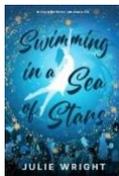
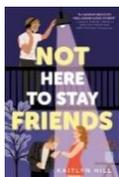


# Battle of the Books: 2024



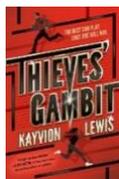
## **Swimming in a Sea of Stars by Julie Wright (realistic fiction) (Gr. 8+)**

A single kindness can save a life. After surviving a suicide attempt, Addison returns to school where her life intersects with four other students, each of whom are also struggling with their own issues. This powerful story reminds us that we are all dealing with thoughts that we don't always share...but maybe we should.



## **Not Here to Stay Friends by Kaitlyn Hill (realistic fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

Two childhood best friends reunite in L.A. the summer before senior year--but when one of them ends up starring on a reality dating show, their feelings for each other get complicated.



## **Thieves' Gambit by Kayvion Lewis (suspense) (Gr. 9+)**

Seventeen-year-old Ross Quest enters the Thieves' Gambit, a competition consisting of dangerous, international heists, in order to save her mother's life.



## **Drowning by T.J. Newman (suspense) (Adult)**

When Flight 1421 crashes into the ocean six minutes after take-off, the surviving passengers believe they are the lucky ones until the plane starts to sink to the ocean floor, trapping them inside, and they must wait to be rescued as both air and time run out.



## **Monstrous by Sarah Myer (graphic novel memoir) (Gr. 8+)**

Bullied by her classmates, Sarah, a Korean American girl growing up in a rural community with few Asian neighbors, channels her rage into her art and cosplay until it threatens to explode.



## **Accountable by Dashka Slater (non-fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

When a high school student started a private Instagram account that used racist and sexist memes to make his friends laugh, he thought of it as "edgy" humor. Then a few other people found out, and pretty soon, everyone knew. No one was safe from the repercussions of the account's discovery: not the girls targeted by the posts. Not the boy who created the account. Not the group of kids who followed it. What does it mean to be held accountable for harm that takes place behind a screen?



## **Impossible Escape by Steve Sheinkin (non-fiction) (Gr. 8+)**

A true story of two Jewish teenagers racing against time during the Holocaust--one in hiding in Hungary, and the other in Auschwitz, plotting escape. This is the story of one of history's most famous whistleblowers, and how his death-defying escape helped save over 100,000 lives.



## **The Winter Soldier by Mackenzi Lee (science fiction) (Gr. 7+)**

When their missions intersect across time as they struggle to solve the same mystery decades apart, the Winter Soldier and sixteen-year-old Bucky Barnes find their lives colliding in a way that neither of them would have expected, changing the course of their respective wars.



## **Bonesmith by Nicki Pau Preto (fantasy) (Gr. 8+)**

For Wren, becoming a Valkyr – a ghost-fighting warrior - is a chance to solidify her place in the noble house of Bone. But when sabotage causes her to fail her qualifying trial, she is banished to the Border Wall...until the kidnapping of the prince gives her one last chance to reclaim her rightful position of power.

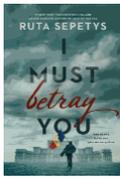


## **A Door in the Dark by Scott Reintgen (fantasy) (Gr. 9+)**

Snatched from the safety of Balmerick University's campus and set down in the middle of nowhere, Ren Monroe guides the remaining wizardry students through the punishing wilderness with limited magical resources, stumbling upon tangled secrets while being stalked by something in the dark woods.

\*\*\*This title contains very mature content and language.

# Battle of the Books: 2023



## **I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys (historical fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

In a country governed by isolation, fear, and a tyrannical dictator, seventeen-year-old Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, but he decides to use his position to try to outwit his handler, undermine the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country.



## **The Words We Keep by Erin Stewart (realistic fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

When sixteen-year-old Lily Larkin's older sister, Alice, begins to struggle with her mental health, Lily attempts to keep everything together and perfect, despite her own growing anxiety. She tries to hide it all, but her secret is threatened by Micah, a guy who was in treatment with her sister...



