Best Fiction for Young Adults
Top Ten
2012-1998
A list of top teen interest books from each year, chosen by the American Library Association.

2012

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.

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.
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.

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.

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.
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.

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 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.

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**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.

**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.

**SHIP BREAKER** by Bacigalupi (YA Bacigalupi)  
Grades 7 & up  
Nailer is a light crew scavenger tearing up old hulks of ships, living day to day, until a rich girl and her gleaming ship run ashore in a storm on the beach and his life gets more dangerous.
REVOLUTION by Donnelly (YA Donnelly)
Grades 9 & up
Haunted by the death of her brother, Andi is taken to Paris by her estranged father where an encounter with a mysterious diary may bring her back from the edge.

FINNIKIN OF THE ROCK by Marchetta (YA Marchetta)
Grades 8 & up
Finnikin and his fellow exiles from Lumatere wish to return to their cursed homeland. Finnikin must go on an epic journey with a mute novice named Evanjalin to return home.

AMY & ROGER’S EPIC DETOUR by Matson (YA Matson)
Grades 9 & up
Amy and Roger must both learn to deal with loss while on a road trip across the country which doesn’t go as expected.
**HOLD ME CLOSER, NECROMANCER** by McBride (YA McBride)
Grades 8 & up
When Sam discovers he is a necromancer he must learn to control his power in order to defeat a powerful and corrupt rival and save his friends.

**TRASH** by Mulligan (YA Mulligan)
Grades 7-10
Three garbage-picker boys find an item of great value to a corrupt politician on their rounds, setting off a tense hunt to see who will triumph.

**BAMBOO PEOPLE** by Perkins (JF Perkins)
Grades 7-10
Chiko, a Burmese soldier and Tu Reh, a Kerenni refugee meet on opposite sides of war and each must learn what it means to be a man of his people.

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THE THINGS A BROTHER KNOWS by Reinhardt (YA Reinhardt)
Grades 7 & up
Boaz is back and hailed as the hometown hero, but he is not at all the same. Can his younger brother Levi help him truly make his way home?

LAST NIGHT I SANG TO THE MONSTER by Saenz (YA Saenz)
Grades 9 & up
Weeks in therapy go by and 18-year-old Zach is still unable to remember the monstrous events that left him alone and haunted by nightmares.

REVOLVER by Sedgwick (YA Sedgwick)
Grades 7 & up
Sig is alone with his father’s body when the lawless man his father had managed to escape appears out of the icy wilderness.
This is the last year it was known as Best Books for Young Adults

2010

DEMON'S LEXICON by Brennan (YA Brennan)
Sixteen-year-old Nick and his older brother Alan are always on the run. Now, Alan has been marked by a demon and to save him, the boys must become the hunters.

THE ORANGE HOUSES by Griffin (YA Griffin)
Despite poverty, gang violence, and lack of appropriate supports, three inner-city teens come together and try to beat the odds and succeed in life.

THE GREAT WIDE SEA by Herlong (JF Herlong)
His mother is dead and his father is missing at sea. With a horrific storm brewing, can sixteen-year-old Ben and his younger brothers survive?

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The Reformed Vampire Support Group by Jinks (YA Jinks)
Nina Harrison, now and forever a teenage vampire, leads her dysfunctional crew of bloodsuckers on a mission to halt vampire persecution and rescue a vicious werewolf.

Alligator Bayou by Napoli
Fourteen-year-old Calogero emigrates to Louisiana in 1899, where his tiny Sicilian community faces discrimination and worse in a small town where they’re considered neither black nor white.

Stitches: A Memoir by Small (G B Small)
In stunning graphic memoir format, Caldecott-winning artist David Small tells the story of his difficult childhood and his journey into adolescence and adulthood.

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**WHEN YOU REACH ME** by Stead (JF Stead)
The year they are twelve, Sal begins to ignore Miranda and breaks her heart. But Miranda’s attention is diverted when she begins to receive urgent, anonymous notes in unexpected places.

