



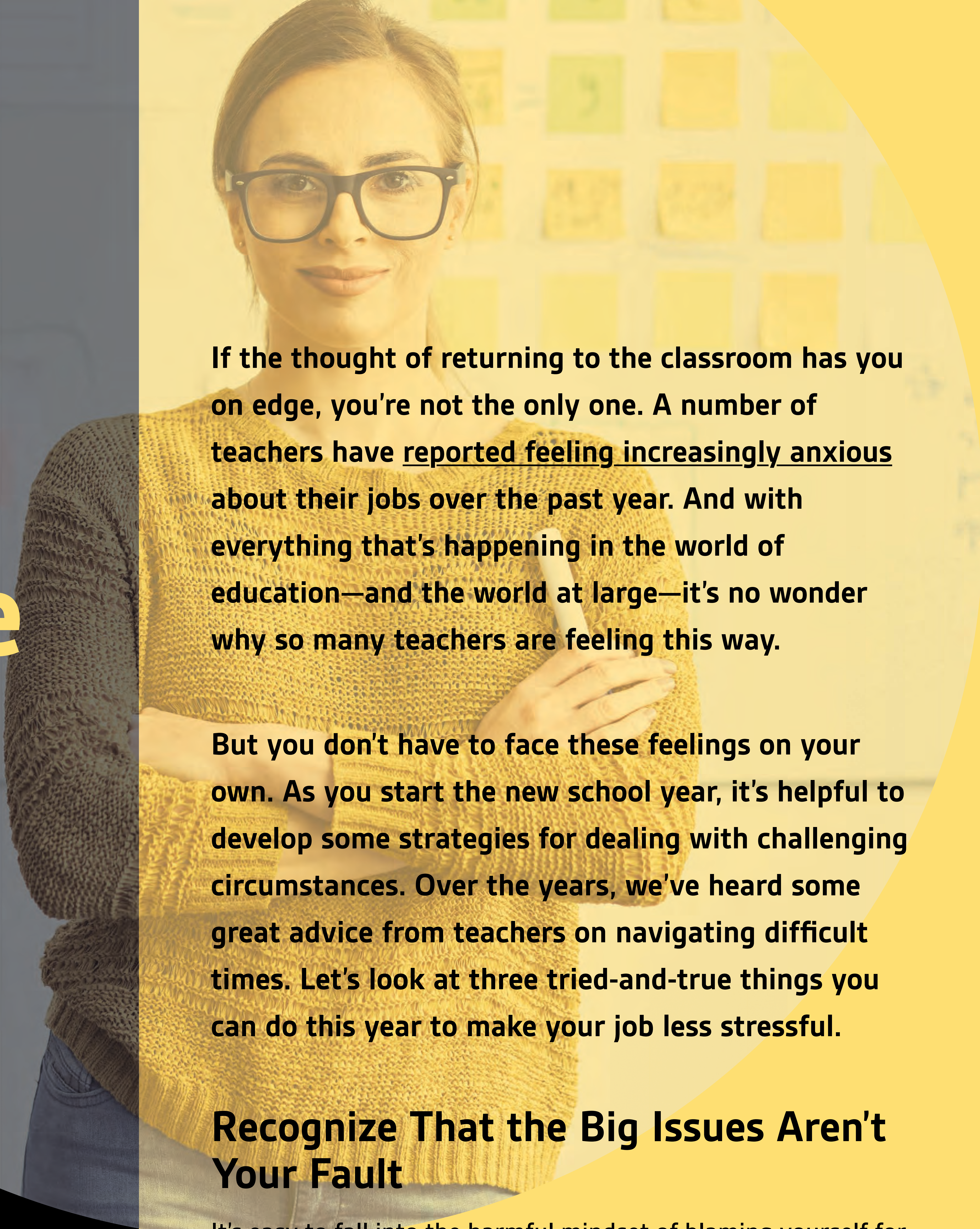
# Teaching in 2022: Trending Topics for ELA Educators

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# Taking Care of YOU in 2022



If the thought of returning to the classroom has you on edge, you're not the only one. A number of teachers have reported feeling increasingly anxious about their jobs over the past year. And with everything that's happening in the world of education—and the world at large—it's no wonder why so many teachers are feeling this way.

But you don't have to face these feelings on your own. As you start the new school year, it's helpful to develop some strategies for dealing with challenging circumstances. Over the years, we've heard some great advice from teachers on navigating difficult times. Let's look at three tried-and-true things you can do this year to make your job less stressful.

## Recognize That the Big Issues Aren't Your Fault

It's easy to fall into the harmful mindset of blaming yourself for every problem that occurs at school. After all, it's your job to teach students, and if the students aren't doing well, then that means you're a bad teacher, right? Absolutely not.

The teacher shortages, increasing workloads, student behavioral issues, and ever-changing standards to meet: All of these are indicative of systemic problems within education. As an individual, you're not the cause of these issues, nor are you responsible for fixing them. It's okay to feel frustrated about the state of things, but you can't blame yourself for situations outside of your position.

Remember: You do not have control over what your district or state does. The only control you have is what happens in your classroom, the lessons you present, the connections you make with your students, and the kindness you show them.

## Minimize the Amount of Work You Bring Home

Setting a boundary between your job and your home life is crucial to combating **burnout**, but that's easier said than done. By virtue of the profession, teachers often take work home with them, whether that's grading papers or planning lessons.

So what's the solution? Some may say, "Just don't work outside your contract hours." It's a good idea, but, unfortunately, it doesn't work for everyone, especially if you're a new teacher (or an ELA teacher!) who may not have the flexibility.

### **This year, if you find yourself frequently working well after school is over, consider these tips:**

- Reconsider the way you grade smaller assignments, if your school and/or subject area allows it. Grading assignments for completion rather than content can save a lot of time.
- If your daily schedule doesn't include planning periods, try building "catch-up" days into your curriculum. These days can act as study halls for your students. While they work on an independent assignment, you can use this class time for grading or prepping for other classes.
- Dedicate a set time to read and respond to emails rather than reviewing them throughout the day.
- Give yourself clear deadlines to get things done when classes are over—but don't work past that time, no matter how hard it is to walk away from your tasks. Accept that some things can wait until tomorrow.

## Look for Community Support

Despite being surrounded by people all day, teaching can be **an isolating experience**. Spending time with a room full of students, while rewarding, doesn't offer the same level of connection as interacting with other adults does.

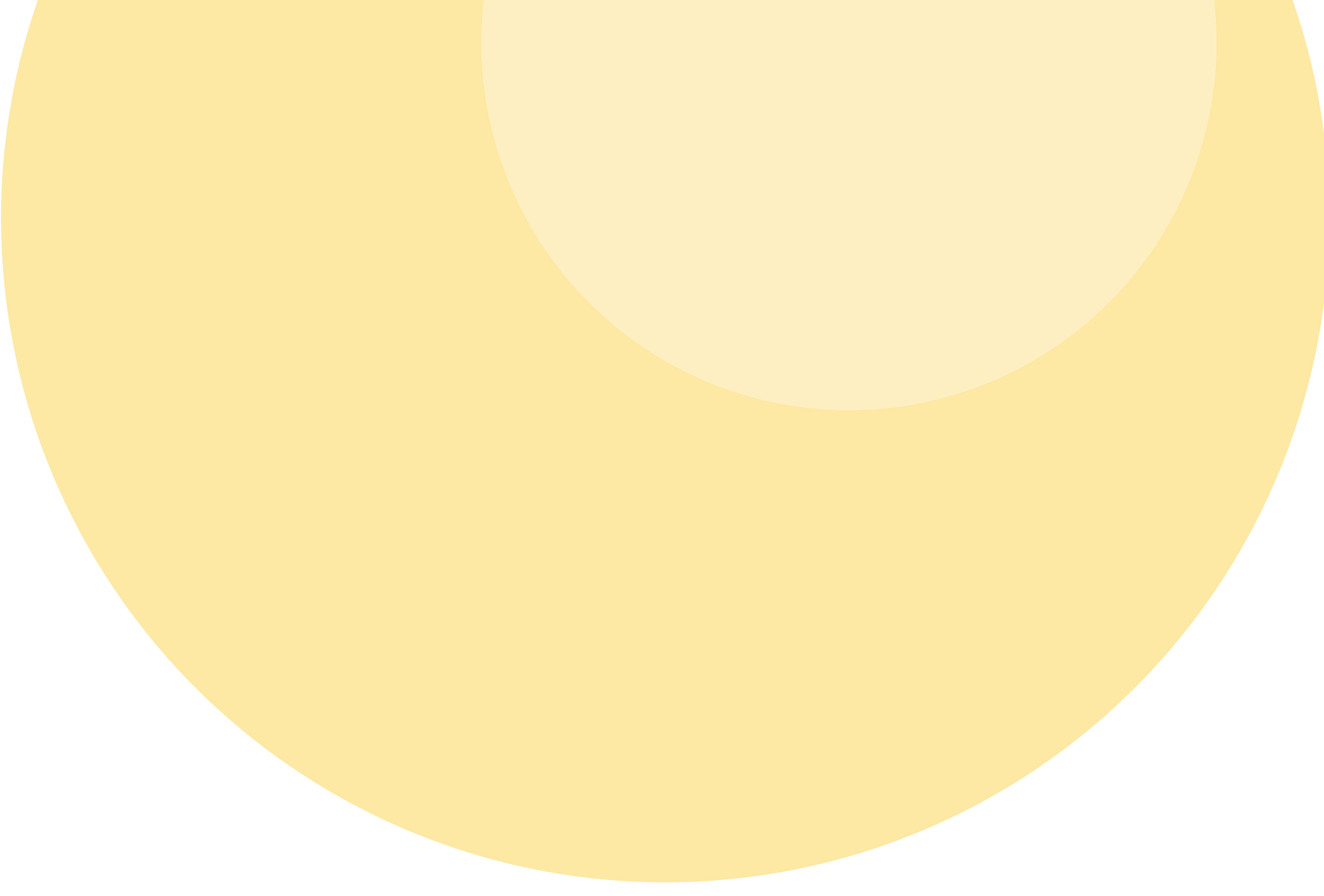
Connecting with your colleagues can help fight those feelings of loneliness. Chances are, many of them feel the same way. Even if you're not close, simply sharing a kind word with someone can make a world of difference.

