

Bibliography of Honor List Books (1967-2003)

Identified by Donelson and Nielsen as the Best Books for Young Adults (Donelson and Nielsen, 2004)

Abelove, Joan. (1998). *Go and Come Back*. DK Ink.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Historical

When the two old white ladies come to live in the Peruvian jungle village of Poincushmana, everyone makes a fuss--everyone but Alicia, who is baffled by the reaction of her tribe, the Isabo. But as the days pass, she too is drawn in--because the ladies (who are really in their twenties, and anthropologists) are stingy, stupid, and fun to watch. They don't understand the Isabo. Someone needs to set them straight. And that someone, surprisingly, is Alicia.

Adams, Douglas. (1980). *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Crown.

Age: Adults

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Fantasy

Hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway.

Alexander, Lloyd. (1981). *Westmark*. Dutton.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical Fiction

A printer's apprentice, young orphan Theo, must flee when a warrant for his arrest comes out of a murder that he got involved in. Chief Minister Cabbarus' disruption of the Westmark's monarchy turns the city in complete pandemonium and it becomes Theo's personal goal to save Westmark from complete destruction.

Almond, David. (2000). *Kit's Wilderness*. Delacorte.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical, Supernatural

The Watson family moves to Stoneygate, an old coal-mining town, to care for Kit's recently widowed grandfather. When Kit meets John Askew, another boy whose family had both worked and died in the mines, Askew invites Kit to join him in playing a game called Death. Kit's association with Askew takes him into the mines where the boys look to find the childhood ghosts of their long-gone ancestors.

Anderson, M.T. (2002). *Feed*. Candlewick.

Age: Older

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Science Fiction

In this strange, disturbing future world, teens travel to the moon for spring break, live in stacked-up neighborhoods with artificial blue sky, and are bombarded by a constant advertising and media blitz through their feeds. They live with a barrage of greed and superficiality, which only one teen, Violet, tries to fight. Intrigued by Violet's uniqueness, Titus begins a relationship with her in spite of his peers' objections. Yet even he cannot sustain the friendship as her feed malfunctions and she begins to shut

down. "They" refuse to repair her feed because she is too perceptive and rebellious. This book plays on every negative teen stereotype. The young people are bored unthinking pawns of commercialism, speaking only in obnoxious slang, ignoring or disrespecting the few adults around. The future is vapid and without direction. Yet many teens will feel a haunting familiarity about this future universe.

Armstrong, William. (1969). *Souder*. HarperCollins.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical

Souder traces the keen sorrow and the abiding faith of a poor African-American boy in the 19th-century South. The boy's father is a sharecropper, struggling to feed his family in hard times. Night after night, he and his great coon dog, Souder, return to the cabin empty-handed. Then, one morning, almost like a miracle, a sweet-smelling ham is cooking in the family's kitchen. At last the family will have a good meal. But that night, an angry sheriff and his deputies come, and the boy's life will never be the same.

Avi. (1991). *Nothing But the Truth*. Orchard.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Ninth-grade student Philip Malloy was suspended from school for singing along to *The Star-Spangled Banner* in his homeroom, causing what his teacher, Margaret Narwin, called "a disturbance." But was he standing up for his patriotic ideals, only to be squelched by the school system? Was Ms. Narwin simply trying to be a good teacher? Or could it all be just a misunderstanding gone bad -- very bad? What is the truth here? Can it ever be known? Heroism, hoax, or mistake, what happened at Harrison High changes everything for everyone in ways no one -- least of all Philip -- could have ever predicted.

Avi. (1990). *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. Orchard.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical, Adventure

Not every thirteen-year-old girl is accused of murder, brought to trial, and found guilty. But I was just such a girl, and my story is worth relating even if it did happen years ago. Be warned, however: If strong ideas and action offend you, read no more. Find another companion to share your idle hours. For my part I intend to tell the truth as I lived it.

Baldwin, James. (1974). *If Beale Street Could Talk*. Dial.

Age: 19

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

In the story, we are introduced to Fonny & Tish. They are a young couple, in love and looking toward marriage and building a life together; Tish is also expecting their first child. When Fonny is arrested and jailed for a serious crime, instead of waiting Tish fights for Fonny's release. She is also determined to deliver the child that is a symbol of their love and from beginning to end; we see the power of love and the realities of life that even today is an absolute truth.

Barrett, Tracy. (1999). *Anna of Byzantium*. Delacorte.

Age: Older Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical Fiction

Anna Comnena has every reason to feel entitled. She's a princess, her father's firstborn and his chosen successor. Someday she expects to sit on the throne and rule the vast Byzantine Empire. So the birth of a baby brother doesn't perturb her. Nor do the "barbarians" from foreign lands, who think only a son should ascend to power. Anna is as dismissive of them as are her father and his most trusted adviser--his mother,

a manipulative woman with whom Anna studies the art of diplomacy. Anna relishes her lessons, proving adept at checkmating opponents in swift moves of mental chess. But as she matures into a young woman, her arrogance and intelligence threaten her grandmother. Anna will be no one's puppet. Almost overnight, Anna sees her dreams of power wrenched from her and bestowed on her little brother. Bitter at the betrayal, Anna waits to avenge herself, and to seize what is rightfully hers.

Bauer, Joan. (2000). *Hope Was Here*. Joan Bauer.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Quest

Hope's used to thinking on her feet-she hasn't become a terrific waitress by accident. But when she and her aunt Addie move from New York City to a small town in Wisconsin to run the Welcome Stairways Diner, she isn't sure she'll fit in. Luckily, she doesn't have much time to dwell on it, what with life at the diner and her new home's upcoming election. G.T., the owner of Welcome Stairways, has decided to run for mayor, and no one in town knows what to think. After all, G.T. has leukemia. And his opponent is the current mayor, who hasn't lost an election yet. Some think G.T. is crazy, but Hope sees the goodness and power in him. Will everyone else see it too?

Bauer, Joan. (1998). *Rules of the Road*. Putnam's.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical

Meet Jenna Boller, star employee at Gladstone's Shoe Store in Chicago. Standing a gawky 5'11" at 16 years old, Jenna is the kind of girl most likely to stand out in the crowd--for all the wrong reasons. But that doesn't stop Madeline Gladstone, the president of Gladstone's Shoes 176 outlets in 37 states, from hiring Jenna to drive her cross country in a last ditch effort to stop Elden Gladstone from taking over his mother's company and turning a quality business into a shop-and-schlock empire. Now Jenna Boller shoe salesperson is about to become a shoe-store spy as she joins her crusty old employer for an eye-opening adventure that will teach them both the rules of the road--and the rules of life.

Block, Francesca Lia. (1993). *Missing Angel Juan*. HarperCollins.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Problem, Occult

One of kids' favorite characters in Francesca Lia Block's Weetzie Bat series is Witch Baby: a tangly haired, purple-eyed girl who can curl her toes into cashew shapes. She's a bit of an outsider, more in touch with feelings and portents than the rest of the gang from Shangri-L.A. We're able to watch Witch Baby work through some of her feelings of alienation. Her willingness to explore darker emotional realms is a real inspiration, and, in fact, she seems more evolved and "whole" than the others. Witch Baby finally finds a way to create her own sense of belonging. She finds out more about her history and her unique needs to push through some of the shyness and moodiness that has always kept her separate from others.

Block, Francesca Lia. (1989). *Weetzie Bat*. HarperCollins.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Spoof

An offbeat heroine shares a Hollywood cottage with three equally quirky companions.

Blume, Judy. (1975). *Forever*. Bradbury.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Katherine and Michael meet on New Year's Eve and their attraction is instantaneous. Completely involved with each other, filled with all the wonder of "the first time," they are blissfully unaware of the complications real love presents. When they are separated that summer and Katherine meets someone

new, she faces a dilemma. Is her love for Michael merely a stepping-stone to a world of passion and discovery? Or the kind of love that lasts a lifetime?

Blume, Judy. (1981). *Tiger Eyes*. Bradbury.

Age: 15

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Davey has never felt so alone in her life. Her father is dead—shot in a holdup—and now her mother is moving the family to New Mexico to try to recover. Climbing in Lost Alamos Canyons, Davey meets mysterious Wolf, who seems to understand the rage and fear she feels. Slowly, with Wolf's help, Davey realizes that she must get on with her life. But when will she be ready to leave the past behind? Will she ever stop hurting?

Bradford, Richard. (1968). *Red Sky at Morning*. Lippincott.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

The classic coming-of-age story set during World War II about the enduring spirit of youth and the values in life that count.

Brancato, Robin. (1977). *Winning*. Knopf.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Disability

Gary, newly paralyzed from the neck down, must put away his "superjock" image of himself and start his life anew.

Brashares, Ann. (2001). *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. Delacorte.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Carmen got the jeans at a thrift shop. They didn't look all that great; they were worn, dirty, and speckled with bleach. On the night before she and her friends part for the summer, Carmen decides to toss them. But Tibby says they're great. She'd love to have them. Lena and Bridget also think they're fabulous. Lena decides they should all try them on. Whoever they fit best will get them. Nobody knows why, but the pants fit everyone perfectly. Even Carmen (who never thinks she looks good in anything), thinks she looks good in the pants. Over a few bags of cheese puffs they decide to form a sisterhood, and take the vow of The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants . . . the next morning, they say good-bye. And now the journey of the pants—and the most memorable summer of their lives—begins.

Bridgers, Sue Ellen. (1979). *All Together Now*. Knopf.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Family

The minute Casey stepped off the bus, she knew that summer would be very different. She meets Dwayne, who thinks she is a boy, and they become very good friends. She helps Hazard and Pansy work through their "newlywed problems." Casey also helps Taylor and Gwen get back together with many trial and errors. Throughout the story there are many things that test their relationships and show in the end, how much friendship is really valued.

Bridgers, Sue Ellen. (1976). *Home Before Dark*. Knopf.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Stella Willis, who has spent most of her 14 years living out of a station wagon as her family moves from one picking station to another. When her father takes them to his family's tobacco farm, she swears she'll

never leave...but finds that clinging to new roots isn't enough as she reaches out to find a place of her own.

Bridgers, Sue Ellen. (1981). *Notes for Another Life*. Knopf.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Family

Kevin doesn't feel loved. His mother sent him and his brother Wren to live with their grandparents while she pursues a career in Atlanta, five hours away, and his father is in and out of mental hospitals plagued with a mental illness. When Kevin's mom breaks the news that she is moving to Chicago, Kevin can't handle the pain of not having love from his parents. Kevin begins to wonder if he too is plagued with his father's illness.

Bridgers, Sue Ellen. (1987). *Permanent Connections*. HarperCollins.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Family

Back in New Jersey, Rob moved through high school trying to mask his unhappiness with a haze of drugs and alcohol. Now he's forced to spend a semester helping relatives in rural North Carolina -- and he feels trapped. Even falling in love with well-disciplined Ellery doesn't stop him from going on a final, self-destructive spree. But the crisis makes him realize his actions don't exist in a vacuum -- and that "permanent connections" can offer comfort even to those who feel utterly adrift.

Brooks, Bruce. (1986). *Midnight Hour Encores*. HarperCollins.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Sibilance T. Spooner thinks she's one of the world's more promising cellists. The world thinks so too. Given up by her mother on the day she was born, she believes she has almost raised herself--with just a bit of guidance from her unconventional father, Taxi. When Sib finally asks Taxi to take her to meet her mother for the first time, she knows it might mean breaking away from the man who has raised her. Finding your own path often means leaving those you love, and Sib is willing to take the risk. Yet as she and her dad wind their way across the country to San Francisco, Sib discovers she may not be as "self-made" as she thought. And as she learns more about the man she thought she knew, she finds out it's not simply her music that makes her special, but also the love from the parent she might have to leave behind.

Brooks, Bruce. (1989). *No Kidding*. HarperCollins.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Science Fiction

In his twenty-first century society, fourteen-year-old Sam is allowed to decide the fate of his family after his mother is released from an alcohol rehabilitation center.

Brooks, Bruce. (1984). *The Moves Make the Man*. HarperCollins.

Age: Young Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Reverse spin, triple pump, reverse dribble, stutter step with twist to the left, stutter into jumper, blind pass. These are me. The moves make the man. The moves make me. Jerome Foxworthy -- the Jayfox to his friends -- likes to think he can handle anything. He handled growing up without a father. He handled being the first black kid in school. And he sure can handle a basketball. Then Jerome meets Bix Rivers -- mysterious and moody, but a great athlete. So Jerome decides to teach Bix his game. He can tell that Bix has the talent. All he's got to do is learn the right moves.

Brooks, Martha. (2003). *True Confessions of a Heartless Girl*. Kroupa/Farrar.

Age: 17**Protagonist: Female****Genre: Realistic**

In the midst of a heaven-rattling summer storm a young stranger blows into a small prairie town. On the run after taking her latest boyfriend's truck, with a pocketful of stolen money and a heart full of pain, seventeen-year-old Noreen Stall seems to invite trouble. And trouble comes soon enough as Noreen's new mistakes trigger calamities that shake the lives of the residents of Pembina Lake: Lynda Bradley, a divorced mother and owner of a failing café who's given up on life and love; Dolores Harper, the village elder who, in spite of her signature sweatshirt that says MEDDLING FOR JESUS, has lost her enthusiasm for helping others; and Del Armstrong, a middle-aged bachelor farmer who is still paying for the tragic events of his own seventeenth summer. Set against the vast skies of a prairie landscape, with a rich cast of unforgettable characters and an unlikely heroine as endearing as she is tough, this affecting novel reminds readers that it's never too late for forgiveness – and that sometimes the most unlikely messenger can deliver a small miracle.

