

# YA RESISTS

YOUNG ADULT AUTHORS READ OUT

SKYLIGHT BOOKS HOSTS 12  
YA AUTHORS READING ABOUT  
**RESISTANCE AND HOPE** IN  
TROUBLED TIMES.

MARCH 22ND 7:30 PM  
SKYLIGHT BOOKS  
1818 N. VERMONT AVE.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

Please join

Cecil Castellucci  
Cherry Cheva  
Brandy Colbert  
Maurene Goo  
Kristen Kittscher  
Lindsey Klingele  
Gretchen McNeil  
Lilliam Rivera  
Cylin Ross  
Sherri L Smith  
Janet Tashjian  
Diana Wagman  
Mark London Williams



as they read from books for young people that highlight  
**protest, action** and **resistance**.

This event is sponsored by

**PEN CENTER USA**

## **A READING LIST OF BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE READ AT THE EVENT THAT HIGHLIGHT ACTIVISM AND RESISTANCE.**

### **Rose Sees Red - by Cecil Castellucci**

An American girl finds friendship with a Russian teenager over a 48 hour madcap night in New York City in 1982. In the friendship that blossoms between the two girls, citizens of two bickering nations during the Cold War, their bond embodies understanding, openness and a willingness to appreciate people's differences. Their adventure in the city leads them to the biggest no nukes rally in American History and their association become a symbol of peace at a time when politics have prevented any policy of trust.

### **The Chocolate War - by Robert Cormier**

Set at a fictional Catholic high school, the story depicts a secret student organization's manipulation of the student body, which descends into cruel and ugly **mob mentality** against a lone, non-conforming student.

**We shall not be moved: the women's factory strike of 1909 - J Dash**

Story of an important event in United States' women labor movement. Around 30,000 young women went on strike for better working conditions.

**Little Brother – Cory Doctorow**

*Little Brother* is about four teenagers in the SF Bay Area, who find their rights -- and physical liberties -- suspended after a presumed terrorist attack on the SF Bay Bridge and BART system. They resort to both time honored and "techno" means of defending both themselves, and the Bill of Rights, when there's some question of whether the latter will ever be seen "alive" again in the presumed "Land of the Free."

**Operation Redwood - Susannah T French**

In northern California, Julian learns that his new friend lives next to a grove of redwood trees that his own uncle's company plans to cut down. Embarking on a campaign to save the trees, Julian and his friends face down his bullying uncle to save the forest. With humor and a fast pace, the story captures the excitement and satisfaction of individuals challenging big, powerful interests—and winning!

**White, Sands, Red Menace - Ellen Klages**

In her award-winning sequel to *The Green Glass Sea*, Ellen Klages tackles the aftermath of the atomic bomb and the start of the space race with her coming-of-age story, *White Sands, Red Menace*. When Dewey Kerrigan and her friend Suze move with Suze's family to live near the White Sands Missile Range, they discover barriers science has yet to break through: race, class, gender and fitting in.

**Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan**

Based on true events—and narrated by a Greek Chorus of the generation of gay men lost to AIDS—*Two Boys Kissing* follows Harry and Craig, two seventeen-year-olds who are about to take part in a 32-hour marathon of kissing to set a new Guinness World Record. While the two increasingly dehydrated and sleep-deprived boys are locking lips, they become a focal point in the lives of other teens dealing with universal questions of love, identity, and belonging.

**The Rock and The River - Kekla Magoon**

In 1968 Chicago, it's not easy for thirteen-year-old Sam to be the son of known civil rights activist Roland Childs. Especially when his older brother, Stick, starts keeping to himself. Then, one day, Sam finds something under Stick's bed that changes everything: literature about the Black Panthers. Suddenly, nothing feels certain anymore. And when Dr. King is shot and killed, Sam's father's words are no longer enough to make him believe in change.... This moving, coming-of-age story gracefully encompasses the scope of the struggle between the civil rights and black power movements through an intimate and relatable lens.

### **The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano by Sonia Manzano**

There are two secrets Evelyn Serrano is keeping from her Mami and Papo? her true feelings about growing up in her Spanish Harlem neighborhood, and her attitude about Abuela, her sassy grandmother who's come from Puerto Rico to live with them. Then, like an urgent ticking clock, events erupt that change everything. The Young Lords, a Puerto Rican activist group, dump garbage in the street and set it on fire, igniting a powerful protest. When Abuela steps in to take charge, Evelyn is thrust into the action. Tempers flare, loyalties are tested. Through it all, Evelyn learns important truths about her Latino heritage and the history makers who shaped a nation. Infused with actual news accounts from the time period, Sonia Manzano has crafted a gripping work of fiction based on her own life growing up during a fiery, unforgettable time in America, when young Latinos took control of their destinies.

