

The

25

Best

Young Adult Fantasy Novels of All Time –So Far

(in chronological order)

The Once and Future King Trilogy, by T. H. White
(*The Sword in the Stone, The Witch in the Wood, The Ill-Made Knight*)

An amusing, touching and surprising retelling of the Arthurian legend, which inspired a Disney film and a Broadway musical.

The Lord of the Rings Trilogy, by J.R.R. Tolkien
(*The Hobbit, The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, The Return of the King*)

The seminal work which established the pattern of heroic fantasy and inspired the blossoming of the genre.

The Earthsea Quartet, by Ursula Le Guin
(*A Wizard of Earthsea, The Tombs of Atuan, The Farthest Shore, Tehanu: The Last Book of Earthsea*)

Often compared to Tolkien's Middle-earth or Lewis's Narnia, these books tell the tale of a reckless, awkward boy named Sparrowhawk who grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

Enchantress from the Stars,
by Sylvia Louise Engdahl

Now in a handsome new edition, this Newbery honor book combines science fiction and fantasy in a gripping love story.

House of Stairs, by William Sleator

Five very different teenagers wake up in a place that is nothing but interlocking flights of stairs, where a machine gives them food pellets in a puzzling response pattern. How will they react to the situation, and to each other, when they find out that cruelty is what the machine rewards?

Watership Down, by Richard Adams

A band of brave rabbits in search of a new warren becomes a metaphor for the dynamics of leadership and power.

Z for Zachariah, by Robert O'Brien

After a nuclear holocaust, a breathless cat and mouse game results when the last girl on earth finds out that the last man wants to make her his slave.

Harper Hall Trilogy, by Anne McCaffrey
(*Dragonsong, Dragonsinger, Dragondrums*)

These adventures take place in a pseudo-medieval world where people live in isolated communities centered on the traditional singers called "harpers," bonded with their personal flying dragons, and must periodically hide from a poisonous rain called "thread."

The Sword of Shannara (and sequels),
by Terry Brooks

In a book modeled on Tolkien's pattern of heroic fantasy, the half-elf Shea and his brother flee their home of Shady Vale pursued by the skull bearer to find the magic world of Shannara and face a final confrontation with the lord of evil.

Beauty, by Robin McKinley

This book, which inspired many modern retellings of folk and fairy tales, tells the story of Beauty and the Beast from a contemporary psychological perspective.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy,
by Douglas Adams

The hilarious journey of Arthur Dent and his friend Ford Prefect, a space hitchhiker, who escape from Earth seconds before it is demolished and travel to a variety of galactic civilizations while gathering information for a guidebook.

Interstellar Pig, by William Sleator

A boy plays an addictive board game with his strange neighbors, where the object is to control the "piggy," which quite literally represents the fate of the world.

Ender's Game (and sequels), by Orson Scott Card

In this first book, Ender, a child genius, is raised in secret by the military, who use him to oversee the genocide of the enemy and save the world from the threat of the aliens they call the "Buggers."

Jackaroo (and sequels), by Cynthia Voigt

Times are hard, so when Gwyn, the innkeeper's daughter, discovers the garments of a legendary Robin Hood-like outlaw, Jackaroo, she is inspired to take on the persona of the sword-wielding, cape-clad hero.

Redwall (and sequels), by Brian Jacques

The first in a number of volumes of heroic animal fantasy; like "Wind in the Willows" set in the Middle Ages combining fine storytelling with blood-curdling adventure.

The Silver Kiss, by Annette Curtis Klause

This is a sad and romantic teen love story in which one of the parties just happens to be a vampire.

The Magic Circle, by Donna Jo Napoli

This novel tells the Hansel and Gretel story from the chilling point of view of the witch.

The Giver, by Lois Lowry

In a seemingly perfect society, Jonas is chosen to be trained by "the Giver" to be the community's official memory. As he learns, he begins to uncover the dreadful price his people have paid for their serene and pleasant lives.

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm, by Nancy Farmer

In Zimbabwe in the year 2194, the military ruler's 13-year-old son and his younger brother and sister find themselves in a series of perilous adventures, "helped" by a trio of bumbling and comical mutant detectives.

His Dark Materials Trilogy, by Phillip Pullman

(The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass)

Philip Pullman's acclaimed epic novel involves missing children, a golden, truth-divining compass and stars young Lyra Belacqua and her "daemon" who are catapulted into a life-and-death struggle against dark forces.

Daughter of the Clayr Series, by Garth Nix.

(Sabriel)

A young girl goes on a quest to the Old Kingdom to save her father from the forces of death in a vividly conceived and highly original fantasy world.

(Lirael)

In a new generation, another girl mourns that she alone, among all the sisterhood of the Clayr, cannot see the future, but finds her destiny is much greater when she is sent on a quest to save the Old Kingdom from Free Magic, helped only by the Disreputable Dog and bungling Prince Sameth.

Blood and Chocolate, by Annette Curtis Klause

When Vivian, a member of a werewolf pack, falls in love with a human boy, she longs to share her secret with him. He would understand, wouldn't he?

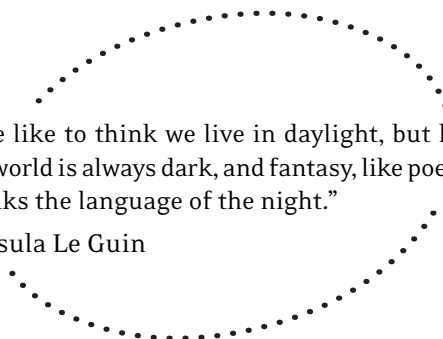
Harry Potter Series, by J.K. Rowling

(Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire)

A British schoolboy living with nasty relatives, is summoned to claim his magical heritage by attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. What could be better than studying not English and chemistry, but Potions and Defense-Against-the-Dark-Arts?

Skellig, by David Almond

Who is this strange being Michael has found lying in the garage? Owl-man? bird-creature? The Angel of Death?



"We like to think we live in daylight, but half the world is always dark, and fantasy, like poetry, speaks the language of the night."

—Ursula Le Guin

Daniel Boone Regional Library

Serving Boone & Callaway Counties

<http://dbrl.org>

Callaway County Public Library

710 Court St. • Fulton, MO 65251

(573) 642-7261

Columbia Public Library

101 Park de Ville • Columbia, MO 65203

(573) 443-3161

Southern Boone County Public Library

117 E. Broadway • Ashland, MO 65010

(573) 657-7378