**MARCELO IN THE REAL WORLD** by Stork (YA Stork)
Marcelo - a teen who exhibits Asperger-like behaviors - is forced to leave his job caring for horses to work in his father’s law firm and experience “the real world.”

**LIPS TOUCH: THREE TIMES** by Taylor (YA Taylor)
Three novellas explore the power of a kiss, and its possible hazards or thrills, especially if the kiss pulls humans and demons together in a lusty embrace.
**Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland** by Walker (J 614 WAL)
This book offers an incredible look at how ancient bones can reveal the details about the daily lives of colonial Americans.

**2009**

**It's Complicated: The American Teenager** by Bowman
This random collection of black and white photographs of teenagers from across the country includes short testimonials about their lives.

**Waiting for Normal** by Connor (JF Connor)
Left to live in an old trailer under the overhead train track with Mommers, Addie is the child that has to learn to take care of herself. She almost succeeds.

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**MEXICAN WHITE BOY** by de la Pena (YA de la Pena)
Half white, half Mexican and 100% confused, Danny struggles with baseball, his absent father and first love while spending the summer with his familia in San Diego.

**BOG CHILD** by Dowd (YA Dowd)
When Fergus and his uncle find the body of a girl buried in the peat bog near their home, all sorts of troubles comes to light.

**THE HUNGER GAMES** by Collins (YA Collins)
Katniss has been providing for her family since her father died, but is she strong enough to win the Hunger Games, a deadly competition that can have only one winner?
TEN CENTS A DANCE by Fletcher (YA Fletcher)
Ruby wants to support her family, but when her taxi dancing causes problems she could not have anticipated, it will take all of her strength to come out on top.

BABY by Monninger
Fifteen-year-old Baby leaves the middle-aged Potters, her last chance at foster care, to be with her old boyfriend while she figures out her own needs and wants.

NATION by Pratchett (YA Pratchett)
Mau is caught in the tidal wave that destroyed his island and Daphne is the only survivor from her ship. Together on the devastated island they form a new Nation.
**SKIM** by Tamaki & Tamaki (YA G Tamaki)
Friendship, love, identity, and a general feeling of isolation in an all-girls private school contribute to Kim Cameron (Skim)'s growing depression.

**THE BROTHERS TORRES** by Voorhees
Frankie Torres (or Towers depending which side his heritage is viewed) narrates his coming-of-age story of falling for a girl as his idolized brother runs with a group of cholos.

**2008**

**THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN** by Alexie (YA Alexie)
Junior leaves the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white high school, where the only other Native American is the school mascot. Is he choosing his own destiny or betraying his heritage?
A LONG WAY GONE: MEMOIRS OF A BOY SOLDIER by Beah (B Beah)
A former child soldier in Sierra Leone recalls the heart-wrenching experiences that transformed him from an innocent twelve-year-old into a cold-blooded killer.

BEFORE I DIE by Downham (YA Downham)
Tessa, who has terminal cancer, creates a list of ten things she wants to do in the months she has left to live. This fierce and devastating novel explores end-of-life realities with honesty and grace.

YOUR OWN, SYLVIA: A VERSE PORTRAIT OF SYLVIA PLATH by Hemphill (YA 811.6 HEM)
Most people know little about Plath’s biography apart from its tragic ending. Appropriately, this powerful portrait uses verse to shed light on the life of the gifted poet. A 2008 Printz Honor book.
**Mister Pip** by Jones (F Jones)
In the midst of guerrilla warfare, fourteen-year-old Matilda attends school to hear Mr. Watts, the only white inhabitant on her Pacific island, read from Dickens’ *Great Expectations*.

![](image1)

**Skulduggery Pleasant** by Landy (YA Landy)
When Stephanie inherits her uncle’s’ estate, she also inherits his best friend: a walking, talking, crime-fighting skeleton.

![](image2)

**Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal** by Peet
This sweeping thriller moves between World War II and the present day as fifteen-year-old Tamar uncovers her grandfather’s hidden past as a spy in the Netherlands.

