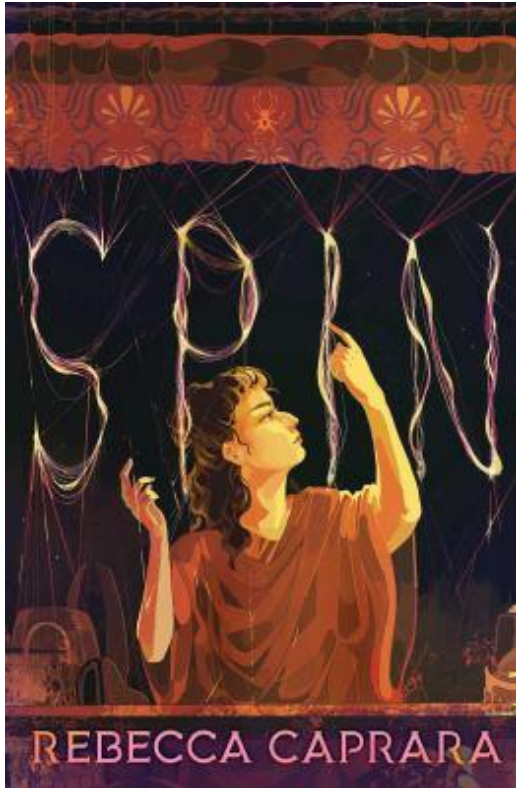
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 12.1



Spin

By Rebecca Caprara



Sixteen-year-old Arachne turns to weaving for solace, but when word spreads of her skill she is confronted by the goddess Athena and the two enter a weaving contest that results in transformation and redemption.



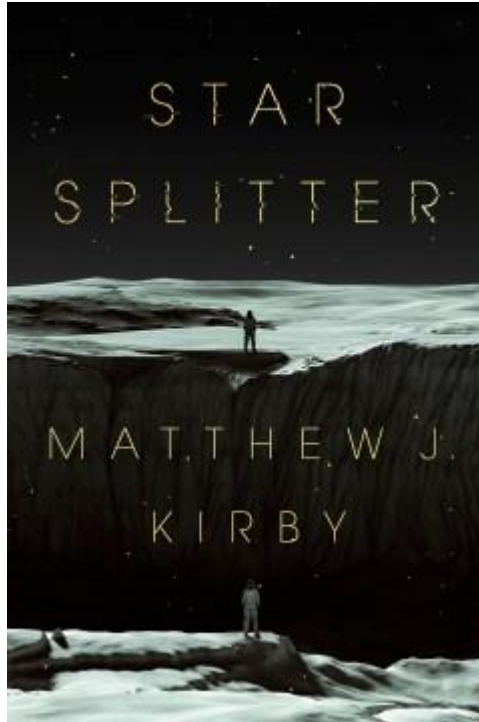
Click
for
video

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 8.1

Star Splitter

By Matthew Kirby



In 2199, 17-year-old Jessica Mathers wakes up on a desolate, post-extinction planet 14 light years from Earth and must make sense of the bloody destruction around her, as well as the questionable intentions of a familiar stranger.



Click
for
video

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 11.1-11.2

Their Vicious Games

By Joelle Wellington



Click
for
video

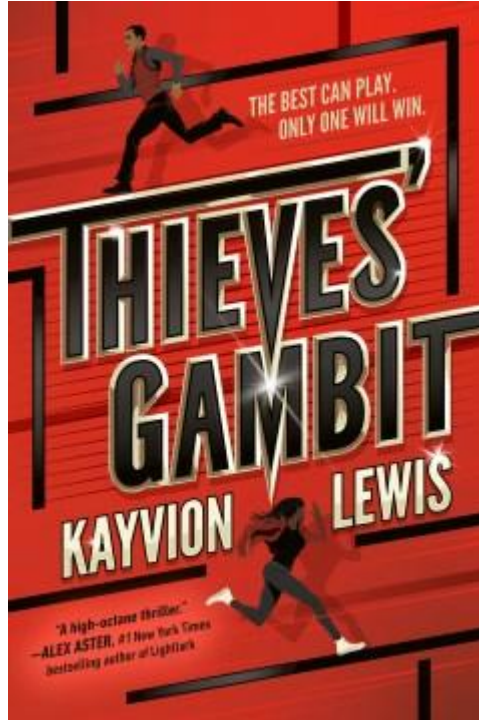
Blacklisted from her top choice Ivy League college, prestigious Edgewater Academy scholarship student Adina Walker participates in the Finish, a high-stakes competition whose prize of wealth and power can open any door, only to find that she's playing for her life.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 7.1-7.2

