

## What Is the Young Adults' Choices Project?

The 2012 Young Adults' Choices list is the 26th that U.S. teenagers (grades 7–12) have helped create. This project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to the International Reading Association, and is supervised by the Association's Literature for Young Adults Committee. The goals of the project are to encourage young people to read; to make teens, teachers, librarians, and parents aware of new literature for young adults; and to provide middle and secondary school students with an opportunity to voice their opinions about books being written for them.

*See page 7 for the Young Adults' Choices 2012 Reading List bookmark!*

# Young Adults' Choices

## 2012



Logo illustration © by Natalie Babbitt

## ***Ashfall***

Mike Mullin. Tanglewood.

After the super volcano under Yellowstone Park erupts, Alex's hometown in Iowa is plunged into darkness and fear. Alex sets out on an epic and dangerous journey to find his family. Survival and strength propel the novel through an all-too-real plot.

## ***Astronaut Academy: Zero Gravity***

Dave Roman. First Second.

When new kid Hakata Soy shows up at space school, his backstory sparks curiosity, confusion, jealousy, and even violence. Using sly humor and fast-paced action, this manga-flavored graphic novel relays the daily dramas of the students and staff at Astronaut Academy.

## ***Awaken***

Katie Kacvinsky. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children.

Maddie's digital world is flipped on end when she realizes there is another sensory reality including social interactions at coffee shops, live music, face-to-face conversations, home-cooked food,

human touch, and romance. The digital school movement her father created is suspect in this page-turning dystopian novel.

## ***Babe in Boyland***

Jody Gehrman. Speak.

Natalie is an aspiring journalist who wants to know what boys are really like. To find out, she goes "undercover," enrolling in a boy's school as "Nat." In this role, she learns truths about boys and girls, relationships, and herself.

## ***Between***

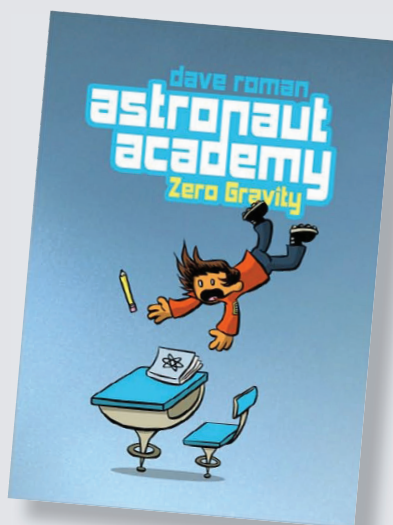
Jessica Warman. Walker Childrens.

On her 18th birthday, Liz finds herself dead. By traveling through the murky memories of her privileged, shallow, and emotionally stunted life, she gradually solves the mystery of her death and gains insights into the meaning of her existence.

## ***Crossed***

Ally Condie. Dutton Juvenile.

The second of the Matched trilogy, this dystopian fantasy is told from the multiple perspectives of



From *Astronaut Academy: Zero Gravity* by Dave Roman. First Second.



From *Awaken* by Katie Kacvinsky. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children.



From *Between* by Jessica Warman. Walker Childrens.



Cassia and Kai, now exiled from Society and in a desperate struggle for survival. This is an intriguing odyssey of love, rebellion, and poetry.

### ***The Day Before***

Lisa Schroeder. Simon Pulse.

Amber and Cade meet at an aquarium the day before both of their lives will change forever. During that one day, lives are changed, secrets are revealed, and bonds are formed that will last a lifetime. Can both Amber and Cade handle what awaits each of them?

### ***The Dead***

Charlie Higson. Hyperion Book CH.

In a world where a sudden disease changes anyone over the age of 16 into a flesh-eating zombie, a small group of boarding school students try to piece together what is happening. Survival is their priority, but the question also remains as to why this is happening in the first place. This book is a prequel to *The Enemy* by the same author.

### ***Death Sentence: Escape From Furnace 3***

Alexander Gordon Smith. Square Fish.

In this third book of the series, Alex Sawyer tries again to escape from Furnace Penitentiary, a youth prison with a deep, dark purpose. Though Alex is turned into a super-powered minion of Furnace, he knows he must fight the evil inside him and escape.

