



❖ Teens ❖ Best Books of 2019

[We aim to provide a quality list featuring books of different genres, interests, maturity levels and reading content for young adults. YOU are the best judge of what's appropriate for YOU!]

Best Books lists from previous years may be obtained by request at the Youth Services desk.

**Additional formats available from other libraries and/or downloadable from Libby.*

Acevedo, Elizabeth – *With the Fire on High* YA Acevedo, Fiction; YA Acevedo, CD-Audio Books*

Teen mother Emoni Santiago struggles with the challenges of finishing high school and her dream of working as a chef. Prepare to smell Emoni's cooking and crave her food while reading this novel!

Ahmed, Samira – *Internment* YA Ahmed, Fiction*

A terrifying, futuristic US where Muslim-Americans are in internment camps and Layla must lead a revolution.

Ali, S. K. – *Love from A to Z* YA Ali, Fiction

Muslims, Adam and Zayneb, meet in Qatar during spring break and fall in love as both struggle to live their own truths.

Alkaf, Hanna – *The Weight of Our Sky* YA Alkaf, Fiction

Amidst the 1969 Chinese-Malay conflict in Kuala Lumpur, Melati must conquer prejudice, violence, and OCD.

Azad, Nafiza – *The Candle and the Flame* YA Azad, Fiction*

Fatima, one of only three survivors of the Shayateen djinn attack eight years ago, lives a simple life with her adoptive sister, until a catastrophic encounter with a powerful Ifrit djinni reveals the fire within her and changes her life forever.

Bardugo, Leigh – *King of Scars* YA Bardugo, Fiction*

When the dark magical force within him challenges his effort to forge new alliances and build a defense against a new threat, Nikolai, the young king of Ravka, embarks on a journey to his country's most magical places to vanquish it.

Bausum, Ann – *Viral: The Fight Against AIDS in America* 362.19 Bau YA, Non-Fiction

The history of the AIDS crisis through the lens of the brave victims and activists who demanded action and literally fought for their lives. This compassionate but unflinching text explores everything from the disease's origins to today.

Bennett, Jenn – *Serious Moonlight* YA Bennett, Fiction

Mystery-book aficionado Birdie works the graveyard shift at a historic Seattle hotel, where Daniel is the van driver. They stumble upon a real-life mystery: a famous reclusive writer might be secretly meeting someone at the hotel.

Berry, Julie – *Lovely War* YA Berry, Fiction; YA Berry, CD-Audio Books*

A sweeping, multi-layered romance set in the perilous days of World Wars I and II, where Gods hold the fates, and the hearts, of four mortals in their hands: a classical pianist from London, a British would-be architect-turned-soldier, a Harlem-born ragtime genius in the U.S. Army, and a Belgian orphan with a gorgeous voice and a devastating past.

Boehme, Jillian – *Stormrise* YA Boehme, Fiction

Her skills ignored because of her gender, Rain disguises herself as a boy and joins a secret military rescue unit tasked with rescuing the High King, and soon learns she must awaken the dragons that guarded the land centuries before.

Capetta, Amy Rose – *The Lost Coast* YA Capetta, Fiction*

Six queer witches forge their own paths shrouded in the mist, magic, and secrets of the ancient California redwoods.

Capetta, Amy Rose – *Once & Future* YA Capetta, Fiction; YA Capetta, CD-Audio Books*

Resets the Arthurian legend in outer space, with King Arthur reincarnated as seventeen-year-old Ari, a female king whose quest is to stop a tyrannical corporate government, aided by a teenaged Merlin.

Youth Services
Stevens Point Branch



PORTAGE
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

715-346-1549
www.pocolibrary.org



❖ Teens ❖
Best Books of 2019

Chokshi, Roshani – *The Gilded Wolves* YA Chokshi, Fiction; YA Chokshi, CD-Audio Books*
In an alternate, fantastical 1889 Paris, Séverin leads a diverse crew of criminals in a heist to take back his inheritance. Science and magic blend together in this lush Ocean's Eleven meets National Treasure tale.

Colbert, Brandy – *The Revolution of Birdie Randolph* YA Colbert, Fiction*
Birdie's close bond with her parents is threatened by a family secret and her secret boyfriend from juvenile detention.

