English Language Arts

Grades 10-12

Selecting Young Adult Texts: An Annotated Bibliography for Senior High School

2014
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**Alphabetical Index of Titles**

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Introduction

Purpose

*Selecting Young Adult Texts, Grades 10 - 12* is designed to complement the curriculum documents that describe the authorized curriculum for Senior High School English language arts.

*Selecting Young Adult Texts, Grades 10-12* provides annotations and a list of suggested texts for student-selected reading and teacher-supported novel study. There is a cross section of fantasy/science fiction, realistic and historical fiction, poetry and informational books, traditional and contemporary literature. The suggested titles can provide opportunities for cross-curricular reading and support students’ growing independence in choosing texts to read.

Reading in the Grades 10-12 English Curriculum

Reading allows students to explore the spectrum of human experience, and shapes their conceptions of the world.

Through reading, students gain:
• a love of language
• an awareness of the interaction of emotion and intellect evoked by the text
• experiences through the imaginations of others

In English language arts, students are expected to *select, read, and view with understanding a range of literature, information, media, and visual texts*. As well, they are expected to *respond personally and critically to a range of texts, applying their understanding of language, form, and genre*.

As outlined in the specific curriculum outcomes, students are expected to:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Identify and select texts that meet their needs and interests.</th>
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<td><strong>Think about</strong> how meaning is created in texts through the author’s:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• use of text features and structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>• use of language, form and genre</td>
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<tr>
<td>• intended purpose</td>
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<td><strong>Reflect on</strong> their responses to texts by considering:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• how their point of view on issues, themes and situations is informed by what they read;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• how diverse values, cultures and realities are presented in texts.</td>
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</table>

Think about and practice different reading and viewing strategies to develop their independence in accessing and navigating texts.
In the Senior High English language arts curriculum, students are invited to experience and create text so that the text becomes personally significant to them. Knowledge about text features enables students to:

• analyze the effectiveness of various techniques
• deepen their understanding as they think
• discuss their interactions with texts
• make critical and aesthetic judgements

It is important that students study various works in detail, as well as direct their own reading and viewing choices through personal selection. Wide reading experiences with novels can help them to:

• broaden their experiences
• develop as life-long readers
• develop their imagination
• improve their reading power
• increase awareness of text forms and literary elements
• reflect on the emotions and opinions elicited by a novel
• use their talents and skills to create stories

Criteria for Selecting Young Adult Texts

The titles listed in this document have been carefully selected to adhere to the criteria as set forth on page 54 of *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum* (1996). The selections:

• broaden students' understanding of social, historical, geographical and cultural diversity
• develop sensitivity and understanding that reflects individual qualities such as age, gender, ethnicity, religion, ability, community influences and political/social values
• elicit personal, thoughtful critical responses
• have literary merit
• provide motivating and challenging experiences
• represent a range of styles and text forms
• use language effectively and responsibly
While every book listed in this document has received careful review according to the criteria listed above, teachers should always exercise particular care in selecting or recommending texts to students. Teachers are in the best positions to know both their students and the communities in which they live.

The broad selection of titles listed in this document:

- allows students to explore their own and others’ cultural and literary heritage
- balances traditional and contemporary texts
- includes prose that deals with issues and ideas related to students’ experiences
- includes texts that can be paired or linked to provide for text-to-text connections
- provides support for both the independent and the collaborative writing, speaking and representing strands of the curriculum

Teachers and administrators may continue to refer to Selecting Young Adult Texts: An Annotated Bibliography 10-12 for additional assistance when selecting learning resources for their classrooms and school resource centres.

Suggested audiences are noted for each title listed in Selecting Young Adult Texts: An Annotated Bibliography 10-12. They include the following:

- Lower Secondary
- Middle Secondary
- Upper Secondary
- Secondary

These recommendations are based on reading level as well as content. Titles recommended for Lower Secondary, for example, will have a lower reading level than Upper Secondary and will have less mature content and themes. Titles listed as Secondary should be accessible and of interest to a broad range of students in Grades 10-12. These recommendations are guidelines only; selection decisions should be made by teachers and students.
Alternate Formats

Each annotation includes, where applicable, information regarding alternate formats such as:

- **Commercial Audio CDs**: A CD set which contains MP3 files where the text is automatically read to the student but the actual words are not visible on the screen. The CD is loaned to the student and must be returned at the end of the school year.

- **Digital audio (MP3)**: Text is automatically read to the student but words are not visible on the screen. These can be played on a personal MP3 audio player or any computer with audio software.

- **E-text files (Kurzweil, PDF or WORD)**: Requires text to voice software. Students hear a computer generated voice read the text while the text is highlighted on the computer screen.
  - **PDF** format provides an online version of the text (including pictures and diagrams). Adobe Reader and other text-to-voice software will allow the student to hear the text being read aloud while following it on the screen.
  - **WORD** format provides a copy of just the text (without pictures and diagrams). Some text-to-voice software will also read aloud WORD files.
  - **Kurzweil** format requires Kurzweil software that has text-to-voice capabilities, note taking and more.

All of these formats are available in an offline format for those communities with less reliable Internet access or for students who do not have Internet access at home.

