

Battle of the Books: 2023



I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys (historical fiction)

In a country governed by isolation, fear, and a tyrannical dictator, seventeen-year-old Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, but he decides to use his position to try to outwit his handler, undermine the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country.



The Words We Keep by Erin Stewart (realistic fiction)

When sixteen-year-old Lily Larkin's older sister, Alice, begins to struggle with her mental health, Lily attempts to keep everything together and perfect, despite her own growing anxiety. She tries to hide it all, but her secret is threatened by Micah, a guy who was in treatment with her sister...



We Deserve Monuments by Jas Hammonds (realistic fiction)

Forced to move to Georgia to live with her terminally ill grandmother, 17-year-old Avery discovers that the racist history of this town is rooted in her family in ways she can't even imagine, jeopardizing her newfound romance with her next-door neighbor.



Nothing More to Tell by Karen M. McManus (suspense)

Brynn Gallagher uses her internship at a new true crime show to investigate the unsolved murder of her favorite teacher, uncovering secrets about her school, her teacher, and her ex-best friend in the process.



All my Rage by Sabaa Tahir (realistic fiction)

When his attempts to save his family's motel spiral out of control, Salahudin and his best friend Noor must decide what their friendship is worth and how they can defeat the monsters of their past and in their midst.



Jester by Brielle Porter (fantasy)

Lisette's father killed the King. His execution leaves Lisette alone, disgraced, and without the magic he intended to pass on to her. In Oasis, that's a problem. Glutted with enchanted performers, Oasis is a sin city where courtiers pay in gold to drink, gamble, and above all, be entertained. To survive on its competitive streets, Lisette must hide her lack of magic at all costs. When her secret is threatened, desperate times call for desperate measures...



The Getaway by Lamar Giles (horror/dystopian)

Jay discovers that the mountain resort where he lives and works with his friends and family is also a doomsday oasis for the rich and powerful who expect top-notch customer service even as the world outside the resort's walls disintegrates.



The Do-Over by Lynn Painter (magical realism)

Sixteen-year-old Emilie, stuck in a Groundhog/Valentine's Day nightmare where she discovers her family is moving and her boyfriend is cheating on her, decides to embark upon The Day of No Consequences, but when her repetitive day suddenly ends, she must face the consequences of her actions.



Ahead of the Game by Kevin J. Ryan (non-fiction)

Ahead of the Game tells the story of Delane Parnell, the motley group of underdogs and hustlers that helped build his several-hundred-million-dollar startup, and the previously overlooked students now participating in America's growing esports phenomenon. It's a tale of perseverance, courage, loyalty, race, family, tragedy, and believing you can overcome the odds-no matter how severely they're stacked against you.



The World After the Fall by SingNsong | art by Undead Gamja (GN fantasy)

A heroic and powerful lot known as Walkers cleared the tower floors to save humanity, until the day that the Stone of Regression was discovered. Walkers could now "return" to the past, and slowly, everyone left. The brave few who remained formed Carpe Diem, a group of people who refused to abandon the world and represented humanity's last hope. But once the last Walker reached floor 100, he no longer knew what to believe...