



❖ Teens ❖ Best Books of 2018



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 OverDrive.*

***4 Kids Walk into a Bank* – Matthew Rosenberg**

YA Rosenberg, Graphic Novels

Her father's bumbling criminal friends want to pull one last job, and young Paige must somehow save the day.

***The Agony House* – Cherie Priest**

YA Priest, Fiction

When 17-year-old Denise's parents move her to New Orleans, planning to fix up an old house and turn it into a bed-and-breakfast, accidents start occurring and Denise quickly realizes that the house is haunted. Includes comics.

***American Panda* – Gloria Chao**

YA Chao, Fiction*

A laugh-out-loud contemporary debut about a Taiwanese-American teen whose parents want her to be a doctor and marry a Taiwanese Ivy Leaguer despite her squeamishness with germs and crush on a Japanese classmate.

***American Road Trip* – Patrick Flores-Scott**

YA Flores-Scott, Fiction

Brothers Teodoro and Manny Avila take a road trip to address Manny's PTSD following his tour in Iraq, and to help T. change his life and win the heart of Wendy Martinez. Includes information and resources about PTSD.

***Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* – Sara Saedi**

YA Saedi, Biographies

At thirteen, straight-A student, Sara Saedi, uncovered a terrible family secret: she was breaking the law simply by living in the United States. She was only two years old when her parents fled Iran.

***The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge* – Anderson & Yelchin**

YA Anderson, Fiction*

Brangwain Spurge is the first elf since the Great Wars to venture into the Goblin Kingdom. The first ever to do so by giant crossbow. His visit with the goblin historian, Werfel, turns into a run for their lives into the Bonecruel Mountains. In this satirical mix of comedic novel and graphic novel, things are not always what they seem.

***The Astonishing Color of After* – Emily X.R. Pan**

YA Pan, Fiction*

Devastated by her mother's suicide, Leigh travels to Taiwan to meet her grandparents for the first time. Desperate to reconnect with her mother, whom she insists was reincarnated as a bird, she discovers deeply buried family secrets.

***The Bird and the Blade* – Megan Bannen**

YA Bannen, Fiction

Enslaved in Kipchak Khanate, Jinghua has lost everything: her home, her family, and her freedom, until the kingdom is conquered by enemy forces and she finds herself helping Prince Khalaf to escape across the vast Mongol Empire.

***Black Torch Vol. 1* – Tsuyoshi Takaki**

YA Takaki, Graphic Novels

Jiro Azuma is descended from a long line of ninja and can talk to animals. One day he rescues a unique black cat named Rago, a supernatural being, and is dragged into a mystical war.

***A Blade So Black* – L. L. McKinney**

YA McKinney, Fiction; YA McKinney, CD-Audio Books

The first time the Nightmares came, it nearly cost Alice her life. Now she's trained to battle monstrous creatures in the dream realm known as Wonderland with magic weapons and hardcore fighting skills. Yet even warriors have a curfew.

Youth Services
Stevens Point Branch



PORTAGE
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

715-346-1549
www.pocolibrary.org



❖ Teens ❖

Best Books of 2018



***Blood Water Paint* – Joy McCullough**

YA McCullough, Fiction*

In Renaissance Italy, Artemisia endures the subjugation of women that allows her father to take credit for her extraordinary paintings, the rape and the ensuing trial and torture, buoyed by stories of strong women of the Bible.

***Bloom* – Kevin Panetta**

YA Panetta, Graphic Novels*

Ari is excited to move to the city after high school, but his father needs help at their struggling bakery, so Ari must find a replacement: Hector. The two bond and even fall for each other, until an accident threatens to ruin everything.

***The Boneless Mercies* – April Genevieve Tucholke**

YA Tucholke, Fiction

Four female mercenaries known as Boneless Mercies, weary of roaming Vorseland, ignored and forgotten until they are needed for mercy killings, decide to seek glory by going after a legendary monster in this reimagining of Beowulf.

***The Book of Pearl* – Timothée de Fombelle**

YA Fombelle, Fiction

Joshua Pearl comes from a world that we no longer believe in -- a world of fairy tale. He knows that his great love waits for him there, but he is stuck in an unfamiliar time and place: a marshmallow shop in Paris on the eve of WWII.

***Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam* – Elizabeth Partridge**

YA 959.7043 Par, Non-Fiction*

The Vietnam War from many different perspectives including American soldiers, a nurse, and a Vietnamese refugee.

