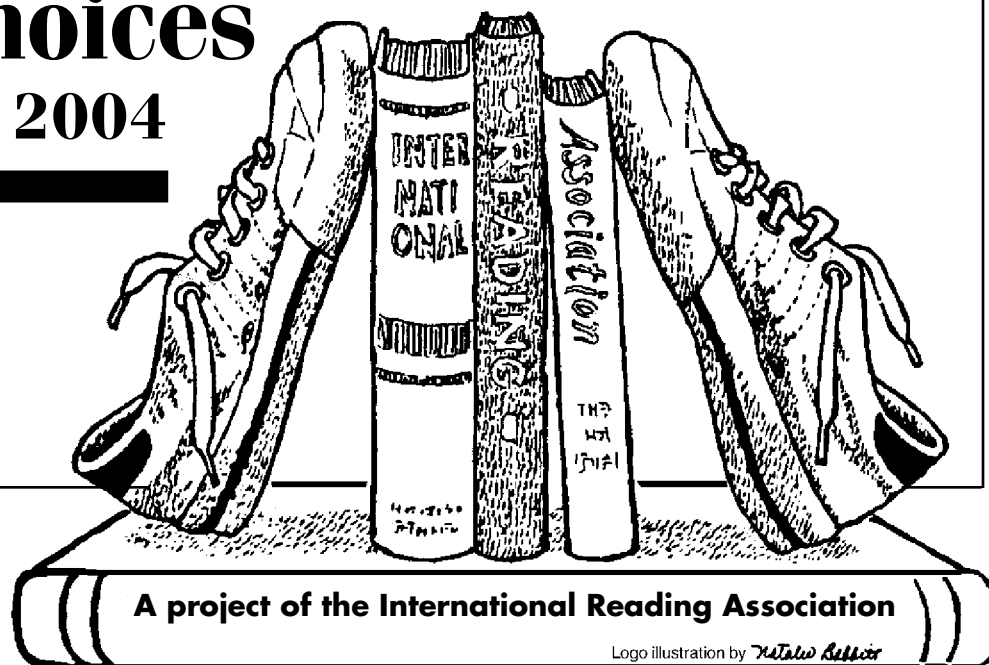


Young Adults' Choices for 2004



The 2004 Young Adults' Choices list is the 18th 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 (IRA) and 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 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 2002 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*, or *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*. Submitted books were read by students in grades 7–12 between September 2003 and February 2004 in selected school districts throughout the United States. More than 11,000 ballots were counted for the books submitted for this year's project. Students marked, "I liked the book," "It was OK," or "I didn't like the book." The results were announced in May at the 2004 Annual Convention of the International Reading Association in Reno, Nevada, USA.

Publishers sent the books to the five team leaders in different regions in the United States. The team leaders' responsibilities included selecting the school districts and schools in which the project would take place; making sure the books were distributed to the schools; and working with the teachers, librarians, supervisors, and principals to implement the program. They were also responsible for collecting the ballots and mailing

them to the International Reading Association headquarters for the final tally.

The following schools participated in the 2004 project:

Team 1: Lisa Morris-Wilkey (team leader): Casa Grande, Arizona; one high school and one K–8 Catholic school; rural.

Team 2: Alice Siegel (team leader): Mt. Vernon, New York; two high schools and two middle schools; suburban. Lorrie Gallo and Kathleen Broskin (trainees): two high schools, one middle school, and one junior high; rural.

Team 3: Barbara Rawls and Jeanne Welt (team leaders): Madison, Alabama; two middle schools and one high school; suburban.

Team 4: Stacia Cooper and Valerie Garton (team leaders): Columbia, Missouri; three high schools, three junior high schools, and three middle schools; urban. Patrice Kraus, Kathy Meyer, and Julie Powell (trainees): two junior high schools and two high schools; suburban and urban.

Team 5: Geraldine Barnes and Kim Ford (team leaders): Memphis, Tennessee; three high schools, one junior high school, and two middle schools; urban, suburban, and rural.

The participating schools represented various types of students, economic levels, cultural groups, and geographic regions. The team leaders were enthusiastic and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile and exciting project.

The committee wishes to thank Alida von Krogh Cutts and Mary Cash of the International Reading Association staff for helping to coordinate the project. Thanks are also extended to Natalie Babbitt for her logo design and to the International Reading Association for its continued support of the project. Gratitude and appreciation go to all of the students, teachers, librarians, school district administrators, and team leaders who participated in the project and made it a success.

