



# 2020 'Best of the Best' Booklist

Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



1. **A Girl Like Me** by Angela Johnson
2. **All Because You Matter** by Tami Charles
3. **Ana and Andrew: A Day at the Museum** by Christine Platt
4. **Another** by Christian Robinson
5. **Bedtime Bonnet** by Nancy Redd
6. **Big Papa and the Time Machine** by Daniel Bernstrom
7. **Black Girl Magic** by Mahogany L. Browne
8. **Black is a Rainbow Color** by Angela Joy
9. **Black Women in Science: A Black History Book for Kids** by Kimberly Brown Pellum
10. **Brave. Black. First.: 50+ African American Women Who Changed the World** by Cheryl Hudson
11. **Brown Boy Dreams** by Clamentia Hall
12. **By and By: Charles Albert Tindley, the Father of Gospel Music** by Carole Boston Weatherford
13. **Carter Reads the Newspaper** by Deborah Hopkinson
14. **Early Sunday Morning** by Denene Millner
15. **Freedom, We Sing** by Amyra Leon
16. **Hair Love** by Matthew Cherry
17. **Hands Up!** by Breanna J. McDaniel
18. **Harlem Grown** by Tony Hillery
19. **I Am Every Good Thing** by Derrick Barnes
20. **Jayla Jumps In** by Joy Jones
21. **Just Like A Mama** by Alice Faye Duncan
22. **King Khalid Is PROUD** by Veronica Chapman
23. **Liam's First Cut** by Taye Jones
24. **Lift as You Climb: The Story of Ella Baker** by Patricia Hruby Powell
25. **M is for Melanin: A Celebration of the Black Child** by Tiffany Rose

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.



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26. **Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration** by Samara Cole Doyon
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

**Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**





# 2020 'Best of the Best' Booklist

## 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
6. **Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr and Tonya Bolden
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
16. **Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson** by Katherine Johnson
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





# 2020 'Best of the Best' Booklist

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** Tomi Adeyemi
7. **Daughters of Jubilation** 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** 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 Brittney 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

## Young Adult





# 2020 'Best of the Best' Booklist

## Adult Books for High School Reader

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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