

Orwell, George—**1984 (Nineteen Eighty Four)**

Ignorance is strength and peace is war in a future controlled by Big Brother and the Thought Police.

Paulsen, Gary—**Hatchet**

Brian Robeson, sole survivor of a plane crash in the wilderness, must draw on untested skills to survive.

Salinger, J.D.—**The Catcher in the Rye**

Fleeing his Pennsylvania prep school, Holden Caulfield holes up in New York City and rails against adult phoniness while trying to lose his innocence.

Smith, Betty—**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**

Francie Nolan suffers in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn during the early part of the 20th century.

Souljah, Sister—**The Coldest Winter Ever**

After a black drug dealer goes to jail in Brooklyn, his ruthless 17-year-old daughter takes over his empire.

Steinbeck, John—**Of Mice and Men**

In Depression-era California, two migrant workers dream of better days.

Zindel, Paul—**The Pigman**

A practical joke on lonely old Angelo Pignati becomes an extraordinary experience for two high schoolers.

Non-Fiction

TEEN 362.76 Pelzer 1995

A Child Called It: One Child's Courage to Survive by David Pelzer

Memoir of a boy brutalized by his unstable, alcoholic mother who considered him no longer a boy, but an "it."

TEEN 921 Frank, Anne 1993

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Diary of the Jewish girl who hid with seven other people in an attic for two years in Nazi-occupied Holland.

A few notes:

- These book lists are examples, not complete lists of books which fit into the genre.
- Not all books will be of interest to or appropriate for every reader.
- Teen Scene staff are always eager to help you find a book that fits your personal taste and interests. Just ask!

Contemporary Classics



Suggestions for Young Adult books that ...

- Have stood the test of time
- Represent a variety of cultures and eras
- Were generally written after World War II

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Atwood, Margaret

The Handmaid's Tale

This look at the near future presents the story of Offred, a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, once the United States

An, Na—**A Step from Heaven**

Ju's family moves to America with great hope and are met by deep disappointment, anger, and despair.

Anderson, Laurie Halse—**Speak**

A traumatic event in summer devastates Melinda, causing her to fall silent during her freshman year in high school.

Blume, Judy—**Forever**

When Katherine meets Michael, they are sure it will last forever and take the relationship all the way.

Bradbury, Ray—**Fahrenheit 451**

Guy Montag, a fire-fighter and book-burner for the State, seeks his humanity in illegally preserving the books.

Cather, Willa—**My Ántonia**

A family of immigrant pioneers endures endless struggles as life plays out on the unsettled Nebraska plains.

Cisneros, Sandra—**The House on Mango Street**

In a series of vignettes, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, invents for herself who she will become.

Cooney, Barbara

The Face on the Milk Carton

A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.

Cormier, Robert—**The Chocolate War**

A freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive.

Crutcher, Chris—**Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes**

Class discussions about contemporary issues frame a high-school senior's attempt to answer a dramatic cry for help.

Duncan, Lois

I Know What You Did Last Summer

Four teenagers who have tried to conceal a hit-and-run accident are pursued by a mystery figure seeking revenge.

Garden, Nancy—**Annie on My Mind**

Liza Winthrop and Annie Kenyon awkwardly navigate their growing romantic feelings for each other.

George, Jean Craighead

My Side of the Mountain

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains.

Go Ask Alice (Filed under "Go")

A 15-year-old drug user chronicles her daily struggle to escape the pull of the drug world.

Golding, William—**The Lord of the Flies**

English schoolboys marooned on a tropical island bring both civilization and savagery to their community.

Greene, Bette—**Summer of My German Soldier**

Sheltering an escaped German prisoner of war is a shattering experience for a 12-year-old Jewish girl in Arkansas.

Hemingway, Ernest—**The Old Man and the Sea**

Santiago realizes the dream of catching a giant marlin, but must battle sharks for two days to bring home his prize.

Hesse, Hermann—**Siddhartha**

Afire with youthful idealism, the Brahmin Siddhartha joins a group of ascetics, fasting and living without possessions.

Hinton, S.E.—**The Outsiders**

Three brothers struggle to stay together and maintain their identities after their parents' death.

Keyes, Daniel—**Flowers for Algernon**

Charlie tells how a brain operation increases his IQ and changes his life, until the experiment deteriorates.

Knowles, John—**A Separate Peace**

A friendship develops between two boys during a summer vacation at the Devon school during World War II.

Lee, Harper—**To Kill a Mockingbird**

Small town Alabama in the 1930s is the setting for a child's brutal introduction to racial prejudice and adult injustice.

LeGuin, Ursula—**Earthsea Trilogy**

(#1—A Wizard of Earthsea)

A boy grows to manhood attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

Lowry, Lois—**The Giver Quartet**

(#1—The Giver)

Jonas becomes the receiver of memories discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.