

# Young Adult *Realistic Fiction* Book List

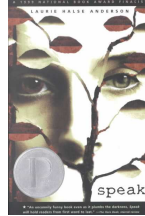


Denotes new titles recently added to the list

## ***Abuse***

**Anderson, Laurie Halse**  
**Speak**

A traumatic event in the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year of high school.



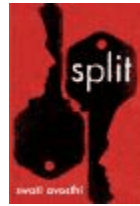
younger sister, their uncle, and a friend tempt her to testify against him, her mother and other well-meaning adults persuade her to claim responsibility. (Mature)

**Flinn, Alexandra**  
**Breathing Underwater**

Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal,



16-year-old Nick examines his controlling behavior and anger and describes living with his abusive father.



**Avasthi, Swati**  
**Split**

A teenaged boy thrown out of his house by his abusive father goes to live with his older brother, who ran away from home years earlier under similar circumstances. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

**Marsten, John**  
**Letters from the Inside**



After Mandy admits to pen pal Tracey she is struggling with an abusive brother, she eventually discovers Tracey has been lying about her seeming perfect life.

(Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)



**Draper, Sharon**  
**Forged by Fire**

Teenaged Gerald, who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father, faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved.

**Mazer, Norma Fox**  
**When She was Good**



Most of 14-year-old Em's life has been spent placating Pamela, her frighteningly mentally ill older sister. Told by Em, the story delineates her pain with careful spareness.



**Erskine, Kathryn**  
**Quaking**

In a Pennsylvania town where anti-war sentiments are treated with contempt and violence, Matt, a fourteen-year-old girl living with a Quaker family, deals with the demons of her past as she battles bullies of the present, eventually learning to trust in others as well as her.

**McCormick, Patricia**  
**Sold**

Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi leaves her poor mountain home in Nepal thinking that she is to work in the city as a maid only to find that she has been sold into the sex slave trade in India and that there is no hope of escape.



**Felin, M. Sindy**  
**Touching Snow**

After her stepfather is arrested for child abuse, thirteen-year-old Karina's home life improves but while the severity of her older sister's injuries and the urging of her



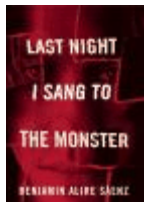


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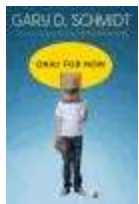
### **McMurchy-Barber, Gina** **Free as a Bird**

Eight-year-old Ruby Jean Sharp, born with Down syndrome, is placed in Woodlands School in New Westminster, British Columbia, after the death of her grandmother who took care of her, and she learns to survive every kind of abuse before she is placed in a program designed to help her live outside the institution. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



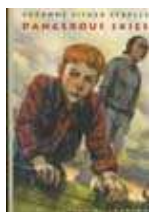
### **Sáenz, Benjamin Alire** **Last Night I Sang to the Monster**

Eighteen-year-old Zach does not remember how he came to be in a treatment center for alcoholics, but through therapy and caring friends, his amnesia fades and he learns to face his past while working toward a better future. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



### **Schmidt, Gary** **Okay For Now**

Fourteen-year-old Doug Swieteck faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer, he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2011).



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

Hypocrisy and prejudice twist events in such a way as to implicate two children, one from a prominent white family and

the other an African-American, in a murder.



### **Stauffer, Sue** **Harry Sue**

Although tough-talking Harry Sue would like to start a life of crime in order to be "sent up" and find her incarcerated mother, she must first protect the children at her neglectful grandmother's home day care center and befriend a paralyzed boy.



### **Strasser, Todd** **Boot Camp**

After ignoring several warnings to stop dating his teacher, Garrett is sent to Lake Harmony, a boot camp that uses unorthodox and brutal methods to train students to obey their parents.. (Summary from Hennepin County Library, February 2008.)

### **Tashjian, Janet** **Fault Line**

When seventeen-year-old Becky Martin, an aspiring comic, meets Kip Costello, she is caught in a mentally and physically abusive relationship.



## **Body Image**



### **Anderson, Laurie Halse** **Wintergirls**

When Cassie dies because of her anorexic addiction, Lia struggles with her own problem, but comes to the conclusion that she is just too fat. Lia begins seeing Cassie's ghost all around her, but she can't seem to see the decomposition of her own body. (Mackin, 2009)



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**Bennett, Cherie**

**Life in the Fat Lane**

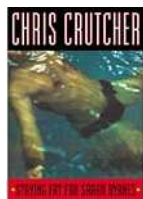
When pageant queen Lara begins gaining weight, no amount of dieting and exercise seems to help. Turns out she has a rare disease—so rare it only exists in this novel.



**Froese, Deborah**

**Out of the Fire**

Waking up in the intensive care unit after being badly burned at a party she can't remember, 16-year-old Dayle struggles to come to terms with the changes in her life as well as the physical and emotional pain caused by her injuries.



**Crutcher, Chris**

**Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes**

Eighteen-year-old Eric's success on the swimming team and his subsequent weight loss are so threatening to his longstanding friendship with Sarah Byrnes—who at the age of three was severely burned when her father pushed her into a wood stove—that he forces himself into gluttony so as not to jeopardize it.

**Holt, Kimberly Willis**

**When Zachary Beaver Came to Town**

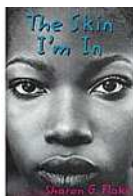
During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, 13-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.



**Flake, Sharon**

**The Skin I'm In**

Seventh-grader Maleeka is miserable when a new teacher comes to her depressed inner-city school. Evidently rich and self-assured in spite of the white birthmark across her black skin, Ms. Saunders gets into kids' faces about their behavior and their academic potential. Black and bright, Maleeka is so swamped by her immediate problems that Ms. Saunders' attentions nearly capsize her stability.



**Juby, Susan**

**Alice, I Think**

Fifteen-year-old Alice keeps a diary as she struggles to cope with the embarrassments and trials of family, dating, school, work, small town life, and a serious case of "outcastitis."



**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds**

**The Grooming of Alice**

Determined to get rid of saddlebag thighs before high school, Alice and her two best friends embark on a serious diet and exercise program. Hearing the girl-power message from Alice, at this point an old friend, carries more weight than the advice of experts and strangers.



**Friend, Natasha**

**Perfect**

Following the death of her father, a thirteen-year-old uses bulimia as a way to avoid her mother's and ten-year-old sister's grief, as well as her own.



**Voigt, Cynthia**

**Izzy, Willy-Nilly**

When Izzy Lingard loses the lower part of her right leg in an auto accident, she is forced to



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look at her life from a radically different perspective. (Summary from Amazon.com, February 2003)

### **Wilson, Jacqueline** **Girls Under Pressure**

When her thin best friend is picked for modeling tryouts, British teen Ellie goes on an extreme diet, even forcing herself to throw up. Surviving her sort-of boyfriend's brush-off and supporting her friends through their own troubles helps Ellie find her feet again in this sequel to *Girls in Love*.



but he is compelled to choose whether or not to stand by the best friend whose reckless behavior has endangered Luke and may have caused another student's death. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

### **Bloor, Edward** **Tangerine**

Legally blind, Paul Fisher has lived most of his life in the shadow of his football star brother. But things change when they move to Tangerine County, where bizarre natural disasters are everyday occurrences. Paul finally confronts his parents



## Bullying



### **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** **Twisted**

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts. (Mature)



### **Butler, Dori Hillestad** **Truth About Truman School**

Tired of being told what to write by the school newspaper's advisor, Zibby and her friend Amr start an underground newspaper online where everyone is free to post anything, but things spiral out of control when a cyber bully starts using the site to harass one popular girl. (Follett, 2009)



### **Cormier, Robert** **Chocolate War**

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

### **Draper, Sharon M.** **The Battle of Jericho**

A high school junior and his cousin suffer the ramifications of joining what seems to be a "reputable" school club.



