

## Worlds of Words 2021

### Grade 9-10 Recommended Global Fiction

	Global Fiction	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
<b>Strength through Relationships</b>	<i>*The Book of Pearl,</i> Timothee de Fombelle	850 L 355 pp	FAN 2014	France, Tr	Joshua Pearl is from the land of fairy tales, but he is trapped in Paris on the eve of WWII as his memories fade of a deep love. Epic love story.
	<i>Butterfly Yellow,</i> Thannha Lai	810 L 284 pp	HF 2019	Vietnam U.S.	A Vietnamese refugee searches for her younger brother, from whom she has been separated, and deals with her own trauma, supported by a friendship with a boy who wants to be a cowboy.
	<i>Driving by Starlight,</i> Anat Deracine	280 pp 860 L	RF 2018	Saudi Arabia	Two girls navigate typical teen issues as well as gender restrictions with a strict society. Themes of friendship, family, and freedom.
	<i>Facing the Sun,</i> Janice Lyn Mather	406 pp 680 L	RF 2020	Bahamas	Four teen narrators tell the story of the unexpected life changes that occur when a hotel developer blocks access to their community's beloved beach. The girls navigate friendship and community tensions.
	<i>*I Love I Hate I Miss My Sister,</i> Amelie Sam	560 L (Z) 152 pp	RF 2014	France Tr	Two Muslim sisters are in conflict over differing life choices in a poignant story of love, loss, women's rights, religion and freedom.
	<i>The Love &amp; Lies of Rukhsana</i> Ali, Sabina Khan	690 L 326 pp	RF 2019	Bangladesh	Rukhsana chafes against her conservative Muslim parents, who oppose her relationship with a girl and take her to Bangladesh with plans for an arranged marriage.
	<i>*Your Heart, My Sky: Love in a Time of Hunger,</i> Margarita Engle	208 pp 1210 L	HF NV 2021	Cuba 1991	Liana and Amado find love after their severe hunger and starvation gives both courage to risk government retribution by skipping a summer of forced labor to seek food. Two voices in verse.

	<i>The Milk of Birds</i> , Sylvia Whitman	780L 363 pp	HF 2013	Sudan (Darfur)	Two teens, one a refugee in Sudan and the other an American, form an unlikely friendship as pen pals.
	<i>Skating over Thin Ice</i> , Jean Mills	432 pp	RF 2018	Canada	Two teens, one gifted in music and the other in hockey, find a connection that helps them deal with social anxiety and anger.
	<i>Wonderful Feels Like This</i> , Sara Lovestam	305 pp	RF 2013	Sweden Tr	A teen with Cuban heritage deals with bullying in Sweden until her friendship with an elderly jazz musician brings music and belonging.
	<i>Words in Deep Blue</i> , Cath Crowley	269 pp 730 L	RF 2016	Australia	Two teens find their way back to each other in an old bookstore where people hide love letters and secrets in the pages of books.
<b>Forced Journeys</b>	<i>Bamboo People</i> , Mitali Perkins	680 L 272 pp	HF 2010	Burma/ Myanmar	Narrated by two boys on opposing sides of a conflict between the Burmese government and an ethnic minority group.
	<i>*Between Shades of Gray</i> , Ruta Sepetys	490 L (Z) 344 pp	HF 2011	Lithuania 1941	An ordinary teen is sent by Stalin's troops to a prison camp, where she struggles to survive and to record the family's story through art.
	<i>Broken Memory</i> , Elizabeth Combres	890L (Z) 139 pp	HF 2007	Rwanda 1994	A child witnesses the brutal murder of her mother during a genocide and seeks shelter.
	<i>*Code Name Verity</i> , Elizabeth Wein	1020 L 343 pp	HF 2012	France WWII	Queenie, a captured British spy, is interrogated by Nazis and tells a tale of friendship and courage while keeping secrets. Double narrator is pilot who dropped her off.
	<i>Cold White Sun</i> , Sue F. Holler	620 L 287 pp	RF 2019	Ethiopia Canada	Fictionalized story of a privileged teen who fled Ethiopia when his father is arrested, arriving alone on the streets in Canada.
	<i>Cry of the Giraffe</i> , Judie Oron	RL 9.5 193 pp	HF 2010	Ethiopia	An Ethiopian Jew flees civil unrest and is separated from her family, experiencing child slavery and abuse, until she is able to escape.

