

50 Books in 50 Minutes

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Do you believe?

Armstrong, Kelley. **The summoning**. New York: HarperCollins, 2008.

Summary: *After fifteen-year-old Chloe starts seeing ghosts and is sent to Lyle House, a mysterious group home for mentally disturbed teenagers, she soon discovers that neither Lyle House nor its inhabitants are exactly what they seem, and that she and her new friends are in danger.*

Black, Holly. **Ironside : A Modern Faery's Tale**. New York : Margaret K. McElderry, 2007.

Summary: *As the possessor of Roibin's true name, sixteen-year-old Kaye returns to Faeryland to try and complete a nearly-impossible quest that will release him from the spell of the faery queen who holds him in thrall.*

Note: Teen Top Ten 2008 nominee; **Series:** third after *Tithe* (2002), *Valiant* (2005).

Cashore, Kristin. **Graceling**. Orlando : Harcourt, 2008.

Summary: *In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace, the Grace of killing, and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.*

Clare, Cassandra. **City of Bones**. New York: M.K. McElderry, 2007.

Summary: *Suddenly able to see demons and the Darkhunters who are dedicated to returning them to their own dimension, fifteen-year-old Clary Fray is drawn into this bizzare world when her mother disappears and Clary herself is almost killed by a monster.*

Note: Teen Top Ten 2008

Klauser, Annette Curtis. **Blood and chocolate**. New York : Delacorte, 1997.

Summary: *Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom*

Marillier, Juliet. **Wildwood Dancing**. New York : Knopf, 2007.

Summary: *Five sisters who live with their merchant father in Transylvania use a hidden portal in their home to cross over into a magical world, the Wildwood.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults 2008, Teen Top Ten nominee 2008; **Companion novel:** *Cybele's Secret* (2008).

Marr, Melissa. **Wicked lovely**. New York : HarperTeen, 2007.

Summary: *Seventeen-year-old Aislinn, who has the rare ability to see faeries, is drawn against her will into a centuries-old battle between the Summer King and Winter Queen, and the survival of her life, her love, and summer all hang in the balance.*

Note: Teen Top Ten 2008 nominee, **Sequel/companion:** *Ink Exchange* (2008).

Salvatore, R. A. **The Orc King**. Reston, WA: Wizards of the Coast, 2007.

Summary: *The uneasy peace between the dwarves of Mithral Hall and the orcs of the Kingdom of Many Arrows begins to falter as the tribes of orcs under the command of Obould begin to battle one another, and Bruenor becomes determined to finish the war that had nearly destroyed him, in a new volume in the saga of dark elf Drizzt Do'Urden and his companions.*

Werlin, Nancy. **Impossible: a novel**. New York: Dial, 2008.

Summary: *When seventeen-year-old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes to break the curse she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born in order to save them both.*

Books in Verse

Hopkins, Ellen. **Burned**. New York: Simon Pulse, 2006.

Summary: *Seventeen-year-old Pattyn, the eldest daughter in a large Mormon family, is sent to her aunt's Nevada ranch for the summer, where she temporarily escapes her alcoholic, abusive father and finds love and acceptance, only to lose everything when she returns home.*

McCormick, Patricia. **Sold**. New York : Hyperion, 2006.

Summary: *Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old girl from Nepal who is sent to work in prostitution in India to help the family and she survives and reclaims her life. Told in verse.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Books for the Teen Age 2007; **by the same author:** Cut.

Sones, Sonya. **Stop Pretending : What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy**. New York: HarperCollins, 1999.

Summary: *A younger sister has a difficult time adjusting to life after her older sister has a mental breakdown.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers, Books For The Teen Age 2007

Local Interest

Bauer, Joan. **Peeled**. New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008.

Summary: *In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle investigates a series of strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted.*

Connor, Leslie. **Waiting for Normal**. New York: HarperCollins, 2008.

Summary: *Twelve-year-old 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 on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.*

Donnelly, Jennifer. **A Northern Light**. San Diego : Harcourt, 2003.

Summary: *In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiance, takes a job at a summer inn in the Adirondacks where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story.*

Guys' Stories

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Twisted**. New York : Viking, 2007.