Craft, Jerry – *New Kid* +Craft, Graphic Novels; +Cra, CD-Audio Books*
7th grader Jordan Banks loves drawing cartoons about his life. Now enrolled in a new prestigious private school, he is one of the few kids of color. Jordan finds himself torn between two worlds and not really fitting into either one.

Davis, Charlotte Nicole – *The Good Luck Girls* YA Davis, Fiction; YA Davis, Digital Audio Players*
In an alternate Wild West, when Aster's sister accidentally murders a man, five girls risk a dangerous escape and harrowing journey to find freedom, justice, and revenge in a country that wants them to have none of those things.

Deming, Sarah – *Gravity* YA Deming, Fiction
Sixteen-year-old Gravity Delgado has been breaking records and competitors since she started boxing with a legendary coach at age twelve, and now will reach the Olympics if her home life and romance do not distract her.

Dugan, Jennifer – *Hot Dog Girl* YA Dugan, Fiction*
A lovesick teenager schemes to win the heart of her crush at her amusement park summer job, all while dressed as a hot dog. Bisexual Lou convinces lesbian best friend, Seeley, to pretend to be her girlfriend in order to try to get Nick.

Emezi, Akwaeke – *Pet* YA Emezi, Fiction; YA Emezi, CD-Audio Books*
In a near-future society that claims to have gotten rid of all monstrous people, a creature emerges from a painting seventeen-year-old Jam's mother created: a hunter from another world seeking a real-life monster.

Faizal, Hafsah – *We Hunt the Flame* YA Faizal, Fiction; YA Faizal, Digital Audio Players
Inspired by ancient Arabia, a huntress disguised as a man seeks a lost artifact that may return magic to her cursed world.

Favreau, Marc – *Spies: The Secret Showdown Between America and Russia* 327.12 Fav YA, Non-Fiction
An account of the Cold War spies whose survival depended on carefully orchestrated deceptions as they fought in the shadows to help avert global nuclear war and, in so doing, changed the global landscape in ways that are still felt today.

Garrett, Camryn – *Full Disclosure* YA Garrett, Fiction
Simone, born HIV-positive, is in love and decides that facing potential bullies may be better than protecting her secret.

Gervais, Alison – *The Silence Between Us* YA Gervais, Fiction*
Maya has reservations about transferring to a hearing school after studying in a school for the deaf for years, but grows closer to Beau Watson, the student body president, who starts learning sign language to communicate with her.

Grimes, Nikki – *Ordinary Hazards* 811.54 Gri YA, Non-Fiction*
A memoir in the form of a powerful and inspiring collection of poems. Grimes unabashedly explores the struggle growing up with a mother suffering from mental illness, an absent father, and an abusive stepfather.

He, Joan – *Descendant of the Crane* YA He, Fiction*
Princess Hesina is thrust into power when her beloved father is murdered, and she's determined to find his killer.

Henry, Emily – *When the Sky Fell on Splendor* YA Henry, Fiction
Seventeen-year-old Franny and her friends, The Ordinary, fill their time in traumatized Splendor, Ohio, filming their investigations of local legends for YouTube. When they investigate a cosmic event, everything changes.



❖ Teens ❖
Best Books of 2019

Hughes, Naomi – *Refraction* **YA Hughes, Fiction**
After an attack on earth, all reflective surfaces become weapons to release monsters, causing a ban on mirrors. Despite the danger, Marty becomes a distributor in an illegal mirror trade, until he's caught and exiled to an abandoned city.

Hutchinson, Shaun – *The Past and Other Things that Should Stay Buried* **YA Hutchinson, Fiction***
Dino and July are granted time to resolve things between them after July's death, a year after their friendship ended.

Itagaki, Paru – *Beastars Vol. 1* **YA Itagaki, Graphic Novels**
At a high school where the students are divided into predators and prey, it's personal relationships that maintain the fragile peace. When an herbivore student is murdered, suspicions naturally turn to the carnivore classmates. [manga]

Jackson, Tiffany D. – *Let Me Hear a Rhyme* **YA Jackson, Fiction***
Brooklyn, 1998. Biggie Smalls was right: things done changed. But that doesn't mean that Quadir and Jarrell are cool letting their best friend Steph's music lie forgotten under his bed after he's murdered.

