

Worlds of Words 2026

Grades 11-12 Recommended Global Fiction

Themes	Global Fiction	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
Strength through Relationships	<i>*Anna and the Swallow Man</i> , Gavriel Savit	1160 L 232 pp	HF FAN 2016	Poland WWII	An orphaned girl travels with a mysterious man to hide from German soldiers. He explains their new reality through stories embedded in folklore and magical realism.
	<i>The Blossom and the Firefly</i> , Sherri Smith	310 pp	HF 2021	Japan 1945	Two voices, a Japanese teen kamikaze pilot, and Hana, a teen war worker, meet and find comfort just before Taro's mission.
	<i>Cassandra's Sister</i> , Veronica Bennett	930 L (Y) 227 pp	HF 2007	Early 1800s England	Historical fiction novel about an adolescent Jane Austen and her older sister Cassandra.
	<i>Chloe and the Kaishao Boys</i> , Mae Cuyuto	341 pp	RF 2023	Philippines	A Chinese Filipina teen endures a marathon of arranged dates as her father wants to persuade her to remain in Manila for college. Family, first love and taking chances.
	<i>Crash Landing</i> , Charmaine A. Li	279 pp 710 L	RF 2024	Vancouver Hong Kong	Growing up in an immigrant community, Jay searches for her place as she explores her queer identity within a skateboard community.
	<i>Daughters of a Dead Empire</i> , Carolyn O'Neill	315 pp 640 L	HF 2022	Russia 1918	Russian Revolution. A teen girl who is a proud member of the Bolshevik party agrees to help a bourgeois girl with a secret traverse the country to find safety. Soon they are both on the run.
	<i>*The Fountains of Silence</i> , Ruta Sepetys	620 L 495 pp	HF 2020	Spain 1957	Two teens connect through photography during a dark time of silence and secrets under the Franco fascist dictatorship.
	<i>Goodbye, My Princess</i> , Wo Si Cun Fei	544 pp	FAN 2025	China Tr	Romantic tragedy in which a princess is married to a heartless crown prince and lives a secret life outside the palace until a stranger reveals a past she cannot remember of love and betrayal.

	<i>Halley's Comet</i> , Hannes Barnard	454 pp	HF 2022	South Africa 1986	In the final years of Apartheid, three teens from different backgrounds share a secret and form life-changing friendships. Consequences of knowing the truth and the courage to speak it.
	<i>Here the Whole Time</i> , Vitor Martins	272 pp	RF 2020	Brazil Tr	Shy and self-conscious about his weight, Felipe learns he must spend his winter break with his long-term crush, Caio. LGBTQ+, body image.
	<i>*Himawari House</i> , Harmony Becker	374 pp	RF GN 2021	Japan	5 teens living in a house for a language institute become friends across languages and cultures. Combines English, Japanese, Korean, and Singlish. The power of language to connect and divide.
	<i>Leap</i> , Simina Popescu	295 pp	RF GN 2024	Bucharest Romania	Two dancers in a conservative performing arts school explore friendship, love, and falling out of step with your dreams.
	<i>Legend of the White Snake</i> , Ser Lee	336 pp	FAN 2024	China	Queer reimaging of a classic Chinese folktale in which a snake spirit transforms into a boy, hiding a secret and falling for a prince.
	<i>My Mother, the Mermaid Chaser</i> , Jamie Jo Hoang	372 pp	RF 2025	Vietnam	Dual point of view, a son searches for info about his absent mother, learning her backstory. 2008 and 1975. Intergenerational trauma and war.
	<i>Our Beautiful Darkness</i> , Ondjaki & Antonio J. Goncalves	126 pp	HF/GN 2024	Angola 1990 Portuguese Tr	A blackout leads two teens in Angola to talk about their dreams and stories against the backdrop of civil war, weaving the country's history into the boy's family stories
	<i>Rani Choudhury Must Die</i> , Adiba Jaigirdar	310 pp 820 L	RF 2025	Ireland	Two Bangladeshi Irish teens enact justice on the boy who is cheating on both of them by making him at an exhibit at the Science Fair.
	<i>Tamar</i> , Mal Peet	780 L 424 pp	HF 2010	UK WWII Netherlands	A teen uncovers secrets of her grandfather's life in the Dutch resistance during WWII
	<i>This is Our Place</i> , Vitor Martins	308 pp	RF 2022	Brazil Tr	The house on Sunflower Street tells the stories of three queer teens in different decades (2000, 2010, 2020) as they deal with life changes, family conflict, and first love.