### **Anhalt, Ariela** **Freefall**

Briar Academy senior Luke prefers avoiding conflict and letting others make his decisions,



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### **Ellis, Ann Dee** **This is What I Did**

Bullied because of an incident in his past, eighth-grader Logan is unhappy at his new school and has difficulty relating to others until he meets a quirky girl and a counselor who believe in him. (Follett, 2009)



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

Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

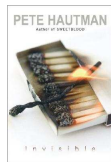
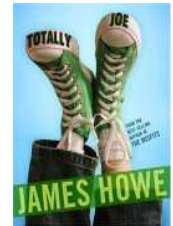
### **Emerson, Kevin** **Carlos is Going To Get It**

Recounts the events that occur at the end of seventh grade, when a group of friends plan to trick Carlos, an annoying "problem" student who says he is visited by aliens, while they are on a field trip in the mountains of New Hampshire. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



### **Totally Joe**

As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphabiography--life from A to Z--and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the difficulties of being a gay teenager.



### **Hautman, Pete** **Invisible**

Doug and Andy are unlikely best friends--one a loner obsessed by his model trains, the other a popular student involved in football and theater--who grew up together and share a bond that nothing can sever.



### **MacLean, Jill** **Present Tense of Priny Murphy**

Priny, struggling to deal with her alcoholic mother, distracted father, a best friend with a new girlfriend, schoolyard bullies, and remedial reading lessons with the dour Mrs. Dooks, gets a reprieve when a substitute teacher introduces her to poetry. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

### **Hertel, H.L.** **To Be The Best**

Ron Castle is a high school junior and naturally gifted wrestler. He made it all the way to the state title match as a sophomore. Nick, Ron's younger brother, is a shy sophomore. He lacks Ron's raw talent but has a ton of heart and works hard day in and day out in pursuit of his dream of becoming a state champion. (Summary from Amazon.com)



### **Myracle, Lauren** **Shine**

When her best friend falls victim to a vicious hate crime, sixteen-year-old Cat sets out to discover the culprits in her small North Carolina town. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2011).



### **Plum-Ucci, Carol** **The Body of Christopher Creed**

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and



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questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

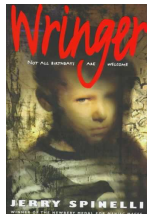


### **Schraff, Anne** **Lost & Found**

Darcey Willis does not know where to turn for help when a series of frightening incidents culminate with the disappearance of her sister Jamee. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2009)

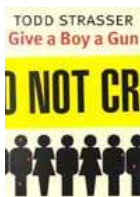
### **Spinelli, Jerry** **Wringer**

As Palmer comes of age he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his Pennsylvania town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.



### **Stahler Jr., David** **Truesight**

In his debut novel, Stahler vividly imagines a future where genetic engineering has taken a startling turn. In a utopian community of the blind, one remarkable young man will discover just how much there is to see--if only he is willing to look.



### **Strasser, Todd** **Give a Boy a Gun**

Events leading up to a night of terror at a high school dance are told from the point of view of various people involved.

### **Weeks, Sarah** **Jumping the Scratch**

After moving with his mother to a trailer park to care for an injured aunt, eleven-year-old Jamie Reardon struggles to cope



with a deeply buried secret.



### **Wiseman, Rosalind** **Boys, Girls, and Other Hazardous Materials**

Transferring to a new high school, freshman Charlotte "Charlie" Healey faces tough choices as she tries to shed her "mean girl" image. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

## Dating

### **Behrens, Andy** **All the Way**

Hoping to have sex for the first time with a girl he has met on the Internet, seventeen-year-old Ian drives with his two best friends from Illinois to South Carolina.



### **Bradley, Alex** **24 Girls in 7 Days**

Jack Grammar, average American high school senior, has no date to the prom. Or so he thinks. Percy and Natalie, Jack's so-called best friends, post an ad in the classified section of the online version of the school newspaper. They figure it couldn't hurt. After all, there's not much in this world sadder than Jack's love life..

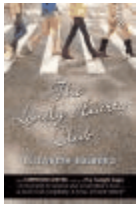


### **Dessen, Sarah** **This Lullaby**

Remy's cynical attitude toward relationships has been shaped by her mom's three failed marriages. Yet from the moment disheveled Dexter talks to this self-described ice-queen, it's obvious he will be the one to defrost her. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)



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### **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)

### **Gallagher, Liz** **The Opposite of Invisible**

Artistic Seattle high school sophomore Alice decides to emerge from her cocoon and date a football player, which causes a rift between her and her best friend, a boy who wants to be more than just friends. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)



### **Green, John** **An Abundance of Katherines**

Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships. (Follett, 2009)

### **Na, An** **Wait For Me**

As her senior year in high school approaches, Mina yearns to find her own path in life but working at the family business, taking care of her little sister, and dealing with her mother's impossible expectations are as stifling as the southern California heat, until she falls in love with a man who offers a way out.

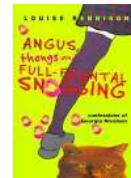


### **Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds** **Alice Alone**

The 13th book in this series tackles a universally painful rite of passage: the romantic breakup. Yes, it's true—Alice and Patrick end their relationship. Alice doesn't know how she's going to face high school on her own.

### **Rennison, Louise** **Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging**

Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.



### **Van Draanen, Wendelin** **Flipped**

Ever since second grade, Juli and Bryce have had one thing in common: Juli's affections for Bryce are as unyielding as Bryce's efforts to evade them. Then in eighth grade, the roles are reversed, as Bryce begins to open his eyes to the truth about those around him.



### **Westerfield, Scott** **So Yesterday**

Hunter Braque, a New York City teenager who is paid by corporations to spot what is "cool," combines his analytical skills with girlfriend Jen's creative talents to find a missing person and thwart a conspiracy directed at the heart of consumer culture.

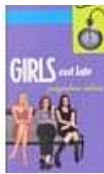


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**Wilson, Jacqueline**

**Girls Out Late**

Thirteen-year-old Ellie misses curfew by going to a park with a boy she just met, gets caught lying to her father and stepmother, and is put in a dangerous situation in London by her two best friends.



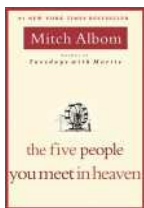
**Carey, Janet Lee**

**Wenny Has Wings**



Having had a near-death experience in the accident that killed his younger sister, 11-year-old Will tries to cope by writing her letters.

### Death and Dying



**Albom, Mitch**  
**The Five People You Meet in Heaven**

Eddie, a maintenance worker with low self-esteem, spent his time maintaining the rides at seaside amusement park, Ruby Pier. On Eddie's 83rd birthday, Eddie dies as he tries to save a little girl. Eddie awakens to find himself in heaven, where five people guide and show him the value of his life.



