

# Book Rave

## Best Books for Teens

As selected by librarians from across the state of Oregon who serve middle and high school-aged readers.

Khorram, Adib

### ***Darius the Great is Not Okay***

Darius Kellner, a Portland-based, tea-loving nerd finally explores the “fractional Persian” side of himself during his first-ever trip to Iran. As he gets to know his ailing grandfather and loving grandmother, he is drawn into an extraordinary friendship with the boy next door.

Legrand, Claire—***Sawkill Girls***

On Sawkill Island, a legendary paranormal beast called The Collector is blamed for a long string of missing young girls. The stories and fates of three girls—Zoey, Marion, and Val—weave together as they harness the power to save the island from this evil.

Mafi, Tahereh

### ***A Very Large Expanse of the Sea***

By 2002, Shirin, a 16-year-old Muslim girl, is weary of the stares, comments, and stereotyping triggered by the attacks of 9/11. When her school’s golden boy, Ocean James, approaches her with genuine interest and kindness, she slowly lets down her guard.

McCullough, Joy—***Blood Water Paint***

Lush poetry explores the life of 17th century artist Artemisia Gentileschi, a painter of tremendous talent who courageously brought rape charges against her teacher in a world where men thought nothing of taking what they wanted from women.

Partridge, Elizabeth

### ***Boots on the Ground: America’s War in Vietnam***

Through the very personal stories of eight people who were there, Partridge examines the lasting impact of the 17-year conflict that cost the lives of 57,939 American soldiers.

Reynolds, Jason—***For Every One***

A poem originally performed at the Kennedy Center for the unveiling of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial has been published in print to inspire anyone who has a dream, regardless of age or circumstances. It is as much about trial and error, about permission to fail, as it is an inspiring call to action. Reynolds uses his own experiences and challenges to encourage all dreamers to plunge forward.

Suvada, Emily—***This Mortal Coil***

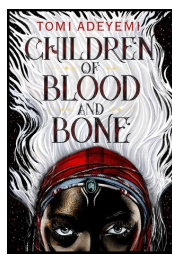
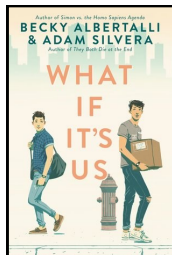
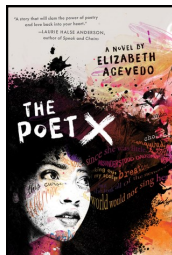
In a high-tech future where people can recode their own DNA at will, humanity is threatened by a deadly plague. Cat Agatta is a gene-hacking genius. Her father, a legendary geneticist, was kidnapped by an evil organization two years ago. Now, Cartaxus claims Dr. Agatta is dead, but Cat quickly learns that Cartaxus is withholding her father’s last invention—a vaccine that could save them all. (*Oregon author*)

Woodson, Jacqueline—***Harbor Me***

Six middle schoolers find hope, understanding and healing in the ARTT Room (short for “A Room to Talk”) where they are allowed to have a weekly chat with no adults to listen in. Together, they share the stories of their challenges with death, deportation, bullying, parental incarceration, and racism, leaning on one another for support and solutions.

Zoboi, Ibi—***Pride***

In a clever remix of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* set in a gentrifying neighborhood in Brooklyn, Zuri Benitez watches with horror as the wealthy Darcy family moves in across the street. She is disgusted by her new neighbors and by how quickly her older sister, Janae, starts to fall for the charming older son, Ainsley. Worse is the swirl of feelings that the judgmental and arrogant younger son, Darius, inspires in Zuri.



### Acevedo, Elizabeth—*The Poet X*

Xiomara Batista is trapped, fighting to find a small place for herself, her anger, her passions, and her curvy body inside the oppressive box formed by her mother's fear and religion. But she learns that some bodies, feelings, and voices need to find a way out. A novel in verse is the perfect vehicle for this fast-paced, heart-wrenching story.

### Albertelli, Becky and Adam Silvera

#### *What If It's Us*

In this highly anticipated teen LGBTQ collaboration, boy meets boy then loses boy then rediscovers boy in an adorably Broadway musical way. Told in two voices (each written by one of the authors), the story raises questions of fate, love at first sight, what is meant to be, and what might just happen.

