

Worlds of Words 2025

Grade 9-10 Recommended Global Fiction

	Global Fiction	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
Strength through Relationships	<i>All That It Ever Meant</i> , Musarin Blessing	176 pp 860 L	RF 2024	Zimbabwe	After her mother's sudden death, Mati's family is falling apart and so her father takes them from the UK to visit their native Zimbabwe. A moving story of grief, loss, love, and family.
	<i>The Book of Pearl</i> , Timothee de Fombelle	850 L 355 pp	FAN 2018	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 2020	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> , Anal 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>Dropping Beats</i> , Nathanael Lessore	278 pp	RF 2025	UK London	An aspiring rapper hopes to enter a competition with his friend to impress a girl and his family, but a livestream goes viral in a bad way.
	<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>Into the Bright Open: Secret Garden Remix</i> , Cherie Dimaline	274 pp 810 L	Fic 2023	Canada Metis	A queer and Indigenous remix of <i>The Secret Garden</i> , in which Mary is sent to live with her uncle where her ill cousin and a locked garden reveals mysteries as well as racism and a love of nature.
	<i>The Love & Lies of Rukhsana Ali</i> , Sabina Khan	690 L 326 pp	RF 2020	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>One for All</i> , Lillie Lainoff	359 pp	HF 2022	Paris, France 1655	Tania's father, a musketeer, is murdered and she is sent to a finishing school, which turns out to be a fencing academy for girls. Tania is often discounted due to her extreme vertigo but finds her strength.
	<i>A Second Chance on Earth</i> , Juan Vidal	216 pp	RF NV 2024	Colombia	Marcos travels to Cartagena to scatter his father's ashes after his sudden death and strikes up a friendship with a boy who shares his love of the book <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> .
	<i>Wonderful Feels Like This</i> , Sara Lovestam	305 pp	RF 2017	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 2018	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.
Forced Journeys	<i>All the Colors of Life</i> , Lisa Alsato	192 pp	PB 2021	Norway, Tr	A visual book of gorgeous paintings and drawings that tell the story about people on the journey of life from childhood to old age.
	<i>Bamboo People</i> , Mitali Perkins	680 L 272 pp	HF 2012	Burma/ Myanmar	Narrated by two boys on opposing sides of a conflict between the Burmese government and an ethnic minority group.

	<i>Beasts of Prey</i> , Ayana Gray	730 L 474 pp	FAN 2021	Africa	A servant and a warrior candidate forge an alliance to change their destinies by hunting a monster in the Great Forest who has long menaced their city. Pan-African story, mythology, action. Trilogy
	<i>*Between Shades of Gray</i> , Ruta Sepetys	490 L (Z) 344 pp	HF 2012	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>Beyond the Blue Border</i> , Dorit Linke	327 pp 560 L	HF 2021	E. Germany Late 1980s	Two teens in trouble for activism decide to escape on a grueling swim across the Baltic Sea for 25 hours to freedom in West Germany. Tr
	<i>The Blood Years</i> , Elana Arnold	390 pp	HF 2023	Romania 1939-1945	A teen's struggle to survive the Holocaust in Romania where Russians and then Germans invade her city and Reike experiences hunger, illness, and loss of all she has known. Unflinching depictions of war.
	<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>Come On In: 15 Stories about Immigration and Finding Home</i> , Adi Alsaid.	314 pp	RF 2020	Global	Anthology of short stories exploring the emotional complexities of immigration by YA authors who are themselves immigrants and the children of immigrants.
	<i>Freedom Swimmer</i> , Wai Chim	236 pp 790 L	HF 2021	China 1960s and 70s	Ming lost his parents during the Great Leap Forward. Working in a small village and enduring constant oppression, he and a friend decide to swim to the British colony of Hong Kong in a bid for freedom.
	<i>The Ghosts of Rose Hill</i> , R. M. Romero	378 pp	NV/FA 2023	Prague	Ilana is sent to stay with her aunt in Prague and discovers a forgotten Jewish cemetery and an enchanted side of Prague where ghosts walk the streets. About the many transitions in life.
	<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>The Immortal Boy</i> , Francisco Montaña Ibáñez	320 pp 147 in English	RF 2021	Colombia Tr Bilingual	Bilingual flip novel of two intertwining stories in Bogota, one a family of 5 children left to live on their own and the other a girl in an orphanage who wants to befriend the mysterious Immortal Boy. Theme of poverty and difficult choices in desperate situations.
	<i>*Keeping Corner</i> , Kashmira Sheth	780 L 272 pp	HF 2009	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 2008	Mexico	A teen from Mexico takes a dangerous journey with his sister to rejoin their parents in the US.
	<i>The Land of Permanent Goodbyes</i> , Atia Abawi	760 L 279 pp	RF 2019	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 l (Z) 262 pp	FAN 2013	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 2013	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 2013	Zimbabwe	A massacre sends a teen on a journey to South Africa where he encounters both racism and acceptance as a soccer player.
	<i>The Other Side: Stories of Central American Teen Refugees</i> , Juan Pablo Villalobos.	147 pp 810 L	RF 2019	Central America	A collection of stories that are first-person accounts of teens' journeys of coming from Central America to the United States.

