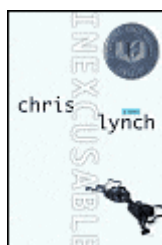


Best Books for Young Adults, 2006

This annual list of books compiled by a committee of the Young Adult Library Services Association is recommended for ages 12 to 18. Titles published in late 2004 are noted: all others were published in 2005.



Adlington, L. J. **The Diary of Pelly D.** Working on a demolition crew in a futuristic world, Toni V. finds the buried war diary of Pelly D. and begins to question what he has been told his whole life.

YA FIC ADL

Bechard, Margaret. **Spacer and Rat.** Jack is all set to leave Freedom Station for a new job on Liberty when an Earthie Rat, Kit, and her Bot, Waldo, threaten his plans and endanger his life.

J BEC

Black, Holly. **Valiant: A Modern Tale of Faerie.** Betrayed by her mother, Valerie runs away and slides into a seductive, gritty otherworld full of addiction, magic, betrayal, and honor.

YA FIC BLA

Bray, Libba. **Rebel Angels.** After Gemma breaks the runes, she must find the strength and power to bind the released magic and restore it to its rightful possessor, The Order. **YA FIC BRA**

Bruchac, Joseph. **Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two.** When an unbreakable code was needed during World War II, the U.S. Army enlisted Ned Begay and other Navajos to use their special talents. **YA FIC BRU**

Buckhanon, Kalisha. **Upstate.** Natasha and Anntonio, young Harlem lovers, communicate via letters for nine years after Antonio is incarcerated for murdering his father. **FIC BUCKHANON, K**

Castellucci, Cecil. **Boy Proof.** Victoria "Egg" Deton hides behind her outsider persona until an interesting boy persuades her to open up and share her life, talents, and love of the cinema.

YA FIC CAS

Coburn, Jack. **LoveSick.** After losing his basketball scholarship in a drunk-driving accident, Ted receives a lucrative offer to spy on a bulimic Manhattan princess. **YA FIC COB**

Cummings, Priscilla. **Red Kayak.** Brady, JT, and Digger don't call to the people in the red kayak as it heads out on a storm morning---a decision that brings tragic, life-changing consequences.

JH CUM

Delaney, Joseph. **Revenge of the Witch.** Thomas becomes an apprentice to the Spook, who has the important, if feared, job of ridding the countryside and villages of pesky "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties." **JH DEL**

Every Man for Himself: Ten Short Stories about Being a Guy. What does it mean to be a man? Ten short stories and graphic art explore the question. **YA SC EVE**

Flake, Sharon. **Bang!** Mann, whose family is still mourning the senseless shooting of Mann's younger brother, endures his father's ritualistic rite-of-passage when he is abandoned in the wilderness. **YA FIC FLA**

- Fleischman, Paul. **Zap**. Dead bodies, a teen performance artist, bored Russians, Richard III, and an artificial buttock share the stage in these seven hilarious, connected mini-plays.
YA 812.54 FLE
- Frank, E. R. **Wrecked**. Anna, 16, develops post-traumatic stress disorder after a car accident, in which she is the driver, kills her brother's girlfriend and seriously injures her best friend.
YA FIC FRA
- Gaiman, Neil. **Anansi Boys**. Think you've got problems? Fat Charlie's father was Anansi, and now he's discovered a half-god, thoroughly impossible brother. **SF GAIMAN, N**
- Galloway, Gregory. **As Simple as Snow**. High-schooler Anastasia Cayne vanishes, and her neatly laid-out dress is found near a jagged hole in the ice. Then her boyfriend searches for more clues to her disappearance.
- Green, John. **Looking for Alaska**. Miles is looking for the Great Perhaps, and an Alabama boarding school offers the possibility of finding it, especially after he meets the captivating and unpredictable Alaska. **YA FIC GRE**
- Griffin, Adele. **Where I Want to Be**. Sisters Lily and Jane, one living and one dead, must find a way to let go of the past and move on. **YA FIC GRI**
- Grimes, Nikki. **Dark Sons**. In this free-verse novel, Sam endures his parents' breakup, while a parallel narrative explores the biblical story of Ishmael and his despair after being displaced by his brother, Isaac. **YA FIC GRI**
- Gruber, Michael. **The Witch's Boy**. Can a misshapen boy raised by a forgetful witch set aside his anger long enough to find a happy ending in this dark, fractured fairy tale? **YA FIC GRU**
- Halam, Ann. **Siberia**. Sloe, 13, treks through a dangerous, dystopian wilderness as she searches for a safe haven for the DNA of the genetically engineered animal species that she is smuggling.
YA FIC HAL
- Hartnett, Sonya. **Stripes of the Sidestep Wolf**. Satchel fights to remain in his dying Australian town at the same time a Tasmanian tiger, thought to be extinct, makes an unexpected appearance.
- Hautman, Pete. **Invisible**. Doug's teachers, parents, and kids at school think he is disturbed and creepy. Only his best friend, Andy understands him, and together they harbor dark secrets.
YA FIC HAU
- Hearn, Julie. **The Minister's Daughter**. In a magical 17th century England, the fates of Nell, a healer's daughter, and Grace and Patience, a minister's daughters, are intertwined when Grace accuses Nell and her grandmother of witchcraft. **YA FIC HEA**
- Hiaasen, Carl. **Flush**. After his dad sinks the Coral Queen ship and gets arrested, Noah and his family are forced to investigate local environmental issues. **JH HIA**
- Holub, Josef. **An Innocent Soldier**. Adam, tricked into joining Napoleon's march on Russia in 1811, becomes friends with a high-born lieutenant who helps him survive. **JH HOL**
- Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. **Stained**. After her boyfriend, Gabe, disappears, Jocelyn joins in the search and uncovers the painful secrets he had hidden. **YA FIC JAC**
- Johnson, Maureen. **13 Little Blue Envelopes**. The 13 envelopes Ginny receives from her dead aunt will take her through Europe and grief, and into adventure. **YA FIC JOH**
- Kass, Pnina Moed. **Real Time**. Thomas feigns interest in gardening on the kibbutz to mask his real interest in traveling to Israel: Is his grandfather a Nazi war criminal? **YA FIC KAS**
- Kibuishi, Kazu. **Daisy Kutter: The Last Train**. In this graphic novel, Daisy Kutter, a reformed cowgirl bandit, joins a team of robots in order to pull off one last train robbery.

