Top 5 Digital Young Adult Recommendations

1. **With the Fire on High**
   Elizabeth Acevedo
   Emoni Santiago, a single mom beginning her senior year of high school, is no stranger to responsibility and sacrifice. Feeling that she must put her daughter and her abuela’s needs before her own, Emoni gives little thought to her own ambitions, but maybe her dream of becoming a chef isn’t as impossible as she thinks. Recommended for grades nine and up, this realistic fiction novel presents a fresh take on teen parenthood while remaining grounded in issues to which any teen can relate.

2. **Kingdom of Souls**
   Rena Barron
   Despite descending from a long line of witch doctors, sixteen-year-old Arrah has no magical abilities, much to her mother’s disappointment and her own shame. When children in the kingdom begin disappearing, Arrah trades away years of her life in exchange for magical powers, which she must wield against a villainous force. This fantasy novel inspired by West-African folklore marks the beginning of a new trilogy for readers in high school and beyond.

3. **The Downstairs Girl**
   Stacey Lee
   In post-Civil War Atlanta, Chinese lady’s maid Jo Kuan uses her platform as the pseudonymous newspaper advice columnist “Miss Sweetie” to call attention to gender and racial inequalities in her society. She relishes the anonymity that her role as Miss Sweetie provides, but, as her columns draw increasing attention, she finds several reasons to consider speaking out publically. In this historical fiction novel suggested for grades seven and above, Jo discovers surprising truths about her past as she works to shape her community’s future.

4. **Opposite of Always**
   Justin A. Reynolds
   Jack and Kate meet at a party and fall in love. They remain inseparable until Kate dies suddenly—but the next thing Jack knows, he’s meeting her again for the first time. Caught in a time-loop where they keep meeting and she keeps dying, Jack struggles to make the choices that will prevent Kate’s death without putting anyone else he loves in harm’s way. This romance/humor novel with a science fiction twist is recommended for students in eighth grade and up.

5. **They Went Left**
   Monica Hesse
   World War II ends and eighteen-year-old Zofia Lederman is liberated from Gross-Rosen concentration camp, but her story is just beginning. Still struggling to heal physically and mentally from the horrors she endured, she journeys through Poland and Germany in search of her only remaining relative: her brother, Abek. With no clues as to his whereabouts or even whether he is still alive, Zofia finds herself just as lost as the other survivors she meets in this book for anyone grade nine and above.

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