If you have new teachers in your school—or if you are the new teacher—reach out and offer support. If you're nervous about talking with others, try asking for teaching advice, even when you don't really need it. Most teachers are happy to share their tips with you, and by doing so, you're building a good working relationship.

Talking about your problems with people outside of school, like friends and family, is obviously beneficial. But not everyone can relate to your experiences as a teacher. Speaking with a licensed therapist can help you better navigate your emotions and learn effective strategies for managing work-related stress. Check to see if your school or district has any mental health programs or benefits, and take advantage of them.

## Put Yourself First

As the saying goes, "Don't set yourself on fire to keep others warm." You can't be expected to be a good teacher if you don't take care of yourself. Give yourself permission to prioritize your needs, no matter how much pressure is put on you. Ultimately, the person who knows what's best for you is *you*.



# What Is Blended Learning and How Does It Work?

At the start of the pandemic, educators everywhere had to dramatically change the way they taught students. Many schools went completely online, some remained in person, while others adopted a hybrid model. No matter the scenario, digital technology played a key role in keeping studies on track.

For many teachers and students, this was their first experience with blended learning. But the truth is, blended learning has been around long before the pandemic began. And as technology continues to evolve, it's guaranteed that more schools will adopt this method of instruction.

If you're unfamiliar with the concept of blended learning or need a refresher, read on for more information!

## What Is Blended Learning?

In simple terms, blended learning is a combination of traditional, face-to-face teaching methods and online instruction. Blended learning relies on technology to support students' learning, whether it's through online resources like interactive textbooks or videos, or by making use of digital educational tools such as Google Classroom or Quizlet.

### Common Blended Learning Models

Blended learning can take many forms, but the basic premise of each is that students are given the chance to work independently, while teachers have more time to help them reach their full potential. Here are some of the most common blended learning models used by educators:

#### Face-to-Face Driver Model

This model is closely aligned with traditional classroom instruction and is generally implemented based on student ability. Teachers provide instruction to the class as usual. Technology is used to support students who may not fully grasp the content and allows them to practice without holding up the rest of the class.

#### Station Rotation Model

Here, students remain in the classroom and rotate through different activities, of which at least one is an online learning station, on a fixed schedule.

#### Flipped Classroom Model

In this model, the traditional roles of home and school as learning spaces are swapped. Students are introduced to content at home through online coursework. The following day, teachers use classroom time to facilitate practice exercises, class discussions, or projects about the content.

#### Enriched Virtual Model

This model is similar to the flipped classroom, with one difference. Students complete most of their coursework online, but they're required to attend in-person sessions with their teacher intermittently, as opposed to the flipped classroom's daily meetings.

### Flex Model

This model gives students a highly personalized learning experience to match their specific needs. While students meet in the classroom, most of the course content is delivered online. Students can work on their own, and because they're in the classroom, they can seek help from their teacher if needed.

### The A La Carte Model

In addition to their normal face-to-face classes, students enroll in an online course of their choosing. This course can be completed at home or in school during a free period. This model works well for schools that are unable to provide certain courses, such as AP level classes, but have motivated students wanting to learn on their own.

## How Do Students and Teachers Benefit from Blended Learning?

Aside from its variety of use cases, blended learning offers a number of other benefits for both students and teachers.

For the driven student, the reluctant learner, and everyone in between, blended learning gives them an opportunity to take ownership of their education. Students can work on assignments or projects at their own pace, rather than having to keep up with a teacher who may be moving too quickly or too slowly for them. Depending on the model, this level of autonomy varies. For instance, the flex model has students work nearly on their own. In others, like the station rotation model, students complete assignments with some guidance from a teacher.

Many online learning platforms automatically keep track of student progress, allowing students—and teachers—to see exactly where they are in a course or lesson. Based on the data, teachers can tailor their courses to suit each student's unique needs and interests and provide more resources for those struggling.

In addition, blended learning can build more than just academic abilities. Unlike online-only instruction, where in many cases, students are physically isolated from their peers, blended learning encourages in-person interaction. Students need face-to-face classroom time to build strong interpersonal skills.

## Prestwick House Resources to Support Blended Learning

Based on years of feedback from teachers like you, we've developed two digital programs that can easily be integrated into your English language arts curriculum.

Inspired by our popular print series, ***Vocabulary Power Plus Online*** challenges students with rigorous vocabulary activities designed to help them learn and retain new words. Each interactive lesson provides instant feedback to guide students toward word mastery and takes just a few minutes of class time to complete. ***Vocabulary Power Plus Online*** can be used alone or as a supplement to the print series.

Adding another dimension to your literature units is simple with ***KeyLit***, our newest digital resource. This interactive program is intended to be used in conjunction with reading a novel or play. Every ***KeyLit*** Literature Companion includes standards-aligned lessons and assessments that guide students through a close reading of the text and helps build critical reading skills.

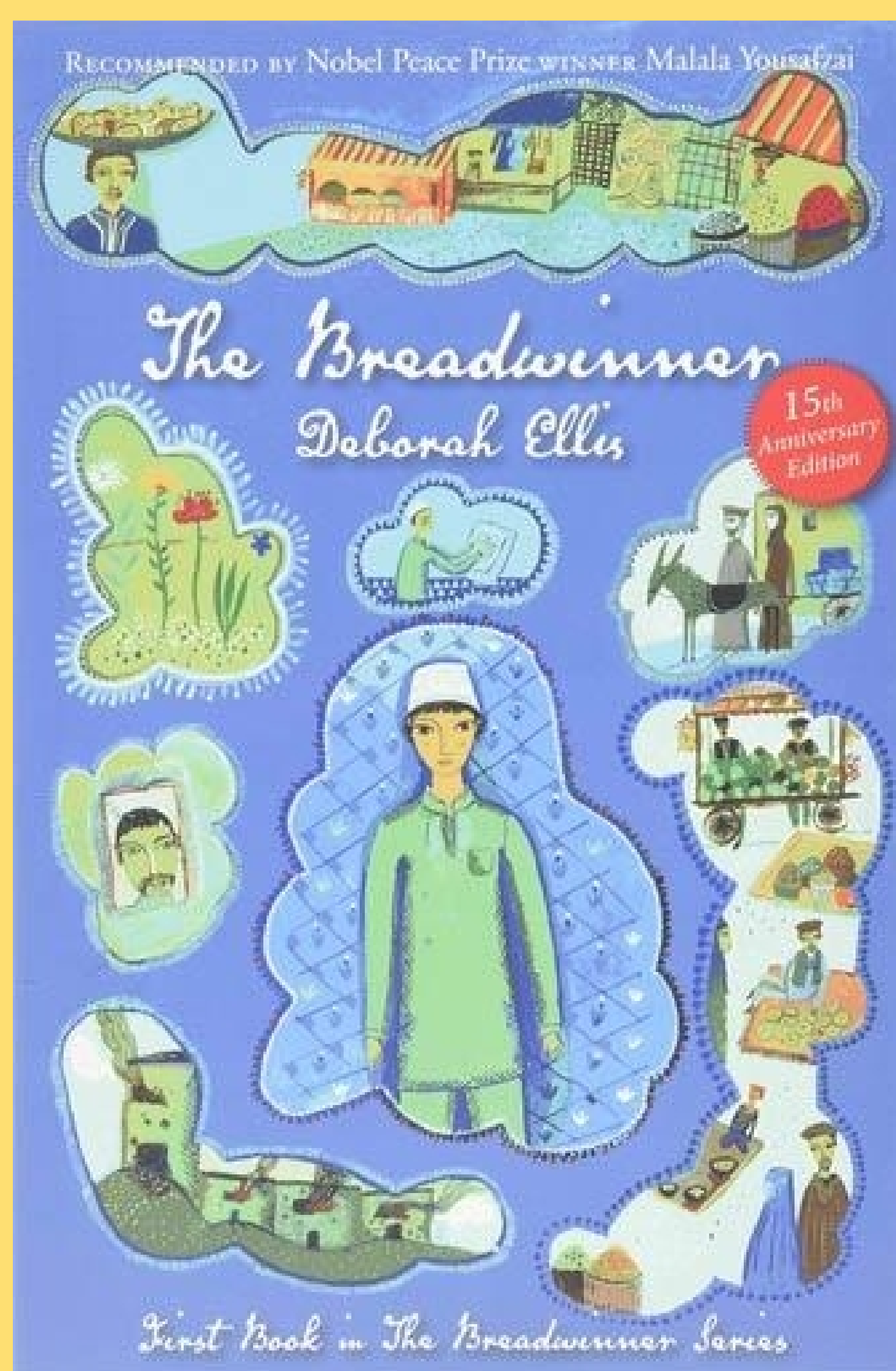
Both ***Vocabulary Power Plus Online*** and ***KeyLit*** are accessible through a web browser and don't require any additional software. Students simply need an internet connection and a computer, tablet, or smartphone. That said, not every student may have internet access at times, especially if they're studying at home. Alternative methods of instruction should be considered for special circumstances.