	<i>Secret of the Moon Conch</i> , David Bowles & Guadalupe G. McCall	398 pp	FAN 2023	Mexico Indigenous	Historical fantasy. Sitlanti finds a conch shell with ancient markings that connects her to Calizto, an Aztec warrior in 1951 Tenochtitlan. Together they fight to survive and for their love across centuries.
	<i>Spacewalking with You</i> , Inuhiko Doronoda	206 pp Vol.1-3	RF GN 2025	Japan Tr Manga	Two neurodivergent boys form an unconventional friendship that conveys what life is like for a neurodivergent teen. Buddy comedy.
	<i>This Fatal Kiss</i> , Alicia Jasinska	404 pp	FAN 2024	E. Europe	A water nymph strikes a deal with a spirit hunter to gain a mortal's kiss but both fall for the same young man. Slavic folklore, dark fantasy
	<i>Well, That Was Unexpected</i> , Jesse Sutanto	406 pp 760 L	RF 2022	Indonesia US	Sharlot is sent to Indonesia by her mother and finds herself fake dating the son of a wealthy family, surprised to fall in love with the boy, country and family she never knew before.
	<i>Wish Upon a K-Star</i> , Kat Cho	326 pp	2025	South Korea	Told in alternating voices, a rising K-drama star and K-pop idol must participate in a fake dating show to keep their careers on track. Less glamorous side of K-pop with bullying fans.
Forced Journeys	<i>Berliners</i> , Vesper Stamper	431 pp 720 L	HF 2023	Berlin 1961	Twins with different ideologies live in different sectors of separated Berlin after their parents' divorce, forced to choose between playing the rules or taking their dream underground.
	<i>Black Dove White Raven</i> , Elizabeth Wein	900L 357 pp	HF 2015	Ethiopia 1930s	Emilia and her family moved to Ethiopia to escape racism in the U.S. but face the threat of war with Italy.
	<i>The Book of Denial</i> , Ricardo C. Castanedo & Alejandro Magallanes	148 pp	RF/GN 2024	Mexico Tr.	A boy is drawn to a horror story his father is writing, which he realizes is a history of murderous brutality by adults toward children, based on real newspaper clippings. Leads to a shocking climax.
	<i>Borderless</i> , Jennifer De Leon	328 pp	RF 2023	Guatemala	Caught in the crossfire of gang violence, a talented teen fashion designer and her mother set off on a perilous journey for the border. Consequences of structural poverty.

	<i>Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree</i> , Adaobi Nwaubani	920 L 330 pp	RF 2020	Nigeria	Kidnapped from her village by Boko Haram, a Nigerian teen is forced to follow her captors and their radical beliefs, searching for escape.
	<i>The Deep Blue Between</i> , Ayesha Attah	850 L 246 pp	HF 2022	W. Africa 1892	Twin sisters are enslaved after a raid on their village and taken in different directions, one to Ghana and the other to Nigeria and then Brazil. Both work for freedom and to find each other.
	<i>A Girl Like That</i> , Tanaz Bhathena	378 pp 890 L	FAN 2018	Saudi Arabia	A biracial teen, who challenges strict religious rules, is killed in a car accident, and comes back to examine the events and relationships in her life. Gendered violence.
	<i>Golden Boy</i> , Tara Sullivan	820 L (Z) 356 pp	RF 2014	Tanzania	An albino teen is an outsider everywhere due to the color of his skin and is hunted for his body parts, thought to bring good luck.
	<i>The Hunger Between Us</i> , Marina Scott	298 pp 590 L	HF 2022	Russia 1942	During the Nazi siege of Leningrad, the city is ruled by hunger. Liza resolves to rescue her best friend, entangling herself in a dangerous situation, forced to make impossible choices.
	<i>In Darkness</i> , Nick Lake	800 L 341 pp	RF 2014	Haiti	A teen trapped during an earthquake recalls the gang violence that destroyed his family. His present-day narrative alternates with visions of the 1700s slave rebellion in Haiti.
	<i>Kindling</i> , Traci Chee	419 pp	FAN 2024	Asia	The shared trauma of war for seven outlawed teen warriors who are cast aside after the war is over, searching for peace and a future.
	<i>Let's Go Swimming on Doomsday</i> , Natalie Anderson	650 L 458 pp	HF 2019	Somalia	Forced to become a child soldier, a teen refugee must confront his painful past in a tale of loss and redemption.
	<i>Like Water on Stone</i> , Dana Walrath	720 L 353 pp	HF/NV 2015	Turkey 1915	An Armenian teen and her sisters must make their way across mountains and rivers during ethnic and religious conflict. Verse novel

