

2024-2025



**South Carolina
Young Adult Book Award
Nominees**

Abuela, Don't Forget Me

by Rex Ogle



Click
for
video

Rex Ogle's companion to *Free Lunch* and *Punching Bag* weaves humor, heartbreak, and hope into life-affirming poems that honor his grandmother's legacy.

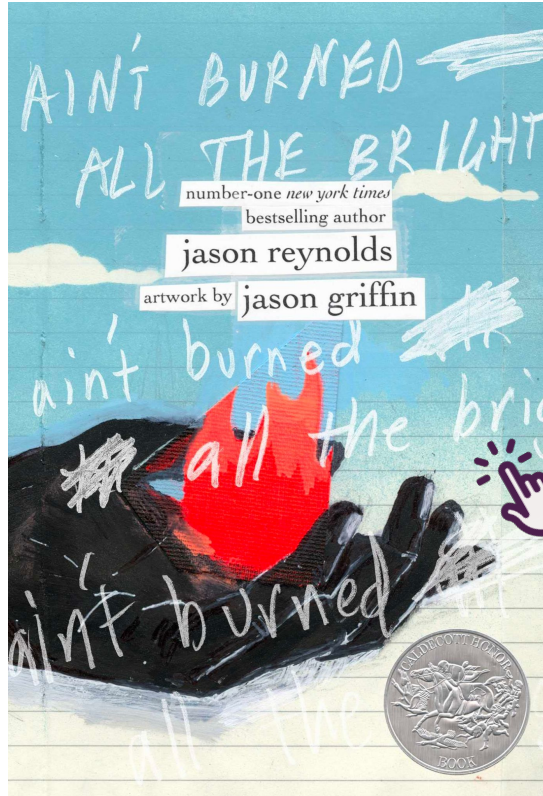
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1 – 4.3
ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 13.2 – 13.3



Ain't Burned All the Bright

By Jason Reynolds



Click
for
video

Ain't Burned All the Bright is a beautiful melding of art and verse depicting an authentic experience of what it means to be a black in America in today's world. This graphic novel gives audiences a true and fierce juxtaposition of struggle and hope. Reynold's use of symbolism mirrored with Griffin's illustrations show audiences the value of what it means to truly "breathe."

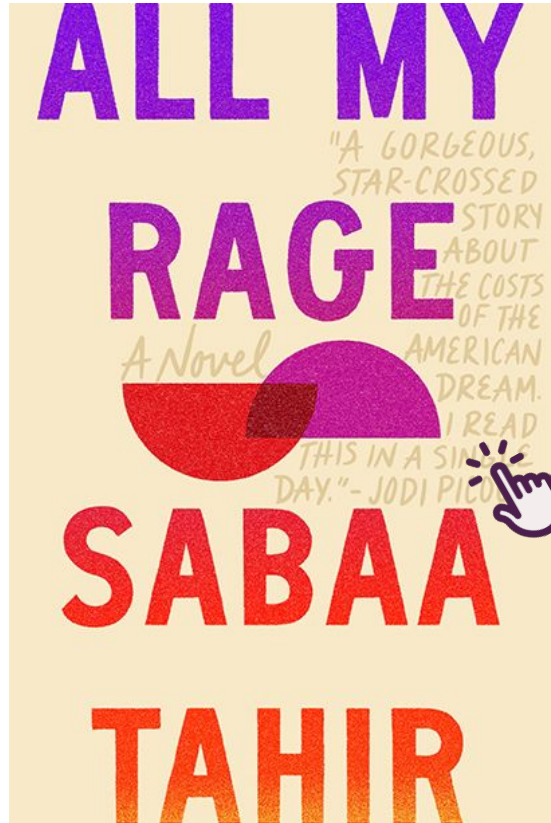
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 7.1 -7.2

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 12.1

All My Rage

By Sabaa Tahir



Click
for
video

A family extending from Pakistan to California, deals with generations of young love, old regrets, and forgiveness.