### ***Department 19***

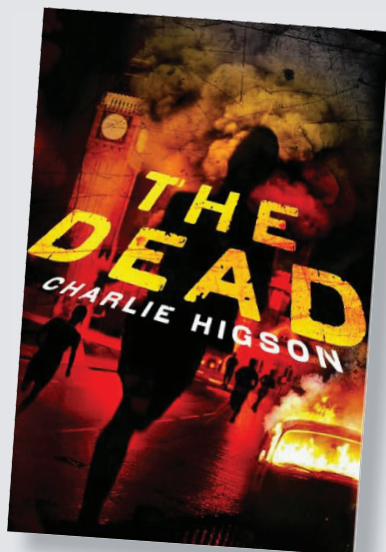
Will Hill. Razorbill.

To save his mother from a notorious vampire, Jamie Carpenter finds himself working with the British government's classified Department 19. Aided by a beautiful Frankenstein monster girl with her own agenda, Jamie embarks on an action-packed and dangerous journey.

### ***Divergent***

Veronica Roth. Katherine Tegen Books.

Society has been divided into five factions based on virtues: Candor, Abnegation, Dauntless, Amity, and Erudite. Beatrice leaves the selflessness of Abnegation for the recklessness of Dauntless, where the grueling and dangerous initiation threatens her very survival.



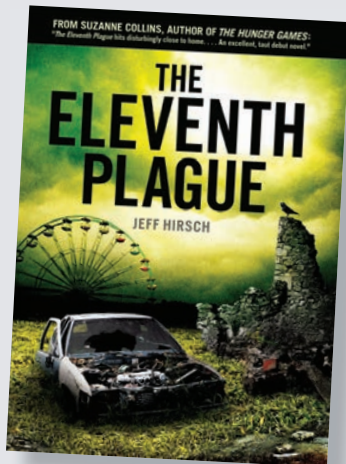
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From *Department 19* by Will Hill. Razorbill.



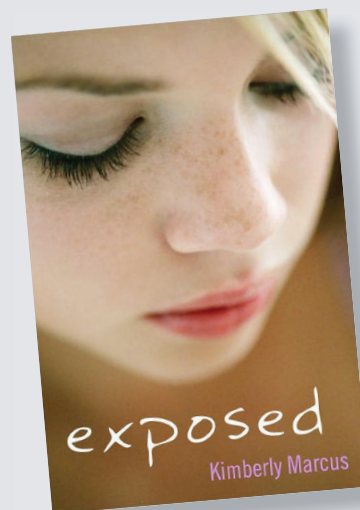
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From *The Eleventh Plague* by Jeff Hirsch. Scholastic.



From *Enclave* by Ann Aguirre. Feiwel & Friends.



From *Exposed* by Kimberly Marcus. Ember.

## *The Eleventh Plague*

Jeff Hirsch. Scholastic.

War and a new strain of the flu leave America's population scavenging for survival. Stephen joins a settlement trying to rebuild society where he meets Jenny, a defiant rebel. After a prank creates chaos, the two find themselves in serious trouble.

## *Enclave*

Ann Aguirre. Feiwel & Friends.

In the postapocalyptic world, people live underground and follow all the rules. When Deuce turns 15, she becomes a Huntress to defend the enclave. Paired with outsider Fade, she learns to fight and survive, but will she find something more?

## *Exposed*

Kimberly Marcus. Ember.

Told in free verse, this story focuses on Liz, an avid photographer, and her best friend Kate. When Kate accuses Liz's brother of rape, Liz is torn between the love she has for her brother and the turmoil of her friend.

## *F in Exams: The Very Best Totally Wrong Test Answers*

Richard Benson. Chronicle.

This collection of bizarre and hysterically funny wrong test answers comes from actual students'

writing in a variety of subjects. The creative and highly inaccurate answers can give even the most serious students a good laugh.

## *Flawless*

Lara Chapman. Bloomsbury USA Childrens.

Sarah Burke is by all accounts flawless, with one rather glaring exception. When her best friend asks her to help ignite a romance, Sarah agrees. Soon the situation becomes dramatically complicated. This modern-day retelling of *Cyrano de Bergerac* is hip and funny, and it ultimately turns into a sweet romance.

## *Flip*

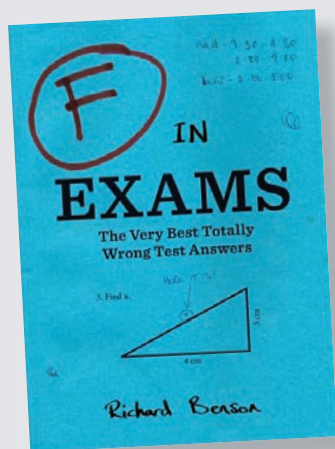
Martyn Bedford. Ember.

