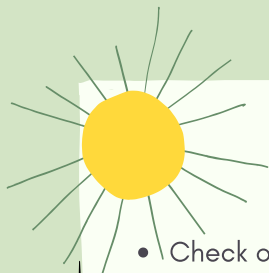


# PLANTING THE SEEDS OF READING

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FOR READING TEACHERS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH NEW BOOKS TO RECOMMEND TO STUDENTS



## ONLINE BOOK LISTS

- Check out **YALSA's Book Lists** (Young Adult Library Services Association) My favorite lists include:
  - Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
  - Great Graphic Novels for Teens
  - Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults.
- **Nutmeg Book Award** - Connecticut's Top 10 Fiction Books of the year for grades 2-12
  - Nominated by students, parents, teachers, and librarians, each year features one winner and 10 favorite titles!
  - 2020's winner for Middle School was *Posted* by John David Anderson

## INSTAGRAM

Top Three Favorite Accounts to Follow for New Books

- *We Need Diverse Books* (@weneeddiversebooks) - promotes new diverse collections of books that "reflects and honors the lives of all young people" (We Need Diverse Books, 2021).
- OwlCrate and OwlCrateJr (@owlcrate and @owlcratejr) - themed book subscription boxes that feature a new title each month for middle grade and young adult readers.
- Penguin Teen (@penguineteen) - spotlights newly published books and gives readers an opportunity through Rec-A-Reads to ask for specific recommendations!

## LIBRARIES AND BOOK STORES

- Visit your local bookstores and school or public libraries to see what books are featured in the middle grade and young adult sections.
- Talk to your school librarian(s) about what books are new in this space. He/she/they may also be able to give you information about what titles are popular with students right now!

## ASK YOUR STUDENTS!

- Survey your students - what are the students interested in reading?
- At the beginning of every year, I ask students about their favorite books and genres. This gives me an idea of what books I need to focus on for the year. I also ask how they access books. This helps me figure out how I make recommendations so I can ensure any books I recommend are available for my students.



## GROWING READERS

Being a zealous reader of middle grade and young adult literature means I am constantly on the lookout for new and up-and-coming books. While these are just some sustainable practices I use to find new books, I am always looking for more to read. Join me on Twitter, using the hashtag #growingreaders, to share ways YOU find books for your students.

By: Katie Durkin

We Need Diverse Books. (2021). *We Need Diverse Books: About Us*. <https://diversebooks.org/about-wndb/>