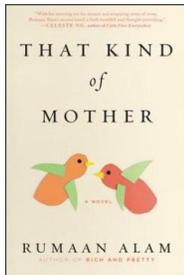
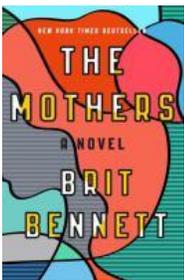


Carver County Library Suggests *African American Voices in Fiction*



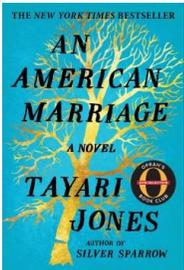
Rumaan Alam - [*That Kind of Mother*](#) (ALA 2018)

Overwhelmed by new motherhood in spite of her love for her infant son, Rebecca, a white woman, asks a kind black woman, Priscilla, to become her family's nanny, only to have her perspectives changed about her own life of privilege, a situation that compels her to take on unanticipated challenges in the aftermath of a tragedy. The author authentically touches on themes in today's discourse—white privilege, the rocky path of good intentions, and racial divides.



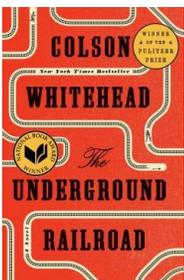
Britt Bennett - [*The Mothers*](#) (BEN 2016)

The Mothers is a surprising story about young love, a big secret in a small community - and the things that ultimately haunt us most. It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken, 17-year-old beauty. Mourning her own mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. They are young; it's not serious. But the pregnancy that results from this teen romance - and the subsequent cover-up - will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth.



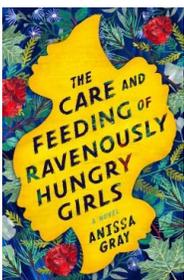
Tayari Jones- [*An American Marriage*](#) (JON 2018)

When her new husband is arrested and imprisoned for a crime she knows he did not commit, a rising artist takes comfort in a longtime friendship, only to encounter unexpected challenges in resuming her life when her husband's sentence is suddenly overturned. Jones explores marriage, family, regret, class tensions and racial injustice in the contemporary South.



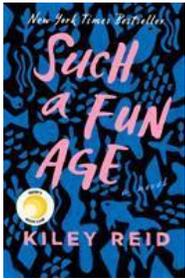
Colson Whitehead – [*Underground Railroad*](#) (WHI 2016)

After Cora, a pre-Civil War Georgia slave, escapes with another slave, Caesar, they seek the help of the Underground Railroad as they flee from state to state and try to evade a slave catcher, Ridgeway, who is determined to return them to the South. In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor--engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. A powerful story both of a woman and of a people and a meditation on the history we all share. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2017.



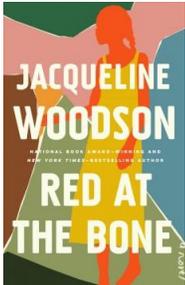
Anissa Gray - [*The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls*](#) (GRA 2019)

When their formidably strong-willed eldest sister is arrested, abruptly transitioning their family from respectability to disgrace, two younger sisters confront complicated dynamics in their family and identities to uncover what really happened. The story is told from the viewpoints of the three sisters whose dysfunctional childhood has left deep wound and leave them searching for a way forward amid myriad challenges including prison time, eating disorders, and long-buried secrets.



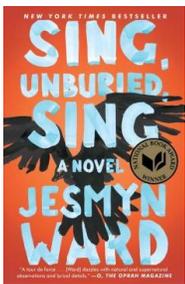
Kiley Reid - [Such A Fun Age](#) (REI 2019)

A story about race and privilege is centered around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both. The story is a nuanced portrait of a young black woman struggling to define herself apart from the white people in her life who are all too ready to speak and act on her behalf. Reid's debut sparkles with sharp observations and perfect details—food, décor, clothes, social media, etc.—and she's a dialogue genius, effortlessly incorporating toddler-ese, witty boyfriend-speak, and African American Vernacular English.



Jacqueline Woodson - [Red at the Bone](#) (WOO 2019)

As Melody celebrates a coming of age ceremony at her grandparents' house in 2001 Brooklyn, her family remembers 1985, when Melody's own mother prepared for a similar party that never took place in this novel about different social classes. Woodson's nuanced voice evokes the complexities of race, class, religion, and sexuality in fluid prose and a series of telling details.



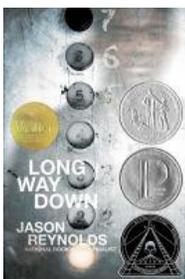
Jesmyn Ward - [Sing, Unburied, Sing](#) (WAR 2017)

A story of how the past affects the present, and of deeply entrenched racism, Sing Unburied Sing describes the life of a biracial boy, his addicted, grieving black mother, and his incarcerated white father. A road trip to Dad's prison kick-starts the novel, which offers deeply affecting characters, a strong sense of place (rural Mississippi), and a touch of magical realism in appearances by the dead.



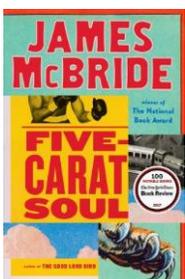
Angie Thomas - [The Hate U Give](#) (TEEN THO 2018) *

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer.



Jason Reynolds - [Long Way Down](#) (TEEN REY 2017) *

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. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, Long Way Down is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at what it means to be a black teen in America.



James McBride - [Five-Carat Soul](#) (MCC 2017)

This stellar collection of short stories in Five-Carat Soul --none of them ever published before--spring from the place where identity, humanity, and history converge. They're funny and poignant, insightful and unpredictable, imaginative and authentic--all told with McBride's unrivaled storytelling skill and meticulous eye for character and detail. There's a good amount of humor here, but most of these pieces are deeply emotional with a touch of magical realism for readers who enjoy page-turners that don't happen to be thrillers.

* Award-winning books written for teens that are important and appeal to adult readers.