

#ARMMEWITH BOOKS

a book list for young people
in the age of school shootings

Featuring
recommendations
from more than 50
award-winning
authors



LITERARY
SAFARI

What is a must-read for children growing up in the age of lockdown drills and mass shootings?

Educators, parents, and librarians are struggling with the new reality in schools in America today—one where active shooter exercises are accepted as ‘normal’ and where children as young as nursery school are expected to learn the protocol of lockdown drills.

Instead of focusing on common sense gun reform, many politicians and legislators continue to put forth the idea of arming teachers with guns and policing schools with increased security.

The grassroots #ArmMeWith movement that went viral in 2018 inspired our studio, Literary Safari, to create this **#ARMMEWITHBOOKS** list as a companion resource to our graphic novella, *William H.G. Butler Middle School*.

We believe that literature is a powerful tool for change. So we asked writers whose work we admire to answer this question: *What is a must-read for children growing up in these challenging times of lockdown drills and mass shootings?* The response was resounding. Coretta Scott King award winner, Nikki Grimes, responded with an original poem, and over 50 award-winning authors, illustrators, and librarians sent us their top picks.

Here is a book list that waves a flag for resilience, empathy and compassion. We invite you to use it, share it, and add to it using the #armmewithbooks hashtag on social media. Don't forget to tag us on Twitter at @litsafarimedia. You can also find our list on **Amazon**.

Reading the right novel at the right time in your life can help you see things differently—and even be therapeutic ... That children's books can do the same for children won't surprise anyone at all. Parents, godparents, grandparents, and kindly uncles—not to mention librarians, English teachers and booksellers—have long been aware that the best way to help a child through a challenging moment is to give them a story about it. The best children's books have a way of confronting big issues and big emotions with fearless delight, their instinct to thrill but also, ultimately to reassure.

—Story Cure: An A-Z of Books to Keep Kids Happy, Healthy, and Wise by Ella Berthoud and Susan Elderkin

RELUCTANT SAGE

By Nikki Grimes

Bullet-dodging,
a warped sport I once
managed to master
in the ancient ago,
certain it belonged to
the dark days of my twisted childhood.
But now, I'm asked to offer sage advice
to young ones trading their innocence
for lessons in safety
during math-class interruptions
by gunfire within the school walls.
Is this why I survived?
Please tell me,
my sole purpose now,
in serving children,
is not to yell "'Duck!'"

"Reluctant Sage" copyright © 2018 by Nikki Grimes. Used by permission of Curtis Brown, Ltd.



NIKKI GRIMES

Nikki is the author of the Coretta Scott King Award winning *Bronx Masquerade*.

Her contributions to children's literature have been widely recognized. She is the recipient of the 2018 Arnold Adoff Poetry Award for Middle Readers, 2017 Children's Literature Legacy Award, the 2016 Virginia Hamilton Literary Award, and the 2006 NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children.



William H.G. Butler Middle School, Week 7

WHGB Orientation - Hide and Peek



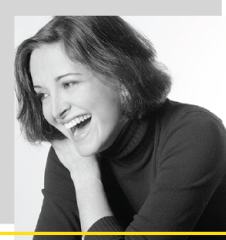
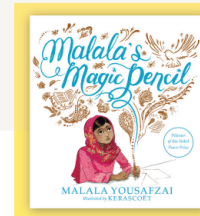
Picture Book

RECOMMENDATIONS



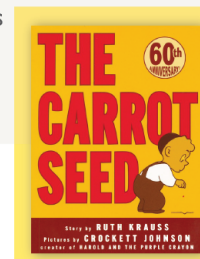
KATHERINE APPEGATE, *The One and Only Ivan*, 2013 Newbery Award Winner

Katherine's pick is **Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai**. "This book is the ray of hope we all need these days, beautifully written and illustrated," she says. As a child in Pakistan, Malala wished for a magic pencil to fix the world.



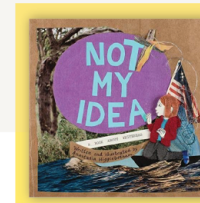
CARMEN AGRA DEEDY, Golden Kite Award and Pura Belpré Honor Award winner

Carmen's pick is **The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss**. "This delightful story packs a surprising punch as it gently teaches constancy, trust, hope, and the assurance that these will some day grow into something real and glorious," she says.



