

Young Adult *Female Protagonists* Book List



Denotes new titles recently added to the list

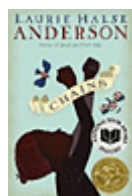


Abdel-Fattah, Randa
Does My Head Look Big In This?

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style. (Summary from Destiny Follett, Oct 2009)

Amateau, Gigi
A Certain Strain of Peculiar

Tired of the miserable life she lives, Mary Harold leaves her mother behind and moves back to Alabama and her grandmother, where she receives support and love and starts to gain confidence in herself and her abilities.

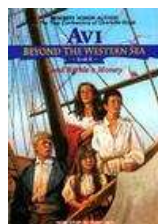


Anderson, Laurie Halse
Chains

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. (Follett, 2009)

Anderson, Laurie Halse
Fever 1793

Yellow fever is sweeping through Philadelphia, and for young Mattie, the epidemic begins with the sudden death of a friend.



Avi
Beyond the Western Sea: The Escape From Home

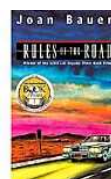
This adventure begins in Ireland during the potato famine and follows Maura and Patrick

O'Connell's journey to America after their parents' cottage is destroyed by their greedy landlord. Their paths intersect with that of Laurence Kirkle, who is also running away to the land of opportunity.



Bauer, Joan
Hope Was Here

Sixteen-year-old Hope takes pride in her job: she's a short-order waitress who has come from Brooklyn with her aunt Addie to run a diner in Wisconsin, its proprietor sidelined by leukemia. Addie and Hope, long peripatetic, find a new life in Wisconsin as well as a cause: the diner's owner takes on the corrupt mayor in an upcoming election. And Hope's tentative romance with the cook is sweet indeed.



Bauer, Joan
The Rules of the Road

Jenna, newly armed with a driver's license, thought she had her summer all worked out--until Mrs. Gladstone, owner of the shoe store chain where Jenna works in Chicago, shows up and asks Jenna to drive her to Texas.

Bodett, Tom
The Williwaw

Thirteen-year-old September and her younger brother Ivan are home alone while their father, a commercial fisherman, is off the Alaskan coast. Disobeying their father, they take the skiff across the bay, and after one broken rule leads to another, an autumn windstorm threatens to capsize their boat.



Bouman, H.M.
The Remarkable and Very True Story of Lucy & Snowcap

In 1788, thirteen years after English convicts are shipwrecked



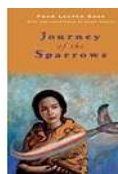
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on the magical islands of Tathenland, two twelve-year-old girls, one a native Colay, the other the child-governor of the English, set out on a journey to stop the treachery from which both peoples are suffering. (Summary from Destiny Follett, November 2009).

Burg, Shana

A Thousand Never Evers

As the civil rights movement in the South gains momentum in 1963 and violence against African-Americans intensifies, residents of the small town of Kuckachoo, Mississippi, including seventh-grader Addie Ann Pickett, begin their own courageous struggle for racial justice. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2009)



Buss, Fran Leeper

Journey of the Sparrows

The story of fifteen-year-old Maria Acosta, fleeing El Salvador with her sister and brother, is told in a devastating narrative.

Calhoun, Dia

Aria of the Sea

When commoner Cerinthe gains admittance to the School of the Royal Dancers, she thinks that her dream has come true. But a rivalry with another dancer causes tension, which is amplified by Cerinthe's deep-rooted fear of using her gift for healing.



Cashore, Kristin

Graceling

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land

from a corrupt king. (Summary from Destiny Follett, November 2009)



Creech, Sharon

Bloomability

Thirteen-year-old Dinnie travels to Lugano, Switzerland, for a year when her uncle is appointed headmaster of the American School. Reluctantly at first, Dinnie allows experiences, diverse new friends, and unexpected and challenging ideas to push the walls of her world further and further out. The cast of characters are lively, sympathetic, and often amusing, and Dinnie herself is an appealing narrator.



