College-Going and Coming-of-Age Booklist

Elementary School
Look Out, College Here I Come! by Governor Michael F. Easley, www.nea.org
Tool for teachers and parents to use in preparing children to reach their goals and live their dreams.

The Circuit by Francisco Jimenez
Breaking Through (sequel to The Circuit) also by Francisco Jimenez
Story of son of migrant farm workers and his coming of age experiences with school, dances, and romance

La Mariposa by Francisco Jimenez
A young son of migrant workers struggles with learning English in first grade but finds success in his artistic talents

Gutsy Girls: Young Women Who Dare (Dream It! Do It!) by Tina Schwager
Short biographical profiles of girls’ interesting and compelling accomplishments

Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
Story of a girl overcoming struggles learning to read with help from teacher

Alvin Ailey by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Tales of Alvin Ailey as a boy and young man and his hopes, dreams and accomplishments

More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby
Fictionalized story of Booker T. Washington and his desire of being the first in his family to learn to read

Richard Wright and the Library Card by William Miller
The story of how Richard Wright was inspired to be a writer

Freedom Summer by Deborah Wiles
Depiction of post-civil rights friendship between two young boys, one black, one white

I’m Gonna Like Me: Letting Off a Little Self-Esteem by Jamie Lee Curtis
Wacky illustrations bring to life a confident and quirky boy/girl duo

Middle and High School
Ruby’s Wish by Shirin Yim Bridges
Despite her family’s traditions, a young girl in China dreams of going to the university.

Girls Hold Up this World by Jada Pinkett Smith
Artistic photographs of multicultural, multiracial girls enhance the positive message of Jada Pinkett Smith’s inspiring poem

Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff
True Believer (sequel to Make Lemonade) also by Virginia Euwer Wolff
Depiction of girl coming of age, dealing with issues of academics, college and crushes on boys

Coming of Age in Mississippi by Anne Moody
Autobiographical account of Anne’s journey from childhood through college and her involvement in the civil rights movement

The Circuit by Francisco Jimenez
Breaking Through (sequel to The Circuit) also by Francisco Jimenez
Story of son of migrant farm workers and his coming of age experiences with school, dances, and romance

And Still We Rise by Miles Corwin
Gifted inner city high school students share their experiences with school and beyond

A Hope in the Unseen by Ronald Suskind
Story of a young African America man struggling with the challenges of getting to college

The Ditch Digger’s Daughters by Yvonne S. Thornton, MD
Real life story of parents’ decree that all their five daughters will be doctors

Out of the Dump: Children of Guatemala
Writing and photographs to prompt discussion about the value of education and human rights

Gutsy Girls: Young Women Who Dare (Dream It! Do It!) by Tina Schwager
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