

# Young Adult Discrimination Book List



**Denotes new titles recently added to the list**

**Alexie, Sherman**

**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. (Summary from Hennepin County Library, Sept. 2008)



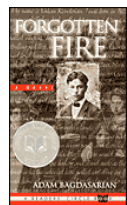
she looked for work in Bucharest and discovered a talent for dressmaking. (Summary from Amazon.com, February 2003)

**Crutcher, Chris**

**Whale Talk**



T.J., an exceptional athlete who has refused to play on the school teams, agrees to lead a start-up swim team only to buck the system by signing up every needy misfit he can find and ensuring that each will win a letterman's jacket.



**Bagdasarian, Adam**

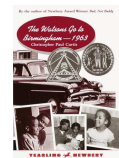
**Forgotten Fire**

This vivid, even horrific, novel tells of the genocide carried out against Armenians in Turkey during World War I. Like narrator Vahan Kenderian, who is twelve when the novel begins, a reader can't really prepare for this relentless tragedy before it unfolds. That the book is based on Bagdasarian's great-uncle's experiences gives it further gravity.

**Curtis, Christopher Paul**

**The Watsons Go to Birmingham**

A novel that begins as a lighthearted romp follows ten-year-old Kenny and the rest of the "Weird Watsons" of Flint, Michigan, as they travel South in 1963 and become witnesses of a tragic event of the civil-rights movement.



**Susan Campbell Bartoletti**

**The Boy Who Dared**

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hübener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people. (Follett, 2009)



**Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee**

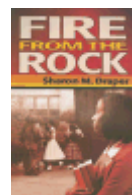
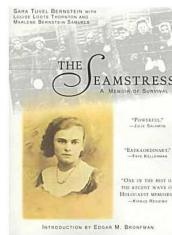
**Neela, Victory Song**

Neela, 12, lives in India, where 200 years of British rule has turned sour. When she befriends an underground freedom fighter, Samar, her interest in India's struggle begins to consume her every thought. Her father has joined Mohandas Gandhi's "civil disobedience" movement, and she becomes determined to fight for her country's freedom. (Summary from Amazon.com, February 2003)

**Bernstein, Sara Turvel**

**The Seamstress**

Born into a large family in rural Romania between the wars, Bernstein grew up feisty and willing to fight back physically against anti-Semitism from other schoolchildren. She defied her father's orders to turn down a scholarship that took her to Bucharest. Ashamed to return home after her expulsion,



**Draper, Sharon**

**Fire From the Rock**

In 1957, Sylvia Patterson's life--that of a normal African American teenager--is disrupted by the impending integration of Little Rock's Central High when she is selected to be one of the first black students

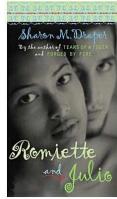


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to attend the previously all white school. (Summary from hclib.org, 2007)

### **Draper, Sharon** **Romiette and Julio**

In a contemporary take on *Romeo and Juliet*, two sixteen-year-olds meet in an Internet chat room. Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, fall in love, but harassment by a local gang objecting to their interracial dating endangers their lives.



### **Fink, Jeri and Donna Paltrowitz** **Matthew's Tangled Trails**

Ambushed by a mysterious bully, Matthew and his classmates are desperate for help. Matthew's canine houseguest, Gizmo, plunges into the turmoil. The bully strikes again, unleashing a bone-chilling scam.

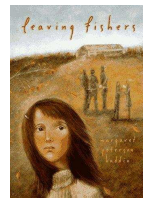


### **Going, K.L.** **The Liberation of Gabriel King**

Gabriel, a white boy who is being bullied, and Frita, an African-American girl facing prejudice, decide to overcome their many fears together as they enter fifth grade in Georgia in 1976. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2009)

### **Gold, Alison Leslie** **A Special Fate:** **Chiune Sugihara,** **Hero of the Holocaust**

Sacrificing his career, Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania in 1940, disobeyed his government and issued thousands of visas, ultimately saving the lives of an estimated six thousand Jews.



### **Haddix, Margaret Peterson** **Leaving Fishers**

Lonely and insecure at a new school, Dorry finds acceptance from a dynamic group of classmates who slowly draw her into an evangelical Christian organization. Dorry's spiritual awakening is followed by demands of total obedience to the group and the realization that she has been entrapped by a cult.



### **Hoffman, Alice** **Incantation**

During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic. (Follett, 2009)

### **Howe, James** **The Misfits**

Overweight Bobby, tall Addie, scruffy Skeezie, and effeminate Joe are self-described misfits. All four run for office in the school elections, with a platform protesting name-calling.



### **Howe, James** **Totally Joe**

When seventh-grader Joe Bunch is instructed to write his life's story alphabetically for a school assignment, he bares his soul about his family, friends, and blossoming homosexuality. After being bullied at school, his coming-out leads to "No-Name Day."





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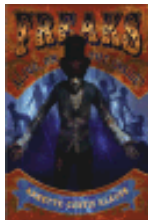
### **Jordan, Sherry** **The Raging Quiet**

Widowed after only two days, sixteen-year-old Marnie is viewed with distrust by the local villagers.

