

Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon*. (2002) 15-year-old Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with monsters and dragons. (Fantasy)

Placide, Jaira. *Fresh Girl*. (2002) Mardi, an immigrant from Haiti, has some difficulties adjusting to life in New York. (Multicultural / Realistic)

Plum-Ucci, Carol. *The She*. (2003) After losing their parents at sea, Evan and his brother leave their home to escape the bad memories, but come up with more questions about their parents' deaths. (Horror)

Rees, Celia. *Pirates!* (2004) In 1722, 16-year-old Nancy leaves her plantation to escape an arranged marriage and becomes a pirate searching for treasure. (Fantasy)

Rosoff, Meg. *How I Live Now*. (2004) London is attacked and occupied by an unnamed enemy while fifteen-year-old Daisy is visiting the aunt and cousins she has never met before. (Not-Too-Distant Sci-Fi)

Sáenz, Benjamin Alire. *Sammy And Juliana In Hollywood*. (2004) In 1969, Sammy Santos and Juliana Rios and their friends face a world of racism, dress codes, war in Vietnam, and violence in their barrio called Hollywood located at the edge of a small town in southern New Mexico. (Historical / Multicultural / Realistic)

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*. (2000) When Stargirl enrolls at Mica High, Leo Borlock finds himself falling in love with this eccentric new student. All goes well until he encourages her to become normal. (Romance / Realistic)

Thomas, Rob. *Doing Time: Notes From the Undergrad*. (1997) The 10 short stories in this fine collection deal with various aspects of

volunteerism, why people participate, and their rewards. (Realistic / Short Stories)

Trueman, Terry. *Stuck In Neutral*. (2000) Severe cerebral palsy prevents fourteen-year-old Shawn McDonald from telling anyone that he thinks his father is planning to kill him. (Realistic)

Vizzini, Ned. *Be More Chill*. (2004) High school nerd Jeremy swallows a squip, a pill-sized super computer, that will clue him in on how to "be more chill." (Humorous)

Wallace, Rich. *Playing Without the Ball*. (2000) Senior Jay McLeod is obsessed with basketball in a life that also includes his job as a short-order cook, family problems, a lonely existence, and fleeting attachments to girls. (Sports)

Werlin, Nancy. *Double Helix*. (2004) Despite his father's strong objections, eighteen-year-old Eli Samuels accepts a job at Wyatt Transgenics where he uncovers the shocking truth about Dr. Wyatt's genetic engineering experiments. (Mystery / Suspense)

Wittlinger, Ellen. *Razzle*. (2001) New on Cape Cod, Kenyon becomes friends with an offbeat girl named Razzle – until he falls for beautiful Harley. (Romantic / Realistic)

Wooding, Chris. *The Haunting of Alaizabel Cray*. (2004) In an alternate Victorian London, Thaniel Fox and his friend Cathaline are wuch-hunters, who vow to help a young girl who is amnesic, half mad and partially possessed by a wuch. (Horror)

#### OTHER AUTHORS

Joan Bauer / Francesca Lia Block / Ann Brashere  
Meg Cabot / Sarah Dessen / Lois Duncan  
Will Hobbs / Robert Lipsyte / Megan McCafferty  
Ben Mikaelson / Walter Dean Myers  
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor / Joan Lowery Nixon  
Todd Strasser / Jacqueline Woodson / Paul Zindel



## Great Reads for Grades 8 & 9



Created by  
Ramapo Catskill Library System  
Teen Librarians

Adams, Douglas. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. (1980) The hilarious journey of Arthur Dent and his friend Ford Prefect, a space hitchhiker, who escape from earth seconds before it is demolished and travel to a variety of galactic civilizations with humorous consequences. (Humorous Sci-Fi)

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*. (1999) Calling the police to a party is a tough choice, but what made Melinda call is the devastating secret that keeps her locked in silence. (Realistic)

Anderson, M. T. *Feed*. (2002) In this society your brain "feed" provides an endless stream of information, entertainment and advertising. When Violet's feed is disrupted, she's cast adrift and everyone is forced to examine the power of the feed in his/her life. (Not-Too-Distant Sci-Fi)

Armstrong, Jennifer & Nancy Butcher. *The Kindling* (*Fire-Us* series) (2002) In 2007, after a virus has killed the adults, a small band of teens join together and try to carry on with life. (Sci-Fi)

Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine*. (1997) Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly discovers how he got that way. (Sports)

Caletti, Deb. *Honey, Baby, Sweetheart*. (2004) Nursing a broken heart, 16-year-old Ruby sets out to reunite an elderly woman with her long lost love. (Romance)

Colfer, Eoin. *The Naturalist*. (2004) In a futuristic city, 14-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. (Sci-Fi)

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk*. (2001) What does a guy do when he has the talent to be a star athlete, but hates his school athletic program? (Sports)

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge*. (2004) Deeply involved in his mother's shady business dealings, 15-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running a men's home. (Realistic)

Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light*. (2003) In 1906, 16-year-old Mattie takes a job at a summer inn where she uncovers the truth about the death of a guest. (Historical / Mystery)

Farmer, Nancy. *House of the Scorpion*. (2002) Young Matt, who has spent his childhood in cruel circumstances, discovers he is in fact a clone of the ruler of Opium. (Sci-Fi)

Flake, Sharon. *Who Am I Without Him?* (2004) This is a collection of short stories about girls and the boys in their lives. (Short Stories)

Flinn, Alex. *Nothing to Lose*. (2004) A year after running away with a traveling carnival to escape his unbearable home life, 16-year-old Michael returns home to find that his mother is going on trial for the murder of his abusive stepfather. (Reality)

Giles, Gail. *Dead Girls Don't Write Letters*. (2004) 14-year-old Sunny is shocked when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire months earlier. (Mystery)

Hoffman, Alice. *Green Angel*. (2003) Haunted by grief after the death of her family, 15-year-old Green retreats into her ruined garden as she struggles to survive emotionally and physically. (Fantasy)

Jenkins, A.M. *Out of Order*. (2003) Sophomore Colt relies on his good looks and athletic prowess to pull him through, but failing grades place him in the company of a brainy girl and his attitudes begin to change. (Sports / Realistic)

Johnson, Angela. *The First Part Last*. (2003) Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever

when he becomes a father and has to care for his child. (Multicultural / Realistic)

Klass, David. *You Don't Know Me*. (2001) John retreats into his own world when faced with abuse from his mother's boyfriend. (Realistic)

Korman, Gordon. *Son of the Mob*. (2002) 17-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a Mob boss and he is involved with the daughter of an FBI agent. (Humorous)

Mackler, Carolyn. *The Earth, My Butt And Other Big, Round Things*. (2003) Feeling like she does not fit in, 15-year-old Virginia tries to deal with her self-image, her first physical relationship, and her disillusionment with those closest to her. (Humorous)

Marchetta, Melina. *Saving Francesca*. (2004) 16-year-old Francesca is one of only a handful of girls at a co-ed parochial school, but life is not what it's cracked up to be. (Humorous / Realistic)

McNamee, Graham. *Acceleration*. (2003) Stuck working in the lost and found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, 17-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him. (Mystery / Suspense)

Morgan, Nicola. *Fleshmarket*. (2004) In 19<sup>th</sup> century Edinburgh, Robbie discovers the identity of and decides to take revenge upon the surgeon responsible for his mother's death. (Historical / Mystery / Suspense)

Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn*. (2004) Matt, a cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy passenger, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures. (Adventure)