

REDISCOVER. REIMAGINE. REMIX.

#REMIXEDCLASSICS

USING REMIXED CLASSICS IN THE CLASSROOM: AN EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

In the Remixed Classics series, authors from diverse backgrounds take different literary classics from centuries past and reinterpret them through their own unique cultural lens. This collection will serve young adult readers as both a series of fun, engaging reads as well as a subversive overall look at what our society has deemed “classic” — works that are overwhelmingly cishet, white, and male.



SO MANY BEGINNINGS: A LITTLE WOMEN REMIX

BY BETHANY C. MORROW

ON SALE NOW

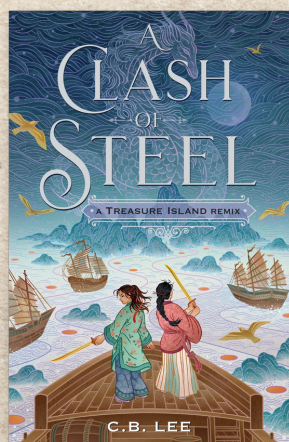
Four young Black sisters come of age during the American Civil War in the Freedpeople's Colony on Roanoke Island in this warm and powerful remix.

★ "Morrow's ability to take the lingering stain of slavery on American history and use it as a catalyst for unbreakable love and resilience is flawless. That she has remixed a canonical text to do so only further illuminates the need to critically question who holds the pen in telling our nation's story." —*Booklist*, starred review

★ "A beloved story gains new meaning through the lens of enduring Black resilience, love, and hope." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

SUGGESTED NONFICTION PAIRING:

Time Full of Trial: The Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony, 1862-1867 by Patricia C. Click



A CLASH OF STEEL: A TREASURE ISLAND REMIX

BY C. B. LEE

ON SALE NOW

Two intrepid girls hunt for legendary treasure on the deadly South China Sea in this swashbuckling remix, rooted in the history of 19th century Chinese pirate queen Ching Shih.

★ "This deeply immersive adventure features deftly interwoven Chinese and Vietnamese, luscious culinary descriptions, and well-rendered explorations of imperialism, treasure, found family, and love." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

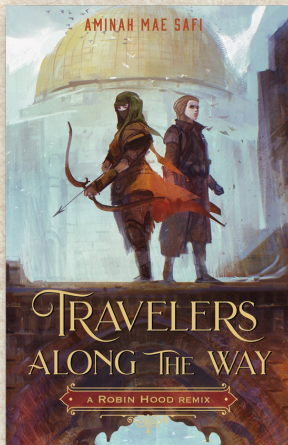
SUGGESTED NONFICTION PAIRING:

Pirates of the South China Coast 1790-1810 by Dian H. Murray



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TRAVELERS ALONG THE WAY: A ROBIN HOOD REMIX BY AMINAH MAE SAFI ON SALE NOW

A ragtag band of misfits gets swept up in Holy Land politics in this thrilling story set in Jerusalem during the Third Crusade, told from the Muslim perspective.

★ "Rousing... Wholly original in its cultural perspective and its centering of strong female characters... By creating an almost all-female cast, Safi makes women the heart of her story at a time when they were seen as a 'bargaining chip.'"

—*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

SUGGESTED NONFICTION PAIRING:

The Crusades Through Arab Eyes by Amin Maalouf



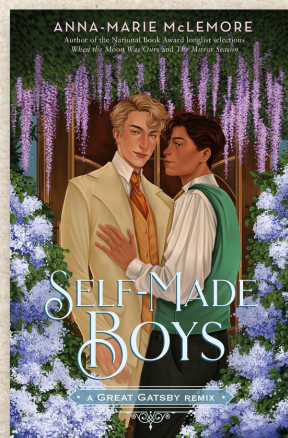
WHAT SOULS ARE MADE OF: A WUTHERING HEIGHTS REMIX BY TASHA SURI ON SALE NOW

This masterful remix of a romantic classic will leave readers swooning, while it also thoughtfully unpacks the history of the East India Company and Britain's fraught relationship with India after colonization.

"Suri uses historical information of white colonialism overtaking India to provide a realistic depiction of the time... Lovers of Brontë's classic will appreciate the message of this modified story: no matter what roads we've taken, we're all entitled to kindness in this world." —*Booklist*

SUGGESTED NONFICTION PAIRING:

Asians in Britain: 400 Years of History by Rozina Visram



SELF-MADE BOYS: A GREAT GATSBY REMIX BY ANNA-MARIE MCLEMORE ON SALE NOW

A NATIONAL BOOK AWARD LONGLIST SELECTION

Anna-Marie McLemore weaves a tale of glamour and heartache in this intoxicating remix, featuring trans and Latinx characters shaping their own version of the American Dream.

SUGGESTED NONFICTION PAIRING:

Borderlands / La Frontera by Gloria Anzaldúa

★ "McLemore's triumphant retelling is for anyone who read *The Great Gatsby* and thought, this book needs to be much gayer... In this satisfying, emotional journey that celebrates love, family, friendship, identity, and forging one's own path, McLemore captures the spirit of the original while adding nuance and depth, setting a new bar for what a great retelling can be." —*Booklist*, starred review

★ "McLemore cleverly and subtly weaves in imagery from the source material while crafting a unique look at queer relations in 1920s New York, and lush prose skillfully depicts the characters' yearning for freedom and acceptance. This is a compelling reimagining, and a stunner in its own right." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Compelling and satisfying for *Gatsby* fans, critics, and neophytes alike, avoiding and subverting tropes... In this absolutely stunning work, McLemore delivers their signature lyrical prose and rich symbolism." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

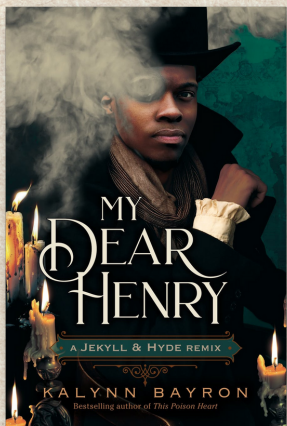
★ "*Self-Made Boys* draws back the proverbial curtain to reveal the complicated, painful and desperately romantic yearnings of youth."