Summary: *After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers 2008, Teen Top Ten 2008.

Doctorow, Cory. **Little Brother**. New York : Tor Teen, 2008.

Summary: *After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.*

Note: New York Times Notable Children's Books 2008.

Ehrenhaft, Daniel. **Ten Things to do Before I Die**. New York : Delacorte, 2004.

Summary: *Just after his best friends make a list of things sixteen-year-old Ted should do to live it up, he learns that he has ingested poison and will be dead in twenty-four hours--which might be enough time to do everything on the list.*

Flinn, Alex. **Breathing Underwater**. New York : HarperTempest, 2002.

Summary: *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.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers; *Diva* (2006) is a continuation of Caitlin's story.

Flinn, Alex. **Nothing to Lose**. New York : HarperTempest, 2004.

Summary: *A year after running away with a traveling carnival to escape his unbearable home life, sixteen-year-old Michael returns to Miami, Florida, to find that his mother is going on trial for the murder of his abusive stepfather.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Books for the Teen Age 2005

Green, John. **An Abundance of Katherines**. New York : Dutton, 2006.

Summary: *Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.*

Green, John. **Paper Towns**. New York: Dutton, 2008.

Summary: *One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.*

Kinney, Jeff. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal**. New York: Amulet, 2007

Summary: *Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive. When Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.*

Sequels: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2008), *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw* (2009)

Korman, Gordon. **The JVie Three**. New York : Hyperion, 2008.

Summary: *Gecko, Arjay, and Terence, all in trouble with the law, must find a way to keep their halfway house open in order to stay out of juvenile detention.*

Smelcer, John E. **The Trap**. New York : Henry Holt, 2006.

Summary: *In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Books for The Teen Age 2007

Books with Unfortunate Covers

Alexie, Sherman. **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian**. New York : Little, Brown, 2007.

Summary: *Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.*

Note: National Book Award winner, ALA Best Books for Young Adults 2008

Collins, Suzanne. **The Hunger Games**. New York: Scholastic, 2008.

Summary: *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*

Note: New York Times Notable Children's Books 2008

Gardner, Sally. **The Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution**. New York: Dial, 2007.

Summary: *In the late eighteenth-century, Sido, the twelve-year-old daughter of a self-indulgent marquis, and Yann, a fourteen-year-old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.*

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. **Life as We Knew It**. Orlando : Harcourt, 2006.

Summary: *Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.*

Note: Teen Top Ten 2006, ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Books For The Teen Age 2007; **Companion:** Dead and the Gone (2008).

Tharp, Tim. **The Spectacular Now**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

Summary: *In the last months of high school, charismatic eighteen-year-old Sutter Keely lives in the present, staying drunk or high most of the time, but that could change when he starts working to boost the self-confidence of a classmate, Aimee.*

Note: National Book Award nominee.

Another Time and Place

Anderson, M. T. **The Pox Party (The Astonishing Story of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation #1)**. Cambridge, MA : Candlewick, 2006.

Summary: *Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.*

Note: National Book Award, Michael L. Printz Award 2007; **Sequel:** The Kingdom on the waves (The Astonishing Story of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation #2).(2008) - New York Times Notable Children's Books 2008.

Blundell, Judy. **What I Saw and How I Lied**. New York: Scholastic, 2008.

Summary: *In 1947, with her jovial stepfather Joe back from the war and family life returning to normal, teenage Evie, smitten by the handsome young ex-GI who seems to have a secret hold on Joe, finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies whose devastating outcome change her life and her family forever.*

Note: National Book Award 2008

Crist-Evans, Craig. **Amaryllis**. Cambridge, MA : Candlewick, 2003.

Summary: *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.*

Note: Books for the Teen Age 2004

Flint, Eric. **1632**. Riverdale, NY : Baen , 2001.

Summary: *In one moment they were in West Virginia at a wedding, next thing they know they are in 1632, somewhere near Germany and in the middle of the Thirty Years War.*

Godbersen, Anna. **The Luxe**. New York : HarperCollins, 2007.

Summary: *In Manhattan in 1899, five teens of different social classes lead dangerously scandalous lives, despite the strict rules of society and the best-laid plans of parents and others.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee 2008; **Sequel:** Rumors : A Luxe Novel (2008).