## Ready to Jump into Blended Learning?

As we've discussed, blended learning is a great way to create an even more exciting and educational environment for students and teachers alike. If you're thinking about incorporating blended learning into your classroom using ***Vocabulary Power Plus Online*** or ***KeyLit***, send a message to [info@prestwickhouse.com](mailto:info@prestwickhouse.com). We're happy to answer any questions you may have and can even set you up with free trial accounts!

# Brand New Stories for Incoming Students

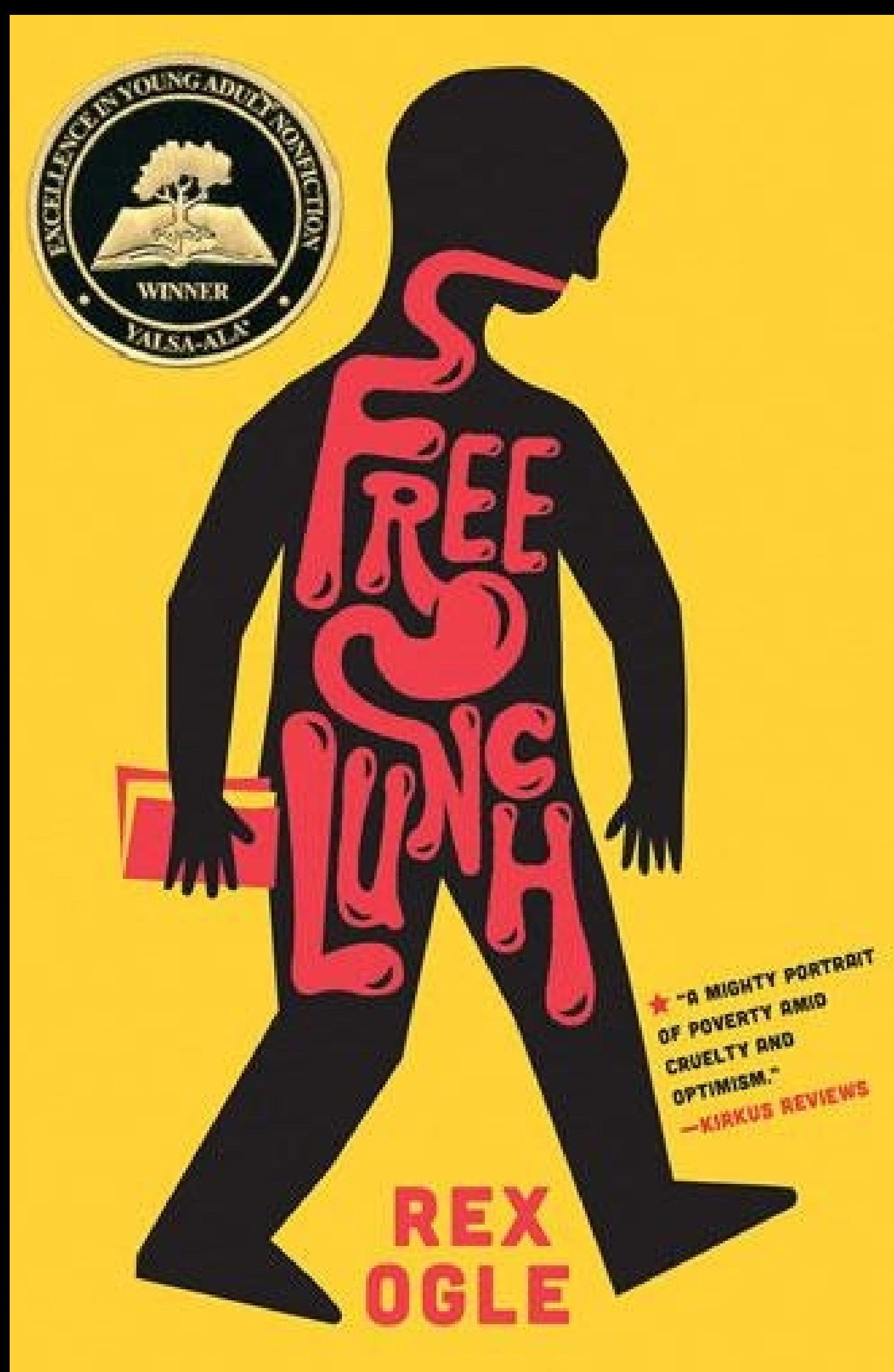
As students return to the classroom, why not give them something new to read? Written by a diverse group of authors, these titles are perfect for independent reading choices and literature circles. There's something here for everyone, from suspenseful stories of survival and secrets to inspirational tales of courage and resilience.



## ***The Breadwinner***

Ever since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, 11-year-old Parvana hasn't been allowed to leave her family's home. But one day, the Taliban wrongfully imprisons her father, leaving Parvana in charge of supporting her mother and three siblings. Disguising herself as a boy in search of work, Parvana becomes the family's "breadwinner," risking her life for the sake of her family.

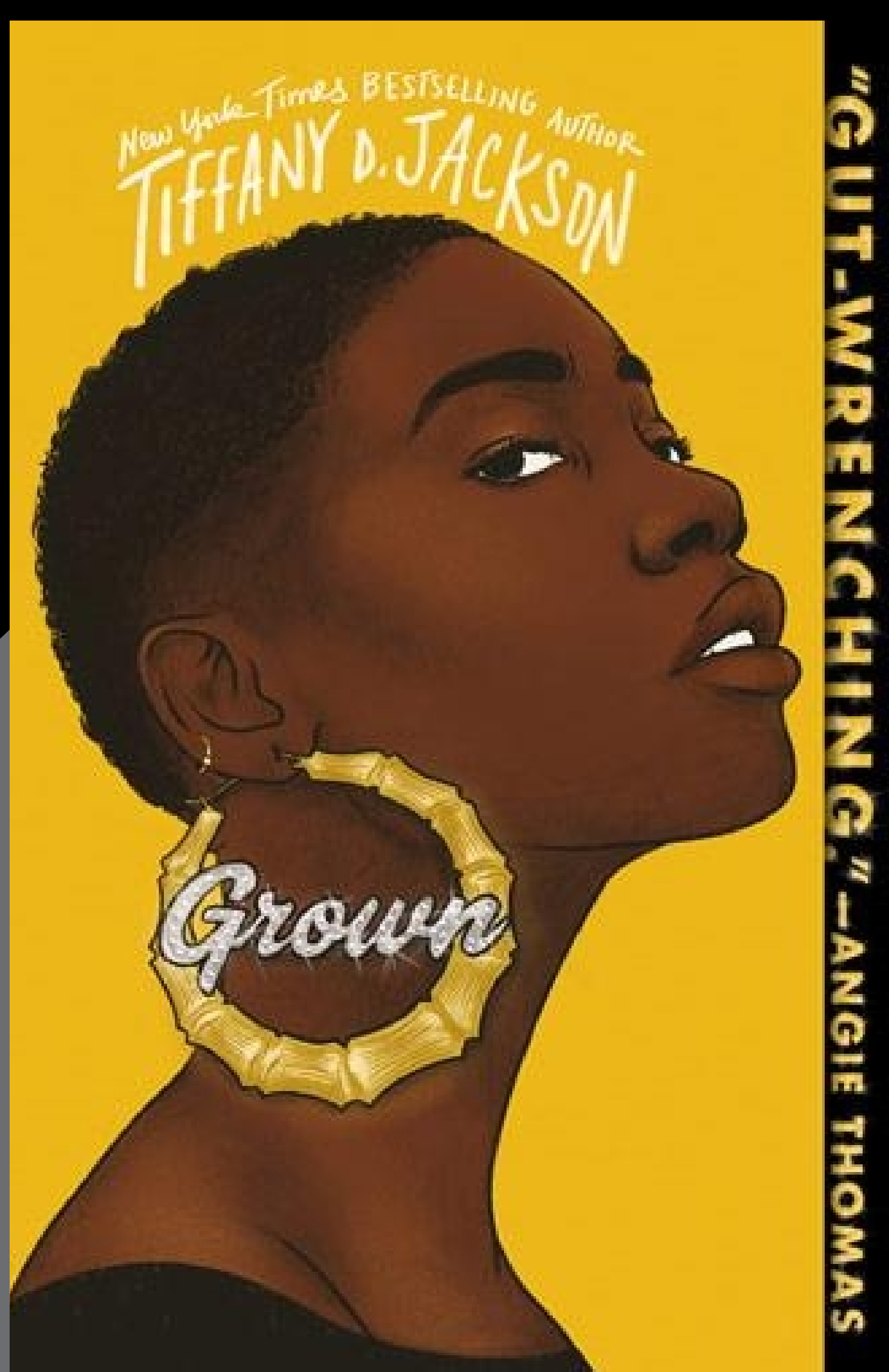
[Buy This Book](#)



## ***Free Lunch***

In this memoir, Rex Ogle reflects on his first semester of sixth grade as a poor child in a wealthy district. Every day, he has to remind the lunch lady that he's on the free meal program, much to his embarrassment. At home, his mom and stepfather are jobless and take their frustrations out on Rex and his little brother. Though its content is bleak, *Free Lunch* sheds light on the effects of chronic poverty and its real impact on children across America.