When selecting texts for a classroom library to promote wide reading by students, teachers may consider accessibility for all students as part of the decision. Students may have access to alternate format materials only if they have had a comprehensive assessment that indicates that the student has an exceptionality (as defined by the Department of Education) and a perceptual disability (as defined by the Canadian Copyright Act). In addition, the student’s Record of Accommodations indicates that he or she requires alternate format materials.
Genre Definitions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Action/Adventure</td>
<td>The action/adventure genre is characterized by more emphasis on exciting action sequences than on character development or storytelling. Action is mainly focused on any kind of movement while adventure focuses on an exciting undertaking involving risk and physical danger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary/Realistic</td>
<td>Realistic fiction creates characters and situations that depict our world and society focusing on themes of growing up and confronting personal and social problems. It portrays characters coming to understand themselves and others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dystopian</td>
<td>Dystopian fiction takes place in a futuristic world in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fantasy</td>
<td>Fantasy tells tales of secondary worlds, creatures and people. Motifs include magic, good versus evil, heroism, special character types, and fantastic objects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Novels</td>
<td>Graphic novels present stories using visual frames to support dialogue. They are similar to comic books but can offer complex plots that engage readers. Graphic novels deal with character transformation and challenging thematic concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical</td>
<td>Historical fiction is characterized by stories set in the past. The details of the setting are usually authentic and accurate and may contain documented historical figures. Other characters, including the protagonist, are often fictionalized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horror</td>
<td>Horror concentrates on the dark aspects of fantasy. Common motifs in this genre include supernatural elements, dark isolated settings, and battles between good and evil.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informational and Nonfiction</td>
<td>Informational books explain facts about specific topics. These texts must be accurate and present the information so that it is easily understood. The layout allows for additional facts, statistics, and illustrations to be included to extend the concepts presented.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENRE</td>
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<td><strong>Mixed Media</strong></td>
<td>This type of text has a variety of sources and images. It may include different writing forms, visuals, emails, manipulatives, charts, etc. The reader has to be flexible in order to create meaning from the pages because the meaning does not emerge in a traditional, linear manner.</td>
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<td><strong>Mystery</strong></td>
<td>Mystery novels emphasize plot. Usually, the protagonist is seeking an answer to a crime or to a mysterious event. Characteristics of this style of writing include suspense and a fast-paced style.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Picture Books</strong></td>
<td>While associated with younger readers, these texts can be brought to a higher level of reflection to develop critical understandings for older learners. They often convey a powerful and thought-provoking message.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Poetry</strong></td>
<td>Poetry encompasses many diverse forms and subjects. Some of these forms include free verse, blank verse, limericks, haiku, and so on. Poetry expresses intense emotions and reflections as it is usually written in a compressed form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science Fiction</strong></td>
<td>Science Fiction involves alternate, futuristic settings based on motifs such as alien encounters, time travel, artificial intelligence and futuristic technologies. Science Fiction is the improbable made possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traditional</strong></td>
<td>Traditional literature consists of ancient stories and tales that were originally preserved by the use of oral traditions and were later written down. It is often formulaic and explains some kind of natural phenomena or moral teaching.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Verse Novels</strong></td>
<td>Verse novels tell the story by using verse instead of using full sentences organized in paragraph structures.</td>
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Annotations (Organized Alphabetically by Author)

Anderson, Laurie Halse
Title: Prom  
ISBN: 978-0142405703  
Publisher: Speak (Reprinted edition)  
Date: 2006  
Genre: Realistic  
Ashley Hannigan is a normal high school girl who is determined not to go to her Senior Prom. Her best friend, Nat, is the head of the committee and loves every minute of it. When the committee chairperson is busted for taking all the prom money, Nat enlists Ashley’s help to make the prom happen. Through her experiences, Ash learns some surprising things about how to make her own life happen too.

Recommended for: Lower-Middle Secondary

Anderson, M. T.
Title: Burger Wuss  
ISBN: 978-0763631789  
Publisher: Candlewick Press (Reprinted edition)  
Date: 2008  
Genre: Realistic  
Anthony is a typical nice guy teenager. When his girlfriend, Diana, cheats on him with her co-worker from a burger joint, Anthony plans his revenge. He also plans to win Diana back. This book offers a satirical look at typical teenage problems such as bullying, sex and mental illness.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Ball, John
Title: In the Heat of the Night  
ISBN: 978-0881848878  
Publisher: Carroll and Graf  
Date: 1992  
Genre: Mystery  
Set in the 1960’s, Virgil Tibbs is a black homicide detective who is passing through a small racist Mississippi town on the same night that a murder happens. Virgil is considered a prime suspect because he is black. When the chief of police has difficulty solving the crime, Tibbs wants to help him track down the murderer. He wants to show the town that he can be smart, educated and ethical. Can he succeed?

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio
Bell, William

Title: The Blue Helmet
ISBN: 978-0770430023
Publisher: Seal Books
Date: 2009
Genre: Contemporary / Realistic

Lee is on a journey of belonging that every young person, at one time, struggles to find. After one too many encounters with the law, he is sent to live with his aunt in Toronto. Through unlikely friendships, including one with a former soldier who is undergoing treatment for post traumatic stress syndrome, he learns that he can welcome violence or that he can embrace peace and he learns how to apply this lesson to his own life.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Bell, William

Title: Crabbe
ISBN: 978-0773674837
Publisher: Fitzhenry & Whiteside
Date: 2002
Genre: Realistic

Eighteen year old Franklin Crabbe is a privileged, smart, but troubled youth. Just before final exams, he decides to leave home and drive into the wilderness to disappear completely. But living “in the bush” brings its own challenges, many for which Crabbe is unprepared. There he meets Mary, a woman who helps him but has her own reasons to hide. Crabbe learns a lot about himself and how to deal with his problems. The story unfolds in a series of short journal entries told from Crabbe’s point of view. This is a coming of age story filled with adventure, loss and self-discovery.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Bragg, Georgia

Title: How They Croaked
ISBN: 978-0802798176
Publisher: Walker and Company
Date: 2012
Genre: Non-Fiction

Guts, lungs, liver, and bits and pieces. Almost beyond comprehension are the lives - and more importantly, the deaths - of nineteen famous figures. From blowing up in coffins, draining blood, and drilling holes in stomachs without the aid of pain relief, this book covers all the gory details of the awful ends of the awfully famous.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary
Bronte, Charlotte
Title: Jane Eyre (Graphic Novel: Quick Text)
ISBN: 978-1906332488
Publisher: Classical Comics
Date: 2009
Genre: Contemporary / Realistic

Jane Eyre is a young orphan being raised by a wealthy but cruel aunt who eventually sends her away to school. From there, Jane’s life takes many turns; towards hard work, poverty, love and loss. As her story unfolds, she experiences many ups and downs, and is forced to make life-altering decisions in order to survive. In the end, she must decide whether she will choose a new path or return to a life she once thought she knew and loved.

Recommended for: Secondary

Chafe, Robert
Title: Tempting Providence
ISBN: 978-0887547225
Publisher: Playwrights Canada Press
Date: 2004
Genre: Historical

Nurse Myra Bennett arrived in Newfoundland and Labrador in 1921 to serve the Northern Peninsula, a very rugged and isolated area at the time. Quickly establishing herself as a no-nonsense type of woman, she settled into life in a small outport community where she quickly became the person everyone relied on for any number of health related problems. This is the story of an ordinary woman who did extraordinary things.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Coelho, Paulo
Title: The Alchemist: A Graphic Novel
ISBN: 978-0062024329
Publisher: HarperOne/HarperCollins Publishers
Date: 2010
Genre: Fantasy/Adventure

The Alchemist is the story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy from Spain, who travels to the Egyptian desert seeking a treasure believed to be buried somewhere in the pyramids. On his journey he encounters a Gypsy woman, a man who claims to be the King of Salem, and an alchemist, all of whom direct him towards his ultimate goal, finding the treasure. Mystery and obstacles await Santiago in the pyramids. But his quest for worldly treasure leads to something much more valuable. The beautiful graphics in this novel tell the story of a young man discovering his personal legacy and following his dreams.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary
Condie, Ally

Title: **Matched**  
ISBN: 978-0525423645  
Publisher: Dutton Books  
Date: 2010  
Genre: Dystopian

Cassia lives in a world where 'The Society' makes all the choices for its citizens. She has always trusted their choices until the matching ceremony when Xander’s face appears on-screen and then Ky’s face flashes for an instant before the screen fades to black. She is told it’s a glitch and she should focus on the happy life she’s destined to lead with Xander. Cassia begins to doubt the Society’s infallibility and is faced with a choice between following the only life she has ever known or a new path that no one else has dared to follow.