The members of the Literature for Young Adults Committee, chaired by Deborah E. Young, and the team leaders have written annotations for each title. Their initials indicate annotations written by individual committee members. Reviewers include Gretchen Hamilton, Lisa Morris-Wilkey, Alice Siegel, Kathleen Broskin, Lorrie Gallo, Barbara Rawls, Stacia Cooper, Patrice Kraus, and Valerie Garton.

Bibliographic data are supplied for each title, including ISBN (International Standard Book Number), number of pages, and price. If a publisher has both a library and trade edition, the ISBN for the library edition is included. Publishers furnished information in May 2004, but prices are subject to change.

The annotated 2004 Young Adults' Choices list is downloadable from the International Reading Association website www.reading.org. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the U.S. and Canada only) 800-336-7323 or 302-731-1600 (for international orders), or send order to Order Department, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA. E-mail questions about orders to customerservice@reading.org.

All-American Girl. Meg Cabot

Stuck between a popular older sister and a gifted younger one, 10th-grade artist Samantha has a social outcast for a best friend and no dates. Things worsen when her parents enroll her in an art class that she fears will stifle her creativity. A freak accident makes Sam a national heroine and introduces her to the U.S. president's son. GH

HarperCollins. 247 pp. ISBN 0-06-029469-8. US\$15.99. CAN\$23.99. Library ed., ISBN 0-06-029470-1. US\$17.89. CAN\$25.99. Paper ed., HarperCollins Children's Books. ISBN 0-06-447277-9. US\$6.99.

Aphrodite's Blessings: Love Stories From the Greek Myths. Clemence McLaren

In Greece, three young women—Atalanta, Andromeda, and Psyche—are now of marrying age, and the goddess Aphrodite affects their futures in subtle, clever ways. The three adapted

tales tell of maturing, longing, hope, fear, and ever-present love—all from a woman's point of view. GH

Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 202 pp. ISBN 0-689-84377-1. US\$16.00.

Ashes of Roses. Mary Jane Auch

Sixteen-year-old Irish immigrant Rose is left to fend for herself and a younger sister when part of her family must return to Ireland. She finds employment in a New York City garment factory where a movement to unionize is afoot. Will this brave young woman find success in America? GH

Henry Holt. 250 pp. ISBN 0-8050-6686-1. US\$16.95. CAN\$23.95.

Born Too Short: The Confessions of an Eighth-Grade Basket Case. Dan Elish

Matt Greene has a problem. His best friend, Keith, is a better athlete, is better looking, is a girl magnet, and is taller. In a fit of jealousy, Matt wishes Keith weren't so...everything. Suddenly, Keith begins to experience failure, and Matt begins to enjoy success. Plagued by guilt, Matt is unable to enjoy his newfound success. GH

Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 155 pp. ISBN 0-689-84386-0. US\$16.00. Paper ed., Simon Pulse. ISBN 0-689-86213-X. US\$4.99.

Chill Wind. Janet McDonald

Aisha Ingram, a tough teenage mother from the projects, believes the good life is "chilling out" with friends. She doesn't worry about her future or that of her two children until she receives a termination-of-welfare-benefits notice. Suddenly, Aisha's life is too "chilly." Will the agency ad for BIGMODELS lead her back to the good times? PK

Frances Foster Books. 144 pp. ISBN 0-374-39958-1. US\$16.00. CAN\$26.95.

A Circle of Time. Marisa Montes

This book spans multiple genres. Allison Blair has been in a car accident. As she lies comatose in the hospital, she hears the voice of Becky Lee Thompson pleading for help. Allison is drawn back to 1906 and into Becky's body, while Becky's spirit settles into Allison's broken body



Illustration by Jon Agee, © 2002, Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

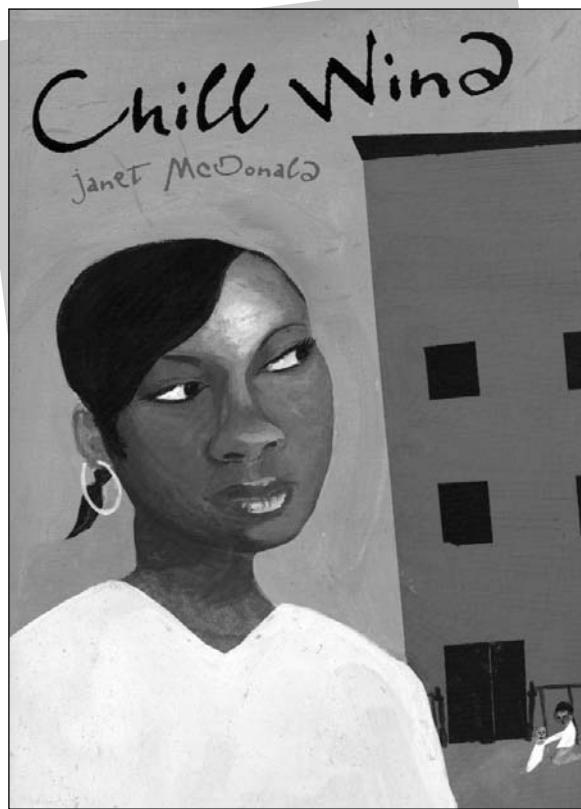
and struggles to keep it alive. As Becky, Allison must prevent a murder. PK

