We hope you find something on this list that sparks your interest! We’ve made sure to flag graphic novels for you, and most of these are available as eBooks on Sora—many with audio versions, too! Books with a Young Adult designator contain mature themes or intense language meant for older middle school readers.


Each chapter starts with an all-American catchphrase. From there, these twenty-one visual stories illuminate the unexpected, sometimes darker, sides of this country’s history and the ways that they reverberate in our society to this very day.

**Aguirre, Jorge. Call Me Iggy. (Graphic Novel)**

No one wants their grandfather meddling in their love life—especially if their grandfather is a ghost. But that’s what happens to Colombian American teen Iggy, whose unrequited crush on Marisol prompts his deceased abuelito to return to help...except his “help” is pretty awful advice.

**Aldridge, Ethan M. Deephaven.**

Hoping for a fresh start at Deephaven Academy, Nev Tallow instead finds something strange stalking its corridors, something that sobs quietly and scratches the walls, waiting to be released. Now, Nev must team up with another first-year student to unravel the secrets of this exclusive boarding school and what lies in its forbidden east wing.

**Angkasa, Clar. Stories of the Islands. (Graphic Novel)**

Once upon a time, a princess was cursed to live as a snail, two sisters were trapped by their father’s wrath, and a mother and daughter faced a hungry giant. No one is coming to save them. Will they get their happily ever after? Find out in this girl-centered retelling of three Indonesian folktales!

**Bausum, Ann. The Bard and the Book.**

Four hundred years ago, no one bothered to write down the exact words of stage plays. The main reason we’ve heard of Romeo, Juliet, Hamlet, or even Shakespeare himself is that a group of people made the excellent choice to preserve the plays after the Bard died. If they hadn’t created the book known as the First Folio, Shakespeare and his works would have been lost to history. This is a can’t-miss literary scavenger hunt (the search for every existing First Folio continues today), trivia treasure trove, and love letter to Shakespeare.

**Brosgol, Vera. Plain Jane and the Mermaid. (Graphic Novel)**

Jane is incredibly plain—everyone says so, including her own family. Needing to marry to inherit her parents’ house, Jane proposes to handsome fisherman Peter, who might say yes just to get away from his father. The plan falls apart when Peter is lured into the sea by a vain, cruel mermaid, and Jane must venture underwater to rescue her maybe-fiancé. But the depths of the ocean hold beautiful mysteries and dangerous creatures. What good can a plain Jane do?

**Buolamwini, Joy. Unmasking AI: My Mission to Protect What Is Human in a World of Machines.**

AI is certainly on everyone’s minds right now... but it’s been Dr. Buolamwini’s life work. In this book, she takes a dive into her years-long research that has uncovered the biases that exist in technology, leaving people vulnerable to racism, sexism, and ableism in a world that’s rapidly adopting AI. She also talks about founding the Algorithmic Justice League—and how you can join in.
Burgess, Sarah. *Skip* (Graphic Novel)

Jay is always scribbling poetry in their notebook. When they come across Skip, a Double Dutch team, Jay for the first time ever has a place to belong and friends to confide in. But Jay's friendship with their new bestie Beah is intense, both in and out of Double Dutch. Can Beah and Jay help each other grow and learn to embrace their whole selves—and stay friends in the process?

Bushman, Emily. *Bake Anime: 75 Recipes Spotted In—and Inspired By—Your Favorite Anime.*

Have you ever been watching *My Hero Academia* and thought that Deku’s taiyaki looked too good to be true? Ever felt the urge to make a jelly roll that looks like a Pokémon or a cream puff in the shape of the Forest Keeper from *My Neighbor Totoro*? Learn to recreate desserts that appear in or are inspired by your favorite anime series with this practical guide to sweet treats.

Castaldo, Nancy F. *The Wolves and Moose of Isle Royale: Restoring an Island Ecosystem.*

For over sixty years, in what has been known as the longest study of a predator-prey relationship in the world, scientists have observed the importance of wolves to the unique ecology of Isle Royale, a remote island national park surrounded by frigid Lake Superior. But due to illness and underlying factors, the population of wolves on the island has dropped while the number of moose has increased, putting the Isle Royale ecosystem in jeopardy. How can humans help?

Chung, Christine D.U. *Viewfinder.* (Graphic Novel)

A young space traveler arrives on an Earth devoid of people. She happens upon a strange contraption that contains images of what the planet used to be like. Using this viewfinder, she sees Earth as it was, juxtaposed against Earth as it is. As she wanders, though, she sees signs that perhaps there is still someone here. A time capsule, a friendly cat and a makeshift railcar all add to the mystery . . . is she really alone?