When she befriends a deaf boy and invents a signed language, the villagers, encouraged by Marnie's hateful brother-in-law, accuse her of witchcraft and demand a trial.

### **Katz, Jon** **Geeks**

To the rest of the world, teenage hackers Jesse Dailey and Eric Twilegar are geeks—consummate outsiders with passions for technological arcane. The book's heart and soul is the well-told tale of Jesse and Eric's adventurous flight from lonely, dead-end lives in Idaho Mormon country to brighter possibilities in Chicago. (Summary from Amazon.com, February 2003)



### **Klaus, Annette Curtis** **Freaks: Alive, On the Inside**

After leaving home in search of adventure, romance, and riches, seventeen-year-old Abel, the "normal" son of freak show entertainers, is haunted by a

mysterious spirit. (Summary from Hennepin County Library at hclib.org, 2007).



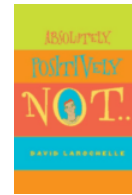
### **Koller, Jackie French** **A Place to Call Home**

Anna, a fatherless, biracial fifteen-year-old, is intent on keeping her mother's disappearance a secret from authorities so that she and her younger brother and sister won't be separated.

### **Larochelle, David** **Absolutely Positively Not**

Chronicles a teenage boy's humorous attempts to fit in at his Minnesota high school by becoming a macho, girl-loving, "Playboy" pinup-displaying heterosexual.

(Summary from Mackin.com, 2006)



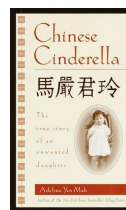
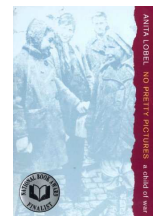
### **Lerangis, Peter** **Smiler's Bones**

Explorer Robert Peary brings six Eskimos to a New York City museum to be a living exhibit.

Qisuk, known as "Smiler," and his son Minik are part of the exhibit. Four of the Eskimos die, including Smiler, and one Eskimo returns to Greenland. Minik spends twelve years at the museum amid lies and deception, in search of the truth and a way to survive.

### **Lobel, Anita** **No Pretty Pictures**

Illustrator Anita Lobel's memoir of her traumatic years in Poland spent under the threat of annihilation by the Nazis is notable both as an account of survival and as a revelation of a remarkable human being.



### **Mah, Adeline Yen** **Chinese Cinderella**

After her mother dies giving birth to her, Adeline's siblings, who consider her bad luck, scapegoat her, and her wealthy father and vain stepmother

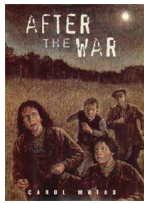
deprive her of friends and send her away to school. This riveting memoir of a turbulent childhood is enriched by Chinese-language lessons, a generous historical backdrop and half-dozen family photos.



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### **Matas, Carol** **After the War**

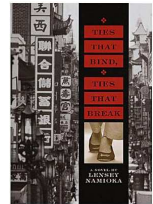
Fifteen-year-old Ruth, thinking that her whole family has perished in Auschwitz, agrees to lead a group of children bound for Palestine. Prejudice and anti-Semitism are still very much evident, and the clandestine trip from Poland across Europe to Palestine is very difficult and filled with dangers.



follow her father's wish: that she not let the Serb military "fill [her] heart with hate."

### **Namioka, Lensey** **Ties That Bind, Ties That Break**

In early twentieth-century China, Ailin's liberal father allows her to avoid the tradition of foot-binding, but a broken engagement makes her family fear for her future. Ailin's intelligence and hard work—and a lot of luck—lead her to a new life in America.



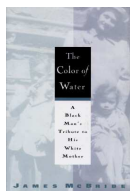
### **Mazer, Norma Fox** **Good Night Maman**

When Maman falls ill, Karin Levi and her brother must continue their journey through the French countryside without her, eventually boarding a ship in Italy taking refugees to the United States.



### **Naylor, Phyllis** **Alice on the Outside**

In this eleventh installment in the series, Alice and her friends have a lot to think about during the second half of eighth grade, including sex, prejudice, and the upcoming semi-formal.

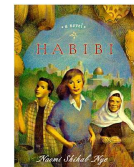


### **McBride, James** **The Color of Water**

*The Color of Water* tells the remarkable story of Ruth McBride Jordan, the two good men she married, and the 12 good children she raised. Born Rachel Shilsky, a Polish Jew, Jordan immigrated to America soon after birth. Jordan met and married a black man, making her isolation even more profound. She battled not only racism but also poverty to raise her children and, despite being sorely tested, never wavered. (Summary from Amazon.com, February 2003)

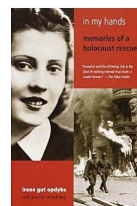
### **Nye, Naomi Shibab** **Habibi**

When Liyana Abboud is fourteen, her father decides that the time is right to move the family from St. Louis to his native Jerusalem.