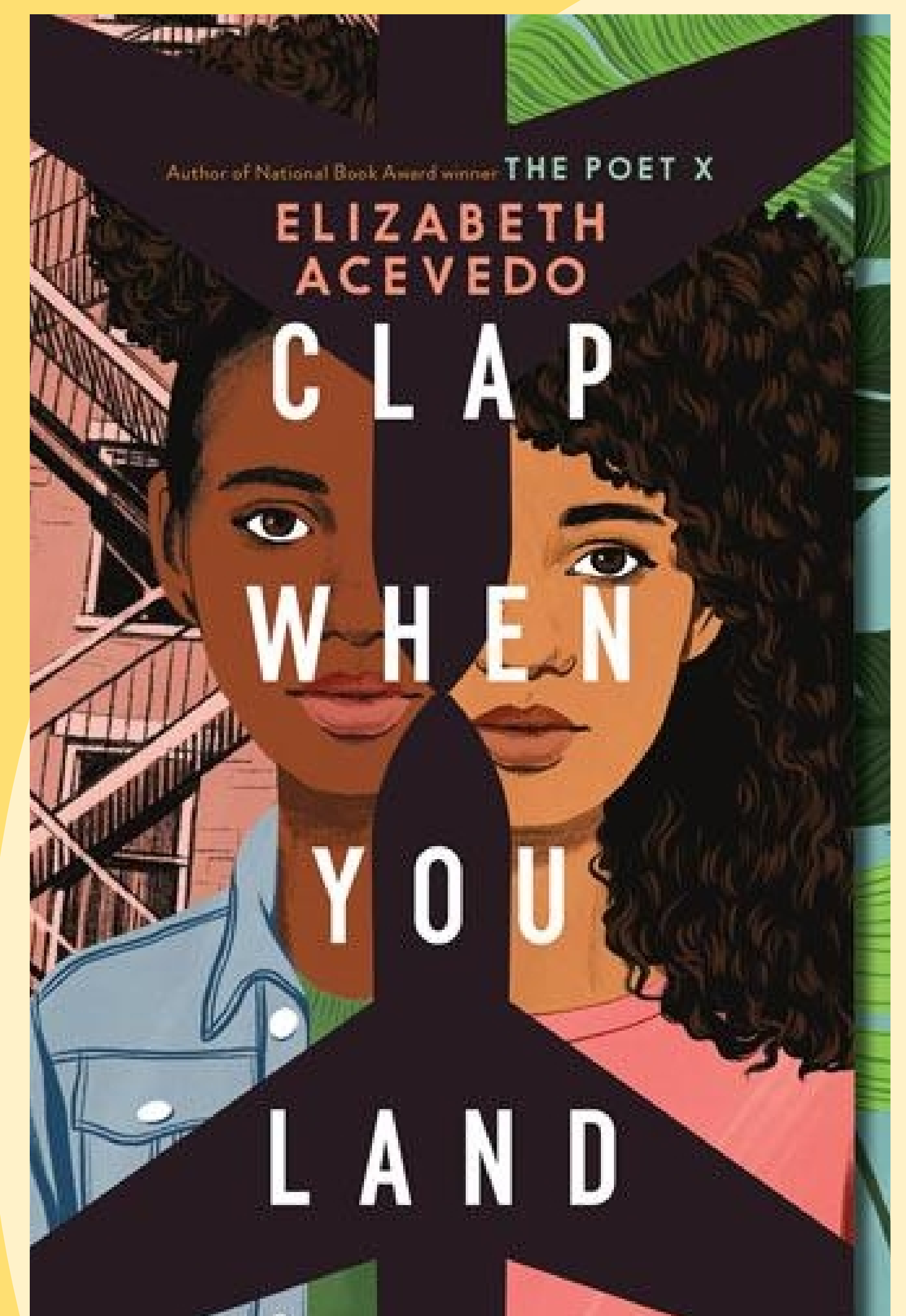
[Buy This Book](#)



## ***Grown***

Seventeen-year-old Enchanted Jones finds her life transformed after top R&B artist Korey Fields takes notice of her during an audition. But soon, she realizes that underneath his charm, Korey hides a disturbing, possessive side. One day, Enchanted wakes up to find her hands covered in blood, Korey dead, and no memory of the night before. Accused of murder, Enchanted fights to prove her innocence and expose Korey's true nature to the public. With depictions of sexual assault, self-harm, domestic abuse, and opioid addiction, *Grown* is better suited for mature readers.

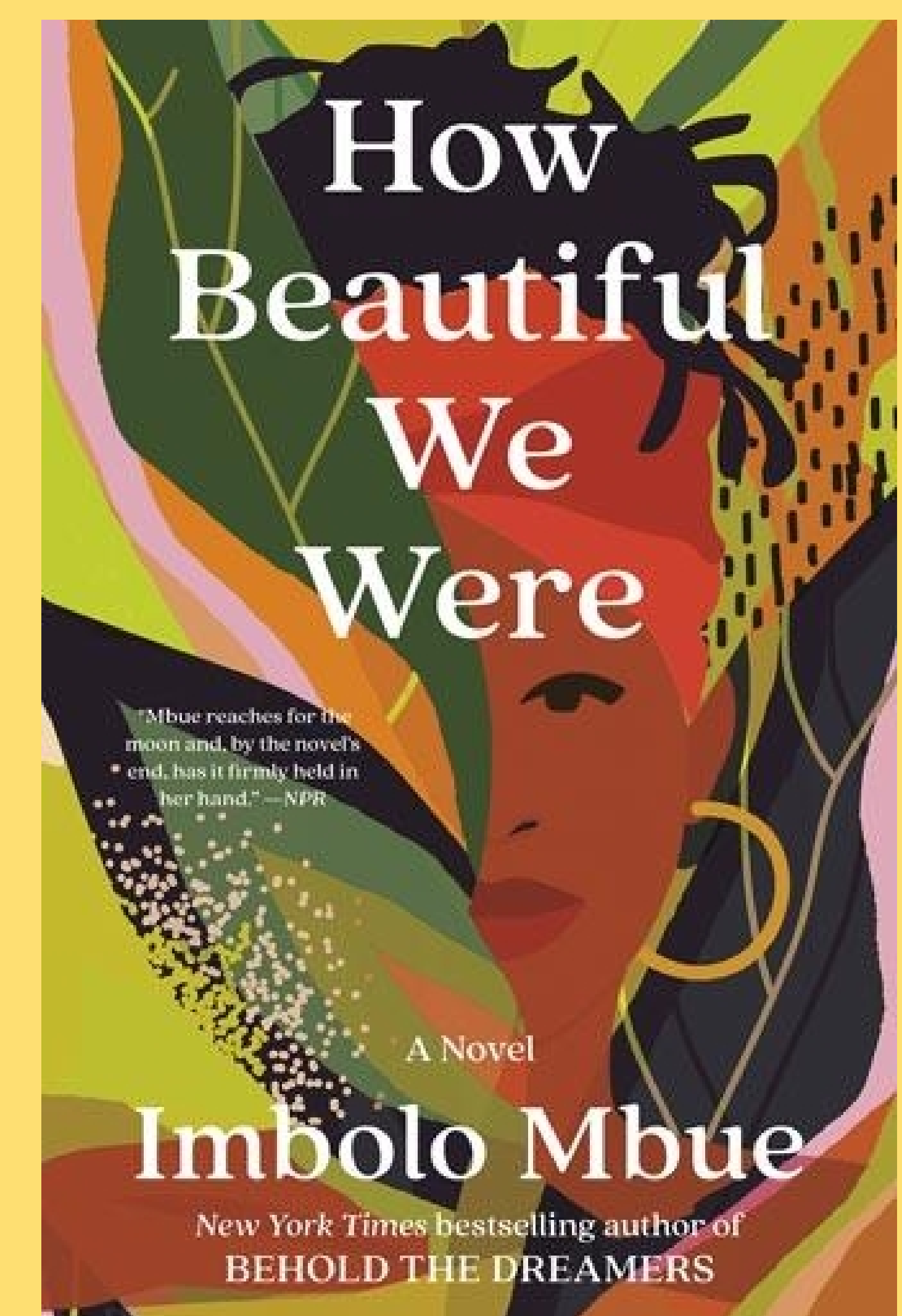
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## ***Clap When You Land***

Told through verse, *Clap When You Land* weaves a powerful story about grief and forgiveness. In the Dominican Republic, Camino Rios heads to the airport to pick up her father, only to find chaos. In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office and learns her father died in a plane crash. In the wake of the accident, a series of events leads both girls to uncover their father's secrets and, in turn, each other.

