

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.