### **Mead, Alice** **Girl of Kosovo**

In the spring of 1998, the life of eleven-year-old Zana, an Albanian Kosovar, is shattered when Serb militiamen murder her father and brothers. Injured herself, Zana learns to



### **Opdyke, Irene and Jennifer Arms** **In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer**

Polish teenager Irene Gutowna's story—from happy eldest of four daughters to laborer in a German officer's mess hall to member of the Resistance—makes for gripping reading.



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### **Orlev, Uri** **Run, Boy, Run**

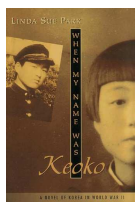
Based on the true story of a nine-year-old boy who escapes the Warsaw Ghetto and must survive throughout the war in the Nazi-occupied Polish countryside.



### **Park, Linda Sue** **Project Mulberry**

Julia Song doesn't want to do a silkworm project for the state fair. It's too Korean; she wants to do something American, but she becomes interested in caring for the eggs, the caterpillars, and the moths and then sewing the silk thread. Kind, elderly Mr. Dixon donates the mulberry leaves the silkworms eat, but why is Mom against Julia spending time with him?

*(Summary from Mackin.com 2006)*



### **Park, Linda Sue** **When My Name was Keoko**

In alternating chapters covering the years 1940 to 1945, two Korean siblings describe their lives during the Japanese military occupation. Tae-yul admires their uncle, who works for the resistance; younger sister Sun-hee is more like their father, subdued and introspective, rebelling in quiet but significant ways.



### **Sanchez, Alex** **Rainbow Boys**

As if high school wasn't tough enough, homophobic jock Jason fears he's bisexual; Kyle loves Jason but hasn't come out to his parents; and out-and-proud Nelson, who's smitten with Kyle and much harassed, copes by binge eating.

### **Schmidt, Gary** **Trouble**

Trouble comes to Henry Smith's family when a young Cambodian immigrant hits Henry's brother, Franklin, with his truck and kills him. Boiling with anger and resentment, Henry -- accompanied by his best friend and dog -- embarks on a mission to climb Mt. Katahdin in Maine, which Franklin said he could never do. On his journey, Henry learns some questionable tidbits about his brother and is forced to reassess the damages done to his family. (Summary from Mackin.com, Sept. 2008)

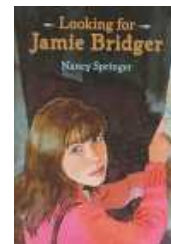


### **Schmidt, Gary** **Lizzy Bright and the Buckminster Boy**

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot. (Summary from Hennepin County Library, June 2005.)

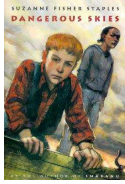
### **Springer, Nancy** **Looking for Jamie Bridger**

When fourteen-year-old Jamie prods her controlling grandparents about her parents' identities, her grandfather has a heart attack and dies, and her meek grandmother descends into dementia. Jamie eventually discovers that her grandparents are actually her parents and that she has an older brother, who ran away before she was born because he was gay.





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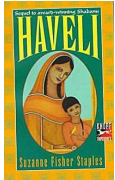
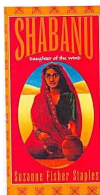


### **Staples, Suzanne** **Dangerous Skies**

An isolated small town on Virginia's Eastern Shore is the setting for a novel about a boy's loss of innocence when his best friend, a black girl, is falsely accused of murder. Staples is concerned here, as she was in her earlier works, with the plight of the powerless.

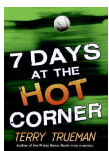
### **Staples, Suzanne** **Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind**

Eleven-year-old Shabanu is the younger daughter in a family of nomadic camel herders living in the Cholistan desert area of modern Pakistan; she is fiercely proud of her family and way of life. But she attempts to run away rather than marry a man chosen for her.



### **Staples, Suzanne** **Haveli**

In this long-awaited sequel to *Shabanu*, Shabanu spends most of her energy protecting herself and her four-year-old daughter, Mumtaz, from the jealous scheming of her husband's more cultured wives.



### **Truman, Terry** **7 Days at the Hot Corner**

Varsity baseball player Scott Latimer struggles with his own prejudices and those of others when his best friend reveals that he is gay. (Summary from hclib.org, 2007)



### **Williams, Laura** **Behind the Bedroom Wall**

In World War II Germany, thirteen-year-old Korinna is an ardent member of a Hitler youth group. When she discovers that

her parents are hiding a Jewish woman and her five-year-old daughter in their house, her world is shattered.



### **Wyeth, Sharon Dennis** **The World of Daughter McGuire**

After the separation of her parents, eleven-year-old Daughter, her mother, and two younger brothers move to a new neighborhood, near both sets of grandparents. Having come from a racially mixed background, Daughter struggles for self-identity; through her supportive and loving grandparents, she learns to draw strength from the total spectrum of her cultural heritage.

### **Zusak, Markus** **Book Thief**

In 1939, on her way to a foster home in Molching, Germany, 9-year-old Liesel steals the first book she's ever known -- from a graveyard. From that moment on, through 1943, her life revolves around books stolen, books given, and books written. Death is the narrator and tells the story of this young orphan girl. (Summary from Mackin.com, 2006)

