The 2010 Young Adults’ Choices list is the 24th 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. The participants who wrote the annotations are identified by their initials following the reviews. Their full names can be found in the box at the end of the Choices list.
The Adoration of Jenna Fox

After a yearlong coma, Jenna awakens into a body, a life, and a world she does not remember. She is told about who she was, but she doesn’t remember. Videos of her former self spark only vague memories. As Jenna begins to live again, she struggles to reconcile the person she was with the person she has become and the person her parents want her to be. Jenna discovers that her recovery is not going to be as simple as she had thought. Jenna’s return illustrates what it means to be ourselves and what it means to be human and also questions how far we should go to save someone. AR

Artichoke’s Heart

Rosemary has been overweight forever. She can’t hide from this fact, because her mom, her Aunt Mary, and the ladies at her mother’s beauty salon won’t let her. When the scale hits 203, Rosemary takes drastic measures to lose weight, including eating tainted mayonnaise and drinking weight loss shakes. As Rosemary embarks on this clandestine weight loss program, she gains more than she loses with a new friend and a love interest. More important than her weight loss, Rosemary learns to love herself for who she is. Rosemary is a character that will appeal to readers of all sizes. AR

Bonechiller

Danny is settling into Harvest Cove, a small town in Canada’s backcountry, when he and his new friends encounter something that will change their lives forever—that is, if it lets them live. Walking alone one night, Danny is stung by a creature of nightmares and legends. He tries to convince himself that it didn’t really happen until his friend, Howie, is stung as well. Their blood begins to turn to ice, and their dreams are invaded by the creature. Howie discovers that the creature has been stalking Harvest Cove for centuries. How can Danny and Howie hope to survive? AR

Brisingr
Christopher Paolini. New York: Knopf.

Brisingr is the third book of the Inheritance Cycle by Christopher Paolini. The story of the young Dragon Rider, Eragon, and his faithful dragon, Saphira, continues as they fight to overthrow the despotic ruler, Galbatorix. This epic book (748 pages) progresses through action-packed battles, a wedding, a coronation, and many bloody encounters with Galbatorix and his followers. A unique twist in this novel is that Saphira narrates sections of the story from a dragon’s point of view. Brisingr follows a classic good-versus-evil theme that leaves the reader yearning for the series resolution. PCA

The Brothers Torres

Voorhees’s first novel is a rich portrait of teenage life in small-town New Mexico. Frankie is the younger and less popular of two brothers and is in love with the police chief’s daughter. Frankie’s brother, Steve, is putting his scholarship chances in jeopardy as he adopts a cholo (street gang) lifestyle. Their parents are struggling financially, which
adds to the difficulty of growing up in a challenging and complex world. Told from Frankie’s perspective, The Brothers Torres confronts harsh realities of race, class, masculinity, and violence with an honest and original voice. Frank language and sexuality make this book inappropriate for younger readers. 

City of Ashes

Book two of The Mortal Instruments series, City of Ashes pits the Shadowhunters against the evil former Shadowhunter, Valentine. In this book, Valentine has stolen the second of the mortal instruments to destroy the Clave. Jace and Clary must fight to protect their world of Shadowhunters, werewolves, vampires, and faeries against the demons summoned by Valentine to destroy everything they treasure. Clary is also torn between her love for Simon and her loyalty to Shadowhunter Jace, whom she finds out is her brother. Young adult readers of all ages will enjoy this story of fantastic action and intriguing romantic entanglements. 

Confessions of a Triple Shot Betty

Jody Gehrman paints a triple shot picture of 16-year-old female anguish with her story of coffee, love, and conflict. Geena, Amber, and Hero are three girls working at a coffee shop and coping with the drama of their endless sophomore summer. Between work, parties, dreams, and desire, these girls discover the joys and pain of relationships with boys and each other. The story culminates with the trio cleverly crafting a plot to revenge the philandering antagonist of the story. Witty dialogue creates a fun book to read, although drug and sexual references make it appropriate for older students. 