## **We Deserve Monuments by Jas Hammonds (realistic fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

Forced to move to Georgia to live with her terminally ill grandmother, 17-year-old Avery discovers that the racist history of this town is rooted in her family in ways she can't even imagine, jeopardizing her newfound romance with her next-door neighbor.



## **Nothing More to Tell by Karen M. McManus (suspense) (Gr. 9+)**

Brynn Gallagher uses her internship at a new true crime show to investigate the unsolved murder of her favorite teacher, uncovering secrets about her school, her teacher, and her ex-best friend in the process.



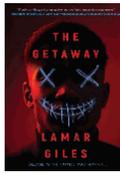
## **All my Rage by Sabaa Tahir (realistic fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

When his attempts to save his family's motel spiral out of control, Salahudin and his best friend Noor must decide what their friendship is worth and how they can defeat the monsters of their past and in their midst.



## **Jester by Brielle Porter (fantasy) (age 13+)**

Lisette's father killed the King. His execution leaves Lisette alone, disgraced, and without the magic he intended to pass on to her. In Oasis, that's a problem. Glutted with enchanted performers, Oasis is a sin city where courtiers pay in gold to drink, gamble, and above all, be entertained. To survive on its competitive streets, Lisette must hide her lack of magic at all costs. When her secret is threatened, desperate times call for desperate measures...



## **The Getaway by Lamar Giles (horror/dystopian) (Gr. 9+)**

Jay discovers that the mountain resort where he lives and works with his friends and family is also a doomsday oasis for the rich and powerful who expect top-notch customer service even as the world outside the resort's walls disintegrates.



## **The Do-Over by Lynn Painter (magical realism) (age 14+)**

Sixteen-year-old Emilie, stuck in a Groundhog/Valentine's Day nightmare where she discovers her family is moving and her boyfriend is cheating on her, decides to embark upon The Day of No Consequences, but when her repetitive day suddenly ends, she must face the consequences of her actions.



## **Ahead of the Game by Kevin J. Ryan (non-fiction) (Adult)**

*Ahead of the Game* tells the story of Delane Parnell, the motley group of underdogs and hustlers that helped build his several-hundred-million-dollar startup, and the previously overlooked students now participating in America's growing esports phenomenon. It's a tale of perseverance, courage, loyalty, race, family, tragedy, and believing you can overcome the odds-no matter how severely they're stacked against you.



## **The World After the Fall by SingNsong | art by Undead Gamja (GN fantasy)**

A heroic and powerful lot known as Walkers cleared the tower floors to save humanity, until the day that the Stone of Regression was discovered. Walkers could now "return" to the past, and slowly, everyone left. The brave few who remained formed Carpe Diem, a group of people who refused to abandon the world and represented humanity's last hope. But once the last Walker reached floor 100, he no longer knew what to believe...

\*\*\*This title contains very mature content and language.

# Battle of the Books: 2022



## **You'll be the Death of Me\*\* by Karen McManus (mystery) (Gr. 9+)**

Estranged friends Ivy, Mateo, and Cal witness a murder while skipping school, and the only way they can solve it is by revealing what they have been hiding from one another--and themselves.



## **You'd Be Home Now\*\* by Kathleen Glasgow (realistic fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

After a fatal car accident that reveals Emory's brother Joey's opioid addiction, Emory struggles to help him on his road to recovery and make herself heard in a town that insists on not listening.



## **This Poison Heart by Kalynn Bayron (fantasy) (Gr. 9+)**

Teenaged Briseis, who possesses a supernatural power over plants, even poisonous ones, inherits a dilapidated estate in rural New York and must protect herself and her family from centuries-old secrets that threaten their lives.



