

INTERNATIONAL  
**LITERACY**  
ASSOCIATION

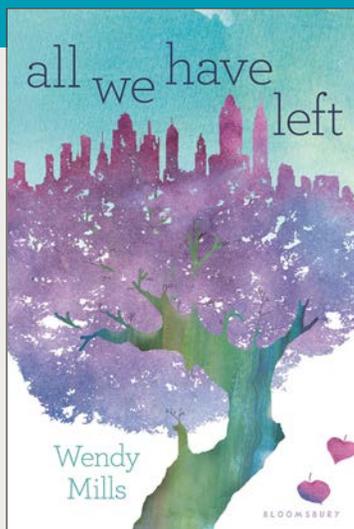
# YOUNG ADULTS' CHOICES

## 2017 Reading List



# What Is the Young Adults' Choices List?

The Young Adults' Choices project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to the International Literacy 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. The value of young adult literature is certainly not something new, but it is true that it's more popular than ever. And we believe it's safe to say the books included on this enclosed list are going to keep those stats high.



*All We Have Left*. Wendy Mills. Bloomsbury Children's Books.

## ***All We Have Left***

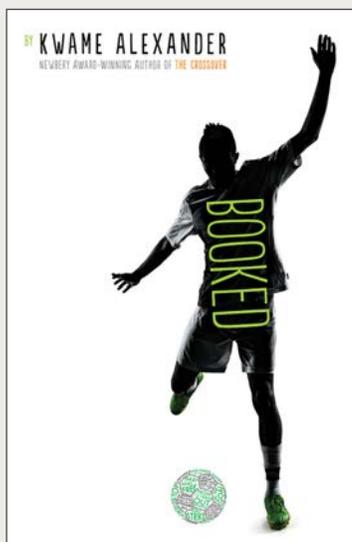
**Wendy Mills. Bloomsbury Children's Books.**

Two stories interweave in this heartbreaking yet ultimately hopeful story that explores the pivotal events of September 11, 2001. On that day, Travis and Alia are tragically caught in the terror attack. Fifteen years later, Jesse begins to unravel the hurt and to heal from her brother's death. The darkness of hate and ignorance are overcome by love, compassion, and friendship.

## ***Beware That Girl***

**Teresa Toten. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.**

Kate schemes her way into New York City's exclusive Waverly School. She then sets her sights on Olivia, a classmate with money and prestige—just the connection she needs to advance in this elite world. When a charming new administrator also sets his sights on Olivia, both girls end up on a dangerous path neither may survive.



*Booked*. Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

## ***\*Booked***

**Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.**

Nick spends his time thinking about soccer, dodging bullies, and trying to impress the girl of his dreams. His voice comes alive in this novel-inverse as he misses his mother and struggles to connect with his strict father. With the help of a special librarian, he finds new hope within the pages of books.

## ***The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century***

**Sarah Miller. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.**

The latest in-depth study of the evidence surrounding a century-old murder mystery. Who killed Andrew and Abby Borden in 1892? Could Lizzie Borden brutally murder her father and stepmother with an ax and then convince everyone in the community that she didn't do it? Read this compelling narrative and find out!

## **The Darkest Hour**

**Caroline Tung Richmond. Scholastic Press.**

In this World War II thriller, 16-year-old Lucie is a recruit of the Covert Ops. Her mission: Do whatever she can to take down Hitler. Deployed to German-occupied France, Lucie must track down a Nazi traitor to find and dismantle a weapon that could change the course of the war and the future—forever.

## **The Distance Between Us (Young Readers Edition)**

**Reyna Grande. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.**

This compelling memoir, retold for a young adult audience, tells the story of Reyna, who spent her childhood torn between two parents and two countries. Reyna and her siblings must live with her overburdened and stern grandmother when her parents find work in the United States. When her alcoholic father eventually rescues her, Reyna faces many challenges to succeed.

## **Falling Over Sideways**

**Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic Press.**

Claire's eighth-grade year is not going as she hoped. Mean girls, boys, changing friendships; she doesn't think it can get any worse...until it does. Her father suffers a stroke, and everything changes instantly. Now Claire must find the strength to handle both the pressures of middle school and an uncertain future.

