

YALSA Best Books for Young Adults

Every year, librarians around the country nominate titles they feel are “best books” for young adults. From that list of nominations, ten are selected by a committee as the Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults.



2008

- Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*.
- Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*.
- Downham, Jenny. *Before I Die*.
- Hemphill, Stephanie. *Your Own, Sylvia: A Verse Portrait of Sylvia Plath*.
- Jones, Lloyd. *Mister Pip*.
- Landy, Derek. *Skulduggery Pleasant*.
- Peet, Mal. *Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal*.
- Polly, Matthew. *American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: An Odyssey in the New China*.
- Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret: a novel*.
- Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*.

2007

- Anderson, M.T. *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume 1: The Pox Party*.
- Gratz, Alan. *Samurai Shortstop*.
- Hartnett, Sonya. *Surrender*.
- McCormick, Patricia. *Sold*.
- Sayres, Meghan Nuttall. *Anahita's Woven Riddle*.
- Smelcer, John. *The Trap*.
- Turner, Megan Whalen. *The King of Attolia*.
- Werlin, Nancy. *The Rules of Survival*.
- Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*.
- Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*.

2006

- Akbar, Said Hyder and Burton, Susan. *Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story*.
- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*.
- Buckhanon, Kalisha. *Upstate*.
- Green, John. *Looking for Alaska*.

- Lynch, Chris. *Inexcusable*.
- Meyer, Stephanie. *Twilight*.
- Vaughan, Brian K. *Runaways: Volume 1*.
- Westerfeld, Scott. *Peeps*.
- Wooding, Chris. *Poison*.
- Zusak, Markus. *I Am the Messenger*.

2005

- Braff, Joshua. *The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green*.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge*.
- Hoose, Phillip M. *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird*.
- Levithan, David. *The Realm of Possibility*.
- Marchetta, Melina. *Saving Francesca*.
- Morpurgo, Michael. *Private Peaceful*.
- Opper, Kenneth. *Airborn*.
- Rapp, Adam. *Under the Wolf, Under the Dog*.
- Saenz, Benjamin Alire. *Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood*.
- Weeks, Sarah. *So B. It: a novel*.

2004

- Brooks, Martha. *True Confessions of a Heartless Girl*.
- Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light*.
- Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.
- Johnson, Angela. *The First Part Last*.
- Levithan, David. *Boy Meets Boy*.
- Maynard, Joyce. *The Usual Rules*.
- Pattou, Edith. *East*.
- Rapp, Adam. *33 Snowfish*.
- Stroud, Jonathan. *The Amulet of Samarkand: Bartimaeus Trilogy, Book One*.
- Thompson, Craig. *Blankets: An Illustrated Novel*.

2003

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Catalyst*.
- Anderson, M. T. *Feed*.
- Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion*.
- Frank, E. R. *America*.
- Korman, Gordon. *Son of the Mob*.
- Lawrence, Iain. *The Lightkeeper's Daughter*.
- Moore, Christopher. *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*.
- Nelson, Peter. *Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis*.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab. *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*.
- Partridge, Elizabeth. *This Land Was Made For You and Me: The Life & Songs of Woody Guthrie*.

2002

- Brashares, Ann. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*.
- Cormier, Robert. *The Rag and Bone Shop*.
- Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk*.
- Flinn, Alex. *Breathing Underwater*.
- Jenkins, A. M.. *Damage*.
- Mosher, Richard. *Zazoo*.
- Nix, Garth. *Lirael*.
- Taylor, Mildred. *The Land*.
- Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Every Time a Rainbow Dies*.
- Wolff, Virginia Euwer. *True Believer*.

2001

- Bagdasarian, Adam. *Forgotten Fire*.
- Bauer, Joan. *Hope was Here*.
- Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*.
- Katz, Jon. *Geeks: How two boys rode the Internet out of Idaho*.
- Konigsburg, E. L. *Silent to the Bone*.
- Paulsen, Gary. *The Beet Fields*.
- Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising*.
- Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*.
- Whelan, Gloria. *Homeless Bird*.
- White, Ruth. *Memories of Summer*.

2000

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*.
- Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Shadow*.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. *When Zachary Beaver came to Town*.
- Jordan, Sherryl. *The Raging Quiet*.
- McNeal, Laura and Tom. *Crooked*.
- Meyer, Carolyn. *Mary, Bloody Mary*.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*.
- Namioka, Lensey. *Ties that Bind, Ties that Break*.
- Opdyke, Irene Gut. *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer*.
- Porter, Connie. *Imani All Mine*.

1999

- Bauer, Joan. *Rules of the Road*.
- Colman, Penny. *Corpses, Coffins, and Crypts*.
- Ferris, Jean. *Love Among the Walnuts*.
- Haddix, Margaret. *Among the Hidden*.

- Holt, Kimberly Willis. *My Louisiana Sky*.
- Lobel, Anita. *No Pretty Pictures: a Child of War*.
- Mikaelson, Ben. *Petey*.
- Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
- Sachar, Louis. *Holes*.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. *If You Come Softly*.

1998

- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *Growing Up In Coal Country*.
- Bernstein, Sara Tuvel. *Seamstress*.
- Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine*.
- Cormier, Robert. *Tenderness*.
- Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*.
- Klause, Annette Curtis. *Blood and Chocolate*.
- Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air*.
- McDonald, Joyce. *Swallowing Stones*.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Harlem*.
- Reynolds, Marjorie. *Starlite Drive-In*.

1997

- Blum, Josual, Holman, Bob, and Pellington, Mark. *The United States of Poetry*.
- Farmer, Nancy. *A Girl Named Disaster*.
- Gilstrap, John. *Nathan's Run*.
- Glenn, Mel. *Who Killed Mr. Chippendale?: a mystery in poems*.
- Hobbs, Will. *Far North*.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *One More River to Cross: an African American photograph album*.
- Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass*.
- Thomas, Rob. *Rats Saw God*.
- Wallace, Rich. *Wrestling Sturbridge*.
- Wilkomirski, Benjamin. *Fragments*.