

The Beast by Walter Dean Myers.

Anthony "Spoon" Witherspoon's first true love Gabi is prey for the Beast back in Harlem while he's at prep school. Spoon's battle to save Gabi challenges his feelings about the community, and the girl.

Call Number: YA Myers

Autobiography of My Dead Brother by Walter Dean Myers.

The thing was that me and Rise were blood brothers, but sometimes I really didn't know him... And so Jesse fills his sketchbook with drawings and portraits of his blood brother, Rise, and his comic strip, Spodi Roti and Wise, as he makes sense of the complexities of friendship, loyalty, and loss in a neighborhood where drive-bys, vicious gangs, and abusive cops are everyday realities.

Call Number: YA Myers

33 Snowfish by Adam Rapp.

On the run in a stolen car with a kidnapped baby in tow, Custis, Curl, and Boobie are three young people with troubled pasts and bleak, uncertain futures. As they struggle to find a new life for themselves, it becomes painfully clear that none will ever be able to leave the past behind.

Call Number: YA Rapp

Can't Get There from Here by Todd Strasser.

A surrogate family of homeless teens lives on the streets of New York City. This is a powerful and disturbing look at the downward spiral of despair that remains too common for too many teens.

Call Number: YA Strasser

Big City Cool: Short Stories About Urban Youth edited by M. Jerry Weiss.

In these fourteen authentic short stories, young

people growing up in Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, D.C., New York, and elsewhere contend with city realities. These stories of young people of all backgrounds, from the privileged to the poor, from immigrant to native-born, beat with the pulse of city life. They reflect the city's real excitements and perils.

Call Number: YA Big

The Illustrated Mum by Jacqueline Wilson.

Covered from head to toe with one-of-a-kind tattoos, Marigold is the brightest, most beautiful mother in the world. At least, that's what Dolphin thinks, she just wishes Marigold wouldn't stay out quite so late or have mood spells every now and again. When Star's dad shows up out of the blue and offers to let the girls stay with him, Star jumps at the opportunity. But Dolphin can't bear to leave Marigold alone. Now it's just the two of them, and Dolphin is about to be in over her head...

Call Number: YA Wilson

Need someone to talk to?

Teenline, a hotline run for and by teens in Burlington County: 856-234-0634

Burlington County Crisis Hotline: 856-234-8888

National Teen Emergency Hotline: 1-800-448-3000

National Crisis Help Line: 1-800-233-4357

Family Violence Helpline: 1-800-996-6228

National Referral Network for Kids in Crisis: 1-800-543-7283

Alcohol and Drug Helpline: 1-800-821-4357

NO MEANS NO (Rape Hotline): 1-877-666-3267

Planned Parenthood: 1-800-230-7526

Runaway RAP Line: 1-800-292-4517

Teen Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-949-0057

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Fax: 856-234-6916



Mount Laurel Library

Urban Drama



Young Adult
Grades 7 and Up



Urban Drama: Grades 7 and Up

Smack by Melvin Burgess.

Sometimes maybe you need an experience. The experience can be a person or it can be a drug. The experience opens a door that was there all the time but you never saw it. Or maybe it blasts you into outer space.

Call Number: YA Burgess

Prep by Jake Coburn.

This novel focuses squarely on the world of Manhattan prep-school teens with too much money, too little family, and too few morals. These young men beat and cut one another for fun, territory, or girls, and generally use violence to gain reputations, power, and control. Nick, a famous ex-tagger, is haunted by the memory of the knife that nearly killed his friend Kodak, and ignores the recruiting efforts of various gang members.

Call Number: YA Coburn

Bucking the Sarge by Christopher Curtis.

Luther Farrell has got to get out of Flint, Michigan. His mother, the Sarge, milked the system to build an empire of slum housing. Luther's just one of the people trapped in her Evil Empire, but he's about to bust out.

Call Number: YA Curtis

Darkness before Dawn by Sharon M. Draper.

In her senior year, things are finally looking a little brighter for Keisha. Still haunted by the suicide of her ex-boyfriend, she finds comfort in the attentions of the new track coach, twenty-three-year-old Jonathan Hathaway, the



principal's son. But suddenly this intoxicating relationship takes a frightening turn, and Keisha is once again plunged into the darkness she's fought so hard to escape.

Call Number: YA Draper

Bang! by Sharon G. Flake.

Even though random shootings have become increasingly common in his neighborhood, Mann is horrified when his little brother is gunned down while playing on his own front porch. His father believes that if he had been less loving and protective, Jason might have been tougher and capable of avoiding the shot. Mann's father takes him and Kee-lee camping and abandons them far from home. After the boys make their treacherous way back home, Mann's father turns him out to live on the streets, determined he will not lose another son because he is too soft.

Call Number: YA Flake

Money Hungry by Sharon G. 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.

Call Number: YA Flake

Mahalia by Joanne Horniman.

Matt loved everything about Emmy. He loved her freckled, luminous, magical body. He loved her free spirit. He loved the future he saw when he found out Emmy was pregnant. And he loved her answer when her parents protested their decision to keep the baby: "We'll just love it, okay?" Full of emotion and insight, Mahalia is the story of one teenage boy's struggle to be a better father than he knows how.

Book summaries taken from catalog, School Library Journal and Publisher Weekly reviews, and book jackets.

Call Number: YA Horniman

The First Part Last by Angela Johnson.

Sixteen-year-old Bobby and his girlfriend, Na, had planned to put their baby, Feather, up for adoption, but Feather becomes impossible to relinquish.

Call Number: YA Johnson

Soul Moon Soup by Lindsay Lee Johnson.

After her father leaves and Phoebe and her mother struggle to survive in the city, Phoebe finally goes to the country to live with her grandmother, where she learns family secrets and hopes her mother will return for her.

Call Number: YA Johnson; JF Johnson

Falling through Darkness by C. MacCullough.

Ginny, 17, is living in a state of repressed emotion since the death of her boyfriend. She chain-smokes, hides from a too-friendly neighbor, and avoids both her best friend and her loving but cautious father.

Call Number: YA MacCullough

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