

If you work in a diverse library district, you probably have adult patrons asking for books by Zane or Sistar Souljah. Chances are you begin blushing or lowering your already hushed voice as you read some of the urban fiction titles out loud to patrons.

We know that it's great for adults to read in front of their teens but when a parent is reading about hustling, their teens might be reading the same books and we aren't always comfortable directing teens to the adult urban fiction section/books.

A great alternative is urban fiction for teens or books that feature teens of color. Below you'll find a list of urban fiction and books with teens of color.

First things first, the technical definition of urban fiction is: **Urban fiction**, also known as street lit or street **fiction** is a literary genre set, as the name implies, in a city landscape; however, the genre is as much **defined** by the socio-economic realities and culture of its characters as the **urban** setting.-  
Wikipedia

## Urban Fiction Series

- [Kimani Tru](#) Series by Various Authors

Kimani Tru books from Harlequin follow African American teens as they deal with school, dating, and friendships.

- Hollywood High Series by [Ni-Ni Simone](#) and [Amir Abrams](#)

The Hollywood High Series follow teens of celebrities as they deal with money, fame, and relationships.

- Charly's Epic Fiasco Series by [Kelli London](#)

The Epic Fiasco Series follows Charly a teen who grew up on the streets but has dreams of becoming an actress.

## **Urban Fiction Authors**

If you are trying to bulk up your urban fiction collection, one of the easiest ways to do so is to search by author. Below is a list of urban fiction authors.

[Earl Sewell](#)

[Angela Johnson](#)

[Sharon G. Flake](#)

[Dream Johnson](#)

[Amir Abrams](#)

[Ni-Ni Simone](#)

[Monica McKayhan](#)

[Cassandra Carter](#)

[L. Divine](#)

[Denene Miller](#)

## **Hi Lo Books**

[Saddleback Education Publishing](#) publishes Hi-Lo urban fiction.

Hi-Lo simply means high interest low readability. These books are about 150-200 pages and have easier vocabulary than a traditional YA book. The great thing about these books is that the covers look like traditional YA so the teen reading them won't feel bad.

## Books Featuring a Person of Color

Because teens like to judge books by their cover, it's important to purchase and display books with a person of color on the cover.

Below is a list of books that not only feature Black protagonists but a person of color is on the cover. Please note that the following books are not necessarily urban fiction.

- Endangered by [Lamar Giles](#)

Panda (Lauren) is a photographer whose mission is to expose the secrets of the assholes at her school. It's initially fun until a mysterious classmate exposes Panda's secrets.

- The Summer of Chasing Mermaids by [Sarah Ockler](#)

After a serious accident left singer Elyse mute, she decides to live a life of solitude. During a party Elyse meets Christian, a playboy who doesn't treat her like glass. Will Elyse give her heart to a boy who steals many hearts?

- Not Otherwise Specified by [Hannah Moskowitz](#)

Etta isn't gay enough for The Dykes, her old clique, and she's not skinny or white enough to be a ballerina. Etta begins to feel alone when she meets Bianca, a straight white Christian.

- Into White by [Randi Pink](#)

Latoya Williams is a black girl in an all white school and makes a wish to make her life easier and to be white. Find out what happens when Latoya's wish comes true.

- Steep and Thorny Way by [Cat Winters](#)

Set in 1920's Oregon, this Hamlet reimagining features Hanalee the daughter of a white woman and black man. When her father's accidental death is rumored to be a murder, Hanalee seeks answers even though the main suspect is her step father.

- Mirage by [Tracy Clark](#)

Ryan loves the rush of sky diving but after a near death experience, Ryan changes. Will she regain her passion for adventure and loose herself in her own head?

- Boy in the Black Suit by [Jason Reynolds](#)

Following the death of his mother, Matt takes a job at a funeral home to help take care of the bills and his alcoholic father. Lost in loneliness, Matt meets Lovey, a confident girl who drives Matt to be tougher person.

- This Side of Home by [Renee Watson](#)

Identical twins Nikki and Maya are inseparable and agreeable. When their tough neighborhood becomes trendy, Nikki is excited while Maya is opposes to the change. Will this difference of opinions about their home and culture cause a rift in their sisterhood?

- Scarlett Undercover by [Jennifer Latham](#)

Scarlett is a kick butt detective who's vowed to tackle the crime in her city. When a new crime ring comes to town, Scarlett discovers her family might be involved.

- Everything but the Truth by [Mandy Hubbard](#)

Holly's mother works at a retirement home for wealthy people and when the grandson of a wealthy resident mistakes Holly for a relative of a resident, Holly decides to continue the ruse. Will Malik end the relationship when he finds out Holly is the daughter of the help?