

People Who Face Significant Challenges



Denotes new titles recently added to the list



Albom, Mitch
Tuesdays with Morrie

In this true story about the love between a spiritual mentor and his pupil, we meet Morrie Schwartz—a one of a kind

professor, whom the author describes as looking like a cross between a biblical prophet and Christmas elf. We are privy to Morrie's final days as he lies dying from a terminal illness, when this twinkling-eyed mensch teaches us about living robustly and fully. (Summary from *Amazon.com*, February 2003)*

friends on the soccer field. In a climactic ending, Paul finally confronts his parents with the truth about the brother he fears.

Clements, Andrew
Things Not Seen



Bobby wakes up one February morning in Chicago to discover he's invisible. He and his new blind friend try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.



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).

Comres, Elizabeth
Broken Memory

Five-year-old Emma witnesses the brutal murder of her mother during the 1994 genocide massacres in Rwanda and seeks shelter with an aging Hutu woman; but years later when war ends, Emma's fears continue to haunt her as she finds the courage to begin her healing. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



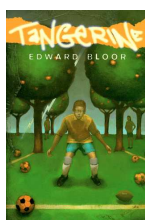
Antle, Nancy
Lost in the War

Eighth-grader Lisa and her younger sister struggle to cope with their mother's nightmares and depression, brought on by a delayed reaction to traumatic experiences as a nurse during the Vietnam War.



Conley, Jane
Crazy Lady

Vernon and his friends discover that as seventh graders they are too old to play games with kids on the block and too young to go to work. With nothing better to do, they hang around the street. But Vernon gets a job helping out Maxine, the neighborhood "crazy lady," and her mentally retarded son.



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, and Paul wins unlikely new

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,



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all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

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

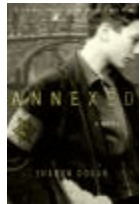


mother, a famous sculptor whose imperious commands ensure that the family revolves around her.

Froese, Deborah **Out of the Fire**



Waking up in the intensive care unit after being badly burned at a party she cannot remember, sixteen-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. (Summary from *NoveList*, February 2003.)



Dogar, Sharon **Annexed**

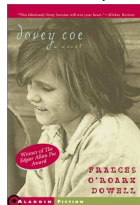
A fictional account of life with Anne Frank hidden in the secret annex from Peter's point-of-view, following as he becomes closer with Anne, begins to question his own religion, and is forced to suppress his own desires to join the fight. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

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.)



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.



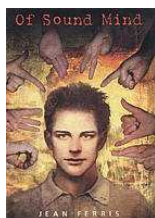
Given, Sara **Water for Elephants**

"Though he may not speak of them, the memories still dwell inside Jacob Jankowski's ninety-something-year-old mind.

Memories of himself as a young man, tossed by fate onto a rickety train that was home to the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. Memories of a world filled with freaks and clowns, with wonder and pain and anger and passion; a world with its own narrow, irrational rules, its own way of life, and its own way of death. The world of the circus: to Jacob it was both salvation and a living hell.

Ferris, Jean **Of Sound Mind**

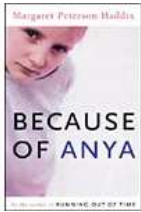
The only hearing member of his family, high-school senior Theo has been burdened with the job of interpreter for most of his life. Most demanding is his



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Haddix, Margaret Peterson **Because of Anya**

When the first small bald patch shows up on Anya's head, it seems like a small thing, but as the bald patches grow and her hair falls out in clumps, she's diagnosed with an auto-immune disease. All too soon, however, she's wearing a wig, and her classmates are wondering if she has cancer. Then the unthinkable occurs: Her wig falls off during gym, seemingly pulled off by the most popular, and bossiest, girl in school.

Gantos, Jack

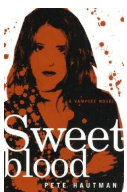
Joey Pigza Loses Control

Joey Pigza is on a more even keel, thanks to "good meds" for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. Spending the summer with his father, a bigger version of his "wired" self, Joey finds himself ill-prepared to cope with his self-destructive and alcoholic parent.