**Cassidy, Anne**  
**Looking For JJ**

Seventeen-year-old Alice, released from prison with a new identity after serving six years for murdering a child, tries to keep her anonymity from the British tabloids, while haunted by memories of her past trauma. (Follett, 2009)

**Almond, David**

**Kit's Wilderness**

Thirteen-year-old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal mining town of Stonegate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.



**Crutcher, Chris**  
**Deadline**

Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide known as "Hey-Soos."



**Asher, Jay**  
**Thirteen Reasons Why**

High school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death. (Follett, 2009)

**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).





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**Downham, Jenny**

**Before I Die**

A terminally ill teenaged girl makes and carries out a list of things to do before she dies.

(Summary from Hennepin County Library, February 2008.) (Mature)



time since Mia's near-fatal car accident three years earlier drove them apart. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2011)

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson**  
**Takeoffs and Landings**

In the eight years since their father died and their mother's motivational-speaking career took flight, Lori has grown increasingly resentful and Chuck, insecure. In an attempt to reconnect, their mother brings the two along on a two-week speaking tour. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)



**Easton, Kelly**  
**Aftershock**

In shock and unable to speak after being in a car accident in Oregon which has killed his parents, seventeen-year-old Adam journeys across the country to his home in Rhode Island.

**Erskine, Kathryn**  
**Mockingbird**

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father. (Summary from Follett Destiny, September 2011).



**Henkes, Kevin**  
**Olive's Ocean**

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.



**Forman, Gayle**  
**If I Stay**

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2009)



**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)



**Forman, Gayle**  
**Where She Went**

Adam, now a rising rock star, and Mia, a successful cellist studying at Juilliard, are reunited in New York City and reconnect for the first



**Jocelyn, Marthe**  
**Would You**

Nat's summer of work and hanging out with friends is suddenly changed when her sister, Claire, is hit by a car and ends up in a coma. (Follett, 2009)





## Denotes new titles recently added to the list



### **Johnson, Maureen** **13 Little Blue Envelopes**

When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.



### **Lawrence, Iain** **Gemini Summer**

In the quiet of Hog's Hollow, each member of the River family pursues a dream. Old Man River sets out to build a fallout shelter in case the war in Vietnam "brings the end of everything;" his wife Flo, who collects *Gone with the Wind* dolls, attempts to pen her own Southern saga; Beau, their older son, suffers from "space fever" and aspires to be an astronaut. As for Danny, the younger River boy, well, he just dreams of having a dog. Then in the spring of 1965 tragedy befalls the Rivers.



### **MacLachlan, Patricia** **Edward's Eyes**

Edward is one of a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other, and when he unexpectedly dies and his parents donate his organs, his wonderful eyes go to a perfect recipient.

### **Marchetta, Melina** **The Pipers Son**



After his favorite uncle's violent death, Tom Mackee watches his family implode, quits school, and turns his back on music and everyone who matters, and while he is in no shape to mend what is broken, he fears that no one else is, either. (Summary



from Follett Destiny, November 2011).  
**Mature**

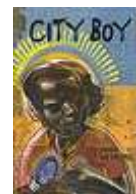


### **Mathews, Ellie** **The Linden Tree**

In 1948, nine-year-old Katy Sue's mother dies suddenly, and she and her family spend the next year trying to recover from their loss, assisted by her Aunt Katherine, who quits her teaching job to help out on their Iowa farm.

### **Michaels, Jan** **City Boy**

In the southern African country of Malawi, after the AIDS-related deaths of both of his parents, a boy leaves his affluent life in the city to live in a rural village, sharing a one-roomed hut with his aunt, his cousins, and other orphans.



### **Nelson, Jandy** **The Sky is Everywhere**

In the months after her sister dies, seventeen-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).  
**Mature.**

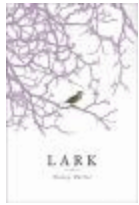
### **Nuzum, K.A.** **The Leanin Dog**

Eleven-year-old Dessa Dean, mourning the death of her mother, finds an injured dog on her porch, which allows both Dessa and the dog to heal together with a friendship that shapes both of their lives. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2009)





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**Porter, Tracey**

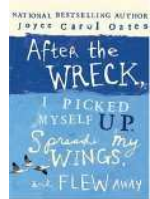
**Lark**

When sixteen-year-old Lark is



murdered, she, her childhood best friend Eva, and a girl she

used to babysit, Nyetta, find themselves facing hard truths about their lives and seeking a way to move on. (Summary Follett Destiny, November 2011).



**Oates, Joyce Carol**

**After the Wreck, I Picked Myself Up, Spread my Wings and Flew Away**

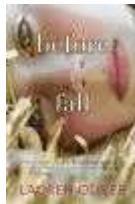
Blaming herself for the car accident on the Tappan Zee Bridge that killed her mother,

fifteen-year-old Jenna undergoes a difficult physical and emotional recovery.

**Oliver, Lauren**

**Before I Fall**

After she dies in a car crash, teenage Samantha relives the day of her death over and over again until, on the seventh day, she finally discovers a way to save herself. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010). Mature



**Qualey, Marsha**

**Just Like That**

A tragic accident, ending with the death of two people her own age, changes life forever for an eighteen-year-old woman.



**Rabb, Margo**

**Cures for Heartbreak**

As she navigates adolescence, ninth-grader Mia must deal with her mother's recent death and her father's illness while she searches for friendship and love

in the world around her. (Follett, 2009)

**Rylant, Cynthia**

**Missing May**

Orphaned at six, raised by an elderly West Virginia aunt and uncle with more devotion than money, Summer is 12 years old when Aunt May dies. Summer's grief is profound, but Uncle Ob seems unable to go on living without his beloved companion.



**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)



**Scott, Elizabeth**

**Love You Hate You Miss you**

After coming out of alcohol rehabilitation, sixteen-year-old Amy sorts out conflicting emotions about her best friend Julia's death in a car accident for which she feels responsible. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



**Sebold, Alice**

**The Lovely Bones**

Looking down from heaven, 14-year-old Susie Salmon recounts her rape and murder and watches her



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

family as they cope with their grief and “the lovely bones” growing around her absence.

### **Soto, Gary** **Afterlife**

A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance.



### **Stork, Francisco** **The Last Summer of the Death Warriors**

Seventeen-year-old Pancho is bent on avenging the senseless death of his sister, but after he meets D.Q, who is dying of cancer, and Marisol, one of D.Q.'s caregivers, both boys find their lives changed by their interactions. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

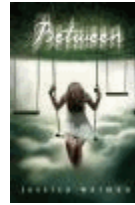


### **Turner, Ann** **Hard Hit**

A rising high school baseball star faces his most difficult challenge when his father is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

### **Ward, Rachel** **Numbers**

Fifteen-year-old Jem knows when she looks at someone the exact date they will die, so she avoids relationships and tries to keep out of the way, but when she meets a boy named Spider and they plan a day out together, they become more involved than either of them had planned. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



### **Warman, Jessica** **Between**

By weaving through her memories and watching the family and friends she left behind, eighteen-year-old Liz Valchar solves the mystery of how her life ended in the Long Island Sound. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011).