	<i>The Marrow Thieves</i> , Cherie Dimaline	234 pp	FAN 2017	Canada Indigenous	A Métis teen is hunted for her dream-carrying bone marrow in a dystopia of a world in chaos due to climate change. Sequel – <i>Hunting by the Stars</i> (2021).
	<i>My Sweet Orange Tree</i> , Jose Mauro de Vasconcelos	262 pp	HF 2018	Brazil Tr 1920s	A classic book from Brazil about a boy who undergoes physical and emotional abuse, until he finally gains a real friend.
	<i>*Salt to the Sea</i> , Ruta Sepetys	560 L 499 pp	HF 2017	East Prussia WWII	Refugees fleeing from the Soviet army at the end of WWII converge on the last ship to Germany. Multiple viewpoints as tragedy unfolds.
	<i>The Silent Unseen</i> , Amanda McCrina	301 pp	HF 2022	Poland, Ukraine, Germany, WWII	When the Soviets drive the Nazis out of Poland in 1944, Maria returns home from a forced labor camp to find her family gone except for her brother, part of the Polish Resistance, who then disappears. The only person who can help her is a Ukrainian prisoner. Loyalty and lies.
	<i>Sold</i> , Patricia McCormick	820 L 263 pp	RF 2008	Nepal India	A young girl in Nepal in a rural impoverished village is sold into sexual slavery in India, searching for a way to escape.
	<i>Soldier Boy</i> , Keely Hutton	RL 11.2 326 pp	HF 2018	Uganda Early 1990s	A novel based on the life of an enslaved child soldier in the guerilla army of a warlord and his creation of a foundation to save others.
	<i>Song of the Six Realms</i> , Judy Lin	376 pp	FAN 2024	China	A teen offers her freedom in exchange for serving as a musician with a ruler and discovers that the Six Realms are on the brink of disaster. Weaves together poetry, music and Chinese folklore with intrigue.
	<i>They Went Left</i> , Monica Hesse	364 pp	HF 2021	Poland After WWII	Zofia, a Holocaust survivor, travels across Europe in search of her brother and to rebuild her life after the end of the war.
	<i>The Things She's Seen</i> , Ambelin Kwaymullina	590 L 197 pp	RF 2019	Australia Indigenous	Explores the lives and deaths of two girls that reveals a history of abuse of Aboriginal girls in a small Australian town.

	<i>The Way Back</i> , Gavriel Savit	360 pp 840 L	FAN 2020	E. Europe 1812	Steeped in ghost stories and Jewish folklore, two teens who have experienced loss set out from their small village to journey through the Far Country in a quest to defeat Death. Historical fantasy.
	<i>*We Are Not from Here</i> , Jenny Torres Sanchez	348 pp	RF 2021	Guatemala	Three teens flee violence and poverty in Guatemala to journey through Mexico. The dangerous journey ends differently for each of them with devastating consequences.
	<i>When the Ground is Hard</i> , Malia Nunn	257 pp	RF 2021	Swaziland	Mixed-race teen in a boarding school faces racism and a social hierarchy experiences the power of literature through <i>Jane Eyre</i> .
Taking Action	<i>Amazona</i> , Canizales	GN 95 pp	RF 2022	Colombia	An Indigenous young woman returns to her land on a mission to capture evidence of the illegal mining that displaced her family.
	<i>A Crane Among Wolves</i> , June Hur	359 pp 750 L	HF 2024	Korea 1506	As people suffer under brutal King Yeonsan, a teen girl and a prince become allies to find a way to end his reign of terror and violence.
	<i>The Declaration</i> , Gemma Malley	900 L 300 pp	FAN 2008	England 2140	A dystopia of a teen, facing a lifetime of forced labor as an “illegal” child due to population control, has her view of the world and the law challenged by an outsider. Trilogy.
	<i>Disappeared</i> , Francisco X. Stork	326 pp 710 L	RF 2017	Mexico	A teen faces tremendous danger as she reports on the disappearance of girls in a border town of Mexico with the U.S.
	<i>An Echo in the City</i> , X. J. Song	335 pp	RF 2023	Hong Kong 2019	Two teens navigate interpersonal issues amid civil unrest during the 2019 Hong Kong protests, highlighting issues of economic disparity and initially opposing ideals. Alternating points of view.
	<i>Fatal Throne: The Wives of Henry VIII Tell All</i> , M. T. Anderson	396 pp	HF 2020	UK 1500s	Six YA authors each take on the voices of Henry VIII’s six wives, while M. T. Anderson writes in the voice of Henry VIII. Agency of women.