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

Jeff Kinney produces another crowd-pleaser in this second book in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. Greg Heffley’s life is an endless series of disappointments as he navigates his way through three months of middle school as the second of three brothers (between his bullying big brother, Rodrick, and cute preschooler Manny). Kinney skillfully defuses Greg’s angst through brilliant insights, jokes, and drawings (one or more per page). This combination makes the book relevant, hilarious, and very accessible for reluctant readers. The rather thin plot is held together by an embarrassing secret about Greg that Rodrick threatens to make public. 

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks

Frances (Frankie) is a smart, ambitious, and quickly maturing 15-year-old sophomore at a prestigious boarding school. Her new boyfriend, a popular and privileged senior, is one of the leaders of a secret, all-male club of pranksters. Frankie resents the exclusivity and dishonesty of this young “old-boy”
network and the outmoded traditions of the school. When she discovers the club’s secret “disreputable history,” Frankie creates a series of anonymous stunts in the club’s name in an effort to be accepted. Featuring clever dialogue and wordplay, this engaging mystery offers a glimpse into a calculating, pretentious, and ultimately hollow subculture. BH

**Eon: Dragoneye Reborn**

Ancient cultures, dragons, and a child’s destiny collide in this novel about finding the power within. The hope of his master rests on the crippled Eon becoming the next Dragoneye. If this does not occur, the master will be penniless and disgraced, and Eon will be banished back to the salt mine or worse. In this male-dominated society, Eon harbors the deadly secret that she is a girl. The reader follows Eon’s acceptance as the Dragoneye of the long-lost Mirror Dragon and her attempts to harness the dragon’s power and save an empire amidst overwhelming odds. KAS

**Football Hero**

Twelve-year-old Ty is going through difficult times after the death of his parents. He is living with his Uncle Gus and Aunt Virginia, who do not treat him well, and learns that his Uncle Gus is associated with organized crime. Ty’s brother, Thane “Tiger” Lewis, expects to be the first-round draft choice of the New York Jets, and Uncle Gus wants some of Tiger’s signing bonus. Soon the brothers are in the center of an undercover FBI operation to nail a nationwide gambling ring. Woven through this cliff-hanging crime story is Ty’s own struggle to stay out of trouble with his abusive Uncle Gus and handle the well-to-do bullies on his own team. KAS

**Found: The Missing Book 1**
Margaret Peterson Haddix. New York: Scholastic.

The first in a series of books about time travel, Haddix sets up the premise that 36 adopted children were brought to the 21st century from various points in the earth’s history. All of the children were famous in another time and place, and all died early. Thus, the first book ends with 4 of the 36 traveling back to their original time and place, attempting to change historical events and extend their lives. Cleverly, this leaves an open door for numerous stories set up on this original premise. *Found* is riveting reading right up to its cliff-hanger ending. KAS

**Gone**

What would you do if one minute you were a normal 14-year-old trying to stay awake while your teacher lectured on the Civil War, then in the blink of an eye, everyone 15 years of age and older was gone? Who would step up to lead the children left behind? How would food be rationed? What if the school bullies wanted to take over? Still worse, some of the kids have extraordinary powers, and not all of them want to use them for the good of those left behind. *Gone* is *The Hunger Games* meets *The Fantastic Four*. CP

**How Not to Be Popular**

In all of her 17 years, Maggie Dempsey and her hippie parents haven’t lived in any one place longer
than eight months. So, for her latest move to Austin, Texas, Maggie vows to absolutely not make any friends by implementing OAF (Operation Avoid Friends). She sets out to become the biggest loser her new high school has ever seen. She dresses weird, hangs out with all the wrong people, and even offends (on a daily basis) the school’s cutest, most popular boy. Unfortunately, Maggie’s plan begins to backfire when others in the school start mimicking her. Even though in Maggie’s mind she is pretending to be a loser, the other students actually appreciate her “realness.” In the end, Maggie learns more about herself and the meaning of true friendship than she ever bargained for. CP

**I Heart You, You Haunt Me**

In this verse novel, 15-year-old Ava, feeling guilty over the role she believes she played in her boyfriend Jackson’s death, experiences a whole new range of emotions when she realizes he is back from the dead. With romance, heartbreak, and intensity, teen girls will connect with this easy read. RB