BETSY BIRD, librarian, author and blogger at A Fuse #8 Production (School Library Journal)

Betsy's pick is **Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness by Anastasia Higginbotham**. "This book does a marvelous job of making it clear that white people have a responsibility not just to people of other races but to their own children," she says.



F. ISABEL CAMPOY, bilingual author and educator, recipient of 2017 Tomás Rivera Book Award

Isabel recommends her own book, **Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood**. "I have heard from many readers of the importance of the message of solidarity," she says. "This book explores how our communities can collaborate to build a society free of hate."

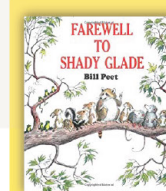


Also available in Spanish:
"Quizás algo hermoso"



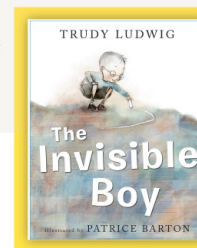
OLIVER CHIN, *9 of 1: A Window to the World*, Gustavus Myers Award Honorable Mention

Oliver's pick is **Farewell to Shady Glade by Bill Peet**. It's a story about how a raccoon and his friends rebuild their lives after they are pushed out of their home by bulldozers. "This book can be used to explore the topic of how a community copes with catastrophic disruption," he says. "It is by one of my favorite authors."



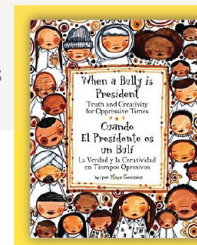
REEM FARUQI, *Lailah's Lunchbox*, an ADL Book of the Month Selection

Reem's pick is **The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig**. This beautiful book is about Brian, an invisible boy who nobody ever seems to notice or think to include in their group, game, or birthday party. It shows how small acts of kindness go a long way.



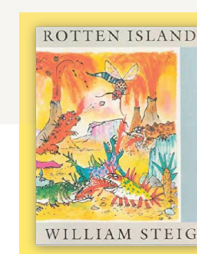
MAYA CHRISTINA GONZALEZ, *My Colors, My World*, a Pura Belpré Award Honor book

Maya's pick is one of her own books, **When A Bully is President: Truth and Creativity for Oppressive Times**. This book looks at bullying in the founding history of the US and offers ways to use creativity in the face of negative messages for all marginalized communities. Maya is the co-founder of Reflection Press.



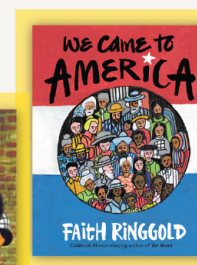
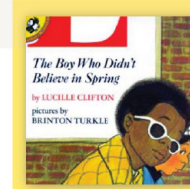
ANASTASIA HIGGINBOTHAM, author/illustrator, PEOPLE's 25 Women Changing the World 2018

Anastasia's pick is **Rotten Island by William Steig**, which explores what would happen if every creature on land and sea were free to be as rotten as possible. "I go to Rotten Island to remember that what inflames us may engulf us," she says.



GWENDOLYN HOOKS, author of *Tiny Stitches*, NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work

Gwendolyn's pick is **The Boy Who Didn't Believe in Spring by Lucille Clifton** in which two skeptical city boys set out to find spring. She also suggests **We Came to America by Faith Ringgold** (Caldecott Medal author and artist), a story about America's rich history of diversity and immigration.





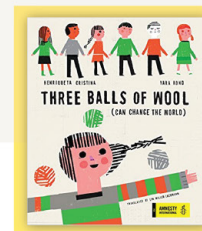
SUPRIYA KELKAR, author of *Ahimsa*, a 2018 Amelia Bloomer Top Ten List Selection

Supriya's pick is **Can I Touch Your Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship** by **Irene Latham and Charles Waters**. This is "a beautiful book that shows readers the importance of talking about race and learning about what we all have in common," she says.



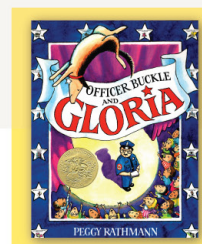
LYN MILLER-LACHMANN, *Gringolandia*, Bank Street Best Children's Books of 2016

Lyn's pick is **Three Balls of Wool (Can Change the World)** by **Henriqueta Cristina**. "This book depicts a family's struggle to adjust after they flee their country," she says. "Through knitting, the family members transform their new home into a brighter place." (She translated this book from Portuguese to English.)



