



Just Like Me: African American Fiction for Teens

Books that explore the various stories and experiences of contemporary African American teens

Kendra

by Coe Booth

YA BOOTH

High schooler Kendra longs to live with her mother who, unprepared for motherhood at age fourteen, left Kendra in the care of her grandmother.

Jason & Kyra

by Dana Davidson

YA DAVIDSON

Handsome and popular Jason tries to come to terms with his irascible, often absent father and his growing attraction to the quiet, studious Kyra.

Courtin' Jade

by L. Divine

YA DIVINE

Just as South Bay High's Jayd Jackson is feeling good that her two main social circles have finally come together, drama takes over once more. [A volume in the *Drama High* series]

The Meltdown

by L. Divine

YA DIVINE

Jayd needs time to recoup from her dramatic school year, but time is the one thing she doesn't have. She's said yes to becoming a debutante, and now she has to deal with her girl Mickey's jealousy--on top of babysitting, hair braiding, cheer camp, and a summer writing class. [A *Drama High* series super edition]

Just Another Hero

by Sharon Draper

YA DRAPER

As Kofi, Arielle, Dana, November, and Jericho face personal challenges during their last year of high school, a misunderstood student brings a gun to class and demands to be taken seriously. [Other books in series: *The Battle of Jericho*; *November Blues*]

Begging for Change

by Sharon Flake

YA FLAKE

Teenaged Raspberry Hill tries to sort out her confused feelings of disgust, shame, and love for her homeless, drug addicted father and worries that she may have inherited his lying and stealing ways.

Something Like Hope

by Shawn Goodman

YA GOODMAN

Shavonne, a fierce, desperate seventeen year-old in juvenile lockup, wants to turn her life around before her eighteenth birthday, but corrupt guards, out-of-control girls, and shadows from her past make her task seem impossible.

Teenie

by Christopher Grant

YA GRANT

High school freshman Martine, longing to escape Brooklyn and her strict parents, is trying to get into a study-abroad program but when her long-time crush begins to pay attention to her and her best friend starts an on-line relationship, Teenie's mind is on anything but her grades.

The First Part Last

by Angela Johnson

YA JOHNSON

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

Standing Against the Wind

by Traci Jones

YA JONES

As she tries to escape her poor Chicago neighborhood by winning a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school, shy and studious eighth-grader Patrice discovers that she has more options in life than she previously realized.

Twists and Turns

by Janet McDonald

YA MCDONALD

With the help of a couple of successful friends, eighteen- and nineteen-year-old Teesha and Keeba try to capitalize on their talents by opening a hair salon in the Brooklyn housing project where they live.

Staying Pure

by Stephanie Perry Moore

YA MOORE

Book 1 in the Payton Skyy series. As romantic feelings for her boyfriend get too strong, high school senior Payton is confused about what to do.

Handbook for Boys

by Walter Dean Myers

YA MYERS

Sixteen-year-old Jimmy, on probation for assault, talks about life with three old men in a Harlem barbershop and hears about the tools he can use to get what he wants.

Sunrise Over Fallujah

by Walter Dean Myers

YA MYERS

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

Upgrade U

by Ni-Ni Simone

YA SIMONE

College freshman Seven McKnight deals with the infidelity of her basketball player boyfriend, a crumbling relationship with her best friend, and the everyday stress of life on her own.

Hip-Hop High School

by Alan Lawrence Sitomer

YA SITOMER

Follows an African-American teenager through four years at her inner-city high school.

Chameleon

by Charles R. Smith

YA SMITH

The summer before starting high school in inner-city Los Angeles, fourteen-year-old Shawn grapples with his first experience of love, the complicated bonds of friends and family, and the reality of street gang violence.

Black and White

by Paul Volponi

YA VOLPONI

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.

The Hand You're Dealt

by Paul Volponi

YA VOLPONI

When 17-year-old Huck's vindictive math teacher wins the town poker tournament and takes the winner's watch away from Huck's father while he's in a coma, Huck vows to get even with him.

When Kambia Elaine Flew In From Neptune

by Lori Aurelia Williams

YA WILLIAMS

Shayla, an aspiring writer growing up in a poor section of Houston, can't figure out the new girl next door, Kambia Elaine, who tells fantastic stories. She slowly realizes that Kambia Elaine needs help, but Shayla doesn't know where to find it.

Jumped

by Rita Williams-Garcia

YA WILLIAMS-GARCIA

The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved.