

St Edward's Academy Black History Reading List



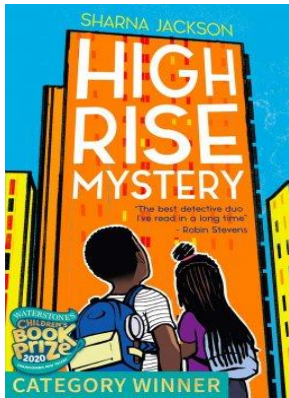
The books that follow have been recommended by St Edward's Academy staff and students.

Fiction

High Rise Mystery

Sharna Jackson

With its vibrant urban setting and winning characterisation, High Rise Mystery is a very welcome addition to the burgeoning child detective genre. The murder of their art school teacher sets young sleuths Nik and Norva on a thrilling adventure to bring his killer to justice. Whilst the brooding presence of the high rise block, the Tri, ensures the novel feels topical and real, High Rise Mystery is, at its heart, a classic children's whodunit.



Look Both Ways

Jason Reynolds

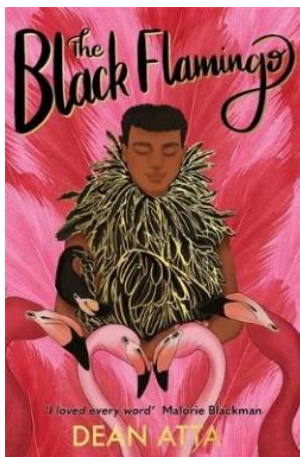
When the bell rings and school is finished for the day, the walkers are finally set free. For ten blocks they have no-one telling them what to do; they can talk about bogies, skateboard, plan dramatic escapes, make jokes, face bullies, and hear about the school bus that fell from the sky... In ten stories (one per block), find out what really happens on the walk home from school, when there are no parents or teachers to supervise (or stop the fun!). From hilarious escapades to brave challenges, join the walkers for one journey and many, many detours...



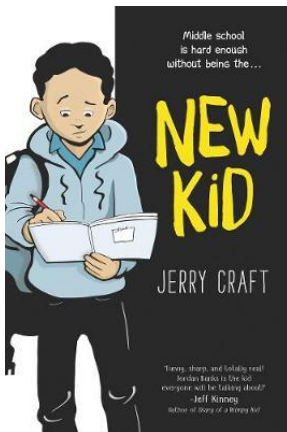
The Black Flamingo

Dean Atta

Big hearted and dizzyingly flamboyant, Atta's verse novel about a black gay teen reclaiming his identity as a drag artist is an outspoken triumph from opening couplet to last. A beautiful book about self-discovery and embracing the real you, The Black Flamingo is suffused with optimism, positivity and love.



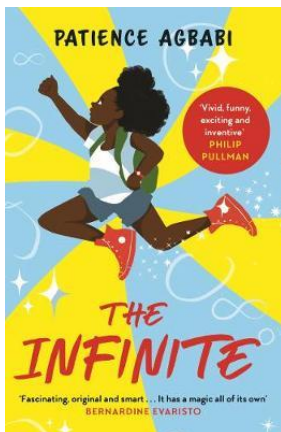
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New Kid

Jerry Craft

Perfectly judged and beautifully illustrated, Craft's graphic novel delivers a powerful tale of fitting in at a new school as a person of colour. Told with wit, candour and warmth, *New Kid* is a sensitive and entertaining story which countless readers will be able to relate to.



The Infinite

Patience Agbabi

Brilliantly fresh, funny and original, *The Infinite* tells the story of Elle, a Leapling – one of the special children born on 29th February who possess The Gift of moving through time. With her best pal Big Ben, she sets off on a journey into the future – to fix things before it is too late. Delightful and energetic, *The Infinite* is a smart adventure full of lovable characters.



