

Book Info	Lexile Level	Link to Synopsis	Notes/Justification/Rationale
Circe by Madeline Miller (2018)	660L	LINK	Feminist retelling of The Odyssey (Which is read in LC9) & would make for a nice full circle moment, explores power, isolations & resilience
James by Perceival Everett (2024)	N/A (Too New)	LINK	Reimagines Huck Finn from Jim's perspective, critically engaging with race & American history
Ayesha at Last by Uzma Jalaluddin (2018)	N/A (Couldn't Find)	LINK	Pride & Prejudice retelling with a Muslim protagonist, explores cultural expectations & love. Might be more challenging than Pride.
Frankenstein in Baghdad by Ahmed Saadawi (2014)	1040L	LINK	Examines the impact of war on our identities & moralities through a Frankenstein-inspired narrative. Frankenstein is read in Brit Lit
Beautiful Little Fools by Jillian Cantor (2022)	No info	LINK	Reimagines Gatsby through the female character's (Daisy, Jordan, Catherine, who is Myrtle's sister) perspective, deepening female agency in the story. Gatsby is read in AmLit
Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel (2014)	930	LINK	Set amidst a Pandemic (timely-ish!), literary style dystopian novel that explores art and humanity after the world has collapsed. There is also a TV adaptation of this that could make for good discussion.
The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes by Suzanne Collins (2020)	860	LINK	Would directly replace The Hunger Games in the curriculum. Timely and relevant, provides insight to the origins of the tyrant in The Hunger Games. Connects dystopian units to Retelling unit.
Scythe by Neal Shusterman (2016)	830	LINK	Hot book right now, first in a series, Engaging, philosophical YA dystopia about immortality and ethics
The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune (2020)	620	LINK	Wildly popular, first in a series, whimsical and hopeful fantasy exploring found family & identity. "The book is considered an adult novel, but some say it's accessible to young adult readers. It includes themes like romance and the mistreatment of foster children."

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The Grace Year by Kim Liggett (2019)	810	LINK	A feminist dystopian novel that can be compared to LOTF & The Handmaid's Tale. Considered the latter for Contemp, but it is given as an option in BritLit, so I think this would supplement it well. Explores the societal control of women.
The Things they Carried by Tim O'Brien (1990)	880	LINK	Older text comparatively, but can reach reluctant readers & does a nice job blending fiction and memoir to explore memory & trauma. Could be used in conjunction with Nonfic or writing the college essay.
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds (2017)	750	LINK	One of my favorite books to teach. Powerful, accessible novel that addresses the cycle of violence and generational trauma. I think this would work well in my Living Poets unit.
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi (2016)	910	LINK	Traces the impact of slavery across generations, provides a nuanced look at the lasting legacy of slavery and colonialism. Multi-generational narrative structure & diverse characters offer students a unique lens to analyze complex social issues. Would pair well with Reynolds.
Beartown by Frederik Backman (2016)	840	LINK	First in a series, has a TV adaptation, complex exploration of sports culture (might hit some reluctant readers), masculinity & justice
The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead (2019)	940	LINK	Just had a film adaptation come out. Pulitzer-prize winning novel that exposes hidden American history. Powerful and unflinching portrayal of institutional racism and abuse in a reform school during the Jim Crow Era. Would pair well with Gyasi & Reynolds. Interesting Articles
Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng (2022)	800-1200L	LINK	Timely exploration of book banning, propaganda & identity. Encourages students to consider how to create a better world & challenge the injustices that surround them. Connects to real world policies & fears
All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir	590L (Ages 14 & Up)	LINK	A beautifully written novel that is incredibly easy for students to connect with, while also covering challenging topics. Connects to discussion of the American Dream from LC10 & American Lit. Explores generational trauma & resilience

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Darius the Great is Not OK by Adib Khorram	710	LINK	Offers a nuanced portrayal of the life of a biracial teen as he navigates mental health, family dynamics, cultural identity & the challenges of being an outsider. Provides a window into Iranian culture and traditions, while sensitively addressing complex topics.
Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay	840 (9-12)	LINK	Help students develop empathy towards other, learn about social responsibility & explore their own identity. Provides an interesting, complex lens through which to explore global inequalities.
I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika Sanchez	730 (9-12)	LINK	Offers a refined exploration of Mexican-American identity, especially for young women. Tackles themes of familial expectations, cultural pressure, immigration, and the struggle to find your voice amidst the chaos.
The Midnight Library by Matt Haig	70-750	LINK	Portrays a thought experiment on living alternative lives. Encourages discussion on regrets & resilience. Explores self-reflection, the consequences of our choices & finding meaning in life.
Girl in Pieces by Kathleen Glasgow	740	LINK	Deals with mental illness & resilience in a raw, unfiltered way. Fosters conversation about stigmatized issues, promotes empathy & encourages students to seek help.