



Best YA Novels (According to New Jersey Librarians)

New Jersey Librarians on the NJYAC listserv were polled for their top ten young adults novels. Titles receiving more than one vote are starred. With seven votes, the top title is *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson. *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier, *M. T. Anderson's Feed*, S. E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* and *Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher received five votes apiece.

Adams, Douglas. *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Pan Books, 1979. (Adult)

The book begins as the Earth explodes, and Arthur Dent is taken off the planet by his friend, Ford Prefect, who unbeknownst to Arthur works as a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Together they begin a journey through the galaxy aided by quotes from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Alexander, Lloyd. *The Iron Ring*. Dutton Children's Books, 1997. (Gr. 5-9)

Driven by his sense of "dharma," or honor, young King Tamar sets off on a perilous journey, with a significance greater than he can imagine, during which he meets talking animals, villainous and noble kings, demons, and the love of his life.

Alexander, Lloyd. *Westmark*. Dutton, 1981. (Gr. 5+)

A boy fleeing from criminal charges falls in with a charlatan, his dwarf attendant, and an urchin girl, travels with them about the kingdom of Westmark, and ultimately arrives at the palace where the king is grieving over the loss of his daughter.

Alvarez, Julia. *Before We Were Free*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2002. (Gr. 7+)

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.

***Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Catalyst*. Viking Children's Books, 2002. (Gr. 8+)**

Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

***Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1999. (Gr. 8+)**

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Anderson, M. T. *Burger Wuss*. Candlewick Press, 1999. (Gr. 8-10)

Hoping to lose his loser image, Anthony plans revenge on a bully which results in a war between two competing fast food restaurants, Burger Queen and O'Dermott's.

***Anderson, M. T. *Feed*. Candlewick Press, 2002. (Gr. 9+)**

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.

Anonymous. *Go Ask Alice*. (ed. by Beatrice Sparks) Prentice-Hall, 1971. (Gr. 8+)

A novel based on the diary of a fictional fifteen-year-old drug user chronicling her struggle to escape the pull of the drug world.

Avi and Rachel Vail. *Never Mind! A Twin Novel*. HarperCollins, 2004. (Gr. 5-7)

Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.

Avi. *Nothing But the Truth*. Orchard Books, 1991. (Gr. 6-9)

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Avi. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. Orchard Books, 1990. (Gr. 5-8)

As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1975. (Gr. 4-8)

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

Bauer, Joan. *Hope Was Here*. Putnam, 2000. (Gr. 8+)

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Bauer, Joan. *Rules of the Road*. Putman's, 1998. (Gr. 7+)

Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of successful shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force her to retire, and along the way Jenna hones her talents as a saleswoman and finds the strength to face her alcoholic father.

Bauer, Joan. *Squashed*. Delacorte Press, 1992. (Gr. 7-10)

As a sixteen-year-old pursues her two goals--growing the biggest pumpkin in Iowa and losing twenty pounds herself--she strengthens her relationship with her father and meets a young man with interests similar to her own.

Bell, Hilari. *The Goblin Wood*. HarperCollins, 2003. (Gr. 6-10)

A young Hedgewitch, an idealistic knight, and an army of clever goblins fight against the ruling hierarchy that is trying to rid the land of all magical creatures.

***Block, Francesca Lia. *Weetzie Bat*. Harper & Row, 1989. (Gr. 10+)**

Follows the wild adventures of Weetzie Bat and her Los Angeles friends, Dirk, Duck, and My-Secret-Agent-Lover-Man.

***Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine*. Harcourt Brace, 1997. (Gr. 7-10)**

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Blume, Judy. *Forever*. Pocket Books, 1975. (Gr. 9+)

Two high school seniors believe their love to be so strong that it will last forever.

***Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*. Ballantine Books, 1953. (Adult)**

In this dystopia, firemen don't put out the flames; they set them to piles of books. That is, until Fireman Guy Montag meets a girl who tells him of a past when people were not afraid, and a professor who tells him of a future where people can think.

***Brashares, Ann. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2001. (Gr. 9+)**

Four best girlfriends spend the biggest summer of their lives enchanted by a magical pair of pants.

Brooks, Bruce. *Dolores: Seven Stories About Her*. HarperCollins, 2002. (Gr. 8+)

A series of events captures the life of a free-spirited girl as she grows from a savvy seven-year-old to a self-assured sixteen-year-old.

Brooks, Martha. *Being with Henry*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing, Inc., 2000. (Gr. 7+)

A teenage outcast, a grieving old man, and an untold story come together in unexpected ways in this moving novel about losing family--and finding it.

Brooks, Martha. *True Confessions of a Heartless Girl*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2003. (Gr. 9+)

A confused seventeen-year-old girl, a single mother and her young son, two elderly women, and a sad and lonely man, with their own individual tragedies to bear, come together in a small Manitoba town and find a way to a better future.