Kaufman, Amie – *Aurora Rising* **YA Kaufman, Fiction; YA Kaufman, CD-Audio Books***
Told in separate voices, eighteen-year-old Tyler Jones, top graduate of Aurora Academy in future 2380, and a group of misfits and troublemakers embark on their first mission with Auri, a stowaway from the distant past.

Keil, Michelle Ruiz – *All of Us with Wings* **YA Keil, Fiction**
Seventeen-year-old Xochi's life changed when she became governess to precocious twelve-year-old Pallas. The duo unintentionally summons a pair of ancient creatures determined to right the wrongs of Xochi's adolescence.

Kester, Eric – *Gut Check* **YA Kester, Fiction**
When star quarterback Brett suffers a terrible concussion, his brother Wyatt must decide if keeping his brother's secret is worth the risk to their relationship and their town's economic future.

King, A. S. – *Dig* **YA King, Fiction; YA King, CD-Audio Books***
Five white teenage cousins who are struggling with the failures and racial ignorance of their dysfunctional parents and their wealthy grandparents, reunite for Easter. [2020 Printz Award Winner]

Kwaymullina, Ambelin – *The Things She's Seen* **YA Kwaymullina, Fiction; YA Kwaymullina, CD-Audio Books***
The ghost of a girl who recently died in an accident makes contact with her grieving father to help solve a mystery in a remote Australian town, where a girl who speaks entirely in riddles is the only witness to a fatal fire.

Lee, Stacey – *The Downstairs Girl* **YA Lee, Fiction***
1890, Atlanta. By day, Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for "the genteel Southern lady."

Liggett, Kim – *The Grace Year* **YA Liggett, Fiction; YA Liggett, Digital Audio Players***
Tierney James, sixteen, struggles to endure the year in which she and other young women are banished to the wild until, purified, the survivors are allowed to return home and marry.

Lloyd-Jones, Emily – *The Bone Houses* **YA Lloyd, Jones, Fiction***
When risen corpses called 'bone houses' threaten Ryn's village because of a decades-old curse, she teams up with a mapmaker named Ellis to solve the mystery of the curse and destroy the bone houses forever.

Maraniss, Andrew – *Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team at the 1936 Olympics in Hitler's Germany* **796.48 Mar YA, Non-Fiction***

❖ Teens ❖
Best Books of 2019

Mbalia, Kwame – *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* +Mbalia, Fiction; +Mba, Digital Audio Players*
Tristan struggles with guilt since failing to save his best friend in a bus accident. Then he accidentally rips open a chasm that drops him in the middle of a battle featuring black American folk heroes, and they need his help to save their world.

McCaughrean, Geraldine – *Where the World Ends*

YA McCaughrean, Fiction; YA McCaughrean, CD-Audio Books*

In the summer of 1727, Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stac to harvest birds for food, and only the end of the world can explain why no boat returns to collect them.

McCreary, Michael – *Funny, You Don't Look Autistic: A Comedian's Guide to Life on the Spectrum*

616.85882 McC YA, Non-Fiction*

This unique and hilarious #OwnVoices memoir breaks down what it's like to live with autism for readers on and off the spectrum. Candid scenes from McCreary's life are broken up with funny visuals and factual asides.

Meconis, Dylan – *Queen of the Sea*

+Meconis, Graphic Novels

An orphan and exiled queen's fates intertwine on a remote island. This rich historical fantasy is loosely based on Queen Elizabeth I. Orphan Margaret grapples with the island's sinister purpose, and helping the queen or protecting herself.

Mejia, Tehlor Kay – *We Set the Dark On Fire*

YA Mejia, Fiction*

On an island nation divided by a wall, Dani must question everything she's worked for as she learns about the corruption of the Median government. Features a richly constructed fantasy world full of diversity.

Méndez, Matt – *Barely Missing Everything*

YA Méndez, Fiction

Three Mexican-Americans, Juan, JD, and Fabi, each try to overcome their individual struggles as they all grapple with how to make a better life for themselves when it seems like brown lives don't matter.

