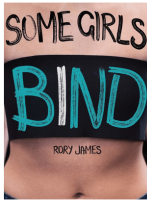
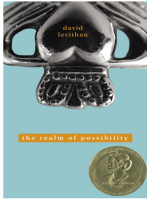


Recommended Poetry Titles



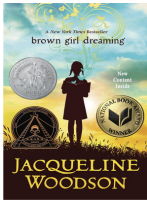
Some Girls Bind *by Rory James* **YA FIC JAMES**

Jamie knows that she isn't like other girls. She has a secret. She binds her chest every day to feel more like herself. Jamie questions why she is drawn to this practice, but along with her gay friend Levi, she comes out to her brother Steve who encourages them to seek acceptance from friends and family who have their own secrets.



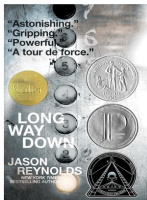
The Realm of Possibility *by David Levithan* **YA FIC LEVITHAN**

One school. Twenty voices. Endless possibilities. There's the girl who is in love with Holden Caulfield. The boy who wants to be strong who falls for the girl who's convinced she needs to be weak. The girl who writes love songs for a girl she can't have. The two boys teetering on the brink of their first anniversary. And everyone in between. The realm of possibility open to us all - where love, joy, and the stories we tell will linger.



Brown Girl Dreaming *by Jacqueline Woodson* **YA B WOODSON**

In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, Jacqueline Woodson shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.



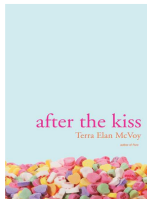
Long Way Down *by Jason Reynolds* **YA FIC REYNOLDS OR YA GRAPHIC NOVEL REYNOLDS**

There are three rules in the neighborhood: don't cry, don't snitch, get revenge. This novel in verse takes place in sixty seconds—the time it takes Will to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother while he's riding down the elevator from the 7th floor.



Shark Girl *by Kelly Bingham* **YA FIC BINGHAM**

On a sunny day in June, at the beach with her mom and brother, fifteen-year-old Jane Arrowood went for a swim. And then everything changed. Now she's counting down the days until she returns to school with her fake arm, where she knows kids will whisper, "That's her—that's Shark Girl," as she passes. In the meantime there are only questions: Why did this happen? Why her? What about her art? What about her life?



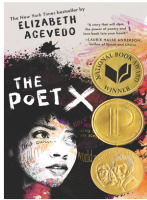
After the Kiss *by Terra Elan McVoy* **YA FIC MCVOY**

Becca has been head-over-heels for Alec from the instant they met. He's a brainy jock with a poet's heart; in other words, perfect for her. Camille is careful with her words and protective of her heart, especially since Chicago. Then a new boy in her new town catches her off guard with a surprise kiss. Too bad that new boy is Becca's boyfriend, Alec. Camille and Becca have never met, but their lives will unravel and intertwine in surprising ways as they deal with what happens after the kiss.



The Crossover *by Kwame Alexander* **YT FIC ALEXANDER OR YA GRAPHIC NOVEL ALEXANDER**

Twelve-year old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.



The Poet X *by Elizabeth Acevedo*

YA FIC ACEVEDO

Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighborhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets - her feelings for a boy in her bio class, and the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed. And a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight. Because in spite of a world that might not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to stay silent.



Song of the Sparrow *by Lisa Ann Sandell*

YA FIC SANDELL

In fifth-century Britain, nine years after the destruction of their home on the island of Shalott brings her to live with her father and brothers in the military encampments of Arthur's army, seventeen-year-old Elaine describes her changing perceptions of war and the people around her as she becomes increasingly involved in the bitter struggle against the invading Saxons.



Blood Water Paint *by Joy McCullough*

YA FIC MCCULLOUGH

Her mother died when she was twelve, and suddenly Artemisia Gentileschi had a stark choice: a life as a nun in a convent or a life grinding pigment for her father's paint. She chose paint. By the time she was seventeen, Artemisia did more than grind pigment. She was one of Rome's most talented painters, even if no one knew her name. But Rome in 1610 was a city where men took what they wanted from women, and in the aftermath of rape Artemisia faced another terrible choice: a life of silence or a life of truth, no matter the cost.