Burns, Olive Ann. (1984). *Cold Sassy Tree*. Ticknor & Fields.**Age: Mixed****Protagonist: Male & Female****Genre: Realistic**

This unforgettable story of a Georgia town at the turn of the century has captivated millions of readers with its tale of Grandpa Blakeslee, his young bride Miss Love, and the irrepressible fifteen-year-old Will Tweedy. Throughout her long battle with cancer, Olive Ann Burns worked passionately on a sequel to this magical book. Only during her final days did she realize she wouldn't complete it, dictating from her hospital bed her wishes that the finished chapters be published. The result is *Leaving Cold Sassy* – a portrait of the grown-up Will Tweedy; of the feisty young schoolteacher who captures his heart; of the town that has claimed a place in the American imagination; and, in a fascinating reminiscence by her editor, of Olive Ann Burns, a writer who didn't get a chance to finish her extraordinary tale. Complete with Olive Ann Burn's notes for later scenes and chapters exactly as she wrote them, *Leaving Cold Sassy* is a final, loving goodbye to Cold Sassy, Georgia.

Card, Orson Scott. (1985). *Ender's Game*. Tor.**Age: Young****Protagonist: Male****Genre: Science Fiction**

In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut—young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. His psychological battles include loneliness, fear that he is becoming like the cruel brother he remembers, and fanning the flames of devotion to his beloved sister. Is Ender the general Earth needs? But Ender is not the only result of the genetic experiments. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway for almost as long. Ender's two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If, that is, the world survives.

Childress, Alice. (1973). *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich*. Coward McCann.**Age: Early Teens****Protagonist: Male****Genre: Realistic, Drugs**

Dope. Smack. Junk. Heroin. No matter what you call it, you can't change the fact that 13-year-old Benjie is on it. Oh no ... he's not hooked, though. He could stop anytime ... really. But why is a young kid like Benjie using at all?

Cleaver, Vera and Bill. (1969). *Where the Lilies Bloom*. Lippincott.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Although Mary Call has promised her dying father to keep her brothers and sisters together forever on the mountain, she soon learns that it may take more than a simple promise to keep her family together.

Coman, Carolyn. (2000). *Many Stones*. Front Street.

Age: Mid-Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Quest

Berry Morgan's older sister Laura was the one who got along best with their father, even after he moved out. Their interest in world events and action kept Berry on the outside. After college, Laura decided to work as a school volunteer in Capetown, South Africa-and, in a nightmare straight from the headlines, was brutally murdered. A year and a half later, Mr. Morgan arranges a trip to South Africa, so they can attend Laura's memorial service. It is a trip that, if they let it, will transform the two of them, and may break the long silence of grief so that Berry and her father can finally begin to talk with each other.

Chambers, Aidan. (2002). *Postcards from No Man's Land*. Dutton.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Problem

By turns playful and wrenching, thrilling and meditative, this extraordinary novel, told in dual narratives, takes the reader on a memorable voyage of discovery-the discovery of family secrets, of sex, of art, and of oneself in a foreign city or in the midst of war. Seventeen-year-old backpacker Jacob Todd has come to Amsterdam to honor his grandfather, a soldier who died in a nearby town in World War II. He isn't ready for the seductive assault the city launches on his senses. A stranger flirts with him in a café leaving him with this prophetic scribbled message: Nothing in Amsterdam is what it appears to be. In 1944, teenage Geertrui, living in occupied Holland, meets another Jacob Todd, an English soldier who must hide with her family after his battalion pulls out. In the midst of terrible danger, the two become lovers, linking their families in a way that resonates in the present.

Childress, Alice. (1981). *Rainbow Jordan*. Coward McCann.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Fourteen-year-old Rainbow Jordan's single mother, Kathie, is a go-go dancer and flighty. Every couple of weeks she'll take off on a gig and leave Rainbow alone in their apartment. Usually when this happens Rainbow goes to stay with Miss Josie, her foster mother, who cares a lot about Rainbow but is preoccupied with the breakup of her twenty-year marriage. On the street Rainbow's got a girlfriend, Beryl, who earns spending money with casual prostitution, and a boyfriend, Eljay, who keeps pressuring her to go all the way. Told in three points of view Jordan is too brave to be a child, too scared to be a woman.

Cisneros, Sandra. (1983). *The House on Mango Street*. Arte Publico.

Age: Young Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Esperanza and her family didn't always live on Mango Street. Right off she says she can't remember all the houses they've lived in but "the house on Mango Street is ours and we don't have to pay rent to anybody, or share the yard with the people downstairs, or be careful not to make too much noise, and there isn't a landlord banging on the ceiling with a broom. But even so, it's not the house we thought we'd

get." Esperanza's childhood life in a Spanish-speaking area of Chicago is described in a series of spare, poignant, and powerful vignettes. Each story centers on a detail of her childhood: a greasy cold rice sandwich, a pregnant friend, a mean boy, how the clouds looked one time, something she heard a drunk say, her fear of nuns: "I always cry when nuns yell at me, even if they're not yelling." Esperanza's friends, family, and neighbors wander in and out of her stories; through them all Esperanza sees, learns, loves, and dreams of the house she will someday have, her own house, not on Mango Street.

Cole, Brock. (1997). *The Facts Speak for Themselves*. Front Street.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Abuse

Brave and adventurous, Princess Meryl dreams of fighting dragons and protecting the kingdom of Bamarre. Shy and fearful, Princess Addie is content to stay within the safety of the castle walls. The one thing that the sisters share is their unwavering love for each other. The tables are turned, however, when the Gray Death leaves Meryl fatally ill. To save her sister, meek Princess Addie must find the courage to set out on a dangerous quest filled with dragons, unknown magic, and death itself. Time is running out, and the sisters' lives - and the future of the kingdom of Bamarre - hang in the balance.

Cooney, Caroline. (1994). *Driver's Ed*. Delacorte.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Suspense

Disinterested driver's ed teacher Mr. Fielding views his class as indistinguishable brainless clones. In order to keep them straight, he distributes name tags, and then calls out three lucky participants each day to go out on the road. Of course, the students are way ahead of him, and just exchange name tags whenever anyone wants a chance behind the wheel. Remy loves to drive, and she constantly trades tags with other girls. One night, she and a perspective love interest, Morgan, accept a class challenge to collect road signs, recruiting an older boy to drive. The expedition goes without a hitch- until they learn that a young mother has been killed at the intersection from which they have stolen a stop sign. The whole community is up in arms, and the grieving widower appears on TV with his son, offering a reward for information leading to the arrest of the vandals. Remy and Morgan are filled with remorse and guilt as their lives are turned upside down. Mr. Fielding, in a rare act of awareness, nearly accuses a different student of the crime because of the switched name tags. Both young people realize that they have to take responsibility for their actions and confess.

Cole, Brock. (1989). *Celine*. Farrar.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Delacorte

Celine's father has left her with these instructions. She's not too worried about the last two, but she'll fail English unless she rewrites her *Catcher in the Rye* essay. And she keeps being interrupted, especially by Jake, the neighbor's boy, who's been dumped on her for the weekend.

Cole, Brock. (1987). *The Goats*. Farrar.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic

Two social misfits are marooned on an island overnight without their clothes--a traditional summer camp prank. But the two refuse to become victims and escape, their emerging friendship providing each with unsuspected courage and sagaciousness. Cole identifies these two, poised on the cusp of sexual maturity, only as "the boy" and "the girl." Ed Sala's subtle touch--the main characters are differentiated only by slight shifts in pitch and inflection--underscores the psychological subtleties of the story. His masterful use of the pause adds poignancy to the dialogue and provides space for the thoughtful listener to gain

insight and experience a richer understanding of Cole's unusual and compelling novel. Sala's respect for the text makes this the perfect marriage of narrative style and content.

Cormier, Robert. (1979). *After the First Death*. Pantheon.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Suspense

The book first starts you out with Ben's perspective of what had happened the day on the bridge. What he thinks of happened ruined 'Inner Delta' which is a top secret military agency which his dad is apart of. And then you witness your first perspective change in the book when the point of view switches to Miro who is one of the terrorists assigned to hijack a school bus full of kids. This shift tells you the plan of what is going to happen and when it will happen. It also gives you a background of Miro where we learn that Miro calls his team of terrorists 'Freedom Fighters' who are trying to win back their precious 'Homeland', and we also discover he is a regular teenager with likes/dislikes. After we learn what the terrorists plans are we then witness the hijacking of the bus, how it was executed, and where they are taking the bus. And then finally we get the perspective of the bus driver whose name is Kate. Cormier allows us to enter the mind of Kate and find out what weaknesses and strengths Kate has. People who enjoy exciting thrillers will enjoy this book. This book has left me on the edge of my seat and I'm sure it will to you to.

Cormier, Robert. (1985). *Beyond the Chocolate War*. Knopf.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

The school year is almost at an end, and the chocolate sale is past history. But no one at Trinity School can forget The Chocolate War. Devious Archie Costello, commander of the secret school organization called The Vigils, still has some torturous assignments to hand out before he graduates. In spite of this pleasure, Archie is troubled by his right-hand man, Obie, who has started to move away from The Vigils. Luckily Archie knows his stooges will fix that. But won't Archie be shocked when he discovers the surprise Obie has waiting for him? And there are surprises waiting for others. The time for revenge has come to those boys who secretly suffered the trials of Trinity. The fuse is set for the final explosion. Who will survive?

Cormier, Robert. (1977). *I Am the Cheese*. Knopf.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Suspense

Imagine discovering that your whole life has been a fiction, your identity altered, and a new family history created. Suddenly nothing is as it once seemed; you can trust no one, maybe not even yourself. It is exactly this revelation that turns 14-year-old Adam Farmer's life upside down. As he tries to ascertain who he really is, Adam encounters a past, present, and future too horrible to contemplate. Suspense builds as the fragments of the story are assembled--a missing father, government corruption, espionage--until the shocking conclusion shatters the fragile mosaic. Young adult readers will easily relate to the shy and confused Adam, whose desperate searching for self resembles a disturbingly exaggerated version of the identity crisis common to the teenage years.

Cormier, Robert. (1988). *Fade*. Delacorte.

Age: Mixed

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Occult

13-year-old Paul discovers an incredible secret gift: he can become invisible. His long-lost uncle appears, to tell Paul that each generation of the family has one fader, and to warn him of the fade's dangers. Paul, however, abuses his power and quickly learns its terrible price. Twenty-five years later, Paul, a successful writer, confronts the next fader, his abused nephew Ozzie, whose power is pure vengeance. And 25 years

after that, in 1988, Paul's distant cousin Susan, also a writer, reads his amazing story, and must decide if Paul's memoir is fact or fiction. Fade is an allegory of the writer's life. Paul's actions stem from his compulsion to understand the behavior of the people around him; Susan's questions and her awful dilemma, which concludes the book, result from her near-pathological writer's focus on other persons, a purpose her unreachable late cousin serves well. Omniscient power Paul's invisibility and Susan's access to his unpublished work leads to identity-consuming responsibility. The protagonists are ciphers whose only affirming action seems to be to assert, however briefly, that they exist.

Cormier, Robert. (1999). *Frenchtown Summer*. Delacorte.

Age: 12

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Poetry

Eugene is remembering the summer of 1938 in Frenchtown, a time when he began to wonder "what I was doing here on the planet Earth." Here in vibrant, exquisite detail are his lovely mother, his aunts and uncles, cousins and friends, and especially his beloved, enigmatic father. Here, too, is the world of a mill town: the boys swimming in a brook that is red or purple or green, depending on the dyes dumped that day by the comb shop; the visit of the ice man; and the boys' trips to the cemetery or the forbidden railroad tracks. And here also is a darker world—the mystery of a girl murdered years before. Robert Cormier's touching, funny, melancholy chronicle of a vanished world celebrates a son's connection to his father and human relationships that are timeless.

Cormier, Robert. (1983). *The Bumblebee Flies Away*. Pantheon.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Futuristic

Sixteen-year-old Barney has only fleeting memories about his past but, as a voluntary patient at the institute for experimental medicine, he knows he is different from the terminally ill patients surrounding him. His involvement with the bitter, slowly dying, Mazzo brings Barney hope, pain, and a moment of heroic glory.

Cormier, Robert. (1974). *The Chocolate War*. Pantheon.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Stunned by his mother's recent death and appalled by the way his father sleepwalks through life, Jerry Renault, a New England high school student, ponders the poster in his locker—*Do I dare disturb the universe?* Part of his universe is Archie Costello, leader of a secret school society—the Virgils—and master of intimidation. Archie himself is intimidated by a cool, ambitious teacher into having the Virgils spearhead the annual fund-raising event—a chocolate sale. When Jerry refuses to be bullied into selling chocolates, he becomes a hero, but his defiance is a threat to Archie, the Virgils, and the school. In the inevitable showdown, Archie's skill at intimidation turns Jerry from hero to outcast, to victim, leaving him alone and terribly vulnerable.

Cormier, Robert. (2001). *The Rag and the Bone Shop*. Delacorte.

Age: 12

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Mystery

Twelve-year old Jason is accused of the brutal murder of a young girl. Is he innocent or guilty? The shocked town calls on an interrogator with a stellar reputation: he always gets a confession. The confrontation between Jason and his interrogator forms the chilling climax of this terrifying look at what can happen when the pursuit of justice becomes a personal crusade for victory at any cost.

Creech, Sharon. (2000). *The Wanderer*. HarperCollins.

Age: Young Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic

Thirteen-year-old Sophie hears the sea calling, promising adventure and a chance for discovery as she sets sail for England with her three uncles and two cousins. Sophie's cousin Cody isn't sure he has the strength to prove himself to the crew and to his father. Through Sophie's and Cody's travel logs, we hear stories of the past and the daily challenges of surviving at sea as *The Wanderer* sails toward its destination -- and its passengers search for their places in the world.

Crutcher, Chris. (1995). *Ironman*. Greenwillow.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Sports

Bo Brewster has been at war with his father for as long as he can remember. Following angry outbursts at his football coach and English teacher that have cost him his spot on the football team and moved him dangerously close to expulsion from school, he turns to the only adult he believes will listen: Larry King. In his letters to Larry, Bo describes his quest for excellence on his own terms. No more coaches for me, he tells the talk show icon, no more dads. I'm going to be a triathlete, an Ironman. Relegated to Mr. Nak's before-school Anger Management group (which he initially believes to be populated with future serial killers and freeway snipers), Bo meets a hard-edged, down-on-their-luck pack of survivors with stainless steel shields against the world that Bo comes to see are not so different from his own. It is here he meets and falls in love with Shelly, a future American Gladiator, whose passion for physical challenge more than matches his.