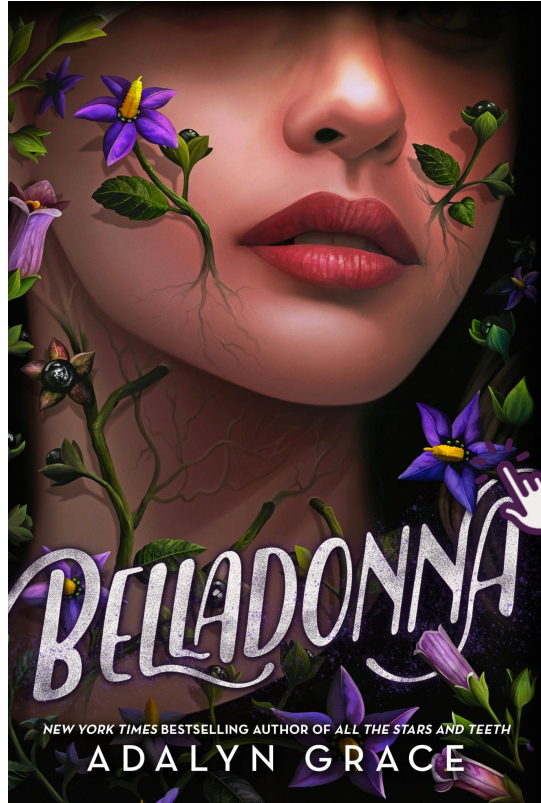
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 8.1



Belladonna

By Adalyn Grace



Click
for
video

Making an alliance with Death himself--the very man she hates most--to solve a murder by poisoning, 19-year-old Signa Farrow is shown that their connection may be more powerful than she dared imagine.

Standards

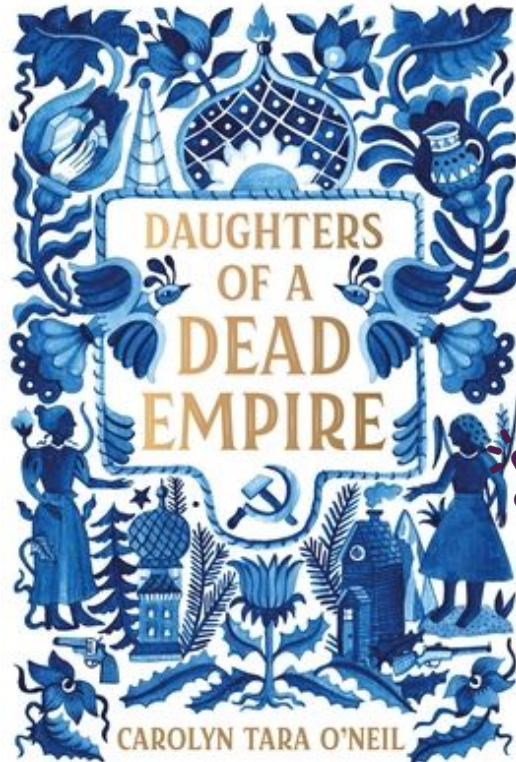
ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1 – 4.3

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 13.2 – 13.3



Daughters of a Dead Empire

By Carolyn Tara O'Neil



Click
for
video

Set during the height of the Russian Revolution and told in alternating voices, sixteen-year-old Evgenia--a peasant and proud member of the Bolshevik party--agrees to help a seventeen-year-old bourgeois girl traverse the war-torn countryside in search of safety, but Anna is harboring a secret that could cost them their lives.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 7.1-7.2

Dead Flip
By Sara Farizan



Click
for
video

Eighteen-year-olds Cori and Maz, once inseparable best friends, reunite to solve the mystery of what happened to their other friend Sam--who disappeared five years ago and has now returned, not having aged at all.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1 – 4.3