![](image3)
AMERICAN SHAOLIN: FLYING KICKS, BUDDHIST MONKS, AND THE LEGEND OF IRON CROTCHE: AN ODYSSEY IN THE NEW CHINA by Polly (YA 796.815 POL)
On a quest to transform himself from a scrawny weakling into a kung-fu master, Polly drops out of Princeton and journeys to the legendary Shaolin Temple.

THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET: A NOVEL by Selznick (JF Selznick)
Combining words and black-and-white pictures inspired by silent films, Selznick reveals the connections between a Parisian orphan and an elderly toymaker. The 2008 Caldecott Medal winner.

THE ARRIVAL by Tan (YA G Arrival)
Without a single word, Tan’s extraordinary images express the loneliness, sadness, anxiety, and wonder of the immigration experience.
THE ASTONISHING LIFE OF OCTAVIAN NOTHING, TRAITOR TO THE NATION, VOLUME 1: 
The Pox Party by Anderson (YA Anderson)
He was raised as an experiment and considered a piece of property. Now that revolution has come to America, will Octavian find freedom?

SAMURAI SHORTSTOP by Gratz
In 1890 Tokyo, 16-year-old Toyo uses traditional bushido training to improve his baseball game and comes to understand the place of Samurai values in Japanese culture.

SURRENDER by Hartnett (YA Hartnett)
As 20-year-old Gabriel lies dying, he remembers his miserable childhood and the influence of his mysterious companion, Finnigan.
**SOLD** by McCormick (YA McCormick)
In this startling, frank novel in free verse, a 13-year-old Nepalese girl is sold into prostitution by her stepfather after a monsoon leaves her family destitute.

**ANAHITA’S WOVEN RIDDLE** by Sayres (YA Sayres)
In early twentieth century Iran, a headstrong girl convinces her father that she will marry the suitor who can guess the riddle woven into her wedding carpet.

**THE TRAP** by Smelcer
In the Alaskan wilderness, Grandfather Albert attempts to escape one of his own steel-jawed traps; back in their village, Johnny worries about his grandfather's safety while pondering his own future.

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THE KING OF ATTOLIA by Turner (YA Turner)
Eugenides must convince his new queen, his court, and his subjects of his ability to rule, despite his disreputable past as a liar and a thief.

THE RULES OF SURVIVAL by Werlin (YA Werlin)
When Matthew and his younger sisters witness a man confronting an abusive parent, they think they may have found a hero who will save them from their vicious mother.

AMERICAN BORN CHINESE by Yang & Pien (YA G American)
Combining three different stories, one drawn from Chinese mythology, this graphic novel explores racism and self-hatred as a young boy struggles to come to terms with his heritage.
The Book Thief by Zusak (YA Zusak)
Death colors (and narrates) Liesel Meminger’s attempt to survive Hitler in a small German town. Orphaned and devastated, Liesel finds salvation through stolen books.

2006

Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager’s Story by Akbar & Burton (958.104 AKB)
California teen Hyder describes three summers (2002-4) he spent with his father who had returned to the Afghanistan to help rebuild his country by serving as spokesman to the president and governor of a border province.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler’s Shadow by Bartoletti (YA 943.086 BAR)
“I begin with the young…What material! With them I can make a new world.” Adolf Hitler exploited the idealism of millions of Germany’s young people to fuel his evil master plan for global domination.

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**UPSTATE** by Buckhanon (YA Buckhannon)
Natasha and Antonio, young lovers, communicate via letters for nine years during his incarceration for murdering his father.

**LOOKING FOR ALASKA** by Green (YA Green)
Miles is looking for the Great Perhaps - and an Alabama boarding school offers the possibility of finding it, especially after he meets the captivating, unpredictable, and utterly alive Alaska.

**INEXCUSABLE** by Lynch (YA Lynch)
High school senior and football star Keir Sarafina says, “I hate it when people I love condemn me,” but has Keir done something inexcusable to Gigi Boudakian?
TWILIGHT: A NOVEL by Meyer (YA Meyer)
Bella's move to rainy Forks, Washington is the most boring move she will ever make, until she meets Edward, the vampire love of her life.