Harcourt. 261 pp. ISBN 0-15-202626-6. US\$17.00.

A Corner of the Universe. Ann M. Martin

It's 1960 and 12-year-old Hattie Owens narrates the story of her first meeting with Uncle Adam, who changes forever her view of life. His special school has closed, and he is back home. Adam is a boy in a man's body—autistic and schizophrenic—but he shows Hattie that it's possible to "lift the corners of the universe." She learns it's important to see what's under the surface. PK

Scholastic. 189 pp. ISBN 0-439-38880-5. US\$15.95. CAN\$23.99.



Chill Wind © 2002 by Janet McDonald. Used with permission of Farrar Straus Giroux.

Dancing Naked. Shelley Hrdlitschka

Pregnant and only 16, Kia is facing the most important decision of her life—whether to keep her baby or give it up to loving, adoptive parents. We journey with Kia through her pregnancy from conception to birth, experiencing her fears, joys, frustrations, and heartaches. LMW

Orca. 250 pp. ISBN 1-55143-210-2. US\$6.95. CAN\$8.95.

Doomed Queen Anne. Carolyn Meyer

The unhappy life of Anne Boleyn, future wife of England's King Henry VIII, is portrayed in this riveting historical novel, the third book in the Young Royals series. Queen Anne's manipulations and ambitions are the center point of this story, providing interesting insights about her rise to, and ultimate fall from, the throne. LMW

Harcourt. 230 pp. ISBN 0-15-216523-1. US\$17.00. Paper ed., Harcourt. ISBN 0-15-205086-8. US\$5.95.

Gingerbread. Rachel Cohn

In this powerful coming-of-age story, Cyd Charisse, a wealthy 16-year-old from San Francisco, has been kicked out of boarding school. Unable to get along with her parents or her boyfriend, she travels to New York City to spend time with her biological father and half-siblings. There she learns to appreciate both sides of her family. LMW

Simon & Schuster. 172 pp. ISBN 0-689-84337-2. US\$15.95. Paper ed., Simon Pulse. ISBN 0-689-86020-X. US\$6.99.

The Healer's Keep. Victoria Hanley

A companion to *The Seer and the Sword*, this fantasy novel engages the reader in the struggle to prevent the Healer's Keep, where students gifted in the healing arts are trained, from being overtaken by the Shadow King, a dark force in the world. Four young people use their various talents to hold evil at bay. LMW

Holiday House. 384 pp. ISBN 0-8234-1760-3. US\$17.95.

Home of the Braves. David Klass

Joe, the captain of his school's losing soccer team, loses his longtime crush to a talented Brazilian soccer player who transfers to the school and becomes the star of the team. The social order of the school is disrupted, forcing the characters to search for answers to difficult real-life issues. AS

Frances Foster Books. 320 pp. ISBN 0-374-39963-8. US\$18.00. CAN\$28.95.

Hoot. Carl Hiaasen

Roy, a new boy at school and the victim of bullying, befriends a homeless boy, and his life becomes focused on halting the construction of a pancake house that threatens the habitat of miniature owls. This humorous book is replete with unforgettable characters engaged in the ageless conflict between youth and adults. AS

Knopf. 292 pp. ISBN 0-375-82181-3. US\$15.95. CAN\$23.95. Paper ed., Knopf. ISBN 0-375-82916-4. US\$8.95.

The House of the Scorpion. Nancy Farmer

In this unique, futuristic novel, Matt discovers he is the clone of a powerful 142-year-old drug lord and eventually learns how his fate is related to the old man's longevity. Readers will be compelled to ponder the impact of technology and what it will do to human life as we know it. AS

Simon & Schuster. 400 pp. ISBN 0-689-8-5222-3. US\$17.95.