### **Williams-Garcia, Rita** **Every Time a Rainbow Dies**

After seeing a girl raped and becoming obsessed with her, 16-year-old Thulani finds motivation to move beyond his interest in his pigeons and his grief over his mother's death.



### **Zevin, Gabrielle** **Elsewhere**

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

## Drugs



### **Elkeles, Sumone** **Perfect Chemistry**

When wealthy, seemingly perfect Brittany and Alex Fuentes, a gang member from the other side of town, develop a relationship after Alex discovers that Brittany is not exactly who she seems to be, they must face the disapproval of their schoolmates--and others. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011). Mature



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

**Ellis, Deborah**

**Sacred Leaf**

Twelve year old Diego escapes from slavery at an illegal cocaine operation and is taken in by the Ricardos, coca farmers.



**Going, K.L.**

**Saint Iggy**

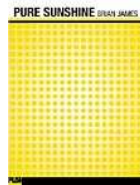
Iggy Corso, who lives in city public housing, is caught physically and spiritually between good and bad when he is kicked out of high school, goes searching for his missing mother, and causes his friend to get involved with the same dangerous drug dealer who deals to his parents.



**James, Brian**

**Pure Sunshine**

The story covers 48 hours in the lives of friends as they wander the streets of Philadelphia, after scoring some tabs of “pure sunshine”—a sheet of California acid [with] little yellow suns illustrated on each tab. As the others revel in excess, Brendon begins to feel alienated from his clique and disillusioned with the path he’s been taking.



**McCormick, Patricia**  
**My Brother’s Keeper**

Thirteen-year-old Toby, a prematurely gray-haired Pittsburgh Pirates fan and baseball card collector, tries to cope with his brother's drug use, his father's absence, and his mother dating Stanley the Food King.



**Myers, Walter Dean**

**Dope Sick**

Seeing no way out of his difficult life in Harlem, seventeen-year-old Jeremy "Lil J" Dance flees into a house after a drug deal goes awry and meets a strange man who reveals different turning points in Lil J's life when he could have made better choices. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2009)

**Walters, Eric**

**Juice**

When a division one coach comes to their smaller school to bring the football program up to contender status, Moose and the rest of the players on the team are pumped. Coach Barnes has new ideas and a vision for the future--nothing is too good for his players. With a new training regimen, everything seems to be on a winning track. But when Moose and others are offered steroids, tempers start to fray and the teammates have to decide whose side they are on.



### Environmental Protection

**Greenwald, 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)



**Hiaassen, Carl**

**Flush**

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey,



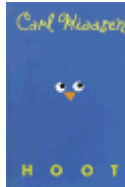
## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

**Hiassen, Carl**

**Hoot**

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.



**Konigsburg, E.L.**

**The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place**

Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their backyard for over forty years.



**Lynch, Janet Nichols**  
**Messed Up**

Fifteen-year-old RD is repeating the eighth grade, planning to have an easy year, but after his grandmother walks out her boyfriend is no longer able to care for him, which leaves RD to fend for himself while avoiding being caught. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2009)

**Family**



**Antieau, Kim**  
**Broken Moon**

When her little brother is kidnapped and taken from Pakistan to race camels in the desert, eighteen-year-old Nadira overcomes her own past abuse and, dressed as a boy and armed with knowledge of the powerful storytelling of the legendary Scheherazade, is determined to find and rescue him. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

**Marsden, Carolyn**

**Silk Umbrellas**

Eleven-year-old Noi worries that she will have to stop painting the silk umbrellas her family sells at the market near their Thai village and be forced to join her older sister in difficult work at a local factory instead.



**Dessen, Sarah**  
**Along For the Ride**

Auden gets a chance to recapture the carefree teen life she missed while her parents were going through a divorce when she goes to spend the summer with her dad and his new family in a charming beach town and meets fellow insomniac Eli, an intriguing loner fighting demons of his own. (Summary from Destiny Follett, November 2009).



**Martin, Ann**

**Everything for a Dog**

In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes, Molly, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects of his brother's death, and lonely Henry pleads for a dog of his own. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2009).

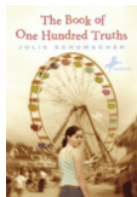


## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

### **Patrick, Cat** **Forgotten**

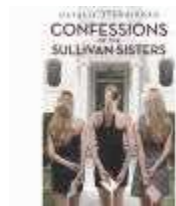


Sixteen-year-old London Lane forgets everything each night and must use notes to struggle through the day, even to recall her wonderful boyfriend, but she "remembers" future events and as her "flashforwards" become more disturbing she realizes she must learn more about the past lest it destroy her future. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011).



### **Schumacher, Julie** **Book of One Hundred Truths**

While visiting her grandparents in Port Harbor, New Jersey, thirteen-year-old Theodora lists one hundred truths that she discovers while babysitting her younger cousins.



### **Standiford, Natalie** **Confessions of the Sullivan Sisters**

When the Sullivan Sisters' grandmother gathers the entire family on Christmas to announce that she is removing them all from her will unless whoever it is that has offended her confesses in writing by New Year's Day, everybody begins to consider what they may have done. (Summary from Follett Destiny, September 2011).



### **Whelan, Gloria** **Homeless Bird**

Married and immediately widowed, 13-year-old Koly grapples with traditional expectations and societal neglect of widows in modern-day India.



## Family Dynamics

### **Ayarbe, Heidi** **Compromised**

With her con-man father in prison, fifteen-year-old Maya sets out from Reno, Nevada, for Boise, Idaho, hoping to stay out of foster care by finding an aunt she never knew existed, but a fellow runaway complicates all of her scientifically-devised plans. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010)



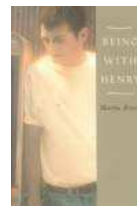
### **Baskins, Nora Raleigh** **What Every Girl (Except Me) Knows**

Twelve-year-old Gabby feels she needs a mother to help her grow into a woman, so when things between her father and his latest girlfriend don't work out, Gabby sets off for the last place she remembers seeing her own mother.



### **Bauer, Cat** **Harley Like a Person**

Fourteen-year-old Harley, an artistic teenager living with her alcoholic father and angry mother, suspects that she is adopted and begins a search for her biological parents.



### **Brooks, Martha** **Being with Henry**

Sixteen-year-old Laker, a Tennessee Williams fan, comes to know firsthand the kindness of strangers. Kicked out by his mother, Laker lives on the street until an elderly man takes him in. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list



**Brooks, Martha**

**Mistik Lake**

After Odella's mother leaves her, her sisters and their father in Manitoba and moves to Iceland with another man, she then dies there, and the family finally learns some of the many secrets that have haunted them for two generations.



**Giff, Patricia Reilly**

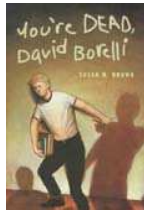
**Pictures of Hollis Woods**

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.

**Brown, Susan M.**

**You're Dead, David Borelli**

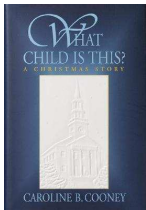
After his mother dies and his father disappears with company funds, David moves from wealth and comfort to a foster home and an inner-city school with uncaring teachers.



