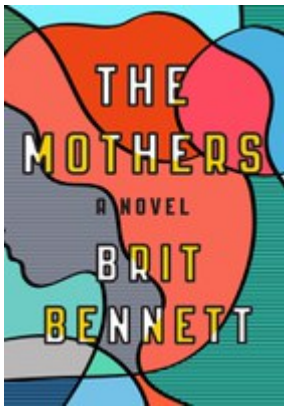


2020 Adult All Iowa Reads: *The Mothers* by Brit Bennett



Program Resources:

- [Discussion Questions for *The Mothers*](#)
- [About Author Brit Bennett](#)
- [Reviews and Interviews about *The Mothers* and Brit Bennett](#)
- [Find Copies of *The Mothers* to Borrow](#)
- [Publicity Items to Promote *The Mothers* Programs and Discussion Groups](#)
- [Register an All Iowa Reads Program to the Literary Events Calendar](#)
- [Watch the All Iowa Reads 2020 Webinar featuring Brit Bennett](#)

About *The Mothers*

A dazzling debut novel from an exciting new voice, *The Mothers* is a surprising story about young love, a big secret in a small community—and the things that ultimately haunt us most.

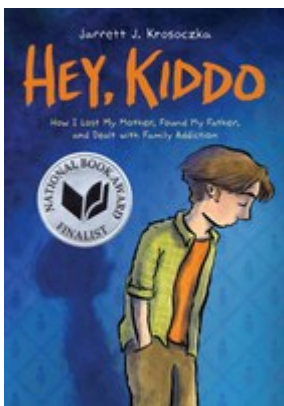
Set within a contemporary black community in Southern California, Brit Bennett's mesmerizing first novel is an emotionally perceptive story about community, love, and ambition. It begins with a secret.

"All good secrets have a taste before you tell them, and if we'd taken a moment to swish this one around our mouths, we might have noticed the sourness of an unripe secret, plucked too soon, stolen and passed around before its season."

It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken, seventeen-year-old beauty. Mourning her own mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. Luke Sheppard is twenty-one, a former football star whose injury has reduced him to waiting tables at a diner. They are young; it's not serious. But the pregnancy that results from this teen romance—and the subsequent cover-up—will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth. As Nadia hides her secret from everyone, including Aubrey, her God-fearing best friend, the years move quickly. Soon, Nadia, Luke, and Aubrey are full-fledged adults and still living in debt to the choices they made that one seaside summer, caught in a love triangle they must carefully maneuver, and dogged by the constant, nagging question: What if they had chosen differently? The possibilities of the road not taken are a relentless haunt.

In entrancing, lyrical prose, *The Mothers* asks whether a "what if" can be more powerful than an experience itself. If, as time passes, we must always live in servitude to the decisions of our younger selves, to the communities that have parented us, and to the decisions we make that shape our lives forever.

2020 Teen All Iowa Reads: *Hey, Kiddo* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka



Program Resources:

- [Discussion Questions for *Hey, Kiddo*](#)
- [About Author Jarrett J. Krosoczka](#)
- [Reviews and Interviews about *Hey, Kiddo* and Jarrett J. Krosoczka](#)
- [Find Copies of *Hey, Kiddo* to Borrow](#)
- [Publicity Items to Promote *Hey, Kiddo* Programs and Discussion Groups](#)
- [Register an All Iowa Reads Program to the Literary Events Calendar](#)
- [Watch the All Iowa Reads 2020 Webinar featuring Jarrett J. Krosoczka](#)

About *Hey, Kiddo*

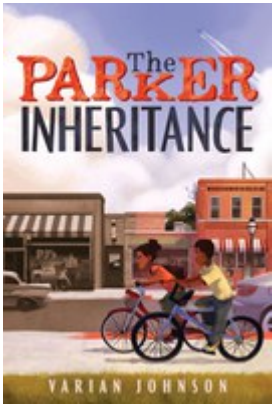
In preschool, Jarrett Krosoczka's teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's

life. His father is a mystery -- Jarrett doesn't know where to find him, or even what his name is. Jarrett lives with his grandparents -- two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along.

Jarrett goes through his childhood trying to make his non-normal life as normal as possible, finding a way to express himself through drawing even as so little is being said to him about what's going on. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father.

Hey, Kiddo is a profoundly important graphic memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive.

2020 Kids All Iowa Reads: *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson



Program Resources:

- [Discussion Questions for *The Parker Inheritance*](#)
- [About Author Varian Johnson](#)
- [Reviews and Interviews about *The Parker Inheritance* and Varian Johnson](#)
- [Find Copies of *The Parker Inheritance* to Borrow](#)
- [Publicity Items to Promote The Parker Inheritance Programs and Discussion Groups](#)
- [Register an All Iowa Reads Program to the Literary Events Calendar](#)
- [Watch the All Iowa Reads 2020 Webinar featuring Varian Johnson](#)

About *The Parker Inheritance*

When Candice finds a letter in an old attic in Lambert, South Carolina, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left the town in shame. But the letter describes a young woman. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery enfolding the letter-writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle.

So with the help of Brandon Jones, the quiet boy across the street, she begins to decipher the clues. The challenge will lead them deep into Lambert's history, full of ugly deeds, forgotten heroes, and one great love; and deeper into their own families, with their own unspoken secrets. Can they find the fortune and fulfill the letter's promise before the answers slip into the past yet again?