## **In the Wild Light by Jeff Zentner (realistic fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

Attending an elite prep school in Connecticut on a scholarship with his best friend (and secret love) science genius Delaney Doyle, sixteen-year-old Cash Pruitt, from a small town in East Tennessee, struggles with leaving his hometown and ailing grandfather behind.



## **Tokyo Ever After by Emiko Jean (realistic fiction) (Gr. 8+)**

After learning that her father is the Crown Prince of Japan, Izumi travels to Tokyo, where she discovers that Japanese imperial life--complete with designer clothes, court intrigue, paparazzi scandals, and a forbidden romance with her handsome but stoic bodyguard--is a tough fit for the outspoken and irreverent eighteen-year-old from northern California.



## **Enduring Freedom by Jawad Arash & Trent Reedy (historical fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

In this dual-narrative tale, a teenage American army private and an Afghan boy living under the horrors of the Taliban, caught on separate sides of the world during the tumultuous times leading up to and following 9/11, come to discover how much more they have in common than they ever could have imagined.



## **Burden Falls by Kat Ellis (mystery) (Gr. 9+)**

When someone close to Ava Thorn is brutally murdered and Ava becomes the primary suspect, she starts to wonder if ghostly legends surrounding her town might be more fact than fiction.



## **From A Whisper to a Rallying Cry\*\* by Paula Yoo (non-fiction) (Adult)**

When Japanese cars were believed to be killing the jobs of American autoworkers, Asian American Vincent Chin found himself in a brutal bar fight that proved lethal. His murder inspired anger and protest in the hearts of Detroit's Asian American Community during 1982. This is a searing examination of killing, trial, and the following verdicts.



## **Crown of Bones by A.K. Wilder (fantasy) (Gr. 9+)**

In a world on the brink of mass extinction, Ash the lowly scribe records the efforts of a young heir, a dangerous High Savant, a mysterious child-stealing Mar race and a secretive guide, who take respective roles in the fight for humanity's survival.



## **Firekeeper's Daughter\*\* by Angeline Boulley (mystery) (Gr. 10+)**

Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths.

\*\*\*This title contains very mature content and language.

# Battle of the Books: 2021



## **The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Barnes (suspense)** (Grade 8+)

Avery Grambs is a relative nobody when she learns that an eccentric billionaire she never knew has died and named her the largest beneficiary to his massive estate. What will his relatives do to win back their inheritance?



## **Sisters of Sword and Song by Rebecca Ross (fantasy)** (Grade 9+)

Evadne is finally being reunited with her sister, Halcyon, who has been proudly serving in the queen's army. But when Halcyon appears earlier than expected, Eva knows something has gone terribly wrong. Halcyon is on the run after being charged with murder. Though Halcyon's life is spared during her trial, the punishment is heavy. And when Eva volunteers to serve part of Halcyon's sentence, she's determined to find out exactly what happened...



## **The Loop by Ben Oliver (dystopian)** \*Content warning: violence & language\*

Life inside The Loop—the futuristic death row for teens under eighteen—is one long repetitive purgatory. But when news of the encroaching chaos in the outside world reaches the inmates and disorder begins to strike, the prison becomes the least of their worries. (Grade 9+)



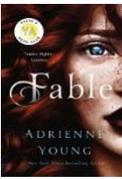
## **The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins (dystopian)**

In a prequel to "The Hunger Games," eighteen-year-old Coriolanus Snow prepares to mentor the female tribute from District 12 in the tenth Hunger Games, with the fate of his family hanging on the slim chance that he can help her win the Games. (Grade 9+)



## **True or False: A CIA Analyst's Guide to Spotting Fake News by Cindy Otis (non-fiction)**

A former CIA analyst unveils the history of fake news and gives readers tips on how to avoid falling victim to it. "Fake news" is a term used a lot in the last few years, but it's not a new phenomenon. From the ancient Egyptians to the founding fathers and Jack the Ripper, fake news has been around as long as human civilization. But that doesn't mean that we should just give up on the idea of finding the truth in today's society. (Grade 8+)



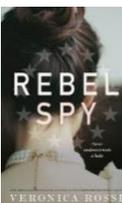
## **Fable by Adrienne Young (adventure)** (Grade 7+)

Seventeen-year-old Fable joins the young, motley crew of the Marigold to escape the island where her father abandoned her, but she quickly realizes life off the island is more dangerous than she imagined.