The Do-Over

By Lynn Painter



Click
for
video

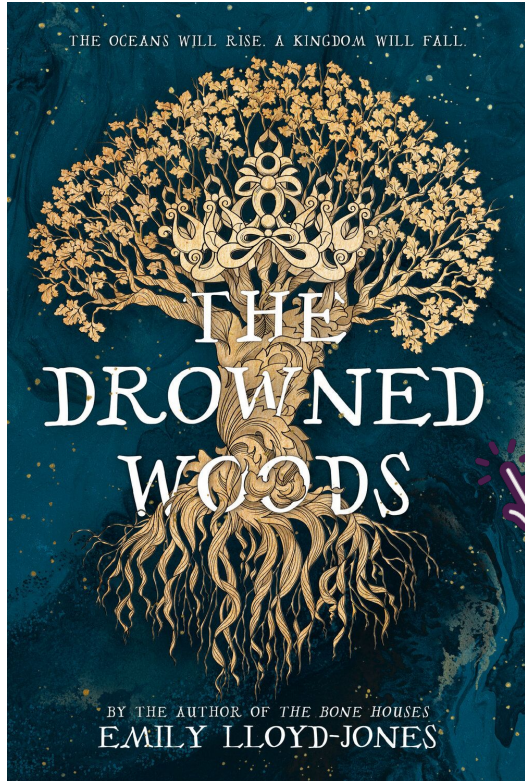
Stuck in some sort of time loop that forces her to live through the worst Valentine's Day ever, over and over again, Emilie Hornby wonders what will happen when the universe stops doling out do-overs when something good starts to come out of her nightmare.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 6.1

The Drowned Woods

By Emily Lloyd-Jones



Click
for
video

The last living water diviner, 18-year-old Mererid joins forces with her old handler to bring down the very prince who abused them both and, with a ragtag group of allies, sets out to topple a kingdom.

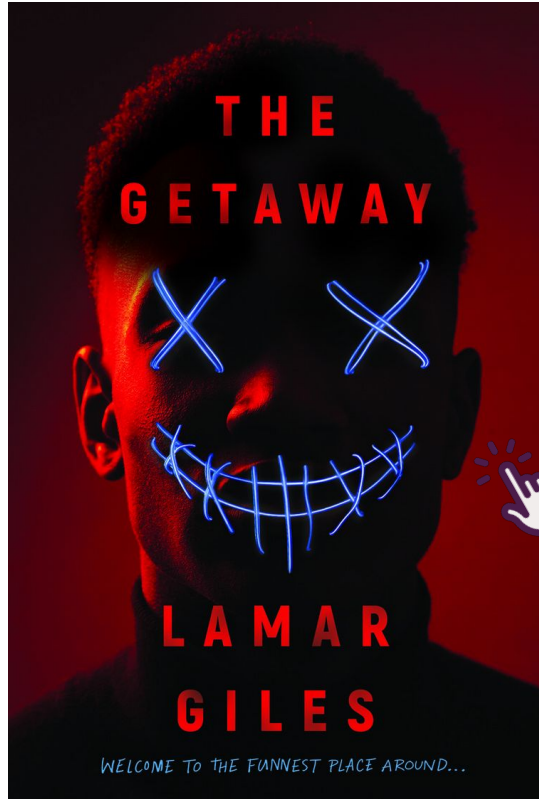
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 8.1



The Getaway

By Lamar Giles



Click
for
video

Jay discovers that the mountain resort where he lives and works with his friends and family is also a doomsday oasis for the rich and powerful who expect top-notch customer service even as the world outside the resort's walls disintegrates.

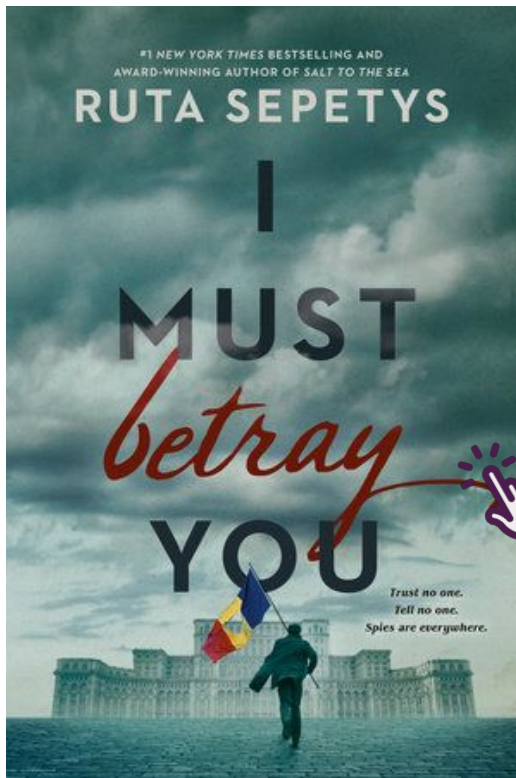
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 13.2-13.3