***Broken Things* – Lauren Oliver**

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

Oliver's latest thriller brings readers into the outskirts of Vermont, where two girls must work together to solve the cold case of their best friend's murder by locating her killer and simultaneously exonerating themselves in the public eye.

***Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree* – Adaobi Nwaubani**

YA Nwaubani, Fiction

A girl's Nigerian village is attacked by a terrorist group. Kidnapped, she is taken and forced to follow her captors' radical beliefs and watch as her best friend accepts everything she's been told. Still, she defends her existence.

***Check, Please! Vol. 1: #Hockey!* – Ngozi Ukazu**

YA Ukazu, Graphic Novels*

Former figure skater "Bitty" Bitman learns to navigate the sometimes brutal world of collegiate men's hockey in this sweet, hilarious graphic novel.

***Children of Blood and Bone* – Tomi Adeyemi**

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

Zélie, her brother, and Princess Amari race to collect artifacts and conduct a sacred ceremony that can return magic to the world. But they must do it before the King and his army stop them.

***A Conspiracy of Stars* – Olivia A. Cole**

YA Cole, Fiction*

Octavia is excited to study the plants and animals of Faloiv until she witnesses one of the planet's indigenous people being attacked and begins to question her own family history and the scientists she has always admired.

***Damsel* – Elana K. Arnold**

YA Arnold, Fiction*

When the king dies, his son the prince must venture out into the gray lands, slay a fierce dragon, and rescue a damsel to be his bride. This is the way things have always been. When Ama wakes in the arms of Prince Emory, she has no memory, and is told of her duty as damsel. But, does her story really have to end that way?





❖ Teens ❖ Best Books of 2018



***Darius the Great is Not Okay* – Adib Khorram**

YA Khorram, Fiction*

Clinically-depressed Darius travels to Iran to meet his grandparents, but it's their neighbor, Sohrab, who changes his life.

***The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein* – Kiersten White**

YA White, Fiction; YA White, CD-Audio Books

A retelling of the famous horror tale from Elizabeth, the girl Victor Frankenstein drags down his dark, monstrous path.

***Dread Nation* – Justina Ireland**

YA Ireland, Fiction*

In this alternative history novel, the Civil War ends when the dead rise up from the Gettysburg battlefield. Slavery hasn't ended but Jane will become an attendant to rich white girls, trained to protect them from the walking dead.

***Dry* – Neal Shusterman**

YA Shusterman, Fiction*

The drought in California gets so bad that it results in environmental and societal collapse. Suburban teenager, Alyssa, struggles to survive, along with her younger brother and a neighbor boy in this dystopian novel.

***The Echo Room* – Parker Peevyhouse**

YA Peevyhouse, Fiction

Rett wakes on the floor of a cold, dark room with a girl. He doesn't know how he got there, and when he tries to escape, he wakes in the same room. He doesn't trust Bryn, but he'll have to work with her if he ever hopes to escape.

***Everless* – Sara Holland**

YA Holland, Fiction*

In the kingdom of Sempera, time is currency. Extracted from blood, and consumed to extend one's lifespan, wealthy aristocrats tax the poor, extending their own lives. When Jules finds out her father is dying she must return to save him.

***The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* – John Hendrix**

YA Bonhoeffer, Graphic Novels Non-Fiction*

***Fence Vol. 1* – C. S. Pacat**

YA Pacat, Graphic Novels

Nicholas is determined to prove himself in competitive fencing and earn his place alongside legends like the dad he never knew, but things get more complicated when he's up against his golden-boy half-brother, and a fencing prodigy.

***A Girl Like That* – Tanaz Bhathena**

YA Bhathena, Fiction*

In Saudi Arabia, sixteen-year-old half-Hindu/half-Parsi Zarin is the class troublemaker, but she just wants to escape her home. When Zarin and a Parsi boy end up dead in a car, it becomes clear that she was far more than a "girl like that."

***A Heart in a Body in the World* – Deb Caletti**

YA Caletti, Fiction*

Followed by Grandpa Ed in his RV and backed by her brother and friends, Annabelle, eighteen, runs from Seattle to Washington, D.C., becoming a reluctant activist as people connect her journey to her recent trauma.

***Heretics Anonymous* – Katie Henry**

YA Henry, Fiction

Michael's father enrolls him in a Catholic school for his sophomore year. Michael, an atheist, thinks it's time to shake things up and joins a group of kids who all chafe at the school's strict rules, curriculum, and religious dogma.

