

Young Adult Graphic Novels

Suitable for readers in secondary schools

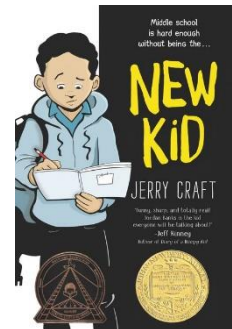
Catherine's War by Julia Billet, illustrated by Claire Fauvel, translated by Ivanka Hahnenberger 2020

Rachel Cohen has discovered her passion—photography. Although she hasn't heard from her parents in months, she loves the people at her school, adores capturing what she sees in pictures, and tries not to worry too much about Hitler's war. But as France buckles under the Nazi regime, danger closes in, and Rachel must change her name and go into hiding. Inspired by a true survival story that asks universal questions about a young girl's coming of age.



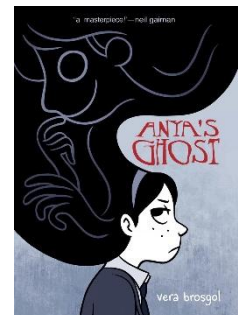
New Kid by Jerry Craft 2019 **series**

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enrol him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of colour in his entire grade. Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one.



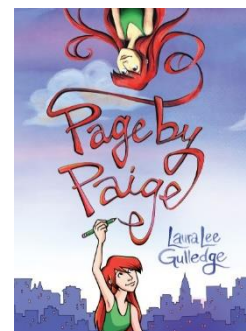
Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol 2011

Anya could really use a friend. But her new BFF isn't kidding about the "Forever" part . . . Of all the things Anya expected to find at the bottom of an old well, a new friend was not one of them. Especially not a new friend who's been dead for a century. Falling down a well is bad enough, but Anya's normal life might actually be worse. She's embarrassed by her family, self-conscious about her body, and she's pretty much given up on fitting in at school. A new friend—even a ghost—is just what she needs. Or so she thinks.



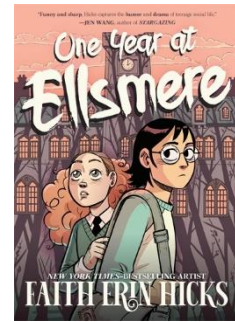
Page by Paige by Laura Lee Gulledge 2011

Paige Turner has just moved to New York with her family, and she's having some trouble adjusting to the big city. In the pages of her sketchbook, she tries to make sense of her new life, including trying out her secret identity: artist. As she makes friends and starts to explore the city, she slowly brings her secret identity out into the open, a process that is equal parts terrifying and rewarding.



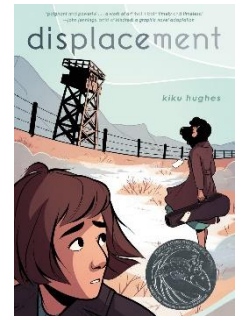
One Year at Ellsmere by Faith Erin Hicks 2020

Was boarding school supposed to be this hard? When studious thirteen-year-old Juniper wins a scholarship to the prestigious Ellsmere Academy, she expects to find a scholastic utopia. But living at Ellsmere is far from ideal: She is labelled a “special project,” Ellsmere's queen bee is out to destroy her, and it’s rumoured that a mythical beast roams the forest next to the school.



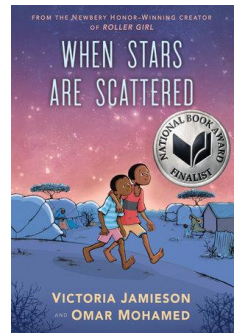
Displacement by Kiku Hughes 2020

In this historical graphic novel a teenager is pulled back in time to witness her grandmother's experiences in World War II-era Japanese internment camps. These displacements keep occurring until Kiku finds herself "stuck" back in time. Living alongside her young grandmother and other Japanese American citizens in internment camps, Kiku gets the education she never received in history class.



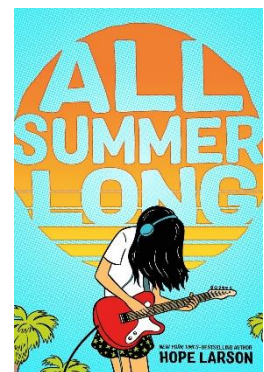
When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, illustrated by Victoria Jamieson, and Iman Geddy 2020

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.



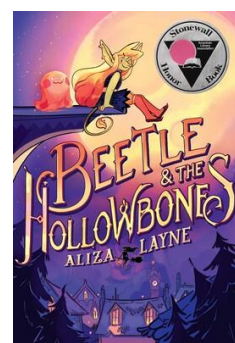
All Summer Long by Hope Larson 2018 series

Thirteen-year-old Bina has a long summer ahead of her. She and her best friend, Austin, usually do everything together, but he's off to soccer camp for a month, and he's been acting kind of weird lately anyway. So it's up to Bina to see how much fun she can have on her own. At first it's a lot of guitar playing, boredom, and bad TV, but things look up when she finds an unlikely companion in Austin's older sister, who enjoys music just as much as Bina.



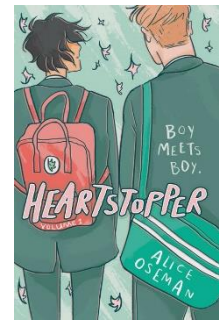
Beetle & the Hollowbones by Aliza Layne 2020

In the eerie town of 'Allows, some people get to be magical sorceresses, while other people have their spirits trapped in the mall for all ghastly eternity. Twelve-year-old goblin-witch Beetle has less than a week to rescue her best ghost, encourage BF Kat to stand up for herself, and confront the magic she’s been avoiding for far too long.



