



## **Fiction:**

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho. Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, one night dreams of a distant treasure in the Egyptian pyramids. And so he's off, leaving Spain to literally follow his dream.

Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon. An epic novel set in New York and Prague, which follows two young misfits who make it big creating comic-book superheroes during the golden age of comics.

The Book of Fred by Abbi Bard. Mary Fred, raised in an isolated Fundamentalist sect, is sent to a foster home following the imprisonment of her parents for causing the death of their son by denying medical treatment.

Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros. Through the eyes of young Celaya, or Lala, the Reyes family saga twists and turns over three generations of truths, half-truths, and outright lies.

Child of My Heart by Alice McDermott. A beautiful, talented 15-year-old babysitter takes care of Daisy, her beloved younger cousin from the city, and comes to realize that something is terribly wrong with her.

The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart (Merlin Series). The tale of King Arthur told from Merlin's point of view. The series follows the magician from his simple childhood, to the halls of the palace where he is the King's powerful and trusted advisor, and then back to a simpler life where he is an old man passed by time.

Doomsday Book by Connie Willis. In 2048, researchers frantically scramble for a cure to a mysterious plague while Kivrin, a young history time traveling student is marooned in the mist of 1348 plague ridden England.

Even Cowgirls get the Blues by Tom Robbins. Sissy Hawkshaw, Champion Hitchhiker, born with enormous thumbs, makes her way across the confused and paranoid America in the 1970's.

The Fallen Man by Tony Hillerman. A man is found dead on Ship Rock, a mountain sacred to the Navajos. Why was he killed there—or even worse left there to die alone? The mystery unfolds along with Hillerman's vivid descriptions of Native American mythology and traditions.

Monroe Cline. The United States Weather Bureau said it couldn't happen, but it did and 10,000 people perished, a city was destroyed and even Isaac Cline's own pregnant wife was swept away. Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded: August 27, 1883 by Simon Winchester. The frightening tale of the volcano that created the loudest sound in recorded history, killing tens of thousands. It will definitely happen again.

She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall by Misty Bernall. A powerful memoir of the mother of Cassie Bernall who was a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, CO in 1999.

Without Feathers by Woody Allen. The comedian-writer-filmmaker offers stories, essays, parodies, one-act plays, and fugitive pieces.

My Losing Season by Pat Conroy. Conroy's memoir about his 1967 college basketball team and their few triumphs and humiliating defeats while attending the Citadel (famous military college) in Charleston, South Carolina.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand. First considered to be a runt with stubby legs, Seabiscuit became one of the most famous racehorses in history.

West of Kabul, East of New York: An Afghan American Story by Tamim Ansary. This is an autobiographic account of the son of an Afghan father and a Finnish-American mother. Ansary's complicated life is revealed through various insightful stories.

## **Compiled by**

RCLS Young Adult Librarians  
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# ADULT BOOKS FOR

# TEENS

The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy. It's 1969 in Kerala, India, Rahel and her twin brother, Estha, struggle to forge a childhood for themselves amid the destruction of their family life.

A Gracious Plenty by Sheri Reynolds. Shunned for her disfiguring burn scars, narrator Finch Nobles tends her Southern small-town cemetery and literally hangs out with the dead—a sensual, kinetic bunch who spend their time affecting the weather and making peace with their pasts.

The Hole by Guy Burt. A psychological thriller set in a small English college. A charismatic student, Martyn, convinces a group of friends to pull the ultimate stunt—to go missing. He locks them in “The Hole,” an unused underground section of the campus and promises to return and let them out. When he fails to return, those underground soon realize he may never return.

Hopscotch by Kevin Anderson. In this futuristic thriller, humankind has evolved the ability for two individuals to exchange bodies. Eduard makes his living selling his body to those wealthy enough to pay. When a renter uses his body to break the law, how far will Eduard go to prove his innocence?

Life of Pi by Yann Martel. Pi Patel sets sail for America, but when the ship sinks, he escapes on a lifeboat, with a hyena, a wounded zebra, an orangutan, and a tiger. He relates his tale of survival after weathering 227 days at sea.

Mists of Avalon by Marion Zimmer Bradley. Retells the legend of Arthur as perceived by Viviane, high priestess of Avalon, Arthur's mother Igraine, his Christian wife Guinevere, and the sorceress Morgaine.

Mother Earth, Father Sky by Sue Harrison Chagak. A young Native American woman, living during the Ice Age, is forced to embark on a personal quest for survival and revenge.

The Nanny Diaries by Emma McLaughlin. When college student Nanny agrees to nanny 4-year-old Grayer Addison X, she takes on much more than a 12-hour-a-week part-time job.

Practical Magic by Alice Hoffman. Sorcery is the legacy of Gillian and Sally Owens, a legacy they both try to escape until they realize their magic is a gift, not an affliction.

Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving. Owen Meany hits a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother while playing baseball in the summer of 1953.

The Princess Bride by William Goldman. A wonderful story which has everything; Fencing. Fighting. Torture, Poison, True love, Hate, Revenge, Giants, Brave Men, Cowards, Pain, Death and Miracles.

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. Jacob's only daughter reveals the private lives of biblical women.

The Songcatcher by Sharyn McCrumb. Folksinger Lark McCourry retraces the history of a family song, which she heard from her North Carolina relatives as a child.

Still Life with Crows by Lincoln Child and Douglas Preston. A series of inexplicably bizarre and horrific murders in America's heartland has special agent Pendergast joining forces with 18-year-old social outcast Carrie.

Twelve by Nick McDonell. A new drug is on the street, and dealer White Mike is going to make the most of it. Twisted tale of teens, drugs, and violence set in NYC. For mature teen readers.

Wicked by Gregory Maguire. Set in an Oz where a morose Wizard battles suicidal thoughts, this is the story of the green-skinned Elphaba, otherwise known as the Wicked Witch of the West.

## **Non-Fiction and Biographies:**

Ambulance Girl: How I Saved Myself by Becoming an EMT by Jane Stern. Stern's memoir is a quirky mix of humor, self-doubt and courage.

Born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July by Ron Kovic. Kovic's exceedingly honest, personal account of his experience fighting in the Vietnam War.

The Day the World Came to Town by Jim DeFede. Fascinating look at the impact of the events of 9/11, when 60 international flights, bound for the United States are diverted to a small Newfoundland town.

Dude, Where's My Country? by Michael Moore. Moore uses his trademark confrontational and exasperated humor skillfully in this “primer” for how people with liberal opinions (which is most of America, Moore contends) can take back their country from the conservative forces in power.

Falling Leaves: the Memories of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah. The true story of Adeline Yen Mah's courageous struggle and eventual triumph over the emotional abuse of her father and stepmother.

Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal by Eric Schlosser. This book argues that the fast food industry is directly and/or indirectly responsible for the widened gap between rich and poor, the rise in obesity, and American cultural imperialism. Includes many unsettling facts about food in this country.

Girl, Interrupted by Susanna Kaysen. Personal memoir of two years spent in a psychiatric hospital in the late 1960's. With razor-edged perceptions, Kaysen provides details of her life along with vivid portraits of fellow patients and staff.

Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History by Erik Larson & Isaac