2020 'Best of the Best' Booklist

Books that appear on this definitive list are written/illustrated by Black authors/artists with copyright dates of 2019-2020. Through stories and informational text, these books celebrate the black experience and most importantly the black community. These selections will be enjoyed by students, families and caregivers alike.

Feel free to share this list with teachers, fellow librarians and community members within your networks.
27. Me & Mama by Cozbi A. Cabrera
28. My Hair Is Beautiful by Shauntay Grant
29. My Rainy Day Rocket Ship by Markette Sheppard
30. Nana Akua Goes to School by Tricia Elam Walker
31. Our Bedtime Bonnet by Nancy Amanda Redd
32. Overground Railroad by Lesa Cline-Ransome
33. Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment by Jessica Curry
34. RESPECT: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul by Carole Boston Weatherford
35. Shiloh and Dande the Lion by Ciara Hill
36. Sulwe by Lupita Nyong’o
37. The Adventure of Joshua and Pip by John Light, Jr.
38. The Adventures of Buttercup and Granny by Raquel Solomon
39. The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes
40. The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned To Read by Rita Lorraine Hubbard
41. The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne by Lesa Cline-Ransome
42. The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander
43. The Women Who Caught The Babies by Eloise Greenfield
44. There Is A Girl Headed to the White House by Dr. Jasmine Killiebrew
45. Tiara’s Hat Parade by Kelly Starling Lyons
46. Ways to Make Sunshine by Renee Watson
47. What Is Light? by Markette Sheppard
48. William Still and His Freedom Stories: The Father of the Underground Railroad by Don Tate
49. You Matter by Christian Robinson
50. Your Name is a Song by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

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Pre-K through 4th Grade
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Middle School

1. A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Ramee
2. Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes
3. Blended by Sharon Draper
4. Class Act by Jerry Craft *Graphic Novel
5. Clean Getaway by Nic Stone
7. From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks
8. Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams
9. Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson
10. Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero by Kelly J. Baptist
11. Look Both Ways: A Tale Told In Ten Blocks by Jason Reynolds
12. My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich by Ibi Zoboi
13. New Kid by Jerry Craft *Graphic Novel
14. Only Black Girls in Town by Brandy Colbert
15. PET by Akwaeke Emezi
17. Shuri by Nic Stone
18. The Usual Suspects by Maurice Broaddus
19. This Promise of Change: One Girl’s Story in the Fight for School Equality by Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debby Levy
20. Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia
21. Tristan Strong Destroys the World by Kwame Mbalia
22. Twins by Varian Johnson *Graphic Novel
23. What Lane? by Torrey Maldonado
24. When Life Gives You Mangos by Kereen Getten
25. Woke: A Young Poet’s Call To Justice by Mahogany L. Browne
1. A Phoenix First Must Burn by Patrice Caldwell
2. All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson
3. All The Days Past, All The Days To Come by Mildred D. Taylor
4. Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America Edited by Ibi Zoboi
5. Black Girl Unlimited by Echo Brown
6. Children of Virtue and Vengeance by Tomi Adeyemi
7. Daughters of Jubilation by Kara Lee Corthron
8. Dear Justyce by Nic Stone
9. Early Departures by Justin Reynolds
10. For Black Girls Like Me by Mariama J. Lockington
11. Grown by Tiffany D. Jackson
12. Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box by Dionne Evette
13. Not So Pure and Simple by Lamar Giles
14. Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salam
15. Say Her Name by Zetta Elliott
16. Slay by Britney Morris
17. Smash It by Francina Simone
18. Stamped: Racism, Anti Racism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
19. Summer of Everything by Julian Winters
20. The Everlasting Rose by Dhonielle Clayton
21. The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love, and Truth Edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Ellis Hudson
22. The Voting Booth by Brandy Colbert
23. This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do The Work by Tiffany Jewell
24. This is My America by Kim Johnson
25. You Should See Me in a Crown by Leah Johnson
2020 'Best of the Best' Booklist

1. **Fights: One Boy's Triumph Over Violence** by Joel Christian Gill
2. **Make Change: How to Fight Injustice, Dismantle Systemic Oppression, and Own Our Future** by Shaun King
3. **A Promised Land** by Barack Obama
4. **The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart** by Alicia Garza
5. **The Girl with the Louding Voice: A Novel** by Abi Daré

**Know Your Reader:**
Some titles may include mature content. Parents, caregivers and educators are encouraged to discuss these experiences with their children.

**2020 Best of the Best Booklist Committee**

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