	<i>The Firefly Letters</i> , Margarita Engle	1230L 151 pp	HF/NV 2017	Cuba 1851	Verse novel of a Swedish feminist who visits Cuba to interview slaves, free Blacks, and poor Whites.
	<i>Fledgling</i> , S. K. Ali	531 pp 900 L	FAN 2024	Middle East	A dystopia in an Islamic and Arabic setting in a fractured world on the brink of enlightenment or war and in which Nada must decide whether to trade love for peace. First of a duology.
	<i>Girl in the Blue Coat</i> , Monica Hesse	702 L 301 pp	HF 2016	Amsterdam WWII	A teen selling goods on the black market is pulled into resistance activities during Nazi occupation and tries to save a young girl.
	<i>The Hidden Girl</i> , Louise Bassett	339 pp	RF 2025	Indonesia Australia	Mel races across the island of Java to work out the identity of a Indonesian teen being held, after discovering a coded cry for help.
	<i>The Hysterical Girls of St. Bernadette's</i> . Hanna Alkaf	342 pp	RF 2024	Malaysia	Two teens investigate the strange occurrences of mass hysteria occurring in an all-girls school in a thriller haunted by a deep buried history clawing to the light. Manifestations of trauma.
	<i>I Must Betray You</i> , Ruta Sepetys	336 pp 500 L	HF 2023	Romania Bucharest 1989	In a country governed by a tyrannical dictator, Cristian is blackmailed to become an informer but tries to outwit his handler and undermine the communist regime of Ceausescu. Youth-led overthrow.
	<i>Kingdom of Without</i> , Andrea Tang	275 pp	FAN 2023	Beijing, China	Cyberpunk in alternate futuristic Beijing in which a thief uses her wits to survive and must decide whether to join with revolutionaries.
	<i>The Last Tiger</i> , Julia Riew & Brad Riew	395 pp	FAN 2025	Korea	A fantasy version of Japanese-occupied Korea that weaves folklore with family history around forbidden love in a battle for the last tiger.
	<i>The Light in Hidden Places</i> , Sharon Cameron	377 pp 650 L	HF 2020	Poland WWII 1943	Based on the true story of a Polish teen whose courage led her to hide 13 Jews in her attic and care for her young sister, while two Nazi officers live in her house. Authors note, photos.

	<i>Loud: Stories to Make Your Voice Heard</i> , Dark Horse Books	184 pp	RF/GN COL 2024	Global Italian Tr	Short stories in comic form about different forms of gender-based violence and ways to unite in the fight against toxic masculinity.
	<i>Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know</i> , Samira Ahmed	327 pp	RF 2021	France	Connects the lives of two young Muslim women in Paris fighting to write their own stories and escape the cultural expectations of worlds defined by men.
	<i>The Outside Circle</i> , Patti LaBoucane-Benson	RL 11.5 264 pp	RF/GN 2015	Canada Cree Indigenous	In this graphic novel, two Aboriginal brothers surrounded by decades of poverty, drugs, and gangs, try to overcome historical trauma to bring positive change in their lives.
	<i>The Rebel Girls of Rome</i> , Jordyn Taylor	311 pp	HF 2025	Italy, WWII and present	Historical mystery – Lilah goes to Rome to uncover the story of her Jewish great aunt who joined the underground rebellion in 1943.
	<i>This Rebel Heart</i> , Katherine Locke	437 pp 750 L	HF FAN 2022	Hungary 1956	Historical fantasy. Csilla must decide whether to get involved in the fight for liberation of Hungary from Soviet communist rule and how to find her power as an orphaned Jewish teen in Budapest.
	<i>Song of a Blackbird</i> , Mare van Lieshout	247 pp	RF 2025	Dutch tr	Parallel stories in Amsterdam, Emma becomes involved in the Dutch resistance in 1943, while Annick in 2011 discovers her grandmother was secretly adopted as a child and searches for their lost family.
	<i>*The Summer Prince</i> , Alaya Dawn Johnson	780 L 289 pp	FAN 2013	Brazil Future	In futuristic Brazil, ruled by technology and tradition, Jane falls in love with a fellow artist, the Summer Prince who is destined to die due to the oppression beneath the city's glitter.
	<i>An Uninterrupted View of the Sky</i> , Melanie Crowder	770 L 289 pp	HF 2019	Bolivia 1990s	When his father is unjustly imprisoned, an Indigenous teen must live inside the corrupt prison system as he finishes high school.
	<i>The Whale Rider</i> , Witi Tame Ihimaera	152 pp	HF 2005	New Zealand	A Māori girl is denied the opportunity to become the next whale rider due to her gender and must prove her talents.

