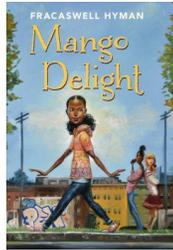


### Bud, Not Buddy

by Christopher Paul Curtis  
Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

### Mango Delight

by Fracaswell Hyman  
Seventh-grader Mango's life is transformed when she becomes a YouTube sensation, and soon she must decide what kind of friend she wants to have and what kind of kid she wants to be.

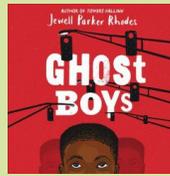


### The Stars Beneath Our Feet

by David Barclay Moore  
Unable to celebrate the holidays in the wake of his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly Rachpaul struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city at the Harlem community center

### Hurricane Child

by Kheryn Callender  
Born on Water Island in the Virgin Islands during a hurricane, which is considered bad luck, twelve-year-old Caroline sets out in a hurricane to find her missing mother.

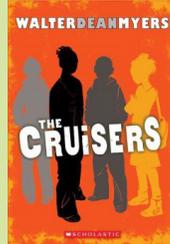
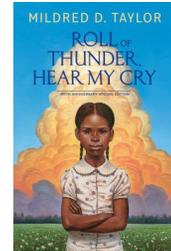


### Ghost Boys

by Jewell Parker Rhodes  
After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

### Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

by Mildred D Taylor  
A black family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination the children do not understand.



### The Cruisers

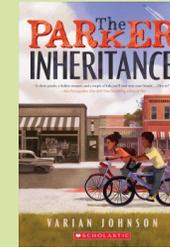
by Walter Dean Myers  
Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy, learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, The Cruiser, to try to make peace.

Updated 01/28/19



**LOVETTSVILLE LIBRARY**  
12 N. Light St. | Lovettsville, VA 20180  
(540) 822-5824 | library.loudoun.gov

# African American Lead Characters Middle Grade Novels

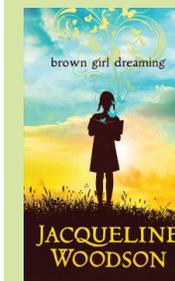
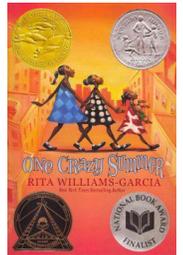


### The Parker Inheritance

by Varian Johnson  
Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure. When she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow book-worm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert

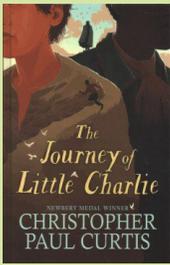
### One Crazy Summer

by Rita Williams-Garcia  
After travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, Delphine and her two sisters discover that their mother, a dedicated poet, wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.



### Brown Girl Dreaming

by Jacqueline Woodson  
In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.



## The Journey of Little Charlie

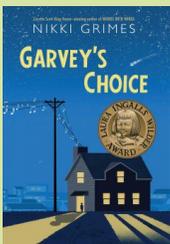
by Christopher Paul Curtis  
When his sharecropper father is killed, leaving the family in debt, twelve-year-old Little Charlie makes a deal to accompany fearsome plantation overseer Cap'n Buck north in pursuit of fugitives.

fugitives.

## It All Comes Down to This

by Karen English

Wanting to participate in community activities but feeling marginalized in her new, all-white 1965 Los Angeles neighborhood, 12-year-old Sophie struggles with household dynamics until the riots in nearby Watts and the unfair arrest of a friend make her realize that her life is more complicated than she realized. By the Coretta Scott King Honor Award-winning author of the Carver Chronicles. Simultaneous eBook. 20,000 first printing.



## Garvey's Choice

by Nikki Grimes

Preferring science and reading to the sports his father wants him to pursue, insecure Garvey comforts himself with food and endures teasing by bullies before joining the school chorus,

where his musical talents help him accept himself and bond with his father.



## Midnight Without a Moon

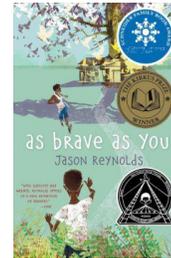
by Linda Williams Jackson  
Rose Lee Carter, an African-American girl, dreams of life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields, but when Emmett Till is murdered and his killers are

acquitted, Rose is torn between seeking her destiny outside of Mississippi or staying and being a part of an important movement.

## As Brave As You

by Jason Reynolds

When Genie and his older brother spend their summer in the country with their grandparents, he learns a secret about his grandfather and what it means to be brave.



## Patina

by Jason Reynolds

A newbie to the track team, Patina "Patty" Jones must learn to rely on her family and teammates as she tries to outrun her personal demons.

## Betty Before X

by Ilyasah Shabazz

A powerful middle-grade novel about the childhood activism of Malcolm X's wife, written by their daughter, describes how young Betty finds confidence and purpose by volunteering for the Housewives League in 1945

Detroit, learning skills and developing awareness that inspires her future as a Civil Rights icon.



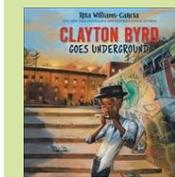
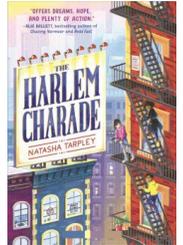
## Love Double Dutch!

by Doreen Spicer-Dannelly  
Kayla must salvage her double Dutch dreams after her parents' rocky relationship takes her away from Brooklyn - and her beloved team - to spend the summer in North Carolina.

## The Harlem Charade

by Natasha Tarpley

After Elvin's grandfather is attacked, Jin, Alexandra, and Elvin band together to find out who is responsible, a search that leads them into conflict with a politician with plans to turn Harlem into an amusement park.



## Clayton Byrd Goes Underground

by Rita Williams-Garcia

Feeling most alive when he plays music with his grandfather, aspiring bluesman Clayton Byrd

is devastated when his grandfather passes away and his mother forbids him from playing the blues, losses that compel him to run away in the hope of joining other bluesmen on the road.

## You Don't Know Me But I Know You

by Rebecca Barrow

Ignoring a letter written years earlier by her biological mother, Audrey attempts to fill in the missing pieces of her life until an unexpected pregnancy compels her to learn the truth about the history and choices that led to her own existence.