Morpurgo, Michael. **Private Peaceful**. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

Summary: *When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Books for the Teen Age 2004

Myers, Walter Dean. **Sunrise Over Fallujah**. New York : Scholastic, 2008.

Summary: *Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.*

Note: New York Times Notable Children's Books 2008

Rees, Celia. **Sovay**. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008.

Summary: *In 1794 England, the rich and beautiful Sovay, disguised as a highwayman, acquires papers that could lead to her father's arrest for treason, and soon her newly-awakened political consciousness leads her and a compatriot to France during the Revolution.*

Selznick, Brian. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret : A Novel in Words and Pictures**. New York : Scholastic, 2007.

Summary: *When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.*

Note: National Book Award nominee, Caldecott Award 2008

Venkatraman, Padma. **Climbing the Stairs**. New York : GP Putnam, 2008.

Summary: *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.*

Zusak, Markus. **The Book Thief**. New York : Alfred A. Knopf , 2006.

Summary: *Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.*

Based on Classic Stories

Fforde, Jasper. **The Eyre Affair**. New York : Viking, 2002.

Summary: *In Jasper Fforde's Great Britain, circa 1985, time travel is routine, cloning is a reality, and literature is taken very, very seriously. When someone begins kidnapping characters from works of literature and plucks Jane Eyre from the pages of Brontë's novel, Thursday Next, renowned Special Operative in literary detection is faced with the challenge of her career.*

Sequels:

Flinn, Alex. **Beastly**. New York : HarperTeen, 2007.

Summary: *A modern retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" from the point of view of the Beast, a vain Manhattan private school student who is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form.*

Note: *A Kiss in Time* (2009) will be about the Sleeping Beauty story.

Friesner, Esther M. **Nobody's Princess**. New York : Random House, 2007.

Summary: *Determined to fend for herself in a world where only men have real freedom, headstrong Helen, who will be called queen of Sparta and Helen of Troy one day, learns to fight, hunt, and ride while disguised as a boy, and goes on an adventure throughout the Mediterranean world.*

Sequel: *Nobody's Prize* (2008).

Geras, Adele. **Ithaka**. Orlando : Harcourt, 2006.

Summary: *The island of Ithaka is overrun with uncouth suitors demanding that Penelope choose a new husband, as she patiently awaits the return of Odysseus from the Trojan War.*

Nance, Andrew. **Daemon Hall**. New York : Henry Holt, 2007.

Summary: *Famous horror story writer Ian Tremblin comes to the town of Maplewood to hold a short story writing contest, offering the five finalists the chance to spend what turns out to be a terrifying--and deadly--night with him in a haunted house.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee 2008, ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers

Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief**. New York : Miramax Books/Hyperion, 2005.

Summary: *After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.*

Note: ; **Sequels:** The Sea of Monsters (2006), The Titan's Curse (2007), The Battle of the Labyrinth (2008).

Yolen, Jane. **Troll Bridge : A Rock 'n' Roll Fairy Tale**. New York : Starscape, 2006.

Summary: *Sixteen-year-old harpist prodigy Moira is transported to a strange wilderness, where she finds herself in the middle of a deadly struggle between a magical fox and a monstrous troll.*

Note: **Sequel:** Pay the Piper (2006)

Take Two (or more!) – they're small

Adams, Douglas. **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**. New York : Harmony, 1980.

Summary: *Seconds before the Earth is demolished for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is saved by Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Together they stick out their thumbs to the stars and begin a wild journey through time and space.*

Card, Orson Scott. **Ender's Game**. New York: Starscape, 2002.

Summary: *After the Earth is twice attacked by aliens, the world government begins breeding military geniuses, one of whom is Ender Wiggin.*

Note: Hugo Award 1986, Nebula(R) award 1985. **Series:** New addition to the Ender series, fits chronologically as book #2, Ender in Exile (2008)

Ferguson, Alane. **The Christopher Killer : A Forensic Mystery**. New York : Sleuth/Viking, 2006.

Summary: *On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee; **Sequels:** Angel of Death (2007) and Circle of Blood (2008).