	<i>When Morning Comes</i> , Arushi Raina	221 pp	HF 2017	South Africa 1976	Meetings between students set in motion the events of the Soweto Uprising in the Anti-Apartheid movement. 4 perspectives
Locating Self in the World	<i>Bones of Ruin</i> , Sarah Roughley	416 pp	FAN 2022	London 1884	Historical fantasy in alternate London in which an African tightrope dancer is a spectacle of colonial curiosity but holds a secret that she cannot die and searches for her history. Trilogy.
	<i>Brighter than the Sun</i> , Daniel Aleman	344 pp	RF 2023	Mexico/US	Sol's life is divided by the border as she works and studies in the US, while her home and family are in Mexico. As she straddles the two worlds and her desires and obligations, she deals with loneliness.
	<i>Cardboard City</i> , Katarina Jovanovic	128 pp	RF 2022	Belgrade Serbia	A Romani teen must make a choice between her loving but poor community and a secure future due to her talent with the trumpet.
	<i>Catfish Rolling</i> , Clara Kumagai	415 pp	FAN 2023	Japan	Years after a major earthquake, Sora investigates why Japan has zones in which time passes differently and people disappear. Blends myth, legend, philosophy, and science with loss and grief.
	<i>Dear Haiti, Love Elaine</i> , Maika Moulite	422 pp	RF 2020	Haiti US	A teen is sent to Haiti as a volunteer and explores her family history. Told in emails, texts, letters. Magical realism. Identity.
	<i>The End</i> , Mats Strandberg	383 pp	Sci Fi 2020	Sweden Tr	A comet will decimate Earth in 30 days, leading to chaos as people decide how to live out their last days and teens try to solve a murder.
	<i>Ex Marks the Spot</i> , Gloria Chao	373 pp 780 L	RF 2024	Taiwan	When her unknown grandfather dies, Gemma travels to Taiwan on a treasure hunt from clues in a letter and a search for her own roots.
	<i>Forward Me to You</i> , Mitali Perkins	690 L 415 pp	RF 2020	India US	Two teens go to India on a service project about human trafficking, one dealing with the trauma of assault and the other with identity.
	<i>How It Feels to Float</i> , Helena Fox	379 pp	RF 2020	Australia	Story of grief, love, and mental illness as a teen constantly talks to her father who has been dead for 10 years. Hereditary effects of trauma.

	<i>In a Perfect World</i> , Trish Dolier	880 L 294 pp	RF 2019	Cairo, Egypt	An American teen, visiting Cairo, comes to understand more about Muslim culture in a relationship that challenges her thoughts on love, faith, and privilege.
	<i>Jane, the Fox & Me</i> , Fanny Britt and Isabelle Arsenault	800 L (X) 101 pp	RF/GN 2013	Canada	Graphic novel of a young teen, bullied in school, who finds solace in the pages of <i>Jane Eyre</i> and a connection with a fox.
	<i>King of Dead Things</i> . Nevin Holness	305 pp	FAN 2024	UK Jamaica	Eli has magical abilities and joins forces with Malcolm to escape his past and save his mother by retrieving a powerful artifact hidden in the magical underbelly of London. Steeped in Afro-Caribbean folklore.
	<i>The Last Bloodcarver</i> , Vanessa Le <i>His Mortal Demise</i>	384 pp	FAN 2024 2025	Vietnam	Is Nnika a heartsooth or a monstrous bloodcarver? She must decide who to trust in a high-stakes political drama and come to terms with her identity. Vietnamese-inspired dark fantasy. Duology – how far will you go to save someone you love?
	<i>Luck of the Titanic</i> , Stacey Lee	368 pp	HF 2021	UK 1912	A British Chinese teen smuggles aboard the Titanic to find her twin brother and convince him to revive their acrobatic act. Issues of racial and class discrimination in an engaging retelling of the Titanic tragedy.
	<i>*Mary's Monster: Love, Madness, and How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein</i> , Lita Judge	312 pp 1070 L	HF 2018	England 1800s	Fictionalized biography of Mary Shelley, the pregnant runaway who wrote Frankenstein. Pairs free verse with hundreds of black-and-white watercolors. Gothic atmosphere.
	<i>Medusa</i> , Jessie Burton & Olivia L. Gill	207 pp	FAN GR 2022	Greek myth	A feminist retelling of the Greek myth as a graphic fantasy. Medusa is exiled on a deserted island until a boat arrives with a lost sailor, Perseus. Her bravery and self-love emerge as they tell their stories.

