

Glimpses of Inner City Life

A Reading list for Teens

Tyrell

Tyrell lives with his spaced-out mother and little brother in a homeless shelter and just needs money to get them out. Will he end up in jail, like his father?

YA Booth

Romiette and Julio

Like Shakespeare's famous star-crossed lovers, Romiette Cappelle and Julio Montague face strong opposition to their budding romance. In their case, a dangerous gang's disapproval of their interracial relationship puts the two in mortal peril.

YA Draper

Bang!

A teenage boy must face the harsh realities of inner city life, a disintegrating family, and destructive temptations as he struggles to find his identity as a young man.

YA Flake

Keesha's House

Seven teenagers try to hold their lives together despite serious difficulties.

YA Frost

Bronx Masquerade

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

YA Grimes

Standing Against the Wind

Patrice isn't used to her new Chicago neighborhood and wants to escape the drugs and the gangs... but her options are limited since her mother's in jail.

YA Jones

Brother Hood

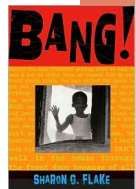
Nate Whitely's life at a prestigious prep school in upstate New York takes him far from his Harlem home, but not so far as to sever the strong bond he has to his neighborhood. But complications from one life keep intruding on the other.

YA McDonald

Spellbound

Raven Jefferson is a fifteen-year old high school dropout on welfare living with her mother and infant son in the projects of Brooklyn. When her sister encourages her to enter a spelling bee whose prize is a college scholarship, Raven rises to the challenge.

YA McDonald



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Autobiography of My Dead Brother

YA Myers

As Jesse fills his sketchbook with pictures of his best friend Rise, he realizes that Rise is becoming someone he doesn't know anymore.

Slam

YA Myers

High school student Greg Harris, also known as Slam, struggles with family, culture, and talent. Slam is a great basketball player, and basketball is his top priority; however, he has difficulty being a team player and is searching for his place in school and in his family. He has transferred from Carver, a primarily black, low socio-economic, and neighborhood school, to Latimer, a white, upper socio-economic, and magnet high school. As basketball season approaches, Slam thinks his life will improve. However, between failing math and fighting with his coach, Slam cannot seem to keep his game together on or off the court.

Push (Adult Fiction)

Sapphire

For Precious Jones, sixteen and pregnant with her father's child, miraculous hope appears when a courageous, determined teacher inspires her to learn to read.

Emako Blue

YA Woods

Emako Blue, a girl from South Central L.A., is destined to be a star -- until everything changes in one horrific instant.

Make Lemonade

YA Wolff

LaVaughn is a fourteen-year-old girl living with her mother in public housing with great aspirations of attending college. She would be first person in her family to earn her college degree. LaVaughn's mother is a single parent working diligently to provide for her daughter and improve their living conditions. Knowing her mother's income will not be enough to facilitate her college career, LaVaughn assumes a job as a babysitter for two young children. Their mother, Jolly, was formerly homeless and orphaned; she has no understanding of the responsibilities that come with being a mother. LaVaughn attempts to help Jolly, nearly sacrificing her own aspirations of leaving poverty.

