

Express Yourself!

Artistic, Eccentric and Inspiring Teens

All books can be found in the Young Adult Section unless otherwise noted

K

Alexie, Sherman

THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN

Junior, a budding cartoonist, leaves his school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white school.

K/W

Almond, David

CLAY

Mischievous altar boy, Davie, must grapple with good and evil when he and strange new kid, Stephen, bring a huge clay monster to life.

K

Almond, David

FIRE-EATERS

Together with his wonder-working friend, Ailsa Spink, and the fire-eating illusionist McNulty, Bobby will learn to believe in miracles that will save the people and place he loves.

K/W

Anderson, Laurie Halse

SPEAK

Following a traumatic incident, ninth grader Melinda Sordino isolates herself from her family and peers by refusing to communicate but finds comfort in her art class.

K JUV

Blackwood, Gary

SHAKESPEARE STEALER

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

K JUV

Blackwood, Gary

SHAKESPEARE'S SPY

Readers swept up in the first two adventures of Widge and Shakespeare's players will be enthralled by this third tale with its dramatic twists and turns and an ending worthy of the Bard himself.

K/W

Castellucci, Cecil

BEIGE

Katy, a quiet French Canadian teenager, reluctantly leaves Montréal to spend time with her estranged father, an aging Los Angeles punk rock legend.

K/W

Chevalier, Tracy

GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING

Imagine the young woman in Johannes Vermeer's mysterious painting "The Girl With a Pearl Earring" as a sixteen-year-old Dutch girl named Griet who sparks the interest of the artist when she becomes a maid in his turbulent household.

K

Cirrone, Dorian

DANCING IN RED SHOES WILL KILL YOU

When red pointe shoes with threatening messages start popping up around Kayla's school, she must decide if she is in danger. She must also grapple with her decision to be a ballerina despite a body that is disproportionate.

K

Cohn, Rachel

POP PRINCESS

Wonder is eager to escape her dead-end town and a family fractured by the death of her older sister. She gets her chance when her sister's manager offers her a recording contract that seems like a dream come true. But whose dream is it?

K

Cohn, Rachel & David Levithan

NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST

High school student Nick O'leary, straight member of a homosexual rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart.

K

Cullen, Lynn

I AM REMBRANDT'S DAUGHTER

With her mother dead of the plague, and her beloved brother newly married and moved away, Cornelia van Rijn finds herself without a friend or confidante save her difficult artist father.

K

Fleischman, Paul

BREAKOUT

A young woman presents a play based on her life as a seventeen-year-old runaway, a period which provides time for her to explore her free-floating identity, hunger for her unknown mother, and yearning for human connection.

K

Fleischman, Paul

WHIRLIGIG

When sixteen-year-old Brent Bishop inadvertently causes the death of a young woman, he is sent on an unusual journey of repentance, building wind toys across the land.

K

Going, K. L.

FAT KID RULES THE WORLD

Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly 300 pounds, gets a new perspective on life when a homeless teenager who is a genius on guitar wants Troy to be the drummer in his rock band. (Printz Honor Bk. 2004)

K

Grey, Christopher

LEONARDO'S SHADOW: OR, MY ASTONISHING LIFE AS LEONARDO DA VINCI'S SERVANT

This Renaissance thriller features Leonardo da Vinci, his servant boy Giacomo, the Duke of Milano, and a marvelous invention in a plot that pits da Vinci against the young genius, Michelangelo.

K/W

Grimes, Nikki

BRONX MASQUERADE

Open-mike Fridays at a Bronx High School encourages students to express themselves and connect with peers.

K/W

Grimes, Nikki

JAZMIN'S NOTEBOOK

With exuberance, passion, perception, and wit, 14-year-old Jazmin Shelby fills her notebook with glimpses of her life, neighborhood, family, and dreams in Harlem in the 1960s.

K

Kephart, Beth

UNDERCOVER

Elisa writes romantic poetry for boys to send to other girls. Things get complicated when Eliza falls for one of the boys.

K

Koja, Kathe

BLUE MIRROR

Seventeen-year-old loner Maggy Klass, who frequently seeks refuge from her alcoholic mother's apartment by sitting and drawing in a local cafe, becomes involved in a destructive relationship with a charismatic homeless youth named Cole.

K

Koja, Kathe

TALK

Hoping to escape from himself for awhile, Kit auditions for a controversial school play and discovers his talent for acting, struggles with coming out, and faces a crisis in his view of himself and his relationship with his costar.

