

Kick-Butt Heroines for Teens

**Forget waiting for someone to rescue them...
These independent women can take care of themselves!**

Does My Head Look Big in This?

Randa Abdel-Fattah (YA ABDEL-FATTAH)

If feisty Amal decides to wear her hijab full-time, even at her exclusive school, will her friends see her differently? (Grades 7-11)

Chains

Laurie Halse Anderson (YA ANDERSON)

After a cruel Loyalist mistress sells her little sister, Isabel vows revenge by spying for the Rebels prior to the Revolutionary War. (Grades 6-10)

A Curse Dark as Gold

Elizabeth C. Bunce (YA BUNCE)

Keeping the family business open may require Charlotte to make a deal with the devil. (Grades 8-10)

The Gallagher Girls [series]

Ally Carter (YA CARTER)

Welcome to Gallagher Academy, a secret spy school for exceptional young women! (Grades 7-10)

Graceling

Kristin Cashore (YA CASHORE)

Katsa's extraordinary Grace? Killing. The King's new problem? She's not going to let him use her as a hired thug anymore. (Grades 8+)

The Devil's Kiss

Sarwat Chadda (YA CHADDA)

Being the first woman in the ancient Knights Templar sucks. How do you find time to finish your homework while standing between humans and the errant Angel of Death? (Grades 7+)

Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist

Rachel Cohn & David Levithan (YA COHN)

One boy, one girl, and one epic quest to find New York's best underground band. (Grades 10-12)

The Hunger Games [trilogy]

Suzanne Collins (YA COLLINS)

Every district must "tith" two teenagers to play the Hunger Games, a brutal death match with only one winner... and Katniss isn't going down without a fight. (Grades 7+)

Mare's War

Tanita S. Davis (YA DAVIS)

What does it take to survive a lecherous stepdad, World War II, and being an African-American woman in the Deep South? (Grades 7-10)

Down to the Bone

Mayra Lazara Doyle (YA DOYLE)

When Lauri faces judgment for being a lesbian, she discovers that the prejudices she must first overcome are her own. (Grades 9-12)

Ten Cents a Dance

Christine Fletcher (YA FLETCHER)

Bad boys and secrets are hard to keep. (Grades 9+)

Nobody's Princess [series]

Esther Friesner (YA FRIESNER)

The stubborn Helen of Sparta has no intention of being locked up as a demure princess... even if she has to impersonate a man to escape! (Grades 6-9)

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

Seth Grahame-Smith (YA GRAHAME-SMITH)

Elizabeth needs no man's help destroying the zombie menace, thankyouverymuch. (Grades 10+)

Girl in the Arena

Lise Haines (YA HAINES)

As the daughter of seven gladiators, the only way Lyn can determine her own fate is to fight one epic battle in the arena. (Grade 8+)

Book of a Thousand Days

Shannon Hale (YA HALE)

Dashti and Lady Saren may be locked in a tower, but they don't have the luxury of waiting for someone to rescue them. (Grades 6-9)

Babylonne

Catherine Jinks (YA JINKS)

Wild Babylonne escapes a hideous suitor (and a more hideous aunt!) by joining up with a traveling priest who knew her father. (Grades 9+)

Legacy

Cayla Kluver (YA KLUPER)

Is Princess Alera willing to risk everything to find out who she is and what she really wants? (Grades 7+)

Skulduggery Pleasant [series]

Derek Landy (YA LANDY)

Meet Stephanie's new partner: a sarcastic fire-throwing skeleton with a snappy sense of style who is going to teach her to kick butt! (Grades 6-8)

Escape by Sea

L.S. Lawrence (YA LAWRENCE)

After Carthage falls, the formerly wealthy Sara must use every trick she knows to survive — and thrive! — as a sea-going trader. (Grades 6-9)

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks

E. Lockhart (YA LOCKHART)

If only this boys-only secret club knew that it was Matthew's attractive new girlfriend Frankie pulling their puppet strings... (Grades 8-12)

Daughter of the Flames

Zoe Marriott (YA MARRIOTT)

Zira: 16 years old, orphan, warrior priestess... and unbeknownst to her, the hidden royal heir who can unite warring nations! (Grades 7-11)

Sold

Patricia McCormick (YA MCCORMICK)

When her stepfather sells her to a brothel, Lakshmi vows to endure until the day she can seize her freedom. (Grades 9+)

Bloody Jack [series]

L. A. Meyer (YA MEYER)

Why starve on the streets if you can con your way onto a British warship as a cabin boy? The only problem: Jack is actually Jackie, a girl! (Grades 8+)

Rampant

Diana Peterfreund (YA PETERFREUND)

Astrid Llewelyn is the female heir to history's most famous unicorn hunter... as long as she remains "pure", of course. (Grades 9+)

Song of the Lioness [series]

Tamora Pierce (YA PIERCE)

Women aren't "allowed" to become knights in Alanna's world... not that it matters, because she isn't asking for permission! (Grades 7-9)

Silver Phoenix

Cindy Pon (YA PON)

Hmm, let's see: be blackmailed into marriage, or commence on an epic quest to free your father from the Emperor's corrupt advisors? (Grades 9-12)

Discworld [series]

Terry Pratchett (YA PRATCHETT)

Tiffany Aching needs nothing more than a talking toad, an iron frying pan, and the help of the Wee Free Men to save the world! (Grades 6+)

Pirates!

Celia Rees (YA REES)

Given the choice between a life of piracy (brutal) and an abusive arranged marriage (also brutal), which would you choose? (Grades 8-11)

Vibes

Amy Kathleen Ryan (YA RYAN)

Reading minds doesn't make it any easier to understand the people around you. (Grades 8-11)

Flygirl

Sherri Smith (YA SMITH)

During World War II, one African-American girl will do anything to become a woman pilot... even if she has to "pass" as white. (Grades 6-10)

Voices of Dragons

Carrie Vaughn (YA VAUGHN)

In a world where humans and dragons are in a perpetual cold war, Kay must prove that co-existence is possible. (Grades 8-10)

Big Fat Manifesto

Susan Vaught (YA VAUGHT)

So you think that Jamie's too fat? She doesn't give a rip what you think. No one else is going to define her worth! (Grades 9+)

The Enchanted Forest Chronicles [series]

Patricia C. Wrede (YA WREDE)

Why live in the palace and act like a princess when you can live with a group of dragons? (Grades 6-9)