Haddon, Mark **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**

Narrated by a 15-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling novel weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story, and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions.



Hautman, Pete **Sweetblood**

After a lifetime of being a model student, 16-year-old Lucy Szabo is suddenly in trouble at school, at home, with "proto-vampires"

she's met and, most of all, with her uncontrolled diabetes. (Summary from *Amazon.com*, February 2003)

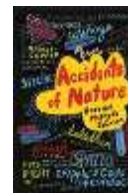
Jenkins, A.M. **Damage**

An intense character study charts high school senior Austin's worsening depression as he pulls away from his friends, misses passes during football games and becomes involved in a complicated (and sexual) relationship with Heather, who's got her own emotional issues.



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.



Jordan, Sherryl **The Raging Quiet**

Widowed after only two days, sixteen-year-old Marnie is viewed with distrust by the local villagers. When she befriends a deaf boy and invents a signed language, the villagers, encouraged by Marnie's hateful brother-in-law, accuse her of witchcraft and demand a trial.



Kehret, Peg **Earthquake Terror**

Jonathan and his little sister, Abby, are left alone on a camping trip when their father seeks medical attention for their mother's broken ankle. An

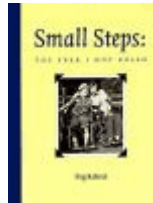


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earthquake hits, stranding the children. Jonathan helps his sister, who uses a walker, make it to safety.

Kehret, Peg
Small Steps: The Year I got Polio

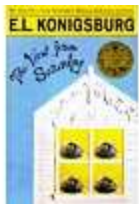
The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects. (Summary from Destiny Follett, 2011).



in 1910 when she was eight years old. Katy describes her fleeting, yet tender interactions with young Jacob Stoltz, who seems to be autistic (though the book doesn't specify), and an inevitable tragedy that Katy's intuitive understanding is unable to prevent.

Marsden, John
Checkers

An unnamed teenage girl describes her interactions with fellow patients in a mental hospital and recalls the events that led to her there. Her memories center on her pet dog and on a financial scandal that involved her businessman father.

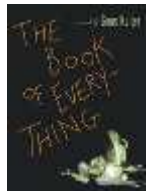
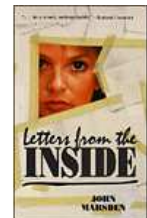


Konisberg, E.L.
The View from Saturday

Mrs. Olinski's sixth-grade Academic Bowl team has made it to the state finals. Each of the four teammates must answer a question and their answers blossom from their surprisingly intertwined lives and aspirations.

Marsden, John
Letters from the Inside

After Mandy admits to her pen pal Tracey that she is struggling with an abusive older brother, she eventually discovers that Tracey has been lying about her seemingly perfect life and is in an institution for juvenile criminals.



Kuijer, Guus
Book of Everything

Nine-year-old Thomas receives encouragement from many sources, including candid talks with Jesus, to help him tolerate the strict family life dictated by his deeply-religious father.

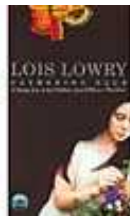


Martin, Ann
A Corner of the Universe

The summer she turns 12, Hattie Owen is steeped in the routines of her small town life until the startling arrival of an uncle, a childlike young man whose existence the family has denied for years. (Summary from Amazon.com, February 2003)

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.



The Silent Boy
Looking back from a distance of many decades, Katy Thatcher recalls her small-town childhood

McCormick, Patricia
Cut

During long psychotherapy sessions at a “residential treatment facility,” Callie barely speaks but remembers bits and pieces of the





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weeks leading up to her arrival, slowly filling in the picture of a family effectively incapacitated by her little brother's severe asthma.



