

SOUTH SHORE TEEN

Book Buzz

December 2020 | Award Winners

Featured books recommendations!

Mentioned Awards

- [Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards](#)
- [Goodreads Choice Awards](#) - you vote!
- [National Book Awards](#)
- [Stonewall Book Awards](#)
- [YALSA Teens Top Ten](#) - you vote!
- [YALSA Morris Debut Author Award](#)
- [YALSA Nonfiction Award](#)
- [YALSA Printz Award](#)

Fiction

- **Aurora Rising by Amie Kaufman** - Told in separate voices, eighteen-year-old Tyler Jones, top graduate of Aurora Academy, and a group of misfits and troublemakers embark on their first mission with Auri, a stowaway from the distant past.
→ Pick this if you love space operas, humor, action, and multiple perspectives
- **Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi** - Seventeen-year-old Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy.
→ Pick this if you love immersive fantasy, afrofantasy, and multiple perspectives
- **Going Bovine by Libba Bray** - Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen year-old who, after being diagnosed with Creutzfeldt Jakob's (aka mad cow) disease, sets off on a road trip with a death-obsessed video gaming dwarf he meets in the hospital in an attempt to find a cure.
→ Pick this if you love humor, quirky and offbeat narratives, and heavier topics
- **King and the Dragonflies by Kacen Callender** - In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself.
→ Pick this if you love emotionally intense narratives and own-voices stories

- **The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo** - Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. When she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she knows that she could never get around Mami's rules to attend, much less speak her words out loud. But still, she can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in spite of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.
→ Pick this if you love novels in verse, and stories about first love and finding your voice

Nonfiction

- **The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater** - If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. One afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.
→ Pick this if you love true crime and social justice
- **Beyond the Gender Binary by Alok Vaid-Menon** - Poet, artist, and LGBTQIA+ rights advocate Alok Vaid-Menon deconstructs, demystifies, and reimagines the gender binary through a series of conversational vignettes. Taking from their own experiences as a gender-nonconforming artist, they show us that gender is a malleable and creative form of expression.
→ Pick this if you love quick reference, empowering books, and activism
- **Bomb by Steve Sheinkin** - In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents.
→ Pick this if you love enthralling reads, science, and world war two history
- **Free Lunch by Rex Ogle** - Free Lunch is the story of Rex's efforts to navigate his first semester of sixth grade--who to sit with, not being able to join the football team, prejudice from classmates and teachers, abuse at home, and constant hunger. Unsparing and realistic, Free Lunch is a story of hardship threaded with hope and moments of grace. Rex's voice is compelling and authentic, and Free Lunch is a true, timely, and essential work that illuminates the lived experience of poverty in America.
→ Pick this if you love memoirs, realistic fiction, and hopeful endings