Burgess, Melvin. *Lady, My Life As a Bitch*. HarperTempest, 2003. (Gr. 9+)

In Manchester, England, when a seventeen-year-old girl who hasn't been acting like herself lately is turned into the very creature she has personified, she isn't sure that the change is all bad.

Burgess, Melvin. *Smack*. Holt, 1998. (Gr. 10+)

After running away from their troubled homes, two English teenagers move in with a group of squatters in the port city of Bristol and try to find ways to support their growing addiction to heroin.

Cabot, Meg. *All-American Girl*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2002. (Gr. 9+)

A sophomore girl stops a presidential assassination attempt, is appointed Teen Ambassador to the United Nations, and catches the eye of the very cute First Son.

Cabot, Meg. *The Princess Diaries*. Harper Avon, 2000. (Gr. 7-9)

Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne.

Cabot, Meg. *Princess in Love*. HarperCollins, 2002. (Gr. 6-9)

In a series of humorous diary entries, a New York City ninth grader agonizes over her love life, final exams, and future role as the princess of Genovia.

Cabot, Meg. *Princess in Pink*. HarperCollins, 2004. (Gr. 7-10)

In a series of humorous diary entries, high school freshman (and Genovian Princess) Mia tries to get her reluctant boyfriend to take her to the prom.

***Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*. T. Doherty Associates, 1985. (A/YA)**

This award winning novel follows the story of Ender, after he is sent to Battle School, who becomes Earth's best hope to defeat the alien invaders who nearly destroyed the planet. Ender must withstand the pressures of training in order to become the world's hero.

***Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. MTV Books, 1999. (Gr. 9+)**

Charlie, a freshman in high school, explores the emotional consequences of growing up through a collection of letters he sends to an anonymous classmate.

Choldenko, Jennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. Putnam Juvenile, 2004. (Gr. 6-8)

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Cisneros, Sandra. *Caramelo*. Knopf, 2002. (A/YA)

A multigenerational story of a Mexican-American family.

Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*. Vintage Books, 1989. (Adult)

A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends.

Clements, Andrew. *Things Not Seen*. Philomel Books, 2002. (Gr. 6+)

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Colfer, Eoin. *Artemis Fowl (and its sequels)*. Hyperion Books For Children, 2001. (Gr. 5-8)

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

***Cooney, Caroline B. *The Face on the Milk Carton.* (and sequels) Bantam Books, 1990. (Gr. 6-10)**

A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.

***Cormier, Robert. *The Chocolate War.* Pantheon, 1974. (Gr. 8+)**

A young man arouses the wrath of school bullies and discovers the devastating consequences of defying a long, mindless tradition centered around the school's annual fund raising drive.

***Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk.* (and others by him) Greenwillow Books, 2001. (Gr. 8+)**

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Cushman, Karen. *Catherine Called Birdy.* Clarion Books, 1994. (Gr. 6-9)

The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Danziger, Paula. *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit.* Delacorte Press, 1974. (Gr. 5-9)

When the unconventional English teacher who helped her conquer many of her feelings of insecurity is fired, a junior high student uses her new found courage to campaign for the teacher's reinstatement.

Dean, Pamela. *Tam Lin.* Tor Books, 1991. (Adult)

This fantasy tells the story of a heroine living at a small Midwestern college in Vietnam-era America .

***Dessen, Sarah. *Dreamland.* Viking, 2000. (Gr. 9+)**

After her older sister runs away, sixteen-year-old Caitlin decides that she needs to make a major change in her own life and begins an abusive relationship with a boy who is mysterious, brilliant, and dangerous.

Dessen, Sarah. *Someone Like You.* Viking, 1998. (Gr. 8+)

Halley's junior year of high school includes the death of her best friend Scarlett's boyfriend, the discovery that Scarlett is pregnant, and Halley's own first serious relationship.

Dickenson, Peter. *Eva.* Delacorte Press, 1988. SF (Gr. 8+)

After a terrible accident, a young girl wakes up to discover that she has been given the body of a chimpanzee.

Dokey, Cameron. *How Not to Spend Your Senior Year.* FIC (Gr. 9+)

Jo's father is a witness in a murder investigation so they become part of the witness protection program. When the trial gets close, Jo and her father have to appear to die in a car crash to protect themselves from being found. Jo refuses to leave before saying goodbye to her boyfriend, and so he thinks she is a ghost.

Duncan, Lois. *Killing Mr. Griffin*. Little, Brown, 1978. (Gr. 7+)

A teenager casually suggests playing a cruel trick on the English teacher, but did he intend it to end with murder?

Edgerton, Clyde . *Walking Across Egypt* . Algonquin Books, 1987. (Adult)

The story of an independent 78 year old woman, a teenage delinquent, and a stray dog.

Ellis, Deborah. *Parvana's Journey*. Greenwood Books/Douglas & McIntyre, 2002. (Gr. 7-10)

The Taliban still control Afghanistan , but Kabul is in ruins. Pavana's father is dead, but her mother, sister and brother are not to be found. She sets out alone, disguised as a boy, and meets up with other children who travel together.