I Must Betray You

By Ruta Sepetys



Click
for
video

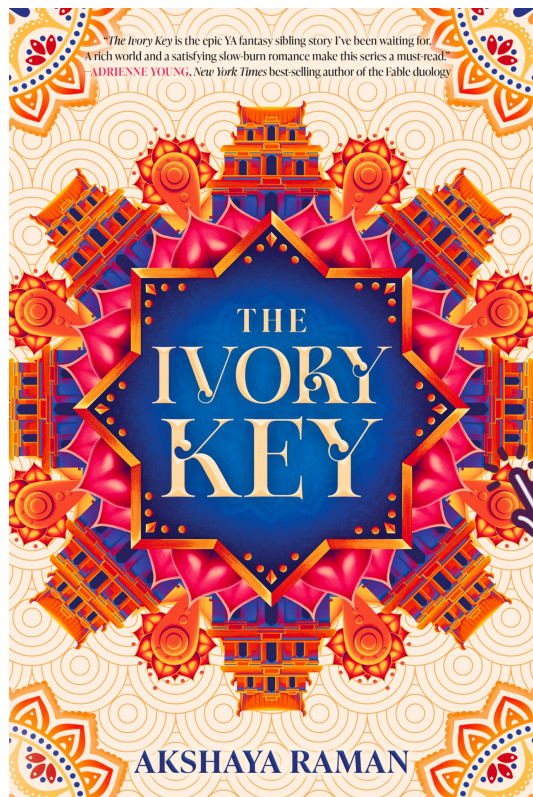
In a country governed by isolation, fear, and a tyrannical dictator, seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, but he decides to use his position to try to outwit his handler, undermine the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 11.1-11.2

The Ivory Key

By Akshaya Raman



Click
for
video

Four estranged royal siblings, each harboring secrets and conflicting agendas, must learn to work together as they search for the Ivory Key--a thing of legend that will lead to a new source of magic.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 10.1



Lawless Spaces

By Corey Ann Haydu



Click
for
video

While a highly publicized sexual assault case threatens to destroy her and her mother, sixteen-year-old Mimi Dovewick tries to understand their tense relationship by reaching out to the women of her maternal line through the journals they all kept.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 13.2-13.3



The Lesbian's Guide to Catholic School

By Sonora Reyes



Click
for
video

Transferred to a Catholic school, sixteen-year-old Yami Flores finds it hard to fake being straight when she falls for Bo, the only openly queer girl at school, but refuses to follow her heart until she learns to live her truth out loud.

Standards

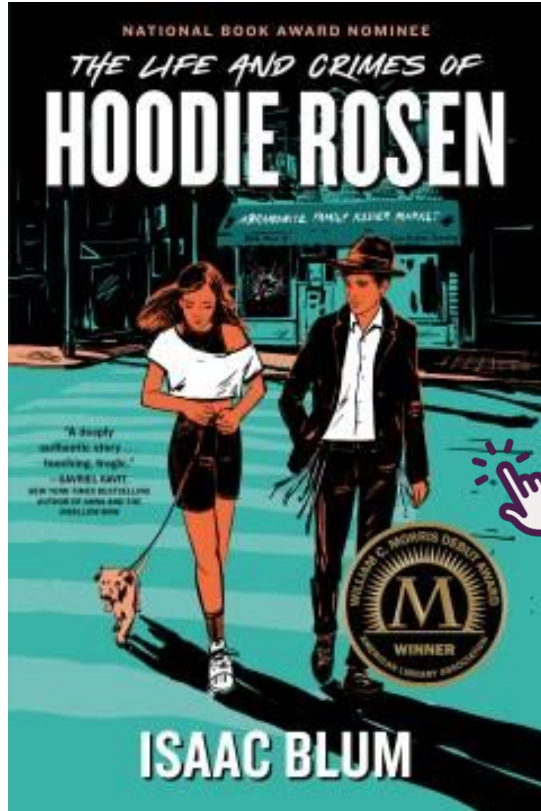
ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 11.1



The Life and Crimes of Hoodie

Rosen

By Isaac Blum



Click for video

Moving to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, Hoodie Rosen falls for the daughter of the mayor who is trying to keep Hoodie's Orthodox Jewish community out of town, and when antisemitic crimes turn deadly, he must choose between his first love and the only world he's ever known.

