



# ❖ Teens ❖ Best Books of 2020



〔 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 – *Clap When You Land* YA Acevedo, Fiction; YA Acevedo, CD-Audio Books\***

A novel in verse that follows two teenage sisters separated by a secret, an ocean, and their father. Papi kept one family in New York and another in the Dominican Republic, but after his death their lives will be forever connected.

**Albertalli, Becky – *Yes No Maybe So* YA Albertalli, Fiction; YA Albertalli, Digital Audio Books\***

A shy campaign volunteer and a girl navigating a difficult Ramadan unexpectedly fall in love against a backdrop of escalating community activism.

**Arnold, Elana K. – *Red Hood* YA Arnold, Fiction\***

Living a quiet life with her grandmother in Seattle, Bisou Martel is attacked by a mysterious wolf on the night of her school's homecoming before confronting difficult questions about her past and her growing sense of empowerment.

**Atta, Dean – *The Black Flamingo* YA Atta, Fiction; YA Atta, CD-Audio Books\***

A fierce coming-of-age novel about identity and the liberating power of drag follows the experiences of a mixed-race teen in London who struggles to connect with his heritage before coming out and establishing his place in Drag Society.

**Barnes, Jennifer – *The Inheritance Games* YA Barnes, Fiction; YA Barnes, CD-Audio Books\***

When a Connecticut teenager inherits vast wealth and an eccentric estate from the richest man in Texas, she must also live with his surviving family and solve a series of puzzles to discover how she earned her inheritance.

**Bashardoust, Melissa – *Girl, Serpent, Thorn* YA Bashardoust, Fiction; YA Bashardoust, CD-Audio Books\***

Soraya, a princess cursed to be poisonous to the touch, has lived eighteen years in the shadows, but as her twin brother's wedding approaches, she faces choices with unimaginable consequences.

**Brown, Echo – *Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard* YA Brown, Fiction\***

From age six through her high school valedictory speech, believing she and her mother are wizards helps young Echo cope with poverty, hunger, her mother's drug abuse, and much more.

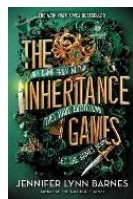
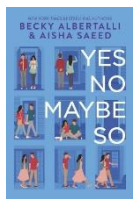
**Brown, Roseanne A. – *A Song of Wraiths and Ruin* YA Brown, Fiction; YA Brown, CD-Audio Books\***

Malik, a refugee desperate to save his sister, and Karina, a grieving Princess with a mission, vow to destroy each other even as a mutual attraction builds between the two.

**Caldwell, Patrice (ed) – *A Phoenix First Must Burn: Sixteen Stories of Black Girl Magic, Resistance, and Hope***

By bestselling and award-winning authors.

YA Phoenix SC, Fiction; YA Caldwell, Digital Audio Books



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**Caletti, Deb – *Girl, Unframed***

**YA Caletti, Fiction**

While spending a summer with her famous mother and her criminal boyfriend, Sydney Reilly, age fifteen, finds love with Nicco, but her premonition of something bad coming proves dreadfully accurate.

**Callender, Kacen – *Felix Ever After***

**YA Callender, Fiction; YA Callender, CD-Audio Books\***

Felix Love, a transgender seventeen-year-old, attempts to get revenge by catfishing his anonymous bully, but lands in a quasi-love triangle with his former enemy and his best friend.

**Cardinal, Ann Dávila – *Five Midnights***

**YA Cardinal, Fiction**

Lupe and Javier try to solve a series of grisly murders sweeping through Puerto Rico before the killer catches them.

**Chee, Traci – *We Are Not Free***

**YA Chee, Fiction\***

Growing up together in the community of Japantown, San Francisco, four Japanese American teens find their bond tested by widespread discrimination and the mass incarcerations of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

**Clayton, Dhonielle (ed) – *A Universe of Wishes: A We Need Diverse Books Anthology*** **YA Universe SC, Fiction**

Fifteen fantasy stories written by leading YA authors in partnership with the organization, We Need Diverse Books.