<i>A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk</i> , Jan Coates	RL 10.2 291 pp	HF 2010	Sudan	Jacob is only 7 when a massacre sends thousands of boys on a years-long journey to find refuge and his place as a storyteller.
<i>Jepp, Who Defied the Stars</i> , Katherine Marsh	1010L 385 pp	HF 2012	Europe 1500s	Jepp, a teenage dwarf, embarks on a journey that includes humiliation, apprenticeship, love, and the question of will versus destiny.
<i>*Keeping Corner</i> , Kashmira Sheth	780 L 272 pp	HF 2007	India 1940s	A teen is confined to her home for a year as a child widow, her future grim. She gains a glimpse of a different future through books and learning from a tutor.
<i>La Linea</i> , Ann Jaramillo	650L 135 pp	RF 1985	Mexico	A teen from Mexico takes a dangerous journey with his sister to rejoin their parents in the US.
<i>*Land of Permanent Goodbyes</i> , Atia Abawi	760 L 279 pp	RF 2018	Syria	Taraq and his family flee Syria when their home is bombed, and his life threatened. His family flees to Greece in a harrowing journey.
<i>Midwinter Blood</i> , Marcus Sedgwick	770 I (Z) 262 pp	FAN 2011	Scandinavia	7 linked vignettes of passion and love in different time periods on a Scandinavian island inhabited by Vikings, ghosts, and a powerful plant. Horror, love, and sacrifice.
<i>Never Fall Down</i> , Patricia McCormick	710 L 216 pp	HF 2012	Cambodia 1975	A story based on interviews with a child soldier forced to serve with the Khmer Rouge. An unflinching portrayal of genocide.
<i>Now is the Time for Running</i> , Michael Williams	650 L 233 pp	HF 2011	Zimbabwe	A massacre sends a teen on a journey to South Africa where he encounters both racism and acceptance as a soccer player.
<i>Rebels by Accident</i> , Patricia Dunn	610L 310 pp	RF 2012	Egypt	Mariam is sent to live with her grandmother in Cairo and she finds herself in the middle of a revolution.

<i>The Red Zone</i> , Silvia Vecchini	133 pp	RF GN 2019	Italy Tr 2016	Portrayal of a boy and his town in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake.
<i>Shadows Cast by Stars</i> , Catherine Knudsson	670 L 456 pp	FAN 2012	Canada Indigenous	In a future world, a teen flees from a government that needs Indigenous blood to stop a plague and discovers special powers.
<i>The Shepherd's Granddaughter</i> , Anne Carter	600L (Z) 224 pp	HF 2008	Palestine	Amani's dream to be a shepherd is devastated when Israelis build a settlement on her family's land.
<i>Silver People</i> , Margarita Engle	1310 L 260 pp	HF NV 2014	Panama 1906	A novel in verse offering the voices of workers building the Panama Canal, includes the ecological sacrifices and human costs.
<i>Someday We Will Fly</i> , Rachel DeWoskin	800 L 353 pp	HF 2019	China WWII 1940	Jewish refugees who are circus performers escape from Warsaw to Shanghai, but are caught in the conflict between Japan and US
<i>This Place: 150 Years Retold</i> , Tara Audibert	287 pp	HF GN 2019	Canada Indigenous	A collection of graphic stories about the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada since Contact, and their history of oppression.
<i>Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba</i> , Margarita Engle	1170L 199 pp	HF NV 2009	Cuba 1939	Escaping from Nazi Germany to Cuba, a young Jewish refugee dreams of finding his parents again.
<i>War Girls</i> , Tochi Anyebuchi	790 L 450 pp	FAN 2019	Nigeria 2172	A future war-torn world where sisters dream of escaping war in Nigeria but are torn apart by the war. Sequel.
<i>War Brothers</i> , Sharon McKay	RL 9.8 192 pp	HF 2008	Uganda	Boys forced to become child soldiers escape to discover that family and friends are afraid of them. Also available as a graphic novel.
<i>The Weight of Our Sky</i> , Hanna Aikaf	830 L 277 pp	HF 2019	Malaysia 1969	During the Malaysian race riots, Melati must overcome prejudice, violence, and her own OCD to find her way back home.