Engdahl, Sylvia Louise. *Enchantress from the Stars*. Atheneum, 1970. (Gr. 7+)

Three civilizations from different planets in widely varying stages of development clash in what could be either a mutually disastrous or beneficial encounter.

Farmer, Nancy. *The Ear, the Eye and the Arm*. Orchard Books, 1994. (Gr. 7-10)

In 2194 in Zimbabwe , General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

***Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002. (Gr. 7-10)**

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States .

***Flinn, Alex. *Breathing Underwater*. HarperCollins Publishers, c2001. (Gr. 9+)**

Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father.

***Frank, E. R. *Friction*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003. (Gr. 9+)**

When a new girl at the private school Alex attends starts rumors about Alex's favorite teacher, Alex and her eighth-grade classmates are not sure how to act around him or with each other.

Gaiman, Neil. *Coraline*. HarperCollins, 2002. (Gr. 6-8)

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Gaiman, Neil. *Stardust*. William Morrow, 1999. (Adult)

Young Tristran Thorn sets out into a strange world on a quest to retrieve a fallen star he has promised to his beloved, Victoria Forester.

Garner, Alan. *Owl Service*. H. Z. Walck, 1968. (Gr. 8+)

Three young people spend the summer in a Welsh valley haunted by mythical spirits and find themselves reenacting an old tragedy.

Gibbons, Kaye. *Ellen Foster*. Algonquin Books, 1987. (Adult)

An abused child finally gets a chance at a better life when she lives in the home of a loving woman who has several foster children.

Giles, Gail. *Shattering Glass*. Roaring Brook Press, 2002. FIC (Gr. 9+)

When Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, turns the school nerd into Prince Charming, his actions lead to unexpected violence.

Going, K. L. *Fat Kid Rules the World*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2003. (Gr. 8+)

Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly 300 pounds, gets a new perspective on life when a homeless teenager who is a genius on guitar wants Troy to be the drummer in his rock band.

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. Faber and Faber, 1954. (Gr. 9+)

A group of young boys try to survive after they are abandoned on a desert island.

Greene, Bette. *Summer of My German Soldier*. Dial Press, 1973. (Gr. 6+)

When German prisoners of war are brought to her Arkansas town during World War II, twelve-year-old Patty, a Jewish girl, befriends one of them and must deal with the consequences of that friendship.

Grimes, Nikki. *Bronx Masquerade*. Dial Books, 2002. (Gr. 8+)

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Betrayed*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. (Gr. 5-9)

Thirteen-year-old Nina is imprisoned by the Population Police, who give her the option of helping them identify illegal "third-born" children, or facing death.

***Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Hidden*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1998. (Gr. 5-8)**

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Imposters*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2001. (Gr. 5-7)

In a future where the law limits a family to only two children, third-born Luke has been in hiding for the entire twelve years of his life, until he enters boarding school under an assumed name and is forced to face his fears.

***Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Doubleday, 2003. (A/YA)**

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Hale, Shannon. *The Goose Girl*. Bloomsbury, 2003. (Gr. 6-10)

On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

Hamilton , Virginia. *Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush*. Philomel Books, 1982. (Gr. 7+)

Fourteen-year-old Tree, resentful of her working mother who leaves her in charge of a retarded brother, encounters the ghost of her dead uncle and comes to a deeper understanding of her family's problems.

Handler, Daniel. *The Basic Eight*. St Martins Press, 2000. (Adult)

The story follows the journal of Flannery Culp and her clique of friends, the basic eight, and the events which led to Flan's stint in jail for two murders.

Hautzig, Esther. *The Endless Steppe*. HarperCollins Children's Book Group, 1968. (Gr. 6+)

Arrested in Poland and exiled to Siberia , Ester and her family must struggle to find enough food and clothing to stay alive. It is only the family's strength that will allow them to survive.

Hayden, Torey L. *Ghost Girl*. Avon Books, 1992. (Adult)

The story of a teacher of emotionally disturbed children and an eight-year-old girl who is the possible victim of abuse.

***Hinton, S. E. *The Outsiders*. Viking Press, 1967. (Gr. 7+)**

The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

Hobbs, Will. *Far North*. Morrow Junior Books, 1996. (Gr. 7+)

After the destruction of their floatplane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his Dene friend, Raymond, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories .

Hoover, H. M. *Return to Earth*. Viking Press, 1980. (Gr. 7+)

In a future world a diplomat returns to Earth to retire and finds himself involved in political intrigue and a disquieting friendship with a young girl.

Horvath, Polly. *The Canning Season*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2003. (Gr. 2-6)

Thirteen-year-old Ratchet spends a summer in Maine with her eccentric great-aunts Tilly and Penpen, hearing strange stories from the past and encountering a variety of unusual and colorful characters.