	<i>The Melancholy of Summer</i> , Louisa Onome	320 pp	RF 2023	Canada	When her parents go on the run due to a crime, a Nigerian Canadian teen is placed in the care of a distant cousin, unsure of who to trust and whether she has a future.
	<i>The Minister's Daughter</i> , Julie Hearn	860 L 263 pp	HF 2005	England 1645	The teen daughter of a minister blames others of witchcraft to hide her secret pregnancy.
	<i>Pardalita</i> , Joana Estrela	216 pp	RF GN 2023	Portugal Tr	A graphic novel in which a teen reflects on her changing sense of self and emerging sexuality. Integrates poems and illustrations.
	<i>Patron Saints of Nothing</i> , Randy Ribay	352 pp	RF 2020	Philippines	Coming of age story about grief and guilt as a teen uncovers the truth about his cousin's death in the Philippines.
	<i>Postcards from No Man's Land</i> , Aidan Chambers	900 L 312 pp	RF/HF 2004	Amsterdam	Alternates between two stories, one contemporary, and the other historical, as past secrets are revealed and a teen struggles with what it means to be human.
	<i>The Quiet and the Loud</i> , Helena Fox	380 pp	RF 2023	Australia	Set during the wildfires of 2019, George seeks quiet in a loud world as she faces trauma, family secrets, and falling in love. Portrayal of PTSD from her father's alcoholism.
	<i>Song of Silver, Flame Like Night</i> , Am'lie Wen Zhao	480 pp	FAN 2023	China	Inspired by Chinese history and folklore. Lan struggles with identity and shame as a teahouse "songgirl" for the conquerors of her land. The strange scar on her wrist draws attention and she is soon on the run with Zen, a magician. <i>Dark Star Burning, Ash Falls White</i> , duology
	<i>Songs for Ghosts</i> , Clara Kumagai	391 pp	FAN 2025	Japan	A Japanese American teen reconnects with his identity and goes to Japan after discovering a journal written by a young woman in Nagasaki in 1941 and becoming haunted by her vengeful spirit.
	<i>Tall Water</i> , S.J. Sindu	243 pp	RF GN 2025	Sri Lanka	A struggling teen journeys to Sri Lanka to reconnect with her long-lost mother during the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. Love and war.

	<i>Tender Morsels</i> , Margo Lanagan	950 L 436 pp	FAN 2008	Australia	A young woman who has endured great cruelty is magically granted a safe haven from reality where beauty and brutality lie side by side.
	<i>Twice as Perfect</i> , Louisa Onome	407 pp	RF 2022	Canada	A Nigerian Canadian teen deals with her estranged older brother, uncertainty about her future, and helping a cousin plan a big Nigerian wedding. Nigerian culture and parental expectations.
	<i>Viva Lola Espinoza!</i> Ella Ceron	393 pp	RF 2023	Mexico	Pride and Prejudice variant. Lola is sent to live with her grandmother in Mexico City, learning a family secret that changes her life.
	<i>Where was Goodbye?</i> Janice Lynn Mather	294 pp	RF 2024	Bahamas	Karmen struggles with strained family relationships and her own identity and healing after the suicide of her brother.
	<i>Wild Bird</i> , Leanne Baugh	336 pp	HF 2021	Vancouver 1861	Kate rebels against gender restrictions in a remote colonial town and fights smallpox and the bigotry towards Indigenous families.
	<i>Your Corner Dark</i> , Desmond Hall	373 pp 660 L	RF 2021	Jamaica	Frankie yearns to leave Jamaica but is forced to give up his scholarship and join his uncle's gang when his father is shot. Harsh realities of gang life. Autobiographical
Adventure and Fantasy	<i>*Children of Blood and Bone</i> , Tomi Adeyemi	531 pp 670 L	FAN 2018	Nigeria	Zelia fights to restore magic but is pursued by the crown prince, who seems magic as a threat to his rule. Trilogy.
	<i>Four Dead Queens</i> , Astrid Schotte	413 pp	FAN 2020	Australia	Keralie steals a "comm disk" that reveals the murder of the 4 queens of her kingdom and sends her on the run. Multiple viewpoints.
	<i>The Gilded Ones</i> , Namina Forna	418 pp 780 L	FAN 2021	W. Africa	A West-African inspired fantasy in which a blood ceremony reveals that Keka is an alaki-near-mortal with rare gifts that can be used to save the empire. Trilogy– <i>The Merciless Ones</i> , <i>The Eternal Ones</i> .

