

Young Adults' Choices

2013



Logo illustration © by Natalie Babbitt

What Is the Young Adults' Choices Project?

The 2013 Young Adults' Choices list is the 27th that U.S. teenagers (grades 7–12) have helped create. This project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to the International Reading Association, and was supervised by the Association's Literature for Young Adults Committee. The goals of the project are to encourage young people to read; to make teens, teachers, librarians, and parents aware of new literature for young adults; and to provide middle and secondary school students with an opportunity to voice their opinions about books being written for them.

See page 7 for the Young Adults' Choices 2013 Reading List bookmark!

All My Friends Are Still Dead

Avery Monsen and Jory John. Chronicle.

This humorous collection of cartoons and drawings depicts a variety of people and other life forms as they deal with the existential aspects of their lives (and deaths).

Boy21

Matthew Quick. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Finley, an introverted teen, is the only Anglo player on his high school's varsity basketball team. When former basketball phenomenon Russ moves into town after his parents' murder, Finley is asked by his basketball coach to befriend him. Identity, injustice, and loss are explored through this unique friendship.

Breaking Beautiful

Jennifer Shaw Wolf. Walker Childrens.

Following the death of her boyfriend, Trip, in a car accident, Allie is overwhelmed, left scarred, and unable to recall what happened. Crushed by survivor's guilt and loss, Allie is simultaneously relieved to be rid of the abuse Trip imposed. As the suspicious circumstances of the accident are uncovered, Allie must reveal difficult truths.

Cinder

Marissa Meyer. Square Fish.

First in a series of four planned novels (The Lunar Chronicles), this fresh retelling of the classic fairy tale is set in a dystopian future and portrays the heroine as a cyborg mechanic. This fast-paced adventure includes a romantic prince, an evil queen, a deadly plague, and a dysfunctional stepfamily.

City of Lost Souls

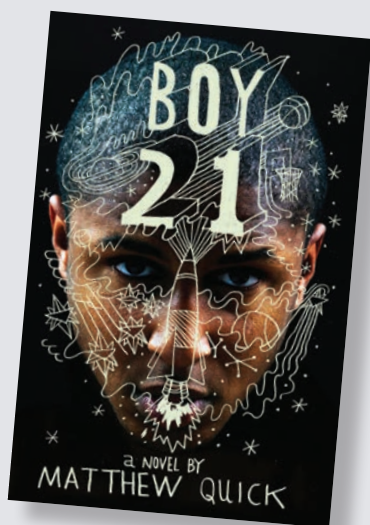
Cassandra Clare. Walker Childrens.

The fifth volume in the Mortal Instruments series, this fantasy-adventure-romance features vampires, werewolves, warlocks, faeries, and a teenage love triangle. Clare and the Shadow hunters try to stop her evil brother, Sebastian, but as he is "bound" to her beloved Jace, how can one be killed and not the other?

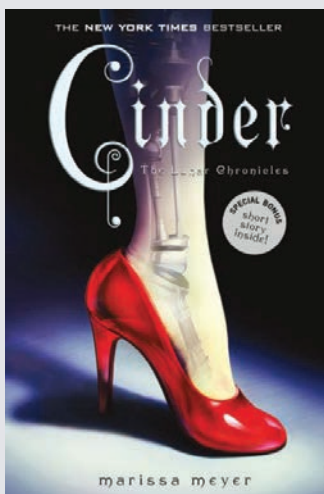
Cracked

K.M. Walton. Simon Pulse.

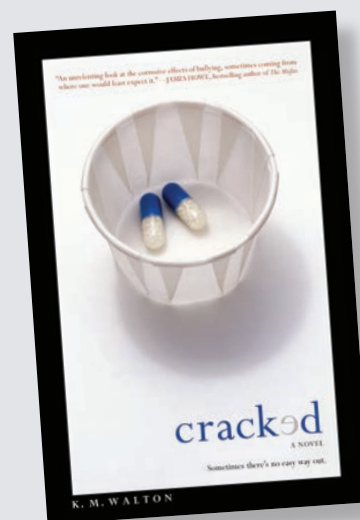
This powerful and empathetic picture of bullying is told from the perspectives of abuser and abused. Through alternating narratives, they reveal a tragic history as victims of physical, emotional, and verbal abuse. After becoming roommates in a psych ward, each attempts a dramatic escape from his pain.