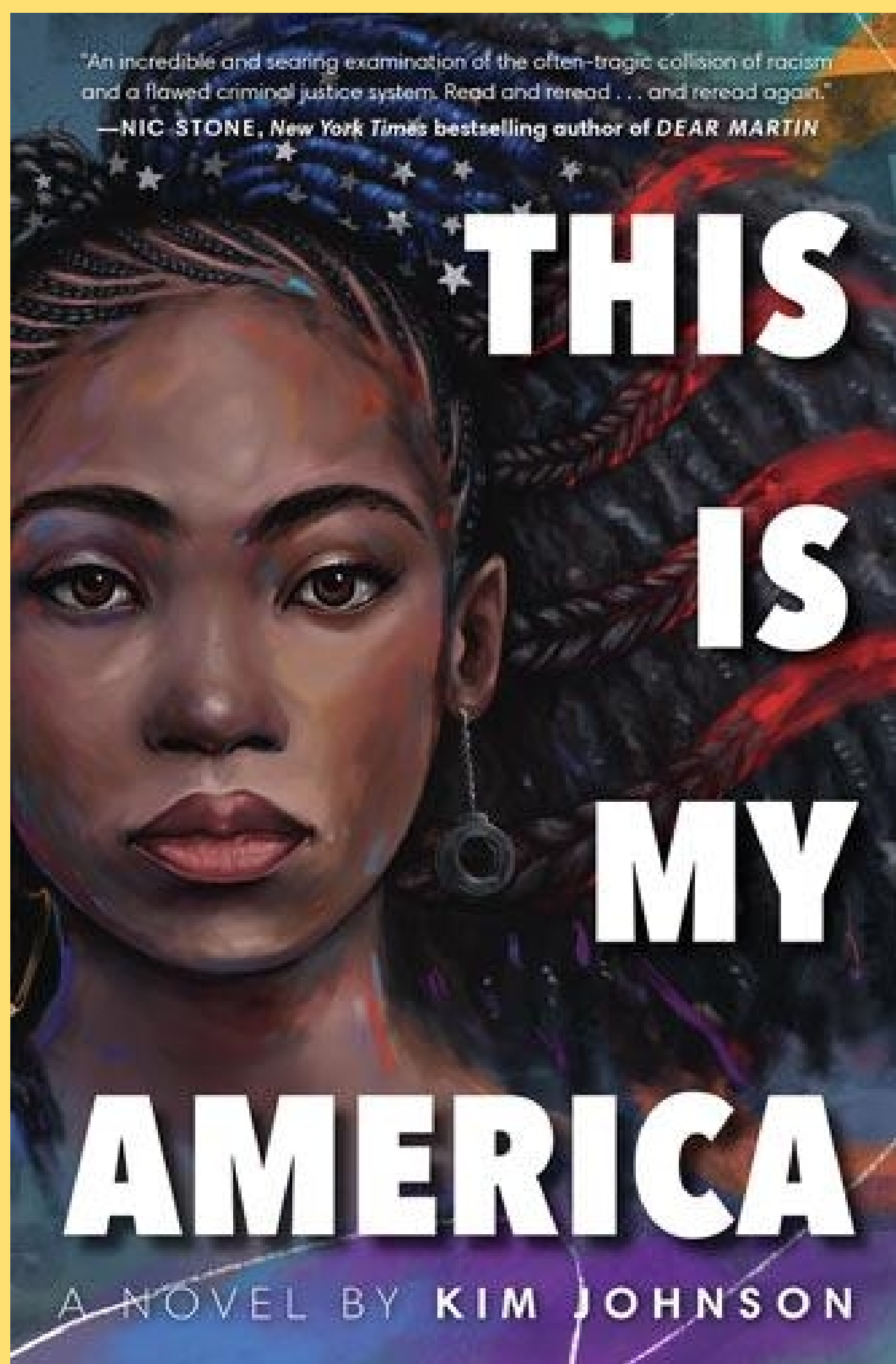
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## ***How Beautiful We Were***

Told through multiple perspectives, *How Beautiful We Were* follows the generations-long struggle between Kosawa, an African village, and Pexton, an American oil company. Pexton promised the villagers prosperity, but instead, the company's operations have left the land polluted and infertile. With children getting sick—some even dying—and reparations ignored, the community decides to take matters into its own hands, no matter the cost. Although this story is fictional, it touches on real-world issues, such as environmental destruction and neocolonialism, that impact many West African nations.

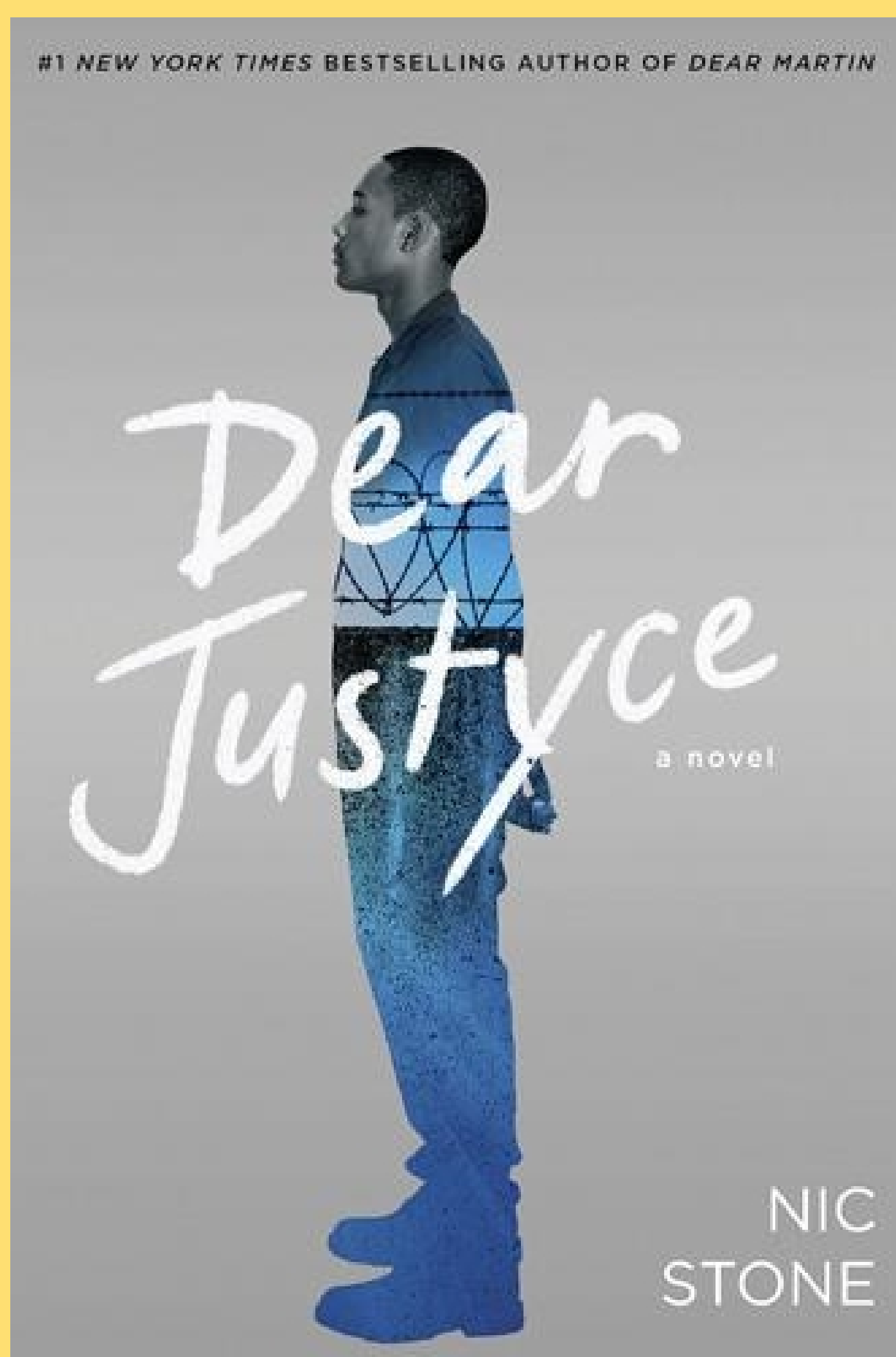
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## ***This Is My America***

Every week, teenager Tracy writes to Innocence X, asking the organization to help free her father, an innocent black man, from death row. With only 267 days left, Tracy is worried. Then, her family suffers another shock when her older brother Jamal, a promising track star, is accused of killing Angela, a local white girl. Jamal flees, afraid of ending up like his father. Tracy is determined to prove the innocence of both her father and brother, but her search for the truth reveals dark secrets within their Texas town. Because of strong language and depictions of drug use, this book is better suited for older readers.