- Krovatin, Christopher. **Heavy Metal and You**. METAL HEAD NOT GOTH! Sam likes his life LOUD until a very different straightedge girl starts whispering to him. Will Melissa turn down Sam's volume? **YA FIC KRO**
- Lanagan, Margo. **Black Juice**. Ten stories explore such startling subjects as tar-pit executions and a herd of elephants' rescue mission in this collection from Down Under. **YA FIC LAN**
- Larbalestier, Justine. **Magic or Madness**. Use it or lose your mind. When Reason discovers that she has genetically inherited "magic," she realizes that her life depends on whether or not she embraces her gift. **YA FIC LAR**
- Larochelle, David. **Absolutely Positively Not**. Stephen notices that his new health teacher, Mr. Bowman, is extremely handsome, but he still tries to convince himself that he's not gay in this hilarious coming-out story. **YA FIC LAR**
- Lester, Julian. **Day of tears: A Novel in Dialogue**. After being sold in the largest slave auction in American history, Emma and Joe agonize over whether to escape or remain slaves in this fact-based novel told almost entirely in dialogue. **YA FIC LES**
- Levithan, David. **Are We There Yet?** Brothers Elijah and Danny have little in common. After their parents trick them into going to Italy, a beautiful girl forces them to reconsider their relationship. **YA FIC LEV**
- Lubar, David. **Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie**. In a series of humorous diary entries, 9th grader Scott offers a list of do's and don'ts to his unborn sibling on surviving freshman year of high school. **YA FIC LUB**
- Lynch, Chris. **Inexcusable**. High-school senior and football star Keir can always find an excuse for his bad behavior, even after he is accused of date rape. **YA FIC LYN**
- Lynch, Jim. **The Highest Tide**. Miles takes an introspective journey during which he discovers peculiar sea life in a cove in Puget Sound.
- Martinez, A. Lee. **Gil's All Fright Diner**. A vampire and a werewolf find a portal to hell with humorous consequences. **FIC MARTINEZ, A**
- McGhee, Alison. **All Rivers Flow to the Sea**. It's always been Rose and Ivy, until the fateful night a blue truck slides into their car and forever suspends the sisters on either side of the threshold between life and death. **YA FIC MCG**
- Meyer, Stephenie. **Twilight**. Bella expects to be bored after she moves to dreary Forks, Washington. Then she meets the mysterious Edward, whose otherworldly charm attracts and terrifies her. **YA FIC MEY**
- Myers, Walter Dean. **Autobiography of My Dead Brother**. In this gritty drama set in Harlem, Jesse examines his life and the lives of those close to him in words and art. **YA FIC MYE**
- Oppel, Kenneth. **Skybreaker**. Matt Cruise is following his dream at the Airship Academy when his crew sights a legendary ship, setting off a fierce competition to reach the vessel and seize her treasure. **JH OPP**
- Pearson, Mary E. **A Room on Lorelei Street**. When her alcoholic mother neglects paying rent, Zoe finds a new home and it feels like heaven—until her problems reappear like found luggage. **YA FIC PEA**
- Peet, Mal. **Keeper**. El Gato, the great soccer goalie, describes his early life in a remote South American village, where he was trained by a mysterious apparition called The Keeper. **YA FIC PEE**
- Pena, Matt de la. **Ball Don't Lie**. Sticky, 17, a foster-care victim and talented white basketball player, overcomes his rough upbringing with the support of his girlfriend and the older hoopsters at the local gym. **YA FIC PEN**