	<i>The Glass Town Game</i> , Catherynne Valente	810 L 535 pp	FAN 2017	England	Charlotte Bronte and her sisters invent a game in this fantasy where their game comes to life and helps them escape loss and fear.
	<i>Goodbye, My Princess</i> , Wo Si Cun Fei	544 pp	FAN 2025	China Tr	Married to a heartless crown prince, a princess lives a secret life until a stranger reveals a past she cannot remember. Romantic tragedy.
	<i>It Waits in the Forest</i> , Sarah Dass	327 pp	FAN 2025	St. Virgil Caribbean	Inspired by Caribbean folklore, Selena gets pulled into a string of mysterious murders on her island home, including her father's death.
	<i>The Ivory Key</i> , Akshaya Raman	375 pp	FAN 2022	India	An Indian-inspired fantasy of 4 estranged royal siblings who harbor secrets must work together to search for the Ivory Key, a legend that will lead to a new source of magic. Duology.
	<i>Liar's Test</i> , Ambelin Kuwaymullina	258 pp	FAN 2024	Australia Aboriginal	When seven girls vie for the throne, a fierce Aboriginal heroine is determined to right the wrongs done to her people. Colonialism
	<i>The Lost Dreamer</i> , Lizz Huerta	378 pp	FAN 2022	Mexico	A Mesoamerica-inspired fantasy about a lineage of female seers who resist a shifting patriarchal state that would see them destroyed. A world of dreams, songs, and prophecy. Duology
	<i>A Magic Steeped in Poison</i> , Judy Lin	364 pp	FAN 2022	China	A Chinese-inspired fantasy of competition on the art of brewing tea, which Ning enters in the hope of saving her dying sister. Political court intrigue and dangerous secrets. <i>A Venom Dark and Sweet</i> . Duology.
	<i>Medici Heist</i> , Caitlin Schneiderhan	418 pp 830 L	HF 2025	Italy 1500s	A teen thief leads a team of skilled misfits in a daring and dangerous heist for fortune, revenge, and freedom. Historical thriller.
	<i>Raybearer</i> , Jordan Ifueko	343 pp	FAN 2020	West Africa	Afrofuturism in which Tarisai yearns for a role with the Crown Prince whom she is magically compelled to kill. An intriguing fantasy world that takes on themes of loyalty, destiny, and revenge. Trilogy.

	<i>Skin of the Sea</i> , Natasha Bowen	309 pp 860 L	FAN 2021	W. Africa 1400s	West African-inspired mythology of Yoruba gods and goddesses. Simi is transformed into a mermaid who collects souls of the dead. When she saves a boy, she must appease the Supreme Creator. Trilogy.
	<i>A Song of Wraiths and Ruin</i> , Roseanne Brown	466 pp 960 L	FAN 2021	West Africa	A grieving crown princess and a desperate refugee are on a collision course to murder each other. Injustice, magic, and romance inspired by North and West African folklore.
	<i>The Sunbearer Trials</i> , Aiden Thomas	405 pp 850 L	FAN 2022	Mexico	Mexican-inspired fantasy of the Sunbearer Trials, a fierce competition among demigods where the winner sacrifices the loser to Sol. In <i>Celestial Monsters</i> , the world has been plunged into night. Duology
	<i>We are Hunted</i> , Tomi Oyemakinde	317 pp	FAN 2024	Tropical island	A Black British teen on vacation on a remote tropical island encounters terror when hunted by animals. Colonialism, horror.
	<i>Wonderous Journeys in Strange Lands</i> , Sonia Nimr	245 pp	FAN 2021	Palestine Tr	A fable of literacy, romance and adventure in an ancient time that follows the adventures of Qamar, a young Palestinian woman, as she journeys from place to place in epic tales of legend and history.
	<i>Winter's Promise</i> , Christelle Dabos	830 L 491 pp	FAN 2020	France Tr	The world is shattered into celestial islands, each with distinct cultures. Ophelia leaves her home for an arranged marriage with a powerful clan and finds herself in a deadly plot. Series, Mirror Visitor.
Traditional Literature, Mythology, and Classics	<i>A Drop of Venom</i> , Sajni Patel	393 pp	Myth 2024	India	The legend of Medusa is retold as a feminist tale in an Indian mythology world that follows a survivor of sexual assault.
	<i>Enter the Body</i> , Joy McCullough	320 pp	Classic 2023	UK Shakespeare	Novel in verse that focuses on the inner lives of Shakespeare's most tragic heroines, Cordelia, Juliet, and Ophelia who retell the stories.
	<i>Hekate the Witch</i> , Nikita Gill	384 pp	Myth 2025	Greece	A retelling in verse of the origins of Hekate, the goddess of witchcraft and necromancy who travels to the underworld on a quest.