***Hey, Kiddo* – Jarrett Krosoczka**

YA Krosoczka, Graphic Novels Non-Fiction*

In this autobiographical graphic novel, this children's author learns to cope with his drug addicted mother through art.

Youth Services
Stevens Point Branch



PORTAGE
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

715-346-1549
www.pocolibrary.org



❖ Teens ❖

Best Books of 2018



***I am Still Alive* – Kate Alice Marshall**

YA Marshall, Fiction*

Stranded alone in the unforgiving Canadian wilderness, Jess is determined to survive and revenge her father's murder.

***Illegal* – Eoin Colfer**

+Colfer, Graphic Novels*

In this gripping graphic novel, follow a young refugee from Ghana across the Sahara and then into the Mediterranean Sea in a leaky, crowded life raft. Will he and his brother make it safely to Europe?

***Internment* – Samira Ahmed**

YA Ahmed, Fiction*

A terrifying, futuristic United States where Muslim-Americans are forced into internment camps, and seventeen-year-old Layla Amin must lead a revolution against complicit silence.

***King of Scars* – Leigh Bardugo**

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.

***Leah on the Offbeat* – Becky Albertalli**

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

In this companion novel to *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, Simon's snarky, talented friend Leah, gets her chance to shine. Ready for college, she may be also ready to take a chance on love through the clichéd power of Prom.

***Life L1k3* – Jay Kristoff**

YA Kristoff, Fiction

When Eve learns she can destroy machines with her mind, she becomes a target for a group of puritanical fanatics, and with her new android best friend Ezekiel, faces cyborg assassins.

***Love à la Mode* – Stephanie Kate Strohm**

YA Strohm, Fiction

High school juniors Rosie and Henry, both enrolled in an elite cooking program in Paris, balance rivalry and romance.

***Love, Hate & Other Filters* – Samira Ahmed**

YA Ahmed, Fiction*

Maya Aziz, seventeen, is caught between her India-born parents' world of college and marrying a suitable Muslim boy and her dream world of film school and dating her classmate, Phil, when a terrorist attack changes her life forever.

***Notes from My Captivity* – Kathy Parks**

YA Parks, Fiction

Determined to become a journalist worthy of her late father's pride, Adrienne leaps at a chance to write an article about mythological hermits in the Siberian wilderness and finds herself held captive by a family she did not believe existed.

***On a Sunbeam* – Tillie Walden**

YA Walden, Graphic Novels

In this inventive graphic novel, a ragtag crew travels to the deepest reaches of space, rebuilding beautiful, broken structures. On another timeline, two girls meet in boarding school and fall deeply in love, only to learn the pain of loss.

***The Poet X* – Elizabeth Acevedo**

YA Acevedo, Fiction*

Xiomara feels stifled by her mother's strict, religious expectations. Her only escape is through her notebooks that she fills with poetry. When her teacher announces a new slam poetry club, Xiomara is unsure that she can do it.

***Pride* – Ibi Zoboi**

YA Zoboi, Fiction*

Pride and Prejudice gets remixed in this smart, funny, gorgeous retelling of the classic, with all characters of color.

Youth Services
Stevens Point Branch



PORTAGE
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

715-346-1549
www.pocolibrary.org



❖ Teens ❖

Best Books of 2018



***The Prince and the Dressmaker* – Jen Wang**

YA Wang, Graphic Novels*

This fairytale-like graphic novel features a prince, a dressmaker, and a famous, stylish Parisian lady. All of them are struggling to be themselves in the face of society's expectations.

***The Promised Neverland* – Kaiu Shirai**

YA Shirai, Graphic Novels

All Grace Field House orphans have enjoyed a comfortable life. Good food, clean clothes and the perfect environment to learn. One day though, Emma and Norman uncover the dark truth of the outside world they are forbidden from seeing.

***The Pros of Cons* – Alison Cherry**

YA Cherry, Fiction

Three girls become fast friends when brought together by a random mix-up in the hotel lobby playing host to three separate conventions.

***Puddin'* – Julie Murphy**

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

Millie Michalchuk has gone to fat camp every summer since she was a little girl. Not this year. And when paired with pretty, popular Callie, the girls surprise themselves by finding out that they have more in common than they think.

***The Sacrifice Box* – Martin Stewart**

YA Stewart, Fiction

Five former friends must discover which of them broke the rules when objects they sealed in an ancient stone box come to life in twisted forms and dead things reanimate.

