Sepetys, Ruta—I Must Betray You
Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu stands toe to toe
with the utter depravity of Romanian dictator Nicolae
Ceaușescu when he is blackmailed by secret police into
becoming an informer. Even as Cristian strives to
maintain some integrity, his family, his friendships, and
the world around him crumble. (YA)

Tahir, Sabaa—All My Rage
Sal and Noor, estranged best friends growing up in
Juniper, California, are pulled back into a shared orbit
by the catastrophic death of Sal’s mother, Misbah.
Interwoven tragedy and family obligation creates
bonds so tight that their very survival is at stake.
Winner of the 2023 Printz Award for Excellence in
Young Adult Literature. (YA)

Taylor, Will
The Language of Seabirds
Jeremy is not pleased to be forced to spend the
summer with his father and uncle in a beach cabin in
Oregon. When he meets Evan during a walk on the
beach, things take a turn for the better as they explore
a friendship that becomes something more that either
boy expected—and just what each has secretly been
hoping for. (Oregon author; MG)

Thomas, Aiden—The Sunbearer Trials
The Sunbearer Trials are an elite competition for teen
semidioses—one that ends in great honor or the
ultimate sacrifice. Teo, the trans son of Quetzal,
goddess of birds, is utterly surprised to be chosen to
compete along with Xio, the child of the god of bad
luck. They must fight for survival through five
mysterious trials against opponents far better trained
and more powerful. (Oregon author; MG)

White, Andrew Joseph
Hell Followed with Us
In a society shattered by a vicious cult’s bioweapon, 16-
year-old trans boy Benji is on the run and trying to
avoid mutating into what the cult has forced him to
be—a monster capable of wiping humanity from the
earth. Welcomed by teens from the Acheson LGBTQ+
Center, Benji joins their fight to survive. (YA)

NONFICTION

Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: A Guide to the Indigenous
Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall
Kimmerer
An update of a classic of Indigenous literature that
explores of how living things provide us with gifts and
lessons about life. (MG)

Queer Ducks (and Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal
Sexuality by Eliot Schrefer
Humor and science blended to provide the animal
kingdom is brimming with examples of same-sex
activity. (MG/YA)

Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle
Butler by Ibi Zoboi
In a blend of poetry and prose, contemporary novelist
Ibi Zoboi explores the young life and influences that
shaped and influenced visionary science-fiction
storyteller Octavia Butler. (MG)
Chee, Traci

A Thousand Steps Into Night

Miuko is an ordinary girl in the realm of Awara, until a curse turns her into a demon. Seeking to reverse the curse, she learns more than she bargained for. (YA)

Emezi, Akwaeke—Bitter

Bitter is thrilled to be pulled from foster care into Eucalyptus, a special school where she can focus on her painting. Her new friends push her to see the deep injustices around them in the community of Lucille. Bitter isn’t sure whether to hide in her studio or join the protests. (YA)

Giles, Lamar—The Getaway

Everyone is happy in Karloff County, the ultimate resort getaway. Even the workers, like Jay and his friends, are happy because they are insulated from the deteriorating world and food riots on the outside. That is, until the come-and-go crowds are replaced by elite permanent guests who will take everything so they want for nothing. (YA)

Hanna Alkaf—Queen of the Tiles

The last time Najwa Bakri attended a Scrabble competition, she witnessed the death of her friend and Scrabble queen, Trina Low. When Trina’s Instagram account come back to life with hints that there was more to her death, Najwa steps into the role of investigator and learns more than she’d like to know about the other players in the Scrabble circuit. (MG/YA)

Ibañez, Isabel

Together We Burn

A disaster in the dragon-fighting arena leaves Zarela Zalvidar’s father horribly injured. To save the arena and her family, Zarela, a talented flamenco dancer, must step into her father’s role as Dragondor. In desperate need of help, she turns to a handsome and infuriating dragon hunter. (YA)

Khorram, Adib—Kiss & Tell

Hunter is the gay one in a wildly successful Canadian boy band. As they launch their big tour, Hunter is getting extra attention after a painful public breakup and leaked sexts. While The Label lays on the pressure to live up to their reductive idea of the perfect gay boy image, Hunter begins to crack under the pressure as he leans more and more into a new connection with Kaivan, the drummer for their opening band. (YA)

Jackson, Tiffany D.

The Weight of Blood

Biracial high school student Maddy Washington passes as white until she can’t and is then the subject of a viral bullying video that shines an appalling light on her small town. As the town tries to fix its image with it, Bastián and Lore have to learn to work together and trust each other to stop it. (YA)

LaSala, Ryan—The Honeys

A terrible moment leaves genderfluid Mars twinless, injured, and traumatized. Sure that Caroline’s tragic fate is linked to the swanky summer camp she attended, Mars moves in and seeks out a group of beekeeping girls known as The Honeys who toy with Mars’ emotions, memories, and sense of self, opening up deeper mysteries than anyone suspected. (YA)

Lin, Judy I.

A Magic Steeped in Poison

After accidentally brewing a tea that poisoned her mother and now threatens the life of her sister, Ning seeks a place in a tea-making competition in imperial city. If she can win a favor from the princess, Ning may be able to save her sister. But bloody court politics may put Ning into the worst danger of all. (YA)

McLemore, Anna-Marie—Lakelore

Rumors abound about a mythical, magical world under the lake, but Bastián Silvano and Lore Garcia know the truth—it is there and it is drifting to the surface. Desperate to protect the secrets that would come with it, Bastián and Lore have to learn to work together and trust each other to stop it. (YA)

McQuiston, Casey

I Kissed Shara Wheeler

After years of a fierce rivalry with Chloe Green, prom queen and perfect popular girl Shara Wheeler corners Chloe, kisses her, and vanishes. Chloe should be glad because now she has a straight shot at being valedictorian. Still, presented with a trail of annoying clues and two unlikely allies, she develops an overwhelming compulsion to solve the mystery. (YA)

Reynolds, Jason and Jason Griffin

Ain’t Burned All the Bright

Spare and powerful text mix with 300 pages of art to capture an urgent snapshot of being Black in a pandemic-ridden America that is seeking justice through protest. Packed with powerful truth and stunning imagery and a yearning to breathe, this unique book connects at a visceral and enduring level. (MG/YA)