**Fantasy Diversity Reads**

**Teen Services Recommendations**

### Inspired by Nigerian Mythology

**Children of Blood and Bone**  
*Legacy of Orisha, Book 1*  
Adeyemi, Tomi

Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy.

**Labyrinth Lost**  
*Brooklyn Brujas, Book 1*  
Córdova, Zoraida

Alex is a bruja and the most powerful witch in her family. But she's hated magic ever since it made her father disappear into thin air. When a curse she performs to rid herself of magic backfires and her family vanishes, she must travel to Los Lagos, a land in-between as dark as Limbo and as strange as Wonderland, to get her family back.

### Middle Eastern Muslim Mythology Influences

**An Ember In the Ashes**  
*An Ember In the Ashes, Book 1*  
Tahir, Sabaa

Laia is a Scholar living under the iron-fisted rule of the Martial Empire. When her brother is arrested for treason, Laia goes undercover as a slave at the empire's greatest military academy in exchange for assistance from rebel Scholars who claim that they will help to save her brother from execution.

### Inspired by Chinese Mythology

**Spin the Dawn**  
*Blood of Stars, Book 1*  
Lim, Elizabeth

Disguising herself as a boy to compete for the position of imperial tailor, Maia must somehow complete the impossible task of sewing three magic gowns for the emperor's bride-to-be from the sun’s laughter, the moon’s tears, and the blood of stars.

### Inspired by West African Mythology

**Raybearer**  
*Bloods of Arawiya, Book 1*  
Faiyal, Jordan

Raised in isolation, Tarisai yearns for the closeness she could have as one of the Crown Prince's Council of 11, but her mother, The Lady, has magically compelled Tarisai to kill the Crown Prince.

### Indian Fantasy Novel

**Hunted by the Sky**  
*Wrath of Ambar, Book 1*  
Bhathena, Tanaz

Trained in warrior magic after the murder of her parents, a girl with a star-shaped birthmark is prophesied to be the downfall of a tyrant king, but the boy she falls in love with owes his loyalty to those hunting her.

### Latinex Fantasy - Ecuador

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### Transgender & Latinx Character / Author

**Cemetery Boys**  
*And I Tell Him Why*  
Thomas, Aiden

Yadriel, a trans boy, summons the angry spirit of his high school’s bad boy, and agrees to help him learn how he died, thereby proving himself a brujo, not a bruja, to his conservative family.

### Middle Eastern Characters/Author

**We Hunt the Flame**  
*Sands of Arawiya, Book 1*  
Faiyal, Hafsah

In a world inspired by ancient Arabia, seventeen-year-old huntress Zafira must disguise herself as a man to seek a lost artefact that could return magic to her cursed world.

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10 W. Cossitt Avenue  
La Grange, Illinois 60525  
708-215-3228  
lagrangelibrary.org
Asian-American Writer (Theme: Human Trafficking)

Blood Heir (Blood Heir Trilogy, Book 1)  
Zhao, Amélie Wen

A fugitive princess with a deadly Affinity and a charismatic crime lord forge an unlikely alliance in order to save themselves, each other, and the kingdom.

Latinx Fantasy - Bolivian

Woven In Moonlight  
Ibañez, Isabel

Ximena is the decoy Condesa, a stand-in for the last remaining Illustrian royal. Her people lost everything when the usurper, Atoc, used an ancient relic to summon ghosts and drive the Illustrians from La Ciudad. When Atoc demands the real Condesa’s hand in marriage, it’s Ximena’s duty to go in her stead. She relishes the chance, as Illustrian spies have reported that Atoc’s no longer carrying his deadly relic. If Ximena can find it, she can return the true aristócrata to their rightful place.

Inspired by North & West African Mythology

A Song of Wraiths and Ruin  
Brown, Roseanne A.

A first entry in a planned duology inspired by West African folklore finds a grieving crown princess and a desperate refugee on a collision course to destroy each other despite their growing attraction.

POC Author

Game Changer  
Shusterman, Neal

Transported into other dimensions by a seemingly random hit, a young football player visits alternate worlds that evolved differently in accordance with respective belief systems.

LGBTQ+ Fantasy (Gay Character/Author)

Infinity Son (Infinity Cycle, Book 1)  
Silvera, Adam

In a world where some people are born with powers and some people take them, brothers Emil and Brighton Rey get swept up in a supernatural turf war generations in the making.

LGBTQ+ Fantasy - (Lesbian Relationship)

Ruinsong

Ember, Julia

In a world where magic is sung, two young women from rival factions must work together to reunite their country, as they wrestle with their feelings for each other.

Inspired by Argentinian Mythology

Lobizona (Wolves Of No World, Book 1)  
Garber, Romina

When her mother is arrested by ICE, sixteen-year-old Argentinian Manu--who thinks she is hiding in a Miami apartment because she is an undocumented immigrant--discovers that her entire existence is illegal.

Black Female Fantasy Novel

Legendborn (Legendborn, Book 1)  
Deonn, Tracy

To discover the truth behind her mother’s mysterious death, a teen girl infiltrates a magical secret society claiming to be the descendants of King Arthur and his knights.

Inspired by Korean Mythology

Wicked Fox  
Cho, Kat

After eighteen-year-old Gu Miyoung, a nine-tailed fox surviving in modern-day Seoul by eating the souls of evil men, kills a murderous goblin to save Jihoon, she is forced to choose between her immortal life and his.

Indian & Filipino Characters / Author

The Gilded Wolves (Gilded Wolves, Book 1)  
Chokshi, Roshani

Keeping close secrets in the wake of the Exposition Universelle in 1889 Paris, a wealthy hotelier and treasure-hunter is tapped by a powerful order to lead an elite team on a quest to track down an ancient artifact of world-changing significance.