Alex awakens to find six months have passed and he looks and sounds like Philip (Flip). He even lives in Flip's home. But the memories, perceptions, and emotions belong to Alex. How can Alex get back to his own body and his own life?

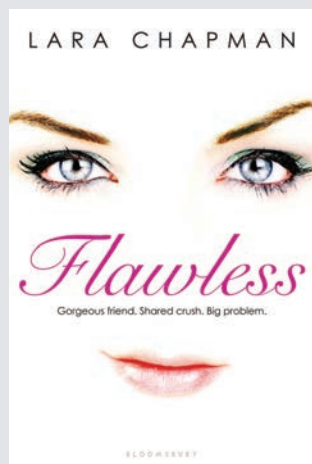
## *Forever (Wolves of Mercy Falls, Book 3)*

Maggie Stiefvater. Scholastic.

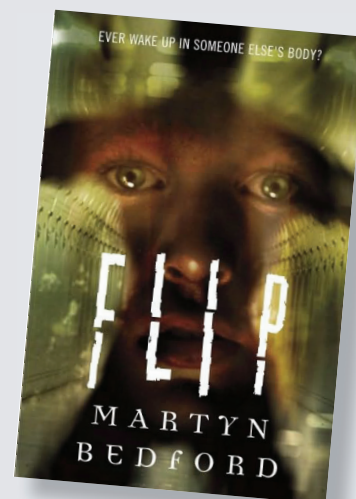
The saga continues in this exciting conclusion of the *Shiver* series. The love shared between Grace and Sam grows ever stronger but is threatened as Grace succumbs to the "wolf gene." Can Cole find a cure for them?



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## Haven

Kristi Cook. Simon Pulse.

When a premonition of her dad's murder comes true, Violet's world turns upside down. She moves to a new school, where students, like her, have special "talents." She falls for Aiden, but could her "talent" be his destruction?

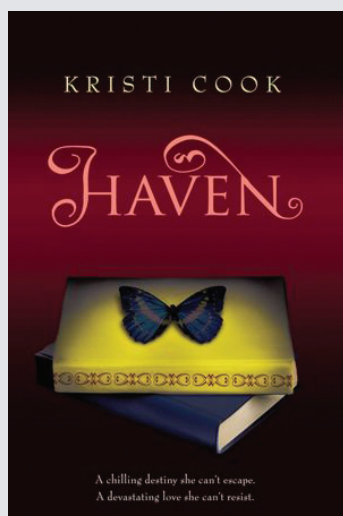
## Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25

Richard Paul Evans. Simon Pulse.

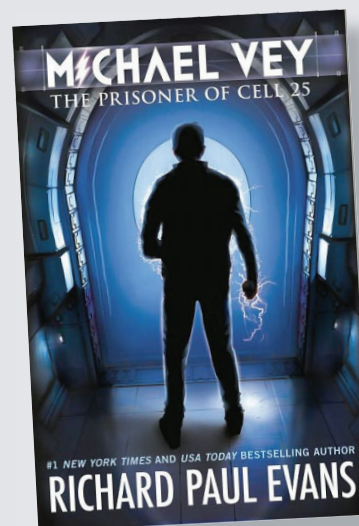
Although he seems quirky and weak to his peers, Michael has a powerful secret. He has strength and powers beyond imagining. When his mother is kidnapped, he embarks on a dangerous journey to rescue her. Will Michael compromise his values to save her?



From *Forever* by Maggie Stiefvater. Scholastic.



From *Haven* by Kristi Cook. Simon Pulse.



From *Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25* by Richard Paul Evans. Simon Pulse.



### *Misfit*

Jon Skovron. Amulet.

On her 16th birthday, Jael's father gives her a mysterious present and tells her that she is a half demon. Jael must come to grips with her newfound powers as she confronts a vindictive Belial, the Grand Duke of Hell.

### *The Near Witch*

Victoria Schwab. Hyperion Book CH.

When a stranger arrives in the village of Near, children begin to disappear. Although everyone else blames the stranger, Lexi has doubts and determines to find the real culprit. Can independent Lexi save the children through her courage and knowledge of folklore?

