



# Young Adults' Choices

## 2011



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## What Is the Young Adults' Choices Project?

The 2011 Young Adults' Choices list is the 25th 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 in the sidebar found at the end of the Choices list.

*See page 7 for the Young Adults' Choices 2011 Reading List bookmark!*

## The Big Ideas That Changed the World

Dorling Kindersley.

From money to microprocessors, this reference volume delivers brightly colored graphics and fascinating insights about how remarkable ideas have shaped our world. Eye-catching photographs with small pockets of text present information in a format students will love.

## Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"

Michael O. Tunnell. Charlesbridge.

After World War II, U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen dropped thousands of pounds of candy over war-torn Berlin for the city's children. In this inspirational story for all ages, *Candy Bomber* reminds us that one person can make a difference.

## City of Glass

Cassandra Clare. Margaret K. McElderry.

Clare races to save her dying mother while battling her evil father in this final book of the Mortal Instruments trilogy. Battles, betrayal, intrigue, and romance provide a breakneck journey to the exciting conclusion of this epic story.

## Halo

Alexandra Adornetto. Feiwel and Friends.

Three angels arrive in human form to protect the world from the agents of darkness. Their mission requires them to avoid human attachments; however, Xavier enters Bethany's world, and she is unable to ignore the human emotions she experiences.

## Happyface

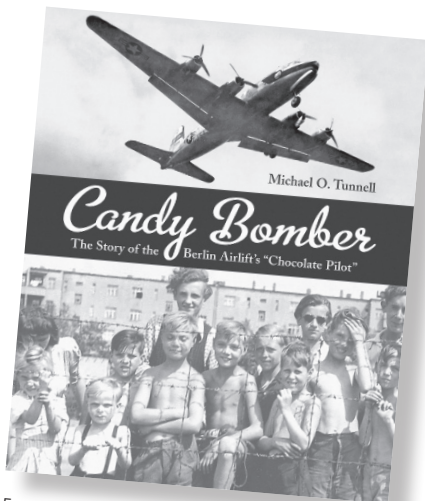
Stephen Emond. Little, Brown.

After moving to a new town, "Happyface" reinvents himself from shy and awkward to the funny and outgoing class clown. How long can he hide behind his mask of smiles? This book is written in journal format, with sketches and doodles.

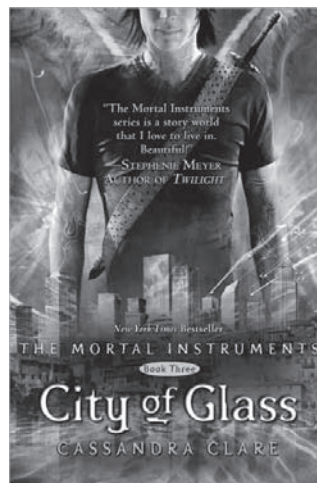
## Hush, Hush

Becca Fitzpatrick. Simon & Schuster.

Nora's attractive new biology partner, Patch, seems to know her thoughts. Patch is a fallen angel hoping to become human. As he draws her into his dangerous world, Nora gets caught in a battle between the immortal and the fallen.



From *Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"* by Michael O. Tunnell. Charlesbridge.



From *City of Glass* by Cassandra Clare. Margaret K. McElderry.



From *Halo* by Alexandra Adornetto. Feiwel and Friends.

## *I Am Number Four*

Pittacus Lore. HarperCollins.

John Smith, one of nine child aliens from the planet Lorien, must survive on Earth long enough to develop his Legacies (special abilities). The Legacies will help John fight the Mogadorians, an evil race that is hunting the nine children.

## *If I Stay*

Gayle Forman. Speak.

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, 17-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or to join her family in death.

## *If You Live Like Me*

Lori Weber. Lobster.

Cheryl, tired of following her anthropologist father, ends up in a sparsely populated village in Newfoundland. In this coming-of-age story, Cheryl struggles with conflicting emotions: loneliness from having no roots and fear of making meaningful connections.

## *Incarceron*

Catherine Fisher. Firebird.

Claudia and Finn are both seeking escape; he from a “living” mechanical prison and she from an arranged marriage. Together they search for keys to freedom and discover the strange world of Incarceron, where history and future intertwine.

## *It Started With a Dare*

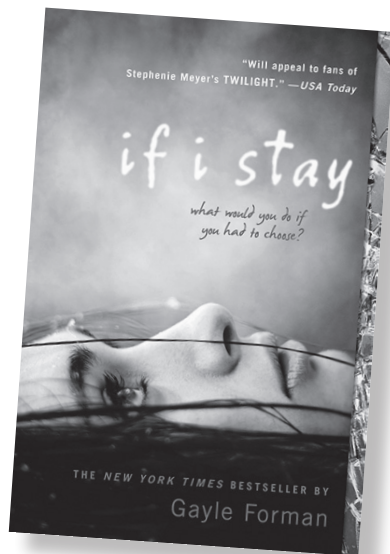
Lindsay Faith Rech. Graphia.