Crutcher, Chris. (1987). *The Crazy Horse Electric Game*. Greenwillow.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Sports, Disability

Willie Weaver used to be a hero. Now he's nothing. Willie is a top athlete, the star of the legendary game against Crazy Horse Electric. Then a freak accident robs him of his once-amazing physical talents. Betrayed by his family, his girlfriend, and his own body, Willie's on the run, penniless and terrified on the streets, where he must fight to rebuild both his body and his life.

Cushman, Karen. (1995). *The Midwife's Apprentice*. Clarion.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical

This novel is about a strong young woman in medieval England who finds her own way home. This is a world, like Chaucer's, that's . . . dangerous, primitive and raucous. From the first page you're caught by the spirit of the homeless, nameless waif, somewhere around 12 years old. She gets the village midwife to take her in, befriends a cat, names herself Alyce, and learns something about delivering babies. When she fails, she runs away, but she picks herself up again and returns to work and independence.

Davis, Jenny. (1988). *Sex Education*. Orchard.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Death

As a project for an unusually open class in sex education, Livvie and her boyfriend David learn to care for an expectant mother trapped in a violent marriage, and as they become deeply involved with her and with each other, they learn about love and caring and eventually about pain and courage.

Dickinson, Peter. (1989). *Eva*. Delacorte.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Science Fiction

Following a terrible car crash, Eva, 14, awakens from a strange dream and finds herself in a hospital bed. Medical science, in this book's future setting, has allowed doctors to pull her functioning brain from her

crushed body and put it into the able body of a chimpanzee. With the aid of a voice synthesizer, she communicates with others and adjusts to her new body; because her father is a scientist who has always worked among the chimps (who have been crowded by the massive human population out of any semblance of a natural world, and into iron and steel jungles), Eva is comfortable with her new self. She takes on the issue of animal rights, setting up (with the help of others, of course) an elaborate scheme to release chimps back into the last of the wild. Years later, that is where she dies.

Doherty, Berlie. (1992). *Dear Nobody*. Orchard.

Age: Older Teens Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Pregnancy

It was only once, but she's pregnant. When Helen discovers she is expecting a baby, she cuts off her relationship with Chris, the boyfriend she loves very much. She's confused and tormented, and so is he. Separately, the two high school seniors must come to terms with their child's future-- and their own.

Doherty, Berlie. (1990). *White Peak Farm*. Orchard.

Age: Older Teens Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Family

Teenage Jeannie unfolds the triumphs and tragedies of her close-knit family as they face violent changes on their isolated Derbyshire farm.

Donnelly, Jennifer. (2003). *A Northern Light*. Harcourt.

Age: Older Teens Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Mattie Gokey has a word for everything. She collects words, stores them up as a way of fending off the hard truths of her life, the truths that she can't write down in stories. The fresh pain of her mother's death. The burden of raising her sisters while her father struggles over his farm. The mad welter of feelings Mattie has for handsome but dull Royal Loomis, who says he wants to marry her. And the secret dreams that keep her going--visions of finishing high school, going to college in New York City, becoming a writer. Yet when the drowned body of a young woman turns up at the hotel where Mattie works, all her words are useless. But in the dead woman's letters, Mattie again finds her voice, and a determination to live her own life.

Duncan, Lois. (1978). *Killing Mr. Griffin*. Little, Brown.

Age: Teens Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Suspense

High school can be tough. But with teachers like Mr. Griffin it can seem impossible. When a student conjures up a plan to scare Mr. Griffin things go terribly wrong ending Mr. Griffin's life too soon.

Duncan, Lois. (1981). *Stranger with My Face*. Little.

Age: 17 Protagonist: Female

Genre: Occult

Seventeen-year-old, Laurie, feels like someone is always lurking in the shadows and gets the idea that someone might be following her every move. What else could explain why her friends are telling her things that she did when in actuality she isn't? The explanation is worse than what she had in mind.

Farmer, Nancy. (1996). *A Girl Named Disaster*. Orchard.

Age: 14 Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Nhamo's mother is dead, and her father is gone. She is a virtual slave in her small African village. Before her twelfth birthday, Nhamo learns that she must marry a cruel man with three other wives--and decides desperately to run away. Alone on the river, in a stolen boat, she is swept into the uncharted heart of a

great lake. There, she battles drowning, starvation, and wild animals, and comes to know Africa's mystical, luminous spirits.

Farmer, Nancy. (2002). *The House of the Scorpion*. Atheneum.

Age: Young Teens Protagonist: Male

Genre: Science Fiction

Matt is a clone of El Patrón, a powerful drug lord of the land of Opium, which is located between the United States and Mexico. For six years, he has lived in a tiny cottage in the poppy fields with Celia, a kind and deeply religious servant woman who is charged with his care and safety. He knows little about his existence until he is discovered by a group of children playing in the fields and wonders why he isn't like them. Though Matt has been spared the fate of most clones, who have their intelligence destroyed at birth, the evil inhabitants of El Patrón's empire consider him a "beast" and an "eejit." When El Patrón dies at the age of 146, fourteen-year-old Matt escapes Opium with the help of Celia and Tam Lin, his devoted bodyguard who wants to right his own wrongs. After a near misadventure in his escape, Matt makes his way back home and begins to rid the country of its evils.

Fleischman, Paul. (2001). *Seek*. Mercado/Cricket.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Assigned to write his autobiography, high school senior Rob Radkovitz decides to "listen" back on his life. As he remembers the voices of his younger self, his quirky family, and his closest friends, one stands apart -- the haunting voice of his long-absent father, left behind on a single tape from one of his radio shows. Told in a collage of past and present voices, *Seek* follows Rob's obsessive search for his father, pursued not through San Francisco's streets, but through the labyrinth of the airwaves. Open the cover and listen in -- to psychic readers and pirate DJs, and to Rob's transforming views of his past and future.

Fleischman, Paul. (1998). *Whirligig*. Holt.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Brent Bishop, a sixteen-year old Puerto Rican, is new to his school in Chicago. Before going to a party with his friend Jonathan, Brent plans to talk to Brianna, a girl he has a crush on in school. However, when Brianna rejects his advances at the party and embarrasses him in front of everyone, Brent feels that he has no reason to go on living. In his attempt to escape humiliation at the party and emptiness in his life, he tries to kill himself in a car crash. But, his attempt is unsuccessful. Brent does not kill himself. He kills Lea Zamora, an eighteen-year old Filipino girl, who accidentally crosses his path. After Brent is charged with DUI and manslaughter, Lea's mother asks Brent to make four whirligigs of a girl that looks like Lea, put her name on them, and set them up in Washington, California, Florida, and Maine—the four corners of the United States. Mrs. Zamora believes that these whirligigs will allow people all over the country to receive joy from Lea even though she is gone. She explains to Brent how Lea loved whirligigs as a child and how he can keep Lea's spirit alive by making the whirligigs.

Fox, Paula. (1984). *One-Eyed Cat*. Bradbury.

Age: Young Teens Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Ned fired the forbidden rifle just once, at a flickering shadow in the autumn moonlight. But someone -- a face, fleetingly seen staring at him from an attic window -- was watching. And when a one-eyed cat turns up at an elderly neighbor's woodshed, Ned is caught in a web of guilt, fear, and shame that he cannot escape -- until another moonlit night, come spring, brings redemption and surprising revelations.

Fox, Paula. (1995). *The Eagle Kite*. Orchard.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Death

Liam's father is dying of AIDS. He got it from a blood transfusion, Liam's mother says. My father has cancer, Liam tells his girlfriend. But Liam remembers what he has made himself forget, that more than two years earlier he had seen his father embrace a young man on the beach. Now, through the long, dreary months of the illness, while his father lives alone in a rented cottage on the shore, Liam goes through a tangled mess of denial, anger, shame, grief, and empathy.

Fox, Paula. (1985). *The Moonlight Man*. Bradbury.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Alcoholism

Catherine Ames's father is a traveler -- he always has been. And except for fleeting visits which always left Catherine yearning for more, her father has always been a mystery to her. So when Mr. Ames suggests a month-long stay at a summer cabin in Nova Scotia for just the two of them, Catherine is thrilled. *Finally*, she will know her father as the other girls at school know theirs -- his habits, his laugh, and most of all, his wonderful stories. But their summer of discovery is soon overshadowed by Mr. Ames's unpredictability. He drinks a lot -- more than Catherine imagines other fathers drink. Up close, her fancy-free father seems different -- darker, like the Nova Scotian night sky. As the sun sets on their month together, Catherine struggles against the terrible things she is learning about her father. How can the man she grew up wishing was near seem so far away now? And how can she bring him back to her?

Fox, Paula. (1973). *The Slave Dancer*. Bradbury.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical

A young boy of thirteen, Jessie Bollier, is growing up in New Orleans at the time when slavery is still flourishing in the United States and he is often to be seen playing his flute in the "Vieux Carré". Jessie is kidnapped by two men and brought on board "The Moonlight", a slaver which is about to sail to Africa. The trade is called "Black Gold" by Captain Cawthorne, an illegal venture making him no better than a pirate. He tells Jessie that he was kidnapped to work with the Blacks as a slave dancer on the vessel, playing his pipe, "because it keeps them happy since it is hard to make a profit out of a sick nigger". As the long voyage begins, Jessie is about to discover the atrocious business of slavery.

Fryemann-Weyr, Garret. (2002). *My Heartbeat*. Houghton Mifflin.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Problem, Romance

Ellen loves Link and James. Her older brother and his best friend are the only company she ever wants. She knows they fight, but she makes it a policy never to take sides. She loves her brother, the math genius and track star. She is totally, madly in love with James, his face full of long eyelashes and hidden smiles. "When you grow out of it," James teases her, "you will break my heart." Ellen knows she'll never outgrow it. She'll always love James just the way she'll always love Link. Then someone at school asks if Link and James might be in love with each other. A simple question. Link refuses to discuss it. James refuses to stay friends with a boy so full of secrets. Ellen's parents want Link to keep his secrets to himself, but Ellen wants to know who her brother really is. When is curiosity a betrayal? And if James says he loves her, isn't that just another way of saying he still loves Link? *My Heartbeat* is a fast, furious story in which a quirky, bisexual love triangle learns to change its shape and Ellen, at least, learns the limits of what you can ever know about whom you love.

Gains, Ernest. (1971). *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. Dial.

Age: Lifetime

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical

This well-crafted novel is written as an editor's transcription of the oral memoirs of Jane Pittman, a 110-year old woman and former slave who reminisces about her life and times. Miss Jane, in her rambling,

often opinionated, but always endearing narrative style, not only tells her life story but also that of the history of the black people from slavery up to their struggles for civil rights in the 1960s. Around ten years old when freed from slavery, Jane decides to head to Ohio to find the friendly Yankee soldier who was kind to her when his troop passed through. Although she never gets out of Louisiana, she saves a young boy, taking him under her wing when the Confederate soldiers slaughter his mother, and sets off to find a better life for the two of them. Along with the other newly freed slaves, she deals with problems in finding shelter, jobs, and education. As she ages, she becomes the matriarch of her community, and in that role provides support, inspiration, and commonsense guidance to others as they seek their rightful place in society.

Garden, Nancy. (1982). *Annie on My Mind*. Farrar.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Lesbianism

Liza never knew that falling in love could be so wonderful . . . and so confusing. "'Liza,' Mom said, looking into my eyes, 'I want you to tell me the truth, not because I want to pry, but because I have to know. This could get very unpleasant . . . Now--have you and Annie--done any more than the usual experimenting . . . ' 'No, Mom,' I said, trying to look back at her calmly. I'm not proud of it, I make no excuses--I lied to her." Liza puts aside her feelings for Annie after the disaster at school, but eventually she allows love to triumph over the ignorance of people.

Going, K.L. (2003). *Fat Kid Rules the World*. Simon & Schuster.

Age: Older Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Enter the lonely, troubled, self-deprecating world of Troy Billings, a 296-pound 17-year-old who contemplates ending his life by jumping off a New York City subway platform. He is interrupted by Curt MacCrae, a legendary punk-rock guitarist and sometime-student at W. T. Watson High School. When Curt connects with him and "saves his life," Troy is amazed that someone, especially someone as cool as Curt, wants to befriend him. An unlikely, almost symbiotic relationship develops between these two. Curt convinces Troy to be the drummer in his band, even though he hasn't touched the drums since seventh grade. He is flattered by the suggestion and believes that being in the band could be his key to acceptance. Troy's voice is candid, irreverent, realistic, and humorous. He imagines the events of his life in facetious headlines always related to his weight. Curt himself is the product of a dysfunctional family, and he has plenty of problems of his own, including a reliance on drugs.

Greene, Bette. *Summer of My German Soldier*. Dial.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical

When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, 12-year-old Patty Bergen learns what it means to open her heart. Although she's Jewish, she begins to see a prison escapee, Anton, not as a Nazi--but as a lonely, frightened young man with feelings not unlike her own, who understands and appreciates her in a way her parents never will. And Patty is willing to risk losing family, friends--even her freedom--for what has quickly become the most important part of her life. Thoughtful, moving, and hard-hitting, *Summer of My German Soldier* has become a modern classic.

Guest, Judith. (1976). *Ordinary People*. Viking.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Family

The Jarrets are a typical American family. Calvin is a determined, successful provider and Beth an organized, efficient wife. They had two sons, Conrad and Buck, but now they have one.

Guy, Rosa. (1973). *The Friends*. Holt.