***Sadie* – Courtney Summers**

YA Summers, Fiction*

After her sister is murdered, Sadie sets off to find the killer, only to vanish. This gritty mystery alternates between Sadie's first person account of her search for the killer and reporter and podcaster, Wes McCray's, search for Sadie.

***Sawkill Girls* – Claire Legrand**

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

On the island of Sawkill Rock, where horses graze in pastures and waves crash against cliffs, kids whisper the legend of an insidious monster. Girls have been stolen away for decades by a ravenous evil no one has dared to fight, until now.

***Skyward Vol. 1* – Joe Henderson**

YA Henderson, Graphic Novels

One day, gravity on Earth suddenly became a fraction of what it is now. Twenty years later, people have adapted and can fly (just don't jump too high)! But Willa's Dad has a secret plan to bring gravity back that could get her killed.

***Spooked!* – Gail Jarrow**

+791.44 Jar, Non-Fiction*

Before the internet was invented, a 1939 Halloween radio broadcast caused a national panic about an invasion from Mars. The most famous radio show in history is presented in photos, news reports and interviews with the creators.

***Stay Sweet* – Siobhan Vivian**

YA Vivian, Fiction*

Seventeen-year-old Amelia has looked forward to her last summer before college working at the Meade Creamery, but when the owner of the local landmark passes away her nephew has big changes in mind.

***Stronger, Faster, and More Beautiful* – Arwen Dayton**

YA Dayton, Fiction*

Six interconnected stories that ask how far we will go to remake ourselves into the perfect human specimens, and how hard that will push the definition of human.



❖ Teens ❖ Best Books of 2018



The Summer of Jordi Perez: (And the Best Burger in Los Angeles)* – Amy Spalding** **YA Spalding, Fiction

Working at her favorite boutique and falling in love with a female coworker, a girl enjoys a lush Los Angeles summer until things become complicated.

They Both Die at the End* – Adam Silvera** **YA Silvera, Fiction

Rufus and Mateo both get the Death Cast call informing them that they will die in 24 hours. Not knowing how it will happen, and not wishing to waste their last hours, the teenagers connect with each other through the Last Friends App.

Tradition* – Brendan Kiely** **YA Kiely, Fiction

At Fullbrook Academy, where tradition reigns, James and Jules take on privilege, sexism, and the importance of consent.

Truly Devious* – Maureen Johnson** **YA Johnson, Fiction

Stevie Bell is a young master of true crime. When she is accepted at the Ellingham Academy, the scene of a decades-old unsolved crime, she must master her anxiety and use all her sleuthing skills because the criminal may have returned.

The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees* – Don Brown** **YA 956.91 Bro, Graphic Novels

Depicts moments of both heartbreaking horror and hope in the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis. Shines a light on the stories of the survivors, *The Unwanted* is a testament to the courage and resilience of the refugees.

A Very Large Expanse of Sea* – Tahereh Mafi** **YA Mafi, Fiction; YA Mafi, CD-Audio Books

It's 2002, a year after 9/11. Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl, is tired of being stereotyped. She's built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her, until she meets Ocean James.

Very, Very, Very Dreadful: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918* – Albert Marrin** **YA 614.5 Mar, Non-Fiction

In this powerful book, filled with black and white photographs, nonfiction master Albert Marrin examines the history, science, and impact of this great scourge, and the possibility for another worldwide pandemic today.

The Way You Make Me Feel* – Maurene Goo** **YA Goo, Fiction

When Clara takes one joke too far, her dad sentences her to a summer working on his food truck, alongside her uptight classmate Rose. But maybe Rose isn't so bad. Maybe the boy named Hamlet crushing on her is cute. Maybe Clara is invested in her dad's business. What if taking this summer seriously means that Clara has to leave her old self behind?

***What I Leave Behind* – Alison McGhee** **YA McGhee, Fiction**

Since his father's suicide, Will, sixteen, has mainly walked, worked at Dollar Only, and tried to replicate his father's cornbread recipe, but the rape of his childhood friend shakes things up.

What if it's Us* – Becky Albertalli & Adam Silvera** **YA Albertalli, Fiction; YA Albertalli, CD-Audio Books

Told in two voices, when Arthur, a summer intern from Georgia, and Ben, a native New Yorker, meet it seems like fate, but after three attempts at dating fail they wonder if the universe is pushing them together or apart.

What the Night Sings* – Vesper Stamper** **YA Stamper, Fiction

Liberated from Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in 1945, sixteen-year-old Gerta tries to make a new life for herself, aided by Lev, a fellow survivor, and Michah, who helps Jews reach Palestine.