RICH LO, author/illustrator, *Father's Chinese Opera*, an APALA Award Picture Book Honor

Rich's pick is **Officer Buckle and Gloria** by **Peggy Rathmann**. "A story about the partnership between a policeman and his dog, it brings home the point that it's better to stick with your buddy and be a team than to be alone," he says. "It is a sure bet this book will bring smiles to the readers' faces. It did to me."



INNOSANTO NAGARA, *A is for Activist*, NPR's 2017 Summer Reading for Your Woke Kid

Innosanto's pick is **We March** by **Shane W. Evans**. "This is one of my favorite books about the role of putting on your walking shoes and engaging in collective action," he says. (For older readers, he also recommends **Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment** by **Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz**.)



MITALI PERKINS, award-winning author, *Rickshaw Girl* (2008), *Tiger Boy* (2017), *You Bring the Distant Near* (2017)

"I recommend the winners and honorees of the Jane Addams Children's Book Award, which 'recognizes children's books of literary and aesthetic excellence that effectively engage children in thinking about peace, social justice, global community, and equity for all people.'" —Mitali Perkins, 2018 National Book Award Judge

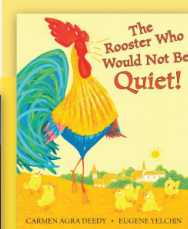
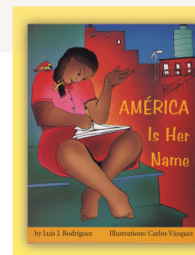
The Jane Addams Children's Book Awards have been presented annually since 1953 in the categories of Books for Older Children and Books for Younger Children. See winners at www.janeaddamschildrensbookaward.org





ANTONIO SACRE, *The Barking Mouse*, an IRA Notable Book for a Global Society

Antonio's picks are **The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!** by **Carmen Agra Deedy** and **América Is Her Name** by **Luis J. Rodriguez**. "The first title shows the power of one small voice in creating big change and the second shows how one child's poetry transforms her family's life," he says.

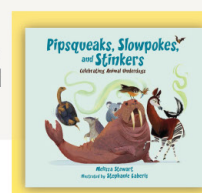


Both books are available in Spanish



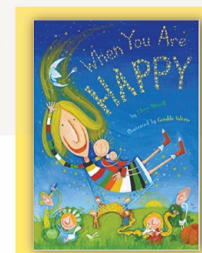
TRACI SORELL, *We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, a 2018 School Library Journal Best Picture Book

Traci's pick is **Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes, and Stinkers: Celebrating Animal Underdogs** by **Melissa Stewart**. "Analogous to making judgments about people, this book examines the 'unsung underdogs of the animal world' and how perceived weaknesses can be strengths," she says. Traci is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.



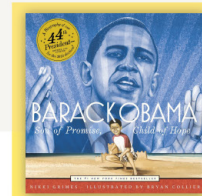
JERRY SPINELLI, *Maniac Magee*, 1990 Newbery Medal

Jerry's pick is **When You Are Happy** by **Eileen Spinelli** a story about a young girl who gets help from her family members as she experiences different childhood feelings and fear. "More humanity is packed into its 32 pages than any other book I know," he says. "Not surprisingly, my wife wrote it!"



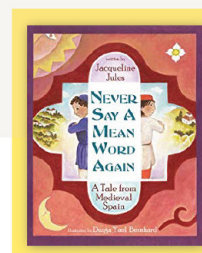
HEIDI E.Y. STEMPLE, *Counting Birds*, a 2018 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book

Heidi's pick is **Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope** by **Nikki Grimes**. Like her mother, Jane Yolen, she also chose **I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsberg Makes her Mark** by **Debbie Levy**. "Both books are about an ordinary child who grew up to do extraordinary things," she says.



MIA WENJEN, blogger, and book reviewer, PragmaticMom.com

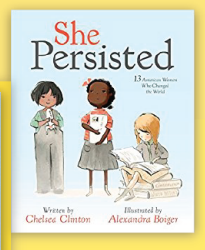
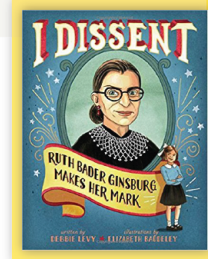
Mia's pick is **Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain** by **Jacqueline Jules**. "This picture book turns bullying upside down with an effective counter measure: kindness and friendship," she says. "Imagine if kids used this strategy to combat conflicts!" Mia is co-founder of Multicultural Children's Book Day.





