**KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS AWARD WINNERS**

Novels specifically written for young adult readers

**All American Boys by Jason Reynolds**
When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend.

**All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven**
Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markley meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, both teetering on the edge, it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the “natural wonders” of the state of Indiana, and two teens’ desperate desire to heal and save one another.

**Jackaby by William Ritter**
Newly arrived in 1892 New England, Abigail Rook becomes assistant to R. F. Jackaby, an investigator of the unexplained with the ability to see supernatural beings, and she helps him delve into a case of serial murder which, Jackaby is convinced, is due to a nonhuman creature.

**Mosquitoland by David Arnold**
When she learns that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim confronts her demons on a thousand-mile odyssey from Mississippi that redefines her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

**Need by Joelle Charbonneau**
In this exploration of the dark side of social media, and government control and manipulation, the teenagers in a small town are drawn deeper and deeper into a social networking site that promises to grant their every need--regardless of the consequences.

**None of the Above by I.W. Gregorio**
Homecoming queen Kristin Lattimer has a hard enough time dealing with her body, but her visit to the doctor reveals a difficult truth, Kristin is intersex, which means that though she looks like a girl, she has male chromosomes, not to mention boy “parts” and after her diagnosis is leaked to the whole school, her identity is thrown into question.

**Not After Everything by Michelle Levy**
After her mom kills herself, Tyler shuts out the world--until falling in love with Jordyn helps him find his way toward a hopeful future.

**Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard**
In a world divided by blood--those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities--seventeen-year-old Mare, a Red, discovers she has an ability of her own and risks everything to help the Scarlet Guard--a growing Red rebellion--even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction.

**The Rig by Joe Ducie**
Fifteen-year-old Will Drake has made a career of breaking out from high-security prisons. His talents have landed him at the Rig, a specialist juvenile holding facility in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. No one can escape from the Rig. No one except for Drake.

**Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys**
Told in alternating points of view, this masterful work of historical fiction is inspired by the real-life tragedy that was the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff--the greatest maritime disaster in history. As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war’s final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

**ALEX AWARD WINNERS**

More challenging novels written for an adult audience, but have wide appeal for teen readers

**Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan**
A mystery set in tech-loving, modern day San Francisco. Clay Jannon (former web designer) lands a job at a bookstore with very few patrons and even fewer purchases. His curiosity leads him to the discovery of a larger conspiracy.

**The Round House by Louise Erdrich**
A boy’s coming of age in the wake of a brutal, racist attack on his mother. Drawn from real-life statistics about racially inspired attacks on our country’s Native American reservations.

**LITERARY CLASSICS**

**The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver**
A story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family’s tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.

**Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut**
One of the world’s great anti-war books, this centers on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden and Billy Pilgrim’s odyssey through time, reflecting the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know.

**NONFICTION**

**Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman**
There are two systems that drive the way we think: #1 is fast, intuitive, and emotional while #2 is slower, more deliberative, and more logical. This book reveals where we can and cannot trust our intuitions and how we can use different techniques to guard against the mental glitches that often get us into trouble.

**Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates**
Coates writes to his 15-year-old son about the inborn hazards of being black in America and his own intellectual, political and emotional confrontation with the need to live fully, even in the face of racistal culture.

**The Good Soldiers by David Finkel**
In 2007, the infantry soldiers of the 2-16, the battalion nicknamed the Rangers, helped carry out a new strategy for the Iraq War. The chronicle of their tour is gripping, devastating, and deeply illuminating story of how their lives were forever changed once they returned home.