—*Shelf Awareness*, starred review



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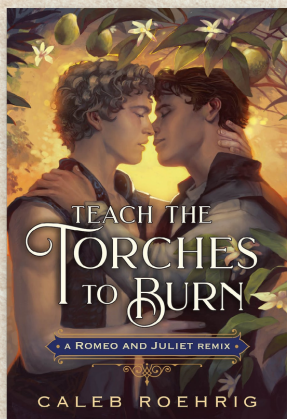
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MY DEAR HENRY: A JEKYLL & HYDE REMIX
BY KALYNN BAYRON
ON SALE NOW

A queer Black teen tries to discover the reason behind his best friend's disappearance—and the arrival of a mysterious and magnetic stranger—offering a look into the queer culture of misty Victorian London.

SUGGESTED NONFICTION PAIRING:
Black and British: A Forgotten History by David Olusoga



TEACH THE TORCHES TO BURN: A ROMEO & JULIET REMIX
BY CALEB ROEHRIG
ON SALE AUGUST 22, 2023

In Caleb Roehrig's breathlessly romantic remix, two queer teen boys in Verona, Italy discover first love amid a bloody, centuries-old feud, putting themselves in danger of losing each other forever—if not by society's scorn, then by the edge of a blade.

SUGGESTED NONFICTION PAIRING:
Getting Medieval: Sexualities and Communities, Pre- and Postmodern
by Carolyn Dinshaw



INTO THE BRIGHT OPEN: A SECRET GARDEN REMIX
BY CHERIE DIMALINE
ON SALE SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

In this queer YA reimagining of *The Secret Garden*, an orphaned girl is sent to live in the Georgian Bay wilds and discovers family secrets both wonderful and horrifying.

★ "Racism, colonization, and a love of nature are central themes gracefully woven into the story. An aching and emotionally immersive queer romance, unhampered by homophobia, unfolds through lush imagery blended with poignant and elegant prose. A rich and verdant revival of a classic." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review



MOST ARDENTLY: A PRIDE & PREJUDICE REMIX
BY GABE COLE NOVOA
ON SALE JANUARY 16, 2024

A trans boy searches for a future—and a romance—in which he can live and love openly as himself in this heartwrenching YA reimagining of *Pride & Prejudice*, the ninth book in the Remixed Classics series.



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PREPARING YOURSELF AS AN EDUCATOR:

1. Examine Your Curriculum - Examine the books being taught in your school. Could the books in your library better represent the diversity of your student population? Visit the ALSC blog post "[Ensuring a Diverse Collection: Promoting Equity of Access and Free Expression](#)" by the ALSC Intellectual Freedom committee to find more tips on building an inclusive collection.
2. Conduct Your Research - Each Remixed Classic has a specific historical setting and is told from a particular cultural perspective. These stories are also written by authors belonging to marginalized communities and explore issues pertaining to being a member of those communities. Preparing yourself as an educator is necessary in order to effectively teach these books, especially if you are not a member of these marginalized communities yourself. Conduct your own research about the historical setting. Consider how the author's research for their book might reflect a history of oppression and erasure. How can further research and critical examination shape students' understanding of history?
3. Interrogate Your Biases - Educators must recognize and be mindful of their own implicit cultural biases when teaching. Visit the ACRL blog post "[Keeping Up with Implicit Bias](#)" by Tarica LaBossiere, Endia Paige, and Beau Steenken to learn strategies for minimizing bias.

WHAT SHOULD EDUCATORS INTENTIONALLY DO WHEN TEACHING OR SHARING THESE BOOKS?

- Do ask students to critically dissect historical fiction. When reading a historical narrative, students should ask themselves, "Who wrote this story, who does it serve, and who does it erase?" Ideally, students will walk away empowered to question what is presented as history and who has historically controlled the narrative.
- Ideally, don't use these as companion reads alongside the original stories. Pairing these books with the original story reinforces the narrative of the original story, rather than challenging the classical canon. Instead, try pairing each remix with a nonfiction text to add to students' knowledge of the historical setting. Whenever possible, look for a nonfiction text that reflects the same cultural perspective as the Remixed Classic, rather than a nonfiction text that might reinforce a problematic narrative or negative cultural stereotypes.

QUESTIONS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION:

1. What is a "classic" and who defines what a "classic" book is?
2. Consider the historical context of the story. How do the confines of the historical setting influence the characters' actions and impact their feelings about their own identity?
3. Were you familiar with the historical context of the story before reading this book? If not, why might that be? How might reading about historical events from one cultural perspective reinforce one narrative of history while simultaneously erasing others? How might systems of power influence the way history is told?
4. If you were to reimagine this story from your own cultural perspective, what elements would you choose to keep and what elements would you change? The setting, the ending, the story's structure, the characters' motivations?

MORE RESOURCES:

- Visit bit.ly/AntiRacistEducationEvent to watch an Anti-Racist Education webinar featuring Remixed Classics authors Bethany C. Morrow and Aminah Mae Safi, plus find more educator resources and reading recommendations.
- Visit MacKidsSchoolandLibrary.com to download educator guides with book-specific discussion questions.
- Visit DisruptTexts.com and DiverseBooks.org for more educational resources designed to foster more inclusive and representative libraries.