	<i>The Red Zone</i> , Silvia Vecchini	133 pp	RF/GN 2016	Italy Tr	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 2013	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>Shuna's Journey</i> , Hayao Miyazaki	160 pp	GR/FA 2022	Japan Tr	The legendary animator Miyazaki tells the story of a prince from a poor land who goes on a dangerous quest to find a golden grain to save his land. Gorgeous watercolors and expert staging of panels.
	<i>Silver People</i> , Margarita Engle	1310 L 260 pp	HF/NV 2016	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 2020	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>Spice Road</i> , Maiya Ibrahim	454 pp	FAN 2023	Middle East	In a fantasy based in Arab culture, Imani sets out a dangerous mission to find her brother who has betrayed her nation, discovering secrets that lie beyond the Forbidden Wastes and her own heart. Trilogy.
	<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 2017	Cuba 1939	Escaping from Nazi Germany to Cuba, a young Jewish refugee dreams of finding his parents again.
	<i>Vial of Tears</i> , Cristin Bishara	308 pp	FAN 2021	Lebanon	Ancient Lebanese coins pull Samira and her sister into a Phoenician underworld and a struggle between gods and monsters. The world is part historical Lebanese and part mythological.

	<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>Rebel Sisters</i> .
	<i>War Brothers</i> , Sharon McKay	RL 9.8 192 pp	HF 2014	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 2019	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>Wings in the Wild</i> , Margarita Engle	211 pp	RF 2023	Cuba Costa Rica	When Soleida's parents are arrested in Cuba, she escapes to Costa Rica, meeting Dariel, who is working to protect the environment. She also works to bring attention to imprisoned artists in Cuba.
Taking Action	<i>Banned Book Club</i> , Kim Hyun Sook	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 2020	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>Blood Like Magic</i> , Liselle Sambury	484 pp 720 L	FAN 2021	Canada Trinidad	A Black witch with Trinidadian roots in near-future Toronto is forced to choose between losing her family's magic forever or murdering her first love. Afro-futurism and urban fantasy. Racism. 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 stealing of books and storytelling 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>Daughters of Oduma</i> , Moses Ose Utomi	358 pp	FAN 2023	W. Africa	Dirt, an elite female fighter, must enter the South God Bow tournament to protect her found family of younger sisters. West African-inspired world.
	<i>Island Creatures</i> , Margarita Engle	263 pp	RF NV 2025	Cuba US	Two close friends in Cuba reunite as teens to fight for the protection of endangered animals and to find love amidst family grudges.
	<i>*The Librarian of Auschwitz</i> , Antonio Iturbe	423 pp. 940 L	HF 2019	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>Of Light and Shadow</i> , Tanaz Bhathena	433 pp	FAN 2023	India 17 th C	Set in a magical world inspired by 17 th century India, political tensions and the fight for justice lead to love and betrayal as a female bandit and a prince change in unexpected ways. Persian & Indian mythology
	<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 2010	Cuba Late 1800s	A novel in verse with multiple voices about Cuba's war for independence and those who engaged in resistance.
	<i>Under This Forgetful Sky</i> , Lauren Yero	399 pp	Sci Fi 2023	Chile	When his father is infected with a virus, Rumi leaves his city of privilege to a ruined city of environmental devastation to search for a cure. Star-crossed love story in an unequal world. Dystopia