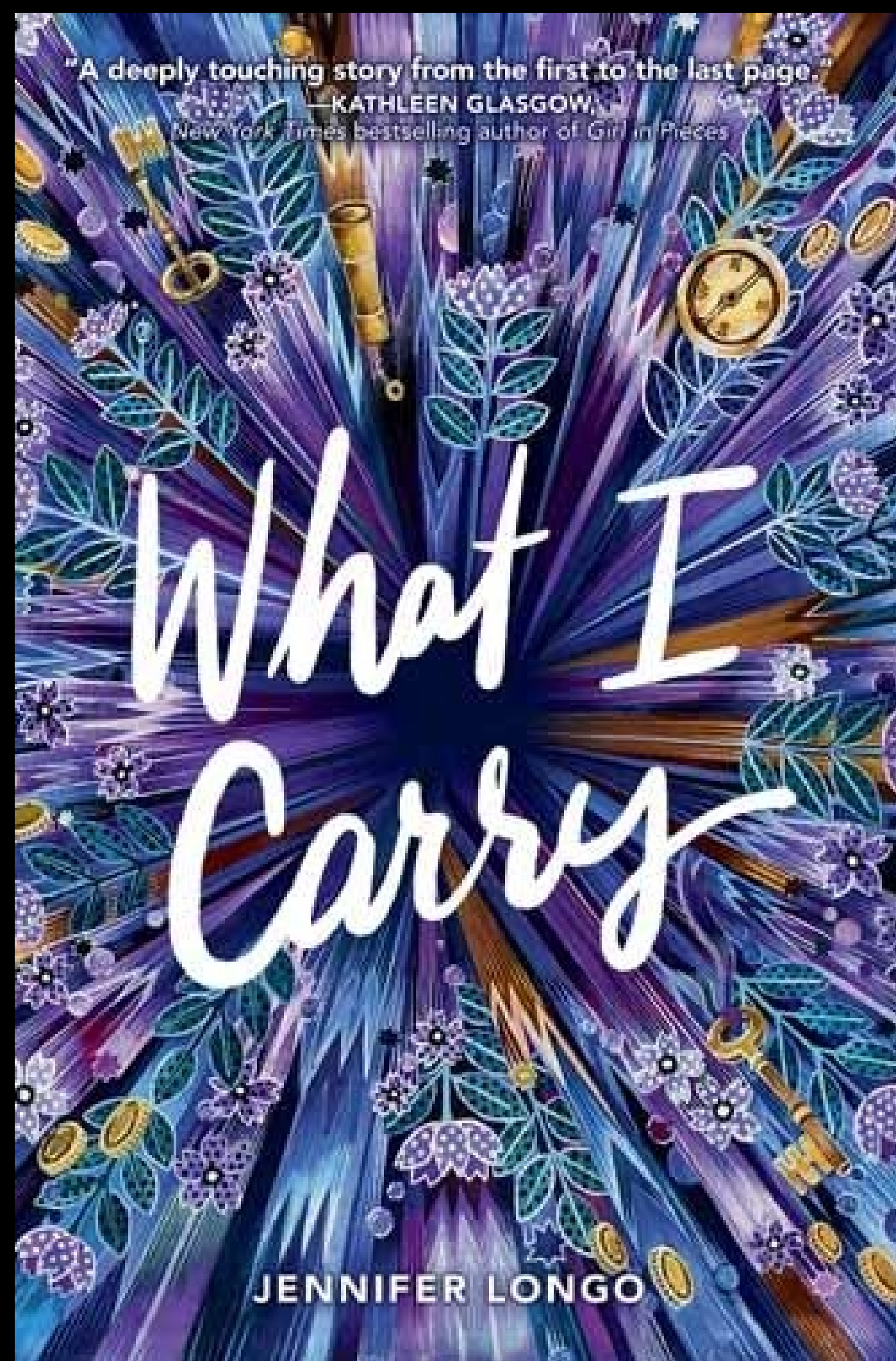
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## ***Dear Justyce***

In this sequel to the *New York Times* bestseller *Dear Martin*, author Nic Stone examines the effects of discrimination within the American juvenile justice system. Through a series of flashbacks and letters to Justyce, *Dear Martin*'s protagonist, this story follows teenager Quan and the crucial moments of his life that led to his unjust incarceration at the Fulton Regional Youth Detention Center. Depictions of drug use, language, and violence make this book better suited for older readers.

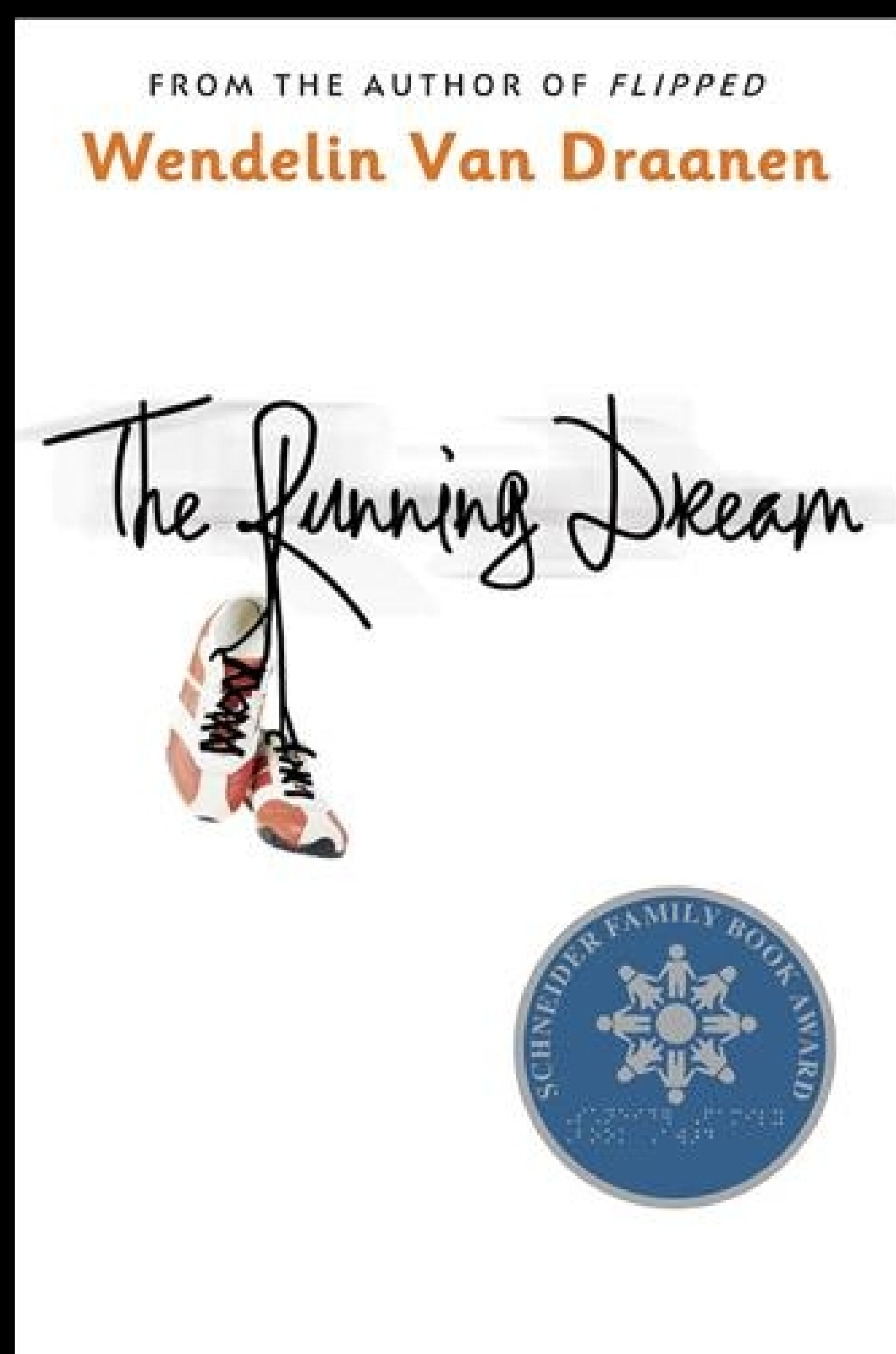
[Buy This Book](#)



## ***What I Carry***

At seventeen, Muir has just one year left until she ages out of the foster care system. Having lived in foster care nearly her entire life, Muir has one philosophy: Don't get attached. However, her staunch mindset starts to shift after she meets her latest and final foster mother, Francine, and two new friends, Kira and Sean. Now surrounded by people who care about her, Muir must reconsider her survival strategy and learn to let others in. With use of vulgarity throughout, *What I Carry* is best suited for older readers.

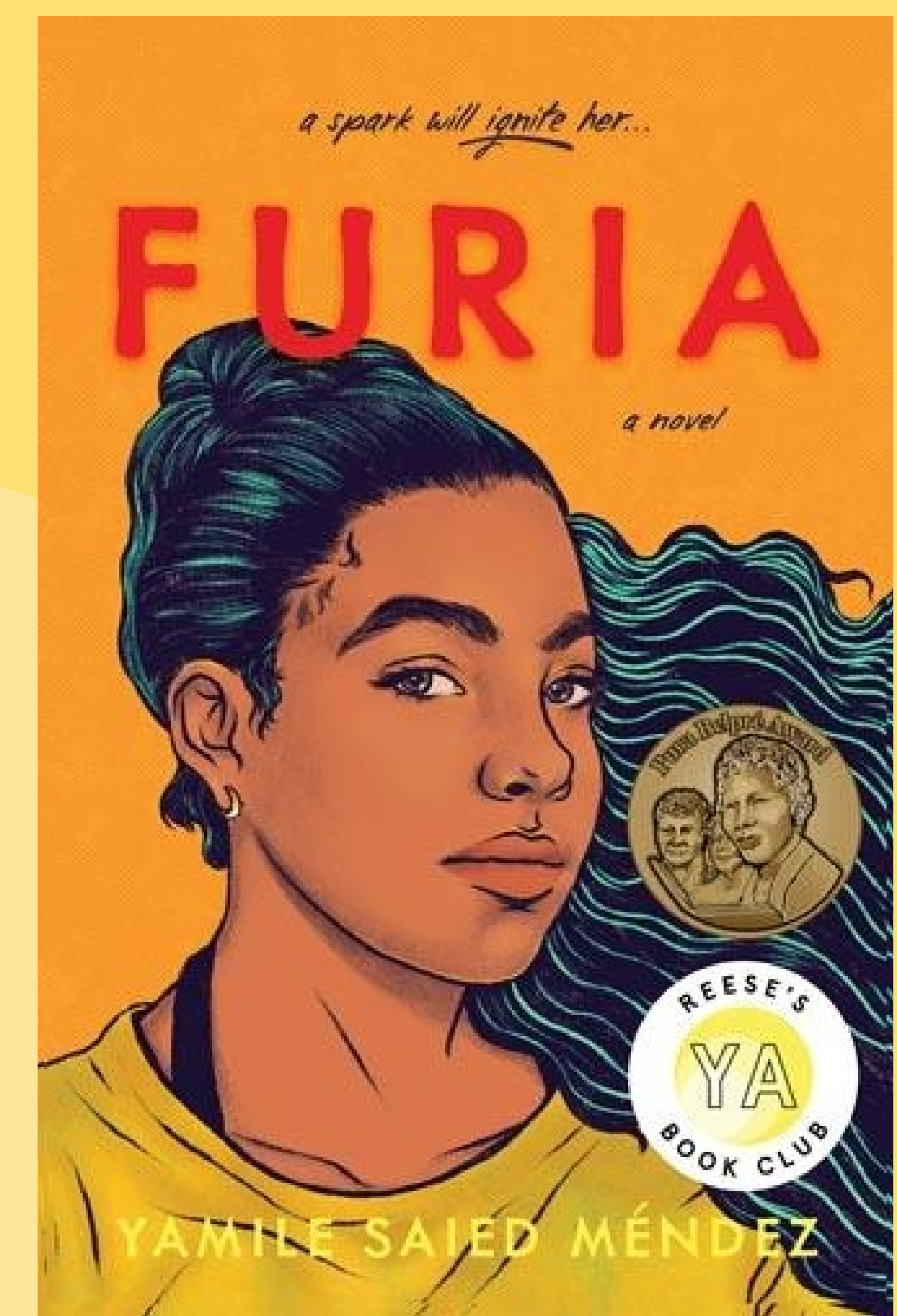
[Buy This Book](#)



