



# KID 2 KID BOOK SUGGESTIONS

middle school

## BOOKS GIRLS LOVE

**YA Mackall**—*Eva Underground*  
In 1978, a high school senior is forced by her widowed father to move from their comfortable Chicago suburb to help with an underground education movement in communist Poland.

**YA Pfeffer**—*Life as We Knew It* (and others)  
Through journal entries 16-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

**YA Stanley**—*Bella at Midnight: the thimble, the ring, and the slippers of glass*  
Raised by peasants, Bella discovers that she is actually the daughter of a knight and soon finds herself caught up in a terrible plot that will change her life and the kingdom forever.

**YA Whelan**—*Listening for Lions*  
Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, 13-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.

**YA Zevin**—*Elsewhere*  
After 15-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

## JUVENILE FICTION

**J Blume**—*Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters*

Cornelia, 11-years-old and lonely, learns about language and life from an elderly new neighbor who has many stories to share about the fabulous adventures she and her sisters had while traveling around the world.

**J Connor**—*Waiting for Normal*

Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks.

**J Martin**—*A Dog's Life: the Autobiography of a Stray*

Squirrel, a stray puppy, tells her life story, from her nurturing family to making her own way in the world, facing busy highways and humans both gentle and brutal.

**J Law**—*Savvy*

Recounts the adventures of Mibs, whose 13th birthday has revealed her "savvy"—a magical power unique to each member of her family—just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

 **J Staples**—*Shiva's Fire*

In India, a talented dancer sacrifices friends and family for her art.

## YOUNG ADULT FICTION

**YA Anderson**—*Speak*

A ninth grader becomes a social pariah when she calls the police to bust a summer bash and spends the year coming to terms with the secret fact that she was raped during the party. A story told with acute insight, acid wit, and affecting prose. (School Library Journal 1999)

**YA Avi**—*True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, the only passenger on a voyage from England to America in 1832, must take serious matters into her own hands when she learns that the captain is murderous.

 **YA Cooney**—*Goddess of Yesterday*

Taken from her home as a 6-year-old girl, Anaxndra poses as two different princesses over the next six years, before ending up as a servant in the company of Helen and Paris as they make their way to Troy.

**YA Dessen**—*Just Listen: a novel*

After being caught with her best friend's boyfriend at a summer party, Annabel is starting her junior year alone and ostracized. But what appeared to be infidelity was really attempted rape. Annabel's troubles are exacerbated by her family's refusal to acknowledge its problems: middle sister Whitney's severe anorexia or the three sisters' waning interest in modeling. A budding friendship with classmate Owen, a dj at the community radio station, helps Annabel listen to her own heart and risk speaking out honestly. (Booklist 2006)

 **YA Fletcher**—*Shadow Spinner*

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life.

**YA Friend**—*Perfect*

Following the death of her father, a thirteen-year-old uses bulimia as a way to avoid her mother's and ten-year-old sister's grief, as well as her own.

**YA Hale**—*The Goose Girl*

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

**YA Johnson**—*13 Little Blue Envelopes*

When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.

**YA Kadohata**—*Kira-Kira*

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

**YA Malone**—*The Legend of Lady Ilena*

In sixth-century Great Britain, a fifteen-year-old girl seeking knowledge of her lineage is drawn into battle to defend the homeland she never knew, aided by one of King Arthur's knights.