	<i>The War within these Walls</i> , Aline Sax	510 (Z) 175 pp	HF 2013	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 2020	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 makes choices that change his life.
	<i>Your Letter</i> , Hyon-a Cho	267 pp Manga	RF 2024	Korea Tr	When bullying forces Soni Lee to change schools, she receives anonymous letters, giving her helpful info on the new school.
Locating Self in the World	<i>The Chaos</i> , Nalo Hopkinson	600 L (Z) 241 pp	FAN 2013	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 2010	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>*Daniel Half Human</i> , David Chotjewitz	740 L 325 pp	HF 2006	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 2019	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 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 2020	Japan	Japanese American teen goes to Japan and explores her mother's heritage and her love of fashion
	<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>Living Beyond Borders</i> , Margarita Longoria ed	210 pp	RF 2021	Mexico/US	Anthology of twenty short stories, comics, and poems revealing what it means to be Mexican American in different narrative styles.
	<i>Lucha of the Night Forest</i> , Tehlor Kay Mejia	358 pp	FAN 2023	Latin America	A girl who is caught between the freedom she has always wanted and a sister she can't leave behind as she travels in an unforgiving world of monsters and gods. Destiny/choice, history/myth, and family bonds.
	<i>Lucy and Linh</i> , Alice Pung	900 L 340 pp	RF 2018	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 2012	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>Rebis: Born & Reborn</i> , Irene Marchesini	176 pp	FN GN 2025	Italy Tr Medieval	In this historical fantasy, an albino child is an outcast and cursed, but finds refuge in the deep woods with a woman outcast as a witch.
	<i>Rima's Rebellion</i> , Margarita Engle	195 pp	NV/HF 2022	Cuba 1920s	Rima is bullied and shunned for her illegitimacy but finds solace in riding her horse and in joining others to fight for freedom and suffrage

	<i>Somadina</i> , Akwaake Emezi	296 pp 770 L	FAN 2025	W. Africa	In a West African fantasy world, Somadina searches for her missing twin brother and learns to navigate her new magical abilities.
	<i>Sugar Town Queens</i> , Malla Nunn	291 pp 680 L	RH 2021	S. Africa	A biracial girl in post-apartheid South Africa is determined to unveil the mystery of her mother's hidden past and her own identity. Strong focus on her community of strong-willed South African women.
	<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>Unraveller</i> , Frances Hardinge	423 pp	FAN 2023	UK	A dark fantasy in which anyone can create a life-destroying curse, but only one person has the power to unravel them. But Kellen has been cursed and must remove the curse and understand his power.
	<i>Walking in Two Worlds</i> , Wab Kinew	294 pp	FAN 2021	Canada Indigenous	Bugz is caught between her Anishinaabe world and the virtual world where she is a successful gamer fighting angry male gamers. Her friendship with a gamer from China who is Muslim Uighur leads to confusion over who she can trust. A high tech near future dystopia.
Adventure and Fantasy	<i>Arsene Lupin, Gentleman Thief</i> , Maruice Leblanc & Vincent Mallie	154 pp	GN HF 2022	France, Tr.	A graphic novel version of the popular 1907 French series on the adventures of Arsene Lupin, a charming thief and master of disguises and an anti-hero.
	<i>Ballad & Dagger</i> , Daniel Jose Older	372 pp	FAN 2023	Caribbean US	Mateo and Chela set aside their differences to unravel the mystery behind their sunken island, San Madrigal, and stop a dangerous political operative. Outlaw Saints duology.
	<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>Feather and Flame</i> Livia Blackburne	330 pp	FAN 2021	Ancient China	Historical fantasy in which Mulan goes from a war hero to a reluctant Empress and fights self-doubt, sexism and an impending war.
	<i>Fire: Tales of Elemental Spirits</i> , Robin McKinley & Peter Dickinson	1020 L 239 pp	FAN 2009	Global	Five fantasy short stories of fiery beasts united by the element of fire. See also <i>Water: Tales of Elemental Spirits</i> . Six short stories about fabulous creatures associated with the element of water.
	<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 2016	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>Lost in Taiwan</i> , Mark Crilley	245 pp	RF GN 2023	Taiwan	Paul is visiting his brother in Tawain, with no interest in learning the culture, when he becomes hopelessly lost with no choice but to explore this new environment. A visual love letter to Taiwan.