Thieves Gambit

By Kayvion Lewis



Click
for
video

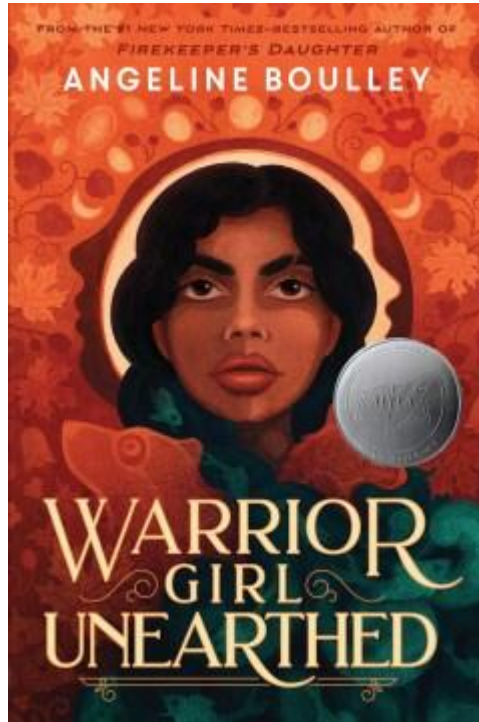
To save her mother's life, 17-year-old Ross Quest enters the Thieves' Gambit, a series of dangerous, international heists where the grand prize is a wish for anything in the world, forcing her to decide who to con and who to trust before time runs out.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 10.1

Warrior Girl, Unearthed

By Angeline Boulley



Click
for
video

With the rising number of missing Indigenous women, her family's involvement in a murder investigation and grave robbers profiting off her Anishinaabe tribe, Perry takes matters into her own hands to solve the mystery **and** reclaim her people's inheritance.

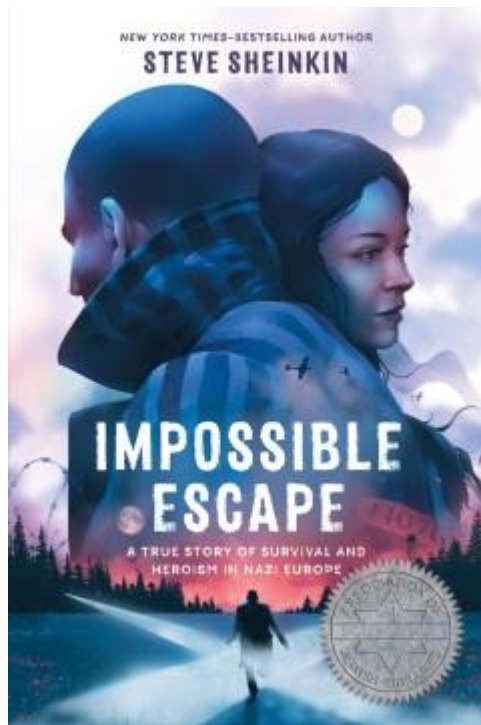
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 6.1

ALTERNATES

Impossible Escape

By Steve Sheinkin



Click
for
video

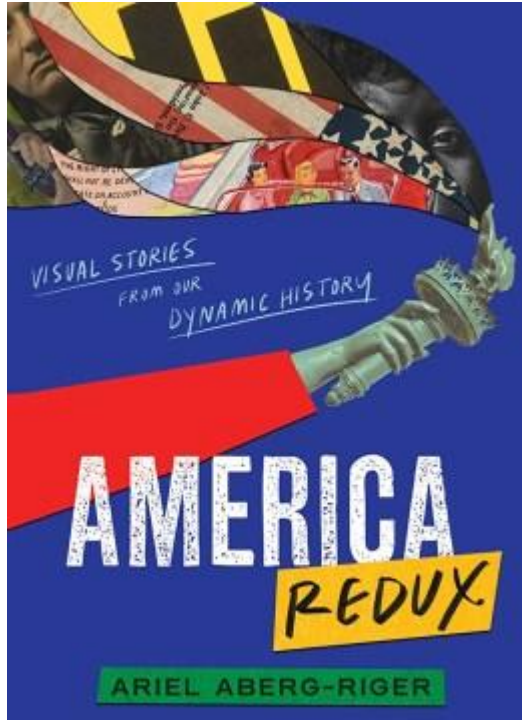
Told in tandem, these gripping true stories follow Rudolph, who escaped Auschwitz, becoming the first survivors to expose Nazi concentration camps to the world, and Gerta, his high school friend who began to cave under pressure from German Nazis in Hungary.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1-4.3

America Redux

By Ariel Aberg-Riger



In this immersive experience, 21 visual stories reveal the extraordinary, unexpected, sometimes darker sides of history that reverberate in our society today, exploring themes that create our shared sense of American identity and questioning the myths we've been telling ourselves for centuries.