## **Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi & Yusef Salaam (realistic fiction in verse)**

Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white... \*Content warning: language\* (Grade 8+)



## **Rebel Spy by Veronica Rossi (historical fiction)** (Grade 9+)

Frannie Tasker knows little about the war in 1776, until a shipwreck near her home presents an unthinkable opportunity. The body of a young woman floating in the sea gives Frannie the chance to escape her brutal stepfather. Assuming the identity of the drowned girl, Frannie lives her life as a spy, risking everything to pass information on to George Washington's spy ring as agent 355. Frannie believes in the fight for American liberty—but what will it cost her?



## **A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson (mystery)** (Grade 9+)

During her senior capstone project, Pippa Fitz-Amobi is determined to find the real killer in a closed, local murder case, but not everyone wants her meddling in the past. As she gets closer to the truth, Pippa finds herself fearing for her life and unsure who to trust.



## **Axiom's End by Lindsay Ellis (science fiction)** \*Content warning: language\*

In 2007, a leak revealing that the U.S. government might have engaged in alien contact has sent the country into turmoil, and Cora's absent father is the force driving this controversy. She wants nothing to do with him until she learns how deeply entrenched her family is in the cover-up. To save her own life, she offers her services as an interpreter to an alien

\*\*\*This title contains very mature content and language.

# Battle of the Books



## **Let's Go Swimming on Doomsday\*\* by Natalie Anderson (historical fiction) (Gr. 8 +)**

Forced to become a child soldier, sixteen-year-old Somali refugee Abdi must confront his painful past and make decisions that may cost him his life.



## **Aurora Rising by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff (science fiction) (Gr. 8+)**

Told in separate voices, eighteen-year-old Tyler Jones, top graduate of Aurora Academy, and a squad of unlikely heroes embark on their first mission with Auri, a stowaway with a mysterious past.



## **The Grace Year\*\* by Kim Liggett (dystopian) (Gr. 9+)**

Tierney James, sixteen, struggles to endure the year in which she and other young women are banished to the wild until, purified, the survivors are allowed to return home and marry. No one is allowed to speak of what happens during the grace year...but that is about to change.



## **Sorcery of Thorns by Margaret Rogerson (fantasy) (Gr. 7+)**

When apprentice librarian Elisabeth is implicated in sabotage that released the library's most dangerous grimoire, she becomes entangled in a centuries-old conspiracy that could mean the end of everything.



## **The Far Away Brothers by Lauren Markham (non-fiction) (Gr. 7+)**

Identical twins Ernesto and Raul Flores, seventeen, must flee El Salvador, make a journey across the Rio Grande and the Texas desert, face capture by immigration authorities, and struggle to navigate life in America. (This is the Young Adult Adaptation)



## **Jackpot by Nic Stone (realistic fiction) (Gr. 8+)**

When Rico sells a jackpot-winning lotto ticket, she thinks maybe her luck will finally change, but only if she and her popular and wildly rich classmate, Zan, can find the ticket holder who hasn't claimed the prize.



## **Call It What You Want\*\* by Brigid Kemmerer (realistic fiction) (Gr. 9+)**

Once-popular Rob and overachiever Maegan, both dealing with serious family issues, quickly form a bond that is threatened when Rob confides plans to repair the damage his father caused.



## **Two Can Keep A Secret\*\* by Karen McManus (mystery) (Gr. 8+)**

While Ellery and her twin brother are staying with their grandmother in a Vermont community known for murder, a classmate goes missing and Ellery may be next. The town is picture-perfect, but it's hiding secrets...



