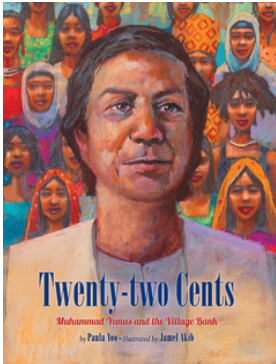


Grades 6–8



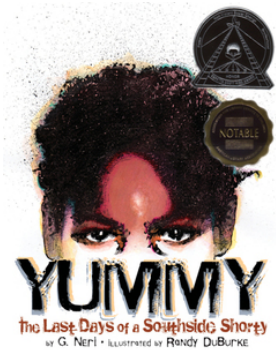
Twenty Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank

written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Jamel Akib

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2851>

A biography of 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, who revolutionized global antipoverty efforts by developing the innovative economic concept of micro-lending.

Themes: Social Awareness and Transformation, Respect/Citizenship, Achieving Goals, Economics, Micro-lending, Helping Others, Asian/South Asian Interest



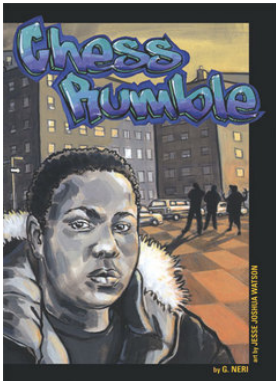
Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty written by

G. Neri, illustrated by Randy DuBurke

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2724>

A graphic novel based on the life and death of Robert “Yummy” Sandifer, an eleven-year-old gang member from Chicago’s Southside who was killed by his own gang members.

Themes: Gang Violence, Family, Conflict Resolution, Coping with Death, Urban Life, Graphic Novel, Historical Fiction, African American Interest

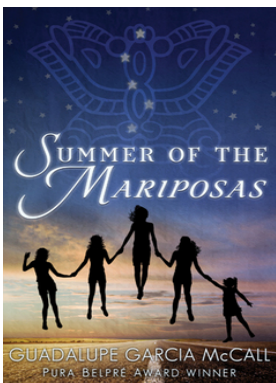


Chess Rumble written by G. Neri, illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2374>

A troubled boy learns to use his mind instead of his fists through the guidance of an unconventional mentor and the game of chess.

Themes: Free Verse, Games (chess), Family, School/Education, Bullying, Conflict Resolution, Coping with Death, Forgiveness, Mentors, Urban Life, African American Interest



Summer of the Mariposas by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2811>

Fifteen-year-old Odilia and her younger sisters embark on a journey to return a dead man to his family in Mexico, and must outwit monsters and witches to make it back home again. A modern-day retelling of *The Odyssey*.

Themes: Magical Realism, Retellings of Mythology/Folklore, Family Relationships, Siblings, Immigration, Adventure, Latino Interest



Ira's Shakespeare Dream written by Glenda Armand, illustrated by Floyd Cooper
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2885>

A biography chronicling the life of Ira Aldridge, an African American actor who is considered to have been one of the greatest Shakespearean actors of the nineteenth century.

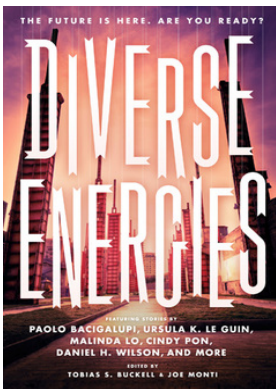
Themes: Entertainment, Performing Arts, Theater, Classic Literature (Shakespeare), Perseverance/Overcoming Obstacles, Dreams/Aspirations, African American History



Killer of Enemies by Joseph Bruchac
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2832>

In a world that has barely survived an apocalypse that leaves it with pre-twentieth century technology, Lozen is a monster hunter for four tyrants who are holding her family hostage. A post apocalyptic YA novel with a steampunk twist, based on an Apache legend.