Horowitz, Anthony. **Stormbreaker**. New York : Philomel, 2001.

Summary: *After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.*

Note: First in series of six so far.

Jaffe, Michele. **Bad Kitty**. New York : HarperCollins, 2006.

Summary: *While vacationing with her family in Las Vegas, seventeen-year-old Jasmine stumbles upon a murder mystery that she attempts to solve with the help of her friends, recently arrived from California.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee 2007; **Sequel:** Kitty Kitty (2008)

Meyer, L. A. **Bloody Jack : Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary "Jacky" Faber, Ship's Boy**. San Diego : Harcourt, 2002.

Summary: *Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.*

Note: Books for the Teen Age 2004; **Sequels** – six titles: newest - *My Bonny Light Horseman: Being an Account of the Further Adventures of Jacky Faber, in Love and War* (2008)

Paolini, Christopher. **Brisinqr, or, The Seven Promises of Eragon Shadeslayer and Saphira Bjartskular**. New York: Knopf, 2008.

Summary: *The further adventures of Eragon and his dragon Saphira as they continue to aid the Varden in the struggle against the evil king, Galbatorix.*

Note: Three Apples 2008 nominee; **Sequels:** third in trilogy after *Eragon* (2003) and *Eldest* (2005).

Patterson, James. **Maximum Ride : The Angel Experiment**. New York : Little, Brown, 2005.

Summary: *After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.*

Wilce, Ysabeau S. **Flora Segunda : Being the Magickal Mishaps of a Girl of Spirit, Her Glass-gazing Sidekick, Two Ominous Butlers (One Blue), a House with Eleven Thousand Rooms, and a Red Dog**. Orlando : Harcourt, 2007.

Summary: *Fourteen-year-old Flora Fyrdraaca, whose mother is the Warlord's Commanding General and whose father is mad, kindly helps her house's magical--and long-banished--butler, unaware that he draws strength from the Fyrdraaca will.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee 2007; **Sequel:** *Flora's Dare: How a Girl of Spirit Gambles All to Expand Her Vocabulary, Confront a Bouncing Boy Terror, and Try to Save Califa From a Shaky Doom (Despite Being Confined to Her Room)* (2008)

Woodson, Jacqueline. **If You Come Softly**. New York : Puffin, 2000.

Summary: *After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Books For The Teen Age 2001; **Sequel:** *Behind You* (2004)

What Would You Do?

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Speak**. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 1999.

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

Note: National Book Award finalist, Michael L. Printz Award honor book.

Cassidy, Anne. **Looking for JJ**. Orlando : Harcourt, 2007.

Summary: *Seventeen-year-old Alice, released from prison with a new identity after serving six years for murdering a child, tries to keep her anonymity from the British tabloids, while haunted by memories of her past trauma.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults

Crutcher, Chris. **Whale Talk**. New York : Laurel-Leaf, 2002.

Summary: *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.*

Note: Books for the Teen Age 2004, ALA Best Books for Young Adults 2002

Dessen, Sarah. **Lock and Key: A Novel**. New York: Viking, 2008.

Summary: *When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about Cora's new life, what makes a family, how to allow people to help her when she needs it, and that she too has something to offer others.*

Dessen, Sarah. **Someone Like You**. New York : Viking, 1998.

Summary: *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.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers

Draper, Sharon M. **November Blues**. New York : Atheneum, 2007.

Summary: *A teenaged boy's death in a hazing accident has lasting effects on his pregnant girlfriend and his guilt-ridden cousin, who gives up a promising music career to play football during his senior year in high school.*

Giles, Gail. **Right Behind You**. New York : Little, Brown, 2007.

Summary: *After spending over four years in a mental institution for murdering a friend in Alaska, fourteen-year-old Kip begins a completely new life in Indiana with his father and stepmother under a different name, but not only has trouble fitting in, he finds there are still problems to deal with from his childhood*

Giles, Gail. **What Happened to Cass McBride?**. New York : Little, Brown, 2006.

Summary: *After his younger brother commits suicide, Kyle Kirby decides to exact revenge on the person he holds responsible.*

Gordon, Roderick and Brian Williams. **Tunnels**. New York: Scholastic, 2008.