### *Perfect*

Ellen Hopkins. Margaret K. McElderry.

In a companion to *Impulse*, four adolescents each explore what it means to be perfect; however, each takes a different route to obtaining that perfection, choosing if they will bow to the unrealistic standards of society and if it is worth the cost.

### *Rage (Riders of the Apocalypse)*

Jackie Morse Kessler. Graphia.

Embarrassed by her ex, Melissa takes comfort in cutting but accidentally hits an artery. Death appears, giving her a choice—die or become War, the Red Rider. As War, she must battle its violent nature and learn to find peace.

### *Ripple*

Mandy Hubbard. Razorbill.

Lexi is unaware of her need to kill until she lures Stephen into the ocean. Finding out she's a siren, she pushes everyone away—except Cole. Can she give up Cole to save his life and end her curse?

### *Slayers*

C.J. Hill. Feiwel & Friends.

At a rustic summer camp, Tori, a senator's daughter, discovers that she is descended from medieval dragon slayers, that dragons still exist, and that she is expected to hone her special abilities to join her fellow campers in battling the beasts and the man who controls them.



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## *Small as an Elephant*

Jennifer Richard Jacobson. Candlewick.

After being abandoned by his mother in an Acadia National Park campground, Jack attempts to make his way back to Boston with only a small toy elephant for company. Frightened and alone, Jack finds the unexpected on the journey.

## *The Throne of Fire (The Kane Chronicles, Book Two)*

Rick Riordan. Hyperion Book CH.

This second book of the Kane Chronicles is told through the alternating viewpoints of Carter Kane and his sister, Sadie. The siblings are racing against time to stop Apophis, the chaos snake, from returning by finding and freeing Ra, the Egyptian sun god.

## *What Happened to Goodbye*

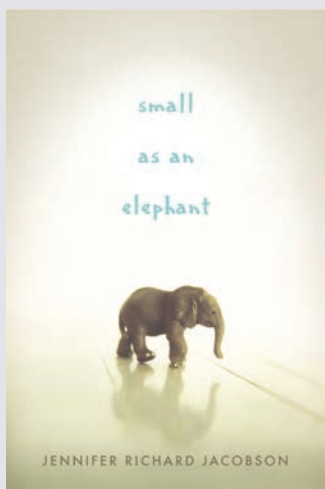
Sarah Dessen. Viking Juvenile.

McClean has relished the opportunity to escape the past, especially memories of her parents' divorce, and to reinvent herself each time she and her father move for his job. But in Lakeview, the real McClean is emerging: Who is that?

## *Zitface*

Emily Howse. Marshall Cavendish Childrens Books.

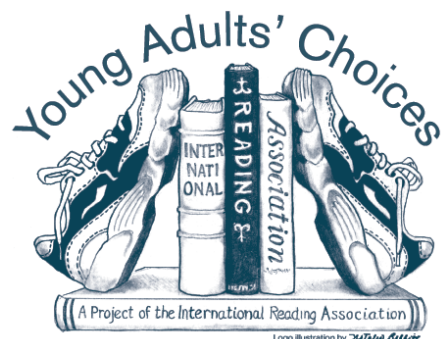
Thirteen-year-old Olivia Hughes's entrance into womanhood is heralded by the arrival of severe acne. Her acting career and romantic life are taking off, but both are threatened. Olivia's friendships and familial relationships may not survive these bumps in the road.



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Viking Juvenile.  
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Childrens Books.

## More About Young Adults' Choices

Thank you to the 2011-2012 IRA Young Adults' Choices Committee and review teams. The committee members were Stephanie Burdic (cochair), Lisa Morris-Wilkey (cochair), Rosemarie Brock, and Aimee Rogers. Team Leaders in the field test were

- Area 1—Patrick Allender and Bob Helm, Oregon; Stan Steiner, Idaho (trainee)
- Area 2—Christine Payne, Delaware; Patricia Martin Evans, Maine (trainee)
- Area 3—Amy Fouse, Georgia
- Area 4—Sue Debe Inhelder, Iowa; Sherryl Shannon, Nebraska (trainee)
- Area 5—Kimberly Powers, Wisconsin

For more information on the Young Adults' Choices list or to learn how to become involved visit [www.reading.org/resources/booklists/youngadultschoices.aspx](http://www.reading.org/resources/booklists/youngadultschoices.aspx).

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