

YA Books for the Young Teen

Bones of Faerie

YA Simner

Fifteen-year-old Liza travels through war-ravaged territory in a struggle to bridge the faerie and human worlds and to bring back her mother while learning of her own powers and that magic can be controlled.

Peak

YA Smith

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Notes from the Midnight Driver

YA Sonnenblick

After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness.

Smiles to Go

YA Spinelli

Will Tuppen's life has always been ruled by science and common sense but in ninth grade, shaken up by the discovery that protons decay, he begins to see the entire world differently and gains new perspective on his relationships with his little sister and two closest friends.

My Contract with Henry

YA Vaupel

A mission that begins as an eighth-grade project on Henry David Thoreau's experimental living at Walden Pond becomes a life-changing experience for a group of outsider students who become budding philosophers, environmental activists, and loyal friends.

Climbing the Stairs

YA Venkatroman

In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life.

Thirteenth Child

YA Wrede

Eighteen-year-old Eff must finally get over believing she is bad luck and accept that her special training in Aphrikan magic, and being the twin of the seventh son of a seventh son, give her extraordinary power to combat magical creatures that threaten settlements on the western frontier.

Watersmeet

YA Abbott

Fourteen-year-old Absina escapes the escalating violence, prejudice, and religious fervor of her home town, Vranille, and sets out with a dwarf, Haret, to seek the father she has never met in a place called Watersmeet.

Anything But Typical

YA Baskin

Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world.

Hope Was Here

YA Bauer

When sixteen-year-old Hope and her aunt move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin to manage the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

The Looking Glass Wars

YA Beddor

When she is cast out of Wonderland by her evil aunt Redd, young Alyss Heart finds herself living in Victorian Oxford as Alice Liddell and struggles to keep memories of her kingdom intact until she can return and claim her rightful throne.

Artemis Fowl

YA Colfer

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.

The Hunger Games

YA Collins

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Mare's War

YA Davis

Teens Octavia and Tali learn about strength, independence, and courage when they are forced to take a car trip with their grandmother, who tells about growing up black in 1940s Alabama and serving in Europe during World War II as a member of the Women's Army Corps.



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House of the Scorpion

At his coming-of-age party, Matteo discovers the secret of his existence. He was cloned as a guarantee of eternal life for the all-powerful ruler of Opium, a country between Mexico and the U.S.

YA Farmer**Coraline**

When Coraline steps through the locked door in her family's new flat, she finds a world that caters to her every whim. When she wants to leave, however, things rapidly change and she must fight a battle against evil to save herself.

YA Gaiman**Patron Saint of Butterflies**

When her grandmother takes fourteen-year-old Agnes, her younger brother, and best friend Honey and escapes Mount Blessing, a Connecticut religious commune, Agnes clings to the faith she loves while Honey looks toward a future free of control, cruelty, and preferential treatment.

YA Galant**Football Genius**

Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

YA Green**Shug**

Twelve-year-old Annemarie "Shug" Wilcox feels that she is freakishly tall, freakishly flat-chested, and freakishly freckled. And now she's starting junior high where her friends all act like complete strangers and her life seems like a blur.

YA Han**When Zachary Beaver Came to Town**

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, 13-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

YA Holt**Cracker: the Best Dog in Vietnam**

A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog.

YA Kadohata**The Girls**

The girls: Maya, Brianna, Darcy, Renee...are popular, fascinating and dangerous. Set in the war zone of middle school, this story follows five friends ruled by a ringleader who plays games to test their loyalty.

YA Koss**Skulduggery Pleasant**

When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.

YA Landy**The Big Field**

When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

YA Lupica**Touching Spirit Bear**

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole is sent, as an alternative to prison, to a remote Alaskan island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

YA Mikaelson**A Squire's Tale**

Humor and magic combine in the adventures of King Arthur's nephew Gawain and his inexperienced but plucky squire, Terence.

YA Morris**Achingly Alice**

Thirteen-year-old Alice sets long- and short-term priorities for her life as she experiences the complexities of young love.

YA Naylor**The Fall ("Seventh Tower" series)**

Tal falls into a strange and unknown world of warriors, ice ships, and magic.

YA Nix**Paperquake**

Certain that she is being drawn into the lives of people living nearly 100 years ago, Violet, who feels like the odd sister in a set of triplets, searches for clues to help her avert an imminent tragedy.

YA Reiss**Esperanza Rising**

When a sudden tragedy shatters Esperanza's sheltered world, she and her mother emigrate to California to work in the fields and start a new life.

YA Ryan**Trouble**

Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. But fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin--and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

YA Schmidt