## ***The Running Dream***

After losing her leg in a car accident, Jessica thinks her dreams of running track are over. At first, she's overwhelmed by grief and frustration as she adjusts to her new prosthetic leg. Determined to not let her circumstances stop her, Jessica believes she will run again, thanks to the support of her family, teammates, and her new friend, Rosa, a girl with cerebral palsy. With themes of friendship, healing, and perseverance, *The Running Dream* is an inspiring story that middle-grade readers will enjoy.

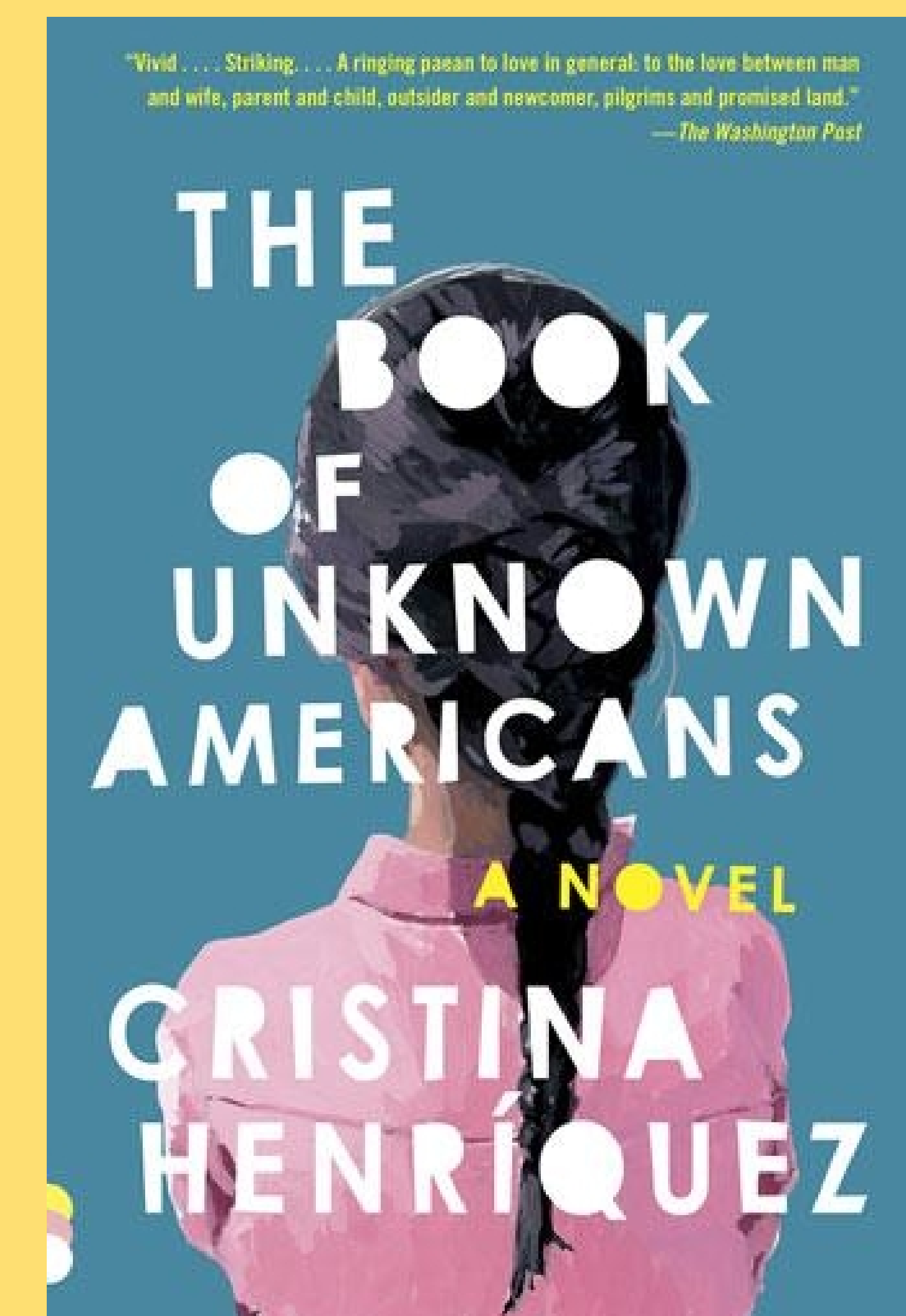
[Buy This Book](#)



## ***Furia***

Known as "La Furia" on the field, Camila aspires to be a world-class soccer player. So when her team qualifies for the South American tournament, Camila is ecstatic. If she plays well, she could earn a scholarship to a North American university. However, she needs her parents' permission to play—and they disapprove of her ambitions. To make matters worse, her childhood love, Diego, now an international soccer star, returns to their Argentinian town. Despite everyone's expectations, Camila must find the courage to choose her own path.

[Buy This Book](#)



## ***The Book of Unknown Americans***

When their daughter, Maribel, suffers a traumatic accident, the Rivera family makes the tough decision to seek treatment in the United States. But soon after leaving Mexico and arriving at their new apartment in Delaware, the Riveras discover a host of obstacles—from language and cultural differences to racism and violence—stand in the way of Maribel's recovery. Strong language and references to sexual assault make this book better suited for older readers.

[Buy This Book](#)

# How to Deal with Book Challenges

Book challenges have always been an issue in American schools, but never have we seen such a sharp rise in challenges quite like now.

In 2021 alone, the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom counted **1,597 individual book challenges** across schools, libraries, and universities in the United States—the highest number recorded since tracking began in 2000. Some of these challenges are typical; parents might object to their child reading a certain book. Others are **politically motivated**, with politicians, political groups, and school boards targeting specific books, claiming the titles include content they believe is inappropriate for children.

As an English language arts educator, you're likely to encounter book challenges at some point in your career—perhaps even more likely given today's social climate. Maybe you already have. In any case, it's important to know how to navigate these types of situations, no matter if you agree with the reasons behind the challenge or not.

Below, find four practical tips for handling book challenges should one affect your school.

## Review Your District or School's Policies

Depending on where you teach, your district or school may already have material selection and/or reconsideration policies in place. These policies are your first line of defense against book challenges.

A selection policy outlines the criteria for selecting and evaluating instructional material, including books, based solely on educational merit. The policy should make it clear that the evaluation process is objective and not driven by bias or opposition to controversial themes, should the book include any.

A reconsideration policy provides actionable steps you can take if you are challenged about a resource. This policy may include a document for the parent or group to complete in order to initiate the reconsideration process. The document should ask if they've examined the entire resource and to identify the specific problems they have about it.

If a parent or group comes forward with a book complaint, direct them to these policies so they understand why and how the book was chosen. They can then decide whether they want to move forward with a challenge. If they do, then they have a clear, formal process to follow.

If your school doesn't currently have a policy or needs to improve its current one, the American Library Association can help. Visit their website to find a free **material selection and reconsideration policy toolkit**.

## Recommend Alternative Choices, If Needed

Often, parents object to books because they believe the content doesn't align with their family's values or beliefs. And that's fine, but you shouldn't feel pressured to change your entire literature unit based on one parent's request. Not only is that impractical, but it's not fair to your other students and their parents.

In this situation, consider offering a different reading option for that student specifically. Before doing so, make sure your school allows alternative assignments.

## Encourage Students to Discuss Book Challenges

When it comes to book challenges, especially those that invoke community or media attention, student voices sometimes get lost in the noise. It's important that students are heard because, at the end of the day, they're the ones directly impacted by book bans.

Students probably have questions about why a book is being challenged. They might want to learn more about the book and the problems people have with it. Maybe they've heard about other book bans on the news or social media. Some students might even want to speak out against the challenge but aren't sure how.

If your students express interest in the topic, set some time aside for an open discussion. Class conversations give students the opportunity to practice critical thinking, hear different viewpoints, and reflect on their own opinions about these issues. If you're looking for a starting point, this [PBS Newshour Classroom activity](#) on recent book bans includes several focus questions to guide class discussion.