Summary: *When Will Burrows and his friend Chester embark on a quest to find Will's archaeologist father, who has inexplicably disappeared, they are led to a labyrinthine world underneath London, full of sinister inhabitants with evil intentions toward "Topsoilers" like Will and his father.*

Grant, Michael. **Gone**. New York: HarperCollins, 2008.

Summary: *In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the town residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not.*

Hautman, Pete. **Godless**. New York : Simon & Schuster, 2004.

Summary: *When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own.*

Note: National Book Award winner

Ishiguro, Kazuo. **Never Let Me Go**. New York : A. Knopf , 2005.

Summary: *As children Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy were students at Hailsham, an exclusive boarding school where teachers were constantly reminding their charges of how special they were. Now, years later, Kathy is a young woman. Ruth and Tommy have reentered her life. And for the first time she is beginning to look back and understand just what it is that makes them special.*

Note: ALA Alex Award winner

Jones, Lloyd. **Mister Pip**. New York : Dial, 2007.

Summary: *While artillery echoes in the mountains, thirteen-year-old Matilda and her peers are riveted by the adventures of a young orphan named Pip in a city called London, a city whose contours soon become more real than their own blighted landscape. But in a ravaged place where even children are forced to live by their wits, imagination can be a dangerous thing.*

Note: ALA Alex Award winner, ALA Best Books for Young Adults 2008

McCormick, Patricia. **Cut**. Asheville, NC : Front Street, 2000.

Summary: *While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation, and gradually starts to get better.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Books, Books for the Teen Age 2007, YALSA Reluctant Readers

Michaels, Rune. **Genesis Alpha**. New York: Atheneum, 2007.

Summary: *When thirteen-year-old Josh's beloved older brother, Max, is arrested for murder, the victim's sister leads Josh to evidence of Max's guilt--and her own--hidden in their favorite online role-playing game and Josh, who was conceived to save Max's life years earlier, must consider whether he shares that guilt.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee 2008

Petrucha, Stefan. **Teen, Inc.**. New York : Walker , 2007.

Summary: *Fourteen-year-old Jaiden has been raised by NECorp since his parents were killed when he was a baby, so when he discovers that the corporation has been lying about producing illegal levels of mercury emissions, he and his two friends decide to try to do something about it.*

Ruby, Laura. **Good Girls**. New York : HarperTempest, 2006.

Summary: *Sixteen-year-old high school senior Audrey is humiliated when a compromising photograph of her is sent around her school, but she discovers a toughness within her that she never knew she had.*

Note: Books For The Teen Age 2007, ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers

Tashjian, Janet. **The Gospel According to Larry**. New York : Henry Holt, 2001.

Summary: *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.*

Note: *Sequels* Vote for Larry (2004), Larry and the Meaning of Life (2008)

Werlin, Nancy. **Double Helix**. New York : Sleuth Puffin, 2004.

Summary: *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.*

Note: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Books for the Teen Age 2005.

The Teen Experience

Brian, Kate. **Megan Meade's Guide to the McGowan Boys : A Novel**. New York : Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Summary: *While her military parents are stationed in South Korea, high school junior Megan learns a great deal when she moves to Massachusetts to live with family friends who have seven sons.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee 2006. Author also writes under the name

Cohn, Rachel. **Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist**. New York : Knopf , 2006.

Summary: *High school student Nick O'Leary, member of a rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart.*

Note: Books for the Teen Age 2007

Jaffe, Michele. **Bad Kitty**. New York : HarperCollins, 2006.

Summary: *While vacationing with her family in Las Vegas, seventeen-year-old Jasmine stumbles upon a murder mystery that she attempts to solve with the help of her friends, recently arrived from California.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee 2007; **Sequel:** Kitty Kitty (2008)

Johnson, Maureen. **13 Little Blue Envelopes**. New York : HarperCollins, 2005.

Summary: *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.*

Note: Teen Top Ten 2006

Levithan, David. **Are we there yet?** New York : Knopf, 2005.

Summary: *Tricked by their parents into taking a trip to Italy together, two brothers--one in high school and the other recently graduated from college--reflect on the directions of their own lives and on the distance that has grown between them.*

Noel, Alyson. **Saving Zoe** . New York : St. Martin's Griffin, 2007.

