

October 2022 Booklist

The books listed are just a starting point. Please read whatever you and your adult think is a good choice for you, your reading level, and interests. Call us at 1-800-252-9605 or email us at tbp.ral@tsl.texas.gov to get more suggestions!

Note: DB indicates audiobooks, BR indicates Braille books, and LB indicates large print books.

This list includes poetry and novels in verse by Black poets, and some scary stories.

For Younger Readers (Pre-school through about 2nd grade)

CHANGE SINGS by Amanda Gorman

DB 105158

As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities and, most importantly, in themselves. Commercial audiobook. For grades K-3. 2021.

JUST LIKE ME by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

DB 104938

A collection of poetry about girls of all kinds: girls who feel happy, sad, scared, powerful; girls who love their bodies and girls who don't; country girls, city girls; girls who love their mother and girls who wish they had a father. Commercial audiobook. For preschool-grade 2. 2020.

EERIE ELEMENTARY SERIES (BOOKS 1-4) by Jack Chabert

DB 85187

Books one through four, written between 2014 and 2016, featuring hall monitor Sam Graves and his friends and their battle against their malevolent school. Includes: THE SCHOOL IS ALIVE!, THE LOCKER ATE LUCY!, RECESS IS A JUNGLE!, and THE SCIENCE FAIR IS FREAKY! For grades K-3.

(We also have collections of books 5-8 and two standalone novels if you like the first four in the series!)

IN A DARK, DARK ROOM AND OTHER SCARY STORIES by Alvin Schwartz

DB 50750 and BR 05909

Seven very short, scary stories to tell at night in front of the fire or in the dark. For grades K-3.

For Middle-Grade Readers about 3rd -7th grades

KING AND THE DRAGONFLIES by Kacen Callender

DB 98682 and LB 13354

In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2020.

WORDS WITH WINGS by Nikki Grimes

DB 05082

When Gabby's parents separate, her tendency to daydream becomes essential to coping with life's difficulties, which only increase when she moves with her mother to a new home and a new school. For grades 3-6.

SHORT AND SHIVERY: THIRTY CHILLING TALES by Robert D San Souci

DB 30728

Restless spirits, impish demons, and other frightening creatures haunt these thirty spine-tingling tales from around the world. For grades 5-8. 2009.

SPIRIT HUNTERS by Ellen Oh

DB 89692

Shortly after twelve-year-old Harper Raine and her family move into an old gothic house that's rumored to be haunted, her little brother starts talking to a boy who isn't there. Harper and her new friend, Dayo, race to investigate the sinister events before it's too late. Violence. For grades 4-7. 2017.

For Teen and YA Readers generally high school and older

CONCRETE KIDS by Amyra León

DB 104190

Musician, playwright, author, and activist Amyra León's free verse prose chronicles her childhood in Harlem. León explores love and loss, melody, and bloodshed as she navigates the intricacies of foster care, mourning, self-love, and resilience. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For junior and senior high readers. 2020.

INHERITANCE by Elizabeth Acevedo

DB 108803

In her most famous spoken-word poem, author of the Pura Belpré-winning novel-in-verse *The Poet X* Elizabeth Acevedo embraces all the complexities of Black hair and Afro-Latinidad, the history, pain, pride, and powerful love of that inheritance. Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

SLASHER GIRLS AND MONSTER BOYS (various authors and narrators)

DB 82325

A collection of fourteen short stories inspired by classic tales and films, ranging from gruesome to horror to psychological thrillers and supernatural creatures. Stories are

written by a selection of notable young-adult authors of every genre. Violence and strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2015.

WHITE SMOKE by Tiffany Jackson

DB 105467

When her mom accepts a new job that comes with a free house, one that Mari now has to share with her bratty little stepsister, Piper, they soon experience household items vanishing, lights turning off, and a foul smell. But worse, Piper keeps talking about a friend who wants Mari gone. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.