- Perkins, Lynne Rae. **Criss Cross**. Maybe you find a necklace. Maybe it changes your life. Debbie, Hector, and crew take a journey in which nothing happens and that makes a world of difference. **JH PER**
- Qualey, Marsha. **Just Like That**. Could 18-year-old Hanna have prevented the deaths of two teens? Her guilty secret forces her to reevaluate her life and relationships. **YA FIC QUA**
- Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief**. After dyslexic teen Percy Jackson vaporizes his algebra teacher and is attacked by the Minotaur, he discovers that he is not who he thought he was. **JH RIO**
- Rowling, J.K. **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**. At 16, Harry has become more somber and contrary and less trusting as terrifying forces continue to confront him. **JH ROW**
- Salisbury, Graham. **Eyes of the Emperor**. Sixteen-year-old Eddy Okubo joins the U.S. Army just before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Amidst thick racism, he and other young Japanese American men train experimental K-9 units. **YA FIC SAL**
- Spillebeen, Geert. **Kipling's Choice**. John Kipling, son of famous writer Rudyard Kipling, joins the British Army in World War I with help from his father. **YA FIC SPI**
- Staples, Suzanne Fisher. **Under the Persimmon Tree**. Najmah, an Afghan girl, witnesses the death of her mother and brother as well as her father's and older brother's conscription by the Taliban before she finds refuge in Pakistan with an American Muslim. **YA FIC STA**
- Stein, Tamar. **Light Years**. After her boyfriend's death, Maya flees Israel for a Virginia university, but she can't escape her guilt. **YA FIC STE**
- Thal, Lilli. **Mimus**. In a medieval world that never was, a prince must obey a harsh jester in order to rescue his imprisoned father. **JH THA**
- Tiffany, Grace. **Ariel**. Behind Shakespeare's Tempest is the mysterious figure of Ariel. This is her story of dreams, lies, and madness. **YA FIC TIF**
- Tingle, Rebecca. **Far Traveler**. Following the sudden death of her mother, 16-year-old Aelfwyn disguises herself as a bard to escape marriage to a much older man, an ally of her uncle, the king. **YA FIC TIN**
- Tullson, Diane. **Red Sea**. After Mediterranean pirates storm their boat and kill her stepfather, Libby must figure out how to help her seriously injured mother and navigate through a storm to safety. **YA FIC TUL**
- Vaughan, Brian. **Runaways**. Six teenagers discover that their parent are supervillains and go into hiding to try to disrupt the adults' evil plans in the full-color graphic novel. **YA GRAPHIC NOVEL VAU**
- Vaught, Susan. **Stormwitch**. Ruba, a teenager in civil-rights-era Mississippi uses the voodoo skills her Haitian grandmother taught her to fight the devastation of Hurricane Camille. **YA FIC VAU**
- Volponi, Paul. **Black and White**. Life looks good for best friends and high-school basketball teammates Black and White until a bad decision changes everything. **YA FIC VOL**
- Waid, Mark and others. **Superman: Birthright**. The origin of Superman is updated in this graphic novel.
- Weaver, Will. **Full Service**. It's 1969 and devout farm boy Paul finds that his job at the Shell station changes the way that he sees the world. **YA FIC WEA**
- Westerfeld, Scott. **Peeps**. A one-night stand leads Cal deep to the underbelly of New York City, where he finds that parasite-positive predators are the least of his worries. **YA FIC WES**
- Westerfeld, Scott. **Uglies**. Tally can't wait for her sixteenth birthday and the surgery that will transform her into a "Pretty," because if everyone is beautiful, everything is perfect---right? **YA FIC WES**

Wooding, Chris. **Poison**. After her baby sister is kidnapped by Phaeries, Poison is determined to get her back, not realizing that she and her sister are part of a much larger, darker story.

YA FIC WOO

Wynne-Jones, Tim. **A Thief in the House of Memory**. When a dead man is found in his house, Declan begins a journey into his own past and toward the truth about his family. **YA FIC WYN**

Zusak, Markus. **I Am the Messenger**. After Ed, an aimless 19-year-old cab driver, foils a bank robber, he begins to receive mysterious messages assigning him to intervene in the lives of strangers. **Created on 4/28/2006 3:33 PM**