JANEYOLEN, *Owl Moon*, 1988 Caldecott Medal Winner

Jane's picks are ***She Persisted* by Chelsea Clinton** and ***I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Debbie Levy**. Both these books highlight fearless American women who have changed the world. (For older readers, she also recommends ***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers**.)



THE BEAST WITHIN





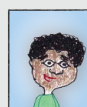
By Lynn Joseph

I say I don't be needing any comfort
But Mama counters that.
She holds my hand and tells me,
"Mickey's gone, you're not."
And then she pushes up my chin
and says,
"The first sharp pains
don't block out more to come.
But pain don't have to be
the beast
that wears the battle crown.
Your Beast within has many names—
Courage, Strength, and Hope,
and it will carry you to glory
when the beast of blood goes broke."



LYNN JOSEPH

Lynn is a Trinidadian author of books set mostly in the Caribbean. Her young adult novel, *The Color of My Words*, has received an Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature and was recognized as an IRA Notable Book for a Global Society. "I wrote this poem for young people during the horrible drug wars of the Summer of 1990 in New York City when many innocent people, including kids, were shot and killed by stray bullets, many of them on playgrounds. The same fears permeate the schools today as did the playgrounds back then," she says.

 Fataq Karrem	 Alyce Kim	 Stephen Lane	 Danielle Le Grange
 Sara Leibowitz	 Molly Lewis	 Kevin Liang	 Jon Logan
 Isabella Lopez	 Dominique Lucas	 Ethan Marshall	 Elijah Matthews

William H.G. Butler Middle School, Week 1

8TH GRADE

79
WHGB Middle School Class of 2018

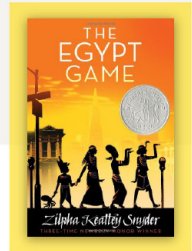
Middle Grade

RECOMMENDATIONS



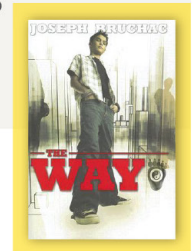
NADIA AGUIAR, *The Book of Tamarind* adventure series

Nadia's pick is **The Egypt Game** by **Zilpha Keatley Snyder**. "This is one of my favorite middle-grade books," she says. "The children in it are in genuine peril from a predator, but it's also a story of friendship and solidarity between children."



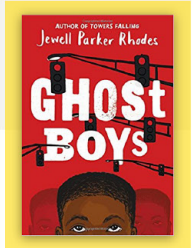
JOSEPH BRUCHAC, author and storyteller, 2005 Virginia Hamilton Literary Award

Joseph recommends his 2008 novel **The Way**, which focuses on an Abenaki boy who is a student of martial arts seeking out a non-violent solution when confronted with a possible school shooting situation in his school. Joseph is a citizen of the Abenaki tribe.



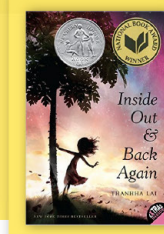
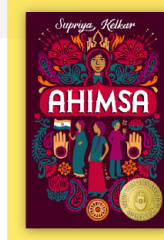
STEVEN FRANK, *Armstrong and Charlie*, a 2017 Junior Library Guild Selection

Steven's pick is **Ghost Boys** by **Jewell Parker Rhodes**. "This raw and relatable book is about a young black boy trying to understand his own death at the hands of a white cop." As a companion read on empathy for all living things, he suggests the folktale **Zlateh the Goat** by **Isaac Bashevis Singer**.



VEERA HIRANANDANI, *The Night Diary*, NPR's Best Books of 2018

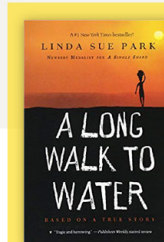
Veera's picks are **If You Come Softly** by **Jacqueline Woodson**, **Inside Out and Back Again** by **Thanhha Lai**, and **Ahimsa** by **Supriya Kelkar**. "These books all have to do with how prejudice, be it in war, political movements, or simply in everyday life, hurt marginalized young people the most," she says.





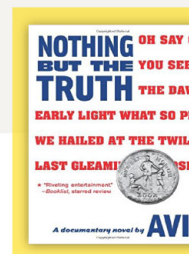
HENA KHAN, *Amina's Voice*, a Kirkus Best Book of 2017

Hena's pick is **A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park** which explores the devastation of war and the resilience of two young Sudanese refugees. "I gave it to my sons to read," she says. "My older son who was 13 at the time actually thanked me and declared, 'I feel like a better person' when he finished."



