Like Water on Stone
By Dana Walrath

Inspired by a true story, this relates the tale of siblings Sosi, Shahen, and Mariam who survive the Armenian genocide of 1915 by escaping from Turkey alone over the mountains.

White Rose
By Kip Wilson

Tells the story of Sophie Scholl, a young German college student who challenges the Nazi regime during World War II as part of the White Rose, a non-violent resistance group.

Finding Baba Yaga
By Jane Yolen

Escaping an abusive father and complicit mother, Natasha comes upon a cabin in the woods that walks on chicken feet and is inhabited by the legendary character from folklore, Baba Yaga.

Partly Cloudy
By Gary Soto

The fleeting emotions of teenagers, as changeable as the weather, ring true in these emotionally resonant poems. Told from the point of view of both boys and girls, narrators of various ethnicities fall in love for the first time, pine over crushes, and brood over broken hearts. Tender, lighthearted, and surprising, this collection will capture teens, tweens, and anyone who remembers what it’s like to be a young person in love.

We encourage readers to be informed about the titles they are reading. Commonsemsedia.org is a great resource to help you decide if a book is right for you.
FAVORITES IN VERSE FOR TEENS

**The Poet X**
*By Elizabeth Acevedo*

A young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother’s religion and her own relationship to the world.

**Solo**
*By Kwame Alexander*

Seventeen-year-old Blade, who endeavors to resolve painful issues from his past to navigate the challenges of his former rock star father’s addictions, scathing tabloid rumors, and a protected secret that threatens his own identity.

**5 to 1**
*By Holly Bodger*

In the year 2054, after decades of gender selection, India now has a ratio of five boys for every girl, making women an incredibly valuable commodity. Tired of marrying off their daughters to the highest bidder and determined to finally make marriage fair, the women who form the country of Koyanagar have instituted a series of tests so that every boy has the chance to win a wife.

**Thin Places**
*By Lesley Choyce*

Declan Lynch starts hearing the voice of a girl inside his head. It isn’t long until he starts falling in love and sets out on a quest that brings him to the shores of Ireland, and places where the “real” world seems like a thin veil stretched over someplace else, in the hopes of finding her.

**Moonrise**
*By Sarah Crossan*

With little money or support, Joe Moon, seventeen, travels to Texas to help the older brother he barely knows through his last few weeks before being executed for murder.

**500 Words or Less**
*By Juleah Del Rosario*

Nic Chen refuses to spend her senior year branded as the girl who cheated on her charismatic and lovable boyfriend. To redefine her reputation among her Ivy League-obsessed classmates, Nic begins writing their college admissions essays. But the more essays Nic writes for other people, the less sure she becomes of herself, and whether her moral compass even points north anymore.

**Bull**
*By David Elliott*

David Elliott turns a classic on its head in form and approach, updating the timeless story of Theseus and the Minotaur.

**Skatefate**
*By Juan Felipe Herrera*

After a drag racing accident leaves him in a wheelchair, Lucky Z, a Chicano foster child, struggles to find his place in a new high school until he begins writing poetry and finds his voice.

**Crank**
*By Ellen Hopkins*

Kristina Georgia Snow is the perfect daughter: gifted high school junior, quiet, never any trouble. But on a trip to visit her absentee father, she meets a boy who introduces her to crank.

**Lies, Knives, and Girls in Red Dresses**
*By Ronald Koertge*

Once upon a time, a strung-out match girl sold CDs tostoners. Twelve impetuous sisters escaped Dad-dy’s clutches to jiggle and cavort and wear out their shoes. Bluebeard’s latest wife discovered she’d married a serial killer. And Little Red Riding Hood confessed that she kind of wanted to know what it’s like to be swallowed whole.

**The Realm of Possibility**
*By David Levithan*

A variety of students at the same high school describe their ideas, experiences, and relationships in a series of interconnected free verse stories.

**Blood Water Paint**
*By Joy McCullough*

In Renaissance Italy, Artemisia Gentileschi endures the subjugation of women that allows her father to take credit for her extraordinary paintings, rape and the ensuing trial, and torture, buoyed by her deceased mother’s stories of strong women of the Bible.

**American Ace**
*By Marilyn Nelson*

Connor’s grandmother leaves his dad a letter when she dies, and the letter’s confession shakes their tight-knit Italian-American family: The man who raised Dad is not his birth father. But the only clues to this birth father’s identity are a class ring and a pair of pilot’s wings. And so Connor takes it upon himself to investigate.

**Crazy**
*By Linda Vigen Phillips*

Laura is a typical fifteen-year-old growing up in the 1960’s, navigating her way through classes, friendships, and even a new romance. But she’s carrying around a secret: her mother is suffering from a mental illness.

**Long Way Down**
*By Jason Reynolds*

A fiercely stunning novel that takes place in 60 pot-ent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he’s going to murder the guy who shot and killed his brother. As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn’s fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.