CG Silverman moves to a new school and reinvents herself. Juggling boys and friendships propels her to new and bigger lies until she’s in way over her head. Adult language and underage drinking make this book a cautionary tale.

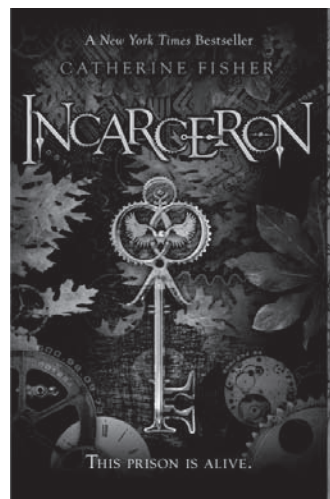
## *Jumping Off Swings*

Jo Knowles. Candlewick.

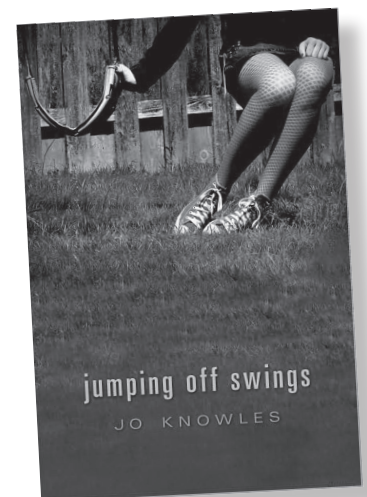
Ellie’s accidental pregnancy forces four teenagers to grow up quickly. Josh, the one-night stand, reacts with shame, while their friends Caleb and Corinne deal with their own reactions. They all learn that there are no easy answers.



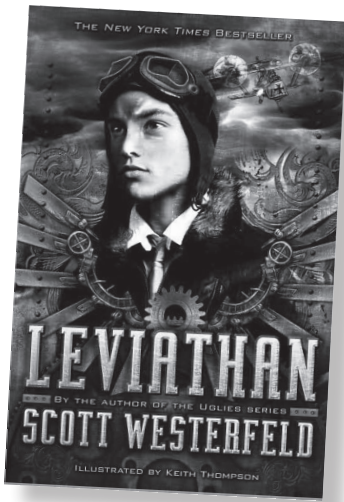
From *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman. Speak.



From *Incarceron* by Catherine Fisher. Firebird.



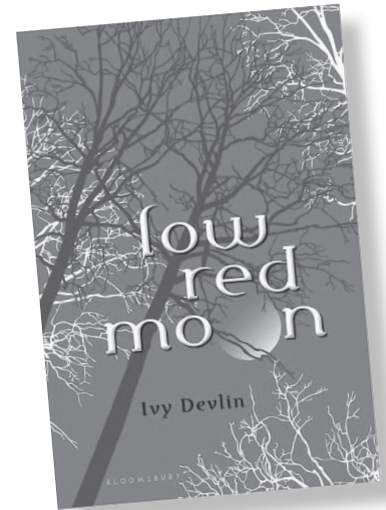
From *Jumping Off Swings* by Jo Knowles. Candlewick.



From *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld. Simon Pulse.



From *The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan. Hyperion.



From *Low Red Moon* by Ivy Devlin. Bloomsbury.

### *Leviathan*

Scott Westerfeld. Simon Pulse.

World War I is brilliantly reenvisioned as a clash between Darwinian and Mechanical cultures. This wonderfully illustrated novel is told in alternating chapters from the perspective of an English girl and an Austrian boy who form an unlikely alliance.

### *The Lost Hero*

Rick Riordan. Hyperion.

Camp Half-Blood is missing one of its most powerful campers. Three new half-bloods, Jason, Piper, and Leo, each with unusual roots, emerge and go on a quest to find the lost hero and to fight the world's newest threat.

### *Low Red Moon*

Ivy Devlin. Bloomsbury.

Found covered in blood outside her family home in the woods, Avery witnessed the brutal murder of her parents yet has no memory of what happened. Grief, reconciliation, and romance fill this work of paranormal fiction.

### *Matched*

Ally Condie. Dutton Juvenile.

Cassia has always had complete trust in the Society to make decisions for her. When she is being paired with her ideal mate, however, a second face flashes

on the screen. Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility as she tries to decide which man she truly loves.

### *Mockingjay*

Suzanne Collins. Scholastic.