Age: Early Teens Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Phyllisia Cathy was rejected and beaten up by her schoolmates, sometimes for being smart, or sometimes for nothing at all. She was a, slightly, prosperous fourteen-year-old girl with a complete family, meaning a mom, a dad, and a sister. Then there was a girl named Edith Jackson who was indigent, not so smart, and came from a shattered family. Edith was furthermore one of the toughest girls in school. These two total opposites meet after Edith stuck up for Phyllisia after she was crudely beaten. From that moment on they knew they needed each other. Edith and Phyllisia had a roller coaster friendship ride. They went through problems in school with peers, to Calvin, which is Phyllisia's inferior father, to the possessiveness of Phyllisia's sister, to even the death of Phyllisia's mother by reason of breast cancer. Phyllisia assisted Edith with taking care of Edith's younger siblings, and guided Edith out of trouble, because before they met Edith use to steal and curse. This book shows the significance of friendship, and the way teenagers can get through the hardest time just by having someone's sustenance.

Hamilton, Virginia. (1974). *M. C. Higgins, the Great*. Macmillan.

Age: 13 Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

From a perch on his 40-foot pole (a gift from his father for swimming across the Ohio River), M.C. likes to slide his hand over the rolling mountains, smooth out the sky, and fluff up the trees to the south of Sarah's Mountain. To the north, though, no amount of pretending can make the whine of bulldozers and deep gashes in the mountain disappear. Ever since M.C.'s great-grandmother Sarah came here as a runaway slave, Sarah's Mountain has been home to the Higgins family. But now their home is threatened by the strip-mining that has left a giant slag heap perched precariously above their house. Will the two strangers who appear in the hills help M.C. save his family?

Hamilton, Virginia. (1982). *Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush*. Philomel.

Age: Teens Protagonist: Female

Genre: Occult

Why had he come to her, with his dark secrets from a long-ago past? What was the purpose of their strange, haunting journeys back into her own childhood? Was it to help Dab, her retarded older brother, wracked with mysterious pain who sometimes took more care and love than Tree had to give? Was it for her mother, Vy, who loved them the best she knew how, but wasn't home enough to ease the terrible longing? Whatever secrets his whispered message held, Tree knew she must follow. She must follow Brother Rush through the magic mirror, and find out the truth. About all of them.

Head, Ann. (1967). *Mr. and Mrs. Bo Jo Jones*. Putnam.

Age: 18 Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Pregnancy

When Bo Jo Jones learns that his girlfriend, July Greher, is pregnant he realizes that his high school, football and college dreams are over. July realizes that proms and other expensive dresses will now be traded in for diapers. But maybe she's a lucky one—at least her child will be legitimate.

Hesse, Karen. (1997). *Out of Dust*. Scholastic.

Age: 13 Protagonist: Female

Genre: Narrative, Poetry

Like the Oklahoma dust bowl from which she came, 14-year-old narrator Billie Jo writes in sparse, free-floating verse. In this compelling, immediate journal, Billie Jo reveals the grim domestic realities of living during the years of constant dust storms: That hopes--like the crops--blow away in the night like skittering tumbleweeds. That trucks, tractors, even Billie Jo's beloved piano, can suddenly be buried beneath drifts

of dust. Perhaps swallowing all that grit is what gives Billie Jo--our strong, endearing, rough-cut heroine--the stoic courage to face the death of her mother after a hideous accident that also leaves her piano-playing hands in pain and permanently scarred. Meanwhile, Billie Jo's silent, windblown father is literally decaying with grief and skin cancer before her very eyes. When she decides to flee the lingering ghosts and dust of her homestead and jump a train west, she discovers a simple but profound truth about herself and her plight.

Hinton, S. E. (1975). *Rumble Fish*. Delacorte.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Rusty-James knows he is a tough teen, but he wants to be even tougher, just like his older brother, the Motorcycle Boy. He wants to stay calm and laugh when things get dangerous, to be the strongest streetfighter and the most respected guy this side of the river.

Hinton, S.E. (1979). *Tex*. Delacorte.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Easygoing, thoughtless, and direct, Tex at fifteen likes everyone and everything, especially his horse, Negrito, and Johnny Collins's blue-eyed sister, Jamie. He thinks life with his seventeen-year-old brother, Mason, in their ramshackle house would be just about perfect if only Mace would stop complaining about Pop. Pop hasn't been home in five months. Mace wants to get out of Oklahoma. Tex just seems to attract trouble and danger . . . Suddenly everything's falling apart. Can Tex keep it all together?

Hinton, S. E. (1967). *The Outsiders*. Viking.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Ponyboy is fourteen, tough and confused, yet sensitive behind his bold front. Since his parents' death, his loyalties have been to his brothers and his gang, the rough, swinging, long-haired boys from the wrong side of the tracks. When his best friend, Johnny, kills a member of a rival gang, a nightmare of violence begins and swiftly envelops Ponyboy in a turbulent chain of events.

Holland, Isabelle. (1972). *The Man Without a Face*. Lippincott.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Homosexuality

Fourteen-year-old Charles desperately wants two things: a father and a way out. Little love has come his way until the summer he befriends a mysterious scarred man named Justin McLeod, nicknamed "The Man Without a Face." Charles enlists McLeod's help as tutor for the St. Matthew's school entrance exams, his ticket away from the unpleasant restrictions of his home life. But more important than anything he could get out of a book, that summer Charles learns from McLeod a stirring life lesson about the many faces of love.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. (1999). *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. Henry Holt.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Nothing ever happens in Toby's small Texas town. Nothing much until this summer that's full of big changes. It's tough for Toby when his mother leaves home to become a country singer. And Toby takes it hard when his best friend Cal's older brother goes off to fight in Vietnam. But now their sleepy town is about to get an even bigger jolt with the arrival of Zachary Beaver, billed as the fattest boy in the world. Toby is in for a summer unlike any other, a summer sure to change his life.

Horvath, Polly. (2003). *The Canning Season*. Farrar.

Age: 13**Protagonist: Female****Genre: Historical Humorous**

Polly Horvath tells the story of an abandoned child who is sent to live with two distant relatives in a big, lonely house. Thirteen-year-old Ratchet Clark, a girl with a deformity on her shoulder blade her breezily cruel, self-absorbed mother calls "That Thing," is unceremoniously kicked out for the summer while her mom attends to important things, like how to gain entry into the prestigious Pensacola country club. Mom drops Ratchet off at her great second-cousins' enormous, turreted house in Maine, a remote seaside estate surrounded by oily blueberry bogs and bears. What starts out as a fairly grim proposition transforms as Ratchet befriends the endearing, downright hilarious 91-year-old twins Aunt Tilly and Aunt Penpen who are "as different as chalk and cheese" and learns the ways of rural Maine. When another unwanted teenage girl named Harper ("obnoxious, but strangely compelling") enters the scene, the household dynamic changes yet again. Though fairytale-like in its setting and its charm, do not be fooled. Suicide, decapitation, wretched mothers, and a sprinkling of profanity pepper this poignant, philosophical, darkly humorous novel that dips into subjects from technology to love to death.

Hunter, Mollie. (1986). *Cat, Herself*. HarperCollins.**Age: Teens****Protagonist: Female****Genre: Historical**

Growing up in a family of wandering tinkers in Scotland, Cat McPhie fights for the right to be her own person and live the kind of life she wants.

Jenkins, A.M. (2001). *Damage*. HarperCollins.**Age: 17****Protagonist: Male & Female****Genre: Realistic, Sports**

Austin Reid is depressed as he enters his senior year of high school. He's glad to start another season of football, likes his few buddies, and even begins an intense relationship with Heather, one of the most unattainable young women on campus. But none of that really helps. He drifts through his days so detached from himself that even during intense sexual passion he doesn't really feel alive. The possibility of suicide intrigues him to the point that it dominates his every thought: having everything--good looks, athletic ability, a beautiful girlfriend, a great mom--simply doesn't seem enough to live for. Jenkins uses an intriguing second-person point of view to depict Austin's detachment, and lets the story drift, echoing Austin's own aimlessness.

Johnson, Angela. (2003). *The First Part Last*. Simon & Schuster.**Age: 16****Protagonist: Female****Genre: Realistic**

Bobby is your classic urban teenaged boy -- impulsive, eager, restless. On his sixteenth birthday he gets some news from his girlfriend, Nia that changes his life forever. She's pregnant. Bobby's going to be a father. Suddenly things like school and house parties and hanging with friends no longer seem important as they're replaced by visits to Nia's obstetrician and a social worker who says that the only way for Nia and Bobby to lead a normal life is to put their baby up for adoption. This book looks at the male side of teen pregnancy as it delves into one young man's struggle to figure out what "the right thing" is and then to do it. No matter what the cost.

Johnson, Scott. (1999). *Safe at Second*. Philomel.**Age: 17****Protagonist: Male****Genre: Sports, Problem**

Todd Bannister has it all: a fastball made for the majors, scouts lining up at his door, a beautiful girlfriend, and his best friend Paulie-his number one fan. It seems nothing can stop the bright future that lies ahead. But all it takes is one line drive-and Todd takes it square in the face, and loses an eye. Things are different now. Will Todd have the strength to give up his old dreams and move on? Will Paulie?

Jones, Diana Wynne. (1991). *Castle in the Air*. Greenwillow.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Fantasy

Abdullah was a young and not very prosperous carpet dealer. His father, who had been disappointed in him, had left him only enough money to open a modest booth in the Bazaar. When he was not selling carpets, Abdullah spent his time daydreaming. In his dreams he was not the son of his father, but the long-lost son of a prince. There was also a princess who had been betrothed to him at birth. He was content with his life and his daydreams until, one day, a stranger sold him a magic carpet. In this stunning sequel to *Howl's Moving Castle*, Diana Wynne Jones has again created a large-scale, fast-paced fantasy in which people and things are never quite what they seem. There are good and bad djinns, a genie in a bottle, wizards, witches, cats and dogs (but are they cats and dogs?), and a mysterious floating castle filled with kidnapped princesses, as well as two puzzling prophecies. The story speeds along with tantalizing twists and turns until the prophecies are fulfilled, true identities are revealed, and all is resolved in a totally satisfying, breathtaking, surprise-filled ending.

Kerr, M.E. (1994). *Deliver Us From Evie*. HarperCollins.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Lesbianism

A skilled mechanic and farmer on her family's Missouri spread, Evie Burrman, 17, has a streak of blond in her slicked-back dark hair, a sign quietly calculated to ward off other people's assumptions—for starters, that she'll marry Cord Whittle, and that she'll help Dad keep the farm going. Evie's story is affectingly told by her younger brother, Parr, who understands as their parents cannot that Evie is falling in love, not with Cord Whittle, but with the daughter of the man who holds the mortgage on their farm. Meanwhile, Parr falls for a girl whose fundamentalist family is fearful of gayness, and tension builds slowly until the truth about Evie explodes out of Parr, not just to their parents, but to the whole town.

Kerr, M. E. (1972). *Dinky Hocker Shoots Smack!* HarperCollins.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Family

When Tucker Woolf needs to find a new home for his cat he only gets one call. It's from Dinky Hacker, the strongest girl he has ever met. She doesn't shoot smack, but she sure could tell you a lot about kids who do. And once the cat moves in with Dinky, visiting it means visiting the Hocker home, which turns out to be more than Tucker ever bargained for...

Kerr, M. E. (1978). *Gentlehands*. HarperCollins.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Buddy Boyle lives year-round with his family in unfashionable Seaville, New York, in a cramped little house on the bay. Skye Pennington spends the summers nearby on lavish estate complete with ocean view and a butler named Peacock. But Skye and Buddy fall in love anyway. And every once in a while they visit Buddy's estranged grandfather, who makes them forget they're from opposite sides of town. Then a reporter appears, searching for a man known as Gentlehands, a man with a horrifying past. Who is Gentlehands? And what is his connection to Buddy's handsome, aristocratic grandfather? The mystery threatens to shatter Buddy and Skye's relationship, and change their lives forever.

King, Stephen. (1974). *Carrie*. Doubleday.

Age: Preteen

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Occult

Carrie White, menaced by bullies at school and her religious nut of a mother at home, gradually discovers that she has telekinetic powers, powers that will eventually be turned on her tormentors.

Klause, Annette Curtis. (1997). *Blood and Chocolate*. Delacorte.

Age: 18

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Supernatural

Sixteen-year-old Vivian Gandillon is trying to fit in to her new home in the suburbs. But trying to act "normal" isn't always easy, since Vivian and her family are werewolves. It's glorious to have the power to change, and Vivian is a beautiful *loup-garou* with all the young wolves howling for her. But she wants no part of her squabbling pack, left leaderless by her father's recent death. Then Vivian falls in love with a human, a meat-boy. If she reveals herself, will he relish the magic of her dual nature? When a brutal murder threatens the pack's survival, Vivian's divided loyalties are further strained. What is she really--human or beast?

Klause, Annette Curtis. (1990). *The Silver Kiss*. Bradbury.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Occult, Romance

Zoe is wary when, in the dead of night, the beautiful yet frightening Simon comes to her house. Simon seems to understand the pain of loneliness and death and Zoe's brooding thoughts of her dying mother. Simon is one of the undead, a vampire, seeking revenge for the gruesome death of his mother three hundred years before. Does Simon dare ask Zoe to help free him from this lifeless chase and its insufferable loneliness?

Koertge, Ron. (1992). *The Harmony Arms*. Little.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Humorous

Gabriel and his father, Summer--a children's book author--have left their quiet Midwestern hometown to spend the summer in Los Angeles. While Summer meets with the Hollywood bigshots who want to make his character Timothy the Otter a household name, Gabriel explores the city with his new friend Tess and makes the acquaintance of his relentlessly zany new neighbors. By summer's end Gabriel has embarked on his first romance and confronted death for the first time. In addition, the big city's freewheeling ambience has allowed him to put his father's often grating eccentricity into perspective--a remarkable achievement indeed.

Lasky, Kathryn. (1983). *Beyond the Divide*. Macmillan.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical Fiction

Set in 1849, Will Simon has been shunned by his Amish community and is planning to go to California. His daughter Meribah travels with him and this is her story on the trip on the emigrant trail during the Gold Rush. They join a company and Meribah becomes friends with a rich girl name Serena Billings.

