

**A Selection of
The American Library Association's
Best Fiction for Young Adults
2008**

YA F A384ab

Alexie, Sherman

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian.

Junior leaves the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white high school, where the only other Native American is the school mascot. Is he choosing his own destiny or betraying his heritage?

F S384f

Alexie, Sherman

Flight

Just as a policeman's bullet stops his wild shooting spree, Zits, an orphan who is half Native American, finds himself transported through space and time and into another body.

YA F A5478tw

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Twisted

Tyler begins his senior year transformed on the outside, going from geeky video gamer to buff hottie, but he still struggles internally with problems at home.

YA F A8252th

Asher, Jay

Thirteen Reasons Why

When Clay receives cassette tapes that explain a classmate's suicide, he is forced to consider how his own actions, and those of others, may have contributed to her decision.

YA F C1828s

Cameron, Peter

Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You

Jaded, aloof James is tired of almost everything in his life. His perspective shifts when he attempts to connect with a co-worker and makes a grave error in judgment.

YA F C2743d

Carey, Janet Lee

Dragon's Keep

Princess Rosalind's atrocity – a dragon's claw where her finger should be – makes her beautiful to Lord Faul, the fierce dragon who enslaves her in exchange for her people's safety.

YA F 3489be

Castellucci, Cecil

Beige

Prim, proper Katie relaxes into a new identity when she is forced to live in L.A. with her punk-rocker father, a recovering addict.

YA F C5988on

Clarke, Judith

One Whole and Perfect Day

Sensible Lily, who longs to fit in with her classmates, even while belittling their shallow interests, grapples with her first crush and tries to keep the peace in her quirky Australian family. A 2008 Printz Honor Book.

j F C (Check at the Circulation Desk for availability)

Compestine, Ying Chang

Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party

China's Cultural Revolution drastically alters the lives of Ling and her family as political oppression and violence sweep away their comfortable, middle-class existence.

YA F C9664i

Cullen, Lynn

I Am Rembrandt's Daughter

Cornelia, illegitimate daughter of the great artist Rembrandt, strives to escape her life of poverty and her low social status.

YA F D7496

Downham, Jenny

Before I Die

Tessa, who has terminal cancer, creates a list of 10 things she wants to do in the months she has left to live. This fierce, devastating novel explores end-of-life realities with honesty and grace.

YA F F315t

Felin, M. Sindy

Touching Snow

Thirteen-year-old Karina, a member of a large immigrant family from Haiti, deals with growing up in an abusive and dysfunctional home dominated by her horrifying stepfather.

YA F (Check at the Circulation Desk for availability)

Friesen, Gayle

For Now

Sarcastic Jes and her blended family are back, and their lives are shaken up again when Jes' mother announces that she is pregnant. This companion to *Losing Forever* (2002) stands alone.

YA F

Grey, Christopher

Leonardo's Shadow: Or, My Astonishing Life as Leonardo da Vinci's Servant

Young Giacomo, servant to Leonardo da Vinci, seeks to understand his past while caring for and contending with the brilliant, cantankerous artist in fifteenth-century Milan.

YA F H164bo

Hale, Shannon

Book of a Thousand Days

Themes of friendship and loyalty elevate this fairy-tale romance, in which sensible, loyal maid Dashti serves a harsh sentence alongside Lady Saren, who has refused an arranged marriage.

YA F H814sL

Hornby, Nick

Slam

Stunned by his girlfriend's pregnancy, Sam seeks direction from his (possibly) imagined conversations with skater idol Tony Hawk.

F H 829t; also LP,CD, and WCCL

Hosseini, Khaled

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of home and family in war-torn Kabul, testing the limits of their strength and courage.

YA F5516re

Jenkins, A.M.

Repossessed

Even after escaping from hell, adolescence is a wild ride for this demon! A 2008 Printz Honor Book.

YA F 57345bo

Johnston, Tony

Bone by Bone by Bone

David's interracial friendship with Malcolm is forbidden by David's father, a small-town doctor who threatens to shoot any black person who enters their house.

F J779mi

Jones, Lloyd

Mister Pip

In the midst of guerilla warfare, 13-year-old Matilda attends school to hear Mr. Watts, the only white inhabitant on her Pacific island, read from Dicken's Great Expectations. A 2008 Alex Award winner.

j F K

Key, Watt

Alabama Moon

Moon, having been raised in isolation in Alabama's deep woods until his father's death, sets out for Alaska and discovers how little he knows about the outside world.

YA F K63f
Klass, David

Firestorm

Everything Jack thinks he knows about his world is wrong in this riveting science fiction adventure, set in the present day.

