Chee, Traci. **The Reader.** New York: G.P. Putnam & Sons, 2016. 464 p. (Grades 8 and up). After her aunt is kidnapped, Sefia sets out to rescue her, aided only by a mysterious object passed down to her by her murdered parents. But the object – a book – is dangerously powerful in her illiterate society, and soon Sefia’s journey becomes an adventure, complete with pirates and assassins.

Davis, Kenneth C. **In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives.** New York: Holt, 2016. 304 p. (Grades 6 and up). Many of America’s Founding Fathers, who fought for liberty, were also slaveholders. This well-researched work of nonfiction focuses on the lives of five enslaved people owned by four presidents.

Hitchcock, Bonnie-Sue. **The Smell of Other People’s Houses.** New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2016. 223 p. (Grades 7 and up). Set in 1970s rural Alaska and told in alternating voices, this novel shares the stories of four teens who are dealing with tough situations. Their tales of poverty, family, and dreams of the future unexpectedly intertwine.

King, A.S. **Still Life with Tornado.** Dutton. 304 p. (Grades 9 and up). Teenaged artist Sarah works her way through a fractured family, a blocked talent, and an existential crisis with the help of her future and past selves in this surrealist take on the small and large cruelties of everyday life.

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. **March: Book Three.** Top Shelf Productions, 2016. 256 p. (Gr. 8 and up). This final volume of Congressman Lewis' graphic memoir about the civil rights era tells the extraordinary story of the pivotal moments and activists that changed our country.

Longo, Jennifer. **Up to this Pointe.** New York: Random House, 2016. 360 p. (Gr. 8 and up) Seventeen-year-old Harper has – “The Plan” – to become a professional ballerina with the San Francisco Ballet alongside her best friend, Kate. When Harper’s plan takes an unexpected turn, she finds herself contemplating her future (and a cute boy) while working as a research assistant in Antarctica.
Mabry, Samantha. *A Fierce and Subtle Poison*. Algonquin Young Readers, 2016. 278 p. (Grades 7 and up). Lucas is 17 and spends his summers in Puerto Rico where his father is a hotel developer. He is a part of the local world when he isn’t living in a hotel, returning to the States regularly, and generally living a good life. Always fascinated by the overgrown house not far from his hotel, he’s heard all the stories of why it is shuttered and of the family who lived there. Stories of death and despair and the supernatural surround the house which only makes Lucas more curious. When Marisol, the cousin of Lucas’s friend disappears the story of the house and its occupants begins to unravel revealing a story of parental love, obsession and disappearances going back years.

McGinnis, Mindy. *The Female of the Species*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2016. 352 pages. (Gr. 10 and up). Alex’s older sister was brutally murdered. Her murderer was brutally murdered. Alex did it, but no one knows. Alex is vengeance. She cannot be trusted if she sees someone wronged because violence is her second language.

Niven Jennifer. *Holding Up the Universe*. Knopf. 400 p. (Gr 9 and up) Libby Strout begins to fight her way through the jungle that is high school only to be sidetracked by Jack Masslen, who is also only trying to survive high school. The story examines normal teenage issues as well as obesity and face blindness.

Reichardt, Marisa. *Underwater*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016. 282 p. (Gr 8 and up). Morgan can’t move on from that horrible day. She can’t even get past the front door of her apartment. She feels like she is constantly underwater. Just when it seems she can’t catch her breath, a new boy moves in next door. Evan helps Morgan remember the rush she used to get from swimming. Will his friendship be what it takes to get outside and back in the water? Will he be able to convince her to move on from that deadly day?

Whaley, John C. *Highly Illogical Behavior*. New York: Dial, 2016. 256 p. (Grades 9 and up). Lisa, wanting to be accepted into a prestigious college psychology program, needs a topic for her entrance essay. She decides to cure and then write about an old classmate, 16-year-old agoraphobic Simon.

White, Kiersten. *And I Darken*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2016. 496 p. (Grades 7 and up). “So the question becomes, Daughter of the Dragon, what will you sacrifice? What will you let be taken away so that you, too, can have power?” Lada, a ruthless princess and her gentle brother Radu are taken by their father from their home in Wallachia and given to be raised in the Ottoman Empire. Lada knows that being ruthless is the only way to survive. She despises the Ottomans and plans her vengeance while Radu grows to feel he is at home. Mehmed, heir to the Ottoman throne, Lada and Radu form a noxious triangle that tests love and loyalty. This story is based on the life of Vlad the Impaler if he had been female.
Winters, Cat. *The Steep & Thorny Way*. New York: Amulet Books, 2016. 335 p. (Gr. 9 and up). Hanalee Denney is a mixed raced daughter whose black father has been killed in an Oregon small town that is riddled with hatred and prejudice. When she discovers that her father might have been murdered, the racial intolerance of her community makes it difficult to solve the mystery. But through perseverance and grit, Hanalee is determined to uncover the horrible truth.

Yoon, Nicola. *The Sun Is Also a Star*. Delacorte Press, 2016. 348 p. (Gr 8 and up). Natasha likes science and facts. She’s not the type to fall in love with a boy in the middle of New York City, especially when her family is 12 hours away from being deported to Jamaica. Enter Daniel and The Universe. Daniel has always been the “good son” who works hard to live up to his parents’ high expectations. When they meet on the street, a million futures lie before them. Which one will come true?

Zentner, Jeff. *The Serpent King*. New York: Crown Books for Young Readers, 2016. 384 p. (Gr. 9 and up). Dill, Lydia and Travis are best friends who have a common trait of being outcasts from the small town prejudice of rural Tennessee. Senior year is fast drawing to a close and they are all yearning for and fearing the changes that loom ahead. But none of them can predict or prepare for the tragedy that will define their friendship forever.