Lawrence, Iain. (1999). *The Smugglers*. Delacorte.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Adventure

"Steer clear of that ship," warns the mysterious gentleman who shares a coach with John and his father. "Death she'll bring you," says the man. "It's the way of a ship that was christened with blood." This is an ominous introduction to the schooner John is about to be entrusted with for a voyage to London. But he's too charmed by the pretty *Dragon* to heed the advice. The ship looks clever and quick, and John can hardly wait to sail her. She was a smugglers' vessel once, but now she's his *Dragon*, and she'll proudly carry wool for honest trade. But soon John will be forced to consider the gentleman's warning. And to wonder what he really knows about his bonny crew.

Lawrence, Iain. (1998). *The Wreckers*. Delacorte.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical, Adventure

There was once a village bred by evil. On the barren coast of Cornwall, England, lived a community who prayed for shipwrecks, a community who lured storm-tossed ships to crash upon the sharp rocks of their shore. They fed and clothed themselves with the loot salvaged from the wreckage; dead sailors' tools and trinkets became decorations for their homes. Most never questioned their murderous way of life. Then, upon that pirates' shore crashed the ship *The Isle of Skye*. And the youngest of its crew members, 14-year-old John Spencer, survived the wreck. But would he escape the wreckers? This is his harrowing tale.

Le Guin, Ursula K. (1980). *The Beginning Place*. HarperCollins.

Age: Early 20's

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Fantasy

Fleeing from the monotony of his life, Hugh Rogers finds his way to "the beginning place"--a gateway to Tembreabrezi, an idyllic, unchanging world of eternal twilight. Irena Pannis was thirteen when she first found the beginning place. Now, seven years later, she has grown to know and love the gentle inhabitants of Tembreabrezi, or Mountaintown, and she sees Hugh as a trespasser. But then a monstrous shadow threatens to destroy Mountaintown, and Hugh and Irena join forces to seek it out. Along the way, they begin to fall in love. Are they on their way to a new beginning...or a fateful end?

Levine, Gail Carson. (1997). *Ella Enchanted*. HarperCollins.

Age: 12

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Cinderella Parody

At her birth, Ella of Frell was the unfortunate recipient of a foolish fairy's gift--the "gift" of obedience. Ella must obey any order given to her, whether it's hopping on one foot for a day and a half, or chopping off her own head! But strong-willed Ella does not tamely accept her fate. Against a bold backdrop of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella goes on a quest to break the curse--once and for all. Ella soon realizes that this gift is little better than a curse, for how can she truly be herself if at anytime anyone can order her to hop on one foot, or cut off her hand, or betray her kingdom and she'll have to obey? Against a bold tapestry of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella's quest to break the curse once and for all and discover who she really is.

Lipstye, Robert. (1977). *One Fat Summer*. HarperCollins.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

For Bobby Marks, summer does not equal fun. While most people are happy to take off their heavy jackets and long pants, Bobby can't even button his jeans or reach over his belly to touch his toes. Spending the summer at Rumson Lake is sheer torture. This particular summer promises to be worse than usual. His parents can't stop fighting. His best friend, Joanie, goes home to New York City and won't tell him why. Dr. Kahn, a rich, stingy estate owner who hires him to manage an enormous lawn, is working him to death. And to top it off, a local bully won't stop torturing him. Bobby is about to find out just how terrifying and exhilarating one fat summer can be.

Lipstye, Robert. (1991). *The Brave*. HarperCollins.

Age: 18

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Sports

Sonny's been an outsider all his life. He has never fit into either world: the Moscondagas on the Reservation see him as white; whites see him as Indian. So far, Sonny's managed to harness his anger -- what he calls "the monster" -- in the boxing ring. But Sonny wants out of the Res. He's headed for New York City, where nobody can tell him what to do. Sonny doesn't count on stepping into the middle of a

drug war when he gets there -- or on tangling with a tough Harlem boxer-turned-cop named Alfred Brooks. Brooks seems to think that Sonny's got the talent to make it to the top -- to be a contender. But first Sonny's got to learn to be smart, take control of his life, and beat the monster. Only it isn't as easy as it sounds.

Lipstye, Robert. (1967). *The Contender*. HarperCollins.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Alfred Brooks is scared. He's a high school dropout and his grocery store job is leading nowhere. His best friend is sinking further and further into drug addiction. Some street kids are after him for something he didn't even do. So Alfred begins going to Donatelli's Gym, a boxing club in Harlem that has trained champions. There he learns it's the effort, not the win, that makes the man -- that last desperate struggle to get back on your feet when you thought you were down for the count.

Lowry, Lois. (1993). *The Giver*. Houghton Mifflin.

Age: 11

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Science Fiction

In a society formed around the idea of "sameness", a boy is raised to obey strict daily rules, which eliminate any type of individual thought. The society is structured so that the "pains" of life experience are nonexistent and unknown. Unfortunately, to eliminate the pain in life, the society leaders must make all the choices for all people, thus eliminating the possibility of incorrect, and possibly painful, decisions. Individuality and freedom of choice are unknown in this society, but completely unmissed. When Jonas reaches the age of twelve, he is given his life assignment. He is to be the receiver of all the memories of the past. In order to ensure that the community does not have to face emotions and pain that they have never encountered, the receiver must hold all the memories of past generations in his own mind. While uncovering the memories of the past he discovers the way the society deals with individuals who do not fit the dictated normalcy. Euthanasia becomes an understood evil to Jonas only after receiving memories of pain, both mental and physical. In order to stop the killing of innocent children and the elderly, Jonas must make the rest of society understand basic human emotions. To accomplish this, Jonas must leave the community and allow his received memories to become accessible to the rest of the society.

Lynch, Chris. (1994). *Iceman*. HarperCollins.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Sports

Eric still loves his parents (his older, rebellious brother, Duane, seems to have given up), but Eric knows they are incapable of giving him the warmth and honest emotion he seeks. So emotionally fragile he hates to be physically touched, Eric slams out his anger and suffering in the hockey rink, where he's the Iceman, "the animal," so out of control even his own teammates shun him. Only time spent at the local mortuary--sitting in coffins and spying on mourners with McLaughlin, the taciturn recluse who works there--gives him some measure of comfort. But in this totally unpredictable novel, nothing is what it seems. Eric's salvation doesn't come from death. It comes from a Canadian hockey player who makes Eric face up to his feelings about the game; from Duane, who turns out to be a surprisingly wise brother-best friend; and, inadvertently, from McLaughlin, whom (in a discreetly handled but shocking scene) Eric finds sleeping entwined with a corpse. Much better than the usual sports novel, this is an unsettling, complicated portrayal of growing up in a dysfunctional family.

Lynch, Chris. (1993). *Shadow Boxer*. HarperCollins.

Age: Young Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Sports

The shadow of their deceased father, a boxer, provides a background for 14-year-old George and his younger, hyperactive brother, Monty. They move through an adult world together--though apart spiritually--and their bond is tenuous until the novel's conclusion. Though he tends a bit toward a Huck Finn evaluation of character types, referring to "The Head," "The Willies," "Baby Nat," narrator George is remarkably mature for a 14-year-old; Monty personifies the troubled kid, whose attempts at recognition discomfort others. The shadow of the father is finally dispelled by his friend and trainer, the quietly heroic Archie, but is only laid to rest by the final conflict between the sons.

Mahy, Margaret. (1988). *Memory*. Macmillan.

Age: 19

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Disability

On the fifth anniversary of his sister's death, nineteen-year-old Jonny Dart is still troubled by guilt and an imperfect memory of the accident that took her life. He goes searching for the only other witness to the fatal event, his sister's best friend. But instead of finding the answers he's looking for, he finds Sophie -- a gentle old woman suffering from Alzheimer's disease, who teaches him about remembering and about loss.

Mahy, Margaret. (1986). *The Catalogue of the Universe*. Macmillan.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Both Angela and Tycho had romantic notions: she about her unknown father, whom her mother had never married, and he for beautiful, sensual Angela. As Angela locates her father and plots a course to make him discover her, she learns that commonsense is a neat, symmetrical, misleading circle whereas truth is slightly elliptical and wobbly. As short, homely, brilliant Tycho contemplates the stars and planets to understand his family problems and hopeless love, Angela's confrontation with her father precipitates the emotional trauma of rejection. Through this turmoil, she recognizes her romantic feelings for Tycho, and the two have their first sexual encounter.

Mahy, Margaret. (1984). *The Changeover: A Supernatural Romance*. Macmillan.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Fantasy

It takes place in New Zealand, in a single-parent home. Laura Chant lives with her divorced mother, and her toddler brother. Nothing is entirely reliable in Laura's world, certainly not her slightly flaky mother, their extremely flaky car, and especially the surrounding landscape, being transformed from forest and farm into a new subdivision. Chant, perfectly named, can sense things that others can't. She can sense that her brother's rapid descent into illness is supernatural, and that it is linked to the boy's unfortunate contact with the also perfectly named Carmody Braque. She also can sense that the mysterious prefect at her school, an older boy named Sorensen Carlisle, is a "witch" and that he may hold the only key to healing her brother. Sorry, as he's called, is one of those magnificent characters, the enigmatic boy who shows all the signs of being a proto-romance hero. But here, he's young, sly, and not above using his advantage over Laura.

Mahy, Margaret. (1987). *The Tricksters*. Macmillan.

Age: Mid-teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Occult

To most of the Hamilton family, the three young men who drop in on their holiday seem to be ordinary, although eccentric, visitors. To 17-year-old Ariadne (always called Harry), they are much more than that, perhaps ghosts, or even characters come alive from a story she is writing. Mahy has caught the essence of the adolescent's painful separateness; cut off from her childhood, Harry stands alone in her family.

Whatever they are, the Tricksters act as a catalyst, drawing Harry out of childhood and causing her to raise the family's tensions and reveal their secrets.

Marsden, John. (1994). *Letters From the Inside*. Houghton Mifflin.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Through the mail, Mandy and Tracey become fast friends. They share news about their boyfriends, their siblings, and their pets. They trade stories about school and home. They confide their every hope and fear. Or do they? What are the secrets hidden between the lines of their cheerful letters?

Mason, Bobbie Ann. (1985). *In Country*. HarperCollins.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Sam Hughes, whose father was killed in Vietnam, lives in rural Kentucky with her uncle Emmett, a veteran whom she suspects is suffering from exposure to Agent Orange. Sam is a typical teenager, trying to choose a college, anticipating a new job at the local Burger Boy, sharing intimacies with her friend Dawn, breaking up with her high school boyfriend, and dealing with her feelings for Tom, one of Emmett's buddies. Sam feels that her life is bound to the war in Vietnam and becomes obsessed with the idea because of the reluctance of her family and Tom to talk about it. Her father's diary finally provides the insight she seeks insight she cannot accept until she has visited the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Matas, Carol. (1996). *After the War*. Simon & Schuster.

Age: 15

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical, Realistic

"Didn't the gas ovens finish you all off?" is the response that meets Ruth Mendenberg when she returns to her village in Poland after the liberation of Buchenwald at the end of World War II. Her entire family wiped out in the Holocaust, the fifteen-year-old girl has nowhere to go. Members of the underground organization *Brichah* find her, and she joins them in their dangerous quest to smuggle illegal immigrants to Palestine. Ruth risks her life to help lead a group of children on a daring journey over half a continent and across the sea to Eretz Israel, using secret routes and forged documents -- and sheer force of will.

Mathis, Sharon Bell. (1972). *A Teacup Full of Roses*. Viking.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Drugs

Joe's decision to leave home is prompted by despair over his Mother's blindness to his younger brother's talents and his older brother's drug addiction.

Mazer, Harry. (1979). *The Last Mission*. Delacorte.

Age: Late Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

This book deals with a young man's struggle to find himself in a chaotic world. As WWII rages across Europe, Jack Raab leaves home in an attempt to make himself a hero. His dreams of extinguishing Hitler's domination over the world lead him to take drastic and foolish measures. Since he is not of legal age required to join the military, he uses his wits in an attempt to fulfill his dream. His intense passion leads him away from everything familiar to him, his home, his family, and his childhood. After successfully joining the Air Corps, Jack and his crew are trained to run bombing missions over various parts of Europe. However, twenty-four missions in, Jack's dreams go terribly wrong. His plane is shot down by enemy fire, and only he and one other man survive. He witnesses the only family he now knows perish, along with his visions of being a hero. It is Jack that will need to be rescued. German POW camp

makes Jack realize how foolish his actions truly were. Luckily, the war ends and Jack is returned to the U.S. No longer caring to be a hero, Jack reveals his secret lie in an attempt to be discharged from the military. Jack is willing to face court-martial, in hopes of once again standing face-to-face with his family. After so much pain and so much suffering, he is finally returned home to his family and regarded as a hero.

Mazer, Norma Fox. (1987). *After the Rain. Morrow.*

Age: Mid-teens Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Death

At fifteen, Rachel is a worrier. She worries about whether her family understands her, whether her friends like her, and whether she'll get her first kiss before she turns sixteen. And she worries about whether she can handle having a real boyfriend if he does come along. But it takes a dying old man -- her grandfather -- who has never been easy for anyone to handle, to show Rachel she has very special abilities. With love and compassion, she reaches the heart of an old tyrant who has always been unreachable. And in so doing, she comes to a better understanding of her family, her friends, and herself.

Mazer, Norma Fox. (1984). *Downtown. Morrow.*

Age: Young Teens Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic

My name is Pete Connors and I've been leading a double life for eight years. I live with my uncle and tell people my parents are dead... but it's a lie. My whole life is a lie, because I could never risk telling anyone the truth. Now I've met Cary. She's someone I can really talk to. Someone I want to share my whole life with. But now I have a choice. Do I continue the lie... or tell Cary the truth... and risk losing her?