From *Boy21* by Matthew Quick. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.



From *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer. Square Fish.



From *Cracked* by K.M. Walton. Simon Pulse.

Dead to You

Lisa McMann. Simon Pulse.

Ethan is abducted at 7 years old from his front lawn. At 16, he is reunited with his parents. He has no memory of his life before he was taken. His younger brother Blake believes he is *not* his brother. Mama says the DNA test is not necessary. Is it?

Every Day

David Levithan. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

'A' lives a nomadic life, switching daily from body to body. He refuses to form emotional bonds with others until he meets Rhiannon, who touches his heart. When 'A' reveals his true identity to Rhiannon, she struggles with his constantly changing outward identities. Can love triumph, or is 'A' asking too much?

The Fault in Our Stars

John Green. Dutton Juvenile.

Hazel and Gus, who meet in a Cancer Kid Support Group, decide to take risks as they embark on a life-affirming trip to Amsterdam. During their journey of mutual understanding they find friendship, happiness, and love while facing the injustice of terminal illnesses. Love softens and magnifies the reality and sorrow to come.

Fracture

Megan Miranda. Walker Childrens.

It's cold—really cold—when Delaney falls through the ice. She is under freezing water for 11 minutes but, strangely, she awakens from a coma six days later with no apparent brain damage. Now things are different. Pulled toward death, Delaney tries to find a way to understand her new life.

Getting Over Garrett Delaney

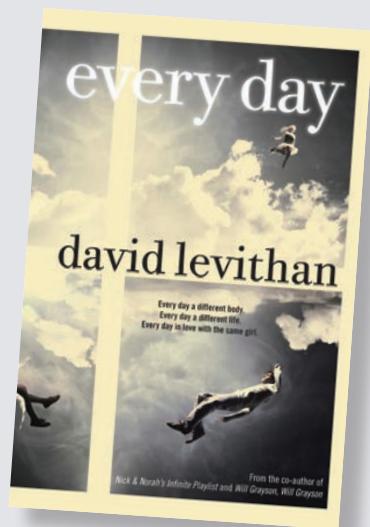
Abby McDonald. Scholastic.

Sadie has been in love with Garrett Delaney for far too long. She finally realizes that no matter how 'perfect' she is for him, Garrett will never see her as more than a friend. Sadie picks up the pieces of her broken heart and moves on in the best possible way.

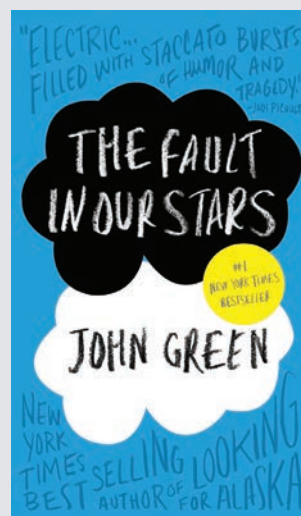
Girl Meets Boy

Kelly Milner Halls. Chronicle.

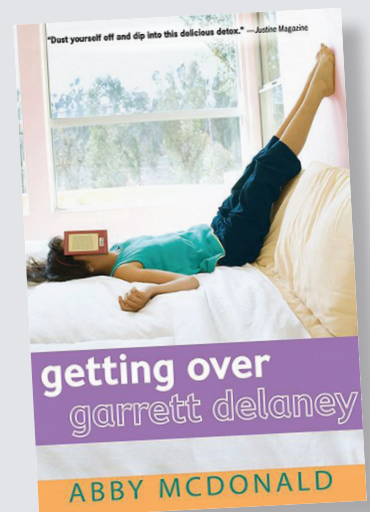
This collection of "he said/she said" stories tell of hope and heartbreak as the problems of forming youthful romantic relationship are explored. The complexity and fragility of love relationships are wonderfully constructed. Twelve of the most dynamic and engaging contemporary YA authors are featured in this one-of-a-kind compilation.