Liddle Bit

Alex Wheatle

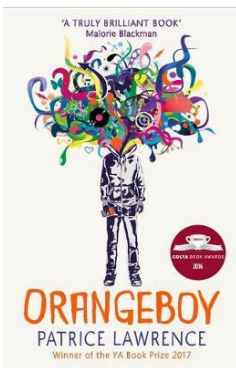
This is a tender and totally believable YA novel by a writer who knows unseen places, unheard people and untold stories. He knows because he has lived a life that might have remained hidden if he hadn't found within him the urge and talent to write. His previous books spoke to many who were not regular readers. This one will excite the urban young because their world is brought alive.

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Orangeboy

Patrice Lawrence

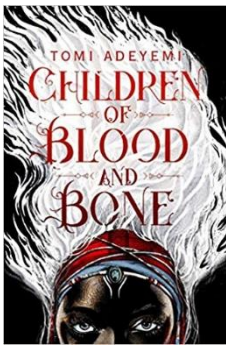
Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize for Older Readers, Lawrence's raw yet tender debut examines the vexed moral choices for a Black British teenager who always swore to stick to the right path. Lyrically written with an almost musical rhythm and brimming with compassion and insight, Orangeboy is a wise, engrossing read for both teens and adults alike.



Children of Blood and Bone

Tomi Adeyemi

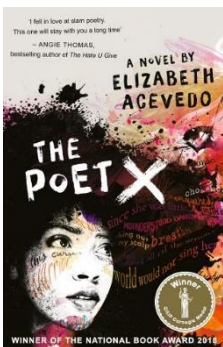
Children of Blood and Bone is a fierce and unflinching saga of divided love, belief and legacy. The first in an epic new fantasy series, interweaving the influences of West African myth with unforgettable characters and expert world-building, it ripples with rage and magic. A novel that will haunt the reader long after the final page.



The Poet X

Elizabeth Acevedo

Written entirely in verse, this is a novel about finding your voice and standing up for what you believe in, no matter how hard it is to say. Brave, bold and beautifully written - dealing with issues of race, feminism and faith.



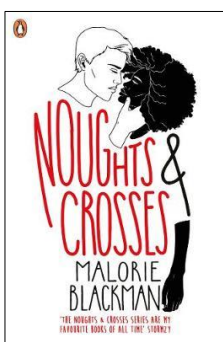
Noughts & Crosses

Malorie Blackman

Sephy is a Cross: she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely, and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her.

Callum is a nought: he's considered to be less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses - but he dreams of a better life.

They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question.



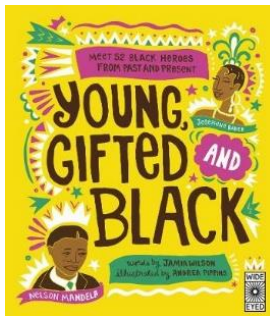
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Then - in spite of a world that is fiercely against them - these star-crossed lovers choose each other.

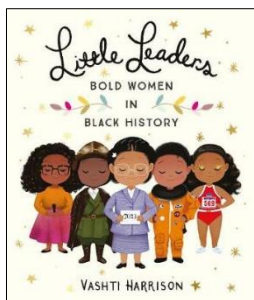
Non Fiction



Young, Gifted and Black

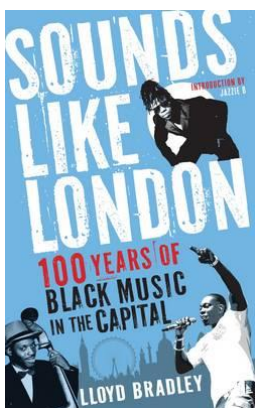
Jamia Wilson and Andrea Pippins

Meet 52 icons from the past and present in this celebration of inspirational achievement - a collection of stories about changemakers to encourage, inspire and empower the next generation of changemakers.



Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History

Featuring 40 trailblazing black women in the world's history, this book educates and inspires as it relates true stories of women who broke boundaries and exceeded all expectations. Debut author/illustrator Vashti Harrison pairs captivating text with stunning illustrations as she tells the stories of both iconic and lesser-known female figures of black history - from nurse Mary Seacole, to politician Diane Abbott, mathematician Katherine Johnson and singer Shirley Bassey.