Mazer, Norma Fox. (1997). *When She Was Good. Scholastic.*

Age: Early 20's Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Mental Health

For the first fourteen years of her life Em was suffering her father's alcoholic rages and her mother's silent depression. Then the next three years were spent trapped with her abusive older sister Pamela. Now Pamela is dead and Em is alone at last. But is she safe yet?

McCaffrey, Anne. (1977). *Dragonsinger. Atheneum.*

Age: Teens Protagonist: Female

Genre: Fantasy

Menolly, as the only female harper apprentice, she struggles to fit in, making both friends and enemies. Under the wise guidance of her beloved Master Robinton, she comes to realize what great talent she has, and comes to believe in herself. She blossoms into a confident young woman, secure in her musical talent and her value, ready to take the next step and become a Journeywoman.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. (2002). *The Kite Rider. Harper Collins.*

Age: Young Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical

Twelve-year-old Haoyou watches in horror as his father dies as a result of being sent aloft tied to the mast as a "wind tester" to predict the success of a ship's voyage. When Di Chou, the ship's brutal first mate, who ordered the wind test, plans to marry Haoyou's newly widowed mother, the boy, with the help of Mipeng, a distant cousin, takes action. To prevent the wedding, he signs a very drunk Di Chou aboard a different ship and volunteers himself as the new wind tester so the ship can leave before the first mate comes to his senses. Haoyou's exploit leads to his becoming a kite rider for a traveling circus. Mipeng, who is considered to be a medium, helps Haoyou by serving as his link to the sky spirits. The story is a genuine page-turner, with the tension increasing after the circus performs for the capricious Kublai Khan

and when Di Chou comes back into the picture. McCaughrean fully immerses her memorable characters in the culture and lore of the ancient Chinese and Mongols, which make this not only a solid adventure story but also a window to a fascinating time and place rarely used as a background in children's fiction.

McKinley, Robin. (1978). *Beauty: A Retelling of the story the Beauty and the Beast*. HarperCollins.
Age: Teens Protagonist: Female Genre: Fantasy

This much-loved retelling of the classic French tale *Beauty and the Beast* elicits the familiar magical charm, but is more believable and complex than the traditional story. In this version, Beauty is not as beautiful as her older sisters, who are both lovely and kind. Here, in fact, Beauty has no confidence in her appearance but takes pride in her own intelligence, her love of learning and books, and her talent in riding. She is the most competent of the three sisters, which proves essential when they are forced to retire to the country because of their father's financial ruin. The plot follows that of the renowned legend: Beauty selflessly agrees to inhabit the Beast's castle to spare her father's life. Beauty's gradual acceptance of the Beast and the couple's deepening trust and affection are amplified in novel form. Robin McKinley's writing has the flavor of another century, and Beauty heightens the authenticity as a reliable and competent narrator.

McKinley, Robin. (1982). *The Blue Sword*. GreenWillow.
Age: Late Teens Protagonist: Female Genre: Fantasy

This is the story of Corlath, golden-eyed king of the Free Hillfolk, son of the sons of the Lady Aerin. And this is the story of Haryy Crewe, the Homelander orphan girl who became Harimad-sol, King's Rider, and heir to the Blue Sword, Gonturan, that no woman had wielded since the Lady Aerin herself bore into battle. And this is the song of the kellar of the Hillfolk, the magic of the blood, the weaver of destinies.

Morpurgo, Michael. (1995). *The War of Jenkins' Ear*. Philomel.
Age: 14 Protagonist: Male Genre: Realistic, Religious

What would happen if Jesus came back as a British schoolboy? It is the 1952 autumn term at England's Redlands Prep, and Toby Jenkins is back at a school he loathes. But Toby's feelings change with the arrival of Christopher, a new student who is not like other boys. Christopher is immediately noticed by the school when he stands up to the unreasonable demands of the headmaster; then a war breaks out between the prep boy "toffs" and the village "oiks," and Christopher's role as a peacemaker has a sacred aura about it. It comes almost as no surprise to Toby when Christopher confesses that he hears voices and that those voices have told him he is Jesus incarnate. Toby asks for a sign, and signs are granted. In an amazing scene, Toby, because he feels Christopher is with him, is able to calm a bull the oiks have let into a field to harm the schoolboys. But faith is difficult to sustain, especially in the face of the powers that be, and when Christopher is expelled by a furious headmaster, Toby, to his later desolation, betrays him. Morpurgo's reach is long, but he succeeds at almost every level.

Moser, Richard. (2001). *Zazoo*. Houghton Mifflin.
Age: 13 Protagonist: Female Genre: Realistic

Zazoo, almost 14, lives with her adoptive grandfather, who brought her from Vietnam to his village in France when she was just two years old. They have many things in common, including a love of poetry—and a tangled history that Zazoo is only now beginning to understand. She has always known that Grand-Pierre was involved in World War II, but not what that meant, and she never imagined that he had fought in Vietnam. A boy who rides his bicycle into her village one morning asks a question from which many stories begin to unfold. The bicycle boy, Marius, and the middle-aged local pharmacist turn out to

have surprising connections with Zazoo and Grand-Pierre. With the help of new and old friends, Zazoo makes the bittersweet discovery that the past isn't over, but that it informs and colors the present and the future. Richly textured and beautifully written, Zazoo is an unusual and engrossing novel.

Myers, Walter Dean. (1988). *Fallen Angels*. Scholastic.

Age: Older Teens Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service when his dream of attending college falls through. Sent to the front lines, Perry and his platoon come face-to-face with the Vietcong and the real horror of warfare. But violence and death aren't the only hardships. As Perry struggles to find virtue in himself and his comrades, he questions why black troops are given the most dangerous assignments, and why the U.S. is there at all.

Myers, Walter Dean. (1988). *Scorpions*. HarperCollins.

Age: Teens Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Crime

Jamal, who is pressured to become leader of the Scorpions gang, worries about school, family, and the rough kids on the street. When a fellow gang member gives him a gun, Jamal suddenly gains a new level of respect from his enemies. A realistic look at a boy who wants to do the right thing but gets caught up in the culture of violence.

Myers, Walter Dean. (1992). *Somewhere in the Darkness*. Scholastic.

Age: 14 Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Family

Jimmy hasn't seen his father in nine years. But one day he comes back -- on the run from the law. Together, the two of them travel across the country -- where Jimmy's dad will find the man who can exonerate him of the crime for which he was convicted. Along the way, Jimmy discovers a lot about his father and himself -- and that while things can't always be fixed, sometimes they can be understood and forgiven.

Myers, Walter Dean. (1999). *Monster*. HarperCollins.

Age: 16 Protagonist: Male

Genre: Problem

"Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? In this innovative novel by Walter Dean Myers, the reader becomes both juror and witness during the trial of Steve's life. To calm his nerves as he sits in the courtroom, aspiring filmmaker Steve chronicles the proceedings in movie script format. Interspersed throughout his screenplay are journal writings that provide insight into Steve's life before the murder and his feelings about being held in prison during the trial. "They take away your shoelaces and your belt so you can't kill yourself no matter how bad it is. I guess making you live is part of the punishment."

Na, An. (2001). *A Step From Heaven*. Front Street.

Age: 17 Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

When she is five, Young Ju Park and her family move from Korea to California. During the flight, they climb so far into the sky she concludes they are on their way to Heaven, that Heaven must be in America. Heaven is also where her grandfather is. When she learns the distinction, she is so disappointed she wants to go home to her grandmother. Trying to console his niece, Uncle Tim suggests that maybe America can

be "a step from Heaven." Life in America, however, presents problems for Young Ju's family. Her father becomes depressed, angry, and violent. Jobs are scarce and money is even scarcer. When her brother is born, Young Ju experiences firsthand her father's sexism as he confers favored status upon the boy who will continue to carry the Park name. In a wrenching climactic scene, her father beats her mother so severely that Young Ju calls the police. Soon afterward, her father goes away and the family begins to heal.

Nolan, Han. (1997). *Dancing on the Edge*. Realistic.

Age: 12

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Miracle McCloy is the child of a talented dancer, who died in childbirth, and a brilliant, reclusive novelist. Raised by her grandmother Gigi, a psychic, Miracle becomes a dancer herself, and a loner who believes in mystical spirits and auras. Then her father disappears. When no one can give an explanation, or even a version of the truth, Miracle becomes obsessed with contacting him and bringing him back. As she loses herself in her quest, she loses her self—and, in a last, desperate attempt sends her life up in flames.

Oates, Joyce Carol. (2002). *Big Mouth and Ugly Girl*. Harper Collins.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Problem, Romance

Matt Donaghy's big mouth gets him a three-day suspension when "unnamed witnesses" allege that the Rocky River High School junior has threatened to bomb the school if his play isn't accepted for the Spring Arts Festival. Fortunately, his classmate Ursula Rigg, who calls herself "Ugly Girl," heard what he really said, and despite her parents' reservations, demonstrates the courage to come to his defense. An awkward friendship between the two self-styled misfits begins to develop but is threatened when Matt's parents sue the school system for slander. Oates' first young adult novel is a thought-provoking, character-driven drama about the climate of hysteria created by school violence in America, and how two teenagers find the courage to fight it and to find themselves in the process. Ursula, who tells her part of the story in an edgy, often angry first-person voice, appears at first to be the more interesting character, but Matt, whose story unfolds in the third person, gradually emerges as a sweetly engaging, multidimensional character in his own right. His aching loneliness will break readers' hearts.

O'Brien, Robert C. *Z for Zachariah*. Atheneum.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Science Fiction

Nuclear holocaust has destroyed civilization. Ann Burden believes she is the last person alive until she finds another survivor. She discovers there are worse things than being alone.

Oneal, Zibby. (1982). *A Formal Feeling*. Viking.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Death

Returning home for Christmas vacation, 16-year-old Anne Cameron must finally come to terms with her grief over her mother's death and has difficulty accepting her new stepmother's presence in the house that holds so many memories of her dead mother.

Orlev, Uri. (1991). *The Man From the Other Side*. Houghton Mifflin.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical

The true story of a teenager's experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, as he discovers his own heritage and finds himself caught up in the war through underground dealings.

Paterson, Katherine. (1980). *Jacob Have I Loved*. Crowell.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Family

Sara Louise Bradshaw knows that she should be proud of her beautiful twin Caroline. But how can she? Ever since they were born, Caroline has done nothing but take from Louise: their parents' love, Louise's hopes for an education, even her best—and only—friend. For once in her life, Louise wants to experience the kind of happiness that has always come so easily to Caroline. But in order to do that, she must first figure out who she is. And then she must make a place for herself outside of her sister's shadow.

Patterson, Katherine. (1996). *Jip: His Story*. Lodestar.

Age: 11

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical, Realistic

After tumbling off the back of a wagon, Jip was brought to live at the town poor farm. He has been content to do chores and tend animals -- until the day the lunatic arrives. Put seems terrifying and less than human, but as the weeks pass, Jip sees the man he truly is. So, when a menacing stranger comes to town, claiming to have been sent by Jip's grieving father, Jip turns to his new friend to make sense of his past.

Patterson, Katherine. (1991). *Lyddie*. Lodestar.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical

When ten-year-old Lyddie and her younger brother are hired out as servants to help pay off their family farm's debts, Lyddie is determined to find a way to reunite her family. A story of determination and personal growth, *Lyddie* has already established itself as a classic.

Paulsen, Gary. (1985). *Dogsong*. Bradbury.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Adventure, Occult

Something is bothering Russel Susskit. He hates waking up to the sound of his father's coughing, the smell of diesel oil, the noise of snow machines starting up. Only Oogruk, the shaman who owns the last team of dogs in the village, understands Russel's longing for the old ways and the songs that celebrated them. But Oogruk cannot give Russel the answers he seeks; the old man can only prepare him for what he must do alone. Driven by a strange, powerful dream of a long-ago self and by a burning desire to find his own song, Russel takes Oogruk's dogs on an epic journey of self-discovery that will change his life forever.

Paulsen, Gary. (1987). *Hatchet*. Bradbury.

Age: 12

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Adventure, Survival

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother has given him as a present -- and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart ever since his parents' divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self-pity, or despair -- it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

Paulsen, Gary. (1993). *Harris and Me*. Harcourt Brace.

Age: Young Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Humorous

This summer will be different. That's for sure. When an eleven-year-old city boy is dropped off to stay on a farm with relatives, he doesn't know what to expect. His cousin Harris soon takes care of that. Harris is rude and crude and finds trouble at every turn. He leads his city cousin into everything from wrestling slippery pigs to catching mice to a daredevil jump out of a barn loft. And that's not all. There are swimming and cowboy movies and enough good food to fill the boys up for days. Farm life is hard but never lonely. Before long, Harris's cousin has found a place where he belongs. If only summer could last forever.

Paulsen, Gary. (1998). *Soldier's Heart*. Delacorte.

Age: 15

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical

Gary Paulsen introduces readers to Charley Goddard in his latest novel, *Soldier's Heart*. Charley goes to war a boy, and returns a changed man, crippled by what he has seen. In this captivating tale Paulsen vividly shows readers the turmoil of war through one boy's eyes and one boy's heart, and gives a voice to all the anonymous young men who fought in the Civil War.

Paulsen, Gary. (2000). *The Beet Fields: Memories of a 16th Summer*. Delacorte.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic Memoir

For a 16-year-old boy out in the world alone for the first time, every day's an education in the hard work and boredom of migrant labor; every day teaches him something more about friendship, or hunger, or profanity, or lust—always lust. He learns how a poker game, or hitching a ride, can turn deadly. He discovers the secret sadness and generosity to be found on a lonely farm in the middle of nowhere. Then he joins up with a carnival and becomes a grunt, running a ride and shilling for the geek show. He's living the hard carny life and beginning to see the world through carny eyes. He's tough. Cynical. By the end of the summer he's pretty sure he knows it all. Until he meets Ruby.

Peck, Robert Newton. (1973). *A Day No Pigs Would Die*. Knopf.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical

To a thirteen-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns "doing what's got to be done," especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.