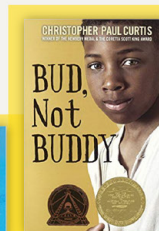
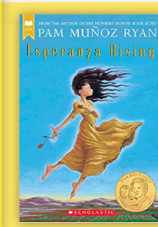
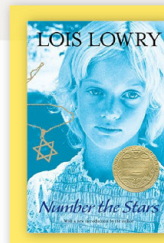
GORDON KORMAN, *Restart*, New York Times best-selling author

Gordon's pick is **And Nothing But the Truth by Avi**. "Avi's book is a fascinating thought experiment about how political agendas and preconceptions can take an event at a school and spin it a thousand different ways," he says. (For older readers, he also recommends **Give a Boy a Gun by Todd Strasser**.)



CAROLYN MACKLER, *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things* (a Printz Honor Book)

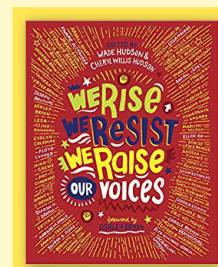
Carolyn's picks are **Bud Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis**, **Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan**, and **Number the Stars by Lois Lowry**. "These books show young protagonists displaying determination and spunk in the face of adversity," she says.



AN ACTIVIST'S ANTHOLOGY: *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices*

- Floyd Cooper, author and Coretta Scott King Award winning illustrator, *The Blacker the Berry*
- Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, *Two Naomis*, NAACP Image Award
- Charles R. Smith Jr., poet and Coretta Scott King Award winning illustrator, *My People*

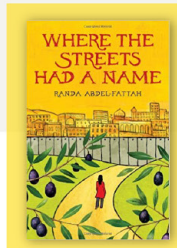
Charles, Floyd, and Olugbemisola pick **We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices**, an anthology of poems, letters, essays, and art edited by Cheryl and Wade Hudson. Fifty diverse children's authors and illustrators—including Jason Reynolds, Jacqueline Woodson, and Kwame Alexander—share answers to the question, "In this divisive world, what shall we tell our children?"





LISA SUHAIR MAJAJ, *Geographies of Light*, 2008 Del Sol Press Poetry Prize

Lisa's pick is **Where the Streets Had a Name** by **Randa Abdel-Fattah**. The book is about a 13-year-old girl and her friend who sneak into Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory to get a handful of soil from her ancestral home in Jerusalem. (Lisa is a Palestinian-American poet and scholar who is currently living in Cyprus.)



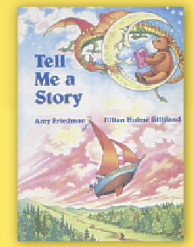
KRISTI WIENTGE, *Karma Khullar's Mustache*, 2018 Georgia Children's Book Award Nominee

Kristi's pick is **The Seventh Wish** by **Kate Messner**. After she catches a magical wishing fish, 12-year-old Charlie realizes that she can't wish away life's complications. "Poignant and so accessible, this book deals with addiction and the effects on the family," she says.



SARI WILSON, *Girl Through Glass*, an Amazon Book of the Month

Sari's pick is **Conquering Fear**, an Ethiopian folktale about a young boy who sets out on a journey to conquer the monster of fear retold by **Amy Friedman** in **Tell Me a Story**. She suggests pairing it with the classic poem *If* by **Rudyard Kipling**. (Sari is an editor at Scholastic Magazines.)



EDITH CAMPBELL, Assistant Education Librarian at Indiana State University and blogger; CrazyQuiltEd

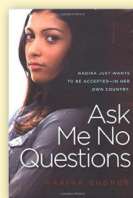
Edith, who served on the 2018 Michael L. Printz Award committee and is the Indiana State Ambassador for the United States Board on Books for Young People, recommends the following young adult books. "All of these titles examine violence, mostly from the victim's perspective," she says.