Howe, James. *The Watcher*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1997. (Gr. 7-9)

As she sits watching a seemingly perfect family and a handsome lifeguard on the beach, a lonely, troubled girl projects herself into the fantasy lives she has created for them.

Jackson, Shirley. *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*. Viking Penguin, 1962. (Gr. 8+)

After a murder takes place on their family's land, Merricat Blackwood tries to protect her sister, Constance from the nearby villagers.

Jenkins, Lylle Becerra de. *The Honorable Prison*. Dutton, 1988. (Gr. 8+)

Because of the moral stand taken by her father, a newspaper editor who has persistently attacked the military dictator ruling their Latin American country, Marta and her family find themselves prisoners of the government.

Jimenez, Francisco. *Breaking Through*. (Sequel to *The Circuit*) Houghton Mifflin, 2001. (Gr. 5-8)

Having come from Mexico to California ten years ago, fourteen-year-old Francisco is still working in the fields but fighting to improve his life and complete his education.

Johnson, Angela. *The First Part Last*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003. (Gr. 8+)

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

Jones, Diana Wynne. *Howl's Moving Castle*. Greenwillow Books, 1986. (Gr. 6+)

Eldest of three sisters in a land where it is considered to be a misfortune, Sophie is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice until a witch turns her into an old woman and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared wizard Howl.

***Juby, Susan. *Alice, I Think*. HarperTempest, 2003. (Gr. 8+)**

Fifteen-year-old Alice keeps a diary as she struggles to cope with the embarrassments and trials of family, dating, school, work, small town life, and a serious case of "outcastitis."

Keller, Beverly . *The Amazon Papers*. Browndeer Press, Harcourt Brace & Co., 1996. (Gr. 6-9)

Fifteen-year-old Iris gets into hilarious trouble when her mother goes on vacation and leaves her alone.

Kerr, M. E. *Deliver Us from Evie*. Harper Trophy, 1994. (Gr. 9+)

Paul Burrman, a sixteen year old boy from a rural Missouri town, deals with his sister's lesbianism.

Kerr, M. E. *Dinky Hocker Shoots Smack*. Harper & Row, 1972. (Gr. 7+)

Fifteen-year-old Tucker's life changes in many ways when he meets the unusual overweight girl who gives his cat a home.

Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*. Viking, 2001. (A/YA)

When Rosaleen, the African-American woman who has taken care of Lily for the past ten years, is victimized by racist police officers, they must leave their home.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Poisonwood Bible*. Perennial, 1999. (Adult)

The story of Nathan Price and his family after they move to the Belgian Congo in 1959.

Konigsburg, E. L. *Silent to the Bone*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000. (Gr. 6-8)

Conner's best friend Branwell becomes mute after his baby sister goes into a coma. Conner must find a way to communicate with Branwell to help his friend get better and to determine what really happened to baby Nikki.

Korman, Gordon. *The Chicken Doesn't Skate*. Scholastic, 1996. (Gr. 4-6)

Milo hatches a chicken as part of a science project and plans to eat it at the science fair to show the life cycle...until she becomes the team mascot of the hockey team and their only chance at winning.

Langer, Adam. *Crossing California*. Riverhead Books, 2003.(Adult)

This is a coming of age story about Jewish kids in Chicago during the 1970s, reminiscent of *Catcher in the Rye* .

Lasky, Kathryn. *Beyond the Divide*. Macmillan, 1983. (Gr. 7+)

In 1849, a fourteen-year-old Amish girl defies convention by leaving her secure home in Pennsylvania to accompany her father across the continent by wagon train.

Lawrence, Iain. *The Lightkeeper's Daughter*. Delacorte Press, 2002. (Gr. 10+)

When, after a four-year absence, seventeen-year-old Squid returns to her childhood home on a remote lighthouse island off British Columbia with her young daughter in tow, she and her parents try to come to terms with each other and the painful events of the past, especially the death of her older brother.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins , 1961. (Gr. 8+)

In this classic work, Scout Finch tells the story of her father's defense of an African-American man charged with the rape of a white girl.

***Le Guin, Ursula K. *A Wizard of Earthsea*. Houghton Mifflin, 1968. (and sequels) (Gr. 6+)**

As an apprentice to the Master Wizard, a boy unleashed great evil on the world only to try to undo it as he grows to be a man.

Levithan, David. *Boy Meets Boy*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2003. (Gr. 9+)

An upbeat novel in which being gay is accepted without question, but the pitfall of love are still possible.

Lipsyte, Robert. *The Contender*. Bantam Books, 1967. (Gr. 8+)

A Harlem high school dropout at the beginning of a successful boxing career changes his goals.

Lisle, Janet Taylor. *The Crying Rocks*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003. (Gr. 6-9)

Thirteen-year-old Joelle has always wondered about her life before being adopted by the woman she calls Aunt Louise and her husband Vernon, and she makes some surprising discoveries while researching a 17th century Indian tribe.

***Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. (Gr. 5-9)**

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Lubar, David. *Dunk*. Clarion Books, 2002. (Gr. 8+)

While hoping to work as the clown in an amusement park dunk tank on the New Jersey shore the summer before his junior year in high school, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, hassles with police, and the girl that got away.

Lubar, David. *Hidden Talents*. Tom Doherty Associates, 1999. (Gr. 6-8)

When thirteen-year-old Martin arrives at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, he falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself.

Mackler, Carolyn. *The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things*. Candlewick Press, 2003. (Gr. 7-10)

Feeling like she does not fit in with the other members of her family, who are all thin, brilliant, and good-looking, fifteen-year-old Virginia tries to deal with her self-image, her first physical relationship, and her disillusionment with some of the people closest to her.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah Plain and Tall*. Harper & Row, 1985. (Gr. 4+)

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

Mahy, Margaret. *The Changeover: A Supernatural Romance*. Scholastic, 1974. (Gr. 7+)

Laura needs help for her brother who seems to be possessed by an evil spirit and believes an older boy at school is the person who can help her.

Mahy, Margaret. *Memory*. M.K. McElderry Books, 1988. (Gr. 7+)

On the fifth anniversary of his older sister's death, nineteen-year-old Jonny Dart, troubled by feelings of guilt and an imperfect memory of the event, goes in search of the only other witness to the fatal accident and, through a chance meeting with a senile old woman, finds a way to free himself of the past.

Mahy, Margaret. *24 Hours*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2000. (Gr. 9+)

During his first twenty-four hours after finishing high school, seventeen-year-old Ellis unexpectedly becomes part of an inner-city world far different from his comfortable life, which helps deal with his best friend's recent suicide.

Marchetta, Melina. *Saving Francesca*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2004. (Gr. 9+)

Francesca tries to deal with her new school that has just started accepting girls, while her depressed mother lies in bed at home.

Marsden, John. *Tomorrow, When the War Began*. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. (Gr. 7-10)

Seven Australian teenagers return from a camping trip in the bush to discover that their country has been invaded and they must hide to stay alive.

Martin, Judith. *Common Courtesy: In Which Miss Manners Solves the Problem That Baffled Jefferson*. Atheneum, 1985. (Adult)

A humorous books about the historic ills of our society's human behavior.

Martinez, Victor. *Parrot in the Oven, Mi Vida: A Novel*. (Gr. 7+)

A coming of age story about the son of an alcoholic in a poor Mexican American family.

McDonald, Joyce. *Swallowing Stones*. Delacorte Press, c1997. (Gr. 6-8)

Dual perspectives reveal the aftermath of seventeen-year-old Michael MacKenzie's birthday celebration during which he discharges an antique Winchester rifle and unknowingly kills the father of high school classmate Jenna Ward.

McKay, Hilary. *The Exiles*. M.K. McElderry Books, 1992. (Gr. 5-8)

The four Conroy sisters spend a wild summer at the seaside with Big Grandma, who tries to break them of their reading habit by substituting fresh air and hard work for books and gets unexpected results.

McKay, Hilary. *Saffy's Angel*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2002. (Gr. 4-7)

After learning that she was adopted, thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes, until they help her go back to Italy where she was born to find a special momento of her past.

McKillip, Patricia. *The Riddle Master of Hed trilogy*. Atheneum, 1976. (Gr. 7+)

In seeking the answer to the riddle of the three stars on his forehead and the three stars on the enchanted harp and sword, Morgon, Prince of Hed, goes ultimately to the High One, himself.

***McKinley, Robin. *Beauty*. Harper & Row, 1978. (Gr. 6+)**

Kind Beauty grows to love the Beast at whose castle she is compelled to stay and through her love releases him from the spell which had turned him from a handsome prince into an ugly beast.

***McKinley, Robin. *The Blue Sword*. Greenwillow Books, 1982. (Gr. 6+)**

Harry, bored with her sheltered life in the remote orange-growing colony of Daria, discovers magic in herself when she is kidnapped by a native king with mysterious powers.

McKinley, Robin. *The Hero and the Crown*. Greenwillow Books, 1984. (Gr. 6+)

Aerin, with the guidance of the wizard Luthe and the help of the blue sword, wins the birthright due her as the daughter of the Damarian king and a witchwoman of the mysterious, demon-haunted North.

Mikaelsen, Ben. *Touching Spirit Bear*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2001. (Gr. 7+)

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

Miller, Mary Beth. *Aimee*. Dutton Books, 2002. (Gr. 9+)

After she is accused of playing a role in her best friend's death, a young woman battles depression, anger, guilt, loneliness, and the problems of her own family as well as those of the families of her old friends.

Moriarty, Jaclyn. *The Year of Secret Assignments*. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2004. (Gr. 8+)

Three female students from Ashbury High write to three male students from rival Brookfield High as part of a pen pal program, leading to romance, humiliation, revenge plots, and war between the schools.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*. Scholastic Inc., 1988. (Gr. 10+)

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam .

Myers, Walter Dean. *Hoops*. Lauren Leaf Books, 1983. (Gr. 7+)

A teenage basketball player from Harlem becomes friends with a former professional player who hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistakes.

***Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*. HarperCollins , 1999. (Gr. 7+)**

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

***Na, An. *A Step from Heaven*. Front Street, c2001. (Gr. 8+)**

A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.

Naidoo, Beverly. *The Other Side of Truth*. HarperCollins, 2001. (Gr. 5-8)

Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London when their uncle fails to meet them at the airport and they are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria .

***Napoli , Donna Jo. *Beast*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000. (Gr. 8+)**

Elaborates on the tale of "Beauty and the Beast," told from the point of view of the beast and set in Persia .

Napoli , Donna Jo. *The Magic Circle*. Dutton Children's Books, 1993. (Gr. 7-10)

After learning sorcery to become a healer, a good-hearted woman is turned into a witch by evil spirits and she fights their power until her encounter with Hansel and Gretel years later.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Sirena*. Scholastic Press, 1998. (Gr. 8+)

The gods grant immortality to the mermaid Sirena when she rescues a human man from the sea and they fall in love, but his mortality creates great conflict between love and honor when he is called to defend Greece in the Trojan War.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Zel*. Dutton Children's Books, 1996. (Gr. 9+)

Based on the fairy tale Rapunzel, the story is told in alternating chapters from the point of view of Zel, her mother, and the nobleman who pursues her, and delves into the psychological motivations of each of the characters.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *The Agony of Alice*. (and sequels) Atheneum, 1985. (Gr. 6-9)

Eleven-year-old, motherless Alice decides she needs a gorgeous role model who does everything right; and when placed in homely Mrs. Plotkins's class she is greatly disappointed until she discovers it's what people are inside that counts.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Jade Green: A Ghost Story*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000. (Gr. 6-8)

While living with her uncle in a house haunted by the ghost of a young woman, recently orphaned Judith Sparrow wonders if her one small transgression causes mysterious happenings.

Neufeld, John. *Lisa, Bright and Dark*. Signet, 1969. (Gr. 6+)

Since her parents and teachers neglect to notice Lisa's increasingly severe depression, she turns to her friends to help her.

***Nix, Garth. *Sabriel*. (and sequels) HarperCollins, 1995. (Gr. 7+)**

Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.

Nodelman, Perry. *Behaving Bradley*. Simon and Schuster, 1998. (Gr. 6+)

Brad helps create a code of conduct for his school, and discovers just how much hypocrisy exists there.

Nolan, Han. *Born Blue*. Harcourt, 2001. (Gr. 8+)

Janie was four years old when she nearly drowned due to her mother's neglect. Through an unhappy foster home experience, and years of feeling that she is unwanted, she keeps alive her dream of someday being a famous singer.

Oates, Joyce Carol. *Big Mouth and Ugly Girl*. HarperTempest, 2002. (Gr. 8+)

When sixteen-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid.

Pattou, Edith. *East*. Harcourt, 2003. (Gr. 6+)

A young woman journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear who is the victim of a cruel enchantment.

Peck, Richard. *Are You in the House Alone?* Viking Press, 1976. (Gr. 8+)

As the recipient of threatening notes and phone calls, a high school girl becomes aware that she is under constant observation.

Peters, Julie Ann. *Keeping You a Secret*. Little Brown, 2003. (Gr. 9+)

Holland is in love with another girl and is not sure whether she trusts the people around her enough to tell them.

Pierce, Meredith Ann. *Birth of the Firebringer*. Collier Macmillan, 1985. (Gr. 6-9)

Aljan, the headstrong son of the prince of the unicorns, becomes a warrior and discovers his destiny in his people's struggle against the hideous wyrms usurping their land.

***Pierce, Meredith Ann. *Darkangel*. Little, Brown, 1982. (Gr. 6+)**

The servant girl Aerial must choose between destroying her vampire master for his evil deeds or saving him for the sake of his beauty and the spark of greatness she has seen in him. "An Atlantic Monthly Press book."

Pierce, Meredith Ann. *Dark Moon*. Joy Street Books, 1992. (Gr. 6-9)

Jan, the prince of the unicorns, pursues his destiny to save his kind from their enemies by seeking fire in a distant land of two-footed creatures.

Pierce, Meredith Ann. *A Gathering of Gargoyles*. Little, Brown, 1984. (Gr. 6+)

Painfully aware that her husband Irrylath is still not free of the white witch's spell, Aerial sets out on a dangerous quest to gather the winged steeds that Irrylath and his brothers need to do battle against the powerful witch.

Pierce, Meredith Ann. *The Pearl of the Soul of the World*. Joy Street Books, 1990. (Gr. 6+)

With the aid of a shimmering pearl, Ariel battles the White Witch to free her husband Irrylath. Last volume in the Darkangel trilogy.