### **Destroy All Cars - Blake Nelson**

Seventeen-year-old James Hoff is the world's biggest pessimist. He doesn't believe that all this "green" action is really going to do any good, that humans "have ravaged the planet with our insane lust and greed, everywhere leaving behind horrendous pollution, toxic waste, and lethal contamination" and we are all destined to die slow, agonizing deaths from SUV carbon monoxide poisoning. So what's a cynical guy like him doing with an idealistic optimist like Sadie Kinnell? NOTHING, because philosophical and political differences finally led to their break-up at the end of sophomore year. But no matter how hard he tries to convince himself otherwise through the writing of heated English assignment manifestos that his teacher Mr. Cogweiller has no idea what to do with, James is still in love with Sadie. And as he grapples with what to do about the Sadie situation, how to call off his eighth grade sister's horny best friend and whether or not he should accept his corporate dad's offer of an evil, pollution-spewing car ("I just don't want one. Part angsty "dude" lit. and part angry meditation on the sad state of the environment, **Destroy All Cars** is one teen's timely, comic take on love, life and ecology.

### **Vote for Larry – Janet Tashjian**

After becoming what he so clearly and strongly resisted—a consumer—Josh Swensen finds himself in a paranoid state of no return. That is, until he's kidnapped and coaxed into resurfacing as Larry, his old activist persona. Before long, Larry is back on the scene with much more on his mind than anti-consumerism—this time, he wants to affect change in government. And Larry isn't taking a conventional path or starting small in local government. He just doesn't do things halfway. But can he really become an eighteen-year-old president of the United States? Even if he can, is he sure he really wants to?

**That girl Lucy Moon - Amy Timberlake**

Twelve-year-old Lucy Moon isn't afraid to stand up when she sees an injustice. When she goes against the richest woman in town, she is labeled a bad influence. When she finds herself in trouble at school, her friends distance themselves from her. Can one girl make the world a better place?

**One crazy summer - Rita Williams-Garcia**

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. Ages 12+

**ADDITIONAL BOOKS TO EXPLORE WITH PROTEST, RESISTANCE AND ACTIVISM THEMES**

**Ellie McDoodle - R. M. N. Barshaw**

New kid in school. Ellie writes and doodles in a journal of her family's move to a new home and her struggle to make friends, which gets a lot easier as she leads a nonviolent protest about long lunch lines at school.

**Annie Glover is Not a Tree Lover. - D. B Beard, & H. H.Maione**

When her grandmother chains herself to the tree across from the school to save it from being cut down, fourth-grader Annie wants to die of humiliation, but when she discovers the town's history, her attitude changes.

**My life with the Lincolns- Gayle Brandeis**

In 1966 Illinois, twelve-year-old Wilhelmina, convinced that she, her parents, and sisters are Abraham Lincoln's family reincarnated, determines to keep them from suffering the same fates, which is complicated when she and her father become involved in the civil rights movement.

**A Thousand Never Evers - Shana Burg,**

Life for African Americans in the small town of Kuckachoo, Mississippi in 1964 remains firmly in the grip of Jim Crow laws, shadowed by the threat of violence and pervasive racial discrimination. The lively voice of seventh-grader Addie Ann Pickett reveals both her curiosity about the growing civil rights movement and her keen insight into the personalities and motives of her family, friends and townspeople. This novel was inspired by conversations the author had with her father, who moved the family to Alabama to do legal work to change Jim Crow laws and help African Americans gain access to voting rights. The author's note, afterword, timeline, and weaving of actual historical events into the narrative make this novel especially useful for curriculum units on the civil rights movement. See also *Walking the Bus-Rider Blues* by Harriet Gillem Robinet.

**The Wonder of Charlie Anne - Kimberly Newton Fusco**

In a 1930s Massachusetts farm town, Charlie Anne must adjust to life after the death of her mother and her father's departure to look for a job. The painful poverty and bigotry of the Depression era set the stage for Charlie Anne's growing awareness of the impact of prejudice. She also recognizes her own ability to effect change as she and her African-American neighbor form a friendship that begins to transform their community.

**Flush – Carl Hiaasen** See also the author's *Hoot* and *Scat*.

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. This action-packed mystery includes a lively group of dastardly villains and eccentric heroes, along with important environmental themes.

**Same Sun Here. Silas House and Neela Vaswani.**

This novel is an exchange of letters between two twelve-year-old pen pals: River Dean Justice, who lives in a small town in Kentucky that is facing environmental challenges caused by the local coalmine, and Meena Joshi, whose family has immigrated to New York City from India. River writes about his school, family, and joining his grandmother as an environmental activist. Meena writes about her family facing the challenges of racism and discrimination, the wonders of living in the city, and ultimately the joy of becoming United States citizens.

