1. **Downstairs Girl, The** by Stacey Lee  
[Historical Fiction, 1890 Atlanta, Chinese American female protagonist, racism, advice column]  
**Summary:** By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady’s maid for the cruel Caroline Payne, the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for “the genteel Southern lady.” (LOC)  
**Accelerated Reader:** IL: MG+ - BL: 5.5 - AR Pts: 14.0 AR Quiz No. 506285

2. **Hot Dog Girl** by Jennifer Dugan  
[Realistic Fiction, romance, white female protagonist, summer job, amusement park, LGBTQIA+]  
**Summary:** A lovesick teenager schemes to win the heart of her crush at her amusement park summer job, all while dressed as a hot dog. (LOC)  
**Awards:** YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers List, a Junior Library Guild Selection  
**Accelerated Reader:** IL: UG - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts: 11.0 AR Quiz No. 504415
3. **Ordinary Hazards** by Nikki Grimes
   [Memoir, verse, black female protagonist, mental illness, foster care]
   **Summary:** Growing up with a mother suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and a mostly absent father, Nikki Grimes found herself terrorized by babysitters, shunted from foster family to foster family, and preyed upon by those she trusted. At age six, she poured her pain onto a piece of paper late one night – and discovered the magic and impact of writing. (Publisher)
   **Awards:** Michael L. Printz Honor Book, Robert F. Sibert Informational Honor Book, Arnold Adoff Poetry Award for Teens, ALSC Notable Children’s Book
   **Accelerated Reader:** IL: UG - BL: 5.5 - AR Pts: 4.0 AR Quiz No. 507146

4. **Patron Saints of Nothing** by Randy Ribay
   [Realistic fiction, Filipino-American male protagonist, family, cultural identity, grief, Filipino drug war]
   **Summary:** When seventeen-year-old Jay Reguero learns his Filipino cousin and former best friend, Jun, was murdered as part of President Duterte’s war on drugs, he flies to the Philippines to learn more. (LOC)
   **Awards:** National Book Award Finalist, Freeman Book Award Winner, Edgar Award Winner, CILIP Carnegie Medal, Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Winner, YALSA Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults, YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers List, LA Times Book Prize for Young Adults, Publishers Weekly: Best Books of 2019
   **Accelerated Reader:** IL: UG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 12.0 AR Quiz No. 502466

5. **SLAY** by Brittney Morris
   [Realistic fiction, black female protagonist, racism and discrimination in gaming, stereotypes]
   **Summary:** An honors student at Jefferson Academy, seventeen-year-old Keira enjoys developing and playing Slay, a secret, multiplayer online role-playing game celebrating black culture, until the two worlds collide. (LOC)
   **Awards:** YALSA Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults, YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers List, Publishers Weekly: Best Books of 2019
   **Accelerated Reader:** IL: UG - BL: 6.0 - AR Pts: 13.0 AR Quiz No. 505645

6. **Sorcery of Thorns** by Margaret Rogerson
   [Historical Fantasy, white female protagonist, battling librarians, magical books, sorcerers, demons, romance, LGBTQIA+]
   **Summary:** When apprentice librarian Elisabeth is implicated in sabotage that released the library's most dangerous grimoire, she becomes entangled in a centuries-old conspiracy that could mean the end of everything. (LOC)
   **Awards:** YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults List, Goodreads Choice Awards Nominee
   **Accelerated Reader:** IL: MG+ - BL: 6.3 - AR Pts: 20.0 AR Quiz No. 502700
7. **They Called Us Enemy** by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott; illustrated by Harmony Becker
   [Graphic memoir, Japanese-American male protagonist, WWII, Japanese internment camps, civil rights, activism, LGBTQIA+]
   Summary: Actor, author, and activist George Takei recounts his childhood imprisoned within American relocation camps for Japanese Americans during World War II, and the impact the experience had on his later life. (AR)
   **Accelerated Reader**: IL: MG+ - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 2.0 AR Quiz No. 504407

8. **Two Can Keep a Secret** by Karen M. McManus
   [Realistic fiction, thriller, biracial (white and Latinx) female protagonist and white male protagonist, murder, LGBTQIA+]
   Summary: While true-crime aficionado Ellery and her twin brother are staying with their grandmother in a Vermont community known for murder, a new friend goes missing and Ellery may be next. (LOC)
   Awards: YALSA Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults, YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers List, Publishers Weekly: Best Books of 2019, Goodreads Choice Awards Nominee
   **Accelerated Reader**: IL: UG - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts: 12.0 AR Quiz No. 500226

9. **With the Fire on High** by Elizabeth Acevedo
   [Realistic fiction, Afro-Latinx female protagonist, stereotypes]
   Summary: Teen mother Emoni Santiago struggles with the challenges of finishing high school and achieving her dream of working as a chef. (AR)
   Awards: YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers List, Goodreads Choice Awards Nominee
   **Accelerated Reader**: IL: UG - BL: 6.5 - AR Pts: 11.0 AR Quiz No. 502468

10. **XL** by Scott Brown
    [Realistic fiction, white male protagonist, body image, friendship, blended family]
    Summary: Will has always been troubled by his short stature, but on his 16th birthday, he starts to grow--and grow, and grow. (LOC)
    **Accelerated Reader**: N/A