

## 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.

## When We Make It

*By Elisabet Velasquez*

Sarai uses verse to navigate the strain of family traumas and the systemic pressures of toxic masculinity and housing insecurity in a rapidly gentrifying Brooklyn, questioning the society around her, her Boricua identity, and the life she lives.

## Nonfiction Poetry:

### Ain't Burned All the Bright

*By Jason Reynolds*

A smash up of art and text that viscerally captures what it means to not be able to breathe, and how the people and things you love most are actually the oxygen you most need.

## Hey, Girl!

*By Rachel Rooney*

These poems explore the comfort of books, awe at the night sky, playground tricks and friendships, and first love conundrums. There are worries, anxieties, and questioning thoughts--but there's also courage, humor and hope, as one girl strikes out for the future, determined to dance to her own tune, find freedom, and be herself.

## 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.

## Please Excuse this Poem

*By Brett Fletcher Lauer*

This book features one hundred acclaimed younger poets from truly diverse backgrounds and points of view, whose work has appeared everywhere from The New Yorker to Twitter, tackling a startling range of subjects in a startling range of poetic forms. Dealing with the aftermath of war; unpacking the meaning of "the rape joke"; sharing the tender moments at the start of a love affair: these poems tell the world as they see it.

## Poem & Paradoxes

*By Kyle Evans*

This collection answers these questions and many more, setting fun poetry and illustrations against fascinating mathematical ideas in a unique and amusing way. This book will appeal to math-hungry teens and young adults, but also to anyone who enjoys word-play and mind-bending concepts.

## Voices in the Air

*By Naomi Shihab Nye*

This sequence of ninety-five poems pay tribute to the essential voices past and present that have the power to provoke us, lead us, and give us hope.

## When the Stars Wrote Back

*By Trista Mateer*

This powerful collection unpacks how to heal from trauma, explores love in many forms, and empowers you to love yourself and take up the space you deserve.

We encourage readers to be informed about the titles they are reading. [Commonsensemedia.org](http://Commonsensemedia.org) is a great resource to help you decide if a book is right for you.

# FAVORITES IN VERSE FOR TEENS



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## 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.

## 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 to stoners. Twelve impetuous sisters escaped Daddy'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 potent 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.

## Forget Me Not

*By Ellie Terry*

When her mother breaks up with yet another boyfriend, Calliope meets Jinsong at her latest middle school, who becomes her friend despite her Tourette syndrome and the embarrassment it can cause.

## Like Water on Stone

*By Dana Walrath*

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