Best Fiction for Young Adults
2012 Nominees

A list of top teen interest books from the year, chosen by the American Library Association.

Titles with a * made the Top Ten list.

WHERE THE STREETS HAD A NAME by Abel-Fattah (YA Abel-Fattah)
Grades 5-8
Hayaat believes soil from her ancestral homeland may save her dying grandmother. But, retrieving it requires a dangerous, illegal crossing of the wall dividing Jerusalem’s West Bank.

ENCLAVE by Aguirre
Grades 8-10
Freak Hunters Deuce and Fade are exiled from their underground enclave, and face even greater dangers above ground.
**MY NAME IS MINA** by Almond (YA Almond)
Grades 6-8
Through the process of writing in her journal, Mina, a misfit, discovers herself.

**DREAMLAND SOCIAL CLUB** by Altebrando
Grades 9 & up
Jane adjusts to her new home on Coney Island and rediscovers memories of her mother, who grew up there, by spending time with fun, quirky friends.

**CLOSE TO FAMOUS** by Bauer (JF Bauer)
Grades 5-8
Foster has a big secret: she can’t read. But with the help of a retired movie star, she overcomes her struggles and wins over hearts with her exceptional baked goods.
I AM J by Beam
Grades 9 & up
Transgender J, a genetically assigned female, struggles against family, friends, and body to become the man that he really is.

CHIME by Billingsley (YA Billingsley)
Grades 7 & up
In a complex alternate universe, Briony thinks she has committed murder. Puzzling out the truth involves her sister and a new love.

RED GLOVE by Black
Grades 9 & up
Cassel’s adjustment to being a curse worker is hindered by his unusual family of cons, an unpredictable mother, a girlfriend who is the mob bosses’ daughter, and the FBI agents who are on his trail. (Preceded by WHITE CAT, followed by BLACK HEART.)
**Anna Dressed in Blood** by Blake (YA Blake)  
Grades 10 & up  
Moving from town-to-town, Cas slays murderous ghosts, seeking revenge for the death of his father. Along the way, he meets Anna’s ghost, and discovers new insights into the complexities of ghosts.

**Strings Attached** by Blundell (YA Blundell)  
Grades 7 & up  
After breaking up with her boyfriend, Kit flees to Broadway for a role in a musical. When the musical closes, her ex-boyfriend’s father gets her a job with dangerous strings attached.

**A Time of Miracles** by Bondoux (F Bondoux)  
Grades 8 & up  
Blaise, an orphaned teen, recounts his attempts to escape the war torn Caucasus region and gain French citizenship. In moments of despair, storytelling revives his passion for survival.
BRONWOOD by Booth (YA Booth)
Grades 9 & up
Tyrell has a lot on his plate: his dad’s out of jail, he needs to find equipment for a DJ-ing gig, and he has two potential love interests in Jasmine and Adonna. (Preceeded by TYRELL.)

BEAUTY QUEENS by Bray (YA Bray)
Grades 9 & up
When an airplane full of teenage beauty queens crashes on a remote island, the surviving girls are forced to push themselves to the limits in order to survive.

BROOKLYN, BURNING by Brezenoff
Grades 10 & up
This story follows Kid for two summers of pain, loss, music and love, as Kid makes the streets of Brooklyn, NY, into a home.
QUEEN OF HEARTS by Brooks
Grades 7-10
Marie-Claire, a young Canadian woman, along with several of her family members, are diagnosed with tuberculosis and sent to a sanatorium in 1940.

BITTER END by Brown (YA Brown)
Grades 9 & up
Alex has fallen head over heels for Cole, the charming and sweet new boy at school. Cole’s love, however, comes with dangerous consequences.

LIAR’S MOON by Bunce
Grades 9 & up
Digger finds her magical skills useful when she is commissioned to solve the mystery behind the murder of her friend’s wife. But can she do it without losing her heart?
**STAY** by Caletti  
Grades 9 & up  
To escape her obsessive ex-boyfriend, Clara and her father spend the summer in a small beach town, where new relationships change their lives.