## **Genius: The Game**

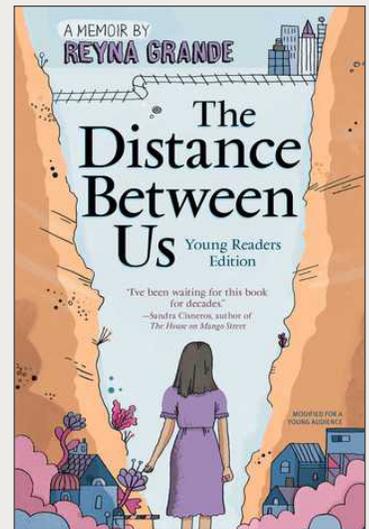
**Leopoldo Gout. Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

This series starter follows the lives of three teenage geniuses: Rex, an ace coder and the son of illegal Mexican immigrants; Tunde, an impoverished, self-taught Nigerian engineering prodigy; and Painted Wolf, a middle-class Chinese girl with a talent for ferreting out corruption. Best friends who have met only online, they get caught up in *The Game*, an international competition.

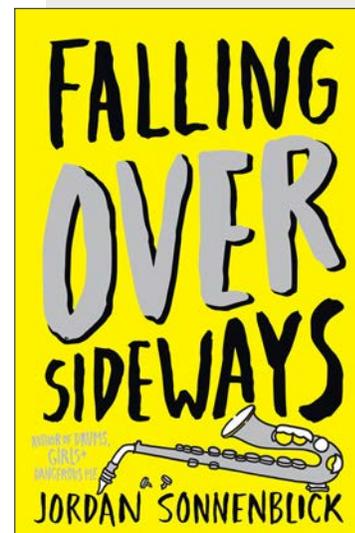
## **The Girl I Used to Be**

**April Henry. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Olivia's father murdered her mother when Olivia was 3 years old and then vanished. Now 17 and on her own, Olivia's father's remains are found, leading the police to believe he was not the murderer but a victim as well. Olivia decides to return to her hometown and rent her inherited house, not revealing that she is Ariel Benson, the child survivor of the murders.



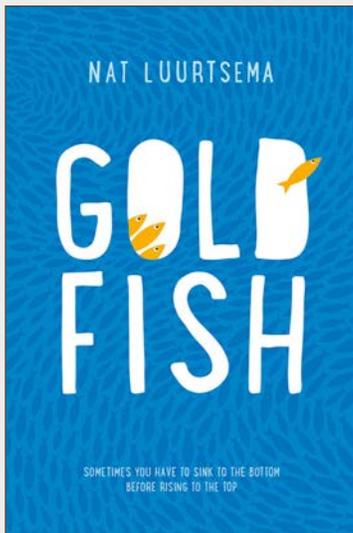
*The Distance Between Us (Young Readers Edition).* Reyna Grande. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.



*Falling Over Sideways.* Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic Press.



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*Goldfish*. Nat Luurtsema. Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

## Goldfish

**Nat Luurtsema. Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Filled with slapstick antics, this lighthearted story of 15-year-old Louise Brown, a down-on-her-luck swimmer, makes a splash with readers. Gangly and unpopular, Louise loses her chance at Olympic stardom. Now she must start a new school year without her best friend Hannah (who *did* qualify for Olympic training) and deal with her former coach, who treats her like a pariah.

## Gutless

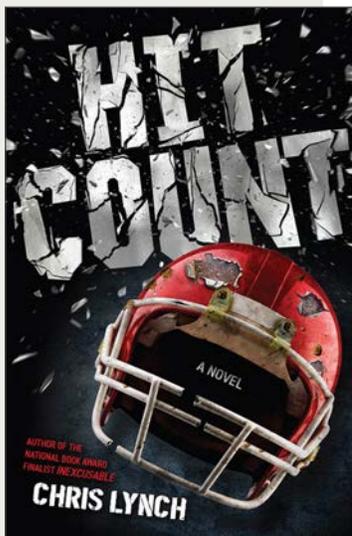
**Carl Deuker. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.**

Brock, a talented athlete, doesn't like to take hits on the football field. When he is cut from the team, he and his friend Richie experience cruel bullying by quarterback Hunter Gates. When the bullying goes too far, Brock must confront his fears with bravery. Plenty of football action and realistic dilemmas make this a winner.

