

The Book Thief Markus Zusak (YA ZUS)

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel — a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

March John Lewis (GN MAR BOOKS 1, 2 & 3)

This autobiographical graphic novel series in three volumes shares the story of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of U.S. Congressman John Lewis, one of the leaders of the movement.

Maus Art Spiegelman (GN MAU & MAU 2)

A son struggles to come to terms with the horrific story of his parents and their experiences during the Holocaust and in postwar America.

Nimona Noelle Stevenson (GN NIM)

Lord Blackheart, a villain with a vendetta, and his sidekick, Nimona, an impulsive young shapeshifter, must prove to the kingdom that Sir Goldenloin and the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are.

Persepolis Marjane Satrapi (GN PER)

The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in a Tehran plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life.

American Born Chinese Gene Luen Yang (TEEN GN AME)

Intertwining three very different stories, this graphic novel tackles the problems young Chinese-Americans face when trying to adapt to popular culture.

NONFICTION

Night Elie Wiesel (B WIE)

A terrifying account of the Nazi death camp that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family.

They Called Us Enemy George Takei (YA B TAK)

A graphic memoir detailing Takei's experiences as a child prisoner in the Japanese-American internment camps of World War II, reflecting on the hard choices his family made in the face of legalized racism.

The Four Agreements Don Miguel Ruiz (299.792 RUI)

The author uses ancient Toltec wisdom to fashion a personal philosophy around these four principles — be impeccable with your word, don't take anything personally, don't make assumptions and always do your best.

This Book Is Anti-Racist Tiffany Jewell (J305.8 JEW)

Who are you? What is racism? Where does it come from? Why does it exist? What can you do to disrupt it? Learn about social identities, the history of racism and resistance against it, and how you can use your anti-racist lens and voice to move the world toward equity and liberation.

Between the World and Me

Ta-Nehisi Coates (305.8009 COA)

Told through the author's own evolving understanding of the subject over the course of his life, this is a bold and personal investigation into America's racial history and its contemporary echoes.

I Am Malala Malala Yousafzai (371.822 YOU)

Describes the life of a young Pakistani student who advocated for women's rights and education in the Taliban-controlled Swat Valley. She survived an assassination attempt and became the youngest nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Undefeated Steve Sheinkin (J796.3326 SHE)

A great American sport and Native American history come together in this true story of how Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner created the legendary Carlisle Indian School football team.



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Books

EVERY TEEN SHOULD KNOW

FICTION

The Poet X Elizabeth Acevedo (YA ACE)

Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Douglas Adams (F ADA)

Chronicles the off-beat and occasionally extraterrestrial journeys, notions and acquaintances of galactic traveler Arthur Dent.

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda

Becky Albertalli (YA ALB)

Sixteen-year-old not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Sherman Alexie (YA ALE)

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Speak Laurie Halse Anderson (YA AND)

A traumatic event in the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year of high school.

The Handmaid's Tale Margaret Atwood (F ATW)

Offred, a Handmaid, describes life in what was once the United States, now the Republic of Gilead, a shockingly repressive and intolerant theocracy, in a satirical tour de force set in the near future.

Far From the Tree Robin Benway (YA BEN)

Feeling incomplete as an adopted child after placing her own baby up for adoption, teen Grace tracks down her biological siblings and finds herself struggling with the dynamics of being a middle child between an embittered older brother and an outspoken younger sister.

Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury (F BRA)

A totalitarian regime has ordered all books to be destroyed, but one of the book-burners, Guy Montag, suddenly realizes their merit.

Ender's Game Orson Scott Card (F CAR)

Six-year-old Ender Wiggin and his fellow students at Battle School are being tested and trained to determine whether they possess the abilities to remake the world — if the world survives an all-out war with an alien enemy.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower**Stephen Chbosky (YA CHB)**

Charlie is shy, introspective and intelligent beyond his years yet socially awkward; he is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it.

The Princess Bride William Goldman (F GOL)

A classic swashbuckling romance retells the tale of a drunken swordsman and a gentle giant who come to the aid of Westley, a handsome farm boy, and Buttercup, a princess in dire need of rescue from the evil schemers surrounding her.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**Mark Haddon (F HAD)**

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic 15-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

The Outsiders S.E. Hinton (YA HIN)

Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society in which they find themselves "outsiders."

Brave New World Aldous Huxley (F HUX)

A searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order — all at the cost of freedom and humanity.

To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee (F LEE)

Scout Finch, daughter of the town lawyer, likes to spend her summers building treehouses, swimming and catching lightning bugs with her big brother Jem. But one summer, when a black man is accused of raping a white woman, Scout's carefree days come to an end.

A Wrinkle in Time Madeleine L'Engle (J LEN)

Meg and Charles Wallace set out with their friend Calvin in a search of their father. His top secret job as a physicist for the government has taken him away and the children search through time and space to find him.

Every Day David Levithan (YA LEV)

Known only as "A," the narrator of this philosophically electrifying novel wakes up every morning in the body of a different person.

We Were Liars E. Lockhart (YA LOC)

Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

The Giver Lois Lowry (YA LOW)

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Sabriel Garth Nix (YA NIX)

Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from Death.

Binti Nnedi Okorafor (F OKO)

Binti is the first of the Himba people ever to be offered a place at Oomza University. But to accept the offer will mean giving up her place in her family to travel between the stars among strangers who do not share her ways or respect her customs.

The Astonishing Color of After Emily X.R. Pan (YA PAN)

After her mother's suicide, grief-stricken Leigh Sanders travels to Taiwan to stay with grandparents she has never met, determined to find her mother whom she believes turned into a bird.

The Golden Compass Philip Pullman (YA PUL)

Accompanied by her shape-shifting daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subjects of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

All American Boys Jason Reynolds (YA REY)

When 16-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.

Holes Louis Sachar (YA SAC)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure and a new sense of himself.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe**Benjamin Alire Sáenz (YA SAE)**

Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents and his family that he has never asked before.

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter**Erika L. Sánchez (YA SAN)**

When the sister who delighted their parents by her faithful embrace of Mexican culture dies in a tragic accident, Julia, who longs to go to college and move into a home of her own, discovers from mutual friends that her sister may not have been as perfect as believed.

Salt to the Sea Ruta Sepetys (YA SEP)

As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

The Hate U Give Angie Thomas (YA THO)

After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Kahlil died.

The Fellowship of the Ring J.R.R. Tolkien (YA TOL)

Frodo the hobbit and his companions set out to deliver the One Ring of Power to the dark land of Mordor in order to destroy the ring in the forge of its creation.

It's Kind of a Funny Story Ned Vizzini (YA VIZ)

A humorous account of a New York City teenager's battle with depression and his time spent in a psychiatric hospital.

Cat's Cradle Kurt Vonnegut (F VON)

A young writer decides to interview the children of a scientist primarily responsible for the creation of the atomic bomb.