Pierce, Meredith Ann. *Son of Summer Stars*. Little, Brown, 1996. (Gr. 6-9)

Jan, the prince of the unicorns, uses his knowledge of fire to form a historic alliance between his people and their former enemies and to return the unicorns to their ancestral homeland.

Pierce, Meredith Ann. *Treasure at the Heart of the Tanglewood*. Viking, 2001. (Gr. 8-10)

Hannah, a healer with unusual powers, leaves the wizard she has always served and, along with her animal companions, begins a journey which uncovers the truth about her real nature.

Pierce, Tamora. *Alanna: The First Adventure*. (and sequels) Random House, 1983. (Gr. 6+)

Alanna disguises herself as a boy and trains to be a knight. She befriends Prince Jonathan but alienates his evil uncle, Duke Roger.

Pinkwater, Daniel Manus. *5 Novels*. Farrar Straus Giroux, c1997. (Gr. 5+)

A compilation of five humorous tales.

***Plum-Ucci, Carol. *The Body of Christopher Creed*. Harcourt, 2000. (Gr. 8+)**

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

Plum-Ucci, Carol. *What Happened to Lani Garver?* Harcourt, 2002. (Gr. 9+)

Sixteen-year-old Claire is unable to face her fears about a recurrence of her leukemia, her eating disorder, her need to fit in with the popular crowd on Hackett Island, and her mother's alcoholism until the enigmatic Lani Garver helps her get control of her life at the risk of his own.

***Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass*. (and its sequels) Alfred A. Knopf, 1995. (Gr. 7+)**

In the first book of the His Dark Materials trilogy, Lyra Belacqua makes a journey to the Far North to protect her best friend and other kidnapped children from gruesome experiments.

Randle, Kristen D. *Breaking Rank*. Morrow Junior Books, 1999. (Gr. 9+)

Seventeen-year-old Casey has some of her preconceived notions challenged when she begins to tutor Baby, a member of a ganglike non-conformist society called the Clan.

Rennison, Louise. *Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*. (and sequels) HarperCollins Publishers, 2000. (Gr. 7-10)

Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

Rinaldi, Ann. *In My Father's House*. Scholastic Inc., 1993. (Gr. 7-10)

For two sisters growing up surrounded by the Civil War, there is conflict both outside and inside their house.

Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. (and sequels) Arthur A. Levine, 1998. (Gr. 5+)

11 year old Harry Potter is surprised to learn that he is a wizard and has his first year of adventures at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Rylant, Cynthia. *God Went to Beauty School*. HarperTempest, 2003. (Gr. 6+)

A novel in poems that reveal God's discovery of the wonders and pains in the world he has created.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. (Gr. 6-9)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

***Salinger, J. D. *Catcher in the Rye*. Little, Brown and Company, 1951. (Gr. 7+)**

Cynical seventeen year old Holden Caulfield has an eventful 24 journey around New York City .

***Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*. Pantheon, 2003. (A/YA)**

This autobiographical graphic novel recounts Satrapi's experience from the ages of ten through fourteen in war torn Iran . The work examines ideas of class, religion, and government, as well as growing up.

Schraff, Anne & Paul Langan. *The Bluford Series*. Townsend Press. (Gr. 9+/hi lo)

A series about African American high school students dealing with real problems.

Sleator, William. *House of Stairs*. Dutton, 1974. (Gr. 7+)

Five fifteen-year-old orphans of widely varying personality characteristics are involuntarily placed in a house of endless stairs as subjects for a psychological experiment on conditioned human response.

Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Perennial, 1968. (Adult)

Francie Nolan grows up in a Brooklyn, New York slum.

Snyder, Zilpha. *The Headless Cupid*. Atheneum, 1971. (Gr. 4-7)

Life is never quite the same again for eleven-year-old David after the arrival of his new stepsister, a student of the occult.

Stroud, Jonathan. *The Amulet of Samarkand*. Bartimaeus Trilogy #1 Hyperion Books For Children, 2003. (Gr. 6+)

Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace.

Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. Houghton Mifflin, 1958. (Gr. 6+)

In 1687 in Connecticut , Kit Tyler becomes friends with old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly is on trial for witchcraft.

***Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2000. (Gr. 6-10)**

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Staples, Suzanne. *Haveli*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1997. (Gr. 8+)

In this sequel to Shabanu , Shabanu becomes the victim of her husband's family's blood feud and the malice of his other wives.

Tashjian, Janet. *Fault Line*. Henry Holt, 2003. (Gr. 8+)

When seventeen-year-old Becky Martin, an aspiring comic, meets Kip Costello, she is caught in a mentally and physically abusive relationship.

Terris, Susan. *Nell's Quilt*. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1987. (Gr. 7+)

Urged at the age of eighteen to marry a man she doesn't want, Nell delays the event by working on a quilt, slowly starving herself, and observing the unhappy lot of many women in turn-of-the-century Massachusetts before arriving at a decision to rescue herself from the brink of death and take charge of her life.

