



The 1960s: a Decade of change

Teen Fiction From And About the 1960s

**Yes, 'n' how many times can a man turn his head,
Pretending he just doesn't see?**

**The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,
The answer is blowin' in the wind.**

Bob Dylan, 1963

The Moves Make The Man by Bruce Brooks

A 13-year-old African American boy and an emotionally troubled white boy in North Carolina form a precarious friendship.



Summer's End by Audrey Couloubis

Three teenaged cousins worry about their uncle who is missing in Vietnam, their brothers--the one who was drafted and the two who are dodging the draft, and the effects of their absence on the four generations gathered at the family farm in the summer of 1965.



Amaryllis by Craig Crist-Evans

Jimmy and his older brother Frank share a love of surfing and their problems with a drunken father, until Frank turns eighteen and goes to Vietnam.



The Watsons Go To Birmingham, 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit their grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.



The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society in which they find themselves "outsiders."



Sonny's War by Valerie Hobbs

In the late 1960s, fourteen-year-old Cori's life is greatly changed by the sudden death of her father and her brother's tour of duty in Vietnam.



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Book summaries courtesy of Novelist.

Here Today by Ann M. Martin

In 1963, when her flamboyant mother abandons the family to pursue her dream of becoming an actress, eleven-year-old Ellie Dingman takes charge of her younger siblings, while also trying to deal with her outcast status in school and frightening acts of prejudice toward the "misfits" that live on her street.



The Cloud Chamber by Joyce Maynard

In 1966, when his father's attempted suicide causes the ostracism of the family in their small Montana community, fourteen-year-old Nate copes with his sadness and anger by trying to win the school science fair.



Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

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.



Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins

Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.



Letters From Wolfie by Patti Sherlock

Certain that he is doing the right thing by donating his dog, Wolfie, to the Army's scout program in Vietnam, thirteen-year-old Mark begins to have second thoughts when the Army refuses to say when and if Wolfie will ever return.



Stormwitch by Susan Vaught

In Pass Christian, Mississippi in 1969, sixteen-year-old Ruba, trained by her Haitian grandmother in both voodoo and Amazonian warrior tactics, uses her skills to fight against racism and the African witch Zashar, now coming ashore in the form of Hurricane Camille.



Full Service by Will Weaver

In the summer of 1965, teenager Paul Sutton, a northern Minnesota farm boy, takes a job at a gas station in town, where his strict religious upbringing is challenged by new people and experiences.



The Pigman by Paul Zindel

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

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I THINK YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY NOWADAYS, SHOULD LEARN IS HOW TO SEE FOR YOURSELF AND LISTEN FOR YOURSELF AND THINK FOR YOURSELF. THEN YOU CAN COME TO AN INTELLIGENT DECISION FOR YOURSELF. — MALCOLM X, 1964

