

### **The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas**

A 16-year-old girl is drawn to activism after she witnesses the police shooting of her unarmed friend

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs.

The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer.

Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.

This is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice.

NOTE : Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement. Movie rights have been sold to Fox, with Amandla Stenberg (The Hunger Games) to star.

NOTE : Contains a character who makes racist comments, swearing, reference to gang/domestic violence/drug dealing and a description of a riot/looting/burning shops  
F15+

### **Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman**

A teen boy and girl from opposing factions in society take on the system and try to change it.

Callum is a Nought - a second class citizen in a world run by the ruling Crosses. He is also one of the first Nought youngsters to be given the chance of a decent education by studying at a school for Crosses...

Sephy is a Cross, daughter of one of the most powerful men in the country - a man doing his best to keep power in the hands of the Crosses. Friends with Callum since early childhood, hoping for something more to develop, she is looking forward to Callum's arrival at her school...

But in their world, Noughts and Crosses don't mix. And as hostility turns to violence, can Callum and Sephy possibly find a way to be together? They are determined to try.

And then a bomb explodes...

NOTE : Racism is the central theme; other issues including murder, violence, pregnancy and abortion either happen or are discussed.

NOTE : The author's note at the back of the book states 'The African-American scientists, inventors and pioneers mentioned in chapter 30 are real people and their achievements are very real. "When I was at school, we didn't hear about any of them - except Robert Peary, the white European-American explorer. I wish we had done. But then, if we had, maybe I wouldn't have written this book...'

NOTE : Winner of the Red House Children's Book Award for older readers and overall winner 2002.F13+

### **The Hypnotist by Laurence Anholt**

Set in the American Deep South in the 1960s, a black teenager and a University professor experience and fight to overcome extreme racism and the KKK

Jack has left his native Ireland and is making a new life as Professor of Neurology at a university in the American South. He has certain skills, honed over his lifetime, that he mostly keeps hidden. Skills in hypnotism and mind control...

Thirteen-year-old Pip is plucked out of an orphanage by a farmer, hired as a farm-hand, and as carer for the farmer's wife. But Pip is black. The farmer and his wife are white. And this is 1960s America, where race defines you and overshadows everything.

As racial tensions reach boiling point with a danger closer to home and more terrifying than either thought possible, Jack and Pip's lives become inextricably linked. And Jack's hypnotic skills are called on as never before...

NOTE : Some violence and descriptions of racist attacks. Although good for promoting class discussion at KS4/5, these may upset sensitive younger readers. F14+

### **Passing for White by Tanya Landman**

Set in 19th century America, a mixed race runaway slave girl adopts a disguise as a white gentleman to escape to freedom in the north.

It's 1848 in the Deep South of America. Rosa is a slave but her owner is also her father and her fair skin means she can 'pass for white'.

With the help of her husband Benjamin, she disguises herself as a young southern gentleman - and Benjamin's master. In this guise, the couple flee the South, explaining away their lack of literacy, avoiding those they have encountered before and holding their nerve over a thousand miles to freedom.

Inspired by the amazing true story of Ellen Craft who escaped a life of slavery through a daring disguise and won freedom for herself and her husband.

Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 13+

NOTE : Includes accurate historical usage of racist terminology, and discussion of physical and sexual abuse of slaves. Rosa becomes pregnant twice during the story but suffers miscarriages.

### **Audobon: On the Wings of the World by Fabien Grolleau**

Graphic novel adaptation retelling the life of 19th century American naturalist and explorer John James Audubon

Throughout the first half of the 19th century, John James Audubon was America's dominant wildlife artist. Having always drawn birds as a hobby, it wasn't until facing bankruptcy that he decided to embark upon an epic ornithological quest across America with nothing but his artist's materials, an assistant, and a gun.

The journey was far from easy, but the dramatic, life-sized bird portraits he produced along the way were an immediate success upon his return.

Audubon's legacy continues to this day, particularly in the deep concerns he later voiced for the conservation of the beautiful species he depicted.

His seminal work, *Birds of America*, is one against which 20th and 21st century wildlife artists are still measured. GRA13+

### **The Astonishing Life of Octavia Nothing by M.T. Anderson**

Recounts the experiences of a slave boy in the United States

#### Volume One: The Pox Party

He is a boy dressed in silks and white wigs and given the finest of classical educations. Raised by a society of rational philosophers, known only by numbers, the boy and his mother - a princess in exile from a faraway land - are the only people in their household assigned names. As the boy's regal mother, Cassiopeia, entertains the house scholars with her beauty and wit, young Octavian begins to question the purpose behind his guardians' fanatical studies. Only after he dares to open a forbidden door does he learn the hideous nature of their experiments-and his own chilling role in them.