Clap When You Land *by Elizabeth Acevedo*

YA FIC ACEVEDO

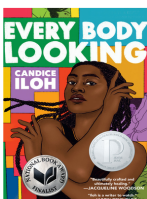
Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance and Papi's secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.



Junk Boy *by Tony Abbott*

YA FIC ABBOTT

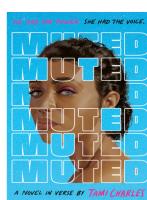
Junk. That's what the kids at school call Bobby Lang, mostly because his rundown house looks like a junkyard, but also because they want to put him down. Trying desperately to live under the radar at school—and at the home he shares with his angry, neglectful father—Bobby develops a sort of proud loneliness. Life grinds along quietly and hopelessly for Bobby until he meets Rachel. Rachel is an artist who sees him in a way no one ever has. Maybe it's because she has her own kind of junk, and a parent who hates what Rachel is: gay. Together the two embark on journeys to clean up the messes that fill their lives, searching against all odds for hope and redemption.



Every Body Looking *by Candice Iloh*

YA FIC ILOH

Ada's story encompasses her earliest memories as a child, including her abuse at the hands of a young cousin, her mother's rejection and descent into addiction, and her father's attempts to create a home for his American daughter more like the one he knew in Nigeria.



Muted *by Tami Charles*

YA FIC CHARLES

For seventeen-year-old Denver, music is everything. So Denver is more than ready on the day she and her best friends Dali and Shak sing their way into the orbit of the biggest R&B star in the world, Sean 'Mercury' Ellis. Merc gives them everything: parties, perks, wild nights—plus hours and hours in the recording studio. Even the painful sacrifices and the lies the girls have to tell are all worth it. Until they're not. As the dream turns into a nightmare, she must make a choice: lose her big breaks, or get broken.



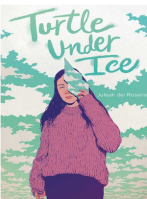
The Black Flamingo *by Dean Atta*
YA FIC ATTA

Michael is a mixed-race gay teen growing up in London. All his life, he's navigated what it means to be Greek-Cypriot and Jamaican—but never quite feeling Greek or Black enough. As he gets older, Michael's coming out is only the start of learning who he is and where he fits in. When he discovers the Drag Society, he finally finds where he belongs—and the Black Flamingo is born.



Chlorine Sky *by Mahogany L. Browne*
YA FIC BROWNE

Friend breakups can be just as devastating as romantic ones. When her best friend becomes her biggest bully, Skyy must learn to move on. Battling her doubts, insecurities, and others' cruelty, Skyy forges ahead to find new friendships and love. It's an excellent book about a teen who comes to terms with growing up.



Turtle Under Ice *by Juleah del Rosario*
YA FIC DEL ROSARIO

Rowena feels like her family is a frayed string of lights that someone needs to fix with electrical tape. After her mother died a few years ago, she and her sister, Ariana, drifted into their own corners of the world, each figuring out in their own separate ways how to exist in a world in which their mother is no longer alive. But then Ariana disappears under the cover of night in the middle of a snowstorm, leaving no trace or tracks. When Rowena wakes up to a world of snow and her sister's empty bedroom, she is left to piece together the mystery behind where Ariana went and why, realizing along the way that she might be part of the reason Ariana is gone.



White Rose *by Kip Wilson*
YA FIC ACEVEDO

The true story of Sophie Scholl, a young activist who put her life on the line as she tried to rally her fellow Germans against a fascist regime.



Solo *by Kwame Alexander*
YA FIC ALEXANDER

Blade would give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship, assuming—like many—that Blade will become just like his father. In reality, the only thing Blade has in common with Rutherford is the music that lives inside them. But not even the songs that flow through Blade's soul are enough when he's faced with two unimaginable realities: the threat of losing Chapel forever, and the revelation of a long-held family secret, one that leaves him questioning everything he thought was true. All that remains is a letter and a ticket to Ghana—both of which could bring Blade the freedom and love he's been searching for, or leave him feeling even more adrift.



Kent State *by Deborah Wiles*
YA FIC WILES

May 4, 1970. Kent State University. As protestors roil the campus, National Guardsmen are called in. In the chaos of what happens next, shots are fired and four students are killed. To this day, there is still argument of what happened and why.



Punching the Air *by Ibi Zoboi*
YA FIC ZOBOI

Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it?