

Recommended Young Adult Fiction Tied to a Teen Issue or Challenge

The material in many of these novels is mature and may require parent approval.

1. Cut by Patricia McCormick (cutting)
2. Sold by Patricia McCormick (child prostitution)
3. The Story of a Girl by Sara Zarr (reputation, relationship issues)
4. Sweethearts by Sara Zarr (relationships)
5. Shooter by Walter Dean Myers (school violence)
6. Slam by Walter Dean Myers (anger management, school sports)
7. Handbook for Boys by Walter Dean Myers (coming of age)
8. Summer Ball by Mike Lupicia (basketball, sports, pressure)
9. Give a Boy a Gun by Todd Strasser (school violence)
10. Annie on my Mind by Nancy Garden (lesbian relationship)
11. Bad by Jean Ferris (juvie hall for girls, violence, peer pressure)
12. Smack by Melvin Burgess (drugs, teen pregnancy)
13. Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver (death and reliving your last day)
14. Inexcusable by Chris Lynch (date rape from the perspective of the guy)
15. Crank by Ellen Hopkins (drugs, teen sex, struggles with family and relationships)
16. Impulse by Ellen Hopkins
17. Glass by Ellen Hopkins
18. Burned by Ellen Hopkins
19. After by Amy Efav (teen pregnancy)
20. It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini (depression)
21. Hate List by Jennifer Brown (school violence)
22. Before I Die by Jenny Downham (dealing with illness and death)
23. Monster by Walter Dean Myers (prison, identity, violence)
24. The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chybosky (fitting in, peer pressure, abuse)
25. My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult (dealing with cancer and identity)
26. Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult (school violence)
27. The Tenth Circle by Jodi Picoult (date rape, family issues)
28. Someone Like You by Sarah Dessen (dealing with death, teen pregnancy)
29. The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen (relationships, family)
30. Just Listen by Sarah Dessen
31. This Lullaby by Sarah Dessen (relationships)
32. Dreamland by Sarah Dessen (abusive relationship)
33. Looking for Alaska by John Green (relationships, dealing with death)
34. An Abundance of Katherines by John Green (relationships)
35. The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (relationships, dealing with terminal illness)
36. American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang (racial identity)
37. Please Ignore Vera Dietz by A. S. King (dealing with the suicide of a friend)
38. Hold Still by Nina Lacour (dealing with the suicide of a friend)
39. 13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher (suicide and repercussions)
40. Wintergirls by Laurie Halse Anderson (anorexia and bulimia)
41. Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson (date rape)

42. Perfect by Natasha Friend (bulimia)
43. Lush by Natasha Friend (dealing with alcoholic parents)
44. Bounce by Natasha Friend (dealing with death, step parents)
45. Honey, Baby Sweetheart by Deb Caletti (abusive relationship)
46. Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn (anger management)
47. WhaleTalk by Chris Crutcher (sports, family issues, relationships)
48. Chinese Handcuffs by Chris Crutcher (death of a friend)
49. If I Stay by Gayle Forman (dealing with death)
50. Keesha's House by Helen Frost (safe houses for teenagers dealing with struggles)
51. Tears of a Tiger by Sharon Draper (sports, car crash, dealing with death)
52. Jake, Reinvented by Gordon Korman (parties, love, popularity, acceptance)
53. Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine (dealing with death, Asperger's)
54. Rooftop by Paul Volponi (brothers, drug treatment, racial issues)
55. Bleachers by John Grisham (football, dealing with death)

Recommended Young Adult Non-fiction

1. Beautiful Boy by Sheff (dealing with a drug addicted son)
2. Comeback by Mia and Claire Fontaine (drugs, incest, rehab, mother daughter)
3. The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls (abuse, neglect)
4. The Other Side of the Sky by (assimilation)
5. A Child Called It by Dave Pelzer (abuse, neglect)
6. Girl, Interrupted by Susanna Kaysen (mental illness and treatment)
7. She Said Yes by Misty Bernall (violence in schools, faith)
8. A Tribe Apart by Patricia Hersch (tons of teenage issues)
9. It Gets Better (GLBT issues / national campaign)
10. The Complete Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (coming of age in Iran)
11. Look Me In The Eye by John Elder Robinson (dealing with Asperger's)
12. Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs (dealing with alcoholic / abusive parents)
13. Goat by Brad Land (abduction, fraternity hazing)
14. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey (how to be more successful)
15. The Freedom Writers Diary (real stories from inner-city teens)
16. Three Little Words by Ashley Rhodes-Courter (foster homes, abuse)
17. Queen Bees and Wannabes by Rosalind Wiseman (helping girls navigate the world of cliques, gossip, relationships, etc.)
18. Committed by Dan Mathews (embracing life, choices, career paths)
19. Hole in my Life by Jack Gantos (drug trafficking, jail time and bouncing back)
20. Short: Walking Tall When You're Not Tall at All by John Schwartz (society's obsession with looks – in particular height)
21. Tweak by Nic Sheff (the battle with Meth addiction)
22. GLBTQ by Kelly Huegel (A survival guide for GLBT teens)
23. Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens by Kathy Belge and Marke Bieschke
24. The Burn Journals by Brent Runyon (a teenager's struggle with self inflicted harm and depression)
25. The Little Back Book for Girlz: A book on healthy sexuality by Youth for Youth
26. My Thirteenth Winter by Samantha Abeel (dealing with learning disabilities)
27. It Happened to Nancy by Anonymous (rape, HIV)
28. Wanting Mor by Rukhsana Khan (a girl's struggle living in post-Taliban Afghanistan)

29. The Step Child by Donna Ford (abuse by step parent)
30. Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose (civil rights)
31. No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row by Susan Kuklin (teenagers on death row)
32. Unplugged by Ryan G. Van Cleave (video game addiction)

Excerpted

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