Creech, Sharon

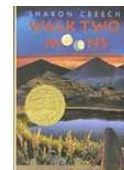
The Wanderer

Sophie is determined to join her three uncles and two (boy) cousins on their transatlantic sail to England, home of her beloved grandfather Bompie.

Creech, Sharon

Walk Two Moons

While traveling from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents to visit her mother, who left the year before and has never returned, thirteen-year-old Salamanca Hiddle tells them about her new friend, Phoebe Winterbottom, whose mother also left without explanation.



Cushman, Karen

Alchemy and Meggy Swann

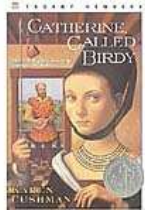
Meggy Swann, a girl who walks with the aid of two sticks, arrives in Elizabethan London, along with her goose Louise, to stay with her father who really does not want her, and while he pursues his dream of transforming base metal into gold, Meggy





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undergoes a transformation herself. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



Cushman, Karen **Catherine, Called Birdy**

The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off. (Summary from *NoveList online book guide*, October 2003).

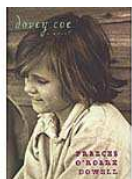
Cushman, Karen **The Midwife's Apprentice**

In a sharply realistic novel of medieval England by the author of *Catherine, Called Birdy* (Clarion), a homeless, hungry orphan girl called Beetle is taken in by the village midwife. As Beetle grows and learns, she begins to gain some hard-won self-esteem, and a satisfying conclusion conveys the hope that the self-reliant girl will find her place in life.



Donnelly, Jennifer **Revolution**

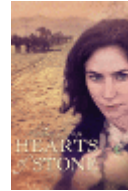
An angry, grieving seventeen-year-old musician facing expulsion from her prestigious Brooklyn private school travels to Paris to complete a school assignment and uncovers a diary written during the French revolution by a young actress attempting to help a tortured, imprisoned little boy--Louis Charles, the lost king of France. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



Dowell, Frances O'Roark **Dovey Coe**

Plainspoken twelve-year-old Dovey narrates her experiences growing up in North Carolina

in the 1920s with her older sister, Caroline, and their hearing-impaired brother Amos. When Caroline's onerous former suitor is murdered, Dovey stands trial for the crime.



Ernst, Kathleen **Hearts of Stone**

Orphaned when her father dies fighting for the Union and her mother expires from exhaustion, and also estranged from their Confederate neighbors, fifteen-year-old Hannah struggles to find a way for her family to survive during the Civil War in Tennessee. (Summary from www.hclib.org, 2007)



Eulberg, Elizabeth **The Lonely Hearts Club**

Penny swears off boys after one too many bad dates and creates The Lonely Hearts Club. Then, as the club unexpectedly becomes popular, Penny falls for a boy. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010)



Fama, Elizabeth **Overboard**

Frustrated with her doctor-parents' work in Indonesia, fourteen-year-old Emily runs away, only to be thrust into a survival nightmare when the ferry she's riding capsizes at sea. For nearly a full night and day, she and a Muslim boy stick together and swim toward an island.

Farmer, Nancy **A Girl Named Disaster**

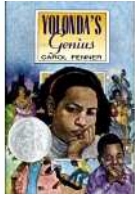


An extraordinarily rich novel set in contemporary Mozambique and Zimbabwe and featuring a most remarkable heroine begins with her life in a traditional, remote village; follows her journey to escape an arranged marriage;



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and concludes with her experiences in 'civilized' Zimbabwe.



Fenner, Carol **Yolonda's Genius**

Although her younger brother Andrew is having trouble learning to read in the first grade, Yolonda is convinced

that he is a musical genius and sets out to prove it.

Flake, Sharon G.

The Skin I'm In

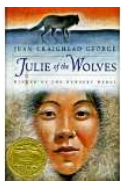
Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like. (Summary from *NoveList online book guide*, October 2003).