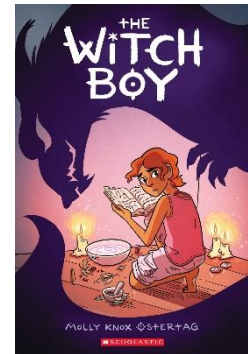
Heartstopper by Alice Oseman 2019 **series - mature content**

Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways. A story about love, friendship, loyalty and mental illness.



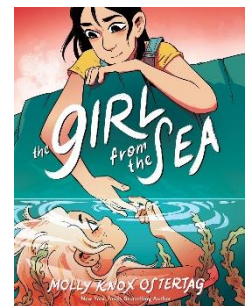
The Witch Boy by Molly Knox Ostertag 2017 **series**

Even magic has rules . . . Everyone in Aster's family is born with magic. Boys grow up to be shapeshifters, girls into witches. But Aster can't seem to get the hang of shapeshifting. Instead, he seems to have a knack for casting spells. When a boy goes missing Aster knows he can search for him with the witchcraft he's been secretly learning. Could breaking his family's most important tradition save the day—or ruin everything?



The Girl from the Sea by Molly Knox Ostertag 2021

Fifteen-year-old Morgan has a secret: She's desperate to finish high school and escape her sad divorced mom, her volatile little brother, and worst of all, her great group of friends...who don't understand Morgan at all. Because really, she has a lot of secrets, including the one about wanting to kiss another girl. Then one night, Morgan is saved from drowning by a mysterious girl named Keltie. The two become friends and suddenly life on the island doesn't seem so stifling anymore.



White Bird by R.J. Palacio (could also be middle grade) 2020

Julian is best-known as Auggie Pullman's classroom bully from *Wonder*. *White Bird* reveals a new side to Julian's story, as Julian discovers the moving and powerful tale of his grandmother, who was hidden from the Nazis as a young Jewish girl in occupied France during the Second World War. An unforgettable, unputdownable story about strength, courage and the power of kindness to change hearts.



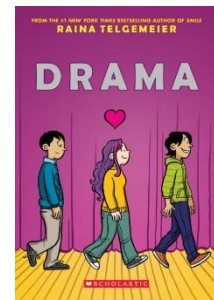
Pumpkin Heads by Rainbow Rowell 2019

Deja and Josiah are seasonal best friends. Every autumn, all through high school, they've worked together at the best pumpkin patch in the whole wide world. But this Halloween is their last season at the pumpkin patch. Their last shift together. Their last goodbye. A tender and hilarious story about two irresistible teens discovering what it means to leave behind a place - and a person - with no regrets.



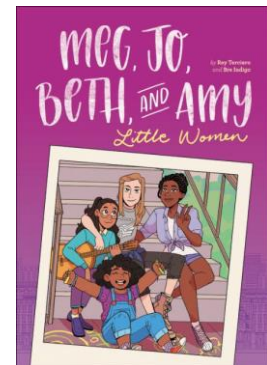
Drama by Raina Telgemeier 2013

Callie loves theatre. and while she would totally try out for her middle school's production of *Moon over Mississippi*, she's a terrible singer. Instead she's the set designer for the stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget.



Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy: A Modern Retelling of Little Women by Rey Terciero and Bre Indigo 2018

Rejoin Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy as they are re-envisioned as a blended family in modern day NYC. With their father away in the military and their mother working overtime to support the family, the March sisters have to rely on one another to make it from day to day.



Sheets by Brenna Thummler 2018

A story of ghosts, family, loneliness, and laundromats. Marjorie, a practical thirteen-year-old in charge of the family laundry business, feels like a ghost. Wendell is a ghost who attempts to create a new afterlife for himself and unknowingly sabotages the life that Marjorie is struggling to maintain.



The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang 2018

Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride—or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Sebastian is too busy hiding his secret life from everyone. At night he takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia. Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend) is the brilliant dressmaker Frances—one of only two people who know the truth: sometimes this boy wears dresses. How long can Frances defer her dreams to protect a friend?



Go with the Flow by Lily Williams and Karen Schneemann 2020

Abby, Brit, Christine, and Sasha are fed up. Hazelton Sick of an administration that puts football before female health, the girls confront a world that shrugs—or worse, squirms—at the thought of a menstruation revolution. They band together to make a change. It's no easy task, but they have each other's backs. That is, until one of the girls goes rogue, testing the limits of their friendship and pushing the friends to question the power of their own voices.





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Mooncakes by Suzanne Walker illustrated by Wendy Xu 2019

A story of love and demons, family, and witchcraft. Nova Huang works at her grandmothers' bookshop, where she helps them loan out spell books and investigate any supernatural occurrences in their New England town. One fateful night, she follows reports of a white wolf into the woods, and she comes across the unexpected: her childhood crush, Tam Lang, battling a horse demon in the woods. Pursued by dark forces eager to claim the magic of wolves and out of options, Tam turns to Nova for help. Their latent feelings are rekindled against the backdrop of witchcraft, untested magic, occult rituals, and family ties both new and old in this enchanting tale of self-discovery.



Compiled by Sarah Custance and Mia Macrossan

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