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *One Big Open Sky.* (Novel In Verse)

1879, Mississippi. Lettie is part of a covered wagon train of Black homesteaders heading west. Her father, Thomas, promises that Nebraska will be everything the family needs, but the only thing that feels certain is danger. Lettie, her mother, and young teacher Philomena are free from slavery—but bound by poverty, access to opportunity, and patriarchal social structures. Will these women survive the hardships of their journey? And as Thomas’s desire for control overpowers his common sense, will they truly be free once they get there?

Colfer, Eoin. *Three Tasks for a Dragon.*

A good, old-fashioned fantasy if ever there were one! Studious Prince Lir is hardly Wolfhound King material, so his stepmother decrees that her own son will inherit the crown instead and sends Lir away on a seemingly impossible (and likely fatal) quest: rescue the maiden Cethlenn from the once-fearsome dragon Lasvarg. But Lir instead befriends Lasvarg and Cethlenn, and the three learn more of the dark magic that may be making pawns of them all.

On a hot August day in Paris, just over a century ago, a desperate guard burst into the office of the director of the Louvre and shouted, “La Joconde, c’est partie!” Who had stolen the *Mona Lisa?* Travel back to an extraordinary period of revolutionary change: turn-of-the-century Paris. Walk its backstreets. Meet the infamous thieves—and detectives—of the era. Then, slip back further in time and follow Leonardo da Vinci, painter of the *Mona Lisa,* through his dazzling, wondrously weird life. And discover the secret at the heart of the most famous painting in the world: it should never have existed at all.

DuPrau, Jeanne. *Project F.*

In a future with no cars, planes, television, or smart phones, 13-year-old Keith uncovers a secret. It’s a mysterious mission known only as Project F. It’s advanced, it’s scientific, and it’s going to change the world. It’s exactly the kind of adventure Keith has always longed to be a part of. What’s adventure without a little danger, right? But how much danger is Keith willing to risk? For himself? For his family? For his community? For the entire world?

Fipps, Lisa. *And Then, Boom!* (Novel in Verse)

Like the superheroes he loves, Joe has a lot of “and then, boom” moments, where everything threatens to go kerflooey, but he somehow always lands on his feet. Things fall apart, however, when his mom gets “the itch” again, leaving him to fend for himself. He doesn’t tell anyone he’s on his own, as he fears being forced into foster care. He’s never felt so alone—until a starving dog and her pups cross his path and turn his life in a direction he never could have predicted.


"You are to report to Station X at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, in four days time . . . That is all you need to know." This was the terse telegram hundreds of young women throughout the British Isles received in the spring of 1941. Bletchley Park, aka Station X, was a well-kept secret during World War II, and it was teenaged girls who kept it running. Some could do advanced math, while others spoke a second language. They ran the unwieldy bombe machines, made sense of wireless sound waves, and sorted the decoded messages. They were expected to excel in their fields and most importantly: know how to keep a secret. This is their story.

Fong, Debbie. *Next Stop.* (Graphic Novel)

To get her mind off her intense grief following the loss of her brother, soft-spoken Pia goes on a bus tour of weird and wacky roadside attractions. The final destination: a mysterious underground lake rumored to have magical powers. Pia won’t admit she believes in it, but she’s holding out hope that the waters can mend her broken family.

Foster, Kate. *All the Small Wonderful Things.*

Eleven-year-old Alex knows that starting middle school will be a big change, and for an autistic person, change can be terrifying. He is sure that having a friend by his side will help. But how can he make one? Alex devises a plan to impress the kids at school by winning a trophy at the PAWS Dog Show with his trusty sidekick, Kevin the cockapoo. This should be a walk in the park, right?
Gibney, Shannon & Nicole Chung. *When We Become Ours: A YA Adoptee Anthology* (Young Adult)
There is no universal adoption experience, and no two adoptees have the same story. Written by adoptees for adoptees, this collection of 15 stories reflects that reality. Some are poignant, some are funny, some are hopeful—but every single one is worth reading.

Gratz, Alan. *Heroes.*
December 6, 1941: Best friends Frank and Stanley have it good. Their dads are stationed at Pearl Harbor, and the boys get a front-row view of the huge battleships and the sparkling water. December 7th, 1941: Everything explodes when Japanese planes zoom overhead and begin dropping bombs on the ships below. As the boys fight to make their way home amidst the carnage, it's clear that everything has changed. Stanley's mother is Japanese American; he and his family are now the "enemy." Can the boys' friendship—and their dreams—survive?