The first of two volumes, this deeply provocative novel reimagines the past as an eerie place with startling resonance for readers today. Octavian and his tutor seek refuge in Boston at the height of the American Revolution in 1775

#### Volume Two: The Kingdom of the Waves

In the summer of 1775, fleeing from a death sentence, Octavian and his tutor, Dr Trefusis escape through rising tides and pouring rain to find shelter in British-occupied Boston. Sundered from all he knows - the ditches of the rebels, the experimental chambers of his sinister former masters - Octavian hopes to find safe harbor. But in the midst of war, no place is safe. The city of Boston itself under siege.

What follows is a tale of skirmish and flight and fury, and battle on sea and land. Octavian transforms himself from a violinist playing airs for English officers into a true counterrevolutionary, raiding the shores of Virginia in the hopes of finding freedom for his people. F13+

### **Buffalo Soldier by Tanya Landman**

Set at the end of the American Civil War, a young black girl disguises herself as a man and joins the army after her friend is raped and lynched by a racist mob.

At the end of the American Civil War, Charley - a young African-American slave from the deep south - is ostensibly freed. But then her adopted mother is raped and lynched at the hands of a mob and Charley is left alone.

In a terrifyingly lawless land, where the colour of a person's skin can bring violent death, Charley disguises herself as a man and joins the army. Soon she's being sent to the prairies to fight a whole new war against the "savage Indians".

Trapped in a world of injustice and inequality, it's only when Charley is posted to Apache

territory that she begins to learn what it is to be truly free. Carnegie Medal winner 2015: F13+

### **The Seeds of America Trilogy by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Chains, Forge & Ashes

Return to the American Revolution in this blistering conclusion to the trilogy that began with the bestselling National Book Award Finalist "Chains" and continued with "Forge," which The New York Times called a return not only to the colonial era but to historical accuracy.

As the Revolutionary War rages on, Isabel and Curzon have narrowly escaped Valley Forge but their relief is short-lived. Before long they are reported as runaways, and the awful Bellingham is determined to track them down.

With purpose and faith, Isabel and Curzon march on, fiercely determined to find Isabel's little sister Ruth, who is enslaved in a Southern state where bounty hunters are thick as flies. F11+

### **The Wolves of Currumpaw by William Grill**

An illustrated retelling of naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton's mission to track and record wolves across New Mexico as they were being hunted to extinction in the 1890s.

1892, New Mexico. A wolfpack roams the Currumpaw River valley, preying on the vast cattle and the sheep herds of the area. Their leader, Lobo, possesses such cunning that local ranchers are unable to trap the pack. Due to his knowledge of wolf behaviour, Ernest Thompson Seton, a naturalist, is employed by ranchers to rid them of Lobo's pack.

William Grill re-tells Seton's dramatic and moving story, 'Lobo, The King of Currumpaw,' the true-to-life tale of his hunt, alongside the distinctive, stunning and detailed illustrations in "The Wolves of Currumpaw." This non-fiction picture book is set in the dying days of the old west, across the vast plains of New Mexico, at a time when man's relationship with nature was very much exploited and misunderstood.

The hunt for Lobo and his pack touched Seton so profoundly that he dedicated the rest of his life to conservation and worked tirelessly to spread this message to the youth of America and championing the wolf right up to his death in 1946. His efforts are evident through lobbying for wildlife protection, hunting laws and founding The Woodcraft League and The Boy Scouts of America. NF 9+

### **Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder**

The second book about a family making a new life for themselves in the Mid-West of America

The sun-kissed prairie stretches out around the Ingalls family, smiling its welcome after their long, hard journey across America. But looks can be deceiving as they soon find that they must share the land with wild bears and Indians. Will there be enough room for all of them?

It is a long journey to their new home on the prairie, and Laura and her family cross wild

country. Great danger awaits, but for Laura it is all a big adventure. The Ingalls family are pioneers and they are crossing new frontiers. F9+

**The Little Pioneer: One Girl's Story by Adam Hancher**

Follows a young girl's adventure as she travels with her mother as part of a wagon train to a new life on the West coast of America.

The 19th century saw thousands of emigrants travel more than 2,000 miles from the East Coast of the United States to the Far West. Many travelled for different reasons: promise of new land, gold, or for religion. All were travelling for a new life in an unknown country.

This was a long and perilous journey made on foot, horseback, and, most iconically, by covered wagon. Throughout the months of travelling these pioneers recorded their experiences in diaries, journals, and letters. This story has been inspired by many pioneer journals and personal accounts from the time. NF 5-8