

Realistic Fiction for Teens

Wintergirls

Laurie Halse Anderson (YA ANDERSON)

Lia just wants to be thin. The trouble is it's killing her slowly. (Grades 9+)

13 Reasons Why

Jay Asher (YA ASHER)

Even though Hannah killed herself, she is still talking. She wants to let the people who hurt her know the reasons that she is no longer alive—all 13 of them. (Grades 9+)

Sometimes It Happens

Lauren Barnholdt (YA BARNHOLDT)

What happens when your feelings of friendship for a BFF's boyfriend turn to something more? (Grades 9+)

Hate List

Jennifer Brown (YA BROWN)

Valerie's boyfriend closed our their junior year with a school shooting spree that left 7 people dead. Alive to pick up the pieces in the aftermath, she is racked with guilt about her own possible complicity. (Grades 8+)

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Stephen Chbosky (YA CHBOSKY)

What do you do when you're caught between trying to live your life...and trying to run from it? (Grades 9+)

Deadline

Chris Crutcher (YA CRUTCHER)

Living life to its fullest takes on a new meaning when you only have a year to live... (Grades 9+)

What Happened to Goodbye

Sarah Dessen (YA DESSEN)

McClean is used to moving so much that she reinvents a new persona for herself with each new town she lives in. (Grades 9+)

A Swift Pure Cry

Siobhan Dowd (YA DOWD)

Shell's village is used to secrets, but hers may tear its conservative fabric apart.. (Grades 9+)

Touching Snow

M. Sindy Felin (YA FELIN)

Life in Haiti was hard, but living as an outsider in the United States with an abusive father may be even more difficult.. (Grades 8+)

Paper Towns

John Green (YA GREEN)

"Look at all those cul-de-sacs, those streets that turn in on themselves...all those paper people living in their paper houses, burning the future to stay warm." (Grades 8+)

The Orange Houses

Paul Griffin (YA GRIFFIN)

Three NYC kids—partially deaf Tamika, refugee Fatima, and junkie war veteran Jimmy—find their lives colliding tragically. (Grades 10+)

Get Well Soon

Julie Halpern (YA HALPERN)

Depression, weight problems and panic attacks—Anna's parents think she's crazy...but is she really? (Grades 9+)

Willow

Julia Hoben (YA HOBEN)

Willow's parents' death in a car accident still haunts her, and she deals with the pain by cutting herself. It may take a special person to save her. (Grades 10+)

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks

E. Lockhart (YA LOCKHART)

What do you do when you're snubbed by the boys? Take their secret society by storm! (Grades 9+)

Amy & Roger's Epic Detour

Morgan Matson (YA MATSON)

When her father dies in a car crash, Amy's life seems to shatter over night. Only during an epic road trip across the U.S. with a boy can she begin the healing process. (Grades 9+)

Dairy Queen [Has a Sequel]

Catherine Murdock (YA MURDOCK)

"I just did what my parents told me, & my coaches...and [my dog] even....I was nothing but a cow on two legs." (Grades 7-10)

Sunrise Over Fallujah

Walter Dean Myers (YA MYERS)

Birdy went to Iraq to support freedom and spread Democracy—something easier said than done... (Grades 8+)

Shine

Lauren Myracle (YA MYRACLE)

Cat's friend is the victim of a savage hate crime in her small town. She alone must peel back the layers to uncover the truth. (Grades 9+)

Recovery Road

Blake Nelson (YA NELSON)

Madeline is kicking off her junior year of high school in a rehab facility. Can newfound love help her sober up? (Grades 9-12)

Trapped

Michael Northrup (YA NORTHROP)

8 people find themselves trapped inside a rural high school during a terrible blizzard. Some will make it...others will not. (Grades 7-10)

Mexican WhiteBoy

Matt de la Pena (YAPENA)

Biracial baseball prodigy Danny Lopez doesn't seem to fit in anywhere—not with the kids in his mostly white school, and certainly not with his family in Mexico. (Grades 9+)

My Sister's Keeper

Jodi Picoult (YA PICOULT)

Some platelets here, some bone marrow there—Anna was born to keep her sister alive. (Grades 9+)

The Things A Brother Knows

Dana Reinhardt (YA REINHARDT)

At first, Levi is overjoyed that his older brother is coming home from his tour of duty in the Middle East. Unbeknownst to him, the brother that returns is not quite the same that left... (Grades 8+)

How I Live Now

Meg Rosoff (YA ROSOFF)

Daisy escapes her home life in Manhattan for the greener grass of England, only to be met with deprivation in the storm of war. (Grades 9+)

He Forgot to Say Goodbye

Benjamin Alire Saenz (YA SAENZ)

Two guys from different walks of life, united by sorrow, frustration, and anger over the lifelong absence of their fathers... (Grades 9+)

Black Box

Julie Schumacher (YA SCHUMACHER)

Elena wants a normal family, but she has to help her sister escape depression's "black box." (Grades 9+)

Flygirl

Sherri L. Smith (YA SMITH)

During World War II, the United States government recruited women to fly non-combat missions. Ida is one of those women. (Grades 6-10)

Zen and the Art of Faking It

Jordan Sonnenblick (YA SONNENBLICK)

Fitting in at school is just one Buddhist temple visit away! (Grades 7-9)

Stargirl [Has a Sequel]

Jerry Spinelli (YA SPINELLI)

Mica High School is a pretty drab place...until the off-beat, wild, colorful Stargirl arrives and turns the world on its head. (Grades 6-10)

The Last Summer of the Death Warriors

Francisco X. Stork (YA STORK)

When his mentally disabled sister dies, Pancho vows revenge. It is only through D.Q., a teen dying of cancer, that he can learn to truly live as a 'death warrior.' (Grades 8+)

If I Grow Up

Todd Strasser (YA STRASSER)

DeShawn's life in the projects is filled with poverty, violence and the lure of easy money through selling drugs. (Grades 9+)

Rikers High

Paul Volponi (YA VOLPONI)

Martin goes from being a rebellious kid in the neighborhood to a rough juvenile prison on New York's infamous Rikers Island. (Grades 9+)

Sweethearts

Sarah Zarr (YA ZARR)

Revamping your image only goes so far when the past has an easy way of sneaking up and coming back to haunt you. (Grades 10+)

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac

Gabrielle Zevin (YA ZEVIN)

If amnesia wipes out all the memories you have of high school, you have two choices: regress, or reinvent. (Grades 8-11)