## Protect Yourself

We wish we didn't have to include this tip, but in today's world, it's unfortunately necessary. In the past year, members of several conservative groups [have targeted educators over book bans](#), especially in places where book challenges have made national news. Most of this harassment occurs online, with group members publicly sharing personal details, such as home phone numbers and addresses, of educators with whom they disagree.

In the event your school becomes the subject of a high-profile book challenge, it's important to keep yourself and your family safe from this type of targeted harassment. We recommend setting your social media accounts to private and limiting the amount of personal information you share online. Not sure where to start? PEN America created [a manual for dealing with online harassment](#) filled with tips on protecting your online presence and accounts.

## Resources for Teachers, Students, and Parents

In response to the unprecedented increase of book challenges across the country, several organizations and educator groups have created resources for teachers, students, parents, and community members to help combat this issue.

The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) offers a [free handbook](#) for educators that outlines the specific steps you should take when faced with book challenges and censorship issues.

NCAC also created [an action guide](#) for students and parents who want to learn more about book challenges and censorship. Using language kids can understand, the guide explains censorship laws, the importance of the First Amendment in schools, and the reasons why people challenge books.

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) developed [a book rationale database](#) designed to help you quickly source rationales for the titles you're teaching. Please note that you must be an NCTE member to access the files.

Are your students interested in reading books outside of class but don't have the means to get them? As part of their Books Unbanned initiative, the Brooklyn Public Library is offering [free library eCards for students ages 13-21](#). This card gives students access to the library's entire digital catalog. Students may apply for an eCard on [the library's website](#).

Handling book challenges can be a messy and overwhelming experience. But with knowledge and the right tools in place, you can successfully address these contentious situations.

### Sources

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# Media Literacy: Why Students Need These Skills

Every day, students of all grade levels are inundated with an increasingly vast variety of media to consume, from news broadcasts and social media to advertising and movies—most of which is readily available through the internet at any time.

With so much content vying for their attention, it's important that students learn how to make sense of it all. What kind of messages are being conveyed? How can they tell if what they're seeing and hearing is fact or fiction?

That's where media literacy comes in.

## What Is Media?

To understand media literacy, we must first define media itself. Simply, **media** is any means of communication that reaches or influences large numbers of people.

Over the course of history, media has **evolved alongside technology**. What we now consider mass media can trace its roots back to Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the movable-type printing press in the 1400s. This machine made it easier to produce printed material on a massive scale, allowing for information to quickly travel and boosting literacy rates throughout the world. Thanks to this invention, we have books, newspapers, journals, magazines, comics, and other print media.

Other forms of media have similar origins. Advancements in broadcast technology during the 19th and 20th centuries gave way to radio and television. In the 1990s, the introduction of the internet for public use fundamentally changed the way we share information, giving millions of people access to media at viral speed. Emails, social media, podcasts, video streaming, and webinars are common examples of digital media.

As we continue to create new media in an information-rich world, it's imperative that students have the skills necessary to navigate and understand what's presented to them.

## What Are Media Literacy Skills?

We've all seen what happens when people don't have media literacy skills. All it takes is one post on social media for misinformation to spread rapidly. Sometimes what's being shared is innocuous, even if untrue, but in many cases, it's dangerous. For instance, during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, people spread **all kinds of myths** about the virus online. So much false information was shared that Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Twitter took internal measures to mitigate misleading posts and point users in the direction of credible information.

But we can't rely on social media companies to do all of the work. Becoming better informed, thoughtful, and skeptical participants in media starts with strong media literacy skills.

Media literacy refers to a person's ability to identify, analyze, interpret, and create media messages. Those who are media literate understand how media can be used for positive, negative, or neutral purposes. They can identify why and how content is designed to elicit emotional responses or persuade an audience. They can make sure that the information they encounter is coming from reliable sources.

At its core, media literacy is **all about critical thinking**. It requires us, the audience, to actively engage with content instead of being passive consumers. The easiest way to do this is by asking questions about the content, regardless of media type. Some common ones to consider include:

- **Who made it?**
- **Why did they make it?**
- **When was it made?**
- **Who paid for its production?**
- **Who is the intended audience?**
- **Is it fact or opinion? Is it hard to tell?**
- **What points of view are expressed? What points are missing?**
- **How might different people interpret the message?**
- **What persuasive techniques are used and why?**
- **Is it trying to sell me a product or idea?**

## Media Literacy and Students

People of all ages benefit from media literacy, but students especially should learn how to apply these skills. With their minds still developing, kids and teenagers are particularly vulnerable to media messages. At these stages in life, students are beginning to shape their own characters and morals based on information and behaviors presented by external forces—their family, their friends, and media, to name a few.

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, kids ages 8–12 spend around 4–6 hours a day on screens, and teenagers spend up to 9 hours. Screens include computers, phones, and television, among other devices. In that time, they're streaming shows and movies, watching user-created content, playing online games, reading e-books, listening to music, and scrolling through social media. They're probably making their own media and sharing it with others.

Media consumption itself isn't necessarily an issue, but problems arise when students aren't taught to ask questions about the things they encounter. There's no doubt that during all that screen time, students are exposed to messages they don't know how to process or filter. They might come across a clickbait piece thinking it's credible, see an ad for a product that appears to do the impossible, or view a retouched photo of an influencer and believe it's real.

Without media literacy skills, students may simply take these things at face value and, in turn, develop a warped view of reality. Internalizing harmful messages may lead students to experience bad thoughts about others and themselves. Multiple studies have shown that negative media messages have a detrimental effect on youth mental health, with rising rates of depression, body image issues, eating disorders, and instances of self-harm attributed to frequent social media use.

On the other hand, when students know how to analyze media messages, they learn that all media, even the most basic and seemingly pointless, directly impacts the way they view the world. With this information, students can lessen the impact of harmful messages they may come across. Questioning media messages, even ones they agree with, will teach them to evaluate issues from multiple sides before forming opinions.

## Teaching Media Literacy in the English Language Arts Classroom

While media literacy can be integrated into all subject areas, English language arts is uniquely suited for teaching these skills. After all, as an English teacher, you're an expert in getting students to think critically about the things they read!

Chances are, you're probably already incorporating a variety of media into class activities alongside traditional resources like textbooks and paperbacks. Maybe you're watching film adaptations of literary works or reading articles about current events. As your students interact with media, remind them to ask questions about the things they observe. How does the medium (video, news article, etc.) affect the way they interpret the message? Is the content objective, or can they identify bias in the way it's presented?

Media literacy lessons go hand-in-hand with research units. Before students begin searching for information about a research topic, consider having a discussion about the importance of evaluating credible sources. PBS LearningMedia offers a free downloadable lesson plan on identifying high-quality sites that's appropriate for grades 6 and above.

## Prestwick House Resources for Teaching Media Literacy

At Prestwick House, we have a number of ELA resources for teaching the critical thinking skills required for media literacy. The following materials can easily be incorporated into any creative writing, journalism, AP Language, or general language arts course.

*Techniques of Propaganda and Persuasion* encourages students to apply logical thinking and look past manipulative strategies used in the media they see every day. In this workbook, students will learn how to identify and analyze various persuasive techniques used in propaganda, including the bandwagon, pinpointing the enemy, card stacking, and the false dilemma. Historical examples of propaganda throughout the book help students understand the real-world impact these types of messages have.

*Reading & Analyzing Nonfiction: Slant, Spin, & Bias* explores the concept of author's purpose to explain that all nonfiction is never completely objective. Through direct instruction, models, exercises, and writing assignments, this workbook will help students learn to recognize biased writing and avoid falling for flimsy arguments.

*Multiple Critical Perspectives*, part of our *Literature Teaching Guides* series, gives your students new opportunities to examine literary works from a variety of angles. Each title-specific guide introduces your students to three critical theories and includes activities to examine the work you are studying from each perspective.

Need shorter lessons? Visit the English Teacher's Free Library! You'll find several free downloadable lesson plans perfect for building media literacy skills, including:

- Slant, Spin, and Bias in the News
- Examining Author's Purpose in Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall" Speech
- Nonfiction: Analyzing McCarthy's "Enemies from Within" Speech
- Writing Arguments in Response to Nonfiction

Teaching students about media literacy is one of the most effective ways to show them the importance of critical thinking—and to help them make informed decisions in a highly-connected world.

### Sources

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# What's in the English Teacher's Free Library?

Launched in 2015, the [English Teacher's Free Library](#) is the place to find complimentary English language arts teaching resources created to support your work in the classroom. Whether you're looking for free lesson plans to inspire a new activity, posters to decorate your teaching space, or guides to teaching your favorite books, the English Teacher's Free Library has you covered.

New resources are added all the time, so [be sure to visit](#) throughout the school year—no library card needed!

## Posters

Decorating your classroom is easy with our collection of free downloadable posters! These high-resolution posters are ready to print and hang in just a few clicks. Choose from a variety of themes such as author quotes, famous lines in literature, poems, and literary theory.

## Crossword Puzzles

Available for more than 65 popular titles, our downloadable crossword puzzles are perfect for wrap-up activities, lessons for substitute teachers, or extra credit assignments. The clues in each puzzle ask students to recall key information about the book they've read, including character roles and relationships, details about plot and conflict, and notable words or phrases found in the text.

## Lesson Plans

Add variety to your curriculum with ready-made lesson plans covering a range of English language arts subjects like literature, grammar, and vocabulary. Most lesson plans are designed to be completed in a single class period, making it easy for you to add them to your class schedule whenever you'd like.

## eBooks

Our free eBook library is full of valuable English language arts information, from strategies for helping students understand Shakespeare to tips on teaching vocabulary and literature.



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