**Goobie, Beth**

**Kicked Out**

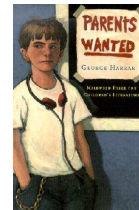
Fifteen-year-old Dime is always angry. Her parents don't like the way she dresses, her boyfriend or her attitude. Dime walked away from an accident that paralyzed her brother, and she feels her parents resent her.



**Cooney, Caroline**

**What Child is This!**

A hardened teenage boy uncharacteristically hangs his foster sister's request for her own family on a Christmas wish tree. Through a series of coincidences, she is united with a childless family on Christmas Eve. *(Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)*



**Harrar, George**

**Parents Wanted**

After living in several foster homes, Andy is placed for adoption with Jeff and Laurie Sizeracy. The 12-year-old narrator, who has attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, immediately begins testing limits. *(Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)*

**Galante, Cecilia**

**The Sweetness of Salt**



After graduating from high school, class valedictorian

Julia travels to Poultney, Vermont, to visit her older sister, and while she is there she learns about long-held family secrets that have shaped her into the person she has become. *(Summary from Follett Destiny, 2011).*



**Horvath, Polly**

**My One Hundred Adventures**

Twelve-year-old Jane, who lives at the beach in a run-down old house with her mother, two brothers, and sister, has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on Bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children. *(Follett, 2009)*



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

### **Hrdlitschka, Shelley**

#### **Sister Wife**

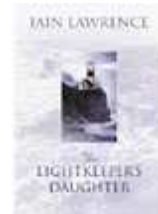
Celeste, a member of The Movement, where polygamy is the norm and women are often married off to much older men, is repulsed by her community's practices and struggles to find a way to break free of their rigid rules and expectations without bringing shame to her family. (Summary from Follet Destiny, Oct 2009)



### **Lawrence, Ian**

#### **The Lightkeeper's Daughter**

Elizabeth, nicknamed Squid, has brought a load of bitter anger with her on this first visit back to Lizzie Island since she left two years ago.



### **Kallos, Stephanie**

#### **Broken For You**

When we meet septuagenarian Margaret Hughes, she is living alone in a mansion in Seattle with only a massive collection of valuable antiques for company. Enter Wanda Schultz, a young woman with a broken heart who has come west to search for her wayward boyfriend. Both women are guarding dark secrets and have spent many years building up protective armor against the outside world. But as the two begin their tentative dance of friendship, the armor begins to fall away and Margaret opens her house to Wanda. Along the way, a famous mosaic artist is born, a Holocaust survivor is reunited with her long-lost tea set, and a sad-eyed drifter finds his long-lost daughter.



### **Nolan, Han**

#### **A Face in Every Window**

When J.P.'s grandmother dies, his mom moves him, his mentally disabled father, a couple neighborhood outcasts and herself into a farmhouse she wins in a contest. She opens up their home to a hodgepodge of young artist types.



### **Paterson, Katherine**

#### **The Same Stuff as Stars**

When Angel's self-absorbed mother leaves her and her younger brother with their poor great-grandmother, the eleven-year-old girl worries not only about her mother and brother, her imprisoned father, the frail old woman, but also about a mysterious man who begins sharing with her the wonder of the stars.



### **Lachtman, Ofelia Dumas**

#### **The Summer of El Pintor**

Sixteen-year-old Monica, forced to move to the Los Angeles barrio, where her late mother grew up, becomes intrigued by the disappearance of "the painter"—who has lived rent-free on property owned by her mother's family. (Summary from Amazon.com, April 2003.)



### **Patron, Susan**

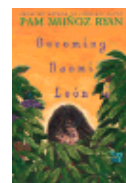
#### **The Higher Power of Lucky**

Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life.

### **Ryan, Pam Munoz**

#### **Becoming Naomi Leon**

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and





## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

younger brother in search of her father.



**Sachar, Louis**  
**The Cardturner: a novel about a king, a queen, and a joker**

When his wealthy uncle, a champion bridge player who has lost his vision, asks seventeen-year-old Alton to be a cardturner for him, Alton has no idea how much he will ultimately learn from his eccentric relative. Includes appendix by Syd Fox with information about bridge. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



**Walters, Eric**  
**Overdrive**

When two kids get into a horrible traffic accident, they realize that serious events, such as high speed collisions, change life forever.

**Weaver, Will**  
**Claws**

Jed and Laura, two popular Minnesota high school students, find their seemingly perfect lives suddenly in chaos when they discover that each has a parent who is having an affair with the other.



**Whelan, Gloria**  
**Homeless Bird**

Married and immediately widowed, 13-year-old Koly grapples with traditional expectations and societal neglect of widows in modern-day India.



## Friendship

**Brashares, Ann**  
**Second Summer of Sisterhood**



When teenager Carmen and her three friends discover that a pair of worn jeans from a thrift shop provides an uncanny fit for all four of them, they decide to form a sisterhood, with the pants as the symbolic bond of friendship among them, and embark on a sweet-sixteen summer.

**Eulberg, Elizabeth**  
**Prom & Prejudice**

For Lizzie Bennett, a music scholarship student at Connecticut's exclusive, girls-only Longbourn Academy, the furor over prom is senseless, but even more puzzling is her attraction to the pompous Will Darcy, best friend of her roommate's boyfriend. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2011).



**Ferris, Jean**  
**Of Sound Mind**

The only hearing member of his family, high-school senior Theo has been burdened with the job of interpreter for most of his life. Most demanding is his mother, a famous sculptor. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)



**Haworth, Danette**  
**Violet Raines Almost Got Struck By Lightning**

In 1970's Florida, eleven-year-old Violet's world is turned upside down by the arrival of a girl from Detroit who seems bent on stealing Violet's





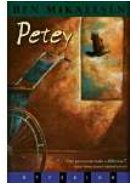
## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

best friends. (Summary from Destiny Follett, October 2009)

**Mikaelsen, Ben**

**Petey**

The first half of the novel details the youth and adulthood of Petey, born in 1922 with cerebral palsy and growing up in poorly run institutions. The second half concerns Trevor, a teenager who befriends Petey and helps the now-elderly man discover a world outside the nursing home. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)



are late getting home one Friday night, their lie has unimaginable consequences for the girls, their families, and the community.

**Reinhardt, Dana**

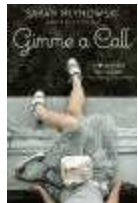
**The Summer I Learned to Fly**



Thirteen-year-old Drew starts the summer of 1986



helping in her mother's cheese shop and dreaming about co-worker Nick, but when her widowed mother begins dating, Drew's father's book of lists, her pet rat, and Emmett--a boy who is on a quest of his own--help her cope. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011).



**Mlynowski, Sarah**

**Gimme a Call**

After accidentally dropping her cell phone into a fountain at the mall, fourteen-year-old Devi Banks starts to get phone calls--and an earful of advice on how to live her life to avoid making disastrous choices--from her seventeen-year-old self. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

**Weaver, Will**

**Saturday Night Dirt**

In a small town in northern Minnesota, the much-anticipated Saturday night dirt-track race at the old-fashioned, barely viable, Headwaters Speedway becomes, in many ways, an important life-changing event for all the participants on and off the track. (Summary from Hennepin County Library, Sept. 2008)



**Perkins, Stephanie**

**Anna & the French Kiss**

When Anna's romance-novelist father sends her to an elite American boarding school in Paris for her senior year of high school, she reluctantly goes, and meets an amazing boy who becomes her best friend, in spite of the fact that they both want something more. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2011).