Fogelin, Adrian

Crossing Jordan

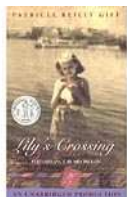
Cass, who is white, and Jemmie, her new neighbor who is black, become friends but are forbidden to see each other when their prejudiced parents find out.



George, Jean Craighead **Julie of the Wolves**

While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North

Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack. (Summary from *NoveList online book guide*, October 2003).



Giff, Patricia Reilly **Lily's Crossing**

Lily Mollahan is looking forward to summer, but the war shatters all her dreams: her beloved father has enlisted; her

best friend is moving away; and Albert, a seemingly unfriendly war refugee from Hungary, intrudes on her private space. To complicate matters, Lily is fond of enhancing her importance or escaping retribution with facile lies.



Giff, Patricia Reilly **Nory Ryan's Song**

Giff recounts the tragic days of Ireland's mid-nineteenth-century potato famine. Twelve-year-old Nory's struggle to find

food for her family brings her to the outcast village wise woman, where she overcomes her superstitions to learn the art of healing.

Giff, Patricia Reilly

Pictures of Hollis

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

(Summary from *Library of Congress online*, October 2003).



Greenwood, Lisa

My Life in Pink & Green

When the family's drugstore is failing, seventh-grader Lucy uses her problem-solving talents to come up with a solution that might resuscitate the business, along with helping the environment. (Summary from *Follett Destiny*, November 2009)



Haddix, Margaret Peterson **Just Ella**

Combining modern sarcasm with stilted medievalism, *Just Ella* picks up the Cinderella tale after the ball is over. Feminist Ella, who managed without any fairy godmother, finds palace protocol boring and trophy wifedom



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insulting--so she escapes and finds fulfillment doctoring suitably pathetic war refugees alongside Jed, her nobleman love interest.

Giff, Patricia Reilly

Uprising

In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike, then the fire that took the lives of her two best friends, when Harriet, the boss's daughter, was only five years old.. (Summary from Hennepin County Library, January 2008)



Hesse, Karen

The Music of Dolphins

A feral child raised by dolphins is rescued and taken to a research center where she is introduced to the world of human behavior. Initially delighted by her new skills, Mila soon feels a powerful draw to return to the dolphins.



Hoffman, Alice

Foretelling

Rain, the product of a rape and shunned by her distant queen mother, struggles to find her identity and prove herself in a world where an Amazonian band of horsewomen warriors fight to defend their territory and sovereignty. Rain is a gifted warrior herself, but begins to question her tribe's combative, man-hating traditions and unlike the rest of her army, she does not find any pleasure in watching her enemies die. (Summary from Mackin.com 2006).



Huntley, Amy

Everafter

After her death, seventeen-year-old Maddy finds a way to revisit moments in her life by using objects that she lost while she was alive, and she thereby attempts to figure out the complicated emotions, events, and meaning of her existence. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010)

Jiang, Ji-Li

Red Scarf Girl

This is a rare personal glimpse of the upheaval China suffered during the 1960s, and twelve-year-old Ji-li's point of view is firmly maintained, sometimes to the point of self-dramatization.



Keehn, Sally

Anna Sunday

Motherless twelve-year-old Anna, disguised as a boy, and her younger brother Jed travel from Pennsylvania to Virginia on a horse named Samson to nurse their wounded soldier father. After various adventures with a sutler, they find their Yankee father being nursed by a Confederate housewife.

Larbalestier, Justine

Liar

Compulsive liar Micah promises to tell the truth after revealing that her boyfriend has been murdered. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



Lockhart, E

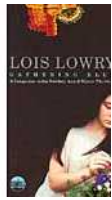
The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks

Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep



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school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever. (Follett, 2009)



Lowry, Lois
Gathering Blue

In this speculation on the nature of the future of human society, life in Kira's community is nasty, brutish, and, for the ill or disabled, short.

Lowry, Lois
Number the Stars

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. (Summary from Library of Congress online, October 2003).