Ha, Robin. *The Fox Maidens* (Graphic Novel)
Kai Song dreams of being a warrior. But while her father believes in her and trains her in martial arts, 16th-century Korea isn't ready for a girl warrior. Kai is also plagued by rumors that she is the granddaughter of Gumiho, the nine-tailed fox demon killed by her father years before. After learning a deadly secret, Kai must come to terms with her identity and take destiny into her own hands.

As his family prepares for the winter, Piña, a skilled young hunter, embarks on a perilous journey up the mountain to gather obsidian—the same mountain where both of his brothers disappeared years ago. There, he encounters the fearsome eagle god Savik and is presented with a life-altering choice.

Hurston, Zora Neale (adapted by Ibram X. Kendi). *Barracoon.*
Of the millions of men, women, and children transported from Africa to America to be enslaved, 86-year-old Cudjo Lewis was the only person alive to tell the story of his capture and bondage when he was approached by legendary folklorist, anthropologist, and writer Zora Neale Hurston, fifty years after the Atlantic human trade was outlawed in the United States. This is his story, told by himself.

King, Thomas. *Borders* (Graphic Novel)
On a trip to visit his older sister, who has moved away from the family home on the reserve to Salt Lake City, a young boy and his mother must answer a question at the border: Are you Canadian? Or American? When the guards will not accept their Blackfoot citizenship—meaning they are neither—the two wind up trapped in an all-too-real limbo between nations that do not recognize who they are.

Kutub, Naz. *No Time Like Now* (Young Adult)
It's been one year since Hazeem got his special ability: he can grant any living thing extra time. Since then, he's been granting people—his friend, his study buddy, his crush—more years to live. When he uses his powers to save his grandmother, Time themself appears and tells Hazeem he has accrued a time debt, putting the entire timeline in danger of collapse. To save the timeline and himself, Hazeem must take back some of the life he has given away.

Kuyatt, Meg Eden. *Good Different* (Novel in Verse)
Seventh-grader Selah never feels quite “normal.” She has to keep her feelings tightly controlled when people are around but run and hide to calm down when it’s all too much. One day, it explodes: she hits a fellow student. She’s got to figure out just what makes her different—and how to be okay.
LaRocca, Rajani. *Sona and the Golden Beasts.*
When Sona discovers an orphaned wolf pup, she believes its golden ears are a clue that it could be related to the five sacred beasts of Devia, which a Hunter has been killing one by one. Sona must now on an epic adventure during which she realizes that the fate of the sacred beasts, and the future of Devia, is in her hands.

Lê, Minh. *Enlighten Me.* (Graphic Novel)
When Bình fights back against a bully who makes fun of his Vietnamese heritage, he expects to be cheered as the hero. Instead, he gets a stern warning from his vice principal and a family trip to a silent meditation retreat. Things look bleak, but when a nun gathers all the kids to tell them the Jataka tales—the stories of the Buddha’s many past lives—Bình takes a dive into his imagination and starts to see himself in these stories. With any luck, these next few days will prove more enlightening than he thought.

Whenever Maya isn’t at school, she’s with three generations of Calderones at Café Taza, serving up sandwiches de pernil, mofongo, and the best cafés con leche in all of Brooklyn. One day, estranged Tía Titi arrives unexpectedly. Maya’s grandmother warns her to stay away from Titi, but Maya is drawn to her aunt and to the Santería she practices, strictly forbidden by the rest of the family. Which path will Maya choose to fulfill her destiny?

McBride, Amber. *Gone Wolf.*
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 tiny room with her dog, who is going wolf more often, pacing and imagining he’s free. In the present, the pandemic has distanced Imogen from everyone, and she’s suffering from intense nightmares. When she finally finds a therapist willing to listen, past, present, and future collide.

Miller, Sharee. *Curlfriends.* (Graphic Novel)
Charlie’s first impression at her new middle school needs to last, since this is where her family finally plans to settle for good. She’s hiding any interests that may seem “babyish,” updating her look, and doing her best to leave her shyness behind her. When not everything goes exactly to plan—like, AT ALL—Charlie is ready to give up. Then she meets the Curlfriends, a group of Black girls who couldn’t be more different from each other . . . maybe there is a place for Charlie to be her true self after all.