### Gangs & Crime



**Ewing, Lynne**

**Drive-By**

When his older brother is killed in a drive-by shooting, sixth-grader Tito discovers that fellow gang members murdered Jimmy because he had skimmed drug-running profits. Now the gang expects Tito to reveal where Jimmy hid the money. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)



**Reinhardt, Dana**

**Harmless**

When Anna, Emma, and Mariah concoct a story about why they

Unless otherwise noted, summaries are from Hennepin County Library @ hclib.org



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list



### **Korman, Gordon** **The Juvie Three**

Gecko, Arjay, and Terence, all in trouble with the law, must find a way to keep their halfway house open in order to stay out of juvenile detention. (Summary from Follett Destiny, 2009)

### **Levy, Marilyn** **Run for Your Life**

A girls track team, formed at an Oakland housing project, achieves ultimate success—both on the track and in their personal lives.



### **Sitomer, Alan** **Homeboyz**

Seventeen-year-old Teddy Anderson, who is known on the streets as T-Bear, decides to seek revenge on the person responsible for his little sister's death, which was caused by a stray bullet from a semiautomatic handgun.

## Humor

### **Clements, Andrew** **Lunch Money**

Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.



### **Curtis, Christopher Paul** **Bucking the Sarge**

Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor



while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

### **Greenwald, Tommy** **Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading**

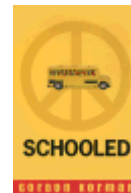


Middle schooler Charlie Joe is proud of his success at avoiding reading, but eventually his schemes go too far. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011)



### **Korman, Gordon** **Schooled**

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)



### **Korman, Gordon** **Son of the Mob**

High-schooler Vincent Luca wants no part of his father's "vending machine business,"—a front for Dad's mob activities. The story addresses being an honest kid in a family of outlaws—and loving them anyway. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)



### **Nielsen, Susin** **Dear George Clooney, please marry my mom**

Violet, dealing with her father's new wife and her mother's bad





## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

dating decisions, decides to take control of the situation and sets in motion a plan to get movie star George Clooney to marry her mom. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



### **Tolan, Stephanie** **Surviving the Applewhites**

Twelve-year-old E.D. Applewhite is the sensible, organized sister in a free-wheeling family of artists and writers. Juvenile delinquent Jake

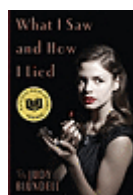
comes to stay with—and be home schooled by—the Applewhites after he’s kicked out of yet another school.

troubled students, including a sensitive gay classmate, helps Susan, an overweight tenth grader, develop a better sense of herself.



### **Beam, Cris** **I am J**

J, who feels that he is a boy who was mistakenly born a girl, hides who he is from his family and the world, but after he loses his best friend, J decides to stop hiding, whatever the cost. Summary from Follett Destiny, 2011)



### **Blundell, Judy** **What I Saw and How I Lied**

In 1947, with her jovial stepfather Joe back from the war and family life returning to normal, teenage

Evie, smitten by the handsome young ex-GI who seems to have a secret hold on Joe, finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies whose devastating outcome change her life and that of her family forever. (Follett, 2009)

## Identity

### **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)



### **Alvarez, Julia** **Return to Sender**

After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

### **Budhos, Marina** **Ask Me No Questions**

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.



### **Castellucci, Cecil** **Boy Proof**

Feeling alienated from everyone around her, Los Angeles high school senior and cinephile Victoria Denton hides behind the identity of a favorite movie character until an interesting new boy arrives at school and



### **Atkins, Catherine** **Alt Ed**

Participating in a special after-school counseling class with other

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## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

helps her realize that there is more to life than just the movies.



### **Choldenko, Gennifer** **If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period**

Kirsten and Walk, seventh-graders at an elite private school, take turns discussing issues that affect their lives such as race, wealth, weight, and bullies. Then Kirsten and Walk discover a long-kept secret about themselves that changes their lives forever.



### **Chow, Cara** **Bitter Melon**

Frances, a Chinese-American student in a competitive school in San Francisco in the 1980s, begins to question her mother's insistence that she becomes a doctor when she accidentally enrolls in a speech class and discovers a hidden talent. (Summary from Follett Destiny, 2011).



### **Christopher, Lucy** **Stolen**

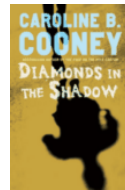
Sixteen-year-old Gemma, a British city-dweller, is abducted while on vacation with her parents and taken to the Australian outback, where she soon realizes that escape attempts are futile, and in time she learns that her captor is not as despicable as she first believed. (Summary from Follett Destiny, 2011).



### **Codell, Esme Raji** **Sahara Special**

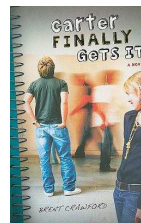
Miss Pointy, the new fifth-grade teacher, has her work cut out for her, with shy Rachel, outspoken

Sakiah, angry Darrell, and Sahara Jones, fifth grader for the second time. Though Miss Pointy perhaps too often has the perfect response, she is a real teacher, plagued by worries and ego and a sharp tongue. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, October 2003.)



### **Cooney, Caroline** **Diamonds in the Shadow**

The Finches, a Connecticut family, sponsor an African refugee family of four, all of whom have been scarred by the horrors of civil war, and who inadvertently put their benefactors in harm's way.



### **Crawford, Brent** **Carter Finally Gets It**

Awkward freshman Will Carter endures many painful moments during his first year of high school before realizing that nothing good comes easily, focus is everything, and the payoff is usually incredible. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010). Mature Situations

### **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. The protean nature of Sophie's relationships with her uncles and cousins lead all to self-discoveries.



### **De la Pena, Matt** **Mexican Whiteboy**

Danny, who is tall and skinny but has a talent for pitching a fastball, cannot seem to fit in at school in San Diego, where his Mexican and



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

white heritage causes people to judge him before he even speaks. (Follett, 2009)



### **Dessen, Sarah** **What Happen to Goodbye**

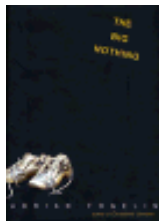
Following her parents' bitter divorce as she and her father move from



town to town, seventeen-year-old Mclean reinvents herself at each school she attends until she is no longer sure she knows who she is or where she belongs. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2011).

### **Fogelin, Adrian** **The Big Nothing**

A middle-schooler struggles to cope with major family problems, including a brother who might be heading for the Persian Gulf, but finds an escape in piano lessons and the dream of a romance with a popular girl.



### **Gavalda, Anna** **95 Pounds of Hope**

From the first day, school had always been torture for Gregory, but his expulsion from school in sixth grade

allows him to find his own path and deal with his parents' fights and his beloved grandfather's illness. (Summary from Library of Congress, April 2004.)



### **Going, K.L.** **King of the Screwups**

Liam Geller is one of the most popular boys in school but can't seem to do anything right in the eyes of his father; so he goes to

live with his homosexual, rocker uncle who helps him to understand that there is much more to him than his father will ever see.