**I, Q: Independence Hall**

What middle school teenager would not love to be yanked out of school for a year and given the chance to tour the country with famous rock star parents? However, things get complicated when Q and his stepsister, Angela, discover that they are being pursued by international terrorists. Q and Angela try to elude the U.S. Secret Service and the Israeli Mossad as they search for Angela’s biological mother, who supposedly died four years prior. This fast-paced, action-packed book is the first in the I, Q series and is sure to hook readers into wanting to read the sequels. CP

**Living Dead Girl**

Alice, abducted by Ray while on a field trip when she was 10 years old, has lived in terror for five years, enduring starvation and child molestation. Ray’s threats to kill her family prevent her from escaping this gruesome situation, even though she has numerous opportunities to flee the confines of the small apartment. Now 15 and no longer a little girl, Alice scouts the area playgrounds for Ray’s next victim. The graphic, mature content is intended for sophisticated readers. RB

**Muhammad Ali: American Champion**
Michael Burgan. Mankato, MN: Capstone.

Using a graphic novel format, this illustrated biography tells the life story of dynamic heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, who gained fame for his boxing skills, political views, and humanitarian efforts. Source materials include a bibliography, glossary, and additional reading suggestions. Burgan’s contribution is sure to have high appeal for reluctant readers seeking to learn more about Ali’s life. RB

**One Million Things: A Visual Encyclopedia**

*One Million Things* is a visual encyclopedia that provides information on thousands of topics related to art, history, culture, science, space, people, places, the human body, technology, and nature. In traditional DK style, bold images and engaging layouts invite browsing. Hundreds of stunning images will captivate readers, and two-page spreads are offered for each topic. The well-executed reference section offers readers an
abundance of “Did You Know” facts that round out the featured topics. RB

The Other Side of the Island
In a postapocalyptic world populated by survivors of a worldwide flood, Honor and her family move to Island 365 in the Tranquil Sea. Mother Earth and the Corporation control all aspects of life. All children born during the year must be named from an approved list for that year. Personal ownership of books is forbidden. School consists of rote memorization of “facts” published by the Corporation. Honor wants to fit in at school and do what is “right,” but to her horror, her parents perform small acts of rebellion against the Corporation. KS

Paper Towns
Childhood friends Quentin and Margo have drifted apart by high school, where Margo is popular and charismatic, and Quentin is a high achiever looking forward to college. Quentin’s unrequited crush is fueled by hope when Margo chooses him as her accomplice for a late-night revenge mission shortly before graduation—a mission that gives him confidence and daring he’s never had before. But when Margo disappears the next day, Quentin’s journey to follow the cryptic clues she’s left specifically for him makes him wonder if he ever really knew her and if he’ll find her alive. KS

Prey
From the first day of his freshman year, Ryan is intrigued with the new history teacher, Ms. Settles. McDaniel uses multiple viewpoints to tell the story, so the reader knows right away that Ms. Settles has identified Ryan as the One. After three weeks, Ms. Settles asks Ryan to help her move some furniture, and the relationship starts. Before long, Ryan’s friends and father notice his secretiveness. Ryan’s friend Honey is the one who is able to piece together the unhealthy, secretive relationship and takes drastic measures to end it. KS

Saving Juliet
Sixteen-year-old Mimi is portraying Juliet in a Broadway production of Romeo and Juliet. Even though she doesn’t really want to be an actress, Mimi is under much pressure as the youngest member of the famous Wallingford acting family. Troy Summer, the current Hollywood heartthrob, is portraying Romeo, so the production has received much attention, adding to Mimi’s anxiety. On opening night, Mimi and Troy find themselves transported back in time to Shakespeare’s Verona and into the story of Romeo and Juliet. Because of Mimi and Troy’s appearance, the story changes—and Mimi and Troy change as well. KS
**The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez**  

*Familia.* There is no stronger bond in the Latino culture. Good or bad, family is everything, and Sonia will do anything to keep hers together. Forced to care for her siblings, mother, and “drunkle” (her abusive, alcoholic uncle), Sonia longs to be *la primera* to graduate from high school in the United States. Papi is her strong support, working multiple jobs and guiding her to “never stoop to that level.” She wrestles the difficulties of her illegal immigrant parents as cultures from *El Norte* and Mexico clash. Themes of courage, racism, and stereotypical behavior flavor this work of immigrant realism. SDI

