

While you're waiting for *Push*

Push by Sapphire

Precious is 17, illiterate, and pregnant by her father. As a last resort to better her life, she enrolls in a basic skills class in an alternative high school where she meets Ms. Blue Rain, the teacher who will push her to change.

F Sapphire

Try one of these titles with similar themes and characters.

Back Roads by Tawni O'Dell

Harley is 19 and responsible for himself and his three younger sisters who each have problems of their own. The story of Harley's family and history is both compelling and awful.

F Ode

Coldest Winter Ever by Sister Souljah

Winter Santiago lives a good life—she's pampered and spoiled and just moved into a mansion on Long Island. Everything changes when a drug war takes hold of her father's empire and her mother is shot.

F Souljah, S.

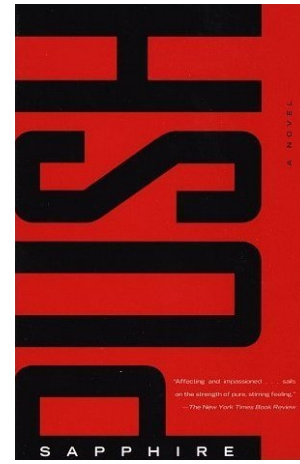
The Color Purple by Alice Walker

This is the story of two sisters living different lives, one a missionary in Africa, the other a young mother in the South. Told in letters, *The Color Purple* is a testament to loyalty, friendship, and sisterhood.

F Walker

Freedom Writers' Diary by the Freedom Writers and Erin Gruwell
Inspired by the diaries of Anne Frank and Zlata Filipovic, the students of a Long Beach high school began their own diaries that illustrated the hardships of their own lives and the progress they made in Gruwell's classroom.

YA 305.235 Fre



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***God Don't Like Ugly* by Mary Monroe**

Another coming of age story, this time featuring Annette, an overweight, African-American teen living in the 1960's South. Annette hides a painful secret until she meets the beautiful Rhoda who helps Annette get past the dark secret.

F Mon

***Mexican Whiteboy* by Matt de la Peña**

Danny spends the summer with his Mexican father's family while his white mother searches for a home with her new boyfriend. His goals for the summer: visit his father in Mexico, get to know the beautiful girl who just moved in, and get over the anxiety keeping him from being a great pitcher.

YA Pena

***Piece of Cake* by Cupcake Brown**

Piece of Cake begins with 11-year old Cupcake Brown finding her mother on the bathroom floor, dead from a seizure, and progresses through her childhood in foster care, time spent with the Crips, addiction to drugs, and finally, success as a lawyer.

B Bro

***The Rules of Survival* by Nancy Werlin**

Nikki is beautiful, manic, reckless, and the mother of three children: Matthew, Callie, and Emmy. *The Rules of Survival* is Matthew's letter to Emmy, recounting and explaining the physical and psychological abuse from which he tried to shield her.

YA Wer

***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

A traumatic event in the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year of high school.

YA And

***Tyrell* by Coe Booth**

15-year old Tyrell lives out of a homeless shelter in the Bronx with his mother and younger brother while he tries to earn money—without ending up in jail.

YA Boo

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