### **Goobie, Beth** **Sticks and Stones**

After developing an unearned reputation as a girl with sexually loose morals, Jujube finds a novel way to take on her tormentors and help a group of girls win back their self-esteem.

### **Green, John** **Paper Towns**

One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears. (Summary from loc.gov, Sept. 2008)



### **Han, Jenny** **We'll Always Have Summer**

The summer after her first year of college, Isobel "Belly" Conklin is faced with a choice between Jeremiah and Conrad Fisher, brothers she has always loved, when Jeremiah proposes marriage and Conrad confesses that he still loves her. (Summary from Hennepin County Library, November 2011).



### **Hartinger, Brent** **Last Chance Texaco**

Troubled teen Lucy Pitt, orphaned after her parents death, struggles to fit in as a new tenant at a last-chance foster home.



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

**Hosseini, Khaled**

**A Thousand Splendid Suns**

Mariam and her mother live an isolated existence on the outskirts of a small town in Afghanistan because Mariam is the illegitimate daughter of the town's richest man. When her mother dies, fifteen-year-old Mariam is betrothed to a cobbler in the faraway city of Kabul. After several years of a childless marriage, Mariam's husband marries a second wife, a girl whose boyfriend has fled to the refugee camps in Pakistan



**Kessler, Cristina**

**Our Secret Siri Aang**

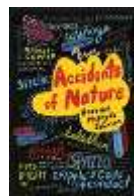
Namelok, a Masai girl, tries to persuade her traditionalist father to delay her initiation and marriage because they will restrict her freedom and keep her from the black rhino mother and baby she is protecting from poachers.



**Clise, James**

**Love Drugged**

Fifteen-year-old Jamie is dismayed by his attraction to boys, and when a beautiful girl shows an interest in him, he is all the more intrigued by her father's work developing a drug called Rehomoline. (Summary from Follett Destiny, 2011).



**Johnson, Harriet McBryde**  
**Accidents of Nature**

Having always prided herself on blending in with "normal" people despite her cerebral palsy, seventeen-year-old Jean begins to question her role in the world while attending a summer camp for children with disabilities.

**Jones, V.M.**

**Out of Reach**

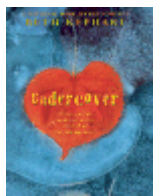
Pip McLeod is pressured by his aggressively competitive father to play soccer, but finds fulfillment and success by secretly pursuing indoor rock climbing, a sport he actually enjoys. (Follett, 2009)



**Knowles, Jo**

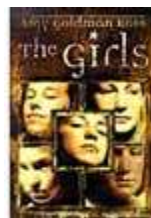
**Lessons from a Dead Girl**

After her former friend Leah dies in an automobile accident, Laine remembers their troubled relationship, dating back to elementary school when Leah convinced Laine to "practice" in the closet with her, and Leah controlled her every thought. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)



**Kephart, Beth**  
**Undercover**

High school sophomore Elisa is used to observing while going unnoticed except when classmates ask her to write love notes for them, but a teacher's recognition of her talent, a "client's" desire for her friendship, a love of ice skating, and her parent's marital problems draw her out of herself. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)



**Koss, Amy Golden**  
**The Girls**

One Saturday morning a girl finds out her friends—for reasons unknown—have decided to exclude her. As the short novel moves over the course of the weekend, five girls narrate in turns, each moving the story forward and providing sometimes unwitting commentary on her friends' versions of events.



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

**Larochelle, David**

**Absolutely Positively Not**

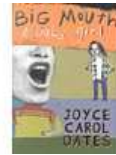
Chronicles a teenage boy's humorous attempts to fit in at his Minnesota high school by becoming a macho, girl-loving, "Playboy" pinup-displaying heterosexual.



jumps at the chance, thinking it will change her life for the better. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)

**Oates, Joyce Carol**

**Big Mouth & Ugly Girl**



Matt didn't threaten to blow up the school, but his reputation as a wise-ass makes his protests of innocence unconvincing. Ursula *knows* she didn't blow the basketball game-losing foul shot on purpose, but she thinks the team blames her for the loss. These misunderstood high school juniors discover themselves through their friendship in this you-and-me-against-the-world romance. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, October 2003).



**Lockhart, E**

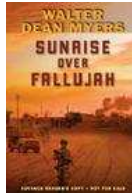
**The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks**

Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever. (Follett, 2009)

**Myers, Walter Dean**

**Sunrise Over Fallujah**

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)



**Parker, Linda Sue**

**Project Mulberry**

While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more. Between the chapters are short dialogues between the author and main character about the writing of the book.



**Myracle, Lauren**

**Twelve**

Winnie relates the events of her twelfth year and the many changes in her relationships and in her attitude toward growing up.

(Follett, 2009)



**Randa, Abdel-Fattah**

**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)

**Na, An**

**The Fold**

Korean American high school student Joyce Kim feels like a nonentity compared to her beautiful older sister, and when her aunt offers to pay for plastic surgery on her eyes, she





## Denotes new titles recently added to the list



**Reinhardt, Dana**  
**A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life**

Sixteen-year-old atheist Simone Turner-Bloom's life changes in unexpected ways when her parents convince her to make contact with her biological mother, an agnostic from a Jewish family who is losing her battle with cancer.



**Sachar, Louis**  
**Small Steps**

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

**Reinhardt, Dana**  
**How to Build a House**

Seventeen-year-old Harper Evans hopes to escape the effects of her father's divorce on her family and friendships by volunteering her summer to build a house in a small Tennessee town devastated by a tornado. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)



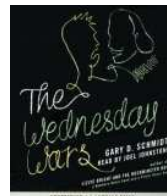
**Sanchez, Alex**  
**The Rainbow Boys**

Three high school seniors, a jock with a girlfriend and an alcoholic father, a closeted gay, and a flamboyant gay rights advocate, struggle with family issues, gay bashers, first sex, and conflicting feelings about each other.



**Rosoff, Meg**  
**How I Live Now**

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land. (Summary from Hennepin Co. Library Feb. 2005).



**Schmidt, Gary**  
**The Wednesday Wars**

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

**Ryan, Pam Munoz**  
**Esperanza Rising**

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.



**Sonneblich, Jordan,**  
**Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie**

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.





## Denotes new titles recently added to the list



### **Spinelli, Jerry** **Love, Stargirl**

Still moping months after being dumped by her Arizona boyfriend Leo, fifteen-year-old Stargirl, a home-schooled free spirit, writes "the world's longest letter" to Leo, describing her new life in Pennsylvania.



### **Springer, Nancy** **Somebody**

At the age of fifteen, a girl who has spent most of her life moving around the country with her father and brother, filling the emptiness inside her with chocolate, remembers her real name, Sherica, and searches the Internet to learn the truth about her mother and her own past. (Summary from Follett Destiny, Oct 2009).

### **St. Anthony, Jane** **Grace Above All**

When thirteen-year-old Grace, her mother, and four siblings go to her mother's childhood cabin by a lake over the summer, as usual Grace is in charge of all the kids while her mother does nothing, but after meeting some relatives Grace becomes a bit more understanding, and learns to stand up for herself.