K

Korman, Gordan

BORN TO ROCK

High school senior Leo Caraway, a conservative Republican, learns that his biological father is a punk rock legend.

K/W

Korman, Gordan

NO MORE DEAD DOGS

Eighth grade football hero Wallace Wallace must spend detention watching rehearsals of the school play. In spite of himself, he becomes involved in the production and makes suggestions for improvements to the play and to his own life.

K/W

Krovatin, Christopher

HEAVY METAL & YOU

High schooler Sam begins losing himself when he falls for a preppy girl who wants him to give up getting wasted with his best friends and his passion for heavy metal music in order to become a better person.

K

Lane, Dakota

ORPHEUS OBSESSION

Sixteen-year-old Anooshka Star, who has a tumultuous relationship with her mother, becomes obsessed with a rock singer and follows him into his world, where an unexpected death magnifies her troubles.

K

Lockhart, E

DRAMARAMA

Best friends Sayde and Demi love the theater and can't wait to get out of Ohio to spend the summer at an elite performing arts academy. Their friendship is put to the test as they begin to discover their true talents, weaknesses and romance.

K/W

Lubar, David

SLEEPING FRESHMEN NEVER LIE

Scott Hudson chronicles the ups and downs of his eventful freshman year in high school including his experiences writing for the newspaper and working as a stage manager for the spring play in a journal for his unborn, soon-to-be sibling.

K/W

Lynch, Chris

FREEWILL

Will, a 17-year-old enrolled in a vocational woodworking class, falls under suspicion when his wood sculptures are found near the site of several teens' mysterious drownings or suicides.

K

Mack, Tracy

BIRDLAND

Fourteen-year-old, tongue-tied Jed spends Christmas break working on a school project filming a documentary about his East Village, New York City, neighborhood, where he is continually reminded of his older brother, Zeke, a promising poet who died the year before.

K

Mack, Tracy

DRAWING LESSONS

Rory loves getting drawing lessons from her artist father, but when he moves out, she must learn to start painting her own world, both literally and figuratively.

K/W

Marillier, Juliet

WILDWOOD DANCING

On the night of each full moon, the five Transylvanian sisters who reside in the castle Piscul Dracului don their finest gowns and open a portal to the Other Kingdom, where they dance the night away with all sorts of fantastical creatures.

K/W

Myers, Walter Dean

MONSTER

Steve, 16, an amateur filmmaker, recounts his experiences in the form of a movie as he sits in prison awaiting trial for murder.

K

Napoli, Donna Jo

THE SMILE

Lisa, short for Elisabetta, lives in Florentine Italy and may be the model for the famous Mona Lisa, painted by Leonardo da Vinci.

K

Nelson, Blake

ROCK STAR, SUPERSTAR

When Pete, a talented bass player, moves from playing in the high school jazz band to playing in a popular rock group, he finds the experience exhilarating even as his new fame jeopardizes his relationship with girlfriend Margaret.

K/W

Nolan, Han

BORN BLUE

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.

K/W ADULT

Vreeland, Susan

GIRL IN HYACINTH BLUE

Vreeland traces the ownership of the painting, *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, back through its owners to discover its history as well as the story of the girl who posed for the painting.

K

Wittlinger, Ellen

HARD LOVE

Sixteen-year-old John begins publishing his own 'zine in which he expresses long buried feelings about his life and his parent's difficult divorce. John meets and falls in love with a fellow 'zine writer, Marisol, but must come to terms with the reality that she can never love him back.

K

Wittlinger, Ellen

HEART ON MY SLEEVE

This epistolary novel combining e-mails, IMs, pen-and-paper letters, and postcards tells the story of how aspiring folk singer Chloe meets fellow singer Julian on a college visit and the two high school seniors begin a long-distance relationship. Includes a "playlist" of songs from Chloe's e-mail subject lines.

K

Wyeth, Sharon Dennis

ORPHEA PROUD

From the stage of a New York City poetry club, seventeen-year-old orphan Orpheia Proud tells the story of how she fell in love with her best friend, Lissa, who died in a car accident a day after their first kiss.

K ADULT

Yolen, Jane

PAY THE PIPER

Callie is given a backstage pass to meet Brass Rat, a popular new band. She is excited, but finds the band members strangely mysterious. When children in the town begin disappearing, Callie must unravel the mystery to save the children.

K/W

Zevin, Gabrielle

MEMOIRS OF A TEENAGE AMNESIAC

Following a head injury, Naomi, can't remember anything from the last four years. Naomi begins to physically heal and return to her normal life, but she discovers that she doesn't like the person she used to be.