What Is the Young Adults’ Choices Project?

The 2014 Young Adults’ Choices list is the 28th 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 was 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 2014 Reading List bookmark!
The 5th Wave
Rick Yancey. Penguin.
Sixteen-year-old Cassie, her brother Sam, and her father are still alive after four waves of devastating attacks from aliens in this page-turning thriller. When Sam is kidnapped by the enemy, Cassie makes a promise to rescue him. Can she figure out what the 5th wave of attack is before it is too late?

Dogs of War
A graphic novel that details three fictional stories about combat dogs that helped soldiers in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War. Based on true stories, Dogs of War is beautifully detailed and brings life to the heroisms of military dogs and the people they saved.

The Eye of Minds
Michael is a gamer on VirtNet, a virtual world that offers a totally integrated mind–body experience. To add excitement to his experience, he learns how to hack into the system. When another gamer finds a way to hold others hostage inside VirtNet, Michael is hired by the government to uncover the underlying scheme.

Fallout
Todd Strasser. Candlewick.
What if a nuclear bomb had been dropped on the United States during the Cuban Missile Crisis? And what if your family was the only one in the neighborhood with a bomb shelter? This thoughtful, terrifying story is told in alternating chapters of sixth grader Scott’s life before and after the bomb.

The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die
April Henry. Macmillan.
Cady wakes up in a nightmare. She finds herself in an isolated cabin with two men who threaten to kill her. The trouble is compounded by her uncertain memories. As she flees for her life, Cady finds danger at every turn. As she slowly begins to reconstruct her past, she learns she must survive to rescue her family.

The Infinite Moment of Us
Lauren Myracle. Abrams.
It’s a hot summer in this steamy, whirlwind romance. Wren and Charlie are from two very different backgrounds, but when they meet through a chance encounter, their lives change forever. Through their relationship, Wren begins to understand what she really wants out of life, and Charlie begins to understand true love.
**Just One Day**  
Touring Europe, Allison meets Willem. She abandons her plans and explores Paris with Willem for a one-day adventure where she falls in love. She awakens alone in the morning and returns home brokenhearted. Allison now needs to truly find herself before she can search for him.

**Leap of Faith**  
Jamie Blair. Simon & Schuster.  
Faith has been traumatized by her distant and abusive mother. She decides to rescue her baby sister, Addy, from a similar, harsh future. Faith kidnaps Addy and moves to Florida. Under the assumed name of Leah, she meets Chris, who quickly becomes a romantic part of her life. Is a hopeful, happy future possible—or will she be caught?

**Letting Anna Go**  
Everything has its extremes—too fat...too skinny. Anna was an extraordinary athlete. She only wanted to lose a few pounds to look beautiful for her boyfriend. Searching for perfection because of her mom's tragic experience, Anna becomes anorexic without noticing. Read her own thoughts in the diary she left behind.

**The Lord of Opium**  
In this eerie sequel to *The House of the Scorpion*, Farmer questions the fine line between realism and science fiction. Matthew, El Patrón’s surviving clone, encounters family greed from relatives and subtle bits of compassion from seemingly unlikely characters that lead him to question the misuses of opium and power.

**Marie Antoinette, Serial Killer**  
Katie Alender. Scholastic.  
On spring break, Collette goes on a class trip to France. In the midst of fashion, chocolate croissants, and cute boys, gruesome murders are being committed. As Collette tours Paris, she sees visions of a woman who remarkably resembles Marie Antoinette. With the help of a charming French boy, Collette finds suspense and danger connected to the mysterious past.

**Middle School: How I Survived Bullies, Broccoli, and Snake Hill**  
Rafe is ready for fun at summer camp, but—oh no—it turns out he’s at summer school camp. No worries, though. Hilarious fun with friends ensues when Rafe and his bunkmate, a boy nicknamed Booger Eater, and their cabin mates fend off an attack from the boys in the “Cool Cabin.”
Nantucket Blue
Leila Howland. Hyperion.

When Cricket decides to independently travel to Nantucket for the summer, she finds disappointing changes in her friendship with best friend, Jules. But Cricket soon discovers a world beyond her former expectations as she finds an internship with a journalist, newfound friendships, and, most important, a sweet and unexpected romance.

The Naturals
Jennifer Lynn Barnes. Hyperion.

Seventeen-year-old Cassie has a gift of being able to read people. She is asked to join the Naturals, an FBI classified program that uses an elite group of teens to solve cold cases. A killer strikes again, and no one can be trusted in this thrilling psychological whodunit.

Panic
Sharon M. Draper. Simon & Schuster.

Even though she knows better, Diamond accepts a ride from a man who claims to be a casting director. Instead of a step to stardom, Diamond finds herself in a desperate situation—held captive in mortal peril. As her worst nightmares come true, Diamond's friends and family desperately await her return.

Prisoner B-3087
Alan Gratz and Ruth and Jack Gruener. Scholastic.

This book follows the life of 10-year-old Yanek Gruener living in Nazi-occupied Krakow. He is deported to the Plaszow concentration camp, the first of 10 camps that he will suffer through but survive. Based on a true story, this is a heartbreaking story of resilience and survival.

