



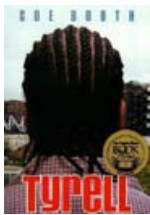
# URBAN LIT FOR TEENS

by Stephanie Bertin 05/10

## Tales of teens facing drama and survival on the streets.

The Salt Lake County Library does not necessarily recommend that all teens read all books. These books offer a balance in reading level and interests. We encourage parents to read and discuss these books with their teens.

 =place hold on audiobook version of this title



Place hold

### TYRELL

By Coe Booth

Call #: YF Booth

Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so he doesn't end up in jail like his father.



Place hold

### COOL LIKE THAT

By Nikki Carter

Call #: YF Carter

Anticipating the best summer of her life when Ricky and she are accepted into an enrichment program in New York City, Gia is frustrated by her unrequited feelings for Ricky and pursues a relationship with another boy, with unexpected results.

Series: *So For Real*



Place hold

### GLITTER

By Babygirl Daniels

Call #: YF Daniels

Asia Smith is still reeling from her rich father's death, but she looks forward to starting high school with her best friend, Tracey, until she loses Tracey in a fight over a boy who subsequently gets her pregnant and dumps her.

Series: *Babygirl Drama*



Place hold

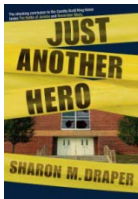
### CULTURE CLASH

By L. Divine

Call #: YF Divine

Jayd and her friends, fed up with the way the school is handling Cultural Awareness Day, decide to form the first African Student Union, much to the administration's disapproval, and a new Latino sophomore catches Jayd's eye. Series: *Drama High*





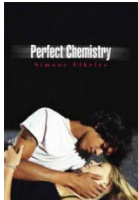
**Place hold**

## JUST ANOTHER HERO

By Sharon M. Draper

**Call #: YF Draper**

As Kofi, Arielle, Dana, November, and Jericho face personal challenges during their last year of high school, a misunderstood student brings a gun to school and demands to be taken seriously. Also try: *The Battle of Jericho*; *November Blues*



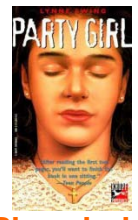
**Place hold**

## PERFECT CHEMISTRY

By Simone Elkeles

**Call #: YF Elkeles**

When wealthy, seemingly perfect Brittany and Alex Fuentes, a gang member from the other side of town, develop a relationship, they must face the disapproval of their schoolmates--and others. Sequel: *Rules of Attraction*



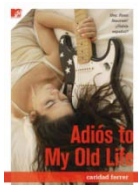
**Place hold**

## PARTY GIRL

By Lynne Ewing

**Call #: YF Ewing**

The death of her best friend Ana in a drive-by shooting causes fifteen-year-old Kata to question her position in the Los Angeles gang life.



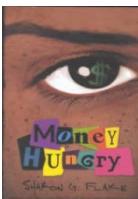
**Place hold**

## ADIOS TO MY OLD LIFE

By Caridad Ferrer

**Call #: YF Ferrer**

Tired of unpromising jobs while longing for fame, 17-year-old Latina singer Ali Montero competes in a Latin superstar contest and finds herself overwhelmed by a maelstrom of glitzy wardrobe fittings, media interviews, and fan blogs.



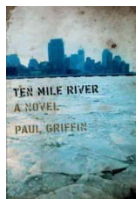
**Place hold**

## MONEY HUNGRY

By Sharon Flake

**Call #: YF Flake**

All thirteen-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again. Also by Sharon Flake: *Who Am I Without Him?*; *The Skin I'm In*; *You Don't Even Know Me*; *Begging for Change*



**Place hold**

## TEN MILE RIVER

By Paul Griffin

**Call #: YF Griffin**

Having escaped from juvenile detention centers and foster care, two teenaged boys live on their own in an abandoned shack in a New York City park, making their way by stealing, occasionally working, and trying to keep from being arrested.



**Place hold**

## **BANK JOB**

By James Heneghan & Norma Charles

**Call #: YF Heneghan**

Thirteen-year old Nell begins to rob banks with her friends in order to pay for renovations to her foster home.



**Place hold**

## **DARK DUDE**

By Oscar Hijuelos

**Call #: YF Hijuelos**

Rico, a Cuban American teen, abandons drug-infested New York City for the Midwest, only to discover that he still feels like an outsider and that violent and judgmental people can be found anywhere.