	<i>What the Night Sings</i> , Vesper Stamper	720 L 266 pp	HF 2018	Germany WWII	A teen is sent to Auschwitz, surviving due to her musical ability. She faces pogroms and camps after the war, eventually making her way to Israel. Focus on after the war.
	<i>Where the World Ends</i> , Geraldine McCaughrean	324 pp	HF 2017	Scotland 1727	A group of teens go to St. Kilda, a remote rock in the ocean, to hunt birds, but no one returns for them for months, as they face starvation and cold.
	<i>What the Night Sings</i> , Vesper Stamper	720 L 266 pp	HF 2018	Germany WWII	A teen is sent to Auschwitz, surviving due to her musical ability. She faces pogroms and camps after the war, eventually making her way to Israel. Focus on after the war.
<b>Taking Action</b>	<i>*Banned Book Club</i> , Kim Hyun Sook, illus. Hyung-Ju Ko	198 pp	HF GN 2020	Korea 1983	Kim seeks refuge from a military regime in a reading club despite threats of violence.
	<i>*The Beast Player</i> , Nahoko Uehashi	344 pp	FAN 2006	Japan Tr	An epic fantasy about a girl with the power to communicate with magical beasts and the warring kingdom only she can save. Sequel, <i>The Beast Warrior</i> . Series.
	<i>The Book Thief</i> , Markus Zusak	552 pp 730 L	HF 2007	Germany WWII	Trying to make sense of the horrors of WWII, Death narrates the story of Liesel, a young German girl, whose book stealing and story telling sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.
	<i>Cane Warriors</i> , Alex Wheatle	198 pp 700 L	HF 2020	Jamaica 1760	An enslaved teen, who has only known life on a sugarcane plantation, joins a rebel revolt to fight for freedom. Real event, Tacky's Rebellion.
	<i>Island's End</i> , Padma Venkatraman	800 L 228 pp	HF 2011	Andaman Islands, India	A teen chosen as her tribe's spiritual leader faces human and natural threats and issues of modernity versus tradition.
	<i>The Librarian of Auschwitz</i> , Antonio Iturbe	423 pp. 940 L	HF 2012	Germany 1944-45 Spanish Tr	In a secret school, Dita is put in charge of a few forbidden books at Auschwitz. Transformative power of books.

	<i>*Rose Under Fire</i> , Elizabeth Wein	950 L 360 pp	HF 2013	Germany WWII	An imprisoned pilot records the effects of Nazi medical experiments on women in journal entries and poems and must decide whether to testify after the war.
	<i>The Surrender Tree</i> , Margarita Engle	1070 L 169 pp	HF NV 2008	Cuba Late 1800s	A novel in verse with multiple voices about Cuba's war for independence and those who engaged in resistance.
	<i>Tiger Moon</i> , Antonia Michaelis	820 L (Z) 453 pp	FAN 2005	India	Sold as a bride to a cruel merchant, Safia spins a fantastical tale of rescue and heroism.
	<i>Traitor</i> , Gudrun Pausewang	RL 9.6 220 pp	HF 2004	Germany WWII	A German girl hides a fugitive Russian soldier, facing a moral dilemma and danger.
	<i>The War within these Walls</i> , Aline Sax	510 (Z) 175 pp	HF 2011	Poland WWII	The story of the Warsaw ghetto uprising through the eyes and voice of a teen. Spare text and somber black-and-white illustrations.
	<i>We Hunt the Flame</i> , Hafsah Faizal	749 L 472 pp	FAN 2019	Arabian Peninsula	Fantasy inspired by ancient Arabia and its mythology, Zafira disguises herself as a man to seek the return of magic to her cursed world. Sequel – <i>We Free the Stars</i>
	<i>The World Beneath</i> , Janice Warman	159 pp 650 L	HF 2016	South Africa 1976	Joshua lives with his mother in the maid's quarters of a rich white family. When he helps a freedom fighter, his eyes are opened to the anti-apartheid movement, and he examines the world deep inside himself to make choices that change his life.
	<i>The Winter War</i> , William Durbin	740 L 231 pp	HF 2006	Finland 1939	Finnish resistance after the Soviet Union invasion through the story of a boy with polio who served as a messenger.
<b>Locating Self in the World</b>	<i>Afrika</i> , Colleen Craig	690 L 233 pp	HF 2008	South Africa 1990s	A teen returns to her parent's homeland in South Africa and witnesses the Truth and Reconciliation Hearings.