## Hit Count

**Chris Lynch. Algonquin Young Readers/Workman.**

Two brothers' diverging paths: Arlo is committed to becoming a football star, whereas his brother quits. Arlo's drive pushes him to hit hard despite his mother's growing concern about concussions and their effects. Eventually Arlo must sit out because of his high "hit count," yet he refuses to see how this could damage him permanently.



*Hit Count*. Chris Lynch. Algonquin Young Readers/Workman.

## \*Lady Midnight

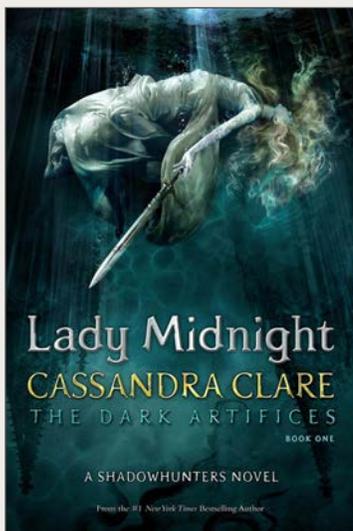
**Cassandra Clare. Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.**

In this glitzy, enticing series opener, Emma Carstairs grows into a woman determined to discover who killed her parents. Along with her parabatai Julian, she investigates a complex demonic plot in Los Angeles, California. Then Mark's unsettling return from the faeries brings more questions than answers. Treacherous secrets of betrayal, obsession, and revenge are revealed in an action-packed quest for truth.

## The Last Boy and Girl in the World

**Siobhan Vivian. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.**

Knowing they must leave their town forever, Keeley and her friends decide to party and enjoy the final times they have together. Believing that she has nothing to lose, Keeley pursues Jesse, the boy she's loved for a long time. When risks are taken and truths are spoken, the results are life changing.



*Lady Midnight*. Cassandra Clare. Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

## The Lovely Reckless

Kami Garcia. Imprint/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Frankie Devereux's boyfriend is murdered, and her mother, in an effort to remove her from the danger as well as her own destructive behaviors, sends Frankie away from her privileged life to live with her father. Then she meets tough and sexy Marco. Despite the new location, danger is far from gone.

## Macbeth #killingit

William Shakespeare and Courtney Carbone. Random House Children's Books.

Written in a series of text messages with emojis, photo postings, and characters checking in at various locations, Carbone continues telling Shakespeare's plays in an unconventional manner. Surely Shakespeare would approve—after all, he was the king of wordplay!

## The Pact

Amanda West Lewis. Red Deer/Fitzhenry & Whiteside.

May 1939. Peter Gruber, a 10-year-old German boy, deals with the drowning death of his closest friend. Sensitive and intelligent, Peter grapples with the cruel truth of World War II's Hitler Youth. When the path and peril his country is on becomes clear, how should Peter respond to the propaganda of the Nazis?

## Passenger

Alexandra Bracken. Disney-Hyperion.

Etta and Nick leave on a peril-filled journey across centuries and continents on a quest for a stolen object. They must piece together clues from a mysterious traveler. As the truth of their search is revealed, the deadly game of the Ironwoods threatens to separate Etta from Nick and ultimately their path home—forever.

## P.S. I Like You

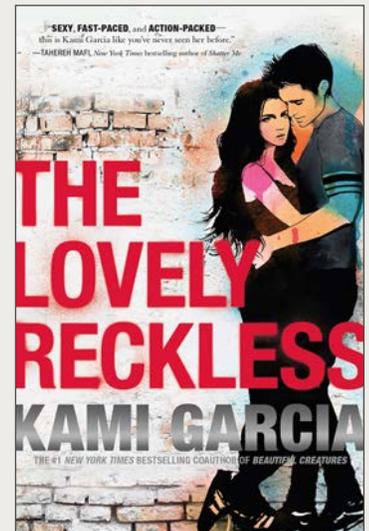
Kasie West. Point/Scholastic.

Love shows up when Lily least expects it. When she scribbles her favorite song lyrics on a desk, Lily finds a mysterious someone adds to the lyrics, along with a message. Could this intrigue go beyond sharing secrets and recommending bands to a deep, meaningful relationship? In this warm, witty novel, Lily learns that matters of the heart bring wonderful changes.

## Salt to the Sea

Ruta Sepetys. Philomel/Penguin Random House.