Long Way Down
Jason Reynolds



House of Purple Cedar
Tim Tingle



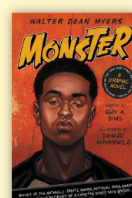
Ask Me No Questions
Marina Budhos



Getting Away with Murder
Chris Crowe



Fist Stick Knife Gun
Geoffrey Canada



Monster
Walter Dean Myers

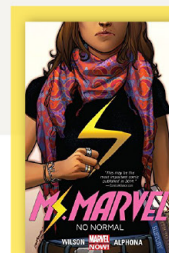
Young Adult

RECOMMENDATIONS



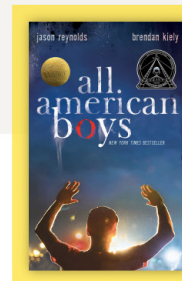
SEAN ADELMAN, *Sam's Top Secret Journal* series

Sean's pick is **Ms. Marvel Vol. 1** by **G. Willow Wilson**. "This is a great graphic novel about a Muslim girl, Kamala Khan, with super powers," he says. "Ms. Marvel comicsexplore friendship, religion, and race perceptions in a fun, readable format." Sean is a surgeon whose books represent children with developmental disabilities.



TRACEY BAPTISTE, New York Times best-selling author of *The Jumbies* series

Tracey's pick is **All American Boys** by **Jason Reynolds** and **Brendan Kiely**, a 2016 Coretta Scott King Honor Book about two boys whose lives are changed by police assault, seen through the alternating perspectives of the abused and a teen witness to his beating.



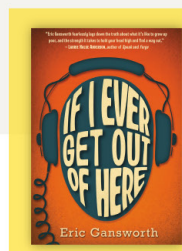
DAVID BOWLES, *They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems*, an NCTE 2019 Notable Verse Novel

David's pick is **Shame the Stars** by **Guadalupe Garcia McCall** which explores a dark moment of violence against Mexican Americans in the early 20th century. The book "provides young people with a powerful lens to examine their role in the struggle for dignity, freedom, and peace in modern America," he says.



ART COULSON, *The Creator's Game: A Story of Baaga'adowe/Lacrosse*

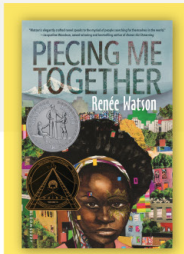
Art's pick is **If I Ever Get Out of Here** by **Eric Gansworth**. "This book about a Tuscarora boy growing up in the 1970s near Buffalo, NY spoke to me with its realistic portrayal of native life, generational racism, bullying, and the enduring power of friendship," he says. Art is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.





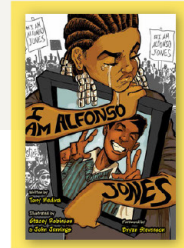
JERRY CRAFT, award-winning cartoonist and author, *New Kid*, a forthcoming graphic novel

Jerry's pick is **Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson**, a Newbery Honor. "This book touches on the nuances of growing up in today's world," he says. (For younger readers, he recommends **Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library by Carole Boston-Weatherford**, which shows what we can accomplish with determination.)



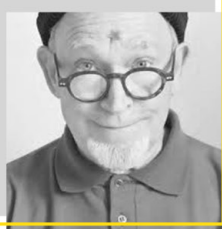
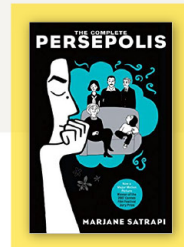
JOEL CHRISTIAN GILL, graphic novelist and Comic Arts Chair, New Hampshire Institute of Art

Joel recommends **I am Alfonso Jones by Tony Media**, a graphic novel about a young African-American boy who is shot and killed while buying his first suit. "This is a book about how we see young people who are involved in police shootings," he says.



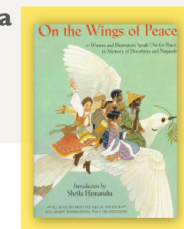
CHUCK GONZALES, graphic novelist and illustrator, *Worst Case Scenario Junior* series

Chuck's picks are the graphic novels **Persepolis 1 and 2 by Marjane Satrapi**. "This true story of a girl growing up in Iran in the 80's is great for teenage readers," he says.



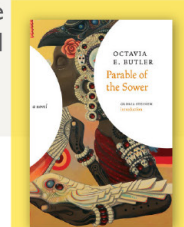
NIKI DALY, Molteno Gold Medal for major contribution to South African children's literature

Niki's pick is **On the Wings of Peace, an anthology edited by Sheila Hamanaka** where authors and illustrators reflect on the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "I contributed with a poem called 'Soldier Jim and the Bird of Peace' about disarmament to this very good collection of stories and poems," he says.



