

# Reading List

## **BLUE SCHOLAR**



### [The Death of Jayson Porter](#) by Jaime Adoff

Sixteen-year-old Jayson struggles with the harsh realities of his life which include an abusive mother, a drug-addicted father, and not fitting in at his school, and bring him to the brink of suicide.

### [Tyrell](#) by Coe Booth

Fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so he does not end up in jail like his father.

### [Bronxwood](#) by Coe Booth

This is a sequel to the book *Tyrell*. The story picks up after Tyrell's father is just out of jail – and now Tyrell struggles to deal with this! Tyrell's father has plans of his own, and doesn't seem to care whether or not Tyrell wants to go along with them.

### [Bucking the Sarge](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis

Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

### [The Battle of Jericho](#) by Sharon Draper

Jericho and his cousin Josh attend Douglas High School, and suffer the consequences of joining what seems to be a "reputable" school club at their school.

### [Bang!](#) by Sharon Flake

A teenage boy must face the harsh realities of his life, his disintegrating family, and destructive temptations as he struggles to find his identity as a young man.

### [Bronx Masquerade](#) by Nikki Grimes

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

### [The First Part Last](#) by Angela Johnson

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

**Harlem Hustle** by Janet McDonald

Eric "Hustle" Samson, a smart and street-wise seventeen-year-old dropout from Harlem, aspires to rap stardom, a dream he naively believes is about to come true.

**Dope Sick** by Walter Dean Myers

Seeing no way out of his difficult life in Harlem, seventeen-year-old Jeremy "Lil J" Dance flees into a house after a drug deal goes awry and meets a weird man who shows different turning points in Lil J's life when he could have made better choices.

**Black Boy, White School** by Brian F. Walker

When fourteen-year-old Anthony "Ant" Jones from East Cleveland, Ohio gets a scholarship to a prep school in Maine, he finds that he must change his image and adapt to a world that never fully accepts him, but when he goes home he discovers that he no longer truly belongs there either.

**Two the Hard Way** by Travis Hunter

Romeo Braxton is seventeen years old and lives in Atlanta. His older brother, Kwame, was jailed on a disputed drug charge, and is up for a parole hearing. Romeo's unreliable mother has come around and there are rumors that Romeo's going to be a teen father. The excitement of his brother Kwame's return is shattered when their mother is found beaten, and the brothers must try to unravel an incident that is more than a case of random street crime.