RUNAWAYS: VOLUME 1 by Vaughan
Six teenagers discover that their parents are super-villains, and after deciding to turn them in, fight for both their own survival and an end to the evil from which they were born.

PEEPS by Westerfeld (YA Westerfeld)
College freshman Cal comes to NY, spends a night with a beautiful girl - and becomes a carrier. Now everyone he kisses develops a craving for meat, an aversion to sunlight, and super strength.
POISON by Wooding (YA Wooding)
When Poison's sister is kidnapped by Phaeries, Poison is determined to get her back but she doesn't realize that she is part of a much larger, darker story.

I AM THE MESSENGER by Zusak (YA Zusak)
Aimless, amiable 19-year-old cab driver, Ed Kennedy, foils a bank robber and then begins to receive mysterious messages assigning him to intervene in the lives of strangers.

2005

THE UNTHINKABLE THOUGHTS OF JACOB GREEN by Braff (F Braff)
Jacob Green tries to establish his identity in his seriously dysfunctional suburban Jewish family during the late seventies/early eighties.

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**Bucking the Sarge** by Curtis (YA Curtis)
Fifteen year-old Luther T. Farrell has come to terms with the fact that his mother is a number one scam artist, preying on the weak and powerless, including her own son. Luther’s plan is to do well in school, win prizes for science projects, go away to a good college with the money his mother is putting away in his college fund. When Luther’s project threatens to expose his mother’s illegal dealings, Luther’s plans nearly unravel.

**The Race to Save the Lord God Bird** by Hoose (598.72 HOO)
The story of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker’s demise is the centerpiece for a book about extinction and the pressures of mankind upon the Earth.

**The Realm of Possibility** by Levithan (YA Levithan)
This ambitious and romantic novel in verse presents twenty distinctive-yet-interwoven stories by twenty high school students who each share defining pieces of their lives in a variety of poetic forms.
SAVING FRANCESCA by Marchetta (YA Marchetta)
Teenaged Francesca is facing her classes, her friends, and the complications that arise from being one of thirty girls in a school with 750 guys, while also groping for some key that might help lead her high-powered mother back from a breakdown.

PRIVATE PEACEFUL by Morpurgo (YA Morpurgo)
Tommy Peaceful and his older brother Charlie enlist in the British army and are sent to fight in the trenches in France after their noble landlord offers them a choice between joining up or having the family evicted from their home.

AIRBORN by Oppel (YA Oppel)
Matt Cruse is more at home in the air than anywhere on land. He pursues his dream of someday serving as captain on an airship like the Aurora, that takes passengers and cargo around the world. When the Aurora, part dirigible, part shipping vessel is forced to land on an uncharted island, Matt and fellow traveler, Kate must battle pirates and strange winged creatures in order to return their damaged ship to its voyage in the sky.
**UNDER THE WOLF, UNDER THE DOG** by Rapp (YA Rapp)
Gifted and talented high school student Steve Nugent reveals how he ended up in a teen facility after his mother dies of cancer and his brother shortly thereafter kills himself.

**SAMMY AND JULIANA IN HOLLYWOOD** by Saenz
Sammy Santos dreams of getting away from the barrio to college but when Juliana Rios, the girl he loves, is tragically killed his grief nearly overwhelms him.

**SO B. IT: A NOVEL** by Weeks
Twelve-year-old Heidi - whose mother's severe mental disability limits her to only being able to articulate 23 words, sounds, or short phrases - embarks on a journey to discover the truth of her mom's and her own past.
2004

**True Confessions of a Heartless Girl** by Brooks (YA Brooks)
After stealing her boyfriend’s money and truck, newly-pregnant Noreen lands in the small town of Pembina Lake and becomes the catalyst for change for the town’s residents.

**A Northern Light** by Donnelly (YA Donnelly)
In Upstate New York, in 1906, against the background of a true, and truly scandalous murder, fictional character Mattie Gokey fights her family and the social constraints of the times to become her own person.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time: A Novel** by Haddon (F Haddon)
Welcome to the world of a 15-year-old autistic teen who knows it will be a “super good day” if he sees 5 red cars in a row or a “black day” if he sees 4 yellow cars in a row. Christopher can solve quadratic equations in his head but can’t bear to be touched or to eat foods that are touching one another on the plate.
THE FIRST PART LAST by Johnson (YA Johnson)
The story of Bobbie Morris, a teenage father first introduced in Johnson’s Heaven, is told by filling in the “then” and “now” of his life in New York City raising his daughter, Feather.