ZETTA ELLIOTT, *Dragons in a Bag*, a Kirkus Reviews Best 2018 Middle Grade Book

Zetta's pick is **Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler**. "This is the kind of title that I think would help kids deal with school shootings," she says. This dystopian novel tells the story of an African American teenage girl trying to survive in an all-too-real future.





MARGARITA ENGLE, 2017-2019 Poetry Foundation's Young People's Poet Laureate

Margarita's picks are **The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo**, an "inspiring" novel in verse about a young girl in Harlem who discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. This book won the 2018 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. She also recommends **#NeverAgain: A New Generation Draws the Line by David Hogg and Lauren Hogg**. "This is a definite must-read for young adults because it's written by teens who are Parkland survivors," she says. For younger readers, she also recommends **Dreamers by Yuyi Morales**, a picture book which was selected as the Best Illustrated Picture Book of 2018 by the New York Times Book Review and New York Public Library. (Margarita was recently awarded the 2019 NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature.)



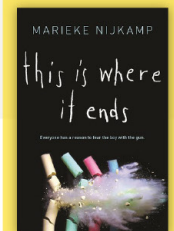
CHERYL KLEIN, *The Magic Words*, Editorial Director of Lee & Low Books

Cheryl's pick is the poem **To the Young Who Want to Die by Gwendolyn Brooks**. *Sit down. Inhale. Exhale. The gun will wait. ...You need not die today...* "This is a poem that has meant a lot to me in dark moments," she says.



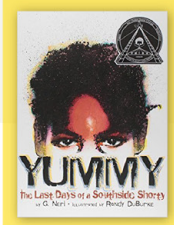
FONDA LEE, *Jade City (The Green Bone Saga)*, a NPR Best Book of 2017

Fonda's pick is **This Is Where It Ends by Marieke Nijkamp**. "This novel tackles the terrifying experience of a school shooting head on," she says. "It is an excellent book for teen book clubs to discuss." This book follows four teens during the fifty-four minutes of a school shooting.



ROBERT LUI-TRUJILLO, author/illustrator, *Furqan's First Flat Top*, Latinos in Kid Lit Best of 2016

Robert's pick is **Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty by Greg Neri**. This graphic novel, with art by Randy DuBurke, takes a look at youth gang life. It won a Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor and is an ALA Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens.





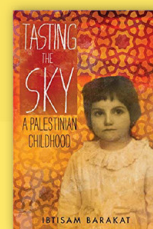
MARIEKE NIJKAMP, *This Is Where It Ends*, #1 New York Times bestselling debut novel

Marieke recommends Harvey Milk's 1978 **Hope** speech. "For all that it was a relevant speech when first spoken, it's all the more relevant now," she says. "There's a reason why I referenced it in my book, *This is Where it Ends*. Because you have to give people hope. You have to give them hope."



NAOMI SHIHAB NYE, poet/author, *Habibi*, 1998 Jane Addams Children's Book award

Naomi's picks are **Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood** and its sequel **A Balcony on the Moon: Coming of Age in Palestine** by **Ibtisam Barakat**. "These beautiful memoirs give an important perspective on what has really been going on in the region all these years," she says. Naomi's father's family were refugees from the 1948 displacement out of Jerusalem.



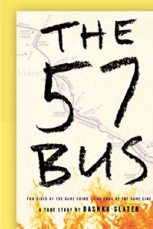
DANIEL JOSÉ OLDER, author of award winning *Shadowshaper Cypher* series

Daniel's pick is **The Beauty that Remains** by **Ashley Woodfolk**. "This novel is about healing and the power of friendship and music," he says. "So many books don't let teens be the messy, complicated fully formed people they are. Woodfolk gives us flesh and blood humans even in the most sidebar of side characters."



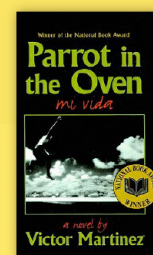
KATIA NOVET SAINT-LOT, *Amadi's Snowman: A Story of Reading*

Katia's pick is **The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives** by **Dashka Slater**. This nonfiction narrative is about a 2013 assault in Oakland, California following an encounter between two teens on a bus. The book peels back issues of race, class, and gender in a subtle, empathic way.



