

Realistic Fiction

Beauty Shop for Rent by Laura Bowers.

Raised by her great-grandmother and a bunch of beauty shop buddies, fourteen-year-old Abbey resolves to overcome her unhappy childhood.

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period by Gennifer Choldenko.

Kirsten and Walk stand up to a mean but influential classmate, and uncover a long-kept secret about themselves and their families.

Crunch by Leslie Connor.

Dewey attempts to be responsible as he manages the family's bicycle business while sharing the household and farm duties with siblings after an energy crisis strands their parents far away.

No Small Thing by Natale Ghent.

Twelve-year-old Nat and his sisters find that owning a pony they acquired for free helps them cope with the poverty they have faced since their father left them.

Flush by Carl Hiaasen.

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his sister must prove that the owner of a floating casino is emptying his sewage into the protected waters near them.

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman.

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending play rehearsals. His changes improve not only the play but his life as well.

Pop by Gordon Korman.

Lonely after a move to a new town, high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who trains him but also gets Marcus into constant trouble.

Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins.

A group of neighbors and friends tell the stories of their path to adulthood. Their stories meet, crisscross, diverge, and then come back together again over the course of a summer.

Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt.

When all of his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read Shakespeare and discuss life.

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick.

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.

Hush by Jacqueline Woodson.

Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

3 Willows: the Sisterhood Grows by Ann Brashares.

Ama, Jo, and Polly spend the summer before ninth grade learning about themselves, their families, and the changing nature of their friendship.

Carter Finally Gets It by Brent Crawford.

Will Carter thinks this could be the year he gets it together and learns how to manage his ADD, but his troubles with girls and humiliations by upper classmen seriously jeopardize his plans.

Night Hoops by Carl Deuker.

While trying to make his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a classmate who lives across the street.

Romiette and Julio by Sharon Draper.

Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, are harassed by a gang who objects to their interracial dating.

Fat Kid Rules the World by K.L. Going.

When a high-school dropout talks a boy out of suicide they become unlikely friends—who end up saving each other, and making punk rock history.

The Last Exit to Normal by Michael Harmon.

After Ben's father makes a shocking announcement and leaves the family, Ben's rebellion lands him in the middle of nowhere with his dad.

Lemonade Mouth by Mark Peter Hughes.

A disparate group of high school students thrown together in detention form a band to play at a school talent show and end up competing with a wildly popular local rock band.

Side Effects by Amy Goldman Koss.

Everything changes for Isabelle when she is diagnosed with lymphoma, but eventually she survives and even thrives.

The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things by Carolyn Mackler.

Fifteen-year-old Virginia Shreves is sure that she's the weakest link in her high-powered family until her handsome, athletic, star-student brother shockingly falls from grace.

Handbook for Boys by Walter Dean Myers.

Sixteen-year-old Jimmy, on probation for assault, talks about life with three old men in a Harlem barbershop and hears about the tools he can use to get what he wants.

By the Time You Read This I'll Be Dead by Julianne Peters.

High school student Daelyn Rice, who has more than once attempted suicide, again makes plans to kill herself, in spite of the persistent attempts of an unusual boy to draw her out.

The Daughters by Joanna Philbin.

In New York City, three best friends who are all daughters of celebrities watch out for each other as they try to strike a balance between ordinary high school events and celebrity appearances.

Under the Baseball Moon by John H. Ritter.

Andy and Glory, two fifteen-year-olds from Ocean Beach, California, pursue their respective dreams of becoming a famous musician and a professional softball player.

One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies by Sonya Sones.

After her mother's death, Ruby moves to Los Angeles to live with her father, actor Whip Logan. Ruby hates her new life, but a tragic incident helps Ruby and Whip to be honest with each other.

Cruise Control by Terry Trueman.

A talented basketball player struggles to deal with the helplessness and anger that come with having a brother rendered dysfunctional by severe cerebral palsy and a father who deserted them.

Alison Who Went Away by Vivian Vande Velde.

Three years after the disappearance of her older sister, fourteen-year-old Sibyl and her family struggle to continue their lives, separately and together.

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan.

When 13-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find courage to oppose it.

Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey.

In small-town Australia, teens Jasper and Charlie form an unlikely friendship when one asks the other to help him cover up a murder until they can prove who is responsible.

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings.

Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship.

A Map of Home by Randa Jarrar.

Nidali, the rebellious daughter of an Egyptian-Greek mother and a Palestinian father, narrates her story from her childhood in Kuwait, her early teenage years in Egypt, to her family's last flight to Texas.

Science Fiction

Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix.

When Jonah and Chip learn they were discovered on a plane full of babies and no adults, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces.

Fever Crumb by Phillip Reeve.

Foundling Fever Crumb has been raised as an engineer in future London. At fourteen she leaves her sheltered world and learns startling truths about her past while facing danger in the present.

Matched by Ally Condie.

The Society makes all of Cassia's choices for her, even who to marry. When she is Matched with her best friend Xander, things are perfect. But why did her neighbor Ky show up on her disk too?