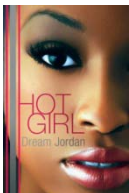
**Place hold**

## **THE FIRST PART LAST**

By Angela Johnson

**Call #: YF Johnson**

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.



**Place hold**

## **HOT GIRL**

By Dream Jordan

**Call #: YF Jordan**

Kate, a 14-year-old Brooklyn girl and former gang member, risks losing her first good foster family when she adopts the risqué ways of her flirtatious new friend, Naleejah.



**Place hold**

## **THE BULLY**

By Paul Langan

**Call #: YF Langan**

When Darrell and his mom move to the Bluford area in the middle of the school year, he quickly becomes a target of Tyray, the freshman class bully.  
Series: *Bluford High*



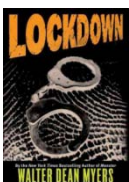
**Place hold**

## **MESSED UP**

By Janet Nichols Lynch

**Call #: YF Lynch**

R.D. is repeating the 8th grade, planning to have an easy year, but after his grandmother walks out her boyfriend is no longer able to care for him, which leaves RD to fend for himself while avoiding being caught.



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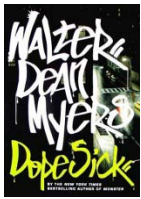
## **LOCKDOWN**

By Walter Dean Myers

**Call #: YF Myers**

Reese is serving time at a juvenile detention facility. While there he gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past.





**Place hold**

## DOPE SICK

By Walter Dean Myers

**Call #: YF Myers**

Seeing no way out of his difficult life in Harlem, 17-year-old Jeremy "Lil J" Dance flees into a house after a drug deal goes awry and meets a man who shows turning points in Lil J's life when he could have made better choices.



**Place hold**

## PARANOID PARK

By Blake Nelson

**Call #: YF Nelson**

A sixteen-year-old Portland, Oregon skateboarder, whose parents are going through a difficult divorce, is engulfed by guilt and confusion when he accidentally kills a security guard at a train yard.



**Place hold**

## EFRAIN'S SECRET

By Sofia Quintero

**Call #: YF Quintero**

Ambitious high school senior and honor student Efrain Rodriguez makes some questionable choices in pursuit of his dream to escape the South Bronx and attend an Ivy League college.



**Place hold**

## RED RIDER'S HOOD

By Neal Shusterman

**Call #: YF Shusterman**

A 16-year-old is surprised to learn that there are werewolves in his city, but he soon infiltrates the Wolves gang to help destroy them for good



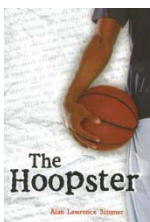
**Place hold**

## THE SECRET STORY OF SONIA RODRIGUEZ

By Alan Lawrence Sitomer

**Call #: YF Sitomer**

Tenth-grader Sonia reveals secrets about her life and her Hispanic family as she studies hard to become the first Rodriguez to finish high school.



**Place hold**

## THE HOOPSTER

By Alan Lawrence Sitomer

**Call #: YF Sitomer**

Andre Anderson is a black teenager who loves to play basketball. When he is viciously attacked, it calls his whole world into question--even his deadly jump shot. Sequel: *Hip-Hop High School*





**Place hold**

## LOCKDOWN

By Alexander Gordon Smith

**Call #: YF Smith**

When 14-old Alex is framed for murder, he becomes an inmate in the Furnace Penitentiary, where brutal inmates and sadistic guards reign, boys who disappear in the middle of the night sometimes return weirdly altered, and escape might just be possible.



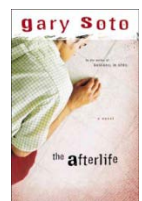
**Place hold**

## CHAMELEON

By Charles R. Smith, Jr.

**Call #: YF Smith**

The summer before starting high school in inner-city LA, 14-year-old Shawn grapples with his first experience of love, the complicated bonds of friends and family, and the reality of street gang violence.



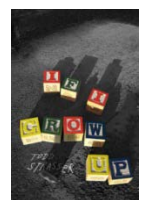
**Place hold**

## THE AFTERLIFE

By Gary Soto

**Call #: YF Soto**

A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance.