RENÉ SALDAÑA, JR., *The Jumping Tree*, 2001 Américas Award Collection

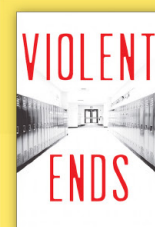
René's pick is **Parrot in the Oven: Mi vida** by **Victor Martinez** which won the 1996 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. "Though not about school shooting specifically, Martinez's novel tells of hardships that contemporary teens are similarly struggling with," he says. "It's a story of beating the odds."





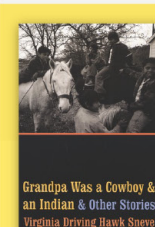
CYNTHIA LEITCH SMITH, *Hearts Unbroken*, New York Times & Publishers Weekly best-selling author

Cynthia's pick is **Violent Ends** edited by **Shaun David Hutchinson** and written by 17 authors (including her). The story centers on a 16-year-old school shooter named Kirby Matheson. Each chapter is told by characters trying to answer one question: *Why?* Cynthia is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



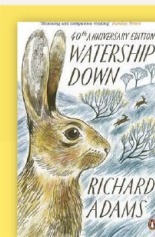
VIRGINIA DRIVING HAWK SNEVE, 2000 National Humanities Medal Winner

Virginia's pick is her collection of short stories, **Grandpa Was a Cowboy and an Indian and Other Stories**. "These works deal with what youth can learn from their elders; respect for the earth, and youth coming of age adapting to changing times," she says. Virginia is a citizen of the Rosebud Sioux tribe.



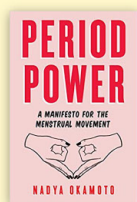
GWENDOLYN ZEPEDA, author and Poet Laureate of Houston, Texas 2013-2015

Gwendolyn recommends **Watership Down** by **Richard Adams**, the classic tale of a group of wild rabbits struggling to hold onto their place in the world. "I found the characters' plight frightening and their bravery inspiring," she says.

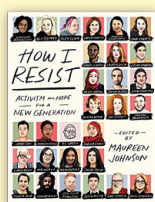


ELISE MARTINEZ, Teen Librarian, Zion-Benton Public Library, Illinois

Elise, who moderated a 2018 School Library Journal webinar on Social Activism in YA Lit, recommends the following books. "These titles introduce social activism, resilience, and the idea of demanding social/political change in America," she says.



Period Power
Nadya Okamoto



How I Resist
Maureen Johnson



How It Went Down
Kekla Magoon



Exit, Pursued by a Bear
E.K. Johnston



March: Book One
John Lewis
Andrew Aydin



New message from: **LINDA SUE PARK**

From: Linda Sue Park

To: Literary Safari

Subject: Re: Inviting you to recommend a title for an #ArmMeWithBooks List for Young People



Dear young readers:

Reading good books helps us develop empathy. With empathy for others, there's nothing we can't achieve.

A great way to start is by choosing books outside your usual zone. Former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature has helpful guidelines here: www.geneyang.com/the-reading-without-walls-challenge Everywhere you look these days, adults without empathy are doing terrible things to other people, and to the planet itself. No pressure, but I'm counting on you young people to develop empathy so you can help save the world.

Sincerely,
Linda Sue Park
#ArmMeWithBooks



Since publishing her first novel, *Seesaw Girl*, in 1999, Linda Sue Park has written six children's novels and five picture books. In 2002, she received the Newbery Medal for her novel *A Single Shard*, which is about an orphan boy in a 12th-century Korean potters' village who embarks on a difficult and dangerous journey that will change his life forever. Linda was born and raised in Illinois.

This book list was inspired by Literary Safari's graphic novella **William H.G. Butler Middle School**. The story was originally published on Instagram in the format of the summer social media feed of a fictional school recovering from a mass shooting. It examines the Orwellian realities that could face a nation without gun reform.

Read the story on **Instagram @williambutlerms** and visit **Medium** for the research and inspiration behind each post.

Now Available: **#ARMEWITHGAMES**, a list of social-emotional and empathy learning games recommended by leading games designers and educators, and a **discussion guide** for our graphic novella.



Literary Safari is a NYC-based studio that produces thoughtful and inclusive award-winning media for children and families everywhere. It is committed to using storytelling as a powerful tool of change. Its clients have included Sesame Learning, UNESCO, Benchmark Education, Scholastic, E-Line Media, and Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and its literacy app HangArt was recognized as one of Common Sense Media's Best of EdTech in 2016.

www.literarysafari.com