

❖ Teen ❖ Best Books of 2016

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.*

***American Girls* – Alison Umminger**

YA Umminger

15-year-old Anna runs away to Los Angeles where her half-sister takes her in, but after spending days on television and movie sets, she learns LA is not the glamorous escape she imagined.

***And I Darken* – Kiersten White**

YA White*

A girl child is born to Vlad Dracula, in Transylvania, in 1435--at first rejected by her father and always ignored by her mother, she will grow up to be Lada Dragwlya, a vicious and brutal princess, destined to rule and destroy her enemies.

***Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen* – Jazz Jennings**

BIOGRAPHY Jennings YA*

Teen activist and trailblazer Jazz Jennings shares her very public transgender journey.

***The Bitter Side of Sweet* – Tara Sullivan**

YA Sullivan*

Kept as forced labor on a chocolate plantation in the Ivory Coast, Amadou and his younger brother Seydou had given up hope, until a young girl arrives at the camp who rekindles the urge to escape.

***Booked* – Kwame Alexander**

YA Alexander*

12-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

***The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden & the Trial of the Century* – Sarah Elizabeth Miller** 345.74 Mil YA

Recreates the events and the acquittal of Lizzie Borden and explores her story to theorize on what may have happened.

***Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America* – Gail Jarrow**

+ 614.5 Jar

This is the true story of America's first plague epidemic – the public health doctors who desperately fought to end it, the political leaders who tried to keep it hidden, and the brave scientists who uncovered the plague's secrets.

***Burn Baby Burn* – Meg Medina**

YA Medina*

Nora Lopez is 17 during the summer of 1977, when New York is besieged by arson, a massive blackout, and a serial killer named Son of Sam.

***The Crown's Game* – Evelyn Skye**

YA Skye; YA Skye CD-AUDIO BOOK*

Russia's two enchanters dual to win and become the tsar's most respected adviser, and the loser is executed.

***The Girl from Everywhere* – Heidi Heilig**

YA Heilig; YA Heilig CD-AUDIO BOOK*

16-year-old Nix has sailed across the globe and through centuries aboard her time-traveling father's ship. But when he gambles with her very existence, it all may be about to end.

***Girl Mans Up* – M-E Gerard**

YA Girard*

Pen is a 16-year-old girl who looks like a boy. She's fine with it, but everyone else is uncomfortable – especially her Portuguese immigrant parents and her manipulative neighbor who doesn't want her to find a group of real friends.

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***The Great American Whatever* – Tim Federle**

YA Federle*

Quinn, an aspiring screenwriter, copes with his sister's death while his best friend forces him back out into the world.

***The Hate U Give* – Angie Thomas**

YA Thomas; YA Thomas CD-AUDIO BOOK*

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this searing debut about an ordinary girl in extraordinary circumstances addresses issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and unflinching honesty.

***Heartless* – Marissa Meyer**

YA Meyer*

In this prequel to *Alice in Wonderland*, Cath would rather open a bakery and marry for love than accept a proposal from the King of Hearts, especially after meeting the handsome and mysterious court jester.

***Hidden Figures* – Margot Lee Shetterly**

+ 510.92 She*

This riveting nonfiction story explores the previously uncelebrated but pivotal contributions of NASA's African-American women mathematicians to America's space program.

***Highly Illogical Behavior* – John Corey Whaley**

YA Whaley; YA Whaley CD-AUDIO BOOK*

Agoraphobic 16-year-old Solomon has not left his house in three years, but classmate Lisa is determined to change that – and to write a scholarship-winning essay based on the results.

***Kids of Appetite* – David Arnold**

YA Arnold; YA Arnold CD-AUDIO BOOK*

Teens Victor Benucci and Madeline Falco sit in separate police interrogation rooms telling about the misfits who brought them together and their journey sparked by a message in an urn.

***Labyrinth Lost* – Zoraida Cordova**

YA Córdova

Everyone in Alex's family are witches, but she's hated magic ever since it caused her father to disappear. When a curse to rid herself of her magic backfires and her family vanishes, Alex must travel to Los Lagos to get them back.

***The Lie Tree* – Frances Hardinge**

YA Hardinge*

On an island south of Victorian England, 14-year-old Faith investigates the mysterious death of her father, who was involved in a scandal, and discovers a tree that feeds upon lies and gives those who eat its fruit visions of truth.

***March, Books 1 – 3* – John Lewis**

YA Lewis Graphic Novel*

A vivid first-hand account of the struggle for civil and human rights, including the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

***On the Edge of Gone* – Corinne Duyvis**

YA Duyvis

In Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 2034, a comet is due to hit the Earth within the hour. Denise, who's 16 years old and autistic, must try to find her missing sister and also help her neglectful, undependable mother safely aboard a spaceship.

***The Passion of Dolssa* – Julie Berry**

YA Berry; YA Berry CD-AUDIO BOOK*

In mid-13th century Provence, Dolssa is fervently religious, but condemned by the Inquisition as a heretic. Botille is a matchmaker protecting her sisters, yet when she finds Dolssa dying she protects her – which may cost her everything.