**Collins, Suzanne – *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes***

**YA Collins, Fiction; YA Collins, Digital Audio Players; YA Collins, CD-Audio Books\***

Revisit the world of Panem 64 years before *The Hunger Games*, starting on the reaping of the 10th Hunger Games.

**Córdova, Zoraida (ed) – *Vampires Never Get Old: Tales with Fresh Bite***

**YA Vampires SC, Fiction**

With contributions by leading YA authors, this diverse collection of vampire tales features supernatural characters engaged in social justice movements, attempting to take selfies without reflections, and avoiding family matchmaking.

**Deonn, Tracy – *Legendborn***

**YA Deonn, Fiction\***

To discover the truth behind her mother's mysterious death, a teen girl infiltrates a magical secret society claiming to be a descendant of King Arthur and his knights.

**Feder, Tyler – *Dancing at the Pity Party: A Dead Mom Graphic Memoir***

Tyler Feder shares her story of her mother's first oncology

**YA Biography Feder, Graphic Novels, Non-Fiction\***

appointment to facing reality as a motherless daughter in this frank and refreshingly funny graphic memoir.

**Fleming, Candace – *The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh***

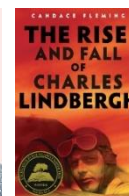
**Lindbergh YA, Biographies**

A riveting biography of one of America's most celebrated heroes, and most complicated, troubled men.

**Frick, Kit – *I Killed Zoe Spanos***

**YA Frick, Fiction\***

Working as a nanny in the Hamptons before starting college, Anna learns of her weird connection to a missing girl, but after she confesses to manslaughter a podcast producer helps reveal life-changing truths.



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**Gansworth, Eric – *Apple: Skin to the Core: A Memoir in Words and Pictures* 811.54 Gan YA, Non-Fiction\***  
Native American author, Eric Gansworth, shatters the “apple” slur and reclaims it in verse, prose, and imagery that truly live up to the word heartbreaking.

**Garber, Romina – *Lobizona* YA Garber, Fiction\***  
When her mother is arrested by ICE, sixteen-year-old Argentinian Manu, who thinks she is hiding in a Miami apartment because she is an undocumented immigrant, discovers that her entire existence is illegal.

**Giles, L. R. – *Not So Pure and Simple* YA Giles, Fiction\***  
High school junior Del Rainey unwittingly joins a Purity Pledge class at church, hoping to get closer to his crush, Kiera.

**Ha, Robin – *Almost American Girl: An Illustrated Memoir* YA Biography Ha, Graphic Novels, Non-Fiction\***  
Moving abruptly from Seoul to Alabama, a Korean teen struggles in a hostile blended home and a new school where she does not speak English before forging unexpected connections in a local comic drawing class.

**Hammonds Reed, Christina – *The Black Kids* YA Hammonds Reed, Fiction\***  
With the Rodney King riots closing in on high school senior Ashley and her family, the privileged bubble she has enjoyed, protecting her from the difficult realities most black people face, begins to crumble.

**Hardinge, Frances – *Deeplight* YA Hardinge, Fiction**  
Discovering the still-beating heart of a formidable deity believed long dead, 15-year-old Hark races to keep the dangerous object out of the hands of smugglers, scientists, and cult fanatics in the hope of saving a best friend’s life.

**Hughes, Kiku – *Displacement* YA Hughes, Graphic Novels\***  
On a visit to San Francisco, Kiku finds herself transported in time back to the 1940s Japanese-American internment camp that her late grandmother, Ernestina, was forcibly relocated to during World War II.

**Ibañez, Isabel – *Woven in Moonlight* YA Ibañez, Fiction\***  
A rollicking political fantasy inspired by Bolivian history and filled with irrepressible heroines, opulent settings, twisty court intrigue, bloody revolutions, and mouthwatering feasts.

**Ifueko, Jordan – *Raybearer* YA Ifueko, Fiction; YA Ifueko, Digital Audio Players\***  
Raised in isolation, Tarisai yearns for the closeness she could have as one of the Crown Prince's Council of 11, but her mother, The Lady, has magically compelled Tarisai to kill the Crown Prince.