BOY MEETS BOY by Levithan (YA Levithan)
“Gay boy” Paul finds himself on an emotional rollercoaster as he tries to establish a new relationship with Noah while at the same time caring for Kyle.

THE USUAL RULES by Maynard (F Maynard)
Thirteen-year-old Wendy tries to pick up the pieces of her shattered life after her beloved mother, an executive secretary, dies in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

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EAST by Pattou
Rose agrees to travel far from her home on the back of the mysterious White Bear, a journey that leads her “East of the Sun and West of the Moon” on an adventure she never imagined.

33 SNOWFISH by Rapp
Boobie, Curl and Custis are on the run with Boobie’s baby brother in tow as they each attempt to escape their demons and cling to each one another in their darkest hours.

THE AMULET OF SAMARKAND: BARTIMAEUS TRILOGY, BOOK ONE by Stroud (YA Stroud)
A brilliant, self-taught young magician named Nathaniel aims to take revenge by conjuring up a powerful djinni named Bartimaeus and commanding him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from Simon Lovelace, the magician who was responsible for humiliating Nathaniel.
BLANKETS: AN ILLUSTRATED NOVEL by Thompson
This graphic novel, autobiographical in scope, vibrantly depicts the life of the author. Simultaneously weaving childhood, adolescence and adulthood, Thompson illuminates the trials and tribulations of being an outcast, attending a zealous bible camp and meeting the girl of his dreams.

2003

CATALYST by Anderson (YA Anderson)
Kate Malone, the preacher’s daughter, learns there is more to life than her obsession about getting into MIT when she becomes involved with her tragedy-stricken neighbors.

FEED by Anderson (YA Anderson)
Titus and Violet are teenagers living in a future society where corporations define the lives and lifestyles of Americans, and where it has become common for prosperous parents to endow their newborn children with Feed: mini-computers with wireless Internet connections that are implanted in their heads.

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**THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION** by Farmer (Summer)
Matt is a clone. Livestock. No better than an animal. Generally, human clones have their brains destroyed at birth, but for some reason, Matt’s patron has left his mind in tact. What could he want from him?

**AMERICA** by Frank
A young man named America gets "lost" in the social welfare system and after a series of foster homes, hospitals, and suicide attempts, he meets a caring psychiatrist who refuses to give up on him.

**SON OF THE MOB** by Korman (YA Korman)
The ultimate Romeo and Juliet tale. The son of the mob falls in love with the daughter of the FBI. Even communications are a problem when your girlfriend’s dad is the agent in charge of bugging your house.

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THE LIGHTKEEPER’S DAUGHTER by Lawrence
A teenage mother tries to reconcile with her lighthouse-keeping parents, despite feeling that it was their remote and lonely lifestyle that led to her brother’s death.

LAMB: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BIFF, CHRIST’S CHILDHOOD PAL by Moore
WWJD? At age six? Thirteen? Eighteen? Restoring lizards to life and hanging out with Biff and Maggie are only a couple of His activities.

LEFT FOR DEAD: A YOUNG MAN’S SEARCH FOR JUSTICE FOR THE USS INDIANAPOLIS by Nelson (YA 940.54 NEL)
The USS Indianapolis was sunk by a Japanese submarine in the last days of World War II. Over fifty years later, a teen works with the survivors of the disaster to clear the name of the Indianapolis’s captain, who was wrongly court martialed for the tragedy.

If we do not have the book you are looking for, we can have another library send it over for you!
19 **VARIETIES OF GAZELLE: POEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST** by Nye
Nye’s father is Palestinian and her mother is German-American, so she grew up in St. Louis, San Antonio, and Jerusalem. Her poetry includes stories of the Middle East through the eyes of an American child, as well as of America through the eyes of Middle Easterners.