Recommended: Lower - Middle Secondary  
*Sequel: Crossed*

Dashner, James

Title: **The Maze Runner**  
ISBN: 978-0385737951  
Publisher: Delacorte Press  
Date: 2010  
Genre: Dystopian

Thomas has woken up in an elevator lift with no memory of anything but his first name. He has landed in the ‘Glade’; a world of boys his age with a common goal: to escape. Each month, another boy is delivered to their community and joins in the tasks that keep them alive. Thomas becomes a ‘Runner’ – someone who, during the day, runs the maze outside of his compound in hopes of finding a way out. The community is thrown into shock when the routine is broken and a girl appears. She comes with a note stating that she would be the last to appear ever. What will happen to the children of the Glade and what role will Thomas play in their survival?

Recommended for: Lower-Middle Secondary  
*Sequel: The Scorch Trials*
Denman, K.L.

Title: Me, Myself and Ike
ISBN: 978-1554690862
Publisher: Orca Book Publishers
Date: 2009
Genre: Realistic

Kit Latimer, a 17 year old with undiagnosed schizophrenia, is being led astray by his ‘friend’, Ike. One year earlier, Kit had a circle of friends, a girlfriend, and a place on the basketball team. Ike is determined that it is Kit’s destiny to follow in the footsteps of Otzi, a 5000-year-old ‘Ice Man’. Kit slowly alienates his family and friends, growing more paranoid that they want to stop him from completing his life’s mission.

Recommended for: Secondary

Dessen, Sarah

Title: What Happened to Goodbye
ISBN: 978-0670012947
Publisher: Viking
Date: 2011
Genre: Realistic

Life for Mclean has been all about change. Her parents are divorced and she now has step-siblings. Mclean has chosen to live with her dad, despite their constant moving around due to his career. To cope, she reinvents herself with each move, but her latest move leaves her with a desire to find out who she really is and where she wants to be.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Dickens, Charles

Title: A Christmas Carol
ISBN: 978-0486268651
Publisher: Dover Publications
Date: 1991
Genre: Realistic/Fantasy

Ebeneezer Scrooge is a miser who enjoys his own misery. He is well known for disliking both people and Christmas. When Scrooge is visited by his old partner, Jacob Marley, and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Yet to Come, he is led to reminisce about the events and actions of his past. Lessons of charity and kindness are available for Scrooge to learn, but he must first be a willing participant.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio; PDF (e-text)
**Doctorow, Cory**

Title: *Little Brother*
ISBN: 978-0765323118  
Publisher: Tor Teen  
Date: 2010  
Genre: Science Fiction  

Marcus, a seventeen year old hacker, knows how to ‘net’ work the system until he finds himself in the aftermath of a terrorist attack on San Francisco. He and his friend are arrested by Homeland Security. They are imprisoned and interrogated as if they were the terrorists. Angry and seeking justice, Marcus and his friends manage to create havoc for the Department of Homeland Security, but at what cost? Marcus, and those around him, are challenged to question who they are and what they stand for.

Recommended for: Middle - Upper Secondary

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**Ellis, Deborah & Walters, Eric**

Title: *Bifocal*
Publisher: Fitzhenry & Whiteside  
Date: 2008  
Genre: Realistic  

This story is told in the alternating voices of two students: Haroon, a serious student who is devoted to his family and Jay, a rising popular football star devoted to his team. Neither boy seems to be aware of much prejudice in the school until Azeem, a Muslim student, is arrested following a bomb plot. As Azeem’s trial progresses, vandalism and racial slurs escalate, and the narrators are jolted by the actions and attitudes of people they thought they knew. Their struggles to understand prejudice and their journeys toward self-discovery are subtle and authentic.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

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**Ferris, Jean**

Title: *Of Sound Mind*
ISBN: 978-0374455842  
Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR)  
Date: 2004  
Genre: Realistic  

Theo dreams of going to college but his family needs him to stay home. He struggles to help his family and at the same time find time for himself. He meets Ivy, whose support for her deaf father, as well as her support of Theo himself, guides him in making some life changing decisions.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary
Fitzgerald, F. Scott  
Title: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button  
ISBN: 978-1594742811  
Publisher: Quirk Books  
Date: 2008  
Genre: Graphic Novel / Fantasy  

Benjamin Button is born into the world elderly and grows younger. His story is told in order of his life as he moves in the opposite direction of everyone around him. He falls in love and starts a family but his experiences are very different from a typical life. As he ‘ages’ and gets younger he becomes more active and shows interest in activities that his other family members don’t, or because of their age, no longer can.  

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Fitzgerald, F. Scott  
Title: The Great Gatsby  
ISBN: 978-0140007466  
Publisher: Penguin Books  
Date: 1925  
Genre: Realistic  

At the height of the Jazz age, in 1922, Nick Carraway, a young man from Minnesota, moves to New York and encounters a group of people who are prone to outlandish displays of wealth. It is there that he meets Jay Gatsby, who is known for his lavish parties and lifestyle and who is in love with and pursues a married woman, Daisy. This is the story of the American Dream; making it big, making money, and living large.  

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Foreman, Gayle  
Title: If I Stay  
ISBN: 978-0142415436  
Publisher: Speak  
Date: 2010  
Genre: Realistic  

Seventeen year old Mia finds herself faced with the ultimate decision: life or death. What should have been a wonderful family event, has become a nightmare when a devastating car accident leaves her in a coma. Alone and afraid, Mia struggles to make sense of her reasons to stay or to let go. She struggles to put together the pieces; to figure out what she has lost, what she has left, and the difficult choice she must make.  

Recommended for: Middle Secondary
Gagnon, Michelle

Title: Don't Turn Around  
ISBN: 978-0062102904  
Publisher: Harper Collins  
Date: 2013 (reprint edition)  
Genre: Science Fiction  
Noa, a sixteen year old girl who has been alone since her parents died wakes up in an empty warehouse with an IV in her arm, a scar on her chest, and no memory of how she got there. Peter, the leader of a hacker alliance, is looking for help from those with Noa's brilliant computer hacking skills. Together, they find themselves in the middle of a conspiracy where neither Noa nor Peter realize that one of them holds the key to a terrible secret, and both their lives become meaningless to those who want to silence them permanently.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Gladwell, Malcolm

Title: Outliers  
ISBN: 978-0316017930  
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company  
Date: 2008  
Genre: Non-Fiction  
The 10 000 hour rule. Could you practice something repeatedly for 10 000 hours? This is what author Malcolm Gladwell suggests is one way to become successful. He also suggests that society ignores individual potential and if we want to understand how people flourish we should look at factors such as their family, their birthplace, or their birth date. Separated into two parts, “Opportunity” and “Legacy”, this book looks at people like Bill Gates and Steven Jobs, who do not fit into the normal understanding of achievement as well as how culture and circumstances affect success.