*THE GIRL OF FIRE AND THORNS* by Carson (YA Carson)  
Grades 7 & up  
After being kidnapped, Princess Elisa, bearer of the Godstone, and secret wife of a king, is forced to hike across a desert and ends up in a horrific war.

**THE BEGINNING OF AFTER** by Castle  
Grades 7-10  
When her family is killed in an accident, Laurel must find a way to deal with the aftermath and begin her life anew.
HUSH by Chayil (YA Chayil)  
Grades 8 & up  
After many years, Gittel finally knows why her friend, Devory, took her own life yet when Devory tries to tell, her ultra-conservative Jewish community won’t listen.

BITTER MELON by Chow  
Grades 8 & up  
Destined for an outstanding university and medical career, Frances rebels against her Chinese “tiger mom” by taking speech instead of calculus and discovers a talent for speaking up.

TEXAS GOTHIC by Clement-Moore  
Grades 8 & up  
Amy, the “sensible” one in a paranormal family, finds her normalcy challenged by an attractive boy, dead bodies, goats, the ghost of Mad Monk, and a feud with her neighbors.
*LEVERAGE* by Cohen (YA Cohen)  
Grades 9 & up  
An unlikely friendship between a stuttering, emotionally shattered, talented football player and a short, competitive gymnast, creates a bond that may help them stand up to three football bullies.

**THE FITZOSBORNE IN EXILE** by Cooper (YA Cooper)  
Grades 7-10  
As Hitler begins his conquest of Europe, the FitzOsborne royals try to save their home while caught up in London’s social scene. (Preceded by *A BRIEF HISTORY OF MONTMARAY*.)

**WHERE I BELONG** by Cross  
Grades 7 & up  
Khadj leaves Somalia for England to live with Abdi’s family, in order to work and send money home to her family. But her modeling job for a famous designer leads to danger.
**I WILL SAVE YOU** by de la Pena (YA de la Pena)
Grades 8-11
Kidd’s life is getting back on track at the beach, after time spent in a group home, but then Devon is back to cause his usual trouble.

**WHAT HAPPENED TO GOODBYE** by Dessen (YA Dessen)
Grades 7 & up
Since her parent’s divorce, McLean has moved frequently. In each new town, she puts on a different persona, but in Lakeview, she discovers an urge to be herself - whoever that is.

**WITHER** by DeStefano
Grades 9 & up
In a future where a girl’s life expectancy is twenty, sixteen-year-old Rhine is sold into a life of luxury as a “sister wife,” but her only desire is freedom.
PAYBACK TIME by Deuker (YA Deuker)
Grades 7 & up
Student sports reporter Mitch investigates his football coach on suspicion of corruption in order to determine why the best athlete at his high school does nothing but stand on the sidelines.

ENTWINED by Dixon (YA Dixon)
Grades 7-10
After their mother’s death, Azalea and her eleven younger sisters discover a secret passage to a forbidden, enchanted pavilion and find neglecting the rules has a price.

TEN MILES PAST NORMAL by Dowell
Grades 6-10
Tenth grade is a challenge for Janie who wants to be normal, and not known as “Stink Girl” for the goat manure on her shoes, or for her mom who blogs about their alternate lifestyle.
YOU AGAINST ME by Downham (YA Downham)
Grades 8 & up
When Mikey’s sister is raped by Ellie’s brother, he vows to get even by pretending to be interested in Ellie, who only wants to protect her brother. Instead, they fall in love.

MY NAME IS NOT EASY by Edwardson (YA Edwardson)
Grades 7 & up
Alaskan Inupiaq young people are forced to forsake their families and culture for a harsh parochial boarding school hundreds of miles away.

THE DARK CITY by Fisher
Grades 5 & up
Relic Master Galen and his apprentice Raffi must travel to the ruined city of Tasceron to restore Galen’s powers and find a powerful object to bring back the Old Order, which is under siege.
WHERE SHE WENT by Forman (YA Forman)
Grades 9 & up
Three years after Mia left for New York, Adam is still reeling from her virtual disappearance when an accidental meeting brings them back together. (Preceded by IF I STAY.)

THE SURVIVAL KIT by Freitas
Grades 8 & up
A paper bag filled with six objects pushes Rose past the grief over the death of her mother, which has caused her to withdraw from the world.