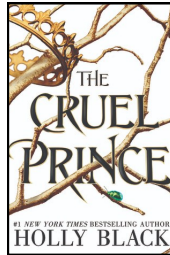
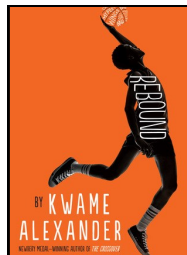
### Adeyemi, Tomi

#### *Children of Blood and Bone*

Zélie lives in a world where magic is suppressed by a ruthless king who has slaughtered the maji, including Zélie's mother. When an escaped princess throws the balance of Orisha into a tailspin, Zélie sees one wild chance to bring back magic and end the cruel monarchy. This West African-inspired fantasy offers dazzling entertainment while illuminating relevant issues around race and power.

### Albert, Melissa—*The Hazel Wood*

Seventeen-year-old Alice knows that something isn't right. She has spend most of her life with a mother running from "the bad luck." After her reclusive author grandmother dies, Alice's luck goes from bad to worse. Her mother is stolen away by a person claiming to be connected to the Hinterland, the creepy setting of her grandmother's book of fairy tales. Nothing could prepare Alice for what comes next.



### Alexander, Kwame—*Rebound*

In a blend of poetry and comic pages, Kwame Alexander introduced Charlie Bell (who will become the ex-basketball star/father in his earlier award-winning book, *The Crossover*). Charlie is a grieving middle schooler, lost after losing his father. His frantic mother sends him to Washington D.C. to spend the summer with his grandparents who help him move forward and connect him with the satisfaction of playing basketball.

### Andrews, Jesse—*Munmun*

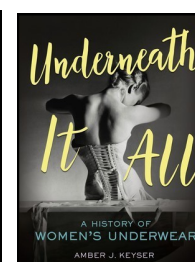
Warner and his sister, Prayer, live in a world a bit like ours, but in their world, the size of a person is related to their wealth. As littlepoors, Warner and Prayer don't seem to have a chance, until they come up with a wild scheme to make munmun and "size up." This book uses some invented language that can be tough to get used to, but the social commentary is strong.

### Black, Holly—*The Cruel Prince*

Jude was dragged to the High Court of Faerie, along with her sisters, by the fey general who murdered her parents. Despite that difficult beginning and the widespread scorn of the fey for her humanity, Jude is desperate to find her place in the court and to weave herself into the intrigues and deceptions that threaten the very fabric of the faerie kingdom.

### Choi, Mary—*Emergency Contact*

Penny Lee is so over high school and ready to embrace life as a college student and aspiring writer in Austin, Texas. Sam is broke, living in an empty storage room at the café where he works, and hoping to make it as a movie director "some day." Their initial awkward encounter turns into a text-based relationship in which they pour their hearts out to each other, sharing what they might not dare if they could actually see each other.



### Connor, Leslie

#### *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*

Mason Buttle is a big, sweet kid with troubles he doesn't quite understand. He can't really read or write. He misses his best friend, Benny, who died last year. And even though he only says the truth about the night Benny died, people act funny around him. Mason just hopes his new friend from school can help him make sense of it all.

### Ireland, Justina—*Dread Nation*

Imagine what would have happened if the battle of Gettysburg had ended with the beginning of a zombie apocalypse. Jane McKeene lives in that world, one of most talented and resourceful among the many Negro women training in weaponry and etiquette to keep the well-to-do safe from the zombies. When Jane stumbles onto an evil conspiracy, zombies suddenly seem to be the least of her problems.

### Johnson, Maureen—*Truly Devious*

Stevie arrives at the famous Ellingham Academy, determined to solve a many-years-old cold case involving the founder's family. Her interest seems to trigger the attention of the original criminal—known only by the false name Truly Devious. Suddenly, Stevie is facing a whole new mystery to unravel, and a clear and present danger that could change everything.

### Keyser, Amber

#### *Underneath It All: A History of Women's Underwear*

From inventions designed to shape women's bodies to fit fashion ideals to bringing undergarments into the open as a statement of empowerment and self-expression, this non-fiction book explores the physical, social, and political sides of the garments women wear under it all. (Oregon author)