

*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Mature
content



Graphic Format

(14 - 16) Suggested
age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

Fourteen and Older

2012 Edition

FICTION

ADVENTURE and MYSTERY

Cryer's Cross

by Lisa McMann

(Simon Pulse/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-9481-7
Soccer and dancing are Kendall's passions. Her obsessive-compulsive disorder both limits and helps her after two schoolmates, one her best friend, disappear. (13-16)

Falling for Hamlet

by Michelle Ray

(Poppy/Little, Brown, \$17.99)
978-0-316-10162-2

A many-layered modern interpretation of Shakespeare's revenge tragedy is told through the eyes of an appealing Ophelia who doesn't drown, but presents an account nonetheless close to that in the Elizabethan play. (13-15)

Orchestrated Murder

by Rick Blechta

(Raven/Orca, P\$9.95) 978-1-55469-885-1
In this mystery, an older detective and his new young sidekick work together to solve a murder—with an orchestra full of suspects. (13-16)

COMING OF AGE

The Big Crunch

by Pete Hautman

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-24075-8
In this contemporary and sometimes humorous story told from two points of view, soon after June and Wes become romantically involved, she must move away because of her father's job. (13-16)

The Chamber of Five

by Michael Harmon

(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99)
0-978-375-86644-9

Eligible for his school's elite secret society because of his father's wealth and prestige, Jason balks at participating in the initiation rite. (12-16)

Clean

by Amy Reed

(Simon Pulse/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-1344-3
Five very different teens come together in rehab to learn about themselves and what's really important in life. (14-17)



Gemini Bites

by Patrick Ryan

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-22128-3
Kyle and Judy are fraternal twins with sibling issues to resolve, including their mutual attraction to Garret, who may be a vampire. (14-16) [Mature content]

The Probability of Miracles

by Wendy Wunder

(Razorbill/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-1-59514-368-6
Cam will never see her eighteenth birthday, but when she goes to Promise, Maine, for the summer to please her mother and sister, she becomes a person of hope. (14-17)

Ten Miles Past Normal

by Frances O'Roark Dowell

(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-9585-2
Jamie overcomes a difficult transition to high school by discovering new friends and new interests—music and the civil rights history of her North Carolina town. (13-16)

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COMING OF AGE, continued

Tighter

by Adele Griffin

(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-375-86645-6

Drug abuse, a promising relationship, and a blurred line between reality and fantasy confuse seventeen-year-old Jamie's summer in this fast-paced thriller. (14-16)

Where Things Come Back

by John Corey Whaley

(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-1333-7

The possible return of an extinct woodpecker rivets the townspeople of Lily, Arkansas, but seventeen-year-old Cullen is concerned with friendship, romance, and his younger brother's disappearance. (15-17)

***Why We Broke Up**

written by Daniel Handler, illustrated by Maira Kalman

(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$19.99)

978-0-316-12725-7

No one expected Min and Ed's relationship to last, and they were right—but not necessarily for the reasons they imagined. Vibrant illustrations. (14-17)

FANTASY

Between

by Jessica Warman

(Walker/Bloomsbury, \$17.99)

978-0-8027-2182-2

When Elizabeth, a popular and privileged eighteen year old, wakes up on her family's boat after her birthday celebration, she realizes that her life is literally over. (15-18)

Blood Red Road

by Moira Young

(McElderry Books/S&S, \$17.99)

978-1-4424-2998-7

Saba's journey from middle child to warrior and rescuer occurs quickly, yet realistically, in this futuristic love story. (13-16)

***Chime**

by Franny Billingsley

(Dial/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3552-1

Is Briony responsible for her stepmother's death and her sister's collapse? A wild fantasy explored in exultant language. (13-15)

***Daughter of Smoke and Bone**

by Laini Taylor

(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$18.99)

978-0-316-13402-6

Seventeen-year-old Karou runs mysterious errands for her nonhuman foster family and discovers clues to her origins. (14-16)

The Game of Triumphs

by Laura Powell

(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-375-86587-9

When fifteen-year-old Cat enters the Game of Triumphs, she learns secrets about her past and possible future. (13-15)

iBoy

by Kevin Brooks

(Chicken House/Scholastic, \$17.99)

978-0-545-31768-9

After a head-on collision with a cell phone, Tom becomes an actualized App and connects to all technology worldwide, allowing him to defeat London's underworld villains. Gritty and absorbing. (14-17)

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FANTASY, continued

The Shattering

by Karen Healey

(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$17.99)

978-0-316-12572-7

In the idyllic town of Summerton, New Zealand, two older brothers appear to have committed suicide—but are they actually murder victims instead? (14-16)

***This Dark Endeavor**

by Kenneth Oppel

(Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-0315-4

When sixteen-year-old Konrad Frankenstein develops a rare blood disease, his twin brother embarks on a dangerous quest to find the Elixir of Life that will cure him. (14-16)

HISTORICAL FICTION

Beautiful Days: A Bright Young Things Novel

by Anna Godbersen

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-196268-4

It's 1929 and Letty, Astrid, and Cordelia are set on making it big in New York. But are they willing to fulfill their dreams at any cost? (14-16)



Out of Shadows

by Jason Wallace

(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2342-2

In Zimbabwe after the civil war, deeply felt antagonisms between whites and blacks play out—violently—in a predominantly white boarding school. (14-17) [Mature content]

SCIENCE FICTION

***Flip**

by Martyn Bedford

(Wendy Lamb/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-73990-0

Fourteen-year-old Alex wakes up in an unfamiliar house and discovers that he is trapped in another boy's identity. (14-16)

