Stories From the Bay

Enjoy these teen books set in the San Francisco Bay Area.
For more recommendations, talk to a librarian or visit alamedafree.org.

When Dimple Met Rishi
by Sandhya Menon
When Dimple Shah and Rishi Patel meet at a Stanford University summer program, Dimple is avoiding her parents' obsession with "marriage prospects" but Rishi hopes to woo her into accepting arranged marriage with him. YA FIC MENON

Last Night at the Telegraph Club
by Malinda Lo
When Lily realizes she has feelings for a girl in her math class, it threatens Lily's oldest friendships and even her father's citizenship status and eventually, Lily must decide if owning her truth is worth everything she has ever known. YA FIC LO

We Are Okay
by Nina LaCour
After leaving her life behind to go to college in New York, Marin must face the truth about the tragedy that happened in the final weeks of summer when her friend Mabel comes to visit. YA FIC LACOUR

Outrun the Moon
by Stacey Lee
Gaining admittance into an elite school usually limited to white girls, 15-year-old Mercy Wong, who strives to escape from her disadvantaged life through education, endures harsh conditions in a park encampment when the 1906 San Francisco earthquake destroys her home and school. YA FIC LEE

Keep My Heart in San Francisco
by Amelia Diane Coombs
Asked to help work the counter at her family's struggling bowling alley, Caroline "Chuck" Wilson accepts her annoyingly attractive former best friend's offer to pursue cash prizes in San Francisco Bay Area bowling tournaments. YA FIC COOMBS

Lola and the Boy Next Door
by Stephanie Perkins
Lola lives an extraordinary life in San Francisco with her two dads and beloved dog, but when the Bells return to the house next door Lola recalls both the friendship-ending fight with Calliope and the crush she had on Cricket. YA FIC PERKINS

The Fire Horse Girl
by Kay Honeyman
When Jade Moon, born in the unlucky year of the Fire Horse, and her father immigrate to America in 1923 and are detained at Angel Island Immigration Station, Jade Moon is determined to find a way through and prove that she is not cursed. YA FIC HONEYMAN

Across a Broken Shore
by Amy Trueblood
In 1936 San Francisco, 18-year-old Willa MacCarthy is bound for the convent. But when she discovers her love of medicine, she will defy her family and work with a female doctor to care for those building the Golden Gate Bridge. YA FIC TRUEBLOOD

We Are Not Free
by Traci Chee
For fourteen-year-old Minoru Ito and other members of the Japanese-American community in southern California, the three months since Pearl Harbor have been terrible, and soon their lives forever changed by mass incarcerations in relocation camps. YA FIC CHEE

This Time Will Be Different
by Misa Sugiura
Seventeen-year-old CJ enjoys working at her family’s flower shop and is upset when she learns that her mother has plans to sell the shop. YA FIC SUGIURA

Picture Us In the Light
by Kelly Loy Gilbert
Daniel, a Chinese-American teen, must grapple with his plans for the future, his feelings for his best friend Harry, and his discovery of a family secret that could shatter everything.
Music From Another World
by Robin Talley
Navigating the realities of being gay and closeted in politically torn 1978 California, Tammy forges a close friendship with pen pal Sharon before homophobic fervor sweeping through the nation challenges them to define themselves and what they stand for. YA FIC TALLEY

Light Years
by Emily Ziff Griffin
As a mysterious virus infects the world’s population, a girl confronting the death of her father begins a quest for spiritual and existential meaning. YA FIC GRIFFIN

29 Dates
by Melissa De la Cruz
After doing poorly on a test and skipping out on one of her dates to spend time with friends, Jisu is sent to a private school in San Francisco where she finds comfort in taking photographs for her social media account. YA FIC DE LA CRUZ

The 57 Bus
by Dashka Slater
Tells the true story of an agender teen who was attacked by another teen while riding a bus in Oakland, a story that reflects on the concepts of race, class, gender, crime, and punishment. YA 364.1555 SLATER

Light Year
by Cory Doctorow
Seventeen-year-old Marcus and his friends cut school in search of high adventure and find themselves caught in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco and wrongfully incarcerated in a secret prison by a totalitarian Department of Homeland Security. YA FIC DOCTOROW

Anger is a Gift
by Mark Oshiro
Struggling with panic attacks and grief over his father’s death, high school junior Moss, in the face of a racist school administration, organizes a protest that escalates into violence. YA FIC OSHIRO

Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me
by Mariko Tamaki
Upset about her on-again, off-again relationship with her girlfriend Laura Dean, Freddy Riley depends on her friends, a local mystic, and a relationship columnist for help in dealing with her situation. YA GN LAURA

Chasing Pacquiao
by Rod Pulido
When Bobby is unwillingly outed, he turns to boxing, finding a hero in Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, but when Pacquiao publicly denounces homosexuality, Bobby must discover a hero within himself. YA FIC PULIDO

The Anatomical Shape of a Heart
by Jenn Bennett
Sparks fly when 17-year-old Beatrix Adams, who strives to be a medical illustrator, meets Jack, one of San Francisco’s most notorious graffiti artists, but even as Beatrix begins to uncover the secrets that have left Jack so wounded, her own family secrets threaten to tear them apart. YA FIC BENNETT

American Born Chinese
by Gene Luen Yang
A graphic novel which alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in American popular culture. YA GN AMERICAN