	<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>Moonstorm</i> , Yoon Ha Lee	338 pp 910 L	FAN 2024	S. Korea	In a society where conformity is valued, a girl training to be a pilot must return to her rebel roots to save the world.
	Starstrike	355 pp 900 L	FAN 2025	S. Korea	Hwa Young returns to her rebel roots to fight the Imperial force but has warring allegiances and is unsure who to trust.
	<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. Duology - <i>A Queen of Gilded Horns</i>
	<i>Snowglobe</i> , Soyoung Park	372 pp 860 L	Sci Fi 2024	S. Korea	The world has frozen over and Snowglobe is the last place on Earth that's warm, where elite residents broadcast their lives, but Chobahm discovers that it's all a lie. Dystopian thriller.
	<i>The Sunbearer Trials</i> , Aidan Thomas	405 pp 850 L	FAN 2022	Mexico	Transgender demigod Teo is unexpectedly selected for the Sunbearer Trials, a fierce competition in which the winner sacrifices the loser to Sol to renew the sun's power. Duology. Mexico-inspired.
	<i>Celestial Monsters</i>	416 pp	2024		Quest to save their friends and return the sun to the sky.
	<i>The Wicked Bargain</i> , Gabe Cole Novoa	361 pp 860 L	FAN 860 L 2023	Caribbean 1820	Mar is a nonbinary Latinx pirate trying to hide magical abilities who must learn to use their magic to save their father and pirate family from losing their souls to El Diablo. High-seas adventure.
Traditional Literature, Mythology,	<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. Series
	<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

and Retellings	<i>The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea</i> , Axie Oh	325 pp 770 L	FAN 2022	Korean folklore	Retelling of the Korean legend of Sim Cheong. Mina is swept away into the Spirit Realm where she sets out to awaken the sleeping Sea God and save her homeland and family from deadly storms.
	<i>The Goose Girl</i> , Shannon Hale	870L (X) 383 pp	FAN 2017	Europe	On her way to marry a prince she's never met, a princess is betrayed and must become a goose girl. Books of Bayern series.
	<i>Lovely War</i> , Julie Berry	850 L 468 pp	Myth 2020	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>Spin</i> , Rebecca Caprara	393 pp	Myth VN 2023	Greek mythology	Verse retelling of Arachne, who weaves for solace but is confronted by goddess Athena to enter a weaving contest that results in transformation and redemption.
	<i>Strike the Zither</i> , Joan He	348 pp 640 L	Classic 2022	China	A reimagining of the Chinese classic Three Kingdoms in an alternate historical China of 3 warring factions. Zephyr infiltrates an enemy camp encountering an opposing strategist. Sequel- <i>Sound the Gong</i> .
	<i>A Thousand Beginnings and Endings</i> , Ellen Oh, ed	840 L 328 pp	FAN 2020	Asia Mythology	16 retellings by Asian authors of folklore and mythology of East and South Asia, reimagined into fantasy to sci fi to contemporary fiction.
	<i>Voyages in the Underworld of Orpheus Black</i> , Marcus Sedgwick	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>What Souls Are Made Of: A Wuthering Heights Remix</i> , Tasha Suri	287 pp	HF 600 L 2022	UK 1786	Heathcliff is an outsider from India, who flees after hearing Catherine's cruel words. Alternating perspectives in which each character must journey to discover their past history and find comfort and healing.
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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 <i>Of Light and Shadow</i> , Tanaz Bhathena
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 & 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.

8/19/2025