I Am Not Esther. Fleur Beale

When Kirby's mother leaves her with relatives—members of a strict religious cult—she finds it difficult to live by the new rules she is expected to follow and rebels constantly, especially to her name being changed to Esther. Kirby's plight and the many plot twists will keep teens reading. AS

Hyperion. 256 pp. ISBN 078680845-4. US\$15.99. CAN\$22.99. Paper ed., Hyperion Books for Children. ISBN 078681673-2. US\$6.99.

Lake of Secrets. Lael Littke

Living in the shadow of her missing brother, who disappeared before she was born, Carlene must deal with both the present and the past. Visiting the lake where her brother disappeared, Carlene can remember events, people, and places she never saw. Deep inside, Carlene knows the secrets of the lake and her brother. LG

Henry Holt. 208 pp. ISBN 0-8050-6730-2. US\$16.95. CAN\$23.95.

Missing. Catherine MacPhail

Maxine's family is overwhelmed with grief after her older brother Derek disappears and is believed to be dead. After months of agony, a body confirms his death, but then mysterious phone calls start from someone claiming to be Derek. Is it a ghost, her brother, or a bully out to hurt her? KB

Bloomsbury. 192 pp. ISBN 1-58234-773-5. US\$14.95.

Mississippi Trial, 1955. Chris Crowe

This historical fiction book is based on the murder of young African American Emmett Till and the trial that followed. Chris Crowe re-creates



© 2002 by Tim Okamura. Reprinted with permission of Penguin Young Readers Group.

a riveting tale of the incident as seen through the eyes of 16-year-old Hiram Hillburn, who is visiting his grandfather in Greenwood, Mississippi. KB

Dial. 231 pp. ISBN 0-8037-2745-3. US\$17.99. CAN\$27.00.

The Named. Marianne Curley

As a Guardian of the Named, Ethan Roberts is charged with secretly protecting history from the Order of Chaos, an evil group that seeks to alter the past to achieve ultimate power in the present. Ethan is given orders to train his first apprentice, 15-year-old Isabel Becket. Their stories evolve in rotating chapters. KB

Bloomsbury. 332 pp. ISBN 1-58234-779-4. US\$16.95.



© 2002 by Timothy Hampson & Howard Huang for *The Princess Diaries III, Princess in Love*, by Meg Cabot.

The Night I Disappeared. Julie Reece Deaver

Over the summer, 17-year-old Jamie believes she is losing her mind. Slowly she realizes that she has created a fantasy world, including an imaginary boyfriend, to cover the trauma she experienced at age 9. Suspense builds as Jamie learns to deal with the truth and her emotions.

LG

Simon & Schuster. 242 pp. ISBN 0-7434-3979-1. US\$5.99. CAN\$8.50.

Old Magic. Marianne Curley

Witch-in-training Kate initiates a friendship to convince a skeptical Jarrod that he has strong paranormal powers. Traveling through time to

the Middle Ages, the two must use their magical powers to break the curse on Jarrod's family. A deep friendship develops along with an acceptance of differences. LG

Simon & Schuster. 316 pp. ISBN 0-7434-3769-1. \$5.99.

Once Upon a Marigold. Jean Ferris

Fantasy readers will love this story of Christian and Princess Marigold, who find that they are kindred spirits. Marigold is under a curse that allows her to read people's minds, and she discovers that her life is in danger from the scheming queen. This whimsical story balances humor and sweetness with dangerous situations. BR

Harcourt. 266 pp. ISBN 0-15-202367-4. US\$17.00. Paper ed., Harcourt. ISBN 0-15-205084-1. US\$5.95.

Princess in Love (The Princess Diaries, Volume III). Meg Cabot

Through her diary entries, Mia is shown as a typical teenager in New York City. Not typical is the fact that she has a royal grandmother who is training her as the future heir to the throne of Genovia. BR

HarperCollins. 229 pp. ISBN 0-06-0299467-1. US\$15.99. CAN\$23.99. Paper ed., HarperTrophy. ISBN 0-06-447280-9. US\$6.99.

The Queen of Everything. Deb Caletti

Jordan MacKenzie is a U.S. high school junior who has a fairly typical life until her father becomes involved with a married woman and then kills the woman's husband. Filled with sadness and wry humor, the story captures the world of an intelligent teenager who deals with unusual circumstances. This book is for mature readers. BR

Simon & Schuster. 384 pp. ISBN 0-7434-3684-9. US\$6.99.