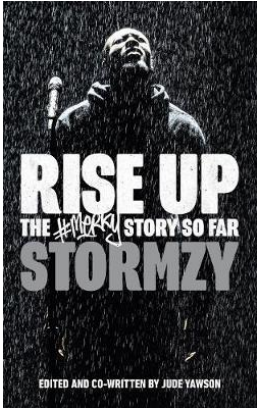


Sounds like London: 100 Years of Black Music in the Capital

Lloyd Bradley

Black music has been part of London's landscape since the First World War, when the Southern Syncopated Orchestra brought jazz to the capital. Following the wave of Commonwealth immigration, its sounds and styles took up residence to become the foundation of the city's youth culture. Sounds Like London is about the shaping of a city, and in turn the whole nation, through music.

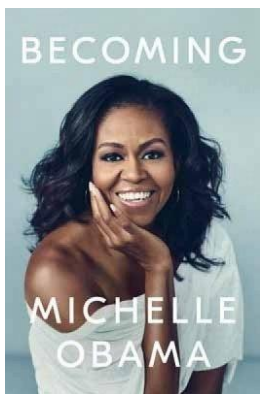
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Rise Up

Stormzy

Stormzy has risen from one of the most promising musicians of his generation to a spokesperson for a generation. Rise Up is the story of how he got there. It's a story about faith and the ideas worth fighting for. It's about knowing where you're from, and where you're going. It's about following your dreams without compromising who you are.



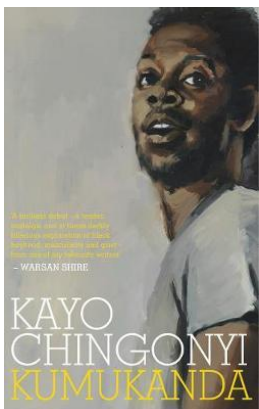
Becoming

Michelle Obama

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era.

As First Lady of the United States of America - the first African-American to serve in that role - she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history. She also established herself as the most powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world.

Kumukanda



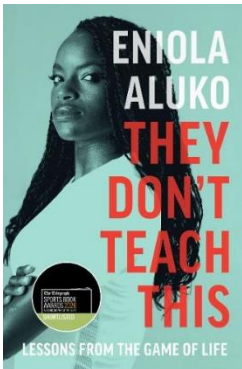
Kayo Chingonyi

Translating as 'initiation', kumukanda is the name given to the rites a young boy from the Luvale tribe must pass through before he is considered a man.

The poems of Kayo Chingonyi's remarkable debut explore this passage: between two worlds, ancestral and contemporary; between the living and the dead; between the gulf of who he is and how he is perceived.

Underpinned by a love of music, language and literature, here is a powerful exploration of race, identity and masculinity, celebrating what it means to be British and not British, all at once.

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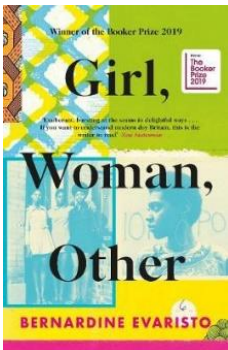


They Don't Teach This: Lessons from the Game of Life

Eniola Aluko

A fascinating examination of her multiple identities - British and Nigerian, a girl in a boy's world, footballer and academic, a kid from an estate with upper-middle-class parents, a God-fearing rebel... Aluko does not hold back - and few people from the football establishment emerge with their reputation intact

Older Reading

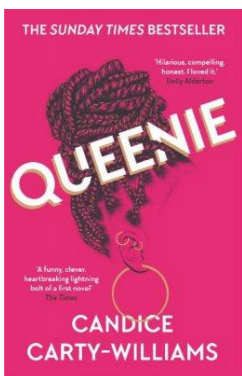


Girl, Woman, Other

Bernadine Evaristo

Kaleidoscopic in theme and incandescent in tone, Evaristo's panorama of modern black womanhood resounds with an astonishing diversity of voice and character as seen across a changing century. Tracking the lives and loves of a dozen British women through generations and social classes, *Girl, Woman, Other* weaves a distinctive, illuminating tapestry of modern British life.