Menon, Sandhya – *There's Something About Sweetie* YA Menon, Fiction; YA Menon, CD-Audio Books*

Told in two voices, disappointed-in-love Ashish Patel and self-proclaimed fat athlete Sweetie Nair begin to find their true selves while dating under contract.

Meyer, Joanna Ruth – *Echo North*

YA Meyer, Fiction*

After her father disappears, Echo meets a wolf who promises to make sure her father is returned home safely if Echo agrees to live with the wolf in his enchanted house for one year.

Miller, Sam J. – *Destroy All Monsters*

YA Miller, Fiction; YA Miller, Digital Audio Players*

Ash does not remember the day she fell out of her friend Solomon's tree house, but ever since that day Solomon has retreated into a dark fantasy world and Ash believes the key to saving him is recovering her lost memory.

Miller, Sarah – *The Miracle & Tragedy of the Dionne Quintuplets*

306.875 Mil YA, Non-Fiction

When the Dionne Quintuplets were born on May 28, 1934, weighing a total of just over 13 pounds, no one expected them to live long. In this riveting, beyond-belief true story, meet the five children who captivated the entire world.

Moulite, Maika – *Dear Haiti, Love Alaine*

YA Moulite, Fiction*

After a school incident, Alaine spends spring break in a "volunteer immersion project," working at a nonprofit in Haiti. Although meant as punishment, she flirts with Tati's cute intern and experiences her family's history for the first time.

Ogle, Rex – *Free Lunch*

+362.7 Ogl, Non-Fiction*

Rex and his baby brother often went hungry, and Rex was on his school's free lunch program. Grounded in the immediacy of physical hunger and humiliation of having to announce it every day, this is a compelling true story.



❖ Teens ❖
Best Books of 2019

Onyebuchi, Tochi – *War Girls*

YA Onyebuchi, Fiction

In 2172, when much of the world is unlivable, sisters Onyii and Ify dream of escaping war-torn Nigeria and finding a better future together but are, instead, torn apart.

Owen, Margaret – *The Merciful Crow*

YA Owen, Fiction*

Fie, a sixteen-year-old chieftain from a lowly cast of mercy-killers, must rely on her wits and bone magic to smuggle the crown prince of Sabor to safety.

Panetta, Kevin – *Bloom*

YA Panetta, Graphic Novels*

Ari is dying to move to the big city with his band after high school, if his dad will let him quit their struggling family bakery. But then his dad hires Hector and as they become closer over batches of breads, love begins to bloom.

Philippe, Ben – *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager*

YA Philippe, Fiction; YA Phillippe, CD-Audio Books*

Norris, a Black French Canadian, moves to Texas and views the other students as clichés from "a bad 90s teen movie."

Pool, Katy Rose – *There Will Come a Darkness*

YA Pool, Fiction*

For generations the Seven Prophets guided humanity with their visions, until the day they vanished, leaving behind the promise of a looming Age of Darkness and the birth of a Prophet who could be the world's salvation or its destruction.

Power, Rory – *Wilder Girls*

YA Power, Fiction; YA Power, Digital Audio Players*

Three friends go to extremes to find the truth about the horrific disease quarantining them on a Maine island.

Reynolds, Jason – *Look Both Ways*

+Reynolds, Fiction; +Rey, CD-Audio Books; +Rey, Digital Audio Players*

Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.

Reynolds, Justin A. – *Opposite of Always*

YA Reynolds, Fiction*

Jack falls hard for Kate, and is heartbroken when she dies of complications from an illness. Jack's life now cyclically reboots, being repeatedly sent back in time, as he attempts to save Kate without ruining everything else in his life.

Ribay, Randy – *Patron Saints of Nothing*

YA Ribay, Fiction*

When seventeen-year-old Jay Reguero learns his Filipino cousin and former best friend, Jun, was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, he flies to the Philippines hoping to uncover more.

Roehrig, Caleb – *Death Prefers Blondes*

YA Roehrig, Fiction

Teen celebrity socialite Margo leads a double life as a cat burglar with a crew of four kickboxing drag queens, but when a big job goes belly-up, each one of them must rely on their special skills to survive the night.