Peck, Richard. (2000). *A Year Down Yonder*. Dial.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical, Realism

Mary Alice's childhood summers in Grandma Dowdel's sleepy Illinois town were packed with enough drama to fill the double bill of any picture show. But now she is fifteen, and faces a whole long year with Grandma, a woman well known for shaking up her neighbors-and everyone else! All Mary Alice can know for certain is this: when trying to predict how life with Grandma might turn out . . . better not. This wry, delightful sequel to the Newbery Honor Book *A Long Way from Chicago* has already taken its place among the classics of children's literature.

Peck, Richard. (1976). *Are You in the House Alone?* Viking.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Rape

"Forget it," Alison counseled. "It never happened." But it was happening. The obscene notes. "Stop reading that garbage!" Alison shrieked and grabbed the neatly lettered page from Gail's frozen hands. And whenever Gail was alone, the phone rang and went dead as soon as she answered it. As her world shaded into a nightmare, Gail, surrounded by friends, family, and teachers, found herself utterly alone. Then one

evening her nightmare became fact when she learned an even more tragic truth; in spite of violence and degradation, she was still alone, the victim of a crime that punished the innocent and let the criminal go free.

Peck, Richard. (1985). *Remembering the Good Times*. Delacorte.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Suicide

Trav, Kate, and Buck make up a trio during their freshman year in high school, but their special friendship may not be enough to save Trav as he pressures himself relentlessly to succeed, in his own eyes as well as in the eyes of his parents and the world.

Peck, Richard. (2003). *The River Between Us*. Dial.

Age: Older Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Older Teens

At the start of the Civil War two mysterious young women get off a boat in a small town in southern Illinois, and 15-year-old Tilly Pruitt's mother takes them in. Who are they? Is the darker-complexioned woman the other woman's slave? Tilly's twin brother, Noah, falls in love with one of them--rich, stylish, worldly Delphine, who shows Tilly a world of possibilities beyond her home. When Noah runs away to war, Tilly and Delphine go after him, find him in the horror of an army tent hospital, and bring him back; but their world is changed forever. True to Tilly's first-person narrative, only the character of Delphine's companion, Calinda, comes close to stereotype. It's a riveting story that shows racism everywhere and young people facing war, not sure what side to be on or why.

Plath, Sylvia. (1971). *The Bell Jar*. HarperCollins.

Age: 19

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Suicide

The Bell Jar tells the story of a gifted young woman's mental breakdown beginning during a summer internship as a junior editor at a magazine in New York City in the early 1950s. The real Plath committed suicide in 1963 and left behind this scathingly sad, honest and perfectly-written book, which remains one of the best-told tales of a woman's descent into insanity.

Potok, Chaim. (1972). *My Name Is Asher Lev*. Knopf.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Family

Asher Lev is a Ladover Hasid who keeps kosher, prays three times a day and believes in the Ribbono Shel Olom, the Master of the Universe. Asher Lev is an artist who is compulsively driven to render the world he sees and feels even when it leads him to blasphemy. In this stirring and often visionary novel, Chaim Potok traces Asher's passage between these two identities, the one consecrated to God, the other subject only to the imagination. Asher Lev grows up in a cloistered Hasidic community in postwar Brooklyn, a world suffused by ritual and revolving around a charismatic Rebbe. But in time his gift threatens to estrange him from that world and the parents he adores. As it follows his struggle, My Name Is Asher Lev becomes a luminous portrait of the artist, by turns heartbreaking and exultant, a modern classic.

Potok, Chaim. (1967). *The Chosen*. Simon & Schuster.

Age: Teen

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

It is the now-classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever

considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again....

Pullman, Philip. (1998). *Clockwork: Or All Wound Up*. Scholastic.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Fantasy, Sci-Fi

Set many years ago in Germany, Frits, a storyteller, is about to tell his latest spooky story to a roomful of men at an inn. The frightening story about a king with a heart made of clockworks becomes horrifyingly real when a hooded, menacing figure from the tale, the mad doctor Kalmenius, enters the inn. The young man brings evil into his world when he takes possession of a mechanical knight who wields his sword with impunity, eventually slaying the apprentice. Yet it is the power of love that wins out when a young girl is able to bring to life a mechanical boy, who has also wandered into the inn from Fritz's story.

Pullman, Phillip. (2000). *The Amber Spyglass*. Knopf.

Age: Young Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Fantasy/Myth, Sci-Fi

This book starts where *The Subtle Knife* (Knopf, 1997) left off. Lyra has been hidden away by her mother, and Will is determined to find her. Meanwhile, Lord Asriel is preparing to fight the forces of the Church's Consistorial Court, as well as the God-like Authority's Lieutenant, Metatron, who hungers for ultimate power over all worlds. At the heart of this discord is Dust, the mysterious substance that is linked irrevocably to consciousness; it is streaming away at an increasing rate, causing havoc in its wake. It is Lyra and Will's destiny to determine the outcome of this situation. Knowledge of the previous books is an absolute necessity in order to understand this one. Even so, it will take dedication and passion to unwind the extremely convoluted plot with its numerous characters. Lyra and Will are as noble, grand, and yet as utterly believable as any characters in children's literature, and they are surrounded by a host of memorable personages. The many facets of the story are so encrusted with tiny and arcane details that the narrative occasionally slows down, and the transitions between worlds and plot lines are often hard to follow. Organized religion is portrayed bleakly; the Church is essentially a dictatorship and the afterlife is a "concentration camp" world set up by the Authority. However, the message of the book remains clear and exhilarating; it is vital to use wisely the divine gifts of consciousness and free will.

Pullman, Phillip. (1996). *The Golden Compass*. Knopf.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Fantasy, SciFi

Here lives an orphaned ward named Lyra Belacqua, whose carefree life among the scholars at Oxford's Jordan College is shattered by the arrival of two powerful visitors. First, her fearsome uncle, Lord Asriel, appears with evidence of mystery and danger in the far North, including photographs of a mysterious celestial phenomenon called Dust and the dim outline of a city suspended in the Aurora Borealis that he suspects is part of an alternate universe. He leaves Lyra in the care of Mrs. Coulter, an enigmatic scholar and explorer who offers to give Lyra the attention her uncle has long refused her. In this multilayered narrative, however, *nothing* is as it seems. Lyra sets out for the top of the world in search of her kidnapped playmate, Roger, bearing a rare truth-telling instrument, the compass of the title. All around her children are disappearing—victims of so-called "Gobblers"—and being used as subjects in terrible experiments that separate humans from their daemons, creatures that reflect each person's inner being. And somehow, both Lord Asriel and Mrs. Coulter are involved.

Rylant, Cynthia. (1988). *A Kindness*. Orchard.

Age: 15

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Family

Chip, 15, has always lived alone with his mother; he doesn't know his father, who left when Chip was a baby. His mother, Anne, an artist, is rather vague about practical matters, and Chip is responsible for handling the finances and running their everyday affairs. But the closeness between them is destroyed when his mother becomes pregnant. Chip is not only angry with his mother for letting this happen, he is also furious that he can't make her do he wants, which is for her to have an abortion. He is forced to deal with that, and with his own possessiveness.

Rylant, Cynthia. (1992). *Missing May*. Orchard.

Age: Mixed

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Death

This wonderful book revolves around a few delightfully named characters: Summer, Uncle Ob, Aunt May and Cletus Underwood. After being passed among relatives, Summer joins her aunt and uncle and marvels at the couple's deep love for one another. But after Aunt May dies, Summer and Uncle Ob are brought together in their struggles to come to terms with the death. Cletus, a neighbor boy, comes along to help provide an answer.

Salisbury, Graham. (2001). *Lord of the Deep*. Delacorte.

Age: 13

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Fishing. This is it, the big time. Mikey's 13, a deckhand working on a charter boat in Hawaii. Working for the best skipper anywhere, his stepdad, Bill. Before Bill came along, it was just Mikey and his mom. Now they're a real family, and Mikey has a little brother. He can't believe how lucky he is. And now he's learning from the best, even though he's only 13. Because Bill believes in him. And Mikey won't let him down. He loves fishing and being out on the boat. But some seas, some fish, and some charter clients are a lot tougher to handle than Mikey ever imagined. Take Ernie and Cal-they chartered Bill's boat for three days and they're out for the adventure of their lives. Now it's up to Mikey and Bill to deliver it.

Sacher, Lois. (1998). *Holes*. FS&G.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Fanciful, Adventure

When Stanley Yelnats is sent to a boys' detention center after being falsely accused of stealing a pair of famous sneakers, his life is profoundly changed forever. At Camp Greenlake which is located at the site of a barren Texas lakebed, Stanley and the other detainees dig holes day after day to "... build character." However, Stanley soon learns that their labor has nothing to do with rehabilitating themselves and building character. Rather, they were being used by the administrators to "... definitely look for something." Through a series of flashbacks, readers learn about Stanley's family misfortunes of his "no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather" spanning over a hundred years, Zero's curious heritage, and the legend of the infamous "Kissing Kate Barlow." These intertwined stories come full circle at this horrible camp run by ruthless administrators. The story is humorous and tragic; in the end, Stanley and Zero find peace.

Sebestyen, Ouida. (1979). *Words by Heart*. Little, Brown.

Age: Young Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Lena can recite the Scriptures by heart. Hoping to make her adored Papa proud of her and to make her white classmates notice her "Magic Mind," not her black skin, Lena vows to win the Bible-quoting contest. But winning does not bring Lena what she expected. Instead of honor, violence and death erupt and strike the one she loves most dearly. Lena, who has believed in vengeance, must now learn how to forgive.

Sleator, William. (1974). *House of Stairs*. Dutton.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Science Fiction

One by one, five sixteen-year-old orphans are brought to a strange building. It is not a prison, not a hospital; it has no walls, no ceiling, no floor. Nothing but endless flights of stairs leading nowhere—except back to a strange red machine. The five must learn to love the machine and let it rule their lives. But will they let it kill their souls? This chilling, suspenseful indictment of mind control is a classic of science fiction and will haunt readers long after the last page is turned.

Sleator, William. (1984). *Interstellar Pig*. Dutton.

Age: 16

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Science Fiction

It looks like another dull summer at the beach for Barney—until he learns the chilling history of the house his family's renting. And the people next door are just as curious about it as he is. At first, Barney is flattered that Zena, Manny, and Joe want to spend so much time with him, and he's eager to join them in their favorite board game, *Interstellar Pig*, where rival aliens stop at nothing to destroy every other creature in the universe. Soon he's addicted—but gradually he becomes suspicious. There's something truly weird about Zena, Manny and Joe. They seem virtually obsessed with Barney's house. Are they thieves? Con artists? Or something even more sinister?

Soto, Gary. (1997). *Buried Onions*. Harcourt Brace.

Age: 18

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

On the mean streets of southeast Fresno, nineteen-year-old Eddie is just trying to get by. All he wants is to forget his violent past, hold down a job, and walk a straight line. But after his cousin's murder, Eddie finds himself slowly but inexorably drawn back into the cycle of violence. Set against the backdrop of a city sweltering in the grip of poverty, crime, and unfulfilled dreams, this is the unforgettable story of a young man struggling to survive in a world spiraling out of control.

Staples, Suzanne Fischer. (1989). *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*. Knopf.

Age: 12

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Problem

When eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes.

Sutcliffe, Rosemary. (1990). *The Shining Company*. Farrar.

Age: Mixed

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical

Life is secure and peaceful for young Prosper, second son of Gerontius, until the day Prince Gorthyn arrives with his hunting party. Prosper's unusual daring in the hunt catches the prince's attention, and he promises to make Prosper his shield-bearer when he comes of age. Two years later, three hundred princes are summoned to the king's fortress at Dyn Eidin, where they will prepare to fight the Saxon forces which are gaining strength in the east. Prosper, with Conn, his bondservant, leaves his father's lands to join Gorthyn in the rigorous training for battle. With the coming of spring, word reaches the Three Hundred Companions that the Saxon leader has taken yet another kingdom. They set out at once for the Saxon stronghold of Catraeth, where Prosper must face the greatest challenges of his life.

Swarthout, Glendon. (1970). *Bless the Beasts and Children*. Doubleday.

Age: Early Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

The story of six socially awkward teenage males who end up sharing a cabin at Box Canyon Boys Camp one summer. The macho, competitive camp in Arizona tolerates no fools or losers, and its motto is, "We'll send you a cowboy." Not surprisingly, these socially awkward young men don't fit in. But they find some salvation through their leader, 15-year old John Cotton, a tough but decent young rebel. Cotton's qualities prove invaluable even before the six teens sneak out of camp one night on a law-breaking journey. Their goal is to rescue some doomed buffalo due to be shot in the morning by fee-paying hunters - animals that the young misfits identify with. Along the way the young men overcome challenges and risks with teamwork, a sign that Cotton's leadership has paid off.

Taylor, Mildred D. (1981). *Let the Circle be Unbroken*. Dial.

Age: Early Teens Protagonist: Female

Genre: Historical

For the Logan's, a black family living in rural Mississippi during the Depression, it is a frightening and turbulent time. First, their friend T.J. must go on trial for murder and confront an all white jury. Then cousin Suzella tries to pass for white, with humiliating consequences. And when Cassie's neighbor, Mrs. Lee Annie stands up for her right to vote, she and her family are driven from their home.

Taylor, Mildred. (2001). *The Land*. Phyllis Fogelman.

Age: YA+ Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical

Living in the South in the not-so-distant past, the Logans are the only black family to own farmland, while most of their black neighbors are sharecroppers on white-owned land. But where did this valuable legacy come from? The story begins with Paul-Edward Logan, grandfather of Cassie Logan, the beloved protagonist of Newbery Medal-winning *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Born during the Civil War, Paul-Edward is the son of a white plantation owner and a former slave. Though not an unusual heritage, his upbringing is. Paul-Edward's white father sees to it that he and his sister have many of the privileges their white half-brothers enjoy. But at fourteen, Paul-Edward runs away to seek his fortune. His story is filled with exciting, sometimes heart-breaking adventures, and what is most amazing, his dream of land-ownership, almost impossible for a black person to accomplish in the post-Civil War South, becomes reality. *The Land* is based on the experiences of the Taylor family, bringing historical truth and power to this awe-inspiring story.