Queenie



Candice Carty-Williams

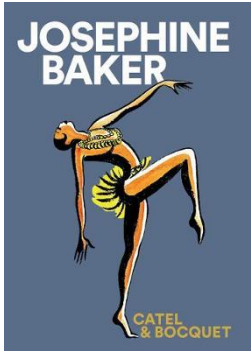
Candice Carty-Williams' luminous debut is a joy-filled, painfully funny coming-of-age story set in modern Britain. Fabulous but flawed, defiant but vulnerable, Queenie Jenkins is one of the great fictional creations of the twenty-first century. Caught between the Jamaican British family who don't seem to understand her, a job that's not all it promised and a man she just can't get over, Queenie's life seems to be steadily spiralling out of control. Her missteps and misadventures will provoke howls of laughter and tears of pity – frequently on the same page.

Josephine Baker

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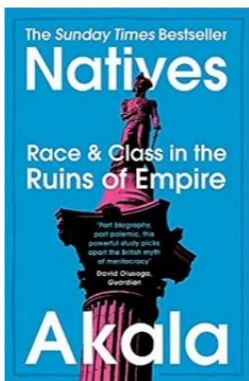


Catel & Bocquet



Josephine Baker (1906-1975) was nineteen years old when she found herself in Paris for the first time in 1925. Overnight, the young American dancer became the idol of the Roaring Twenties, captivating Picasso, Cocteau, Le Corbusier, and Simenon. In the liberating atmosphere of the 1930s, Baker rose to fame as the first black star on the world stage, from London to Vienna, Alexandria to Buenos Aires. After World War II, and her time in the French Resistance, Baker devoted herself to the struggle against racial segregation, publicly battling the humiliations she had for so long suffered personally. She led by example, and over the course of the 1950s adopted twelve orphans of different ethnic backgrounds: a veritable Rainbow Tribe. A victim of racism throughout her life, Josephine Baker would sing of love and liberty until the day she died.

Natives: Race & Class in the Ruins of Empire

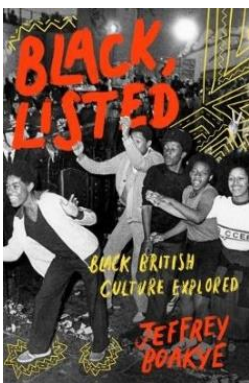


Akala

'I was not born with an opinion of the world but it clearly seemed that the world had an opinion of people like me.

I did not know what race and class supposedly were but the world taught me very quickly.

I did not particularly want to spend a portion of a lifetime studying these issues, it was not among my ambitions as a child, but I was compelled upon this path very early. I knew that my experiences were significant but I was not yet sure how to tease meaning from them.' – Akala

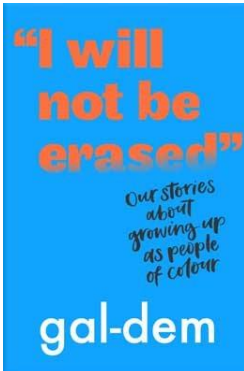


Black, Listed: Black British Culture Explored

Jeffrey Boakye

A masterful lexicon of words both negative and positive that have been used as descriptors of race for Black Britons over the decades, Black, Listed is a wonderfully fresh and entertaining look at identity and belonging from an engaging cultural commentator. Brilliantly structured and consistently illuminating, Boakye's work is a timely, invaluable resource.

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I Will Not Be Erased: Our stories growing up as people of colour

Gal-dem

Inspired by the trailblazing website written by women and non-binary people of colour, *I Will Not Be Erased* is a propulsive set of essays from the site's contributors to their younger selves. Raw, powerful and immensely important, this is essential reading.

Your Silence Will Not Protect You

Audre Lorde

Audre Lorde (1934-92) described herself as 'Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet'. Born in New York, she had her first poem published while still at school and her last the year she died of cancer.

Her extraordinary belief in the power of language – of speaking – to articulate selfhood, confront injustice and bring about change in the world remains as transformative today as it was then, and no less urgent.