**Iloh, Candice – *Every Body Looking* YA Iloh, Fiction\***  
A mixed heritage dancer's coming of age within the African diaspora is shaped by abuse at the hands of a cousin, her mother's descent into addiction, and her father's efforts to create a Nigerian-inspired home in America.

**Jackson, Holly – *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* YA Jackson, Fiction\***  
Pippa is determined to find the real killer in a closed murder case, but not everyone wants her meddling in the past.



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**Jackson, Tiffany D. – *Grown***

When superstar Korey Fields sees Enchanted Jones sing at an audition, it seems her dreams of stardom are within reach, but the dream turns into a nightmare when she wakes up with blood on her hands next to Korey's dead body.

**YA Jackson, Fiction\***

**Jamieson, Victoria – *When Stars are Scattered***

This remarkable graphic novel is about growing up in a refugee camp, as told by a former Somali refugee.

**+Jamieson, Graphic Novels\***

**Johnson, George M. – *All Boys aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto***

In essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson explores growing up as a gay black man.

**Johnson YA, Biographies\***

**Johnson, Leah – *You Should See Me in a Crown***

A Black, underprivileged misfit from a wealthy, prom-obsessed community plans to attend a prestigious medical college before the unexpected loss of her financial aid forces her to compete for her school's prom queen scholarship.

**YA Johnson, Fiction\***

**Kaito – *Blue Flag Vol. 1***

An unexpected love quadrangle with a dash of unrequited love as two classmates, a boy and a girl, begin to fall for each other when each of their best friends have already fallen for them.

**YA Kaito, Graphic Novels**

**LaCour, Nina – *Watch Over Me***

A newly graduated Mila emerges from foster care to accept a job on an isolated Northern California Coast farm where she confronts haunting memories and the traumas of her fellow residents.

**YA LaCour, Fiction\***

**Leno, Katrina – *Horrid***

Following her father's sudden death, Jane North-Robinson and her mother are forced to move to the old North house in Maine, where Jane uncovers her family's disturbing secrets.

**YA Leno, Fiction**

**Little Badger, Darcie – *Elatsoe***

A Lipan Apache teen with supernatural gifts must solve her cousin's murder before it's too late.

**YA Little Badger, Fiction\***

**Lockhart, E. – *Again Again***

Rising high school senior Adelaide Buchwald grapples with a family catastrophe and romantic upheaval while confronting secrets she keeps, her ideas about love, and the weird grandiosity of the human mind.

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

**Mabry, Samantha – *Tigers, Not Daughters***

Three sisters are shadowed by guilt and grief over the loss of their oldest sister, who still haunts their house.

**YA Mabry, Fiction\***

**McCauley, Kyrie – *If These Wings Could Fly***

In Auburn, Pennsylvania, a farming community overrun with crows, high school senior Leighton struggles to keep herself and her sisters safe from their abusive father even as she starts a relationship.

**YA McCauley, Fiction\***



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**McLemore, Anna-Marie – *Dark and Deepest Red***

**YA McLemore, Fiction**

Trapped in a pair of red shoes that compel her to dance uncontrollably, Rosella is drawn to a youth of questionable intent whose family was blamed for witchcraft centuries earlier.

**McWilliams, Kelly – *Agnes at the End of the World***

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

Sixteen-year-old Agnes must escape a cult and a Prophet as she attempts to save the world from a pandemic.

**Méndez, Yamile Saied – *Furia***

**YA Méndez, Fiction\***

Seventeen-year-old Camila Hassan, a rising soccer star in Rosario, Argentina, dreams of playing professionally, in defiance of her fathers' wishes and at the risk of her budding romance with Diego.

**McGinnis, Mindy – *Be Not Far from Me***

**YA McGinnis, Fiction\***

Lost in the Great Smoky Mountains, rising high school senior Ashley Hawkins must fight for survival without any tools, growing in awareness that the world is not tame, and neither are people.