**The Swan Kingdom**  

Alexandra weaves a tale of her coming-of-age in this retelling of “The Wild Swans” by Hans Christian Andersen. Just beginning to learn the power of the enaid when her mother is slain by the evil Zella, Alex is banished to another kingdom, where her small workings grow to a power greater than she ever imagined. Guided by the wisdom of the ancestors, lonely for her brothers, fueled by her love for Gabriel, and saddened by the bewitching of her father, Alex must find a way to free her brothers, reclaim her kingdom, and restore the beauty of the land. SDI

**Sister Wife**  
Shelley Hrdlitschka. Victoria, BC, Canada: Orca.

Celeste lives in Unity, where conformity, obedience, and polygamy are the norm. The story is told through her voice and those of her sister, Nanette, and an outsider named Taviana, who was rescued from the streets. She wrestles with “impure thoughts” of her faith while her sister’s faith remains “perfect.” Celeste questions her faith but is not prepared to do anything about it; she resigns to follow her mother’s path of being a plural wife with many children. *Inuksuk* (Inuit statues) mysteriously appear at the riverbank, introducing creativity and celebrating uniqueness, and help Celeste find balance and hope in her life. SDI

**Sweethearts**  

With a new life and new friends, Jenna Vaughn receives a shocking surprise she never could have predicted. When her childhood friend, Cameron Quick, left unexpectedly, no one ever thought he would come back. When he does, he uproots Jenna’s new life and brings back painful memories she tried her whole life to forget. AZ

**Vibes**  

Nonconformist teenager Kristi describes herself as ugly and a bitch. Her ability to read minds causes her to frequently misjudge how others perceive her. As she struggles with the relationships in her life,
Thank You to the Literature for Young Adults Committee

The Young Adults’ Choices are coordinated by the Literature for Young Adults Committee of the International Reading Association. The 30 books on this year’s list are the result of voting by students in five different regions of the United States. Trade books (books other than textbooks) published in 2008 were submitted by more than 50 publishers. Each book had to have at least two positive reviews from recognized sources, such as The Horn Book, School Library Journal, Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy, Booklist, Language Arts, and Voice of Youth Advocates. More than 11,000 ballots were counted for the books submitted for this year’s project. The results were announced in April at the 2010 Annual Convention of the International Reading Association in Chicago.

The following teams participated in the 2010 project:

Team 1: Aimee Rogers (team leader), Arizona; Patrick C. Allender and Bob Helm (trainees), Oregon
Team 2: Kathleen A. Sears (team leader), Maryland; Christine Payne (trainee), Delaware
Team 3: Rose Brock, Texas
Team 4: Kelly Stern (team leader), Iowa; Sue Debe Inhelder (trainee), Iowa
Team 5: Angela Zeuske, Wisconsin

The project was directed this year by members of the Literature for Young Adults Committee and its chair, Lisa Morris-Wilkey, Arizona. For more information on the Young Adults’ Choices or to learn how to become involved, visit www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/YoungAdultsChoices.aspx.

Wake
Seventeen-year-old Janie Hannagan is getting tired of falling into other people’s dreams. This is the compelling story of Janie’s struggle to hide a power that she can’t seem to control. When Janie gets pulled into the nightmare of mysterious Cabel Strumheller, her entire life gets turned upside down. AZ

The Year We Disappeared: A Father-Daughter Memoir
Cylin Busby and John Busby. New York: Bloomsbury.
Cylin Busby was 9 years old when her father, John, was shot in the face on his way to his midnight shift as a police officer in Falmouth, Massachusetts. In an instant, everything in their lives changed. With the shooter still at large, their carefree existence turned into one filled with around-the-clock security and police escorts to and from school. In alternating chapters, Cylin and her father share the riveting story of how their family learned to adjust to their new reality, then simply disappeared. This is a nonfiction gem that reads like a novel. AZ