Click
for
video

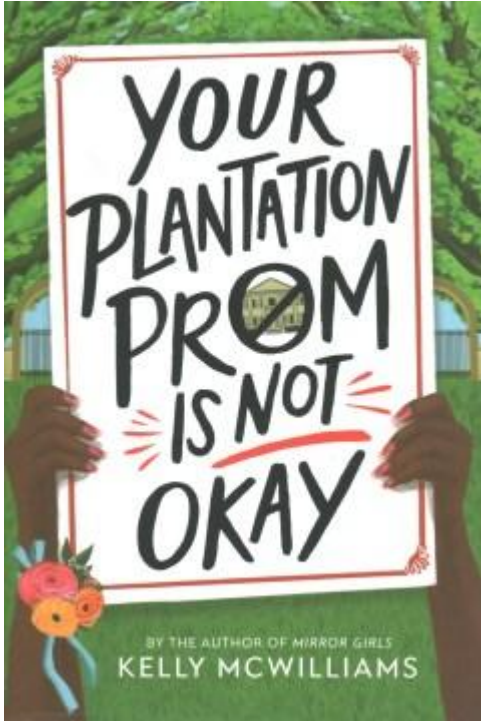
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1-4.3



Your Plantation Prom is Not Okay

By Kelly McWilliams



High school senior Harriet is still grappling with her mother's death when an unwanted property sale causes her to join forces with her new neighbor to stop Belle Grove Plantation from turning into a wedding venue.



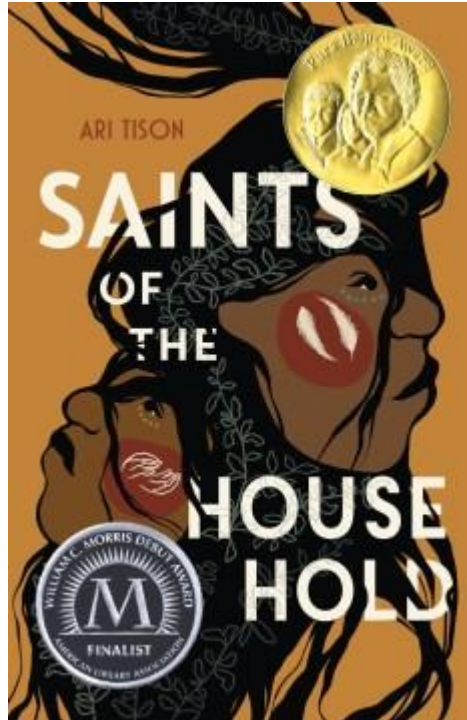
Click
for
video

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1-4.3

Saints of the Household

By Ari Tison



When they break up a fight that harms their school's star soccer player in the process, two BriBri American brothers find their dreams for the future threatened by their actions and must reach back to their Bribri roots to find their way forward.



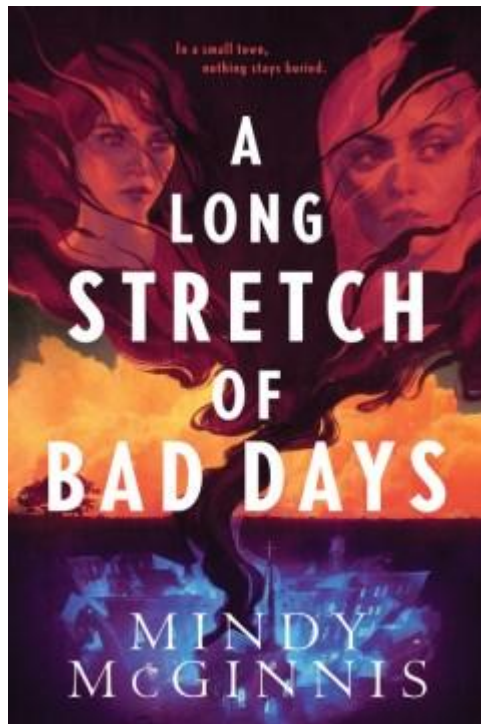
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1-4.3



A Long Stretch of Bad Days

By Mindy McGinnis



To earn the last credit she needs to graduate, Lydia Chass teams up with foul-mouthed Bristol Jamison to transform her listener-friendly local history podcast into a hard-hitting, truth-telling expose as they investigate an unsolved murder from their small town's past.



Click
for
video

[Standards](#)

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1-4.3



All library media specialists should review all titles and add them to their collections only if the titles meet the criteria established by District Board Policy and Library Media Center Policy & Procedure guidelines. We recommend that others interested in purchasing these titles read reviews and scan materials to determine the appropriateness for their intended readers.



All photos and summaries are courtesy of the YABA Committee and NoveList Plus through sc.discus.org.