**Moore, Kate – *The Radium Girls: The Scary but True Story of the Poison That Made People Glow in the Dark***

The incredible true story now adapted for young readers!

**363.17 Moo YA, Non-Fiction**

**Murphy, Julie – *Faith: Taking Flight***

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

A plus-sized high school senior with the secret ability to fly pursues a romantic relationship with the heroine star of her favorite teen drama before her investigation into a new recreational drug puts her loved ones in danger.

**Namey, Laura Taylor – *A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow***

**YA Namey, Fiction\***

Seventeen-year-old Lila Reyes, furious when her parents send her to the English countryside to recover from grief and heartbreak, unexpectedly falls in love with a teashop clerk and England, itself.

**Nayeri, Daniel – *Everything Sad is Untrue***

**+Nayeri, Fiction\***

A sprawling, evocative, and groundbreaking autobiographical novel told in the unforgettable and hilarious voice of a young Iranian refugee. A powerfully layered novel that questions: Who owns the truth? Who speaks it? Who believes it?

**Ness, Patrick – *Burn***

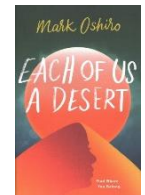
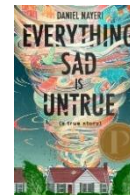
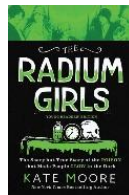
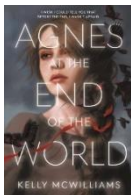
**YA Ness, Fiction; YA Ness, CD-Audio Books\***

When her family is forced to hire a dragon to work their farm, Sarah is surprised by the dragon's protective nature before learning about a prophecy that links her to a deadly assassin, a dragon-worshipping cult, and two FBI agents.

**Oshiro, Mark – *Each of Us a Desert***

**YA Oshiro, Fiction**

Destined to a solitary life in the desert, a storyteller longing for a kindred spirit encounters the cold and beautiful daughter of her village's murderous conqueror before nightmarish threats challenge their unlikely relationship.



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**Reynolds, Jason – *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You***

A history of racist and antiracist ideas in **305.8 Rey YA, Non-Fiction; 305.8 Rey YA, Digital Audio Players\***  
America, from their roots until today, adapted from the National Book Award winner *Stamped from the Beginning*.

**Rocco, John – *How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity’s Greatest Adventure***

**+629.454 Roc, Non-Fiction\***

**Rosen, Lev AC – *Camp***

**YA Rosen, Fiction**

At Camp Outland, a camp for LGBTQIA+ teens, sixteen-year-old Randall "Del" Kapplehoff's plan to have Hudson Aaronson-Lim fall in love with him succeeds, but both are hiding their true selves.

**Rowell, Rainbow – *Fangirl: Vol. 1***

**YA Rowell, Graphic Novels\***

When twin sisters Cath and Wren go to college, Cath fears that it may be time to give up her love of the Simon Snow series, and possibly grow apart from her sister. (Manga adapted from the original novel.)

**Rusch, Elizabeth - *You Call This Democracy?: How to Fix Our Government and Return Power to the People***

**320.973 Rus YA, Non-Fiction\***

Examines some of the more problematic aspects of our government and offers ways for young people to fix them.

**Savit, Gavriel – *The Way Back***

**YA Savit, Fiction**

A historical fantasy that follows Eastern European teens Yehuda and Bluma on a journey through the Far Country, the Jewish land of the dead.

**Soontornvat, Christina – *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys’ Soccer Team***

A unique account of the amazing Thai cave rescue told in a heart-racing, you-are-there style that blends suspense, science, and cultural insight.

**+796.52 Soo, Non-Fiction\***

**Stevenson, Noelle – *The Fire Never Goes Out: A Memoir in Pictures***

**YA Biography Stevenson, Graphic Novels, Non-Fiction**

In a collection of personal comics, author-illustrator Stevenson tells of being a creative teen in the world.