Prodigy: A Legend Novel
Marie Lu. Penguin.

The second in a series, June and Day arrive in Las Vegas where they join the Patriots, a rebel group who wants them to assassinate the new Elector Primo in hopes of saving the Republic. Plans change, however, as secrets are revealed, and all are not who they seem.

The Program
Suzanne Young. Simon & Schuster.

Teens are not allowed to express negative emotions associated with depression in this dystopian society. Sloane knows she must stay stoically brave to avoid the “treatment,” which involves turning victims into blank slates with no memories. With the love and help of James, Sloane embraces the future with wavering hope.

Proxy
Alex London. Penguin.

Syd’s job is to be rich boy Knox’s whipping boy (he receives the punishments for Knox’s mistakes). When Syd and Knox meet at a party, they realize they must work together to change a messed-up system. Proxy is a unique dystopian thriller that combines page-turning action with difficult moral dilemmas.
Revenge of the Girl With the Great Personality
Elizabeth Eulberg. Scholastic.

Lexi is tired of being the funny girl with the great personality, especially when her sister, MacKenzie, is a 7-year-old pain-in-the-butt beauty queen. After a stunning makeover, Lexi must evaluate who and what is real in her life.

Scarlet
Marissa Meyer. Macmillan.

Intensity climbs in this gripping sci-fi series as Scarlet seeks her missing grandmother, the one stability in her life. Scarlet’s sheer will and determination force an entanglement with Wolf. Whether Wolf is a friend or foe is yet to be determined as Scarlet unravels a mystery connecting her grandmother, Cinder, Prince Kai, and the evil Lunar Queen Levana.
**Sick**
Tom Leveen. Abrams.
A deadly virus that turns humans into flesh-eating monsters strikes Phoenix Metro High School. Brian and his friends know they must rescue his sister and his ex, despite being on lockdown in the Theater Department. Surviving the horrors held within the halls will take every ounce of courage and character they can muster.

**Smoke**
The continued story of Pattyn and her sister, Jackie, who struggle to recover from the violence and abuse they have suffered. Pattyn has lost everything; Jackie has been violated and beaten. Both girls are haunted by their father; how should one feel when she kills her abuser? The girls struggle to find the truth and stand up for what is just.

**Splintered**
Alyssa Gardner has a secret; she is able to hear the thoughts of animals and plants. Curiously, Alyssa is the great-granddaughter of the famous Alice in Wonderland. When Alyssa finds out that Wonderland is in need of a special human to reverse the woes that beset it, she tries to atone for the mistakes of her family. Dark fantasy lovers, rejoice.

**Steelheart**
Eight-year-old David and his father are in a Chicago bank when it is attacked by the powerful Epic, Steelheart. His father—and everyone else—is murdered in the battle where he sees Steelheart bleed, the only one to ever do so. Now 18, David is out for revenge in this exciting, epic fantasy.

**Super Graphic: A Visual Guide to the Comic Universe**
Tom Leong. Chronicle.
Vibrantly illustrated, this book offers readers a unique look at the intricate storylines featured in comic books, while giving advice for understanding some of the most popular, longest running, and best loved comics and graphic novels. The most arbitrary and monumental characters, moments, and equipment of the world of comics are richly charted in detail.

**Swagger**
New to Seattle, Jonas becomes part of his high school’s basketball team. As Jonas’s friendship with fellow player Levi deepens, Jonas begins to realize that the joy of his new championship team is marred by a dark secret. Jonas faces an ethical dilemma as he decides whether to protect his future basketball career at the expense of revealing the difficult truth.
The Testing

The last words her father told Cia were to trust no one. From day one, “the test” questions Cia’s intelligence, instincts, and ability to read people that would like to see her fail. Her choices could be fatal or determine the colonies future in this first book in a page-turning trilogy.

Vader’s Little Princess

Darth Vader—Sith Lord and leader of the Galactic Empire—now faces the trials, joys, and mood swings of raising his daughter, Leia, as she grows from a sweet little girl into a rebellious teenager. Smart and funny illustrations by artist Jeffrey Brown give classic Star Wars moments a twist by bringing these iconic family relations together under one roof.

Winger
Andrew Smith. Simon & Schuster.

Fourteen-year-old Ryan attends boarding school and loves both rugby and Annie. After getting in trouble last year, Ryan must now live with the boy who has repeatedly bullied him. Smith captures the inner brain of a teenage boy in this alternately poignant and hilarious coming-of-age novel.

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More About Young Adults’ Choices

Thank you to the 2013–2014 IRA Young Adults’ Choices Committee and review teams. The committee members were Stephanie Burdic (cochair), Lisa Morris-Wilkey (cochair), Bob Helm, and Kimberly Powers. Team Leaders in the field test were

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- Area 2—Patricia Martin Evans, Maine; Anne Taylor, New Jersey (Trainee)
- Area 3—Debbie Remington, Florida
- Area 4—Sherryl Shannon, Nebraska; Cheryl Curtis, Nebraska; Cathy Heller, Minnesota
- Area 5—David Grossman, Kentucky

For more information on the Young Adults’ Choices list or to learn how to become involved visit www.reading.org/resources/booklists/youngadultschoices.aspx.


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