Recommended for: Middle-Upper Secondary

Golding, William

Title: Lord of the Flies  
ISBN: 978-0399501487  
Publisher: Perigee Books  
Date: 1959  
Genre: Adventure  
In this classic allegory, a group of British schoolboys are stranded on a tropical island and have to learn to fend for themselves. As rules break down and civilization is taken away, the boys reveal their savage nature. The desire for power and control surpass the importance of friendships and logic. True personalities emerge, and life can never be the same.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio; PDF (e-text); Commercial CDs
Green, John

**Title:** The Fault In Our Stars  
**ISBN:** 978-0525478812  
**Publisher:** Dutton Juvenile  
**Date:** 2012  
**Genre:** Realistic

At 13 years old, Hazel Lancaster was ready to die. Then, a miracle drug shrinks the tumors and she’s made it to sixteen. At a support group meeting for young people with cancer, she meets Augustus Waters who pushes Hazel to live her life and examine the legacy she wishes to leave behind. Both funny and poignant, this novel examines how sickness and health, life and death can define both young and old alike.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Hadfield, Col. Chris

**Title:** An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth  
**ISBN:** 978-0345812704  
**Publisher:** Random House Canada  
**Date:** 2013  
**Genre:** Non-Fiction

As Commander of the International Space Station orbiting the Earth during a five-month mission in 2013, Chris Hadfield provides a rare insider’s perspective into the world of space: the preparation, the thinking, and the training. Chris shares stories of successes and challenges through anecdotes about family, work, and life in general. He writes with honesty, humour, and humility to answer the one thing everyone wants to know; What is life like in outer space? This is more than the story of one man’s journey into space; it is an inspiring tale of dedication to achieving a dream, lessons learned while living in space, and optimism for future space exploration. Canada’s most famous astronaut brings the world of outer space to the lives of everyone around him.

Recommended for: Middle - Upper Secondary

Hautman, Pete

**Title:** Invisible  
**ISBN:** 978-0689869037  
**Publisher:** Simon Pulse  
**Date:** 2005  
**Genre:** Contemporary Fiction

In school, everyone considers Doug Hanson a freak – he gets called names and beaten up on a regular basis. Only his retreat into his model railroad set and his afterschool friendship with Andy, a popular football player, keeps him anchored. Yet, as time goes on, Doug becomes more and more buried in his own reality. Yet this reality is threatened by the surfacing of secrets - long buried and tragic – secrets that could easily destroy Doug’s fragile world.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary
Haworth-Attard, Barbara

Title: **Haunted**  
ISBN: 978-1554689767  
Publisher: Harper Trophy Canada  
Date: 2009  
Genre: Mystery / Horror

Defiance (Dee) Vale lives with her grandmother who, like Dee, has ‘the sight.’ While Gran can sometimes predict the future and sense evil, Dee can actually see spirits and experience their deaths. Dee becomes an unwilling participant in solving an old friend’s murder as well as the murders of several other missing girls.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Hinton, S. E.

Title: **Rumble Fish**  
ISBN: 978-0440975342  
Publisher: Laurel Leaf  
Date: 1989 (1st edition 1975)  
Genre: Realistic

Rusty James is a fourteen year old boy, known for being tough, who is being raised by his single father. Rusty James admires his older brother, the Motorcycle Boy, who has his own troubles. The boys search for their own identity as they struggle to maintain family ties. These particular teenagers, including Rusty’s best friend, Steve, have a lot to deal with in their family situations as well as in their fight to survive and fit in.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Houston, James

Title: **Whiteout**  
ISBN: 978-1550050523  
Publisher: Fitzhenry and Whiteside  
Date: 2002  
Genre: Realistic / Action / Adventure

Jonathan Aird is a rebellious seventeen year old who is sent to live with his uncle on Baffin Island. Angry at his family, he must come to terms with new ways – and with the harsh reality of an environment where one small mistake can mean certain death.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

*Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio*
Jocelyn, Marthe

Title: Would You
ISBN: 978-0887768163
Publisher: Tundra Books
Date: 2008
Genre: Realistic

Natalie is experiencing a typical summer until her older sister, Claire, is involved in an accident. Then everything changes. The whole family has to deal with the hospital visits, the empty house, and the decisions that have to be made while life continues for the people around them.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Johnson, Angela

Title: The First Part Last
ISBN: 978-0689849237
Publisher: Simon Pulse
Date: 2004
Genre: Realistic

Bobby, an aspiring artist, is ready to graduate early from high school but his whole world turns upside down when his girlfriend, Nia, tells him she’s pregnant. The story alternates between ‘then’ (the story of Nia’s pregnancy), and ‘now’ (Bobby as the baby’s father). The couple must decide whether to raise their child or to give in to parental pressure from their middle-class families and give the baby up for adoption. They want to do the right thing – if only they knew what the right thing was.

Recommended for: Lower - Middle Secondary

Johnson, Maureen

Title: The Name of the Star
ISBN: 978-0142422052
Publisher: Speak
Date: 2012
Genre: Mystery/Supernatural

The day that Louisiana teenager Rory Deveaux arrives in London to start a new life at boarding school is also the day a series of brutal murders breaks out over the city, killings mimicking the horrific Jack the Ripper spree of more than a century ago. Soon ‘Rippermania’ takes hold of modern-day London, and the police are left with few leads and no witnesses. Except one. Rory spotted the man police believe to be the prime suspect. But she is the only one who saw him – the only one who can see him. And now Rory has become his next target. In this thriller, full of suspense, humor, and romance, Rory learns the truth about the secret ghost police of London and discover her own shocking abilities.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary
Sequel: The Madness Underneath
Johnson, Maureen

Title: The Madness Underneath  
ISBN: 978-0142427545  
Publisher: Speak/The Penguin Group  
Date: 2013  
Genre: Mystery/Supernatural

Since her experiences with the Jack the Ripper copycat, Rory Deveaux's life has been close to normal. She lives with her parents in Bristol, has regular appointments with a therapist, and most importantly, has not come across any ghosts. Despite her attempts at normalcy, Rory soon realizes that her encounter with the Ripper has changed her life in more ways than she thought – she has become a human terminus, and suddenly has the power to eliminate ghosts on contact. She returns to Wexford, the boarding school where it all began. Her newfound ability makes her invaluable, and with a string of suspicious deaths, it is up to her to convince the ghost-fighting division that something is wrong.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Other titles in the series: The Name of the Star (not necessary to read first)

Knowles, John

Title: A Separate Peace  
ISBN: 978-0743253970  
Publisher: Scribner  
Date: 2003  
Genre: Realistic

Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during World War II, this story centers around two friends who couldn't be more different. Gene is an intellectual introvert and Phineas, a handsome daredevil. What happens between them reflects, like the war, a loss of innocence for both.