Millington, Allie. *Olivetti.*
Being a typewriter is not as easy as it looks. Surrounded by books (notorious attention hogs) and recently replaced by a computer, Olivetti has been forgotten by the Brindle family, except for maybe bookish Ernest. When Ernest’s mom, Beatrice, leaves Olivetti at a pawn shop before going missing, Olivetti believes he can help find her. It will involve breaking the only rule of “typewriterly code,” chasing clues, and maybe committing a few misdemeanors, but Olivetti is determined to help Ernest and his family find Beatrice, belonging, and the parts of themselves they’ve lost.

Moulton, Deke. *Don’t Want to Be Your Monster.*
Brothers Adam and Victor have the usual fights over the remote, which movie to watch, and whether it’s morally acceptable to eat people. Well, not so much eat—just drink a little blood. They’re vampires, hiding in plain sight with their eclectic yet loving family. Everything changes when bodies start to appear all over town, and it becomes clear that a vampire hunter may be looking for them. Can Adam and Victor reconcile their differences and stop the killer before it’s too late?
Norell, Mark A. *The World of Dinosaurs: An Illustrated Tour.*
From the horns of the Protoceratops to the wings of the Archaeopteryx, readers are invited to explore profiles of dinosaurs along with hundreds of color photographs, sketches, maps, and other materials—all rooted in the latest scientific discoveries. This is sure to both capture your imagination and satisfy a bit of prehistoric curiosity.

Pettie, Andrew. *Britannica’s Encyclopedia Infographica: 1,000s of Facts & Figures about Earth, Space, Animals, the Body, Technology, & More Revealed in Pictures.*
From animals that can hop 200 times the length of their body, to a snapshot of what’s happening in a single second across the world…and even how many cups of snot your body makes in a day, this encyclopedia isn’t like any you’ve ever seen before. Tons of facts, figures, and trivia, all beautifully illustrated and waiting for you to discover.

Poranek, A.B. *Where the Dark Stands Still.* (Young Adult)
Liska knows that anyone who practices magic is a monster. Desperate to lose her own powers, she seeks the wish-granting fern flower from the demon-inhabited spirit-wood. When she’s caught by the demon warden of the wood, she agrees to one year of servitude in exchange for the wish. She must unravel her taciturn host’s spool of secrets. Because something wakes in the woods, something terrifying . . . and it cannot be defeated unless Liska embraces the monster within.

Microbes are everywhere: outside, indoors, on your body, in your body. Whether helping people digest their food or using mind-control techniques to lure mice into the path of hungry cats (no, really), microbes form an unseen jungle all around us. Discover a hidden world in which your health depends on a myriad of microbes, houseflies get zombified by fungi, and termites are saving the planet, one fart at a time.

Rose, Elle Gonzalez. *Caught In a Bad Fauxmance.* (Young Adult)
Devin Baez is ready for a relaxing winter break at Lake Andreas. That is, until he runs into the Seo-Cokes, his obnoxious next-door neighbors and the undefeated champions of the lake’s annual Winter Games. When annoyingly handsome Julian Seo-Cooke finds himself in need of a fake boyfriend, Devin sees an opportunity to get behind enemy lines and prove the Seo-Cokes play dirty. The only problem is that, for Devin, this faux game of love is starting to feel very real.

The first half of this guide introduces novices (0-800 Elo rating) to the four key areas to consider when playing chess, and the second half builds upon these core skills for more experienced players. Whether you want to become a recreational chess player or are training to be a Grandmaster, this is the perfect interactive exploration of the world of one of the most beloved games in history!

Since the passing of his father, Omar has tried to be the man of his family. As he waits in line for rations, longing for the books he left behind in Syria, his younger brother Sufyan gets involved with a group that provides big rewards for seemingly mundane tasks. When the group abruptly gets more intense, bookish Omar must be brave in ways he never thought possible to save his brother.
**Schu, John. Louder than Hunger. (Novel in Verse)**
Jake has read about kids like him—kids called the weird one or the outsider—and would do anything not to be that person, including shrink himself down to nothing. But the less he eats, the bigger he feels. How long can Jake punish himself before he truly disappears?

**Shahi, Arya. An Impossible Thing to Say. (Young Adult)**
In the aftermath of 9/11, sophomore Omid grapples with finding the right words to connect with his grandfather, embrace his Iranian heritage, and talk to the girl he has a crush on. Then, he discovers rap, and the rhymes and rhythms he’s immersing himself in help him find his own voice.

**Shen, E.L. Maybe It’s a Sign.**
Seventh-grader Freya June Sun is obsessed with Chinese superstitions. After all, they explain the signs that must be coming from her late father and give her a dose of luck. When she gets paired with the class clown for a home ec project, however, she discovers that her life might not go down the path she was expecting—and she just might have to make her own luck.