THREADS AND FLAMES by Friesner
Grades 6-9
Raisa left Poland to join her sister in America, but when she arrives Henda is nowhere to be found. To support herself, Raisa gets a job at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory.
**Dead End in Norvelt** by Gantos (JF Gantos)
Grades 5-8
Being grounded for the entire summer might be the best thing that could have happened to Jack and his blood-spurting nose.

**Ruby Red** by Gier
Grades 6-9
Gwenyth upsets her family when she inherits the time traveling gene instead of her cousin, Charlotte. Soon Gwenyth finds herself unexpectedly involved in mysterious, dangerous, and intriguing circumstances.

**I’ll Be There** by Goldberg Sloan
Grades 7 & up
Sam and Riddle Boarder move constantly with an unstable, criminal father, and all they have is each other until they meet Emily, a girl who recognizes their pain.
**SOMETHING LIKE HOPE** by Goodman
*Grades 8 & up*
After living for nearly a decade in foster homes and detention centers, Shavonne must face her past as she prepares to move out of the System on her 18th birthday.

**WHY WE BROKE UP** by Handler (YA Handler)
*Grades 9 & up*
After Min and Ed break up, she takes the box of memorabilia she has collected and writes Ed a letter about each item and its relationship to their breakup.

**THE BIG CRUNCH** by Hautman
*Grades 8 & up*
June wasn’t looking for love, until she literally crashed into Wes and found it.
STUPID FAST by Herbach
Grades 9 & up
As football recruitment brings new friends, Felton tries to keep his mother’s depression, and his own insecurities, hidden.

THE LAST LITTLE BLUE ENVELOPE by Johnson
Grades 6 & up
Months after Ginny was led around Europe by little blue envelopes from her deceased aunt, a mysterious guy contacts her: he has the last envelope.

THE NAME OF THE STAR by Johnson (YA Johnson)
Grades 7 & up
Rory’s arrival at a boarding school in London coincides with a series of Jack the Ripper-type murders, and only Rory can see the murderer.
*EVERYBODY SEES THE ANTS by King (YA King)
Grades 9 & up
Lucky faces a bully, meets a girl, and tries to bring his POW/MIA grandfather home from meetings that take place in his dreams as he struggles to find himself.

ICEFALL by Kirby (JF Kirby)
Grades 4-7
Solveig and her siblings, including the young Viking heir, must take refuge in a hidden fortress; however, in spite of Berserker guards, they may not be safe.

THE IRON THORN by Kittredge
Grades 7 & up
A coded message sends Aoife, the only female student in a steampunk engineering academy, on a dangerous quest for her mad brother.
**PEARL** by Knowles (YA Knowles)  
Grades 6-9  
After Pearl’s grandfather dies, a multitude of family secrets are revealed that threaten to change everything – even her relationship with her best, and only, friend Henry.

**SEAN GRISWOLD’S HEAD** by Leavitt  
Grades 6-9  
In order to avoid thinking about her dad’s multiple sclerosis, Payton picks an object to focus on instead: the head of the boy in front of her in class. The problem is, she starts to fall for him.

**HUNTRESS** by Lo (YA Lo)  
Grades 10 & up  
A small group undertakes a desperate quest on behalf of the Fairy Queen that could save the world - but may destroy them in the process.
LEGEND by Lu (YA Lu)  
Grades 8 & up  
June is hunting Day, the outlaw she believes is responsible for her brother’s death. What will happen when the two meet and discover the government is corrupt?

THE PIPER’S SON by Marchetta (YA Marchetta)  
Grades 9 & up  
Two years after Tom’s grief-stricken behaviors alienated his friends and family he acknowledges he needs support, but his friendships may be irreparably damaged. (Preceded by SAVING FRANCESCA.)

EXPOSED by Marcus (YA Marcus)  
Grades 9 & up  
Liz and Kate have been best friends for years, but when Kate accuses Liz’s brother of raping her, Liz finds that losing a friend - and remaining loyal to your family - can be difficult.
VIRTUOSITY by Martinez
Grades 8 & up
Carmen’s passion in life is the violin and her main competitor at a major competition is the infuriating, yet compelling, Jeremy. She begins to wonder - is there more to life than being the best?

