

Realistic Fiction

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson (S)

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Nothing But the Truth: A Documentary Novel by Avi (M)

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Peeled by Joan Bauer (M,S)

In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle investigates a series of strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor (M,S)

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky (S)

"Charlie" recounts his first years of high school, as –with a little help from his friends– he grows from merely a wallflower into something much more.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech (M)

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Beautiful Music for Ugly Children by Kirsten Cronn-Mills (S)

Gabe has always identified as a boy, but he was born with a girl's body. With his new public access radio show gaining in popularity, Gabe struggles with romance, friendships, and parents--all while trying to come out as transgendered. An audition for a station in Minneapolis looks like his ticket to a better life in the big city. But his entire future is threatened when several violent guys find out Gabe, the popular DJ, is also Elizabeth from school.

Deadline by Chris Crutcher (S)

Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide known as "Hey-Soos."

The Rag and Bone Shop by Robert Cormier (S)

Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.

Looking for Alaska by John Green (S)

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (M,S)

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen (M)

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

The View from Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg (M)

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman (M)

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

The Disenchantments by Nina LaCour (S)

Colby's post-high school plans have long been that he and his best friend Beth would tour with her band, then spend a year in Europe, but when she announces that she will start college just after the tour, Colby struggles to understand why she changed her mind and what losing her means for his future.

The Boyfriend List by E. Lockhart (S)

A Seattle fifteen-year-old explains some of the reasons for her recent panic attacks, including breaking up with her boyfriend, losing all her girlfriends, tensions between her performance-artist mother and her father, and more.

Like No Other by Una LaMarche (M,S)

Though their relationship is strictly forbidden, Devorah and Jax arrange secret meetings and risk everything to be together. But how far can they possibly go? Just how much are they willing to give up?

Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan (M,S)

When Paul falls hard for Noah, he thinks he has found his one true love, but when Noah walks out of his life, Paul has to find a way to get him back and make everything right once more.

Sleeping Freshman Never Lie by David Lubar (M,S)

While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.

Every Soul a Star by Wendy Mass (M)

Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at the one place the Great Eclipse can be seen in totality, each carrying the burden of different personal problems, which become dim when compared to the task they embark upon and the friendship they find.

Amy and Roger's Epic Detour by Morgan Matson (M,S)

After the death of her father, Amy, a high school student, and Roger, a college freshman, set out on a carefully planned road trip from California to Connecticut, but wind up taking many detours, forcing Amy to face her worst fears and come to terms with her grief and guilt.

Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers (S)

After reluctantly taking on the leadership of the Harlem gang, the Scorpions, Jamal finds that his enemies treat him with respect when he acquires a gun--until a tragedy occurs.

Born Blue by Han Nolan (S)

Janie was four years old when she nearly drowned due to her mother's neglect. Through an unhappy foster home experience, and years of feeling that she is unwanted, she keeps alive her dream of someday being a famous singer.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio (M)

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

The Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson (M)

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen (M)

Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock by Matthew Quick (S)

A day in the life of a suicidal teen boy saying good-bye to the four people who matter most to him.

Holes by Louis Sachar (M,S)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (M,S)

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan (M,S)

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression

The Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashjian (S)

Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

Homecoming by Cynthia Voight (M,S)

Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

So Yesterday by Scott Westerfeld (M,S)

Hunter Braque, a New York City teenager who is paid by companies to spot what is "cool," combines his analytical skills with his girlfriend's creative talents to find a missing person and stop a conspiracy directed at the heart of consumer culture.

Where Things Come Back by John Corey Whaley (S)

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.

Grade Interest Level

M Middle School (grades 5-8)

S Senior High (grades 9-12)