Thomas, Rob. (1996). *Rats Saw God*. Simon & Schuster.

Age: 17 Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

Senior Steve York examines the past two years of his life and reflects on what he has learned. His parents are divorced and Steve blames his father, whom he refers to as "the astronaut". Steve finds it easier to blame his father, rather than except that his mother may have had an affair. The summer before his sophomore year, Steve moves with his father to Texas but not by his own choice. Sarah, Steve's sister, stays in San Diego with their mother. Steve does everything in his power not to live up to his father's expectations. During his sophomore year, Steve joins a club called the Grace Order of Dadaist, shortened to GOD. Doug founded the club. The club had no purpose, and Steve was pleased with how his father viewed it. The members of the club have many adventures and fun playing with the adults' minds. Wanda, called "Dub" joins the club and she and Steve begin dating. They lose their virginity to one another. After this, Dub decides that the relationship is too much to deal with and breaks Steve's heart. Steve can no longer face her, so he moves to California to live with his mother and Sarah. It is here that he gets involved in Marijuana use. Steve also meets Allison, a sweet girl who influences him in a positive way. In the end, Steve realizes that his father is not quite as bad as he thought and forgives him.

Trueman, Terry. (2000). *Stuck in Neutral*. HarperCollins.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Problem

Shawn McDaniel has cerebral palsy. With no control of physical functions, he appears to the outside world, including his family, to be hopelessly retarded—a "vegetable." Because he narrates the story, readers know that he is, in fact, a near genius, completely aware of his surroundings, and able to remember everything he has ever heard. He has a rich inner life, full of humor and insight, and is capable of the most normal feelings of a 14-year-old boy. Most of his day is spent in a wheelchair where he is attended to by his mother and older siblings. His father, an author and celebrity on the talk-show circuit, left the family because of Shawn and his problems, but maintains a relationship with him. Shawn suspects that his father, in order to end his perceived pain and suffering, is considering killing him. With this intriguing premise, Trueman presents readers with thought-provoking issues. The character of Shawn, compassionately drawn, will challenge them to look beyond people's surfaces. His struggle to be known, and ultimately loved, is vividly captured, and the issue of euthanasia is handled boldly but sensitively.

Velde, Vivian Vande. (1999). *Never Trust a Dead Man*. Harcourt.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Mystery, Supernatural

Selwyn is brokenhearted when the beautiful Anora chooses to marry the awful-but-rich Farold. It's bad enough when Farold beats him up in front of the villagers, but nothing prepares him for when Farold is found murdered. All accusing fingers point to Selwyn, who is promptly sealed in a burial cave with Farold's corpse. But they're not alone in the cave. A witch appears with an offer of escape if Selwyn will be her servant. The witch brings Farold back from the dead in the form of a bat—too bad he doesn't know who really killed him! There's no choice left for Selwyn except to join forces with his worst enemy, a dead man, to find the real murderer.

Voigt, Cynthia. (1983). *A Solitary Blue*. Atheneum.

Age: Early Teens

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

Jeff Greene was only seven when Melody, his mother, left him with his reserved, undemonstrative father, the Professor. So when she reenters his life years later with an invitation to spend the summer with her in Charleston, Jeff is captivated by her free spirit and warmth, and he eagerly looks forward to returning for another visit the following year. But Jeff's second summer in Charleston ends with a devastating betrayal, and he returns to his father wounded almost beyond bearing. But out of Jeff's pain grows a deepening awareness of the unexpected and complicated ways of love and loss and of family and friendship -- and the strength to understand his father, his mother, and especially himself.

Voigt, Cynthia. (1986). *Izzy, Willy-Nilly*. Atheneum.

Age: 15

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Disability

Izzy's never been one to complain. Izzy's the nice girl, from a family that believes good manners and a stiff upper lip are key to facing any situation. Even after a car accident leaves her disabled, she's determined not to show how much she's hurting. It takes Rosamunde, a girl who seems to care nothing about good manners, to forcibly disrupt Izzy's life and help her face her changed existence.

Voigt, Cynthia. (1987). *Sons From Afar*. Atheneum.

Age: Mid-teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

James and Sammy Tillerman are as different as two brothers can be. But when Jimmy seeks out their missing father, Sammy joins in. As they ask questions, and move closer to their quest, it is Sammy who grows more interested--until the questions lead the brothers to a seedy waterfront bar where violence erupts.

Voigt, Cynthia. (1994). *When She Hollers*. Scholastic.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic Abusive

It's the day that Tish decides that her stepfather will *never* touch her again. Voigt takes us inside Tish's terror and courage as she threatens her stepfather with a knife over breakfast and then makes her way to school. Calm and collected on the outside, Tish is bursting inside with fear and rage. How will she ever make it through the day? And what will happen when she gets home from school that day?

Wangerin Jr., Walter. (1978). *The Book of Dun Cow*. HarperCollins.

Age: Children

Protagonist: Animals

Genre: Animal, Fantasy, Religion

This fantasy concerns a time when the sun turned around the earth and animals could speak, when Chauntecleer the Rooster ruled over a more or less peaceful kingdom. What the animals did not know was that they were the Keeper of Wyrms, monster of Evil long imprisoned beneath the earth. And Wyrms, *sub terra*, was breaking free.

Werlin, Nancy. (1998). *The Killer's Cousin*. Delacorte.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Psychological Mystery

Recently acquitted of murder, 17-year-old David has moved to Massachusetts to complete his senior year of high school. His aunt and uncle have offered him shelter--escape from the media's questions and from the uncertain glances of his neighbors and ex-friends. His attic apartment doesn't feel much like a shelter, though. He sees ghostly shadows at night, his aunt is strangely cold, and his 11-year-old cousin, Lily, is downright hostile. And as Lily's behavior becomes more and more threatening, David can't help but wonder what ugly secrets lurk within the walls of her home. There's one thing that David knows with certainty. The more he learns about his cousin Lily, the harder it is to avoid thinking about his own past.

Wersba, Barbara. (1997). *Whistle Me Home*. Holt.

Age: 17

Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Realistic, Homosexuality

Noli, a smart, boyish teenage girl has fallen in love with T. J., the new boy at school. Cute, sensitive, and attentive, T. J. appears to be her soul mate, but much to Noli's dismay their intense relationship never becomes sexual. When T. J. finally confesses his homosexuality to her, Noli is both furious and crushed.

Westall, Robert. (1989). *Blitzcat*. Scholastic.

Age:

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Animals

During World War II Lord Gort, a black cat, travels all across war-ravaged England in an effort to track down her beloved master. Britain and France put her in touch with many people who treat her as good or bad luck, but she never stays long.

Wharton, William. (1982). *A Midnight Clear*. Knopf.

Age: Early 20's

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic

A tale of youth and war set in the Ardennes Forest on Christmas Eve, 1944. Ordered close to the German lines to establish an observation post in an abandoned chateau, six GIs play at being soldiers in what seems to be complete isolation. That is, until they meet the enemy.

Wharton, William. (1979). *Birdy*. Knopf.

Age: Early 20's Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Insanity

An inventive, hypnotic novel about friendship and family, love and war, madness and beauty, and, above all, "birdness." Wharton crafts an unforgettable tale--one that suggests another notion of sanity in a world that is manifestly insane.

Whelan, Gloria. (2000). *Homeless Bird*. HarperCollins.

Age: 13 Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Quest

Thirteen-year-old Koly is getting married, not uncommon for girls her age in India. Although apprehensive, she knows this will lessen the financial burden on her family, and hopes for the best. Unfortunately, her husband is younger than promised, and sickly. Soon she is a homeless widow, deprived of her pension and abandoned by her selfish mother-in-law. She finds unexpected support in a widow's home, self-sufficiency in her gift of embroidery, and, ultimately, love and a new, rewarding life. This beautifully told, inspiring story takes readers on a fascinating journey through modern India and the universal intricacies of a young woman's heart. Whelan's lyrical, poetic prose, interwoven with Hindi words and terms, eloquently conveys Koly's tragedies and triumphs, while providing a descriptive, well-researched introduction to India's customs, peoples, and daily life. Koly is an appealing, admirable character, portrayed with sympathy and depth, who learns that art, heart, dreams, and perseverance can bring unexpected joy. Hindi terms are defined in an extensive glossary at book's end. An insightful, beautifully written, culturally illuminating tale of universal feelings in which riches are measured not in monetary wealth but in happiness and personal fulfillment.

White, Robb. (1972). *Deathwatch*. Doubleday.

Age: Early 20's Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Suspense

Needing money for school, a college boy accepts a job as guide on a desert hunting trip and nearly loses his life.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. (1995). *Like Sisters on the Homefront*. Lodestar Books.

Age: 14 Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

This is a coming of age novel set in Queens, New York and Columbus, Georgia. Gayle, a fourteen-year-old African-American single mother, is pregnant with her second child, much to her mother's dissatisfaction. Ruth, Gayle's mother, tired and extremely frustrated by her daughter's behavior, forces her daughter to have an abortion. Neither the abortion nor her mother's disappointment shakes Gayle. After Ruth's frustration exceeds her limitation, she sends Gayle to live with her strict Uncle, Reverend Luther Gates. The world in Columbus is like nothing Gayle has ever known. She must raise her child solely by herself, taking full responsibility of her actions. During her stay with her Uncle, Gayle develops a special relationship with her Great-Grandmother, whom she calls Great. Great teaches Gayle tough love and gives her a sense of self. It is through this relationship that Gayle matures and understands the real meaning of family.

Wittlinger, Ellen. (1999). *Hard Love*. Simon & Schuster.

Age: 16 Protagonist: Male & Female

Genre: Problem, Quest

Since his parents' divorce, John's mother hasn't touched him, her new fiancé wants them to move away, and his father would rather be anywhere than at Friday night dinner with his son. It's no wonder John writes articles like "Interview with the Stepfather" and "Memoirs from Hell." The only release he finds is in homemade zines like the amazing *Escape Velocity* by Marisol, a self-proclaimed "Puerto Rican Cuban Yankee Lesbian." Hanging around the Boston Tower Records for the new issue of *Escape Velocity*, John meets Marisol and a hard love is born. While at first their friendship is based on zines, dysfunctional families, and dreams of escape, soon both John and Marisol begin to shed their protective shells. Unfortunately, John mistakes this growing intimacy for love, and a disastrous date to his junior prom leaves that friendship in ruins. Desperately hoping to fix things, John convinces Marisol to come with him to a zine conference on Cape Cod. On the sandy beaches by the Bluefish Wharf Inn, John realizes just how hard love can be.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. (1993). *Make Lemonade*. Holt.

Age: 14

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic, Single Parent

LaVaughn needed a part-time job. What she got was a baby-sitting gig with Jolly, an unwed teen mother. With two kids hanging in the balance, they need to make the best out of life -- and they can only do it for themselves and each other.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. (1988). *Probably Still Nick Swanson*. Holt.

Age: Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Realistic, Disability

Nick Swansen pretty much knows what it means to be Special Ed.: You can't drive, even if you're sixteen and your parents have two cars; the regular kids in school don't talk to you much; and even if you can memorize every fact about amphibians, it's hard to make sense of all the other stuff swirling in your mind. What he doesn't know is whether being Special Ed. means you shouldn't go to the prom. But since no rule says you can't, Nick decides to ask Shana. But the prom doesn't turn out at all the way Nick expects it to, and everything bad seems to get all mixed up together: the prom, what Shana does, and the terrible thing that happened to Nick's sister nine years ago. Nick doesn't want to think about any of it, but he begins to realize that unless he makes peace with all the memories that trouble him, they will haunt him forever.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. (2001). *True Believer*. Atheneum.

Age: 15

Protagonist: Female

Genre: Realistic

LaVaughn is fifteen now, and she's still fiercely determined to go to college. But that's the only thing she's sure about. Loyalty to her father bubbles up as her mother grows closer to a new man. The two girls she used to do everything with have chosen a path LaVaughn wants no part of. And then there's Jody. LaVaughn can't believe how gorgeous he is...or how confusing. He acts like he's in love with her, but is he?

Yep, Laurence. (1975). *Dragonwings*. HarperCollins.

Age: Young Teens

Protagonist: Male

Genre: Historical Fiction

Moon shadow is eight years old when he sails from China to join his father, Windrider, in America. Windrider lives in San Francisco and makes his living doing laundry. Father and son have never met. But Moon Shadow grows to love and respect his father and to believe in his wonderful dream. And Windrider, with Moon Shadow's help is willing to endure the mockery of the other Chinese, the poverty, the separation from his wife and country even the great earthquake to make his dream come true.

Zindel, Paul. (1969). *My Darling, My Hamburger*. HarperCollins.

Age: 17**Protagonist: Male & Female****Genre: Realistic, Abortion**

As senior year rolls around, two unlikely couples find themselves caught between desire and the fear of intimacy. Liz and Sean, misunderstood by their parents, confused but certain they are in love, have an affair that ends shatteringly. Maggie and Dennis, just as confused, take their first steps toward understanding the demands life makes on everyone. Faced with real-life dilemmas that have no easy answers, Maggie, Dennis, Liz, and Sean must make choices that will affect the rest of their lives.

Zindel, Paul. (1968). *The Pigman*. HarperCollins.**Age: 16****Protagonist: Male & Female****Genre: Realistic, Death**

For sophomores John and Lorraine, the world feels meaningless; nothing is important. They *certainly* can never please their parents, and school is a chore. To pass the time, they play pranks on unsuspecting people. It's during one of these pranks that they meet the "Pigman"--a fat, balding old man with a zany smile plastered on his face. In spite of themselves, John and Lorraine soon find that they're caught up in Mr. Pignati's zest for life. In fact, they become so involved that they begin to destroy the only corner of the world that's ever mattered to them.