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**THE POEMS  
WERE COOL.**

**THE BEST ONES  
WERE  
LIKE BOMBS,  
AND WHEN ALL  
THE RIGHT  
WORDS**

**CAME TOGETHER  
IT WAS LIKE AN  
EXPLOSION.**

**KWAME ALEXANDER,  
BOOKED**

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YOUNG TEENS

# NOVELS IN VERSE



## YOUNG TEEN FICTION

*Kwame Alexander (YT ALEXANDER, K)*

### **The Crossover**

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

*Chris Baron (YT BARON, C)*

### **The Magical Imperfect**

Etan has stopped speaking since his mother left. His father and grandfather don't know how to help him. His friends have given up on him. When Etan is asked to deliver a grocery order to the outskirts of town, he realizes he's at the home of Malia Agbayani, also known as the creature. Malia stopped going to school when her acute eczema spread to her face, and the bullying became too much. Soon, other kids tease Etan for being friends with the creature. But he believes he might have a cure for Malia's condition, if only he can convince his family and hers to believe it, too.

*Dusty Bowling (YT BOWLING, D)*

### **The Canyon's Edge**

A year after the death of her mother in a restaurant shooting, Nora is left struggling to stay alive when a climbing trip with her father goes terribly wrong.

*Skila Brown (YT BROWN, S)*

### **To Stay Alive: Mary Graves and the Tragic Journey of the Donner Party**

A young survivor of the tragic Donner Party of 1846 describes how her family and others became victims of freezing temperatures and starvation.

*Cookie Hiponia Everman*

*(YT EVERMAN, C)*

### **We Belong**

Through a bedtime story to her daughters, a woman weaves together her immigration story and Filipino mythology.

*Reem Faruqi (YT FARUQI, R)*

### **Golden Girl**

When her father is accused of a crime he didn't commit, seventh grader Aafiyah, a Pakistani American girl who has a habit of "borrowing" glittery things, decides to use her bad habit to reunite her family.



*Lisa Fipps (YT FIPPS, L)*

### **Starfish**

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

*Helen Frost (YT FROST, H)*

### **When My Sister Started Kissing**

Claire and Abi have always loved summers at the lake house, but a pregnant stepmother and Abi's intense new interest in boys have changed everything.



*Megan E. Freeman*

*(YT FREEMAN, M)*

### **Alone**

When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone--left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned.

*Nikki Grimes (YT GRIMES, N)*

### **Garvey's Choice**

Garvey's father has always wanted Garvey to be athletic, but Garvey is interested in astronomy, science fiction, reading--anything but sports. Feeling like a failure, he comforts himself with food. When his only friend encourages him to join the school chorus, Garvey's life changes. The chorus finds a new soloist in Garvey, and through chorus, Garvey finds a way to accept himself, and a way to finally reach his distant father.



*Susan Hood (YT HOOD, S)*

### **Lifeboat 12**

In 1940, a group of British children, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed.

*Ellen Hopkins (YT HOPKINS, E)*

### **Closer to Nowhere**

Told in two voices, sixth-grade cousins Hannah and Cal learn a lot about family when circumstances throw them together under one roof and Hannah's love of order clashes with Cal's chaotic behavior.

*Laura Amy Schlitz (YT SCHLITZ, L)*

### **Amber & Clay**

In a warlike land of wind and sunlight, "ringed by a restless sea," live Rhaskos and Melisto, spiritual twins with little in common beyond the violent and mysterious forces that dictate their lives. A Thracian slave in a Greek household, Rhaskos is as common as clay, a stable boy worth less than a donkey, much less a horse. Wrenched from his mother at a tender age, he nurtures in secret, aided by Socrates, his passions for art and philosophy. Melisto is a spoiled aristocrat, a girl as precious as amber but willful and wild. She'll marry and be tamed--the curse of all highborn girls--but risk her life for a season first to serve Artemis, goddess of the hunt. Bound by destiny, Melisto and Rhaskos--Amber and Clay--never meet in the flesh. By the time they do, one of them is a ghost. But the thin line between life and death is just one boundary their unlikely friendship crosses.

*Ellen Spinelli (YT SPINELLI, E)*

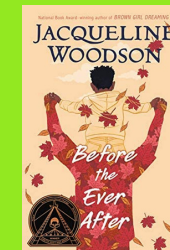
### **Birdie**

Birdie Briggs loves birds. They bring her comfort when she thinks about her dad, a firefighter who was killed in the line of duty. Life without her dad isn't easy, but at least Birdie still has Mom and Maymee, and her friends Nina and Martin. But then Maymee gets a boyfriend, Nina and Martin start dating, and Birdie's mom starts seeing a police officer. And suddenly not even her beloved birds can lift Birdie's spirits. Her world is changing, and Birdie wishes things would go back to how they were before.

*Ellie Terry (YT TERRY, E)*

### **Forget Me Not**

When her mother breaks up with yet another boyfriend, Calliope meets Jinsong at her latest middle school, who becomes her friend despite her Tourette syndrome and the embarrassment it can cause.



*Jacqueline Woodson*

*(YT WOODSEN, J)*

### **Before the Ever After**

ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career.