## **A Curse So Dark and Lonely by Brigid Kemmerer (fairy-tale retelling) (Gr. 9+)**

Eighteen for his 327<sup>th</sup> time, Prince Rhen despairs of breaking the curse that turns him into a beast at the end of each day until feisty Harper enters his life. Fall in love, break the curse. Break the curse, save the kingdom...

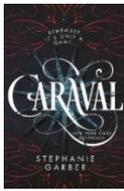


## **Fireborne by Rosaria Munda (fantasy) (Gr. 7+)**

Two dragonriders must go head-to-head for the top position in the Callipolan fleet, and protect the new regime from those who lost power. *Game of Thrones* meets *Red Rising* in a fantasy that's full of rivalry, romance, and dragons.

\*\*\*This title contains very mature content and language.

# Battle of the Books



## **Caraval by Stephanie Garber (Gr. 8+)**

Two sisters, Scarlett and Tella, leave their cruel father to attend *Caraval*, the yearly performance where the audience participates in the show. Along the way, Tella is kidnapped and Scarlett is aided by a mysterious sailor, finding herself in a game of love and heartbreak.



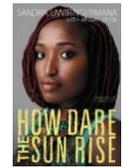
## **Far From the Tree by Robin Benway (Gr. 8+)**

*Far From the Tree* tells the story of three teens who were all given up for adoption by the same birth mother. They grew up with no knowledge of each other until a shocking event pulls them all together.



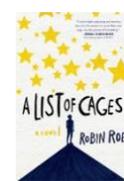
## **The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas\*\*\* (Gr. 8+)**

Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor where she lives and the upper class where she has school. The hard sharing of worlds is unraveled when she sees her best friend Khalil shot by a police officer. Starr is the only one who knows what actually happened that night and what she says or does not say could affect her families' safety and her community's perception.



## **How Dare the Sun Rise by Sandra Uwiringiyiman (Gr. 7+)**

A true story written by Sandra, a girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on how she survived a Massacre, immigrated to America, and overcame her trauma by sharing her story with the world.



## **A List of Cages by Robin Roe (Gr. 9+)**

When Adam Blake decides to work in the counseling office as a senior elective, he has no idea that he will change the course of Julian's life forever. Julian, who has been in and out of foster care, has secrets about his home life that he is determined to keep. Adam hopes Julian will open up and seek help before it is too late...



## **This Mortal Coil by Emily Suvada (Gr. 9+)**

In a world where people are implanted with technology to recode their DNA, gene-hacking genius Cat must decrypt her late father's message concealing a vaccine to a horrifying plague.



## **Roar by Cora Carmack (Gr. 8+)**

The heir of Pavan, Aurora should be the perfect Queen, but has no trace of the magic she'll need to protect her people. To keep her secret, Aurora's mom arranges for her to marry a dark Stormling prince from another kingdom. However, secrets Aurora uncovers about him frighten her. Sneaking out to spy on him, she stumbles upon a black market dealing in the very thing she lacks--storm magic. Can she steal the magic to save her kingdom?



## **Turtles All The Way Down by John Green (Gr. 9+)**

Aza Holmes is a young woman navigating her daily life within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. She tries to push those thoughts aside when a childhood friend's dad goes missing, but the more she pushes them aside, the more they threaten to take over her mind.



## **Warcross by Marie Lu (Gr. 8+)**

When teenage coder Emika Chen hacks her way into the opening tournament of the Warcross Championships, she glitches herself into the game as well as a sinister plot with major consequences for the entire Warcross Empire.



## **Educated by Tara Westover (Adult memoir—very sophisticated for 8<sup>th</sup> graders)**

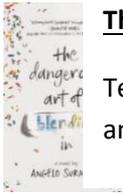
A memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist, abusive family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

\*\*\*This title contains very mature content and language.



**Dry by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman (Gr. 9+)**

A lengthy California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, turning Alyssa's quiet suburban street into a warzone, and she is forced to make impossible choices if she and her brother are to survive.



