

YOUNG ADULT READING LIST



Abelove, Joan - **Go and Come Back**

American culture gets a new look through the eyes of a young teen whose village is being observed by two anthropologists.

Anderson, M.T. - **Feed**

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.

Bauer, Joan - **Hope Was Here**

When Hope and her aunt move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in a diner, they become involved with the diner owner's campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Brashares, Ann - **The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants**

A solid group of friends, each strong and courageous in her own way, accept and support each other the first summer they are apart as they share the perfect jeans.

Card, Orson Scott - **Ender's Game (series)**

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, schoolboy genius, finds his alien fighting skills are needed before he finishes training.

Chbosky, Stephen - **Perks of Being a Wallflower**

Charlie finds his way through freshman year in spite of being too smart for his own good and haunted by confusing and disturbing memories. He's helped by some independent seniors and a sympathetic teacher.

Cormier, Robert - **I Am the Cheese**

A victim of amnesia under the influence of drugs administered by mysterious questioners, Adam searches his memories while struggling to survive.

Crutcher, Chris - **Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes**

Although his success on the swim team is helping Eric "Moby" Calhoun trim down, he finds his true concern is helping friend Sarah face the truth about her abusive father.

Desai Hidier, Tanuja - **Born Confused**

Dimple, whose family is from India, discovers that she is not Indian enough for Indians and not American enough for Americans, as she sees her manipulative best friend claiming both her heritage and the boy she likes.

Deuker, Carl - **On the Devil's Court**

Seventeen-year-old Joe Faust must decide if it's worth selling his soul to the devil for one perfect season of basketball.

Gallo, Donald R., ed. - **On the Fringe**

A collection of short stories by favorite YA writers show the many sides of outsiders in high school. Why do some rise to the challenge while others turn to violence?

Gantos, Jack - **Hole in My Life**

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

Going, Kelly - **Fat Kid Rules the World**

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.

Griffin, Adele - **Amandine**

When dumpy, unpopular Delia is befriended by Amandine, a strangely fascinating girl, her parents are delighted, but Amandine has a decidedly cruel side that make this friendship more than a little uncomfortable.

Howe, Norma - **The Adventures of Blue Avenger**

Sixteen-year-old David remakes himself as a comic book hero and takes on real life as the Blue Avenger in this often hilarious look at high school life.

Koertge, Ron - **The Arizona Kid**

Working a summer job at a racetrack, living with his gay uncle and falling in love make wimpy, short, 10th grader Billy Kennedy more self-confident and worldly.

Lynch, Chris - **Extreme Elvin (series)**

Elvin faces ninth grade - and girls - with equal parts humor and worry.

McKinley, Robin - **Rose Daughter**

Twenty years after she first explored the depths of the "Beauty and the Beast" story in *Beauty*, the author returns to the same story from a different viewpoint. Both are wildly romantic and it's great fun to compare the two.

Myers, Walter Dean - **Monster**

Sixteen-year-old Steve, on trial for murder, reveals events past and present in the form of a movie script.

Napoli, Donna Jo - **The Magic Circle**

A heartbreaking look at how a gentle healer was hounded from her village and ended up deep in the forest in a cottage decorated with candy - a cottage destined to attract two lost children.

Newth, Mette - **The Abduction**

Osuqo, along with her betrothed, is violently abducted by Norwegian sailors from her Greenland home, in the 1600s.

Nolan, Han - **Born Blue**

A long-time foster child, Janie's strong attraction and amazing talent for soul singing convince this blue-eyed blonde that her real parents must be African American, so she changes her name to Leshaya hoping for a singing career.

Oates, Joyce Carol - **Big Mouth and Ugly Girl**

When 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.

Paulsen, Gary - **The Beet Fields**

Only slightly fictionalized, this is Paulsen's own story of his 16th summer during which he was a migrant worker, joined a carnival and learned a lot about the seamier side of life.

Powell, Randy - **Tribute to Another Dead Rock Star**

For a tribute to his mother, a dead rock star, fifteen-year-old Grady returns to Seattle, where he faces his mixed feelings for his retarded younger half-brother Louie while pondering his own future.

Rennison, Louise - **Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging (series)**

Hilarious diary of the loves and worries of modern English schoolgirl, Georgia Nicolson.

Sanchez, Alex - **Rainbow Boys**

Three high school seniors, a jock with a girlfriend and an alcoholic father, a closeted gay, and a flamboyant gay rights advocate, struggle with family issues, gay bashers, first sex, and conflicting feelings about each other.

Shan, Darren - **Cirque du Freak (series)**

Two boys who are best friends visit an illegal freak show, where an encounter with a vampire and a deadly spider forces them to make life-changing choices.

Spiegelman, Art - **Maus I and Maus II**

Spiegelman tells the story of his father's Holocaust survival in these graphic novels.

Springer, Nancy - **I Am Mordred**

King Arthur's illegitimate son fights against his destiny to be his father's killer.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher - **Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind**

Loyal to her family but with strong opinions of her own, Shabanu struggles against the old customs, such as an arranged marriage, in this story of a nomadic tribe in modern Pakistan.

Tashjian, Janet - **The Gospel According to Larry**

Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

Trueman, Terry - **Stuck in Neutral**

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.

Vande Velde, Vivian - **Heir Apparent**

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

Wittlinger, Ellen - **Hard Love**

After starting to publish a zine in which he writes his secret feelings about his lonely life and his parents' divorce, sixteen-year-old John meets an unusual girl and begins to develop a healthier personality.

Woodson, Jacqueline - **If You Come Softly**

Jeremiah is white and Ellie is black. They connect immediately and then must cope with other people's reactions to their relationship.

These are just a few of the many books that young adults enjoy. Ask your local librarian for further suggestions.

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