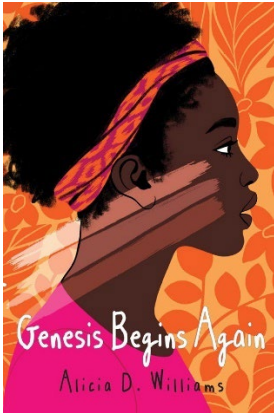




## ***Deborah Roberts: I'm***

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens  
September 16 - December 4, 2022

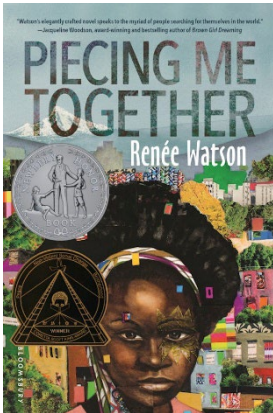
### Recommended Reading List:



### ***Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia Williams**

*Genesis Begins Again* is a 2019 young adult book by Alicia D. Williams. It tells the story of thirteen-year-old Genesis Anderson, whose family has been evicted several times from their home due to the father's gambling addiction. Genesis is also a victim of bullying and colorism, both at home and school, two recurring themes of the novel. *Genesis Begins Again*, Williams' debut novel, received general praise and won a Newbery Honor and "Steptoe Award for New Talent."

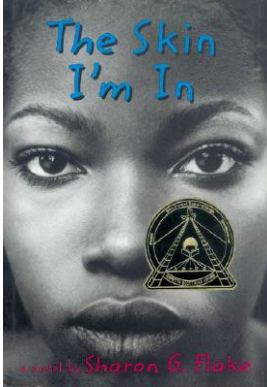
Genesis Anderson lives in Detroit. Her father is alcoholic who also suffers of gambling addiction. While the two of them have dark skin color, Genesis' mother has a lighter skin. Genesis is constantly bullied by her schoolmates due the color of her skin, and she also blames herself for the troubles at home, to the point she keeps a list of all the things she thinks is wrong about her.



### ***Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson**

*Piecing Me Together* is a 2017 young adult novel by Renée Watson. The first-person novel tells the story of Jade, an ambitious African American high school student. The book, a New York Times best seller, was well reviewed and won several awards.

Jade, who is also the book's narrator, is a sixteen-year-old African American student attending a mostly white private school in Portland, Oregon on a scholarship. Jade is from a poor neighborhood and is different from the rest of her school. Heeding her mother's advice, Jade works to take advantage of every opportunity presented to her. Hoping to be afforded the opportunity to study abroad so she can utilize her fluent Spanish skills, Jade is instead offered the chance to be paired with a mentor in the Women to Women program by her school's guidance counselor. Paired with Maxine, Jade initially has high hopes for this mentorship, hopes which are dashed when Maxine proves unreliable, and Jade begins to wonder if it is she or Maxine who is getting more out of the program. Through her art, Jade begins to act on the realization that she needs to make her own opportunities.



***The Skin I'm In***  
**by Sharon G. Flake**

*The Skin I'm In* is a realistic fiction novel written by Sharon G. Flake and published in 2000. It depicts the story of seventh-grader Maleeka Madison who has low self-esteem because of her dark brown skin color. The novel's themes include self-love, self-esteem, the power of friendship, bullying, and body image. In 2021, Sharon Flake published a sister novel, *The Life I'm In*, following the character Charlese Jones.

Maleeka is a seventh-grader who struggles with her body image due to both society and her classmates' colorist bullying. Throughout the novel, Maleeka struggles and ultimately succeeds in standing up for herself and coming to love the skin she's in. Maleeka was born on January 3rd, 2008 in Frankfort, Kentucky. After the terrible death of her father at age 7-8, her mother deals with her depression by sewing clothes for her daughter. But she cannot sew well, and people make fun of her for it.



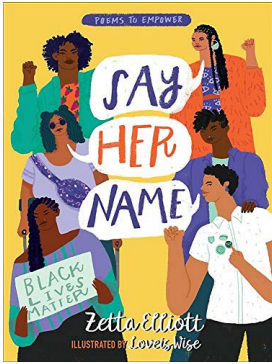
***Happily Ever Afters***  
**by Elise Bryant**

*Jane the Virgin* meets *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* in this charming debut romantic comedy filled with Black Girl Magic. Perfect for fans of Mary H. K. Choi and Nicola Yoon, with crossover appeal for readers of Jasmine Guillory and Talia Hibbert romances.

Sixteen-year-old Tessa Johnson has never felt like the protagonist in her own life. She's rarely seen herself reflected in the pages of the romance novels she loves. The only place she's a true leading lady is in her own writing—in the swoony love stories she shares only with Caroline, her best friend and #1 devoted reader.

When Tessa is accepted into the creative writing program of a prestigious art school, she's excited to finally let her stories shine. But when she goes to her first workshop, the words are just...gone. Fortunately, Caroline has a solution: Tessa just needs to find some inspiration in a real-life love story of her own. And she's ready with a list of romance novel-inspired steps to a happily ever after. Nico, the brooding artist who looks like he walked out of one of Tessa's stories, is cast as the perfect Prince Charming.

