Acevedo, Elizabeth. *The Poet X*. New York: HarperTeen, 2018. 361 p. (Grades 9 and up). In this powerful verse novel, Xiomara is grappling with doubts about her religion, her Dominican parents’ expectations, growing distance from her twin brother, and her own self-image. She finds solace in writing poems that express her true feelings.

Albert, Melissa. *The Hazel Wood*. New York: Flatiron Books, 2018. 368 p. (Grades 8 and up). Bad luck has always followed Alice and her mother. She has grown up constantly on the move in order to escape the notoriety of her Grandmother and her famous fairy tales about a place called the Hinterland. When comes home to discover her mother missing and a note telling her to come to her Grandmother’s estate The Hazel Wood, she realizes there is much more to the story than her mother ever explained.

Bagieu, Pénélope. *Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World*. New York: First Second, 2018. 291 p. (Grades 8 and up). Women from all over the world, both famous and those less known, are celebrated in this graphic novel biography highlighting their lives and achievements.

Bhathena, Tanaz. *A Girl Like That*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018. 378 p. (Grades 9 and up). When Zarin and her friend Porus die in a car crash on a lonely highway outside of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, no one is surprised that scandalous Zarin would die breaking the rules. Orphaned in India at a young age, sixteen-year-old Zarin lives with her abusive aunt and disinterested uncle in Jeddah. As a half-Parsi, half-Hindi girl living in a strict Muslim world, Zarin was always treated with suspicion and disdain. Determined to live up to her reputation as “a girl like that,” Zarin cut school, smoked cigarettes and often spent unsupervised time with boys. Only her Parsi friend Porus ever saw the real her. Told in a multitude of voices, a true picture of the girl Zarin was is formed, and readers will weep for her tragic ending.

Black, Holly. *The Cruel Prince*. New York: Little, Brown & Company, 2018. 370 p. (Grades 9 and up). Jude, a mortal raised in Elfhame by the Fae who murdered her parents, intends to earn her place in society by becoming a knight, but the court of creatures has no use for humans. Betrayal, humiliation, and trickery are the modus operandi in the Shifting Isles. As her family and the court splinter, Jude must make choices to ensure her survival and to triumph over her enemies.

Bliss, Bryan. *We’ll Fly Away*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2018. 416 p. (Grades 9 and up). Best friends since childhood, Luke and Toby have always relied on each other and their dream of leaving their dysfunctional families behind. As their senior year
progresses and the goal of escape is within reach, each boy makes choices that end in heartbreaking consequences.

Carter, Ally. *Not If I Save You First*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. 293 p. (Grades 7 and up). Maddie is the daughter of a Secret Service Agent. Logan is the President’s son. After the attempted kidnapping of the First Lady, Maddie’s dad resigns and takes Maddie with him to Alaska. Logan promised to keep in touch. He did not. Six years later, they are thrown together in an unexpected turn of events, and their survival depends on her.

Clayton, Dhonielle. *The Belles*. New York: Freeform, 2018. 434 p. (Grades 8 and up). In a world devoid of color and beauty, only with the help of a Belle can the people of Orléans be beautiful. Camellia, a Belle with powers to turn people from their natural grey to gorgeous, wants nothing more than to bring forth beauty as the Queen’s own personal Belle. When Camellia and her Belle sisters are brought to court and forced to compete for the honor, she discovers her gift might be more powerful than she realized and the royal family will do anything to keep it a secret.

Kisner, Adrienne. *Dear Rachel Maddow*. New York: Feiwel & Friends, 2018. 265 p. (Grades 9 and up). Brynn Harper doesn’t see much good in the world. Her life is spiraling down the drain, and no one appears to care except her English teacher. Grudgingly agreeing to complete a school project, Brynn emails Rachel Maddow for a school assignment. What begins as an assignment turns into a journal of the hardships and inequalities in Brynn’s life, starting with the betrayal of her ex-girlfriend and the abusive treatment from her mother and stepfather. Full of anger at the injustices she sees at school, Brynn treats her email drafts as a journal and takes the reader along for the journey. At times both hysterically funny and heartbreaking, Brynn shines a light on the struggles she faces and the grief she copes with throughout her junior year.