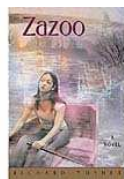


Mah, Adeline Yen
Chinese Cinderella

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.

Mosher, Richard
Zazoo

Thirteen-year-old Zazoo learns about love, betrayal, and forgiveness when she discovers the truth about the past of her grandfather, who adopted her from Vietnam. She meets a mysterious boy and befriends the town's elderly pharmacist, who played an integral role in her grandfather's story.



Murdock, Catherine Gilbert
Princess Ben

A girl is transformed, through instruction in life at court, determination, and magic, from sullen, pudgy, graceless Ben into Crown Princess Benevolence, a fit ruler of the kingdom of Montagne as it faces war with neighboring Drachensbett. (Hennepin County, 2009)



Napoli, Donna Jo
Zel

Inevitably looking over its shoulder at 'The Magic Circle' (Dutton), Napoli's meditation on 'Hansel and Gretel,' this is a re-visioning of 'Rapunzel,' told in turns by the girl in the tower, the witch, and the prince.

Neuberger, Anne E.
The Girl-Son

Based on the life of Induk Pakh, a Korean educator, whose widowed mother disguised her as a boy at the age of eight in order for her to attend school, a choice forbidden to girls in the early twentieth century in that country. (Summary from NoveList online book guide, October 2003)



Nye, Naiomi Shihab
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.



Paterson, Katherine
The Same Stuff as Stars

Eleven-year-old Angel's mom, Verna, leaves most of the mothering up to Angel. When Verna dumps Angel and her little brother at



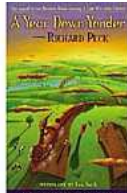
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their great-grandmother's farm, she leaves them with an old woman who is ill-equipped, both physically and emotionally, to care for anyone, even herself. So, once again, Angel becomes the responsible one.

Peck, Richard

A Year Down Yonder

This satisfying sequel to *A Long Way from Chicago* is narrated by fifteen-year-old Mary Alice, who is living with her formidable Grandma Dowdel during the 1937 recession.



Pierce, Tamora

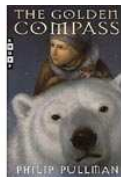
Alanna: The First Adventure

Eleven-year-old Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page, learning many hard lessons along her path to high adventure.

Pullman, Phillip

The Golden Compass

In Lyra's world, similar to our own but with some important differences, each human has a 'daemon,' an animal familiar with whom one's life and destiny are entwined.



Rees, Celia

Witch Child

Mary, a young witch, fears for her own life after her grandmother and mentor is hanged. Luckily, she is rescued and whisked away to America disguised as a Puritan--all under the protective, often invisible gaze of other witches.



Rosoff, Meg

Brides Farewell

A young woman in 1850s rural England runs away from home on horseback the day she's to marry her childhood sweetheart.

Pell is from a poor preacher's family and she's watched her mother suffer for years under the burden of caring for an ever-increasing number of children. Pell yearns to escape the inevitable repetition of such a life. She understands horses better than people and sets off for Salisbury Fair. (Summary from Hennepin County, November 2009).

Roth, Veronica

Divergent



In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice



Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011).

Ryan, Pam Munoz

Esperanza Rising



In this poignant look at the realities of immigration, thirteen-year-old Esperanza, daughter of an affluent Mexican rancher, is forced to trade fancy dolls and dresses for hard work and ill-fitting hand-me-downs after her beloved father dies. Laboring in the United States, picking grapes on someone else's land for pennies an hour, Esperanza is transformed into someone who can take care of herself and others.



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Sayers, Meghan Nuttall

Anahita's Woven Riddle

In Iran, more than 100 years ago, a young girl with three suitors gets permission from her father and a holy man to weave into her wedding rug a riddle to be solved by her future husband, which will ensure that he has wit to match hers. (Summary from Hennepin County, November, 2007)



and deeds of Marian, who retreats to the forest to escape an unwanted betrothal and finds fulfillment in helping the poor people of the woods. Marian learns the art of healing from her old nurse, Agnes; leads dangerous missions of mercy; and gradually falls in love with Robert, Agnes's outlaw son.

