

[Gabi, a Girl in Pieces](#)

By Isabel Quintero

Sixteen-year-old Gabi Hernandez chronicles her senior year in high school as she copes with her friend Cindy's pregnancy, friend Sebastian's coming out, her father's meth habit, her own cravings for food and cute boys, and especially, the poetry that helps forge her identity. *(2015 Winner)*

[Belle Epoque](#)

By Elizabeth Ross

Sixteen-year-old Maude Pichon, a plain, impoverished girl in Belle Epoque Paris, is hired by Countess Dubern to make her headstrong daughter, Isabelle, look more beautiful by comparison but soon Maude is enmeshed in a tangle of love, friendship, and deception. *(2014 Finalist)*

[Where Things Come Back](#)

By John Corey Whaley

Seventeen-year-old Cullen's summer in Lily, Arkansas, is marked by his cousin's death by overdose, an alleged spotting of a woodpecker thought to be extinct, failed romances, and his younger brother's sudden disappearance. *(2012 Winner)*

[In the Shadow of Blackbirds](#)

By Cat Winters

In San Diego in 1918, as deadly influenza and World War I take their toll, sixteen-year-old Mary Shelley Black watches desperate mourners flock to séances and spirit photographers for comfort and, despite her scientific leanings, must consider if ghosts are real when her first love, killed in battle, returns. *(2014 Finalist)*

[The Serpent King](#)

By Jeff Zentner

The son of a Pentecostal preacher faces his personal demons as he and his two outcast friends try to make it through their senior year of high school in rural Forrestville, Tennessee without letting the small-town culture destroy their creative spirits and sense of self. *(2017 Winner)*

[YALSA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NONFICTION](#)

The Young Adult Library Services Association Nonfiction Award honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults.

[The Nazi Hunters](#)

By Neal Bascomb

In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the most important trials of the century - one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination. *(2014 Winner)*

[The President Has Been Shot!: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy](#)

By James L. Swanson

In his new young-adult book on the Kennedy assassination, James Swanson will transport readers back to one of the most shocking, sad, and terrifying events in American history. *(2014 Finalist)*

[Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War](#)

By Steve Sheinkin

The story of Daniel Ellsberg and his decision to steal and publish secret documents about America's involvement in the Vietnam War. *(2016 Winner)*

[Popular a Memoir](#)

By Maya Van Wagenen

Stuck at the bottom of the social ladder at "pretty much the lowest level of people at school who aren't paid to be here," Maya Van Wagenen decided to begin a unique social experiment: spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide. *(2015 Winner)*

We encourage readers to be informed about the titles they are reading. Commonsensemedia.org is a great resource to help you decide if a book is right for you.

BEST OF THE BEST FOR TEENS



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BEST OF THE BEST FOR TEENS

“While these books and media have been selected for teens from 12 to 18 years of age, the award-winning titles and the titles on YALSA’s selected lists span a broad range of reading and maturity levels. We encourage adults to take an active role on helping individual teens choose those books that are the best fit for them and their families”

- YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES ASSOCIATION (YALSA)

MICHAEL L. PRINTZ AWARD

The Michael L. Printz Award honors books that exemplify literary excellence in young adult literature.

Going Bovine

By Libba Bray

In an attempt to find a cure after being diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob's (aka mad cow) disease, Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen-year-old boy, sets off on a road trip with a death-obsessed video gaming dwarf he meets in the hospital. (2010 Winner)

Ship Breaker

By Paolo Bacigalupi

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl. (2011 Winner)

Jellicoe Road

By Melina Marchetta

Abandoned by her drug-addicted mother at the age of eleven, high school student Taylor Markham struggles with her identity and family history at a boarding school in Australia. (2009 Winner)

I'll Give You the Sun

By Jandy Nelson

A story of first love, family, loss and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her twin brother Noah. (2015 Winner)

Out of Darkness

By Ashley Hope Perez

Loosely based on a school explosion that took place in New London, Texas in 1937, this is the story of two teenagers: Naomi, who is Mexican, and Wash, who is black, and their dealings with race, segregation, love, and the forces that destroy people. (2016 Honor)

How I Live Now

By Meg Rosoff

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land. (2005 Winner)

Bone Gap

By Laura Ruby

Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza, but his inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation, and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying. (2016 Winner)

Midwinterblood

By Marcus Sedgwick

Seven linked vignettes unfold on a Scandinavian island inhabited--throughout various time periods--by Vikings, vampires, ghosts, and a curiously powerful plant. (2014 Winner)

MORRIS AWARD

The Morris Award honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrates impressive new voices in young adult literature.

Love and Other Perishable Items

By Laura Buzo

A fifteen-year-old Australian girl gets her first job and first crush on her unattainable university-aged co-worker, as both search for meaning in their lives. (2013 Finalist)

Seraphina

By Rachel Hartman

In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents. (2013 Winner)

Paper Covers Rock

By Jenny Hubbard

In 1982 Buncombe County, North Carolina, sixteen-year-old Alex Stromm writes of the aftermath of the accidental drowning of a friend, as his English teacher reaches out to him while he and a fellow boarding school student try to cover things up. (2012 Finalist)

The Everafter

By Amy Huntley

After her death, seventeen-year-old Maddy finds a way to revisit moments in her life by using objects that she lost while she was alive, and by so doing she tries to figure out the complicated emotions, events, and meaning of her existence. (2010 Finalist)