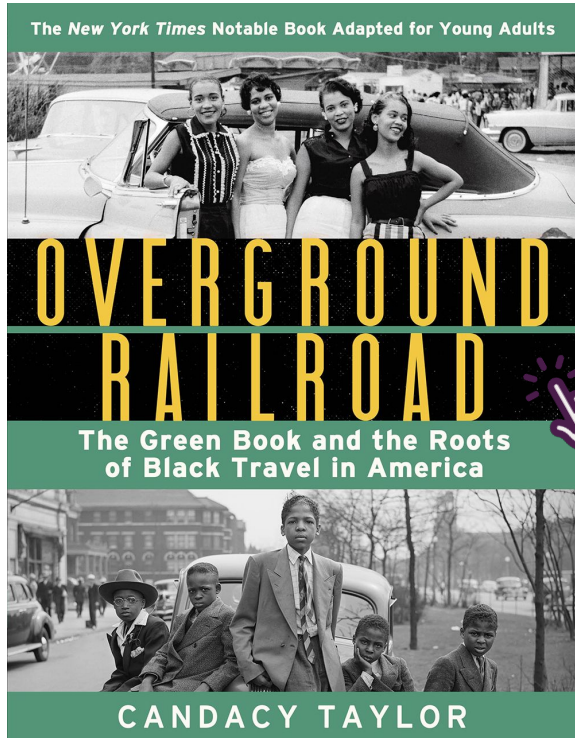
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 11.1



Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America

By Candacy Taylor



This young reader's edition of the critically acclaimed adult book chronicles the history of the Green Book, published from 1936 to 1966, that listed the places that were safe for Black travelers due to segregation.

Click
for
video

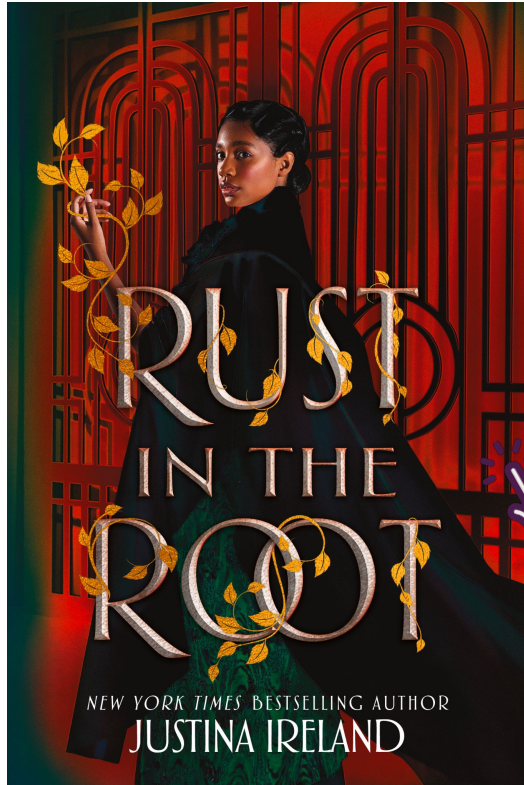
Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 7.1 -7.2



Rust in the Root

By Justina Ireland



Click
for
video

The author of the visionary New York Times bestseller *Dread Nation* returns with another spellbinding historical fantasy set at the crossroads of race and power in America.

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 10.1



Spells for Lost Things

By Jenna Evans Welch



Dragged to Salem, Massachusetts, with her mostly absent mother to wrap up the affairs of an aunt she didn't know she had, Willow meets loner Mason who helps her unravel her family's ambiguous--and dangerous--history, while acting on their natural connection.