A thrilling adventure of excitement and the fight for survival, Suzanne Collins's spectacular conclusion to *The Hunger Games* series takes readers through war, love, and betrayal as Katniss leads a dramatic rebellion for freedom.

### *The Necromancer*

Michael Scott. Delacorte.

The lives of Sophie and Josh have dramatically changed in the past six days. These twins of legend have begun their training in the elemental magics. This fourth book brings new shadow realms and encounters with new friends and enemies.

### *Out of My Mind*

Sharon M. Draper. Atheneum.

Cerebral palsy prevents Melody from walking and talking. Although most people think she is incapable of learning, she is really the smartest kid in school. After getting a speech device, Melody can finally show who she is on the inside.



From *Matched* by Ally Condie. Dutton Juvenile.



From *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins. Scholastic.



From *The Necromancer* by Michael Scott. Delacorte.

### *The Pale Assassin*

Patricia Elliott. Holiday House.

Set during the French Revolution, aristocrat Eugénie is forced from her privileged lifestyle. She becomes the focus of “le Fantôme,” the sinister spymaster with a long-held grudge against her family. Eugénie encounters revolutionaries and double-crossing suitors in this suspenseful survival tale.

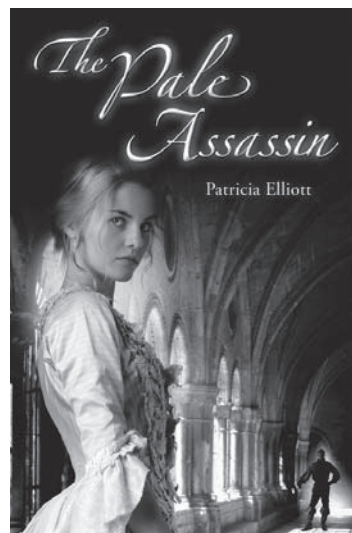
### *Ruined*

Paula Morris. Point.

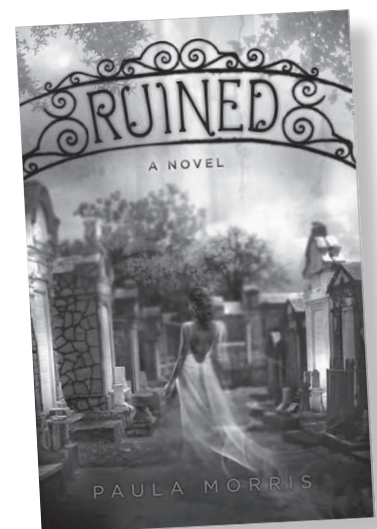
Rebecca, a newcomer to New Orleans, is befriended by Lisette, a ghost who reveals dark secrets entwined with the city’s history. As the exuberant Mardi Gras celebrations approach, Rebecca learns the truth behind Lisette’s death and her own history.



From *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper. Atheneum.



From *The Pale Assassin* by Patricia Elliott. Holiday House.



From *Ruined* by Paula Morris. Point.

## Rules of Attraction

Simone Elkeles. Walker.

When tough-guy Carlos seeks to extricate himself from gang life, he finds himself in perpetual danger. Taking refuge in a professor's home, he confronts studious, "good girl" Kiara. Sparks fly and a hot romance ensues despite the danger.

## Sea

Heidi R. Kling. Putnam.

Haunted by her mother's death in an oceanic plane crash, Sienna faces her fears and accepts a flight to Indonesia to help tsunami survivors as part of her father's disaster relief team. Meeting Deni, a tsunami orphan, changes Sienna's life forever.

## Shiver

Maggie Stiefvater. Scholastic.

Grace has an obsession with the wolves in the woods behind her house, but she never thought one might be watching back, even protecting her. Can Grace grow to love her supernatural savior, even if it means going against fate?

## The Sky Is Everywhere

Jandy Nelson. Speak.

In the months after her sister dies, 17-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician.

## The Sons of Liberty

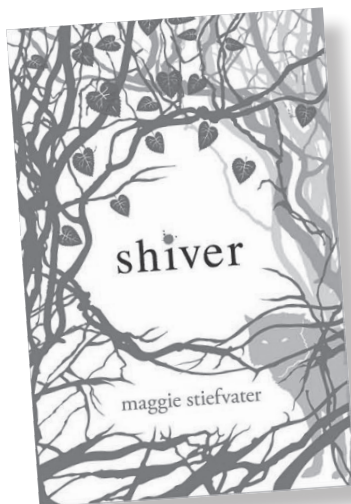
Alexander Lagos and Joseph Lagos. Random House.

Set in pre-Revolutionary War colonial America, this imaginative graphic novella blends fantastic and historical elements with exceptional illustrations to create a compelling young adult read. The plot features runaway slaves who gain supernatural abilities through experiments conducted by Benjamin Franklin's son.