	<i>The Illiad</i> , Gareth Hinds	GN 246 pp	Myth 2019	Greece	Graphic novel adaptation of The Iliad by Homer, a poem of war between Trojan Hector and Greek Achilles.
	<i>Inheritance of Scars</i> , Crystal Seitz	404 pp	Myth 2026	Sweden	A Swedish girl enters into the forest home of the Hidden Folk of Norse mythology when her grandmother disappears and discovers her family's grim legacy. Dark fantasy.
	<i>Pride and Prejudice and Pittsburgh</i> , Rachel Lippincott	327 pp	FAN 2023	UK/US	A discouraged teen from Pittsburgh is transported back to 1812 England, where she falls in love in a queer romance that transcends time and space.
	<i>Savage Her Reply</i> , Deirdre Sullivan	249 pp	Trad Lit 2021	Ireland	A feminist retelling of a popular Irish folktale in which a scorned woman takes terrible vengeance on the children of her sister's husband. Includes calligrams from the ancient Irish alphabet.
	<i>Self-Made Boys: A Great Gatsby Remix</i> , Anna-Marie McLemore	304 pp	Classic HF 2022		Three teens chase their own version of the American Dream during the roaring 20s in a remix of The Great Gatsby. A Latinx lens that shows how queer love has flourished in quiet corners across history.
	<i>A Treachery of Swans</i> , A. B. Poranek	352 pp	Classic 2025	Frances 17 th C.	Retelling of Swan Lake as Odile plans to restore magic to her kingdom are disrupted by murder and a young woman who stole her identity.
	<i>Where the Dark Still Stands</i> , A. B. Poranek	353 pp	Trad Lit 2024	Poland	A reimagining of Beauty and the Beast steeped in Polish folklore. Liska, a village girl, is captured by the demon warden of the spirit-wood who offers her one year of servitude in exchange for any wish.

Examples of Possible Pairings of Classic Novels with Global YA Literature

Theme	Classic Novel	Global YA Literature
The role of story	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , Geoffrey Chaucer	<i>Anna and the Swallow Man</i> , Gavriel Savit
Revenge and redemption	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> , Nathaniel Hawthorne	<i>The Minister's Daughter</i> , Julie Hearn <i>Among the Fallen</i> , Virginia Schwartz <i>Rani Choudhury Must Die</i> , Adiba Jaigirdar
Justice, power, greed, betrayal	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> , F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>Let Sleeping Dogs Lie</i> , Mirjam Pressler <i>The Summer Prince</i> , Alaya Dawn Johson <i>I Must Betray You</i> , Ruta Sepetys <i>Self-Made Boys: A Great Gatsby Remix</i> , Anna-Marie McLemore
Pain of war	<i>Farewell to Arms</i> , Ernest Hemingway	<i>Salt to the Sea</i> , Ruta Sepetys <i>Soldier Boy</i> , Keely Hutton <i>The Blossom and the Firefly</i> , Sherri Smith <i>Kindling</i> , Traci Chee

Tr = translated from that language and country into English

Under Levels, the letters, e.g. (O), in parentheses are Fountas and Pinnell levels.

Check the recommended reading lists for Grades 9-10, many of these books will be appropriate for 11-12

8/20/2026