Recommended for: Middle – Upper Secondary

Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio

Knutsson, Catherine

Title: Shadows Cast by Stars  
ISBN: 978-1442401914  
Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers  
Date: 2012  
Genre: Fantasy (Dystopian)

Sixteen-year-old Cassandra is different. She is a 'half-blood' aboriginal who must find a way to face prejudice and hide from the government. Cassandra and her twin brother have mystical abilities, but that's not why the government wants them. They are hunted because their blood contains antigens needed to cure a devastating plague. When she and her family flee to "the Island" she learns she is the voice and instrument of the spirit world. This story is poetically written and full of surprising twists.

Recommended for: Middle-Upper Secondary
Title: Losing Joe’s Place
ISBN: 978-0590427692
Publisher: Scholastic
Date: 1991
Genre: Realistic

The summer before their senior year, Jason and his two friends get a golden opportunity to sublet Jason’s, older brother’s, Toronto apartment. All the boys have to do – after convincing their parents to let them try it – is to pay the rent. But they didn’t know about their landlord, Mr. Plotnick, or Joe’s friend Rootbeer, who wanders in and out of the apartment whenever he wants to. Their summer experiences, although at times funny, provide some valuable lessons about independence and responsibility.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Title: Girl in Translation
ISBN: 978-594485152
Publisher: Riverhead Books
Date: 2011
Genre: Realistic

Eleven year old Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to New York City in search of a better life. Life does not treat them well, and Kimberly struggles to survive as an exceptional student during the day and by helping her mother, a sweatshop worker, during the evening. Kimberly lives in a run down, infested apartment, deals with prejudiced teachers and classmates, and struggles with language barriers. Through determination, perseverance, and sacrifice, mother and daughter struggle to succeed in their new country. Through relationships formed with a classmate and the son of another sweatshop worker, Kimberly begins a transformation that no one expects.

Recommended for: Middle-Upper Secondary

Title: Truth
ISBN: 978-1551432656
Publisher: Orca Book Publishers
Date: 2003
Genre: Realistic

When an adult neighbour is brutally murdered during a highschool house party, everyone seems to know who did it, but no one will go to the police. Jen was there and saw the body, so she has her own ideas about who is responsible. As a school reporter, she tries to uncover the truth and discover if a classmate’s violent behaviour is to blame. When she starts digging, tempers flare, and more violence is not far behind.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary
Larochelle, David

Title: Absolutely, Positively Not
ISBN: 978-0439591102
Publisher: Scholastic
Date: 2009
Genre: Realistic

Sixteen year-old Steven struggles with his sexuality, insisting that he is absolutely, positively not gay and trying various tactics, including dating girls, to convince himself and others that he is straight. This light-hearted novel is told from Steve's point of view and revolves around his experiences in high school. Can he help, not only himself, but those around him, find out what is important in life?

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Lee, Harper

Title: To Kill a Mockingbird
ISBN: 978-0446310789
Publisher: Grand Central Publishing
Date: 1960
Genre: Realistic

Scout is a tomboy, living in the southern United States in the 1930s. Her biggest thrills are hanging out with her older brother Jem, and the possibility that she may meet their mysterious neighbour, Boo Radley. Her father, Atticus, is a well respected lawyer in the town and Scout has great respect for him. When he is appointed by the court to represent an African American man accused of raping a white woman, his family finds itself in the middle of a major conflict. Through the process, both Scout and Jem learn about the power of respect, of courage and of standing by the truth, even when it is the unpopular stance to take.

Recommended for: Lower - Middle Secondary

Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio; Kurzweil (e-text); PDF (e-text)

Levithan, David

Title: Every Day
ISBN: 978-0307931894
Publisher: Ember
Date: 2012
Genre: Realistic Fantasy

Imagine waking up and not knowing whose body you are in. For 'A', this is reality. Each new day brings a new body and a new life. 'A' never makes attachments because tomorrow those people will be all gone and a new set will appear. 'A' has accepted this fate until one day Rihannon appears, someone 'A' wants to stay for, someone that is worth seeing day after day for a lifetime. Now that 'A' knows the power of attachment, the challenge is to figure out a way to stay close, a way to remain a part of Rihannon's life, every day.

Recommendation: Middle Secondary
Lowry, Lois

**Title:** The Giver  
ISBN: 978-0440237686  
Publisher: Laurel Leaf  
Date: 2002  
Genre: Dystopian

Jonas happily lives in a utopian world where there is no crime or sickness and where everyone’s lives are very similar. However, when he is chosen to hold an important position in the community, everything begins to change. He soon discovers that his perfect world is not as he first thought and begins to struggle with its hypocrisy. Jonas wonders if the price to live in this perfect society is too high.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

*Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio; Kurzweil (e-text); PDF (e-text)*

Lowry, Lois

**Title:** Son  
ISBN: 978-0547887203  
Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers  
Date: 2012  
Genre: Dystopian

In *Son*, we experience a riveting conclusion to *The Giver*. When Clare washes up on shore, nobody knows her past. Nobody knows that she came from a place without color, without emotions or that at age 13 she became a vessel to carry a package which she delivered at age 14. Plagued by questions she cannot escape, Clare will stop at nothing and make unimaginable sacrifices to accomplish her goal, to find her son.

Recommendation: Lower Secondary

Major, Kevin

**Title:** No Man’s Land (The Play)  
ISBN: 978-1894463713  
Publisher: Flanker Press  
Date: 2005  
Genre: Historical Drama

War is a difficult concept to understand – except for those who have been through it. Kevin Major lets the reader ‘see’ ordinary people experiencing the extraordinary events of war by following soldiers who came together prior to a bloody day on July 1st, 1916. The reader ‘watches’ their comradeship and their feelings of excitement change to fear as the trench war they have heard about becomes a reality.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary
McDaniel, Lurlene

Title: Breathless
ISBN: 978-0440240167
Publisher: Delacorte Books
Date: 2010
Genre: Realistic

Travis Morrison knows how good his life is. He’s a champion diver and one of the most popular kids at school. He has Darla, the girl he loves, Emily, his sister, whom he actually doesn’t mind hanging out with, and Cooper, his best friend. Then comes the day on the lake when everything changes. Told in alternating voices, this book makes the reader question what is important and who you can count on.