From *Every Day* by David Levithan. Knopf Books for Young Readers.



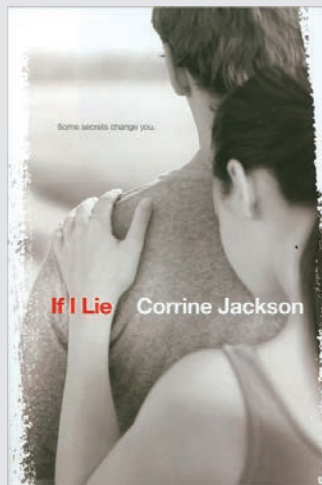
From *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. Dutton Juvenile.



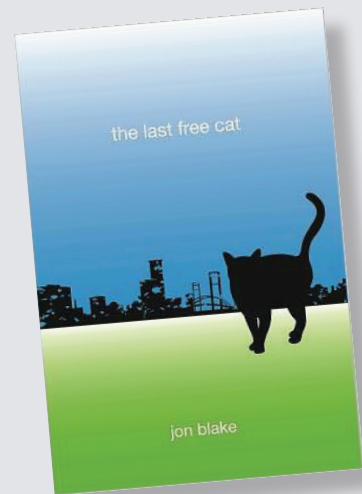
From *Getting Over Garrett Delaney* by Abby McDonald. Scholastic.



From *Hades* by Alexandra Adornetto. Square Fish.



From *If I Lie* by Corrine Jackson. Simon Pulse.



From *The Last Free Cat* by Jon Blake. Albert Whitman Teen.

Hades

Alexandra Adornetto. Square Fish.

The Halo series continues as angels battle demons, putting the power of love to the test. Despite the care of her archangel siblings and Xavier's love, Beth is tricked into a motorcycle ride ending in Hell. As demon Jack Thorn bargains for her release, Beth and her loved ones may all be destroyed.

If I Lie

Corrine Jackson. Simon Pulse.

Just before Quinn's boyfriend Carey deploys to Afghanistan, Quinn is caught kissing another boy. Shunned, Quinn loses her friends, her reputation, and her identity. The ostracism intensifies after Carey goes missing in action. However, the kiss wasn't really a betrayal; Quinn is keeping a secret. Now she must decide among honor, loyalty, and truth.

The Last Free Cat

Jon Blake. Albert Whitman Teen.

In the future, unregulated cat ownership is illegal, punishable even by death. But when a beautiful, free, calico cat arrives in her yard, Jade can't resist and keeps her. When she confides her secret to her classmate Kris, tragedy ensues and they are forced to take the cat and flee.

The List

Siobhan Vivian. Push.

Every year at Mount Washington High School, an anticipated and dreaded list is posted. On it, eight

girls are listed; in each grade, the 'prettiest' and the 'ugliest' are identified. The authorship of the list is anonymous, but the impact of being named is far reaching. Themes of love, friendship, sisterhood, family, and bullying are explored.

The Mark of Athena

Rick Riordan. Hyperion Book CH.

Action, excitement, and adventure reign as the Heroes of Atlantis series continues. Journeying across land and seas in the Argo II to Rome, Percy and his fellow avengers find dangerous surprises, suspenseful discoveries, and unimaginable horrors. This time, our heroes may have met a force and challenge too great.

Monument 14

Emmy Laybourne. Feiwel & Friends.

Set in the near future, this is the story of socially awkward Dean, forced to become a leader when a series of natural disasters erupt. Trapped with 13 kids, Dean and his group must create a refuge to survive in a world gone completely mad.

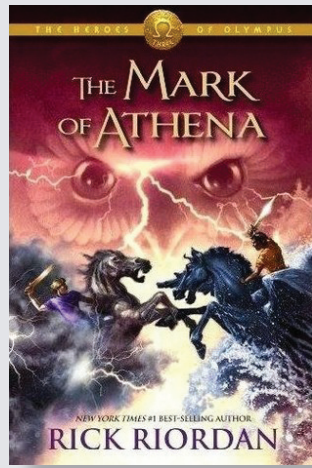
My Life Next Door

Huntley Fitzpatrick. Dial.