Legend

by Marie Lu

(G. P. Putnam's/Penguin, \$17.99)

978-0-399-25675-2

In this thrilling futuristic adventure, June and Daniel belong to different worlds. One is a promising prodigy, the other a notorious criminal, yet unexpected events bring them together. (13-16)

TODAY



Angry Young Man

by Chris Lynch

(Simon & Schuster, \$16.99) 978-0-689-8470-5

Hardworking and popular, Robert tries to help his loner brother, Alexander, but gets drawn into a dangerous group of teenaged extremists. (14-18) [Mature content]

Boyfriends with Girlfriends

by Alex Sanchez

(Simon & Schuster, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-3773-9

Four teens discover new friendships and dating relationships as they explore and struggle with their sexual identities. (14-16)

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TODAY, continued

Bunheads

by Sophie Flack

(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$17.99)

978-0-316-12653-3

A gifted dancer, Hannah moves to New York City and begins the demanding, self-sacrificing life of a professional. At nineteen she wonders if she has made the right choice. (14-17)

Exposed

by Kimberly Marcus

(Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86693-7

A slumber party gone wrong threatens the "forever-best" friendship of Liz and Kate. A difficult theme is sensitively explored in blank verse. (14-16)

The Lucky Kind

by Alyssa B. Sheinmel

(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86785-9

When Nick learns that his father gave up a baby for adoption long before he was born, it sours his relationship with his girlfriend. (14-16)

My Life Undecided

by Jessica Brody

(FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-39905-4

Fifteen-year-old Brooklyn devises a blog that will ask her readers to vote for "good" decisions because she can't make them. (13-16)

***Now Playing: Stoner & Spaz II**

by Ron Koertge

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5081-0

Colleen is bright, funny, and the first person who really saw past Ben's cerebral palsy. But will her drug addiction ultimately destroy their relationship? (14-17)



Pearl

by Jo Knowles

(Henry Holt, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9207-3

When her grandfather dies suddenly, Pearl (aka Beany) doesn't think it's possible to feel any sadder. A story of love, loss, and discovery in two unhappy families. (14-16) [Mature content]



The Piper's Son

by Melina Marchetta

(Candlewick, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-4758-2

In contemporary Australia, the Mackees are a fractured family and Tom is the most wounded of all. (14-18) [Mature content]

Pregnant Pause

by Han Nolan

(Harcourt/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.99)

978-0-15-206570-6

Married and pregnant, sixteen-year-old Eleanor must decide whether her marriage will last and if she should keep the baby. (14-16)

***Putting Makeup on the Fat Boy**

by Bill Wright

(Simon & Schuster, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-3996-2

Sixteen-year-old Carlos wants only to be a makeup artist to the stars, but first he must deal with a crazy boss, his sister's abusive boyfriend, and his own crush on a classmate. (13-17)

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TODAY, continued

Recovery Road

by Blake Nelson

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-10729-7

The bright spot in rehab for seventeen-year-old Maddie is Stewart, with whom she is in love. She adapts to her high school and begins to mature. (14-16)



So Shelly

by Ty Roth

(Delacorte/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-385-73958-0

High school complications, friendships, and ultimately tragedy beset these teenagers whose names and lives mirror early nineteenth-century literary figures Shelley, Byron, and Keats. (14-16) [Mature content]

Something Like Hope

by Shawn Goodman

(Delacorte/Random House, \$16.99)
978-0-385-73939-9

Abused and neglected, seventeen-year-old Shavonne has lost her ability to feel as she contemplates her long incarceration in a juvenile detention center. (14-16)

***This Thing Called the Future**

by J. L. Powers

(Cinco Puntos, \$16.95) 978-1-933693-95-8

South African Khosi tries to reconcile her ideas about modern medicine, traditional Zulu healing, and her Catholic religion as she faces the fact that her mother is dying of AIDS. (14-16)



Want To Go Private?

by Sarah Darer Littman

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-15146-7

When high school gets off to a rough start for fourteen-year-old Abby, having an online boyfriend helps her feel better—with tragic consequences. Sexually explicit scenes. (14-17) [Mature content]



What Comes After

by Steve Watkins

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4250-1

When sixteen-year-old Iris must leave Maine to live on a farm with relatives she barely knows, a confrontation over the goats has devastating consequences. (15-17) [Mature content]



What is Real

by Karen Rivers

(Orca, P\$12.95) 978-1-55469-356-6

Seventeen-year-old Dex is overwhelmed by the grim realities of caring for his disabled father and then learns about his girlfriend's history of sexual abuse. (15-18) [Mature content]

Where She Went

by Gayle Forman

(Dutton/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-525-42294-5

Adam turns to his musical career in an attempt to deal with the abrupt ending of a tragedy-infused love affair. (13-16)

You Against Me

by Jenny Downham

(David Fickling, \$16.99) 978-0-385-75160-5

When Mikey's sister is raped, he vows revenge. Then he meets and falls in love with the rapist's sister. (14-17)

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INFORMATION BOOKS

ARCHITECTURE

I.M. Pei: Architect of Time, Place, and Purpose

by Jill Rubalcaba

(Marshall Cavendish, \$23.99)

978-0-7614-5973-6

This detailed account of how a great architect's masterpieces were planned and constructed is designed as elegantly as Pei's structures.

Timeline, sources, bibliography. (13-17)

MEMOIR

To Timbuktu: Nine Countries, Two People, One True Story

by Casey Scieszka, illustrated by Steven Weinberg

(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$19.99)

978-1-59643-527-8

Studying this funny, honest look at traveling and working around the globe will spark the travel bug in every reader. (14-18)