Recommended for: Lower - Middle Secondary

Meyer, Marissa

Title: Cinder
ISBN: 978-0312641894
Publisher: Feiwel & Friends
Date: 2012
Genre: Science Fiction

Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She’s a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister’s illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai’s, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world’s future.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Sequel: Scarlet

Myers, Walter Dean

Title: Monster
ISBN: 978-0064407311
Publisher: Amistad
Date: 2001
Genre: Realistic

Sixteen year old Steve Harmon is called ‘Monster’ by the judge after his apparent involvement in a fatal shooting. Readers look into the life of Steve in this novel through journal writings which provide insight into his life before the murder and his experiences and feelings while being held in prison before the trial. The reader becomes both the juror and the witness during the most difficult period of Steve’s life.

Recommended for: Secondary

Alternate Formats available: PDF (e-text); Commercial CDs
Oliver, Lauren

Title: Before I Fall
ISBN: 978-0061726811
Publisher: Harper
Date: 2011
Genre: Realistic

What would you do to save your own life? That’s the question Samantha Kingston has to ask herself everyday. Friday, February 12th should have been a perfect day: hanging out with her perfect boyfriend, enjoying being with her perfect popular friends, relishing in her perfect looks. However, that Friday was her last, unless she can break the pattern. She lives her last day seven times in one week, untangling the mystery of why she died and figuring out what she has to do – and who she has to be – in order to return to her life. Along the way, Samantha has to determine what is really important to her and what the word perfect actually means.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Oppel, Kenneth

Title: This Dark Endeavour
ISBN: 978-0316322409
Publisher: Harper Trophy Canada
Date: 2011
Genre: Traditional/Fantasy

Victor Frankenstein, along with his twin brother, Konrad, and their cousin Elizabeth, all lead charmed lives. They study at home and spend their spare time fencing, horseback riding, and living out imaginary adventures. They think they have explored all the hidden passageways and secret rooms of the Frankenstein chateau until one day they stumble upon The Dark Library. Though they are forbidden to visit The Dark Library because of its secret books and secret knowledge, Victor believes he has no choice when his brother becomes very ill. He believes it is the only place where he can find the cure his brother needs; the recipe for the legendary Elixir of Life. Victor’s success depends on how much he is willing to sacrifice for those he loves.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary
Orwell, George

Title: Animal Farm
ISBN: 978-0141036137
Publisher: Penguin UK
Date: 2008
Genre: Historical

On the day that Mr. Jones got drunk and forgot to feed his animals, a revolution was sparked; not by the field hands or the farm boys, but by the animals. The pigs of the farm, led by Napoleon and Wellington, promise to eliminate all of the inequalities and bring power to those who walk on four legs. However, plans for equality are soon forgotten as those in power begin to enjoy their positions of authority. This novel, written as an allegory of events leading up to the Stalin era before World War II, is a chilling tale of the effects of the abuse of power.

Recommended for: Lower - Middle Secondary

Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio; PDF (e-text); Word (e-text)

Patterson, James

Title: Maximum Ride: The Manga Vol. 1
ISBN: 978-0759529519
Publisher: Yen Press
Date: 2009
Genre: Graphic Novel / Action / Adventure

Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride knows what it’s like to soar above the world. She and all the members of her ‘flock’ – Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman, and Angel – are just like ordinary kids, except they have the ability to fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but for this group, it becomes more like a nightmare. When the mysterious ‘School’ turns up and kidnaps their youngest member, Max and her group are in a race against time to rescue one of their own.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Paulsen, Gary

Title: The Rifle
ISBN: 978-0152058395
Publisher: Harcourt Inc.
Date: 2006
Genre: Historical

Set prior to the American Revolution and working its way up to modern day, this novel is a work of historical fiction, written for a young adult audience. The story focuses on the history of a rifle and on the lives of its various owners as it is passed down through generations. Where it ends up will surprise, devastate and even shock! Although he romanticizes the creation and the uniqueness of the rifle, Paulsen matter-of-factly deals with the importance of handling guns responsibly and attempts to convey the message that “guns don’t kill people, people do”.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary
Pittman, Al

Title: West Moon  
ISBN: 978-1550811230  
Publisher: Breakwater Books Ltd.  
Date: 2012  
Genre: Drama/Fantasy  

West Moon is set in Newfoundland and Labrador during the time of resettlement in the mid-1960s. Characters in this play are dead and in various states of decay. On one particularly important night, they are fortunate enough to regain their personalities, memories and emotions, all while still lying beneath the ground. Social, political, moral, and theological themes are explored throughout using a unique blend of humour and despair as characters briefly come to life while still within the confines of their mortality.  

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Polak, Monique

Title: Home Invasion  
ISBN: 978-1551434827  
Publisher: Orca Book Publishers  
Date: 2005  
Genre: Realistic  

All around the city, home invasions are happening at an alarming rate. The invasions are made that much worse with the knowledge that the victims are home during the crime. Josh thinks it’s pretty creepy, but is more worried about the invasion that having a new stepfather has made in his life. When Josh’s mother leaves town and Josh is left to spend the week with his new stepfather, he tries to spend as little time at home as possible. After an unplanned trespassing visit at his neighbour’s house, Josh becomes interested in how ‘real families’ live. However, when his trespassing goes wrong, he has to find the courage to be more than just an observer.  

Recommended for: Lower Secondary
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roth, Veronica</strong></td>
<td><strong>Divergent</strong></td>
<td>978-0062024039</td>
<td>Katherine Tegen Books</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Dystopian</td>
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<td>In Dystopian Chicago, society is separated into five factions: Amity, the friendly faction, Candor, the honest faction, Erudite, the intelligent faction, Abnegation, the selfless faction, and Dauntless, the brave faction. All residents choose their path at sixteen, either remaining with their family in the faction to which they were born or giving up all they know and joining another faction to which they, and the scientific testing they undergo, feel they are more suited. Beatrice Prior must make that choice, knowing she is a secret anomaly. She is Divergent. Once her choice is made, Beatrice, or Tris as she chooses to be called, must test herself in ways she never imagined in a system that has become more corrupt than anyone could have dreamed.</td>
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<td><strong>Insurgent</strong></td>
<td>Veronica Roth</td>
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<td><strong>Sequel: Insurgent by Veronica Roth</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saenaz, Benjamin Alire</strong></td>
<td><strong>Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</strong></td>
<td>978-1442408920</td>
<td>Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Realistic, LGBT</td>
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<td>Aristotle and Dante are two Mexican-American loners who meet in the summer at age fifteen. Ari, an angry teen whose brother is in prison, and Dante, who has an unusual way of viewing the world, combine and they develop a friendship that neither expected. Their friendship becomes life-changing as they explore identity, life and the world of growing up. Through them, the reader learns about relationships, family, and love as Ari and Dante discover who they want to be.</td>
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<td>Holden Caulfield, a seventeen year old prep school student, tells the story of his twenty-four hour stay in New York City after he is kicked out of school. He relates his struggles with the phoniness of the adult world while attempting to deal with the death of his younger brother. Holden deals with other troubling childhood experiences as he searches for truth and belonging in a world where he feels completely alienated.</td>
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<td>Recommended for: Upper Secondary</td>
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<td><strong>Alternate Formats available: PDF (e-text)</strong></td>
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**Shakespeare, William**