Schultz, Jan Neubert

Firestorm

After her family relocates to Hinckley, Minnesota, Maggie wants to escape the dusty nineteenth-century railroad town. When the hot weather produces a massive firestorm, Maggie gets her wish but eventually learns that Hinckley has become her home.



VandeVelde, Vivian

Heir Apparent

When a virtual reality arcade is vandalized, fourteen-year-old Giannine, unable to be safely disconnected from her game, is stuck playing the part of heir to a threatened kingdom as if her life depends on it--and it does.

Spinelli, Jerry

Stargirl

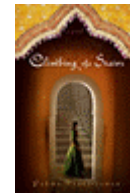
When Stargirl, a contemporary Pollyanna, is shunned for disloyal cheerleading (she roots for both teams), high school junior Leo persuades her to go along with the crowd.



Venkatraman, Padma

Climbing the Stairs

In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)



Staples, Suzanne Fisher

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.



Voigt, Cynthia

Dicey's Song

This is the sequel to Homecoming. Here Dicey and her siblings are adjusting to life on a farm with their grandmother. But Dicey has new conflicts—puberty and the longing for her dying mother. (Summary from *NoveList online book guide*, October 2003).



Tomlinson, Theresa

The Forestwife

A creative retelling of the Robin Hood story focuses on the life

Voigt, Cynthia

Homecoming

The Tillerman kids' mother just left them one day in a car in a mall parking lot. Their father, too, had left them a long





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time ago. So, as usual, it was up to thirteen-year-old Dicey, the eldest of four, to take care of everything, make all the decisions, feed them, find places to sleep. (*Summary from NovelList online book guide, October 2003*).

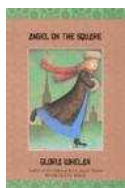


Walls, Jeannette
Half Broke Horses: a true-life novel

Lily Casey Smith grows up breaking horses with her father and leaves home at fifteen to ride five hundred miles in order to teach in a frontier town before encountering various difficulties, marrying a rancher, and speaking out against prejudice in various parts of the U.S. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

Watts, Irene N.
No Moon

Wanting to provide financial support for her large family, Louisa, 14, takes the post of nursemaid for a wealthy family. Then the nanny has an accident days before the family is to sail to New York, and Louisa must either go in her place or lose her job. Haunted by the drowning of her baby brother when she was younger and for which she feels responsible, Louisa insists that the children practice putting on their life vests. When the fateful collision with the iceberg occurs, Watts documents the chaos and emotions realistically. (Summary from School Library Journal, November 2010).



Whelan, Gloria
Angel on the Square

When her mother becomes a lady-in-waiting to Empress Alexandra, Katya becomes the playmate of Grand Duchess Anastasia. Katya and her mother stay with the Romanovs, even following them to Siberia.



Whelan, Gloria
Homeless Bird

Married and immediately widowed, thirteen-year-old Koly grapples with traditional expectations and societal neglect of widows in modern-day India.

Winter, Laurel
Growing Wings

At eleven, Linnet finds herself growing wings and learns the cruel story of how her mother lost her own wings. Afraid of being labeled a freak, Linnet flees to a winged community in Montana, tries to fly, and thinks about defying prejudice by disclosing her secret to the wingless world.



Winthrop, Elizabeth
Counting on Grace

It's 1910 in Pownal, Vermont. At 12 Grace and her best friend Arthur must go to work in the mill, helping their mothers work the looms. Together Grace and Arthur write a secret letter to the Child Labor Board about underage children working in the mill. A few weeks later, Lewis Hine, a famous reformer arrives undercover to gather evidence. Grace meets him and appears in some of his photographs, changing her life forever. (Summary from Hennepin County Library, January 2008)