**Thomas, Aiden – *Cemetery Boys***

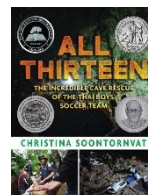
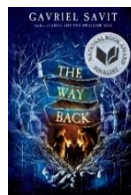
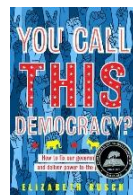
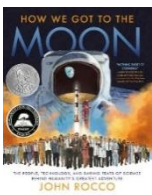
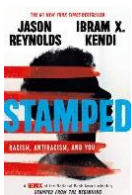
**YA Thomas, Fiction; YA Thomas, Digital Audio Players\***

Yadriel, a trans boy, summons the angry spirit of his high school's bad boy, and agrees to help him learn how he died, thereby proving himself a brujo, not a bruja, to his conservative family.

**Tokuda-Hall, Maggie – *The Mermaid, the Witch, and the Sea***

**YA Tokuda-Hall, Fiction; YA Tokuda-Hall, Digital Audio Players\***

A desperate orphan turned pirate and a rebellious imperial daughter find a connection on the high seas in a world divided by colonialism and threaded with magic.



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**Torres Sanchez, Jenny – *We Are Not from Here***

**YA Torres Sanchez, Fiction**

In this striking portrait of lives torn apart, the plight of migrants at the U.S. southern border is brought to light through poignant, vivid storytelling. An epic journey of danger, resilience, heartache, and hope.

**Trung, Le Nguyen – *The Magic Fish***

**YA Trung, Graphic Novels**

It's hard enough trying to communicate with your parents as a kid, but for Tiãäen, he doesn't even have the right words because his Vietnamese parents are struggling with their English. Is there a way to tell them he's gay?

**VanderMeer, Jeff – *A Peculiar Peril***

**YA VanderMeer, Fiction; YA VanderMeer, Digital Audio Books**

A teenaged boy inherits his grandfather's mansion and discovers three strange doors, evidence his grandfather died of spectacularly unnatural causes, and family ties to an alternate Europe immersed in a magical war.

**Vasquez Gilliland, Raquel – *Sia Martinez and the Moonlit Beginning of Everything***

**YA Vasquez Gilliland, Fiction\***

Years after the ICE raid that takes her mother, Sia's mother emerges from a blue spacecraft that crashes in front of her.

**Wolf, Allan – *The Snow Fell Three Graves Deep: Voices from the Donner Party***

**YA Wolf, Fiction\***

A novel in verse that recounts the chilling survival tale of the Donner party during the 1846-1847 winter from the perspectives of its leaders, a scholarly wife, two Miwok guides, the Reed children, and other historical figures.

**Yang, Gene Luen – *Dragon Hoops***

**YA Yang, Graphic Novels**

An introverted reader starts understanding local enthusiasm about sports in his school when he gets to know some of his talented athletic peers and discovers that their stories are just as thrilling as the comics he loves.

**Yang, Gene Luen – *Superman Smashes the Klan: The Graphic Novel***

**YA Superman, Graphic Novels**

When her family is targeted by the KKK after moving from Chinatown to 1946 Downtown Metropolis, misfit Roberta Lee uses her keen skills of observation to help Superman thwart a string of terrorist attacks.

**Zoboi, Ibi – *Punching the Air***

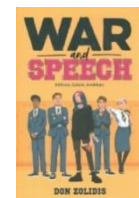
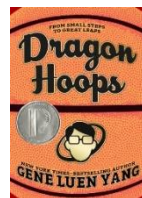
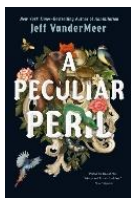
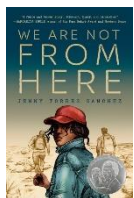
**YA Zoboi, Fiction\***

Award-winning author, Zoboi, and prison reform activist, Salaam, trace the story of an artist and poet whose prospects at a diverse art school are threatened by a racially biased system and a tragic altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood.

**Zolidis, Don – *War and Speech***

**YA Zolidis, Fiction**

Sydney is determined to sabotage the elitist speech team at her new school until she starts falling for the team's star member and sees she has a chance of shedding her "loser" status.



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