Samantha secretly admires the new, perfect family next door although her mother forbids her to socialize with them. As forbidden relationships develop, Samantha must make tough decisions about love, family, friends, and self. Is it possible to have it all, or will her choices make her lose everything?



From *The List* by Siobhan Vivian. Push.



From *The Mark of Athena* by Rick Riordan. Hyperion Book CH.



From *Monument 14* by Emmy Laybourne. Feiwel & Friends.

The Night She Disappeared

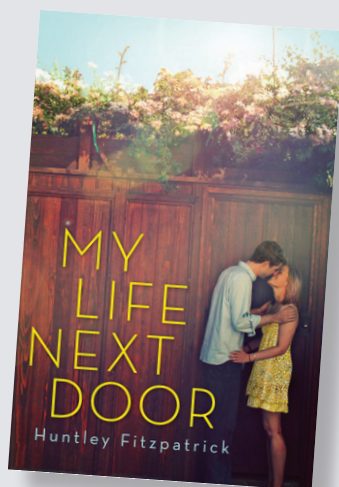
April Henry. Henry Holt.

Kayla has been kidnapped and brutalized while held hostage by a psychopath. With the passing of time, hope fades for Kayla's safe return. When Gabbie and Drew discover Kayla was not the intended victim, they set out to find her. Suspense reigns as they find slender threads of clues that have eluded the police.

October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard

Lesléa Newman. Candlewick.

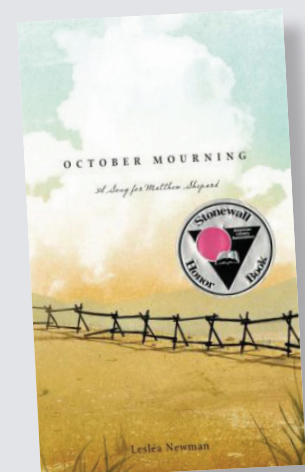
Poetically depicting Matthew Shepherd's horrific murder in 1998, this powerful work recounts the crime through several points of view, including the fence post where Matthew was tied, the deer that kept watch beside him, and even Matthew himself. Tears will fall as this book resonates long after the final page.



From *My Life Next Door* by Huntley Fitzpatrick. Dial.



From *The Night She Disappeared* by April Henry. Henry Holt.



From *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* by Lesléa Newman. Candlewick.

The Paladin Prophecy

Mark Frost. Random House Books for Young Readers.

Will lives a quiet, nomadic life with his parents until a test exposes his superintellectual potential. When Will's parents can no longer protect him, he escapes to a secluded private school for the extraordinarily gifted. But Will is not safe from the supernatural, ruthless forces that threaten not only him, but also the whole world.

The Pregnancy Project: A Memoir

Gaby Rodriguez with Jenna Glatzer. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Gaby Rodriguez fakes her pregnancy and documents the reactions and stereotypes of her friends, family, and teachers who expect her to become the cliché of the low-achieving teenaged mother. The story is told with a strong voice in an attempt to stop the cycle of teen pregnancy, motherhood, and poverty.

The Raft

S.A. Bodeen. Feiwel & Friends.

Robie impulsively takes a cargo flight home to see her family on Midway Island. Tragedy ensues when the plane crashes and she finds herself in the middle of the Pacific Ocean in a leaky raft with the gravely injured copilot. Forced into survival mode, Robie examines her life and hopes for her future.

Skinny

Donna Cooner. Point.

Weighing 300 lbs. in high school is difficult. Nobody sees Ever's pretty face or hears her beautiful voice. "Skinny," the voice she hears in her head, is making things worse. Drastic action is required and a gastric bypass is planned. Can she silence the voice as the weight comes off?