YA F K743dq
Knox, Elizabeth

Dreamquake: Book Two of the Dreamhunter Duet

Cousins Laura and Rose work to expose a government conspiracy involving powerful dreams, only to discover an even more sinister plot. A 2008 Printz Honor Book.

YA F K785st
Koertge, Ron

Strays

Trapped in the unwelcoming world of foster care, Ted relies upon his strong connection with animals as he struggles to determine his life's direction.

YA F L243r
Lanagan, Margo

Red Spikes

In this collection of 10 unsettling stories, a bogeyman, an angelic budgie, and souls in limbo are just some of the elements that will leave readers startled and intrigued.

YA F L2646sk; also j
Landy, Derek

Skulduggery Pleasant

When Stephanie inherits her uncle's estate, she also inherits his best friend: a walking, talking, crime-fighting skeleton.

YA F L81615d
Lockhart, E.

Dramarama

While friends Demi and Sarah are attending theater camp, their bond is tested when Demi meets his dream man and Sarah discovers that she may have misjudged her talents.

YA F L984as

Lyga, Barry

The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl

Fanboy, a comic-book nerd and perennial target of the Jock Jerks, finally takes charge of his destiny (with a little help from Goth Girl).

YA F M336w

Marillier, Juliet

Wildwood Dancing

Jena combats dark forces to protect all she holds dear, including her beloved Other Kingdom, in this magical novel steeped in fairy-tale lore.

YA F M478293wh

McCaughrean, Geraldine

The White Darkness

Battling an inscrutable villain in the frozen South Pole, Symone learns survival skills from her imaginary companion, the long-dead explorer Titus Oates. The 2008 Printz Award winner.

YA F M64898m; also j

Miller, Sarah

Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller

New teacher Annie Sullivan struggles to unlock the mind of Helen Keller, a deaf and blind six-year-old whose family is desperate to control her violent tantrums.

YA F M9747o

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert

The Off Season

In this stand-alone sequel to Dairy Queen (2006) female linebacker D.J. struggles to balance school, romance, and family responsibilities as she starts her junior year.

YA F M996w

Myers, Walter Dean

What They Found: Love on 145th Street

From beauty shops and meat pies to war, drugs, and love between dying dogs, these 15 interconnected stories explore life in Harlem with humor and sensitivity.

F O514c

Olmstead, Robert

Coal Black Horse

Carried by a remarkable horse, 14-year-old Robey journeys to find his father in the grisly aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg.

YA F P3757t

Peet, Mal

Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal

This sweeping thriller moves between World War II and the present day as 15-year-old Tamar uncovers her grandfather's hidden past as a spy in the Netherlands.

YA F R4295w

Resau, Laura

What the Moon Saw

Fourteen-year-old Clara spends the summer in a tiny Mexican village with grandparents she has never met, discovering a sense of belonging previously unknown to her.

YA F

The Restless Dead: Ten Original Stories of the Supernatural

Edited by Deborah Noyes

These original short stories feature a celebrated cast of young adult authors and invite readers to question whether the dead really do rest in peace.

j F R; also YA, LP

Rowling, J.K.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

Harry battles Lord Voldemort and his Death Eaters in the conclusion to this hugely popular series.

j F S

Selznick, Brian

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Combining words and black-and-white pictures inspired by silent films, Selznick reveals the connections between a Parisian orphan and an elderly toymaker. The 2008 Caldecott Medal winner.

YA F S53132m

Sharenow, Robert

My Mother the Cheerleader

Thirteen-year-old Louise is thrust into an ugly confrontation due to her mother's activism against the 1960's integration of New Orleans' schools.

YA F S (Check at the Circulation Desk for availability)

Smith, Roland

Peak

Peak, a well-named 14-year-old, unexpectedly gets the chance to summit Mount Everest. But is this avid climber ready to fulfill his father's dream?

YA F T (Check at the Circulation Desk for availability)

Tan, Shaun

The Arrival

Without a single word, Tan's extraordinary images express the loneliness, sadness, anxiety, and wonder of the immigration experience.

YA F W 1936on

Wallace, Rich

One Good Punch

Seemingly straitlaced Mike has never been in trouble – until police find four joints in his locker, forcing him to choose whether or not to betray a childhood friend.

YA F W 4232co

Weinheimer, Beckie

Converting Kate

Kate has only known a world where her church is the ultimate authority, but after her father's death, she begins to question her allegiance.

YA F Z 386s

Zarr, Sara

Story of a Girl

When Deanna's dad catches her having sex with an older guy, the consequences are greater than she ever could have imagined.

YA F Z Z631me

Zevin, Gabrielle

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac

After falling down some steps, Naomi can't remember the past four years of her life. Now she must discover who she really is.