Title: *A Midsummer Night's Dream (Global Shakespeare)*  
ISBN: 978-0176066178  
Publisher: Thomson South-Western  
Date: March 1998  
Genre: Drama / Fantasy

The Duke of Athens, Theseus, and the Queen of the Amazons, Hippolyta are about to be married. During their engagement, the lives of four young Athenian lovers, a group of six amateur actors, and a group of fairies who inhabit the forest, all become intertwined. This is a light-hearted look at what happens when rumours and attempts at deception go wrong.

Recommended for: Lower - Middle Secondary

Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio; PDF (e-text)

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**Sheinkin, Steve**

Title: *Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon*  
ISBN: 978-1596434875  
Publisher: Flashpoint  
Date: 2012  
Genre: Non-fiction (History-WWII)

The race is on; who will succeed? The world’s race to build the atomic bomb spans three continents and each country wants to be the first to build this formidable weapon. Spies, commando forces, and hidden laboratories populate this true story of how the atomic bomb was developed. With primary-source photographs, the account is well-documented and the fast-paced narrative of intrigue and deception reads like a spy thriller.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

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**Shelley, Mary**

Title: *Frankenstein (Graphic Novel)*  
ISBN: 978-1424031849  
Publisher: Sherrise Roehr- Heinle, Cengage Learning  
Date: 2010  
Genre: Classic/Horror/Graphic Novel

A graphic novel retelling of a literary classic, Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein tells the story of Victor Frankenstein and his experiments with life and creation. Victor, obsessed with discovering how life is created, assembles a human being from stolen body parts. However, once his creature is alive, Victor is repulsed and horrified by the hideousness of his monster. The creation, alone and lonely as a result of the rejection by his creator, turns to evil and revenge. This version, though slightly abridged, retains much of the original dialogue and remains true to Shelley’s of a tale of acceptance, tolerance and understanding.

Recommended for: Lower - Middle Secondary
Sherrard, Valerie
Title: Accomplice
ISBN: 978-1554887644
Publisher: Dundurn Press
Date: 2011
Genre: Realistic

Lexie is a Vancouver teen who has recently broken up with her heroin addicted boyfriend, Devlin. Despite the breakup, she continues to enable his habit financially, out of guilt. Just when Lexie decides that she can no longer carry and support the burden of Devlin's personal issues, she finds herself drawn back into his life only to end up being part of a criminal act.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Shusterman, Neal
Title: Bruiser
ISBN: 978-0061134104
Publisher: Harper Teen
Date: 2010
Genre: Realistic Fantasy

Brewster “Bruiser” Rawlins has always been an outsider at school – an object of derision and fear. However, when he begins a relationship with Bronte, a kind hearted and caring classmate, he begins to open up to her and her brother. However, this change comes with a price, the revealing of a secret life of pain and suffering. This is a story of unconditional friendship and what is sometimes endured for those we love.

Recommended for: Lower - Middle Secondary

Skuy, David
Title: Undergrounders
ISBN: 978-1443107280
Publisher: Scholastic
Date: 2011
Genre: Realistic

Since the death of his mother, Jonathon has been living on the street. She instilled values, but when the issue is one of survival, living a moral life is not priority number one. Jonathon steals a pair of skates in order to play hockey and is noticed as a skilled player. His actions, however, return to haunt him. Will he ever return to any type of a happy life or will he spend the rest of his life homeless?

Recommended for: Lower Secondary
Stein, Garth

Title: The Art of Racing in the Rain
ISBN: 978-1443404969
Publisher: Harper Perennial / Harper Collins Publishing Ltd.
Date: 2008
Genre: Contemporary Fiction

This heart wrenching, yet humourous story is narrated by Enzo, a philosopher dog who yearns for a human soul. He learns about the world by watching television and listening to his human family who continue to love and care for him. Through his family, Denny, a race car driver, and his little girl, Zoe, Enzo applies the rules of race car driving to life, as he reflects upon all that he has discovered about the human condition.

Recommended for: Middle - Upper Secondary

Stoppard, Tom

Title: Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead
ISBN: 978-0802132758
Publisher: Grove Press
Date: 1994 (Reprint edition)
Genre: Drama/Traditional

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, two minor characters from William Shakespeare’s Hamlet, share their musings as the events of Hamlet take a background seat to their own misadventures. In Hamlet, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are used by the King in an attempt to discover Hamlet’s motives and to plot against him. Hamlet, however, mocks and outwits them and because of this, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are portrayed as fools in a world they don’t really understand. Both humorous and touching, the tale they tell gives an account of events happening to them as it becomes clear that they have no control over their own destiny.

Recommended for: Middle - Upper Secondary

Stratton, Allan

Title: Chanda’s Wars
ISBN: 978-1554680252
Publisher: Harper Trophy Canada
Date: 2008
Genre: Realistic

When her mother dies of AIDS in a small African village, Chanda takes on the role of raising her brother and sister. When she is told to marry against her will, she stands her ground and refuses. And when her brother and sister are snatched away by rebels in their war torn country to be trained as child soldiers, she refuses to let anything, including her fear, stand in the way of trying to get them back.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Other Titles in the Series: Chanda’s Secrets (not necessary to read first)
Tashjian, Janet

Title: The Gospel According to Larry
ISBN: 978-0440237921
Publisher: Laurel Leaf Books
Date: 2003 (1st edition, 2001)
Genre: Realistic

Josh Swensen is a prodigy. He sees America as a wasteland of consumerism and greed. When he tries to do something about it by creating a website, where he is known only as 'Larry', he realizes that the results are more than he bargained for and that greed and lies are now an even bigger part of his life. When Larry continues to grow in popularity, Josh formulates a dangerous plan – to stage his own death and therefore be free of his Internet alter-ego. This plan comes with its own dangers, and soon Josh finds himself with problems that he is hoping someone will help him out of.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Thompson Walker, Karen

Title: Age of Miracles
ISBN: 978-0385676656
Publisher: Anchor Canada
Date: 2012
Genre: Dystopian

Julia, a typical 11-year-old, wakes one morning to find that the rotation of the Earth has slowed. Society is faced with the fear and uncertainty created by “The Slowing”. Julia and her family must continue to deal with day-to-day routines and problems against a backdrop of altered gravity, weather, and daylight. Julia’s social world changes as well as she copes with the challenges of loneliness, peer pressure and first love. Thompson Walker has written a coming-of-age tale that asks whether it’s worth coming of age at all in a world that might end at any minute. Age of Miracles is about the existence of hope and whether it can prevail in the face of uncertainty.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Tolkien, J. R. R.