Historical Fiction

Storm Warriors by Elisa Carbone.

Twelve-year-old Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to Pea Island, off the coast of North Carolina, and hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station.

Lyddie by Katherine Patterson.

Lyddie and her brother are hired out as servants to pay their family's debts. She flees to Lowell, Mass., to find a job that will pay enough to clear the debts and allow the family to be reunited.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia.

In the summer of 1968 Delphine and her sisters arrive in California to a cold welcome from their mother, a dedicated poet and printer. She wants them to attend a Black Panther summer camp.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd.

Fleeing home, a young girl is taken in by three African-American beekeeping sisters. There she discovers a place where she can find what her heart longs for most.

Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo.

When Thomas Peaceful's brother is forced to join the British Army Thomas signs up as well to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love Molly, and himself.

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford.

Set in Seattle and Japanese American internment camps during World War II, this novel tells the heartwarming story of widower Henry Lee, his father, and his first love Keiko Okabe.

My Brother, My Sister, and I by Yoko Kawashima Watkins.

While living as refugees in Japan in 1947 and trying to locate their missing father, Yoko and her siblings must endure a bad fire, injury, and false charges of arson, theft, and murder.

The Freedom Maze by Delia Sherman.

In 1960, thirteen-year-old Sophie slips through a maze into 19th century Louisiana and finds nothing is as she expected when she is mistaken for a slave belonging to her own family.

Fantasy

Children of the Sea Vol. 1 by Daisuke Igarashi.

As a child, Ruka saw a ghost at the aquarium and later is drawn to it and two strange boys. They are caught up in the mystery of disappearing ocean fish in this lushly illustrated graphic novel.

The Lost Hero by Rick Riordan.

Three students from a school for "bad kids" find themselves at Camp Half-Blood where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, imprisoned by Mother Nature.

Killer Pizza by Greg Taylor.

While working as summer employees in a local pizza parlor, three teenagers are recruited by an underground organization of monster hunters.

In the Night Garden (Orphan's Tales Vol. 1) by Catherynne M. Valente.

An abandoned girl with strange, ink-black stains around her eyes tells stories to the boy who finds her in the garden.

The Stepsister Scheme by Jim Hines.

Cinderella teams up with Snow White and Sleeping Beauty to save the kingdom from Cinderella's evil stepsisters and some very bad fairies.

The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms by N.K. Jemison.

Outcast Yeine is summoned to the city of Sky when her mother mysteriously dies. Bloody intrigue follows while Yeine tries to solve her mother's death with the help of gods and men.

Hunting of the Last Dragon by Sheryl Jordan.

As a monk records his every word, a young peasant tells of his journey with a young Chinese noblewoman to St. Alfric's Cove and the lair of a dragon.

Rampant by Diana Peterfreund.

Astrid has always scoffed at her eccentric mother's stories about killer unicorns. After one attacks her boyfriend, however, Astrid must head to Rome to become a unicorn hunter.

Howl's Moving Castle by Dianna Wynne Jones.

Sophie is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice until a witch turns her into an old woman and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared Wizard Howl.

Mystery

Last Shot: a Final Four Mystery by John Feinstein.

After winning a basketball reporting contest, Stevie and Susan Carol cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

Man in the Woods by Rosemary Wells.

14-year-old Helen investigates what she considers the false arrest of a classmate and is nearly killed herself as her findings lead her into big-money drug dealings.

Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke.

Two brothers decide to run away from their aunt who plans to adopt the younger one but not the older. They find shelter with the dangerous thief lord of Venice.

Invisible by Pete Hautman.

Doug and Andy are unlikely friends: one a loner obsessed with his model trains, the other a popular football star. But what really happened in the abandoned house last year?

Dooley Takes the Fall by Norah McClintock.

Ryan Dooley, 17, has been trying to stay out of trouble, but when a dead body falls in front of him, he is blamed.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett.

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Adventure

Tiger by Jeff Stone.

Five young warrior-monk brothers survive an insurrection and must use the ancient arts to avenge their Grandmaster.

Spy High; Mission One by A.J. Butcher.

Known to the outside world as Devereaux Academy, the boarding school also goes by the name Spy High.

Code Orange by Caroline Cooney.

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.

Running Out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix.

When an epidemic hits her village in 1840, Jessie discovers it is actually a 1995 tourist site under observation by scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape and save the lives of the dying children.

Far North by Will Hobbs.

After the destruction of their floatplane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his Dene friend, Raymond, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories.

Transall Saga by Gary Paulsen.

While backpacking in the desert, thirteen-year-old Mark is transported into a more primitive world, where he must use his knowledge and skills to survive.

Horror

Cirque du Freak: A Living Nightmare by Darren Shan.

Darren Shan is an ordinary schoolboy. Then one day he stumbles across an invitation to visit the mysterious Cirque Du Freak. This begins his horrifying descent into the world of vampires.