**The Dangerous Art of Blending In by Angelo Surmelis (Gr. 10+)**

Teenager Evan Panos deals with realizing he is gay, a possible romance with his best friend, and an abusive mother. (Content warning—child abuse, homosexuality/sexual activity)



**The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris (Adult novel)**

Based on the true story of Lale and Gita Sokolov, two Slovakian Jews, who survived Auschwitz and eventually made their home in Australia. In that terrible place, Lale was given the job of tattooing the prisoners marked for survival, literally scratching numbers into his fellow victims' arms in indelible ink to create one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust. (Content warning—swearing, sexual activity, intense Holocaust situations)



**Unearthed by Amie Kaufman (Gr. 9+)**

Scholar Jules Addison and scavenger Amelia Radcliffe join forces to unravel secrets of a long-extinct civilization, only to discover something that could bring an end to the human race.



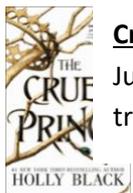
**A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi (Gr. 9+)**

It's 2002, a year after 9/11. Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped, is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She drowns her frustrations in music and break-dancing with her brother. But then she meets Ocean James. He's the first person who really seems to want to get to know Shirin, but can she let her guard down? (Content warning—swearing, sexual activity)



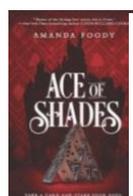
**Aftermath by Kelley Armstrong (Gr. 9+)**

Skye Gilchrist is moving home after losing her brother in a school shooting. But there's no sympathy for Skye and her family because Luka wasn't a victim; he was a shooter. Skye's friend Jesse lost his brother in the shooting. Ripped apart by tragedy, Jesse and Skye can't resist delving into the mysteries of their past. What they discover will change everything...



**The Cruel Prince by Holly Black (Gr. 9+)**

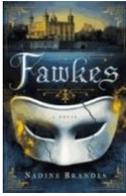
Jude, seventeen and mortal, gets tangled in palace intrigues while trying to win a place in the treacherous High Court of Faerie, where she and her sisters have lived for a decade.



**Ace of Shades by Amanda Foody (Gr. 9+)**

When Enne leaves finishing school early to pursue her missing mother she finds Levi Glaisyer who is not a proper gentleman but a street lord who catches them both in a dangerous gamble that could mean their lives.

\*\*\*This title contains very mature content and language.



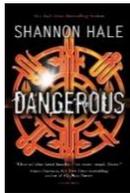
**Fawkes by Nadine Brandes (Gr. 7+)**

Infected with the stone plague in seventeenth-century England, Thomas Fawkes pursues the only available cure by reluctantly joining his father's Gunpowder Plot to assassinate the king.



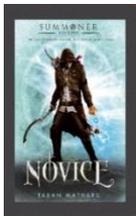
**Truthwitch by Susan Dennard (Gr. 8+)**

Safiya and Iseult just want to be free to live their own lives, but war is coming to the Witchlands. With the help of Prince Merik and the hindrance of a Bloodwitch, the friends must fight emperors, princes, and mercenaries alike, who will stop at nothing to get their hands on a Truthwitch.



**Dangerous by Shannon Hale (Gr. 7+)**

When aspiring astronaut Maisie Danger Brown, who was born without a right hand, and the other space camp students get the opportunity to do something amazing in space, Maisie must prove how far she is willing to go to protect everything she has ever loved.



**The Novice by Taran Matharu (Gr. 7+)**

When blacksmith apprentice Fletcher discovers that he has the ability to summon demons from another world, he travels to Adept Military Academy where must decide where his loyalties lie. The fate of an empire is in his hands.



**The Fixer by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (Gr. 9+)**

When her grandfather develops dementia, sixteen-year-old Tess, who has been keeping his Montana ranch going, is whisked away to Washington, D.C., by a sister she barely knows and thrown into a world of politics, power, wealth, love triangles, and family secrets.