*UNDER THE MESQUITE by McCall (YA McCall)
Grades 7 & up
When Lupita’s mother is diagnosed with cancer, the whole family shifts, bringing big changes for this tight-knit Mexican-American family.

CRYER’S CROSS by McMann (YA McMann)
Grades 7-10
When two classmates disappear without explanation, Kendall knows that she is the only one who can find them.
THE APOTHECARY by Meloy (YA Meloy)
Grades 5-8
When Janie’s family moves to London in 1952, she makes friends with Benjamin and they become involved in saving England with the help of a bit of magic.

ASHFALL by Mullin
Grades 8 & up
After a super volcano erupts under Yellowstone, Alex, who has been left home alone for the weekend, treks through the ash and snow covered terrain to find his family.

*SHINE by Myracle (YA Myracle)
Grades 10 & up
When Cat's friend is brutally beaten in a hate crime, Cat feels driven to find out the truth about the assault and the attackers.
**RECOVERY ROAD** by Nelson  
*Grades 8 & up*  
Maddie struggles in rehab until she meets Stewart and falls in love. It’s only when they get out of rehab and into the real world that the true challenges begin.

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**A MONSTER CALLS** by Ness (YA Ness)  
*Grades 7 & up*  
The monster comes for Conor just after midnight, again and again. That is, until he’s ready to share how he feels about his mom’s cancer.

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**THE FLOATING ISLANDS** by Neumeier (YA Neumeier)  
*Grades 6 & up*  
Trei longs to join the Kajuraihi, the floating island defenders with wings powered by dragon magic, while Araene’s secret aspirations to become a chef are thwarted by society’s restrictions on women.

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If we do not have the book you’re looking for, we can have another library send it over for you!
**PRIZED** by O’Brien  
Grades 7 & up  
The leadership in Sylum is threatened by Gaia and attempts to control her by systematically separating her from everyone she loves, including her infant sister and boyfriend Leon.

**THE FALSE PRINCESS** by O’Neal  
Grades 7 & up  
After Sinda learns she is a stand-in for the real princess, she uncovers treachery and betrayal are at work to overthrow the crown - and decides she must intervene.

**FIXING DELILAH** by Ockler  
Grades 8 & up  
After her estranged grandmother’s death, Delilah, her mother and aunt sort through the estate, while also working on their relationships.
AKATA WITCH by Okorafor
Grades 6 & up
American-born Sunny, who lives in Nigeria, is an athlete but, being albino, can only play at night. She is a misfit until she discovers soul mates, juju, and latent magical powers.

DELRIUM by Oliver (YA Oliver)
Grades 7 & up
Deadly armor deliria nervosa has been eliminated with a surgical cure. But, as disturbing details about loveless life are revealed, Lena wonders if the cure is really safer than infection. (Followed by PANDEMONIUM.)

THIS DARK ENDEAVOR: THE APPRENTICESHIP OF VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN by Oppel (YA Oppel)
Grades 7-10
Fifteen-year-old Victor Frankenstein stops at nothing to save his ailing twin, helping create the Elixir of Life from a formula found in a hidden library of forbidden texts.
KARMA, A NOVEL IN VERSE by Ostlere  
Grades 8 & up  
While taking her mother’s ashes back to India, Maya gets separated from her father during an uprising and must find her way back to him.

GUANTANAMO BOY by Perera 
Grades 8 & up  
While visiting family in Pakistan, 15-year-old Khalid Ahmed is captured, imprisoned and tortured at Guantanamo Bay prison after being falsely accused of being a terrorist.

WHAT CAN(T) WAIT by Pérez  
Grades 10 & up  
Seventeen-year-old Mexican-American Marisa has dreams of going away to college and becoming an engineer, but family issues make it a difficult challenge.
**ANNA AND THE FRENCH KISS** by Perkins
Grades 9 & up
Anna can’t believe her father is sending her away to a boarding school in Paris for her senior year of high school. She’s infuriated…until she meets Etienne St. Clair.

