

Compiled by Lashonda M. Winston

Take some time this summer to read about how to overcome!



The House Girl

Author: Tara Conklin

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

2004: Lina Sparrow is an ambitious young lawyer working on an historic lawsuit seeking reparations for the descendants of American slaves. 1852: Josephine is a 17-year-old house slave who tends to the mistress of a Virginia tobacco farm: an aspiring artist named Lu Anne Bell. These are two remarkable women, separated by more than a century, whose lives unexpectedly intertwine. Lina discovers that the revered paintings of Lu Anne were actually the work of Josephine. In piecing together Josephine's story, Lina embarks on a journey that will lead her to question her own mother's mysterious death 20 years before.

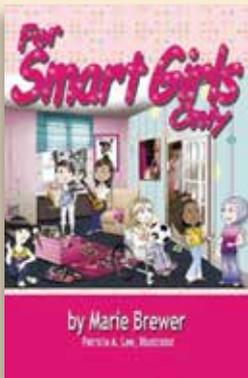
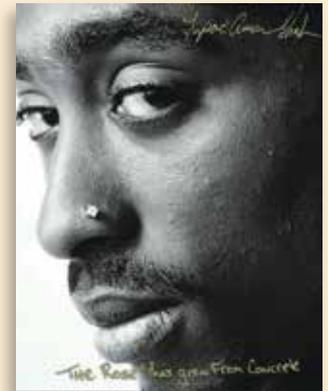
The Rose That Grew from Concrete

Author: Tupac Shakur; Foreword by Nikki Giovanni; Introduction by Leila Steinberg

Publisher: MTV Books

Reading Level: Grade 7 and higher

This is a collection of poetry written by the rapper Tupac Shakur from 1989 to 1992, before he became famous. The poems are passionate, sometimes angry and often compelling. Selections are reproduced from the originals in Shakur's handwriting, personalized by distinctive spelling and the use of ideographs (a drawing of an eye for "I," etc.) and complete with scratch-outs and corrections. The preface of this unique book was written by Shakur's mother.



For Smart Girls Only

Author: Marie Brewer

Publisher: Infinity Publishing

Reading Level: Grades 4 to 6

The perfect book for "tween" girls! It is interactive and promotes self-love, character-building, confidence and a strong spirit. The topics covered almost every preteen girl will encounter at some point in her life, as she grows into a young lady. It provides girls with the skills to help overcome problems with family, friends, education, parents, parent divorce, independence, inner beauty, internet safety, bullying, cell phones, drug and alcohol resistance, boys, pets, street/pool safety and "girl sheen."

Gifted Hands, Kids Edition: The Ben Carson Story

Authors: Gregg Lewis, Deborah Shaw Lewis

Publisher: Zonderkidz

Reading Level: Age 9 and older

Benjamin Solomon "Ben" Carson Sr., an African American, was born in Detroit, Mich., and was raised by his single mother. Ben was angry and violent and struggled academically throughout elementary school, but after his mother reduced his television time and required him to read two books a week and write book reports for her, he started to excel. After graduating with honors from Southwestern High School, he attended Yale University, where he earned a degree in psychology. Today, he is one of the world's most brilliant surgeons.