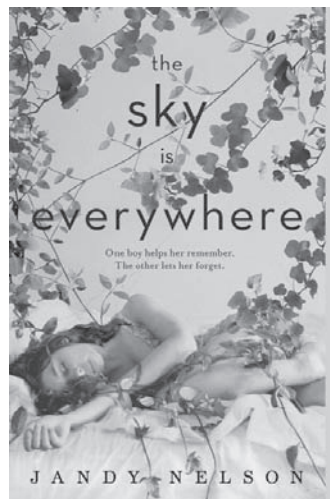
## The Strange Case of Origami Yoda

Tom Angleberger. Amulet.

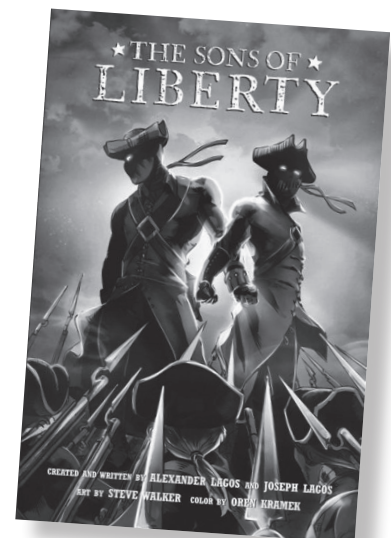
An advice-giving, origami Yoda finger puppet; Dwight, a social outcast; and a group of clueless sixth graders feature in this unusual multiperspective story. As if this isn't strange enough, Yoda's advice is actually good and leads to many unexpected events.



From *Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater. Scholastic.



From *The Sky Is Everywhere* by Jandy Nelson. Speak.



From *The Sons of Liberty* by Alexander Lagos and Joseph Lagos. Random House.

## *The Summer I Turned Pretty*

Jenny Han. Simon & Schuster.

Isabel “Belly” Cochran spends every summer at Cousins Beach with her parents and friends. After this summer, however, nothing will ever be the same. Everyone’s parents are now divorced, and they all seem to be keeping a secret from Belly.

## *Sweet Treats & Secret Crushes*

Lisa Greenwald. Amulet.

A surprise snowstorm on Valentine’s Day provides the opportunity for seventh graders Olivia, Kate, and Georgia to orchestrate a fortune cookie giveaway in their Brooklyn apartment building. Friendship and romance abound in this delightful coming-of-age book that is perfect for tweens.

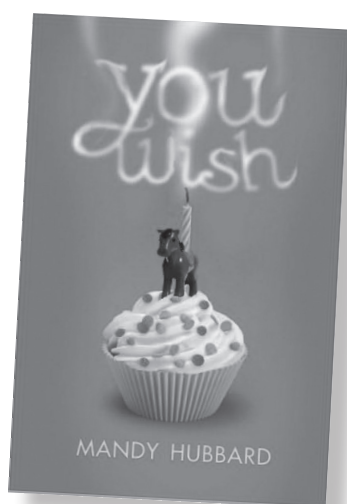
## *You Wish*

Mandy Hubbard. Razorbill.

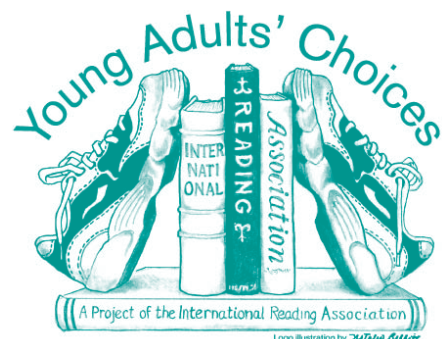
Kayla’s 16th birthday is more magical and bizarre than she ever imagined, teaching her to forever be careful what she wishes for!



From *Sweet Treats & Secret Crushes* by Lisa Greenwald. Amulet.



From *You Wish* by Mandy Hubbard. Razorbill.



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## More About Young Adults' Choices

Thank you to the 2010–2011 IRA Young Adults' Choices Committee and review teams. The committee members were Stephanie Burdic (cochair), Lisa Morris-Wilkey (cochair), Gretchen Hamilton, Kathleen Meyer, and Aimee Rogers. Team leaders were

- Team 1—Patrick Allender and Bob Helm, Oregon
- Team 2—Christine Payne, Delaware
- Team 3—Rosemarie Brock, Texas; Amy Fouse, Georgia (trainee)
- Team 4—Sue Debe Inhelder, Iowa
- Team 5—Angela Zeuske, Wisconsin; 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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**Reading Association**  
800 BARKSDALE ROAD, PO BOX 8139  
NEWARK, DE 19714-8139, USA  
[www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

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