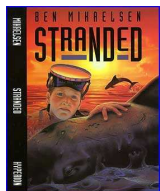
McMullan, Margaret
Sources of Light

Sam, having moved with her mother to Jackson, Mississippi, after the death of her father, finds the conservative 1960s values of the town clashing with her family's liberal views and struggles to navigate difficult relationships and understand segregation. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



McMurchy-Barber, Gina
Free as a Bird

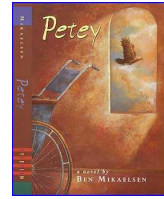
Eight-year-old Ruby Jean Sharp, born with Down syndrome, is placed in Woodlands School in New Westminster, British Columbia, after the death of her grandmother who took care of her, and she learns to survive every kind of abuse before she is placed in a program designed to help her live outside the institution.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



Mikaelson, Ben
Stranded

Twelve-year-old Koby, a spunky and independent heroine who lives in the Florida Keys, frees a pilot whale tangled in a net and saves the whale's newborn calf from drowning. Koby begins to accept and deal with the troubling circumstances in her life, including her parents' marital tensions, the loss of her foot in an accident, and the survival of the whales.

Mikaelson, Ben
Petey



The first half of the novel details the youth and adulthood of Petey, who is born in 1922 with cerebral palsy and grows up in a series of poorly run institutions. The second half concerns Trevor, a teenager who befriends Petey and helps the now-elderly man discover a world outside of the nursing home.



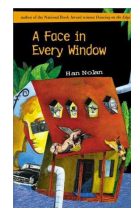
Morpurgo, Michael
Private Peaceful

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.

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.



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, and chaos ensues in this novel about finding oneself and accepting others.



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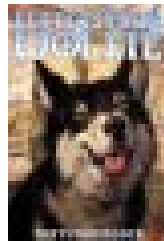
Preus, Margi

Heart of the Samurai: based on the true story of Nakahama Manjiro

In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).



novel presents a chilling depiction of mental illness in a less-enlightened time.



Sherlock, Patti

Letters from Wolfie

Certain that he is doing the right thing by donating his dog, Wolfie, to the Army's scout program in Vietnam, thirteen-year-old Mark begins to have second thoughts when the Army refuses to say when and if Wolfie will ever return.

Ralston, Aron

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

The author recounts his harrowing experiences of being trapped for six days in Blue John Canyon in Utah and having to amputate his own right arm in order to save his life. (Summary from Destiny Follett, 2011)



Sonnenblick, 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.



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).



Stauffacher, 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.

Seago, Kate

Matthew Unstrung

Studying at a Bible college for an ill-suited career in the clergy, Matthew caves under the demands of his unyielding minister father and suffers a nervous breakdown. Set in 1910, the

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)





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Thesman, Jean **When the Road Ends**

Employing some of the elements of a survival story, Thesman details the struggle of three vulnerable, castaway foster children to fend for themselves under the fretful charge of twelve-year-old Mary Jack, a constant worrywart.



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.

Stuck in Neutral

Born with cerebral palsy and unable to communicate, Shawn is presumed to have the mental age of a three-month-old. Bright, funny, occasionally sarcastic and astonishingly optimistic, Shawn longs to make contact with other.

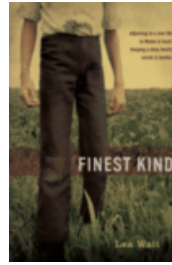


Voigt, Cynthia **Izzy Willie Nilly**

When Izzy Lingard loses the lower part of her right leg in an auto accident, she is forced to look at her life from a radically different perspective. (Summary from Amazon.com, February 2003)

Dacey's Song

Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dacey must decide what she wants for her siblings and herself.



Wait, Lea **Finest Kind**

When his father's Boston bank fails in 1838, causing his family to relocate to a small Maine town, twelve-year-old Jake Webber works to prepare the family for the harsh winter while also keeping the existence of his disabled younger brother a secret. Summary from Mackin.com, January 2008.)



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.



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.



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.