

Reading List

GREEN SCHOLAR



[Handbook for Boys: A Novel](#) by Walter Dean Myers

Jimmy and Kevin could really use a guide to life. Their activities almost land them in juvenile detention until Duke employs them in his Harlem barbershop. Duke has rules for everything. But is he offering good advice or just more aggravation?

[We Could Be Brothers](#) by Derrick Barnes

Two eighth-graders from very different backgrounds, Robeson "Crease" Battlefield and Pacino Clapton, discover in afterschool detention that they have a great deal in common.

[Bad Boy](#) by Walter Dean Myers

A gripping, funny, heartbreaking, and unforgettable novel, author Walter Dean Myers richly weaves the details of growing up as a boy in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s: a loving home life with his adopted parents, Bible school, street games, and the vitality of his neighborhood.

[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.

[The Great Greene Heist](#) by Varian Johnson

This book is a fun caper novel for middle school students, written by Varian Johnson. It features Jackson Greene, a semi-reformed prankster who sets out, with a talented crew, to ensure that his former almost-girlfriend wins the election for student council president. There are spy novel trappings such as disguises, hidden microphones, and custom gadgets.

[The Crossover](#) by Kwame Alexander

Basketball-playing twin brothers, Josh and Jordan ("J.B."), find challenges to their relationship on and off the court as they cope with changes in their lives. The brothers are stars of their middle school basketball team. They are also successful students, since their mother will stand for nothing else. As the two brothers move to a successful basketball season, readers can see their differences despite the fact that they are siblings. The twins experience their first major rift when one brother is attracted to a new girl in their school.

[Dangerous Skies](#) by Suzanne Fisher Staples

Two close friends find their relationship threatened when they discover a corpse.

Oh, Brother by Johniece Marshall Wilson

Andrew and Alex are two brothers, but are total opposites. They are opposites in personality and always manage to get on each other's nerves. Andrew, the older brother, likes to socialize and has a hard time keeping a part-time job. Alex, the younger brother, is athletic and a dutiful paperboy with his own bicycle. Their relationship changes for the better when a gang of boys harasses Andrew and steals the bicycle he borrowed from Alex. The fight inspires Alex take matters into his own hands, while Andrew learns how to be a more responsible person.

Kick by Walter Dean Myers and Ross Workman

Kevin Johnson is thirteen years old. He's a good kid, a great friend, and a star striker for his Highland, New Jersey, soccer team. His team is competing for the State Cup, and he wants to prove he has more than just star-player potential. Kevin's never been in any serious trouble . . . until the night he ends up in jail. Enter Sergeant Brown, a cop assigned to be Kevin's mentor. If Kevin and Brown can learn to trust each other, they might be able to turn things around before it's too late.

On the Come Up by Travis Hunter

DeMarco Winslow is sixteen years old and from a tough Atlanta neighborhood. He is just getting out of juvenile jail, and finds out that not much has changed: his mother is still an alcoholic, there's a new guy in the house, and there's no food for three-year-old Devin. His twin sister, Jasmine, seems to be hanging out with the wrong crowd and may have even dropped out of school. DeMarco may have just gotten out of juvenile jail, but is determined to change his life.