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**THIS LAND WAS MADE FOR YOU AND ME: THE LIFE & SONGS OF WOODY GUTHRIE**
by Partridge
The tragic life story of the rambling folk singer Woody Guthrie, author of “This Land is Your Land.”

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**2002**

**THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS** by Brashares (YA Brashares)
Four lifelong high-school friends and a magical pair of jeans take summer journeys to discover love, disappointments, and self-realization.

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THE RAG AND BONE SHOP by Cormier (YA PBK FIC Cormier)
When twelve-year-old Jason is questioned as a witness in a young girl's murder investigation, he doesn’t realize that his interrogation in the hands of a skilled detective will become a matter of life and death.

WHALE TALK by Crutcher (YA Crutcher)
Multiethnic T. J. leads a high-school swim team of nonconformists on a quest for a varsity letter jacket.

BREATHING UNDERWATER by Finn
After Nick’s girlfriend, Caitlin, has a restraining order issued against him, he is forced to come to grips with his anger and low self-esteem.
**DAMAGE** by Jenkins (YA Jenkins)
Football star and high-school senior Austin clings to a relationship with beautiful, sexy Heather in the hope she will be his salvation.

**ZAZOO** by Mosher
From the moment almost 14-year-old Zazoo sees the handsome young man on the black bicycle, her life is changed forever with never-explored questions about her own past and that of her beloved "Grand-Pierre."

**LIRIEL** by Nix (YA Nix)
Lirael becomes a librarian in the vast warren of a library that not only houses books but also guards monstrous dangers and arcane magic that lets her conjure up the Disreputable Dog who accompanies her on a quest when the dead start warring on the living.
**THE LAND** by Taylor (YA PBK FIC Taylor)
In a prequel to the Newbery-Award winner Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Cassie Logan’s grandfather, Paul Edward, tells of his heart-breaking but ultimately triumphant struggle to acquire the land that would become the Logan family legacy.

**EVERY TIME A RAINBOW DIES** by Williams-Garcia
Thulani is drawn out from his grief over the death of his mother when he comes to the aid of a rape victim and is obsessed with forming a relationship with her.

**TRUE BELIEVER** by Wolff (YA Wolff)
In this poetic sequel to Make Lemonade, LaVaughn finds that her changing goals and relationships bring her both pain and joy.
FORGOTTEN FIRE by Bagdasarian
A twelve to fifteen year old's account of the Armenian Massacres from 1915 to 1918 based on the author's great uncle's life.

HOPE WAS HERE by Bauer (YA Bauer)
Sixteen year old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as a waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways Diner they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING by Chevalier (F Chevalier)
In Holland in 1664, a girl named Griet leaves her family to become a maid in the household of the painter Vermeer, but the passion she inspires in him and the passion art inspires in her end in sorrow.
**GEEKS: HOW TWO BOYS RODE THE INTERNET OUT OF IDAHO** by Katz (338.7 KAT)
Trapped in rural Idaho, two 19-year-old, self-proclaimed geeks use their computer skills to land jobs, an apartment, and new lives in Chicago.

**SILENT TO THE BONE** by Konigsburg (Summer)
Thirteen year old Branwell becomes unable to speak when the au pair accuses him of hurting his baby step-sister.

**THE BEET FIELDS** by Paulsen (YA Paulsen)
Gary Paulsen tells the story of his sixteenth summer, running away from home to experience life by working in the beet fields, witnessing death, helping an old woman on her farm, and working in a carnival for two brothers.
**ESPERANZA RISING** by Ryan (JF Ryan)
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go to work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

**STARGIRL** by Spinelli (YA Spinelli)
The eccentric new student, Stargirl, sees life differently than any of the students at Mica High School, and her non-conformist behavior changes her classmates and their perceptions of what it costs to be popular.

**HOMELESS BIRD** by Whelan (JF Whelan)
Koly, a thirteen-year-old girl in modern India, is forced into an arranged marriage with a dying boy. As a teenaged widow, she finds herself abandoned by her mother-in-law in a strange city where she must make a life for herself or die.