***Rani Patel in Full Effect* – Sonia Patel**

YA Patel*

Rani Patel, almost 17 and living on remote Moloka'i island, is oppressed by the cultural norms of her Gujarati immigrant parents. But when Mark, an older man, draws her into new experiences, red flags abound.

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Best Books of 2016

Rebel of the Sands* – Alwyn Hamilton** **YA Hamilton
Amani is desperate to leave Dustwalk, and she's counting on her sharpshooting skills to escape. But after she meets Jin, the mysterious rebel from the Sultan's army, she unlocks the powerful truth about the nation of Miraji...and herself.

Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb* – Neal Bascomb** **940.54 Bas YA
The author of the award-winning *The Nazi Hunters* returns with another thrilling true story of WWII espionage.

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story* – Caren Barzelay Stelson** **940.5425 Ste YA
The true story of a young girl who survived the Nagasaki atomic bomb and her long journey to find peace. This compelling narrative offers a remarkable new perspective on the final moments of World War II and the aftermath.

Salt to the Sea* – Ruta Sepetys** **YA Sepetys; YA Sepetys CD-AUDIO BOOK
Refugees try to escape the World War II's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune* – Pamela S. Turner** **BIOGRAPHY Yoshitsune YA
The true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history.

Saving Montgomery Sole* – Mariko Tamaki** **YA Tamaki
An outcast teen explores the mysteries of friendship, family, faith, and phenomena, including the greatest one—herself.

Scythe* – Neal Shusterman** **YA Shusterman
In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be killed by professional Scythe. Two teens must compete with each other to become a Scythe and the one who “wins” must kill the other.

See No Color* – Shannon Gibney** **YA Gibney
Alex always identified as a baseball player, but realizes it's not enough and comes to terms with her adoption and race.

The Serpent King* – Jeff Zentner** **YA Zentner; YA Zentner CD-AUDIO BOOK
The son of a Pentecostal preacher faces his personal demons as he and his two outcast friends try to make it through their senior year of high school in rural Tennessee without letting the small-town culture destroy their sense of self.

***Snow White* – Matt Phelan** **YA Phelan Graphic Novel**
In 1928 New York City, a young girl named Samantha White is sent away by her cold stepmother, only to return after the stock market has crashed to find her father gone and her ruthless stepmother after her inheritance.

***Strange the Dreamer* – Laini Taylor** **YA Taylor; YA Taylor CD-AUDIO BOOK**
The story of a guilt-ridden hero, a dreamer librarian, and a girl with dangerous powers who all combat monsters and treachery in the aftermath of a war between gods and men.

A Study in Charlotte: A Charlotte Holmes Novel* – Brittany Cavallaro** **YA Cavallaro
Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson descendants, students at a boarding school, team up to solve a murder mystery.

The Sun is Also a Star* – Nicola Yoon** **YA Yoon; YA Yoon CD-AUDIO BOOK
Natasha, whose family is hours away from being deported, and Daniel, a Korean American who strives to live up to his parents' expectations, unexpectedly fall in love and must determine which path will allow them to be together.

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***Super Cool Tech* – DK Publishing**

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See today's and tomorrow's best innovations in this cutting-edge guide that explores incredible new technologies.

***Symptoms of Being Human* – Jeff Garvin**

YA Garvin*

A gender-fluid teen who struggles with identity creates a blog that goes viral, and faces ridicule from classmates.

***A Taste for Monsters* – Matthew Kirby**

YA Kirby*

In 1888 London, 17-year-old Evelyn, herself disfigured, has been hired as a maid to Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man. But when the Jack the Ripper murders begin she and Merrick find themselves haunted by the ghosts of the slain women.

***This is Where it Ends* – Marieke Nijkamp**

YA Nijkamp*

Minutes after the principal of Opportunity High School finishes her welcoming speech, they discover that the auditorium doors will not open and someone starts shooting. Four teens tell the tale from separate perspectives.

***This Savage Song* – Victoria Schwab**

YA Schwab*

As the heirs to opposing sides in a warring city, Kate Harker and Augustus Flynn should never have met. A Romeo and Juliet-esque fantasy about the difference between good and evil and the blurry gray area in between.

Uprooted: The Japanese American Experience During World War II* – Albert Marrin 940.53 Mar YA

On the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor comes a harrowing and enlightening look at the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

***We are the Ants* – Shaun David Hutchinson**

YA Hutchinson*

Abducted by aliens periodically throughout his youth, Henry Denton is informed by his erstwhile captors that they will end the world in 144 days unless he stops them by deciding that humanity is worth saving.

***When the Moon Was Ours* – Anna-Marie McLemore**

YA McLemore*

As their deep friendship turns to love, Latina teenager Miel, who grows roses from her wrist, and Italian-Pakistani Samir, a transgender boy, fear their secrets will be exposed by the beautiful Bonner girls, four sisters rumored to be witches.

***Wink Poppy Midnight* – April Genevieve Tucholke**

YA Tucholke*

Wink, Poppy, and Midnight's three separate voices come together to reveal the secrets and mysteries hiding in the woods around their home.