**LOLA AND THE BOY NEXT DOOR** by Perkins
Grades 9-11
Two years ago Lola’s neighbor, Cricket, broke her heart and then moved away. Now he’s back, but she’s moved on with rock-band boyfriend, Max…right?

**LARK** by Porter
Grades 8 & up
Lark is attacked and left to die tied to a tree. Her image appears to friends, pleading for someone to listen to her story, in order to save her spirit.
THIS THING CALLED THE FUTURE by Powers
Grades 9 & up
Khosi navigates her future in a post-apartheid South African shantytown where folk medicine competes with traditional medicine, older men lure teenage girls, and witches might still exist.

DESERT ANGEL by Price
Grades 7 & up
Angel knows that her mom’s old boyfriend is a hunter and determined to kill her, and her need to survive unwittingly puts those trying to save her at risk.

MISS PEREGRINE’S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN by Riggs (YA Riggs)
Grades 8 & up
Trailed by a menacing shadow, Jacob tumbles into a time loop and discovers the peculiar children of his grandfather’s childhood.
**WORDS IN THE DUST** by Reedy (JF Reedy)
Grades 5-8
Zulaikha, an Afghan girl with a cleft palate, is ridiculed for her looks, but her predetermined future could change with the arrival of American military.

**A WEB OF AIR** by Reeve (YA Reeve)
Grades 6-10
Using her knowledge of electricity, Fever Crumb escapes London with a traveling theater company. She meets Arlo Thursday and they join forces to build a flying machine. (Preceded by **FEVER CRUMB**. Series is the prequel to **THE HUNGER CITY CHRONICLES**.)

**QUEEN OF WATER** by Resau & Farinango
Grades 9 & up
As a small child, Ecuadorian Virginia is sent off to work as an unpaid nanny and maid in the home of a wealthy couple. Based on a true story of one woman’s struggles and triumphs.
THE LOST HERO by Riordan (YA Riordan)
Grades 4-7
Jason, Piper and Leo discover they are the half-blood children of the Greek gods and embark on a quest to rescue Hera from her captors.
(Followed by SON OF NEPTUNE.)

DIVERGENT by Roth
Grades 9 & up
Beatrice lives in a society where people are divided into five factions that determine work, lifestyle, and even friendships. Unusual results on her faction aptitude tests place her in danger.

PAST PERFECT by Sales
Grades 7 & up
Chelsea reluctantly returns to work at the Colonial re-enactment park with her ex-boyfriend Ezra. Also, she’s treasonously falling for a Civil War re-enactor in the annual prank war between the two parks.
**Okay for Now** by Schmidt (YA Schmidt)
Grades 6-9
After discovering Audubon’s original paintings in a folio at the library, Doug sets off on a quest to restore the missing pages to the book.

**White Crow** by Sedgwick
Grades 9 & up
Rebecca meets Ferelith in Winterfold, a town being inexorably eaten by the sea. They explore a haunted mansion on the cliffs, where dastardly experiments on the afterlife were done years ago.

**Wonderstruck** by Selznick (JF Selznick)
Grades 4-8
Alternating between dramatic wording and stunning pictures, Wonderstruck chronicles the journeys of Ben and Rose, fifty years apart, both searching for the missing pieces to their surprisingly connected lives.
*Between Shades of Gray* by Sepetys (YA Sepetys)
Grades 8 & up
In 1941, Lina and her family are taken from their home in Lithuania and sent to Siberia where, despite horrific conditions, Lina maintains hope that she will survive.

The Berlin Boxing Club by Sharenow
Grades 7 & up
In 1934, Karl's Jewishness has never been an issue, but suddenly it is. Offered the opportunity to train under a champion, Karl grabs it and boxing becomes his refuge.

Jasper Jones by Silvey
Grades 9 & up
Charlie's life in an Australian small town is turned upside down when Jasper Jones knocks on his bedroom window late one night and asks for help disposing of a body.
STICK by Smith (YA Smith)  
Grades 8 & up  
Stick and his brother Bosten must lean on each other to survive their abusive family, until Bosten is kicked out and must survive on his own.