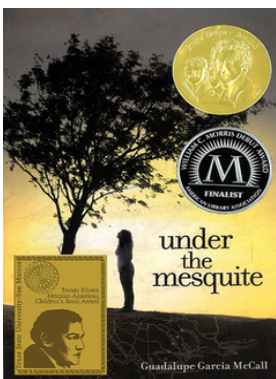
Themes: Science Fiction, Steampunk, Dystopia, Family, Friendship, Romance, Genetic Engineering, Ethics, Coming of Age, Socioeconomic Privilege, Hunting, Native American Interest



Diverse Energies edited by Tobias S. Buckell and Joe Monti
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2812>

An anthology of short stories that presents a journey through alternate histories and projections of the future in which the world's diversity is reflected.

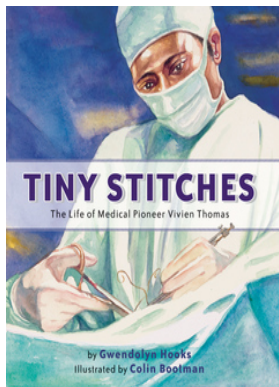
Themes: Science Fiction, Dystopia, Coming of Age, Socioeconomic Privilege, Family, Post-apocalyptic, Friendship, War, Slavery, Technology



Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2723>

Lupita, a budding actor and poet in a close-knit Mexican American immigrant family, comes of age as she struggles with adult responsibilities during her mother's long illness.

Themes: Coming of Age, Identity, Family, Dealing with Illness, Coping with Death, Immigration, Power of Words, Mother/Daughter Relationship, Respect, Responsibility



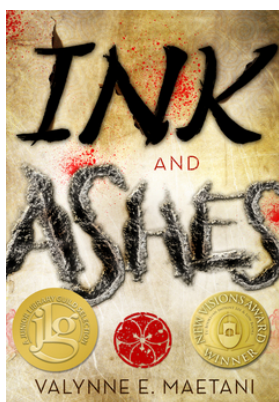
Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas

written by Gwendolyn Hooks, illustrated by Colin Bootman

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2927>

The life story of Vivien Thomas, an African American surgical technician who developed the first procedure used to perform open-heart surgery on children.

Themes: Creativity/Innovation, Medical Science, Overcoming Obstacles, Dreams/Aspirations, Scientists, Research, Discrimination, Overcoming Obstacles, African American Interest

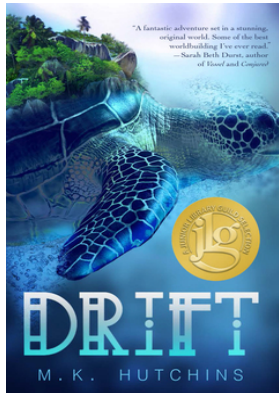


Ink and Ashes by Valynne E. Maetani

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2880>

In this heart-pounding YA mystery, Japanese American Claire Takata finds out that her deceased father was once a member of the yakuza—a Japanese crime syndicate—and danger enters her life that could end up killing someone.

Themes: Mystery, Romance, Suspense, Thrillers, Coming of Age, Identity, Brother-Sister Relationships, Asian/Japanese American Interest

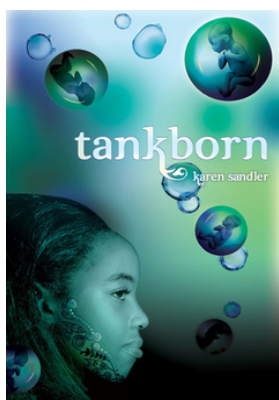


Drift by M. K. Hutchins

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2843>

Seventeen-year old Tenjat joins a dangerous defense to protect his island home from the monsters who threaten it in this fresh new fantasy inspired by Mayan and Indian folklore.

Themes: Fantasy, Quests, Adventure, Coming of Age, Folklore, Brother-Sister Relationships, Latino Interest



Tankborn by Karen Sandler

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2754>

Kayla and Mishalla, two genetically engineered non-human slaves (GENs), fall in love with higher-status boys, discover deep secrets about the creation of GENs, and in the process find out what it means to be human. (book #1 in the Tankborn trilogy)

Themes: Science Fiction, Dystopia, Friendship, Romance, First Love, Genetic Engineering, Ethics, Coming of Age, Socioeconomic Privilege, Family

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