<i>The Chaos</i> , Nalo Hopkinson	600 L (Z) 241 pp	FAN 2012	Canada	A biracial bullied teen finds that her normal world is enveloped in bizarre and surreal events that blend fantasy with Jamaican and Russian folklore. Search for identity.
<i>Climbing the Stairs</i> , Padma Venkatraman	750 L (Y) 254 pp	HF 2008	India 1941	Vidya and her brother are forced to move in with her father's family, whose expectations of women vary dramatically from those of her father. She struggles to regain her strength.
<i>A Confusion of Princes</i> , Garth Nix	1070 L 337 pp	Sci Fi 2012	Australia	Science fiction in which a prince comes of age to learn that everything he believed is false and that he is one of millions of Princes and quite expendable.
<i>*Daniel Half Human</i> , David Chotjewitz	740 L 325 pp	HF 2003	Germany Tr WWII	Two best friends admire Hitler, but their paths separate when Daniel discovers he is half-Jewish. Chapters switch narrators.
<i>*Darius the Great is Not Okay</i> , Adib Khorram	710 L 314 pp	RF 2018	Iran	Darius, dealing with depression, travels to Iran to meet his grandparents and makes a friendship that gives him a sense of belonging. Sequel, <i>Darius the Great Deserves Better</i> .
<i>The Diary of Pelly D</i> , L. J. Adlington	770 L 282 pp	FAN 2005	Australia	A teen in a futuristic society finds a diary of a girl who lost her life of privilege in a holocaust, causing him to question his beliefs.
<i>The Greats</i> , Deborah Ellis	189 pp 700 L	RF FAN 2020	Guyana	A survivor of abuse, Jaman is in jail due to vandalism. Considering suicide, he is visited by ghostly grandfathers who share their stories, revealing the effects of generations of mental illness and depression.
<i>I Love You so Mochi</i> , Sarah Kuhn	810 L 306 pp	RF 2019	Japan	Japanese-American teen goes to Japan and explores her mother's heritage and her love of fashion
<i>*The Lie Tree</i> , Frances Hardinge	860 L 377 pp	FAN HF 2015	England 1800s	Faith investigates the death of her father and discovers a tree that feeds upon lies and gives visions of truth to those who eat its fruits.

	<i>Like Home</i> , Louisa Onome	403 pp 710 L	RF 2021	Nigeria Canada	A Nigerian Canadian teen loves her home, despite neighborhood shootings. When her friend's store is vandalized, developers move in to buy the properties, Chinelo opposes change and gentrification.
	<i>Lucy and Linh</i> , Alice Pung	900 L 340 pp	RF 2014	Australia	A Chinese immigrant working-class teen struggles with identity in an elite private school and balancing expectations at home and at school.
	<i>The Pact</i> , Amanda West Lewis	RL 7.6 352 pp	HF 2016	Germany 1939	A teen tries to understand conflicts of personality, culture, and morality in Nazi Germany.
	<i>The Queen of Water</i> , Laura Resau and Virginia Farinango	890 L 352 pp	RF 2011	Ecuador	In a desperately poor Andean village, Virginia is taken away as a young child to be a servant. When she returns to her Indigenous village as a teen, she is caught between worlds.
	<i>Secrets in the Fire</i> , Henning Mankell	(Z) 166 pp	HF 1995	Mozambique Tr.	Sofia loses her legs in a land mine explosion and struggles to rebuild her life.
	<i>The Servant</i> , Fatima Sharafeddine	770 L 157 pp	RF 2013	Lebanon	Fatima's happy life in her village ends when she is sent as a servant to a wealthy couple. She searches for a way to get an education.
	<i>*This Thing Called the Future</i> , J. L. Powers	710 L 208 pp	RF 2011	South Africa	The clash of old and new beliefs and practices complicate the life of a Zulu teen living in poverty and the AIDS epidemic. Sequel <i>Under Water</i> is on struggle with school and violence
	<i>Troublemakers</i> , Catherine Barter	760 L 354 pp	RF 2017	UK	Terrorist bombings lead a teen to insist on learning about her long-dead activist mother.
<b>Adventure and Fantasy</b>	<i>The Candle and the Flame</i> , Nafiza Azad	820 L 391 pp	FAN 2019	S. Asia	A fantasy set in Noor, a Silk Road city that is a refuge for all faiths. Fatima is drawn into a magical battlefield, transformed as a djinn. Combines Islamic and Arabic mythology.