**Smith, Sherri & Elizabeth Wein. American Wings: Chicago’s Pioneering Black Aviators and the Race for Equality in the Sky.**
In the early 1900s, aviation was all the rage—everyone dreamt of the opportunity to take to the sky. But what hope did Black Americans have of gaining their wings in a country restricted by segregation? Two talented authors tackle the true story of a group of determined Black Chicagoans who faced down racism and created their own flying club and built an airfield on the South Side.

**Tafolla, Carmen. Warrior Girl.**
Celina revels in her Mexican heritage, but once she starts school it feels like the world wants her to erase that part of her identity. Fortunately, she’s got an army of family and three fabulous new friends behind her to fight the ignorance. When her dad gets deported and the pandemic hits, Celina must live up to her last name—Guerrera, meaning “woman warrior”—and use her writing talents to make things better for herself and for the world.

**Ursu, Anne. Not Quite a Ghost.**
The attic bedroom in Violet’s new house is shadowy, creaky, and wrapped in old yellow wallpaper printed with a faded tangle of twisting vines and sickly flowers. After moving in, Violet falls ill . . . and does not get better. As days turn into weeks without any improvement, Violet finds herself spending more time alone in the room with the yellow wallpaper, the shadows moving in the corners, wrapping themselves around her at night. Violet is starting to suspect she might not be alone in the room at all.

**Vermette, Katherena. A Girl Called Echo: Omnibus. (Graphic Novel) (Young Adult)**
Métis teenager Echo Desjardins is struggling to adjust to a new school and a new home. When an ordinary history class turns extraordinary, Echo is pulled into a time-travelling adventure. Follow Echo as she experiences pivotal events from Métis history and imagines what the future might hold.

**Watson, Renée. Black Girl You Are Atlas.**
Using a variety of poetic forms, from haiku to free verse, Watson shares recollections of her childhood in Portland, tender odes to the Black women in her life, and urgent calls for Black girls to step into their power with a strong sense of sisterhood and celebration.
**Wendell, Mindy Nichols. *Light and Air.***
When Halle and her mother both come down with TB, they are sent to the J.N. Adam Tuberculosis Hospital. The ward is a closed and quiet place, far from the places and people they love. But it is not, Halle learns, a prison. Free of her worried and difficult father for the first time in her life, she slowly discovers joy, family, and the healing power of honey on the children's ward, where the girls on the floor become her confidantes and sisters.

**Weston, Kate. *Murder On a School Night. (Young Adult)***
Kerry had different plans for her first high school party—like not going. Instead her BFF, mystery-fanatic Annie, has roped her into going to investigate who’s cyberbullying Heather, the most popular girl in school. When the two of them discover Heather’s second in command, Selena, suffocated with a menstrual cup, things get really weird. And when a second student turns up dead, Annie and Kerry—no matter how much she resists—are officially on the case to stop the murderer.

**Yang, Gene. *Lunar New Year Love Story. (Graphic Novel) (Young Adult)***
Val is ready to give up on love. It's led to nothing but secrets and heartbreak, and she's pretty sure she's cursed—no one in her family, for generations, has ever had any luck with love. But then a chance encounter with a pair of cute lion dancers sparks something in Val. Is it real love? Could this be her chance to break the family curse? Or is she destined to live with a broken heart forever?

**Zarr, Sara. *Kyra Just For Today.***
Kyra has always felt like she’s a bit too much. But she’s okay with that, because she’s got her mom, who makes her feel like she is just enough. Ever since Mom got sober, she and Kyra have been there for each other. Then seventh grade starts, and everything Kyra used to be able to count on feels unsure. Her best friend is hanging out with older kids and Mom is unusually distant. When Mom starts missing work, sleeping in, and forgetting things, Kyra doesn’t dare say “relapse.” But soon not saying that word means not saying anything at all, even to her support group. And when Kyra suspects that her worst fears might be real, she starts to question whether being just enough is not enough at all.

**Zimmerman, Sarah. *Crochet Cute Critters: 26 Easy Amigurumi Patterns***
Alex the Alligator, Freddy the Fox, Walter the Whale, Zina the Zebra . . . you can choose from 26 lovable designs that span the entire animal kingdom in this step-by-step guide that will take you through the basics of amigurumi, the art of crocheting small stuffed animals that originated in Japan.

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To round out this year’s list, you’ll find next year’s Caudill list attached, in case you want a head start.

Enjoy your summer! Happy reading!