**The Iron dragon never sleeps S. Krensky & J Fulweiler**

In the summer of 1867, ten-year-old Winnie, whose father works as a mining engineer for the Central Pacific Railroad, finds her life changed by her meeting with the young tea carrier Lee Cheng, one of the striking Chinese immigrant laborers.

**Wide Awake – David Levithan**

In the not-too-impossible-to-imagine future, a gay Jewish man has been elected president of the United States. Until the governor of one state decides that some election results in his state are invalid, awarding crucial votes to the other candidate, and his fellow party member. Thus is the inspiration for couple Jimmy and Duncan to lend their support to their candidate by deciding to take part in the rallies and protests. Along the way comes an exploration of their relationship, their politics, and their country, and sometimes, as they learn, it's more about the journey than it is about reaching the destination.

### **Which side are you on?: The story of a song - G. E Lyon C Cardinale**

Which Side Are You On? tells the story of a song which was written in 1931 by Florence Reece in a rain of bullets. Florence's husband Sam was a coal miner in Kentucky. Miners went on strike until they could get better pay, safer working conditions, and health care. The company hired thugs to attack the organizers like Sam Reece. Writer George Ella Lyon tells this hair-raising story through the eyes of one of Florence's daughters, a dry-witted pig-tailed gal, whose vantage point is from under the bed with her six brothers and sisters.

### **Fire in the Streets by Kekla Magoon**

Maxie knows all about how fire can erupt at a moment's notice, especially now, in the sweltering Chicago summer of 1968. She is a Black Panther—or at least she wants to be one. Maxie believes in the movement. She wants to belong. She wants to join the struggle. But everyone keeps telling her she's too young. At fourteen, she's allowed to help out in the office, but she certainly can't help patrol the streets. Then Maxie realizes that there is a traitor in their midst, and if she can figure out who it is, it may be her ticket to becoming a real Panther. But when she learns the truth, the knowledge threatens to destroy her world. Maxie must decide: Is becoming a Panther worth paying the ultimate price?

### **Burn Baby Burn - Meg Medina**

Nora Lopez is seventeen during the infamous New York summer of 1977, when the city is besieged by arson, a massive blackout, and a serial killer named Son of Sam who shoots young women on the streets. Nora's family life isn't going so well either: her bullying brother, Hector, is growing more threatening by the day, her mother is helpless and falling behind on the rent, and her father calls only on holidays. All Nora wants is to turn eighteen and be on her own. And while there *is* a cute new guy who started working with her at the deli, is dating even worth the risk when the killer likes picking off couples who stay out too late? Award-winning author Meg Medina transports us to a time when New York seemed balanced on a knife-edge, with tempers and temperatures running high, to share the story of a young woman who discovers that the greatest dangers are often closer than we like to admit — and the hardest to accept.

### **Bread and roses, too. - Katherine Paterson**

Jake and Rosa, two children, form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

### **Lyddie - Katherine Patterson**

After her father abandons the family, ten-year-old Lyddie Worthen's mother hires the young girl out to pay his debts. This impoverished Vermont farm girl is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.

**Fall-out - G Pausewang**

The story of Janna, a girl that loses her family to a radioactive cloud after a nuclear fall-out in Germany. She moves with her aunt to work on various anti-nuclear causes.

**The Gospel According to Larry**

Josh Swensen isn't your average teenager—when he observes America, he sees a powerhouse of consumerism and waste. He's even tried to do something about it, with his controversial start-up website. But when Josh rises to messiah status of the internet world, he discovers that greed and superficiality are not easily escaped. Trapped inside his own creation, Josh feels his only way out is to stage his death and be free of his internet alter-ego, "Larry." But this plan comes with danger, and soon Josh finds himself cut off from the world, with no one to turn to for help.

**War & watermelon - R. Wallace**

As the summer of 1969 turns to fall in their New Jersey town, twelve-year-old Brody plays football in his first year at junior high while his older brother's protest of the war in Vietnam causes tension with their father.

**Come in from the cold – M Qualey**

In 1969 the Vietnam War protest movement brings together two Minnesota teenagers.

Prepared for the Los Angeles Young Adult authors reading at Skylight Books.  
Sponsored by PEN USA

This list of summaries was compiled from word of mouth and from these excellent lists:

<https://www.nps.gov/jofi/learn/education/upload/To-Light-the-World-Annotated-Bibliography.pdf>

<http://richincolor.com/2014/08/social-justice-and-activism-in-ya-lit/>

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