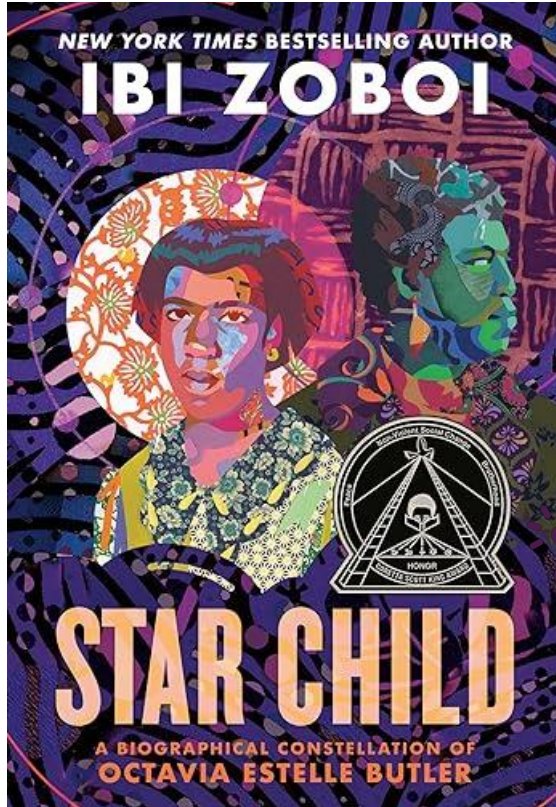
Click
for
video

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 11.1

Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler

By Ibi Zoboi



Through poems and prose, an acclaimed novelist paints a vivid portrait of science fiction visionary Octavia Butler, who was born into the Space Race, the Red Scare, and the dawning of the Civil Rights Movement.

Click
for
video

Standards

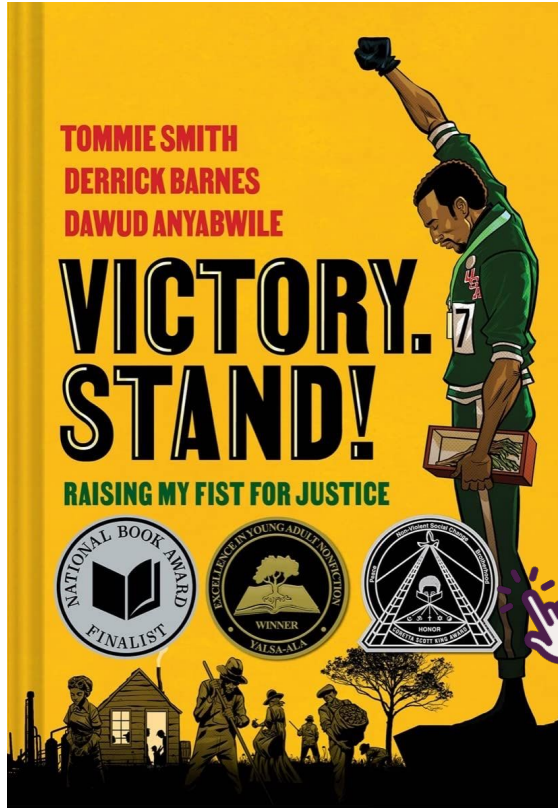
ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 12.1



Victory, Stand! Raising My Fist

for Justice

By Tommie Smith



On October 16, 1968, during the medal ceremony at the Mexico City Olympics, Tommie Smith, the gold medal winner in the 200-meter sprint, and John Carlos, the bronze medal winner, stood on the podium in black socks and raised their black-gloved fists to protest racial injustice inflicted upon African Americans. Both men were forced to leave the Olympics, received death threats, and faced ostracism and continuing economic hardships.

Click
for
video

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 7.1



Wrecked

By Heather Henson



Told from different perspectives, almost-seventeen-year-old Miri skips school, rebuilds motorcycles, and befriends her new neighbor Fen to distract herself from knowing exactly what her dad Poe does for a living in the knobs of Kentucky.



Click
for
video

Standards

ELA I-IV: Reading - Literary Text – Standard 4.1-4.3



All library media specialists should review all titles and add them to their collections only if the titles meet the criteria established by District Board Policy and Library Media Center Policy & Procedure guidelines. We recommend that others interested in purchasing these titles read reviews and scan materials to determine the appropriateness for their intended readers.



All photos and summaries are courtesy of the YABA Committee and NoveList Plus through sc.discus.org.