But as Tessa checks off each item off Caroline's list, she gets further and further away from herself. She risks losing everything she cares about—including the surprising bond she develops with sweet Sam, who lives across the street. She's well on her way to having her own real-life love story, but is it the one she wants, after all?



***Say Her Name*  
by Zetta Elliott**

Inspired by the #SayHerName campaign launched by the African American Policy Forum, this collection of poems pay tribute to victims of police brutality as well as the activists insisting that Black Lives Matter. Topics ranging from self-love, black resistance, and police brutality. Elliott engages poets from the past two centuries to create a chorus of voices celebrating the creativity, resilience, and courage of Black women and girls. This collection features forty-nine powerful poems, four of which are tribute poems inspired by the works of Lucille Clifton, Audre Lorde, Nikki Giovanni, and Phillis Wheatley. This provocative collection will move every reader to reflect, respond, and act.

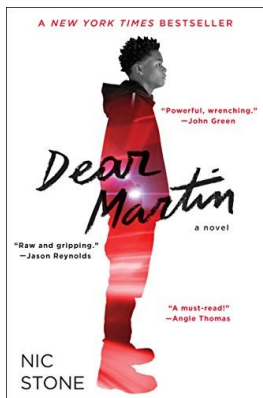


***Chlorine Sky*  
by Mahogany L. Browne**

A novel-in-verse about a young girl coming-of-age and stepping out of the shadow of her former best friend.

She looks me hard in my eyes  
& my knees lock into tree trunks  
My eyes don't dance like my heartbeat racing  
They stare straight back hot daggers.  
I remember things will never be the same.  
I remember things.

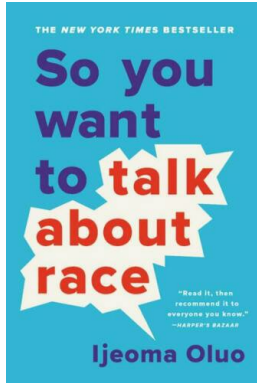
Mahogany L. Browne delivers a novel-in-verse about broken promises, fast rumors, and when growing up means growing apart from your best friend.



***Dear Martin*  
by Nic Stone**

*Dear Martin* was published in 2017 as Stone's debut young adult novel, written as a reaction to a series of racially-charge events, including the 2012 murder of Jordan Davis, a 17-year-old who was killed by a man who shot several rounds into a car of teenagers over a dispute about loud rap music, and the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown. The book appeared as #4 on The New York Times Best Seller list.

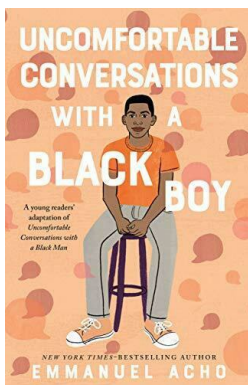
*Dear Martin* follows Justyce McAllister, a high school student living in Atlanta and attending a predominantly white preparatory high school on a scholarship. Justyce is thrown to the ground and handcuffed by a white police officer. After the incident, Justyce attempts to make sense of life as a black teenager in the current political climate and begins writing letters to the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, asking himself, "What would Dr. King do if he were alive today?"



## ***So You Want to Talk About Race*** **by Ijeoma Oluo**

In this #1 New York Times bestseller, Ijeoma Oluo offers a revelatory examination of race in America. Protests against racial injustice and white supremacy have galvanized millions around the world. The stakes for transformative conversations about race could not be higher. Still, the task ahead seems daunting, and it's hard to know where to start. How do you tell your boss her jokes are racist? Why did your sister-in-law hang up on you when you had questions about police reform? How do you explain white privilege to your white, privileged friend?

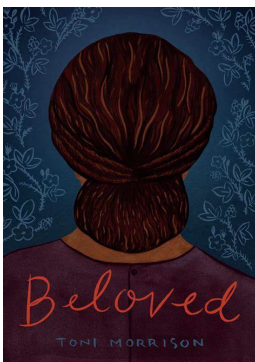
*In So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from police brutality and cultural appropriation to the model minority myth in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race, and about how racism infects every aspect of American life.



## ***Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy*** **by Emmanuel Acho**

Adapted from Emmanuel Acho's New York Times bestseller *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* comes an essential young readers edition aimed at opening a dialogue about systemic racism with our youngest generation.

Approaching every awkward, taboo, and uncomfortable question with openness and patience, Emmanuel Acho connects his own experience with race and racism—from attending majority-white prep schools to his time in the NFL playing on majority-black football teams—to insightful lessons in black history and black culture.



## ***Beloved*** **by Toni Morrison**

*Beloved* is a 1987 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by the American writer Toni Morrison. Set after the American Civil War, it tells the story of a family of formerly enslaved people whose Cincinnati home is haunted by a malevolent spirit. *Beloved* is inspired by an event that actually happened: Margaret Garner, an enslaved person in Kentucky, who escaped and fled to the free state of Ohio in 1856. She was subject to capture in accordance with the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850; when U.S. marshals burst into the cabin where Garner and her husband had barricaded themselves, she was attempting to kill her children, and had already killed her two-year-old daughter, to spare them from being returned to slavery.