***Thomas, Rob. *Rats Saw God*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1996. (Gr. 9+)**

In hopes of graduating, Steve York agrees to complete a hundred-page writing assignment which helps him to sort out his relationship with his famous astronaut father and the events that changed him from promising student to troubled teen.

Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Lord of the Rings*. Houghton Mifflin, 1955. (A/YA)

This trilogy tells the story of Frodo Baggins and the fellowship who journeys to Mordor to destroy the ring and save Middle Earth.

Trueman, Terry. *Stuck in Neutral*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2000. (Gr. 6-9)

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

Voigt, Cynthia. *Homecoming*. (and sequels.) Atheneum, 1991. (Gr. 6+)

After having been abandoned by their parents, four children begin their search for a new home.

Wallace, Rich. *Playing Without the Ball: A Novel in Four Quarters*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2000. (Gr. 8+)

Feeling abandoned by his parents, who have gone their separate ways and left him behind in a small Pennsylvania town, seventeen-year-old Jay finds hope for the future in a church-sponsored basketball team and a female friend.

Wells, Ken. *Meely LaBauve*. Delacorte, 2000. (A/YA)

Meely Labauve grows up on Catahoula Bayou. His father, an alligator hunter, disappears for days at a time, and Junior, the sheriff's nephew, considers annoying Meely to be his favorite sport.

Watkins, Yoko Kawashima. *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, c1986. (Gr. 5+)

A fictionalized autobiography in which eleven-year-old Yoko escapes from Korea to Japan with her mother and sister at the end of World War II.

Werlin, Nancy. *Double Helix*. Dial Books, 2004. (Gr. 9+)

Eighteen-year-old Eli discovers a shocking secret about his life and his family while working for a Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose specialty is genetic engineering.

White, Ellen Emerson. *Life Without Friends*. Scholastic, 1987. (Gr. 7-10)

Beverly, the girlfriend of the school drug dealer, finds herself alone after he is accused of murdering two of her friends. She meets Derek who helps her get through her troubles and look with some hope to the future.

***Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Like Sisters on the Homefront*. Lodestar Books, 1995.(Gr. 8+)**

Troubled fourteen-year-old Gayle is sent down South to live with her uncle and aunt, where her life begins to change as she experiences the healing power of the family.

Wilson, Jacqueline. *Girls in Love*. Delacorte Press, 2002. (Gr. 7-10)

Ellie's starting ninth grade and she knows what she wants. She wants her friends, Magda and Nadine, she wants to lose weight and get a great hairstyle, and she wants a boyfriend, no matter what.

Wolff , Virginia Euwer. *Make Lemonade*. (and sequel) Henry Holt, 1993. (Gr. 7-10)

A young single mother and her fourteen year old babysitting help each other in this powerful story

Woodson, Jacqueline. *If You Come Softly*. (and sequel) G. P. Putnam and Sons, 1998. (Gr. 7+)

A young interracial couple with family problems copes with people's reactions to their relationship.

Yolen, Jane. *Briar Rose*. T. Doherty Associates, 1992. (Adult)

This sleeping beauty story is intertwined with a tale from the Holocaust.

Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*. Viking Juvenile, 1998. (Gr. 4-8)

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland .

Zahn, Timothy. *Dragon and Thief*. (and sequel) Tor, 2003. (A/YA)

After his uncle death, Jack is forced to run away, accused of crimes he did not commit.

***Zindel, Paul. *The Pigman*. Harper & Row, 1968. (Gr. 7+)**

A teenage boy and girl, high school sophomores from unhappy homes, tell of their bizarre relationship with an old man.

NON-FICTION

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*. Crown, 1998. (Gr. 6+)

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

Craig, Eleanor. *The Moon Is Broken: A Mother's True Story*. Dutton, 1992. (YA)

Story of Eleanor Craig, a practicing psychotherapist, and her daughter Ann as they struggle through Ann's mental breakdowns which ultimately lead to Ann's death.

Frank, Anne. *Diary of Anne Frank*. Doubleday, 1952. (Gr. 6+)

The story of Anne Frank and her family while hiding from the Nazis during the Holocaust told in her own words.

***Giblin, James Cross. *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler*. Clarion Books, 2002. (Gr. 7+)**

Traces Hitler's life from his childhood in Austria and his ambition to be an artist, to the forces that shaped the man including the social conditions that hastened his rise to power, and to his final days in a bunker under Berlin .

***Levine, Karen. *Hana's Suitcase: A True Story*. Albert Whitman, 2003. (Gr. 5-8)**

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.

Murphy, Jim. *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*. Clarion Books, 2003. (Gr. 6+)

Provides an account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793, discussing the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, food, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.

Partridge, Elizabeth . *This Land Was Made for You and Me: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie*. Viking, 2002. (Gr. 6+)

A biography of Woody Guthrie, a singer who wrote over 3,000 folk songs and ballads as he traveled around the United States, including "This Land is Your Land" and "So Long It's Been Good to Know Yuh."