Red Midnight. Ben Mikaelson

Twelve-year-old Santiago is ordered to flee his burning village with his 4-year-old sister. They must escape and tell the world what is happening in the small villages of Guatemala. With little food, a machete, and a map, they cross the Gulf of Mexico in a wooden kayak, desperate to reach the United States. SC

HarperCollins. 212 pp. ISBN 0-380-97745-1. US\$15.95. CAN\$23.99. Paper ed., HarperCollins Children's Books. ISBN 0-380-80561-8. US\$5.99.

The Sight. David Clement-Davies

In this book, wolf and man share a common history, an intertwined mythology, and a foreboding future. Larka's family flees from persecution only to realize that they may be the family foretold in legend, that Larka's power over the Sight may save the Wolf, and that love is a stronger power than hate. VG

Dutton. 464 pp. ISBN 0-525-46723-8. US\$21.99. Paper ed., Puffin. ISBN 0-14-250047-X. US\$7.99.

Son of the Mob. Gordon Korman

Seventeen-year-old Vince wants to stay out of his family's mob business—no crooked sports deals, no stolen gifts, no scary family reputation, and certainly no complications with his love life. The problem is, his girlfriend's father is the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation agent in charge of investigating the Luca crime family. SC

Hyperion. 272 pp. ISBN 078680769-5. US\$15.99. Paper ed., Hyperion Books for Children. ISBN 0-7868-1593-0. US\$5.99.

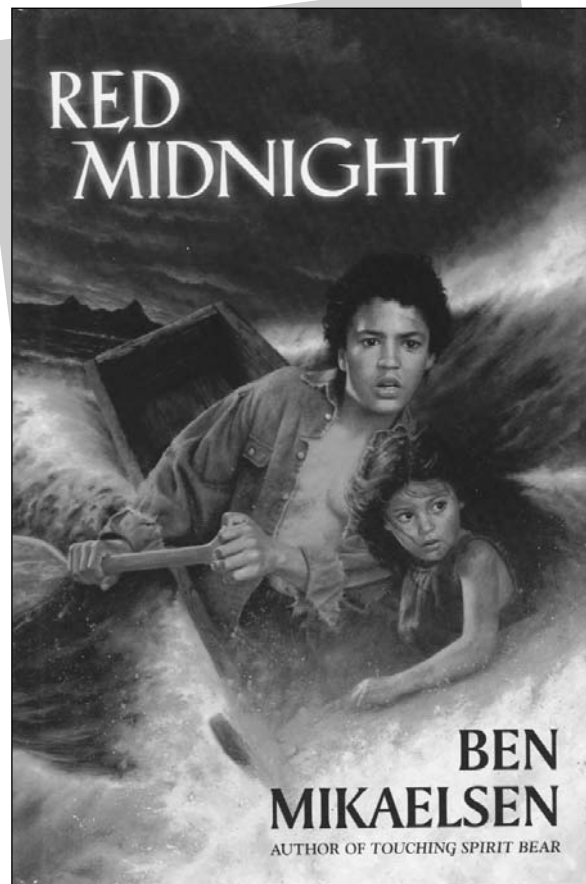
Taking Liberty: The Story of Oney Judge, George Washington's Runaway Slave. Ann Rinaldi

This riveting historical novel starts with an 1842 interview with the elderly Oney Judge. She is recalling her life story and begins when she was a young child in 1775. Oney was Martha Washington's personal servant, which gave her opportunities other slaves didn't have. Should Oney try to free herself and risk all she has? SC

Simon & Schuster. 272 pp. ISBN 0-689-85187-1. US\$16.95.

What Happened to Lani Garver. Carol Plum-Ucci

Sixteen-year-old cancer survivor Claire befriends Lani Garver, whose androgynous looks make the other kids on the small island of Hackett very uncomfortable. As Claire's friendship with Lani grows, she is confronted by the prejudice and intolerance of her community.



© 2002 by Vince Natale for *Red Midnight* by Ben Mikaelson.

Claire's decisions and Lani's disappearance pose soul-searching questions for mature readers. VG

Harcourt. 307 pp. ISBN 0-15-216813-3. US\$17.00. Paper ed., Harcourt. ISBN 0-15-205088-4. US\$6.95.

Whistler's Hollow. Debbie Dadey

After her mother's death, Lillie Mae clings to the belief that her father will soon return from World War I to care for her, but she learns that things can get worse. Told in 14 short chapters, this tightly crafted story of monumental loss and rescue highlights the power of love. VG

Bloomsbury. 112 pp. ISBN 1-58234-789-1. US\$14.95.