Title: The Hobbit
ISBN: 978-0547928227
Publisher: Mariner Books
Date: 2012 (1st edition, 1937)
Genre: Fantasy

Bilbo Baggins is quite happily living his very quiet peaceful life in his comfortable home at Bag End in the bustling hobbit village of Hobbiton. The arrival of the old wizard Gandalf changes all of this – he persuades Bilbo to set out on an adventure with a group of thirteen militant dwarves. The dwarves are embarking on the quest to reclaim their treasure from the dragon Smaug and need Bilbo to act as their ‘burglar’. Throughout the journey there and back Bilbo finds himself in situations that he could never imagine and making choices of which he can only dream.

Recommended for: Middle - Upper Secondary

Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio; PDF (e-text)
Walters, Eric

Title: *Between Heaven and Earth*
ISBN: 978-1554699414
Publisher: Orca Book Publishers
Date: 2012
Genre: Action/Adventure

Orca’s ‘The Seven Series’ is written by seven authors, each writing the story of one of David McLean’s grandsons. In his will, David has left letters instructing each grandson to complete a task. In *Between Heaven and Earth*, DJ’s task is to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania, Africa, to spread his grandfather’s ashes. DJ’s success in life thus far has him believing that his youth and physical fitness will allow him to meet this request easily. However, things are not what they seem. Once in Tanzania, he struggles with immigration, getting robbed, having a female porter, and climbing with an elderly woman. DJ learns that success on the mountain, like in life, depends on working with others.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Walters, Eric

Title: *Overdrive*
ISBN: 978-1551433189
Publisher: Orca
Date: 2004
Genre: Realistic

Jake has finally got his driver’s license, and tonight he has his brother’s car as well. He and his friend Mickey take the car out and cruise the strip. When they challenge another driver to a street race, the results are disastrous. Even though Jake and Mickey try to convince themselves they were not involved, Jake finds he cannot pretend it didn’t happen and struggles to figure out the right thing to do. Should he pretend he was not involved? Or should he go to the police?

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

Walters, Eric

Title: *Shaken*
ISBN: 978-0385670814
Publisher: Doubleday Canada
Date: 2011
Genre: Realistic

Josh is dealing with some major life changes. His mom has died. His dad has moved him and his sister away from their friends. Now he has to go to Haiti with a mission group led by his father. After grudgingly befriending some of the other teens involved in the mission, Josh slowly begins to understand and forgive his father. When an earthquake hits, Josh and his friends in Haiti learn what is important and how much strength they need to survive.

Recommended for: Lower - Middle Secondary
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<td>The Uglies</td>
<td>978-0689865381</td>
<td>Simon Pulse</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>Tally Youngblood lives in a world where at sixteen, you are operated on and turned ‘pretty’. You're catapulted from a regular life into a high tech paradise where your only job is to party – and forget all that you knew as an ugly. Her new friend Shay would rather be free and tells Tally of ‘the smoke’, a place in the woods where rebels have formed their own small society. When Shay disappears, Tally is given an ugly choice – work with the ‘Special Circumstances’ authority, Dr. Cable, to find her friend and turn her in or never turn pretty at all. Tally’s choice will change her world forever. Recommended for: Lower – Middle Secondary Sequels – Pretties, Specials and Extras</td>
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<td>Night</td>
<td>978-0374500016</td>
<td>Hill and Wang</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Non-Fiction</td>
<td>A chilling account of one boy’s experiences during the Holocaust. Eliezer is a young Jewish teenager and religious scholar whose life is suddenly turned upside down when he is caught up in the Holocaust. After witnessing the death of family members, friends and strangers, Eliezer must also face the death of his innocence. Confronting what he has experienced and then living beyond it becomes a struggle that may be too much even for the strongest. Recommended for: Middle Secondary Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio; PDF (e-text); Word (e-text)</td>
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<td>Wittlinger, Ellen</td>
<td>Parrotfish</td>
<td>978-1442406216</td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Realistic</td>
<td>Angela Katz-McNair has never felt quite right as a girl, but it's a shock to everyone when she cuts her hair short, buys men's clothes, and announces she'd like to be called Grady. Although Grady is happy about his decision to finally be true to himself, everybody else is having trouble processing the news. There are also more practical concerns – for instance, which locker room is he supposed to use for gym class? Grady knew his decision would be difficult to live with, but he didn't expect the kids at school to be so nasty. Even as he loses trust in some, he finds unexpected allies who help him to have strength when he needs it the most. Recommended for: Middle Secondary</td>
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Yousafzai, Malala
Title: *I Am Malala*
ISBN: 987-0316322409
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company
Date: 2013
Genre: Non-Fiction

Malala is an amazing young woman who is forced to leave the country she loves because of her continuous fight for girls’ education. She tells the incredible tale of what her life has been like since, at the age of fifteen, she was shot in the head at point-blank range by the Taliban while riding the bus home from school. Not expected to survive, Malala’s miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. Malala continues to advocate for universal access to education and inspires others to believe that one person’s voice can inspire change.

Recommended for: Middle Secondary

Zindel, Paul
Title: *The Pigman*
ISBN: 978-0060757359
Publisher: Tween
Date: 2005
Genre: Realistic

John and Lorriane are two high school students who come from unhappy homes but are glad that they have each other. They prefer to hang out and play practical jokes rather than go to school. Through one practical prank, they meet a lonely old man, Mr Pignati. An intense friendship develops and the three of them create a strange world until Mr Pignati’s death. This book is the ‘Memorial Epic’ of their friendship.

Recommended for: Lower Secondary

*Alternate Formats available: Digital Audio; Kurzweil (e-text); PDF (e-text)*

Zusak, Markus
Title: *The Book Thief*
ISBN: 978-0375842207
Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers
Date: 2007
Genre: Historical

Death narrates the story of Liesel, a young girl in Nazi Germany. After her family is torn apart, Liesel is transported into foster care where her lighthearted Papa and her stern Mama Rosa shape her future. At a time when information is being censored and literature being destroyed, she becomes a book thief, stealing books from grave sites, Nazi book burnings, and the mayor. Her love of reading brings comfort to the community as she shares her stolen books with neighbours during bombing raids. This is a story of friendship, love, bravery and loss.

Recommended for: Middle-Upper Secondary
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