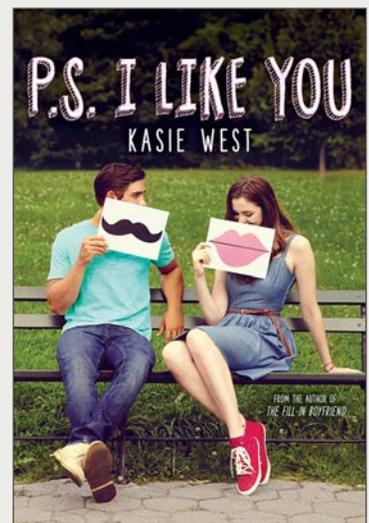
Near the end of World War II, as the Russians advance on East Prussia, six refugees band together on an arduous winter journey West hoping to board an evacuation ship. Here, Sepetys weaves together their personal stories with a gripping narrative of the little-known tragedy of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*.



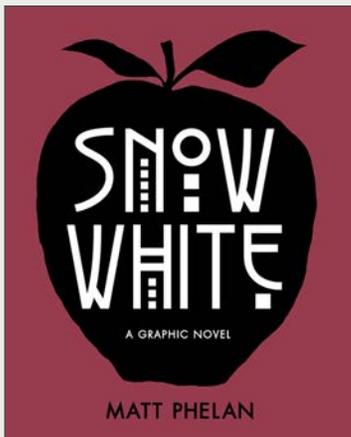
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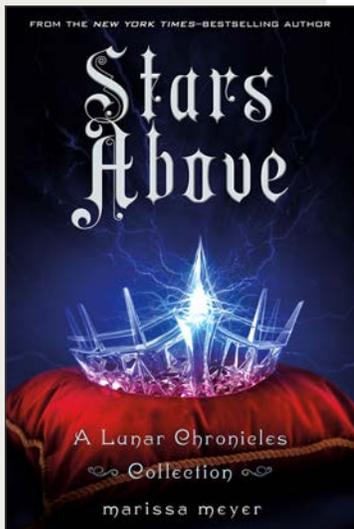
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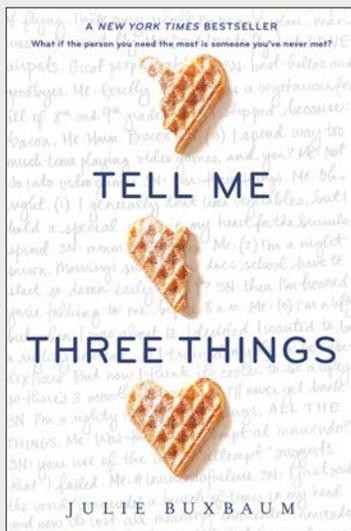
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*Stars Above (A Lunar Chronicles Collection).* Marissa Meyer. Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.



*Tell Me Three Things.* Julie Buxbaum. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.

## **The Serpent King**

**Jeff Zentner. Crown Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.**

The son of an imprisoned snake-handling preacher, a fashionista with a blog and New York dreams, a gentle soul who escapes family abuse through fantasy novels. These unlikely but deeply connected friends, high school seniors, grapple together with serious questions about the possibilities and limitations for their futures.

## **\*Snow White: A Graphic Novel**

**Matt Phelan. Candlewick.**

In this Depression-era version, Snow White's father loses his fortune in the stock market crash and is murdered by her evil stepmother. Phelan adds period-appropriate touches to the traditional story. The seven dwarves are street urchins, the prince is a police detective, and the magic mirror is a stock ticker. The sepia tone and grey scale graphics add to the historical feeling of the novel.

## **Stars Above (A Lunar Chronicles Collection)**

**Marissa Meyer. Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Six stories that have never been told about the Lunar Chronicles come to life, revealing wonderful, terrifying, and romantic secrets. This delightful happily ever after volume will thrill fans and intrigue those new to Meyer's spectacular out-of-this-world series. This is essential reading for backstories and depth in Meyer's captivating, imaginative escapes.

## **The Sun Is Also a Star**

**Nicola Yoon. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.**

Poetic Daniel is reluctantly hurrying to an appointment important to the career path set by his South Korean parents. Scientific Natasha is desperately hurrying to an appointment vital to her Jamaican family's deportation status. Meeting by chance, they fall in love and "steal" the day. With what consequences?