<i>Deeplight</i> , Frances Hardinge	419 pp	FAN 2020	UK	Dark fantasy in which the worlds of monsters and humans collide. Hark finds a still-beating heart of a deity that saves the life of his toxic friend Jett, leading to transformation and fear. Deaf Culture.
<i>Genius: The Game</i> , Leopoldo Gout	690L 294 pp	FAN 2016	Global	Three young prodigies from across the world with incredible skills in technology and engineering team up to become heroes to save the world. Series.
<i>The Girl King</i> , Mimi Yu	488 pp	FAN 2019	China	An Asian-inspired fantasy of magic and political intrigue about two sisters pitted against each other by their father, the Emperor. Duology – <i>Empress of Flames</i> .
<i>Hunted by the Sky</i> (Wrath of Ambar 1) Tanaz Bhathena	374 pp 800 L	FAN 2020	Medieval India	Trained in warrior magic after the murder of her parents, a girl is prophesied to be the downfall of a tyrant king. Her vow of revenge is complicated when she falls in love with a palace servant with his own secrets. Indian and Persian mythology. Intricate worldbuilding. Trilogy.
<i>Ink, Iron, and Glass</i> , Gwendolyn Clare	328 pp 670 L	FAN 2018	Victorian Italy	A steampunk fantasy in Victorian Italy where a teen with the gift of scripting new worlds into existence faces oppression. Series
<i>Longbow Girl</i> , Linda Davies	700 L (Z) 324 pp	FAN 2015	Wales	Merry finds a book that may be a missing part of the legendary Mabinogion, leading to a quest through time and space to defend her family's farm against another family's greed.
<i>The Magnolia Sword: A Ballad of Mulan</i> , Sherry Thomas	840 L 348 pp	FAN 2019	China Ancient	Mulan dresses as a man to take her ill father's place in the army, but an old enemy and her attraction to her commander complicate her mission.
<i>A River of Royal Blood</i> Amanda Joy	800 L 351 pp	FAN 2019	N. Africa	Eva must harness the magick within her to defeat her sister and other forces. N. Africa-inspired world.

	<i>Wicked as You Wish</i> , Rin Chupeco	421 pp	FAN 2020	Philippines US	Fantasy where a hidden prince, a girl with secrets, a group of unlikely heroes, and a firebird come together to defeat evil. Mixes fairy tales and legends from many cultures. Family has Filipino traditions.
<b>Traditional Literature, Mythology, and Epic Poems</b>	<i>*Feathered Serpent, Dark Heart of Sky</i> , David Bowles	300 pp 1010 L	Trad Lit 2018	Mexico	Stitches together the fragmented mythology of pre-Colombian Mexico into an exciting, unified narrative
	<i>Enchanted</i> , Alethea Kontis	770L 308 pp	FAN 2012	Europe	When Sunday kisses an enchanted frog, he transforms back into the crown prince of Arilland.
	<i>The Goose Girl</i> , Shannon Hale	870L (X) 383 pp	FAN 2003	Europe	On her way to marry a prince she's never met, a princess is betrayed and must become a goose girl.
	<i>Lovely War</i> , Julie Berry	850 L 468 pp	Myth 2019	Paris WWI	Greek goddess Aphrodite recounts two tales of tragic love during WWI to her husband and lover. Themes of prejudice, trauma, music
	<i>*The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel</i> , Gareth Hinds	840 L 248 pp GN	Epic 2010	Greek	A graphic novel format of the epic poem with dramatic pencil and watercolor art.
	<i>Sita's Ramayana</i> , Samhita Ami	(Z) 152 pp	Myth GN 2011	India, Hindu mythology	Graphic novel retelling of the ancient legend in which Rama forces his wife Sita to undergo an ordeal by fire to prove herself.
	<i>Voyages in the Underworld of Orpheus Black</i> , Marcus Sedgwick, illus. Alexis Deacon	760 L 312 pp	FAN 2019	WWII England	Harry Black is lost between the world of war and the land of myth in an illustrated novel that transports the tale of Orpheus to WWII- era London.
	<i>Yvain, the Knight of the Lion</i> , M.T. Anderson	Poem 125 pp	Epic 2017	UK	Adaptation of a medieval poem about Yvain, one of Arthur's Knights of the Round Table, and his pursuit of Lady Laudine. Evocative art.

### Examples of Possible Pairings of Classic Novels with Global YA Literature

Theme	Classic Novel	Global YA Literature
Journeys of exile and return	<i>The Odyssey</i> , Homer	<i>Sita's Ramayana</i> , Samhita Ami <i>Lovely War</i> , Julie Berry <i>The Book of Pearl</i> , Timothee de Fombelle
Fascism and the banning of books	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , Ray Bradbury	<i>The Diary of Pelly D</i> , L. J. Adlington <i>Between Shades of Gray</i> , Ruta Sepetys <i>The Librarian of Auschwitz</i> , Antonio Iturbe <i>Banned Book Club</i> , Kim Hyun Sook <i>The Book Thief</i> , Marcus Zusak
Generational conflicts	<i>The Joy Luck Club</i> , Amy Tan	<i>This Thing Called the Future</i> , J. L. Powers <i>Keeping Corner</i> , Kashmira Sheth <i>Darius the Great is Not Okay</i> , Adib Khorram <i>The Love &amp; Lies of Rukhsana Ali</i> , Sabina Khan
Satire on society	<i>Candide</i> , Voltaire	<i>A Confusion of Princes</i> , Garth Nix <i>The Lie Tree</i> , Frances Hardinge

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 11-12, many of these books will be appropriate for 9-10 as well.

9/5/2021