If we do not have the book you are looking for, we can have another library send it over for you!
**MEMORIES OF SUMMER** by White
In 1955, thirteen year old Lyric finds her whole life changing when her family moves from the hills of Virginia to a town in Michigan and her older sister Summer.

**No 2000 List**

**1999**

**RULES OF THE ROAD** by Bauer
Jenna Boller at 17 years old gets an offer from her employer to drive her during the summer to Texas stopping along the way at her chain of shoe stores. Not only does Jenna develop more as a shoe salesperson, she learns that she has the strength to stand up to her alcoholic father.

**CORPSES, COFFINS, AND CRYPTS** by Colman (J 393 COL)
What really happens when a person dies? Why are autopsies done - and how? Colman answers these questions and many others in her personal and well-researched account of death and burial.

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**Love Among the Walnuts** by Ferris (YA Ferris)
A chicken in a coma? Alexander 'Sandy' Huntington-Ackerman can barely cope with the serious stuff, like his diabolical Uncles trying to bump off his parents and steal the family fortune.

**Among the Hidden** by Haddix (JF Haddix)
Because the government has decreed that third children will be eliminated, Luke has remained hidden in his house for 12 years, when another hidden girl encourages him to take a chance in the hope of freedom.

**My Louisiana Sky** by Holt
Set in rural 1950s Louisiana, twelve-year-old Tiger has some tough times growing up with her grandmother dying and trying to accept her mentally handicapped parents.
**NO PRETTY PICTURES: A CHILD OF WAR** by Lobel
This highly regarded children's book illustrator recounts her childhood experiences as a Jew living in Nazi-occupied Poland, her imprisonment in a succession of concentration camps, and her life following the war as a displaced person in Sweden.

**PETEY** by Mikaelson
Petey is born with cerebral palsy in 1905, and is mistakenly diagnosed as an idiot and sent to live in an insane asylum. He meets many people in his life that are amazed with his 'joy and zest for life.' Eventually, he meets Trevor, a teenage boy, that changes his final years.

**HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER’S STONE** by Rowling (JF Rowling)
Harry Potter has another identity kept from him by his unloving, neglectful aunt and uncle; he receives a letter from the Hogwarts School of Wizardry and finds out he is somebody special.
**Holes** by Sachar (JF Sachar)
Stanley Yelnatz suffers from a curse brought on by his great-great grandfather who stole a pig from a one-legged gypsy. Now Stanley must dig one hole every day in a correctional camp for juvenile boys, and for a crime he didn't even commit - stealing Sweet Feet Clyde Livingston's tennis shoes.

**If You Come Softly** by Woodson
Despite their differences (she is white, he is black), Jeremiah and Ellie feel an immediate connection and then must cope with the world's reaction to them.

**Growing Up In Coal Country** by Bartoletti
Life was harsh for immigrant workers in the coal mines of Pennsylvania.
**SEAMSTRESS** by Bernstein
Sara tells about her remarkable life.

**TANGERINE** by Bloor
Paul's brother is the favorite athlete in the family, but his amoral acts spell trouble for the family.

**TENDERNESS** by Cormier
Lori loves 18 year-old serial killer Eric Poole.

**OUT OF THE DUST** by Hesse (JF Hesse)
Billie Jo tells how her family lived through the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma.
**Blood and Chocolate** by Klause (YA Klause)
Can the werewolf pack survive Vivian's love for a human boy?

**Into Thin Air** by Krakauer (796.522 KRA)
Tragedy strikes a group of climbers on Mount Everest in 1996 and many lives are lost.

**Swallowing Stones** by McDonald
When a stray bullet from his rifle kills a man, Michael is plagued with nightmares and his whole life is changed.

**Harlem** by Myers (YA Myers)
Celebrate the world of Harlem through poetry and pictures.

If we do not have the book you are looking for, we can have another library send it over for you!
STARLITE DRIVE-IN by Reynolds
Callie sees the world through a romantic haze because she lives in the manager's house at a drive-in movie.