## **Tell Me Three Things**

**Julie Buxbaum. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.**

Barely two years since her mother's death, Jessie's father elopes. Now she must move to Los Angeles, California, and attend a prestigious prep school. While trying to navigate this intimidating new world, Jessie receives a mysterious e-mail from "Somebody/Nobody." Is this a helpful classmate or a hoax? What if this Nobody is exactly the Somebody Jessie so desperately needs?

## **This Is Where It Ends**

**Marieke Nijkamp. Sourcebooks Fire.**

As the traditional assembly opening the new semester at Opportunity High School ends, students prepare to leave, only to find the auditorium doors locked, trapping them inside. Then, someone starts shooting. The 54 minutes of horror that follow are presented from four perspectives, revealing despair, heartbreak, heroism, and unexpected truths.

## **The Twelve Days of Dash & Lily**

**Rachel Cohn and David Levithan. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.**

After Lily's grandfather has a heart attack, she is not in the mood to celebrate Christmas. Dash, her boyfriend, is concerned about their relationship and Lily's apathetic attitude toward her favorite holiday. Dash and Lily's friends have only 12 days until Christmas. Will that be enough to save Christmas and their relationship?

## **23 Minutes**

**Vivian Vande Velde. Boyds Mills/Highlights.**

Blue-haired Zoe is a social outcast. She encounters a deadly bank robbery that leaves two people dead, including a friendly young man who shields Zoe from a bullet. But 15-year-old Zoe has a special ability to turn back the clock 23 minutes just by saying "playback," allowing her to change the outcome of events. She has only 10 tries to get it right.

## **Two Summers**

**Aimee Friedman. Point/Scholastic.**

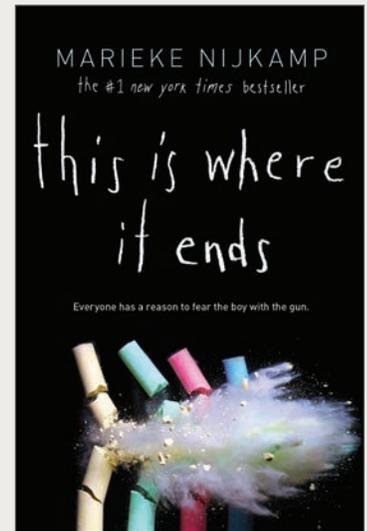
Summer's life splits into parallel worlds as she experiences two unforgettable summers. One choice leads her to France, with all the romance that can be imagined in far-flung destinations. The other leaves her in an ordinary, suburban world. In parallel summers, she both finds love and discovers herself. But is it truth Summer needs the most?

## **A World Without You**

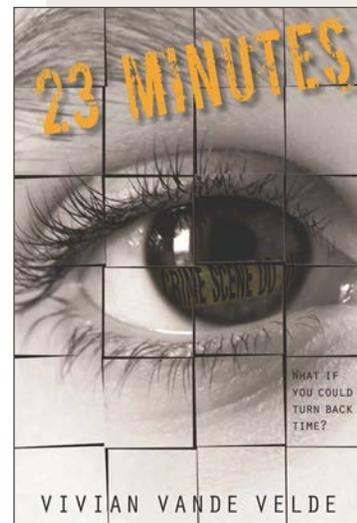
**Beth Revis. Razorbill/Penguin Random House.**

In this heartbreaking yet ultimately hopeful story, Bo's friend and love Sofia cannot escape deep depression and commits suicide. To process his grief, psychotic and delusional Bo becomes convinced that Sofia is not really dead but only stuck in time. Will Bo try to "save" her or face the reality of his mental illness?

\*Books that received the highest number of reviews



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## More About Young Adults' Choices

Thank you to the 2016–2017 ILA Young Adults' Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were Stephanie Burdic (cochair) and Lisa Morris-Wilkey (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Jill Bellomy (trainee), Beth Brendler, Rose Brock, Patricia Evans, Cheryl McCall, Kimberly Powers (trainee), Kerry Townsend, and Marney Welmers.

## ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers, and experts across 75 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught, and evaluated. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather, and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices, and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students, and inform policymakers. ILA publishes *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, and *Reading Research Quarterly*, which are peer reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit [literacyworldwide.org](http://literacyworldwide.org).



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