

# Fast-paced Books for Reluctant Readers

## **Anna Series** by Kendare Blake (S)

Book 1: *Anna Dressed in Blood*: For three years, seventeen-year-old Cas Lowood has carried on his father's work of dispatching the murderous dead, traveling with his kitchen-witch mother and their spirit-sniffing cat, but everything changes when he meets Anna, a girl unlike any ghost he has faced before.

## **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.

## **Heist Society Series** by Ally Carter (S)

Book 1: *Heist Society*: A group of teenagers uses their combined talents to re-steal several priceless paintings and save fifteen-year-old Kat Bishop's father, himself an international art thief, from a vengeful collector.

## **The Supernaturalist** by Eoin Colfer (M)

In futuristic Satellite City, fourteen-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from his abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures, and together they determine the nature and purpose of the swarming blue Parasites that are invisible to most humans.

## **The Maze Runner Series** by James Dashner (M,S)

Book 1: *The Maze Runner*: Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

## **Just Listen** by Sarah Dessen (S)

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel find an ally in classmate Own, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

## **The Sports Beat Series** by John Feinstein (M)

Book 1: *Last Shot* : After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

## **Hoot** by Carl Hiaasen (M)

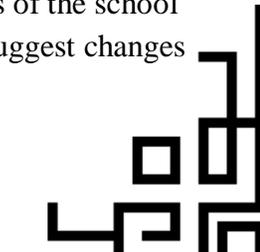
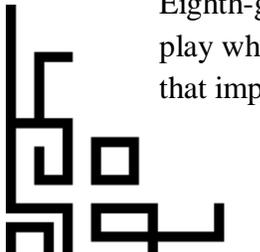
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

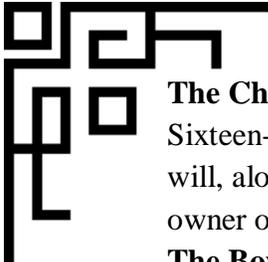
## **Alex Rider Series** by Anthony Horowitz (M,S)

Book 1: *Stormbreaker*: After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

## **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 Chapel Wars** by Lindsey Leavitt (M,S)

Sixteen-year-old Holly's grandfather leaves her his financially-strapped Las Vegas wedding chapel in his will, along with a letter asking her to reach out to Dax, the grandson of her family's mortal enemy and owner of the chapel next door, who is both cute and distracting.

**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 of her girlfriends, tensions between her performance-artist mother and her father, and more.

**Pendragon Series** by D.J. MacHale (M)

Book 1: *The Merchant of Death*: When the seemingly normal fourteen-year-old Bobby Pendragon is swept into an alternate dimension, he finds himself hailed as a savior in a place called Denduron, a territory in the throes of revolution against a magical tyrant.

**The Recruit** by Robert Muchamore (M,S)

Recently orphaned James is recruited by a secret agency for his math skills and must undergo one hundred days of grueling training.

**Monster** by Walter Dean Myers (S)

While on trial as an accomplice to murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

**Maximum Ride Series** by James Patterson (M)

Book 1: *The Angel Experiment*: After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "bird kids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen (M,S)

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatcher given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

**Pretty Little Liars** by Sara Shephard (S)

When one of their tightly-knit group mysteriously disappears, four high school girls find their friendship difficult to maintain when they begin receiving taunting message from someone who seems to know everything about their past and present secrets.

**Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli (M,S)

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

**Peeps** by Scott Westerfeld (S)

Cal Thompson is a carrier of a parasite that causes vampirism, and must hunt down all of the ex-girlfriends he has unknowingly infected.

### Grade Level Interest

M Middle School (grades 6-8).

S Senior High (grades 9-12).