### **Stork, Francisco** **Marcelo in the Real World**

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2009)



### **Weeks, Sarah** **So B. It**

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

### **Weeks, Sarah** **Regular Guy**

Because he is so different from his eccentric parents, twelve-year-old Guy is convinced he has been switched at birth with a classmate whose parents seem more normal.



### **Weaver, Will** **Defect**

After spending most of his life in Minnesota foster homes hiding a bizarre physical abnormality, fifteen-year-old David is offered a chance at normalcy, but must decide if giving up what makes him special is the right thing to do.



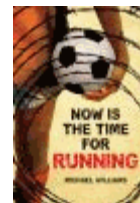
### **Williams, Carol Lynch** **The Chosen**

In a polygamous cult in the desert, Kyra, not yet fourteen, sees being chosen to be the seventh wife of her uncle as just punishment for having read books and kissed a boy in violation of Prophet Childs' teachings, and is torn between facing her fate and running away from all that she knows and loves. (Summary from Follett Destiny, Oct 2009)

### **Williams, Michael** **Now is the Time For Running**



When soldiers attack a small village in Zimbabwe, Deo goes on the



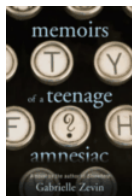


## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

run with Innocent, his older, mentally disabled brother, carrying little but a leather soccer ball filled with money, and after facing prejudice, poverty, and tragedy, it is in soccer that Deo finds renewed hope. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011).

**Zevin, Gabrielle**  
**Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac**

After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life.



sexual—relationship with Heather, who's got her own set of emotional issues.



**Williams, Carol Lynch**  
**Miles from Ordinary**

Thirteen-year-old Lacey must face the reality of what life with her mother means for both of them as her mother's mental illness spins terrifyingly out of control. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011).



**Martin, Ann**  
**A Corner of the Universe**

Twelve-year-old Hattie's ordinary summer is upset when two strangers come to town: her hitherto unrevealed uncle Adam, who suffers from an unspecified mental illness, and Leila, a girl traveling with an itinerant carnival. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, April 2003.)

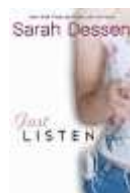


### Mental Illness



**Antle, Nancy**  
**Lost in the War**

Twelve-year-old Lisa Grey struggles to cope with a mother whose traumatic experiences as a nurse in Vietnam during the war are still haunting her.



**Dessen, Sarah**  
**Just Listen**

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

**Jenkins, A.M.**  
**Damage**

An intense character study charts high school senior Austin's worsening depression as he pulls away from friends, misses passes during football games, and becomes involved in a complicated—and



**McCormick, Patricia**  
**Cut**

While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation, and gradually starts to get better.



**Schumacher, Julie**  
**Black Box**

When her sixteen-year-old sister is hospitalized for depression and her parents want to keep it a secret, fourteen-year-old Elena tries to cope with her own anxiety and feelings of guilt that she is determined to conceal from outsiders. (Summary from Follett Destiny, Oct 2009)



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

**Trueman, Terry**

**Inside Out**

A sixteen-year-old with schizophrenia is caught up in the events surrounding an attempted robbery by two other teens who eventually hold him hostage.



Biddle investigates a series of strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)

**Flake, Sharon**

**The Broken Bike Boy & the Queen on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street**



Ten-year-old Queen, a spoiled and conceited African American girl who is disliked by most of her classmates, learns a lesson

about friendship from an unlikely "knight in shining armor." (Summary from Hennepin County Library, January 2008)

### School Stories

**Anderson, Jessica Lee**

**Trudy**

Twelve-year-old Trudy's life is filled with changes, mainly centered around starting middle school, and as she struggles to take them all in stride she is hit with the biggest change of all--her elderly father's diagnosis of dementia.



**Myers, Walter Dean**

**The Cruisers**



Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy, learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, The Cruisers, to try to make peace. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



**Anderson, Laurie Halse**

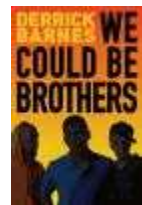
**Catalyst**

Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

**Na, An**

**A Step from Heaven**

A Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.



**Barnes, Derrick**

**We Could Be Brothers**

Two eighth-graders from very different backgrounds, Robeson "Crease" Battlefield and



Pacino Clapton, discover in afterschool detention that they have a great deal in common. (Summary from Follett Destiny, 2011)

**Rottman, S.L.**

**Shadow of a Doubt**

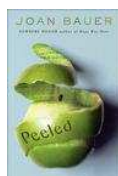


As his sophomore year in high school begins, fifteen-year-old Shadow joins the forensics team, makes new friends, and struggles to cope with the return of his older brother, who ran away seven years earlier and now faces a murder trial.

**Bauer, Joan**

**Peeled**

In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy



Unless otherwise noted, summaries are from Hennepin County Library @ hclib.org



## Denotes new titles recently added to the list

**Winerip, Michael**

**Adam Canfield of the Slash**

While serving as co-editors of their school newspaper, middle-schoolers Adam and Jennifer uncover fraud and corruption in their school and in the city's government.



**Ritter, John**

**The Boy Who Saved Baseball**

The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

### Short Stories

**Myers, Walter Dean**

**What They Found: Love on 145<sup>th</sup> Street**

Fifteen interrelated stories explore different aspects of love, such as a dying father's determination to help start a family business--a beauty salon--and the relationship of two teens who plan to remain celibate until they marry.



**Scaletta, Kurtis**

**Mudville**

For twenty-two years, since a fateful baseball game against their rival town, it has rained in Moundville, so when the rain finally stops, twelve-year-old Roy, his friends, and foster brother Sturgis dare to face the curse and form a team. (Summary from Follett Destiny, Oct 2009)



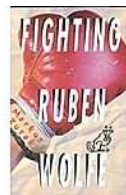
### Sports



**Coy, John**

**Crackback**

Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.



**Zusak, Mark**

**Fighting Ruben Wolfe**

In this fast-paced Australian import, teenage tough guys Cameron and Ruben Wolfe are offered a chance to fight on the underground boxing circuit. Cam's brawny first-person narrative captures the physical rigors of the boxing ring as well as the emotional turmoil of the troubled Wolfe family.

**Lupica, Mike**

**Travel Team**

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.



### Teen Pregnancy

**Bechard, Margaret**

**Hanging on to Max**

When his girlfriend decides to give their baby away, 17-year-old Sam is determined to raise him alone.





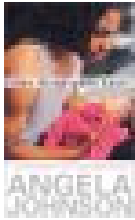
## Denotes new titles recently added to the list



**Efaw, Amy**

**After**

Devon Davenport is a straight-A student and prominent player on her school's soccer team, but when she is linked to an abandoned baby found in the trash she is accused of attempted murder. Mature Theme. (Summary from Destiny Follett, November 2009).



**Johnson, Angela**

**The First Part Last**

Sixteen-year-old Bobby and his girlfriend, Nia, had planned to put their baby, Feather, up for adoption, but Feather becomes impossible to relinquish after, as the reader learns at book's end, pregnancy-related eclampsia leaves Nia in an irreversible coma. What resonate in this prequel to the Coretta Scott King Award-winning Heaven are the sacrifices Bobby makes for Feather's sake. (Summary from Horn Book Guide online, October 2003.)