Rogerson, Margaret – *Sorcery of Thorns*

YA Rogerson, Fiction; YA Rogerson, CD-Audio Books*

When apprentice librarian Elisabeth is implicated in sabotage that released the library's most dangerous grimoire, she becomes entangled in a centuries-old conspiracy that could mean the end of everything.

Rowell, Rainbow – *Pumpkinheads*

YA Rowell, Graphic Novels

Throughout high school, Deja and Josiah have worked together at the best pumpkin patch in the world. They say good-bye every Halloween and are reunited every September 1. But this Halloween is their last good-bye.

Ruby, Laura – *Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All*

YA Ruby, Fiction*

Frankie and her sister are abandoned orphans in the beginning of the Great Depression. It's up to Frankie alone to carve out some sort of future for them in the ruins of this shattered America, but at least the ghosts are cheering her on.



❖ Teens ❖
Best Books of 2019

- Russo, Meredith – *Birthday*** YA Russo, Fiction; YA Russo, Digital Audio Players
Six years of birthdays reveal cisgender boy Eric and transgender girl Morgan's destiny as they come together, drift apart, fall in love, and discover who they're meant to be, and if they're meant to be together.
- Sandler, Martin W. – *1919 the Year that Changed America*** +973.913 San, Non-Fiction
Prohibition, women's suffrage, a Communist takeover and the labor strikes - this book explores big movements of 1919.
- Schrieve, Hal – *Out of Salem*** YA Schrieve, Fiction
When a local is murdered, the town of Salem becomes even more hostile to "monsters," and Z (genderqueer zombie) and Aysel (lesbian werewolf) are driven together in order to survive a place where most people wish they didn't exist.
- Shirahama, Kamome – *Witch Hat Atelier*** YA Shirahama, Graphic Novels
In a world where everyone takes wonders like magic spells and dragons for granted, Coco has a simple dream: She wants to be a witch. But everybody knows magicians are born, not made, and Coco was not born with magic. [manga]
- Stiefvater, Maggie – *Call Down the Hawk*** YA Stiefvater, Fiction*
Ronan is a dreamer and can pull things out of his dreams into real life. Hennessy is a dream object thief. Carmen is a dreamer hunter. Nobody expects the destruction that is about to be unleashed.
- Stone, Nic – *Jackpot: All Bet\$ are Off*** YA Stone, Fiction
When Rico sells a jackpot-winning lotto ticket, she thinks maybe her luck will finally change, but only if she and her popular and wildly rich classmate, Zan, can find the ticket holder who hasn't claimed the prize.
- Takei, George – *They Called Us Enemy*** YA 940.53 Tak, Graphic Novels*
A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisonment within American concentration camps during World War II.
- Tamaki, Mariko – *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me*** YA Tamaki, Graphic Novels*
Laura Dean, the most popular girl in high school, was Frederica Riley's dream girl: charming, confident, and SO cute. There's just one problem: Laura Dean is maybe not the greatest girlfriend.
- Thomas, Angie – *On the Come Up*** YA Thomas, Fiction; YA Thomas, CD-Audio Books*
When sixteen-year-old Bri, an aspiring rapper, pours her anger and frustration into her first song, she finds herself at the center of a controversy.
- Uehashi, Nahoka – *The Beast Player*** YA Uehashi, Fiction*
Elin discovers that she can communicate with terrifying water serpents and the majestic flying beasts that guard her queen. Can she use her new power to save herself and prevent her beloved beasts from being used as tools of war?
- Venable, Colleen A. F. – *Kiss Number 8*** YA Venable, Graphic Novels*
Mads is happy with life. She goofs off with best friend, Cat, attends church with her family, & has avoided getting kissed by Adam. Things change when she discovers that her dad is hiding something big, & that she only wants to kiss Cat.
- Yoon, David – *Frankly in Love*** YA Yoon, Fiction; YA Yoon, Digital Audio Players*
High school senior Frank Li takes a risk to go after a girl his parents would never approve of, but his plans will leave him wondering if he ever really understood love, or himself, at all.
- Zentner, Jeff – *Rayne & Delilah's Midnite Matinee*** YA Zentner, Fiction; YA Zentner, CD-Audio Books
Told in two voices, Josie and Delia struggle with growing up and growing apart as they face tough decisions about their post-high school futures and the fate of their weekly cable television show.