*THE SCORPIO RACES by Stiefvater (YA Stiefvater)  
Grades 8 & up  
Sean and Puck fall in love when each is desperate to win the Scorpio Races, when wild meat eating water horses race on the beach.

*DAUGHTER OF SMOKE AND BONE by Taylor (YA Taylor)  
Grades 9 & up  
Karu questions how she came to be raised by the chimaera Brimstone. When she meets the seraph Akiva, events unfold that could answer her questions - but at great cost.
**ORCHARDS** by Thompson  
Grades 8 & up  
After a classmate’s unexpected death, bi-racial Kana Goldberg is sent to her family’s farm in Japan to reflect on her participation in events that led up to the suicide.

**THE GIRL WHO CIRCUMNAVIGATED FAIRYLAND IN A SHIP OF HER OWN MAKING** by Valente (JF Valente)  
Grades 4-7  
September is excited, puzzled, confused and thrilled on her quest through Fairyland.

**THE CHRONICLES OF HARRIS BURDICK: FOURTEEN AMAZING AUTHORS TELL THE TALES** edited by Van Allsberg  
Grades 5 & up  
The mysterious illustrations introduced in Allsberg’s 1984 collection, *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, are reprinted and accompanied by equally haunting and mysterious stories crafted by some of today’s top writers.
THE RUNNING DREAM by Van Draanen
Grades 8 & up
After a school bus accident, high school runner Jessica has her leg amputated below the knee. She must gather all of her reserves to put her life back together.

ISLAND’S END by Venkatraman
Grades 6-9
Unexpectedly chosen as the spiritual leader of her island tribe, Uido takes on the challenge of protecting her people from the strangers who keep landing on their island.

THE BLOOD LIE by Vernick
Grades 7 & up
On his sixteenth birthday, Jack Pool realizes a lie he didn’t tell could be deadly.
OUT OF SHADOWS by Wallace
Grades 9 & up
The Rhodesian Bush War is over but Robert, who has just arrived from the U.K., discovers that, for his privileged classmates, the war goes on.

BETWEEN by Warman
Grades 10 & up
Following a night of partying on her family’s boat, Liz is awakened by a loud, thumping noise - her body hitting the side of the boat.

WHERE THINGS COME BACK by Whaley (YA Whaley)
Grades 8 & up
Cullen’s tired of small-town life, and expects to spend the summer before his senior year with friends fighting off boredom and dreaming of girls - then his younger brother disappears.
MILES FROM ORDINARY by Williams
Grades 7-10
When her troubled mother disappears, an isolated Lacey frantically searches for her, while facing the terrors of her mother’s delusions.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR RUNNING by Williams (YA Williams)
Grades 7 & up
As Zimbabwe disintegrates under its new leadership, Deo’s village is brutally attacked and he can only save Innocent, his brother who is mentally delayed.

THE WATCH THAT ENDS THE NIGHT: VOICES FROM THE TITANIC by Wolf (YA Wolf)
Grades 7 & up
Experience this fateful historic event from the point-of-view of twenty-four passengers who couldn’t have imagined that their “unsinkable” ship would collide with an iceberg.
**Blink and Caution** by Wynne-Jones (YA Wynne-Jones)
Grades 9 & up
Homeless teens Blink and Caution become entangled in a blackmail scheme gone wrong and their survival depends on confronting both current threats and the painful secrets of their pasts.

**Warp Speed** by Yee (JF Yee)
Grades 5-9
Marley and his AV geek friends avoid the bullies while arguing the merits of Star Wars versus Star Trek.

**Blood Red Road** by Young
Grades 7 & up
As a pit fighter, Saba must constantly fight to save herself, and seeks allies to help rescue her pesky little sister and her twin brother.
**The Space Between** by Yovanoff  
Grades 9 & up  
When her brother Obie disappears, Daphne, a half-demon, half fallen-angel, goes to Earth to find him and enlists the help of the boy she believes last saw him alive.

*How to Save a Life* by Zarr (YA Zarr)  
Grades 8 & up  
Jill, who is grieving the death of her father, is appalled that her mother is adopting a baby and giving the pregnant mother, Mandy, a home...but Mandy’s got a story of her own.