Flores-Scott, Patrick. *American Road Trip*. New York: Christy Ottaviano Books, Henry Holt and Company, 2018. Print. 330 p. (Grades 7 and up). Teodoro “T” Avila has worked hard all year to get his life on the right track. He is finally earning good grades, has goals for after graduation and has been talking to a girl he really likes. When his brother Manny comes from Iraq with severe PTSD, their sister Xochitl becomes convinced that a sibling road trip will fix all their problems. Should T have to sacrifice what he has worked hard to achieve for his family? Will deviating from his plan derail his dreams or is this trip exactly what he needs to save the family?

Lippincott, Rachael. *Five Feet Apart*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018. 281 p. (Grades 7 and up). Stella Grant is a YouTuber, advocate and planner. While she may not be able to control her Cystic Fibrosis, she can control everything else in her life. When a serious infection lands Stella in the hospital instead of on her Senior trip to Mexico, she still works to find the positive. Meeting fellow CF patient Will Newman injects chaos and the unknown into her life. CF patients aren’t supposed to touch each other, in fact, they are supposed to stay six feet apart. As Will and Stella feel their friendship blossom into something more, Stella questions her rules and control. Does the world end if she decides five feet is more tolerable?

Roehrig, Caleb. *White Rabbit*. New York: Feiwel & Friends, 2018. 329 p. (Grades 9 and up). When Rufus is summoned to a party to help his estranged half sister, he arrives to discover Alice alone, covered in her boyfriend’s blood and clutching a knife with no memory of what happened. Promising his sister he will clear her name, Rufus begins to unravel the complex knot that surrounds the party and Alice’s unreliable memory. As he gets closer to revealing the motive and the murderer, Rufus faces danger from places he couldn’t begin to anticipate.

Sanderson, Brandon. *Skyward*. New York: Delacorte, 2018. 513 p. (Grades 7 and up). As the human population struggles to survive on the planet Detrius, Spensa “Spin” Nightshade dreams of nothing but becoming a pilot and fighting the alien Krell. Fighting against the stigma of her traitorous deceased father, she is admitted to flight school and is determined to prove herself worthy. When she discovers an abandoned starfighter in a long forgotten cave, Spensa believes she holds the key to win the war. As she works to earn her spot in the Defiant Defense Force and repair her ship, Spensa soon learns the war, and the story of her father, are far more complex than she could imagine.

Shusterman, Neal. *Thunderhead*. New York: Simon & Schuster BFYR, 2018. 504 p. (Grades 9 and up). In the sequel to *Scythe*, Citra is now a junior Scythe carrying out the honor of bringing death to others, straying away from more ruthless practices of her peers. Rowen, on the other hand, is on the run as Scythe Lucifer, working to dismantle the corrupt “New Order” Scythes that take glee in causing mass death and destruction. As New Order begins to take over, Citra and Rowen must join forces and somehow get the Thunderhead, the omniscient being that watches over them all, to intervene before all of humanity ends.

Torres Sanchez, Jenny. *Fall of Innocence*. New York: Philomel, 2018. 425 p. (Grades 9 and up). After being violently assaulted at age 8, Emilia, now 16, and her family must come to terms with the fact that the wrong man was sent to prison. Will the family that is barely holding together become stronger or finally shatter apart?

Wang, Jen. *The Prince and the Dressmaker*. New York: First Second, 2018. 276 p. (Grades 6 and up). Prince Sebastian and Frances strike up a friendship when, in an effort for the prince to find a bride, Frances discovers his alter ego, Lady Crystallia, a fabulous, dress-wearing persona, who will only wear the amazing fashion creations that Frances comes up with. As Frances supports her friend with gorgeous gowns, Sebastian’s secret
comes closer to being revealed with every outing. When they both start to develop feelings for each other, will Sebastian’s secret bring them closer together or tear them apart?