Summary: *Instead of a fresh start, high school provides more grief and isolation to Echo, whose older sister died a year earlier, but insights gained from Zoe's diary--a fifteenth birthday gift from Zoe's boyfriend--about her sister's life and death change Echo in ways she could have never expected.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee 2008.

Shusterman, Neal. **Unwind** . New York : Simon & Schuster, 2007.

Summary: *In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs--and, perhaps, save their own lives.*

Note: Teen Top Ten nominee 2008, ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers.

Soto, Gary. **The Afterlife** . Orlando, FL : Harcourt, 2003.

Summary: *A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance.*

Professional References

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Jones, Patrick. **Connecting with reluctant teen readers : tips, titles, and tools** . New York: Neal-Schuman, 2006.

Nieuwenhuizen, Agnes. **Right Book, Right Time : 500 Great Reads for Teenagers.** Allen & Unwin, 2008.

Smith, Michael W. **Reading Don't Fix No Chevys : Literacy in the Lives of Young Men** . Portsmouth, NH : Heinemann, 2002.

Summary: *The problems of boys in schools, especially in reading and writing, have been the focus of statistical data, but rarely does research point out how literacy educators can combat those problems. Michael Smith and Jeff Wilhelm worked with a very diverse group of young men to understand how they use literacy and what conditions promote it. In this book they share what they have learned. The authors' data-driven findings explain why boys reject much of school literacy and how progressive curricula and instruction might help boys engage with literacy and all learning in more productive ways.*

Glossary of Awards/recommendations

National Book Award:

<http://www.nationalbook.org/index.html>

Criteria: "...to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America."

Process: Judges consider only books written by American citizens and published in the United States between December 1 of the previous year and November 30 of the current year. Only publishers can nominate books for the National Book Award. Each category has a panel of five judges who have written and published works in that category.

ALA Best Books for Young Adults

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/bbya/>

Criteria for the list: "The list presents books published in the past 16 months that are recommended reading for young adults 12 to 18. It is a general list of fiction and nonfiction titles selected for their proven or potential appeal to the personal reading tastes of the young adult.

Such titles should incorporate acceptable literary quality and effectiveness of presentation."

ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/quickpicks/>

Criteria for list: All titles should have appeal as self-selected leisure reading for young adults. Books should be evaluated by subject, cover art, readability, format, style and teen feedback. Teen feedback from reluctant readers, is encouraged.

Teen Top Ten

<http://www.ala.org/teenstopten>

Criteria: "Teens' Top Ten is a "teen choice" list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year! Nominators are members of teen book groups in fifteen school and public libraries around the country. Nominations are posted in April during National Library Week, and teens across the country vote on their favorite titles each year during Teen Read Week."

The Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/printz>

Criteria: One award book and up to 4 honor books based on "Literary Excellence" – "Depending on the book, one or more of these criteria will apply:

Story	Voice	Style
Setting	Accuracy	Characters
Theme	Illustration	Design (including format, organization, etc.)

POPULARITY is not the criterion for this award."

Alex Award

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/alex/>

Criteria: The Alex Awards are given to ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults, ages 12 through 18.

- Selected from genres that have special appeal to young adults.
- Are potentially appealing to teenagers.
- Are well written and very readable.

Books for the Teen Age:

<http://teenlink.nypl.org/bta1.cfm>

A list prepared annually by the librarians at the Nathan Straus Teen Central branch of the New York Public Library. Books may be on the list for multiple years.

Three Apples Book Award

<http://www.3applesbookaward.org/>

Sponsored by both New York youth services librarians and school media specialists, this is a popularity award voted on by students in New York State. There are two awards, one from K-6, one for 7-12 grades.

Other useful lists:

School Library Journal – Best Books 2008

<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6617203.html>

The Best Adult Books for High School Students 2008

<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6617202.html>

New York Times: Notable Children’s Books of 2008

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/07/books/review/KidsNotable-t.html>

Reading Rants! Out of the Ordinary Teen Booklists!

<http://www.readingrants.org/>

TeenReads.com

<http://www.teenreads.com>