**Place hold**

## IF I GROW UP

By Todd Strasser

**Call #: YF Strasser**

Growing up in the inner-city projects, DeShawn is reluctantly forced into the gang world by circumstances beyond his control.



**Place hold**

## IT'S A CURL THING

By Jacquelin Thomas

**Call #: YF Thomas**

While Rhyann is working as a shampoo girl to pay off her bill for a very bad haircut and dye-job fixed at the salon Divine and Mimi use, she meets a special person who challenges, inspires, and changes her forever. Series: *Divine and Friends*



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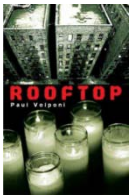
## STREET PHARM

By Allison Van Diepen

**Call #: YF Van Diepen**

Inheriting the family business when his father is thrown in jail, Ty becomes one of the most successful drug dealers on the streets of Brooklyn until a competitor enters the neighborhood and a nasty turf war begins. Also try: *Snitch*





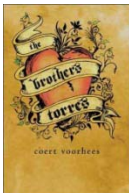
**Place hold**

## **ROOFTOP**

By Paul Volponi

**Call #: YF Volponi**

Still reeling from seeing police shoot his unarmed cousin to death on the roof of a NYC housing project, 17-year-old Clay is dragged into the whirlwind of political manipulation that follows. Also by Volponi: *Rucker Park Setup* and *Rikers High*



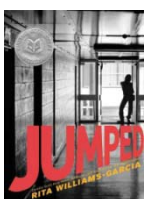
**Place hold**

## **THE BROTHERS TORRES**

By Coert Voorhees

**Call #: YF Voorhees**

Sophomore Frankie finally finds the courage to ask his friend, Rebecca, to Homecoming, which ultimately leads to a face-off between a tough rich senior and Frankie's soccer-star older brother and his gang-member friends.



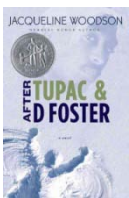
**Place hold**

## **JUMPED**

By Rita Williams-Garcia

**Call #: YF Williams-Garcia**

The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved.



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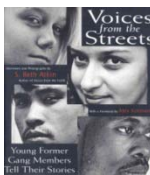
## **AFTER TUPAC & D FOSTER**

By Jacqueline Woodson

**Call #: YF Woodson**

In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.

## **NON-FICTION**



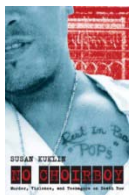
**Place hold**

## **VOICES FROM THE STREET**

By S. Beth Atkin

**Call #: Y364.106 Voi**

Photographs, poems, and interviews with former gang members from different regions of the U.S. depict their experiences.



**Place hold**

## **NO CHOIRBOY: MURDER, VIOLENCE, AND TEENAGERS ON DEATH ROW**

By Susan Kuklin

**Call #: Y364.66 Kuk**

In-depth interviews with teen prisoners who have been sentenced to death and are awaiting execution on death row. It provides a powerful look at life behind bars, the effects their decisions have had, and their personal views on the death penalty itself.





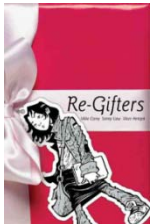
**Place hold**

## **WE BEAT THE STREET**

By Sharon M. Draper

**Call #: Y610.922 Dav**

Three boys, who made a pact to stick together through the rough times in their impoverished neighborhood, found the strength to work through their difficulties and complete high school, college, and medical school together.



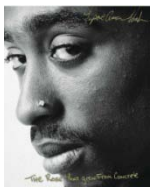
**Place hold**

## **RE-GIFTERS**

By Mike Carey

**Call #: Y741.597 Car**

Meet Jen Dik Seong -- or "Dixie" as she's known to her friends. She lives in LA and her only outlet is the ancient martial art of hapkido. On the verge of winning a championship, she falls for a guy and gets thrown off her game. As she struggles to win the tournament -- Dixie learns about love and what goes around comes around.



**Place hold**

## **THE ROSE THAT GREW FROM CONCRETE**

By Tupac Shakur

**Call #: 811.54 Sha**

A collection of verse by the late hip-hop star Tupac Shakur includes more than 100 poems confronting such wide-ranging topics as poverty, motherhood, Van Gogh, and Mandela.