Star Wars: The Ultimate Visual Guide

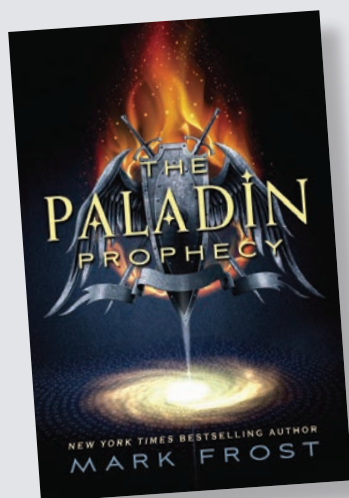
Ryder Windham. DK Children.

The Star Wars saga is chronicled in this revised and updated volume, which includes 40 pages of new information. Packed full of interesting facts on the ever-expanding range of books, novels, comics, and media, this is a must-read for Star Wars fans. Yes, "the force is strong within this one."

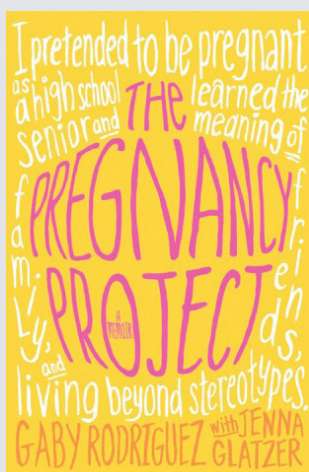
Starters

Lissa Price. Delacorte Books for Young Readers.

After surviving the Spore Wars, during which all adults ages 20–60 died, Callie is forced to provide for her ailing brother. To make money, she rents her body to the Elders who want to experience their youth again. While possessed, Callie inadvertently uncovers sinister plots that only she can stop.



From *The Paladin Prophecy* by Mark Frost. Random House Books for Young Readers.



From *The Pregnancy Project: A Memoir* by Gaby Rodriguez with Jenna Glatzer. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.



From *Skinny* by Donna Cooner. Point.

Tilt

Ellen Hopkins. Margaret K. McElderry Books.

Three teens deal with the pain in their lives while finding love; however, each of their worlds tilts with deception. Mikayla struggles to find a love her parents have lost, Shane watches his parents self-destruct because of his sister's illness, and Harley desperately changes herself to gain her father's love.

Waiting

Carol Lynch Williams. Simon & Schuster.

Everything seems to fall apart when London's brother dies tragically. Without her family's support to make it through the aftermath, she seeks comfort and closure from her brother's best friend and another mysterious guy. Will things ever get better?

The Way We Fall

Megan Crewe. Hyperion Book CH.

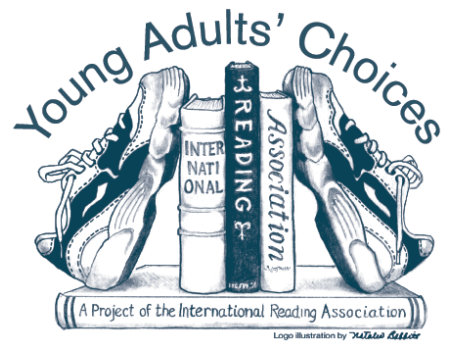
A terrible disease ravages a small Canadian island community. Itching, fever, ticklish throat, and the loss of social inhibitions are inevitably followed by death. When the government puts the island under quarantine, people begin to lose hope. Can Kaelyn find a way to survive by forming new bonds of family and friendship?



From *Tilt* by Ellen Hopkins. Margaret K. McElderry Books.



From *Waiting* by Carol Lynch Williams. Simon & Schuster.



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More About Young Adults' Choices

Thank you to the 2012–2013 IRA Young Adults' Choices Committee and review teams. The committee members were Stephanie Burdic (cochair), Lisa Morris-Wilkey (cochair), Bob Helm, and Sue Inhelder. Team Leaders in the field test were

- Stan Steiner, Idaho—Area 1
- Patricia Martin Evans, Maine—Area 2
- Amy Fouse, Georgia; Debbie Remington, Florida (Trainee)—Area 3
- Sherryl Shannon, Nebraska; Cheryl Curtis, Nebraska (Trainee)—Area 4
- Kimberly Powers, Wisconsin; David Grossman, Kentucky (Trainee)—Area 5

For more information on the Young Adults' Choices list or to learn how to become involved visit www.reading.org/resources/booklists/youngadultschoices.aspx.

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