

Great Books for High School Reluctant Readers

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These are books that inspire reading. They catch the reader from the beginning and the storyline and characters keep the reader turning pages. The content is considered appropriate, or typical, for high school reading. Many middle school readers would enjoy these texts as well, but because of the mature content of many of these books, they are included on a high school list. Almost all of these books have received a 1 or 2 rating by the *Horn Book Guide*. Because of the interesting, believable plot, outstanding character development and language use, and/or strong themes, these books could be used as independent, whole-class, or small group texts. Some have lower reading levels, but most are still at a young adult level. Although these texts are on a list for reluctant readers, they will be enjoyed by avid readers as well.

Title: The Absolute True Diary of a Part-time Indian

Author: Sherman Alexie

HB Rating: 1

Other Ratings: School Library Journal Starred Review, Publishers' Weekly Starred Review,

Awards: 2008 Book Sense of the Year Children's Literature Honor Book, 2007 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, Publishers Weekly 2007 Best Books of the Year - Children's Fiction, The New York Times Notable Children's Books of 2007, National Parenting Publication Gold Winner 2007, Amazon.com Best Books of 2007, School Library Journal Best Books of 2007, Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Books of 2007, Horn Book Fanfare Best Books of 2007, The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon Winner, Kansas City Star's Top 100 Books of the Year

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Native American, High School, Reservation life, Physical Disabilities, Basketball, Alcoholism, Family, Friendship, Death

Desc: Fourteen year old Arnold Spirit wants more for himself than what the Indian Reservation where he lives has to offer. With the support of his parents, he transfers to the all-white school twenty miles away. The reservation sees him as nothing but a traitor, especially when he must confront his school's team, and his best friend, on the basketball court. Very honest and witty, with cartoon drawings to enhance the story.

Sources:

<http://mefedia.com/entry/author-sherman-alexie-shares-his-true-diary/3742928/>

<http://www.fallsapart.com/>

http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/a_f/alexie/alexie.htm

Title: Athletic Shorts: Six Short Stories

Author: Chris Crutcher

HB Rating: 1

Other Ratings: School Library Journal Starred Review

Awards: ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, School Library Journal Best Book, School Library Journal Best of the Best in YA Literature, ALA Best of the Best Books for Young Adults, ALA Best Book for Young Adults

Genre: Short Story, Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Athletes, Racism, Homophobia, Sexism, AIDS, Death

Desc: Using many of the characters from previous novels, Crutcher has written six short sports stories that address issues such as love, death, bigotry and heroism.

Sources:

<http://www.chriscrutcher.com/content/blogcategory/53/42/>

<http://webcontent.harpercollins.com/text/guides/pdf/0060507837.pdf>

http://litplans.com/authors/Chris_Crutcher.html

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/crutcher.htm>

<http://www.resourceroom.net/comprehension/bookreviews/athleticshorts.asp>

Title: The Chocolate War

Author: Robert Cormier

HB Rating: 1

Other Ratings: School Library Journal Starred Review, Kirkus Starred Review

Awards: An ALA Best Books for Young Adults, A School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, A Kirkus Reviews Choice, A New York Times Outstanding Books of the Year

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Catholic High School, Bullies, Conformity, Corruption, Pranks, Fundraising

Desc: Freshman Jerry Renault dares to “disturb the universe” and the power structure of the school by refusing to sell boxes of chocolate as the school’s annual fundraiser. As a result, Jerry must suffer the consequences of faculty and student bullies.

Sources:

<http://www.freedomforum.org/templates/document.asp?documentID=12693>

<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780394828053&view=rg>

<http://www.classzone.com/novelguides/litcons/chocolat/guide.cfm>

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~lmiller/TeachingEnglishHomePage/TeachingUnits/ChocolateWar.htm>

<http://www.webenglishteacher.com/cormier.html#tcw>

<http://www.lsu.edu/faculty/jpullia/chocolatewar.htm>

<http://www.reel.com/movie.asp?MID=2077&PID=10125432&Tab=reviews&>

http://www.u46.k12.il.us/evms/levinevalerie/userfiles/42559_TheChocolateWarTasks.htmCID=18

<http://www.walch.com/product/739>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~1535/work5.html>

Title: Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States

Author: Edited by Lori M. Carlson

HB Rating: 1

Other Ratings: Kirkus Starred Review, School Library Journal Starred Review, Publishers' Weekly Starred Review, Horn Book Starred Review, Bulletin Starred Review

Awards: YALSA Outstanding book for the college bound: poetry, Parent's Choice Award

Genre: Poetry

Themes: Latino Culture, Racism, Language, Family

Desc: A collection of poems by well-known and lesser known poets depicting life as a Latino teenager. Most poems are written in both English and Spanish and depict the authors' struggles and joys of their Latino culture.

Sources:

http://www.randomhouse.com/highschool/RHI_magazine/pdf/collins.pdf

http://delcorazon.si.edu/profesores_home.cfm

<http://www.ric.edu/astal/multicultural/activities.html>

http://www.csun.edu/~bashforth/305_PDF/305_ME3/LanguageVarieties/LanguageVarities_LangArts/ReadingLivingBilingualPoetry_LA_Mar2006.pdf

Title: Dairy Queen

Author: Catherine Murdock

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: Publishers' Weekly Starred Review, Kirkus Starred Review,

Awards: Young Reader's Choice Award, Pennsylvania School Libraries Association, Master List, Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award, Midwest Booksellers' Choice Award for Children's Literature, Great Lakes Book Award for Children's Books, Young Adult Literature Borders Original Voices Award, Thumbs Up! Award, Michigan Library Association Honor Book, #1 Pick, 2006 Summer Books for Children, BookSense, *School Library Journal* "Best Books of the Year," VOYA Review Editor's Choice, VOYA "2006 Top-Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers," American Library Association "Best Books for Young Adults," TAYSHAS 2007-2008 List for Texas young adult readers, Lone Star 2007 List for Texas middle school reader, Beehive Award Nominee Children's Library Association of Utah, Pennsylvania School Librarians Association YA Top Forty List, Finalist, Quill Awards, Young Adult Category,

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: High School, Football, Gender Roles, Family, Friendship, Sexual Identity, Communication, Responsibility, Parental Authority

Desc: High school student and football fanatic D.J. trains the rival football team's quarterback one summer on her family farm. She develops a bond with him she doesn't expect and a confidence in herself that leads her to try out for her own school football team. But the consequences that follow will be her biggest test.

Sources:

<http://www.catherinemurdock.com/>

http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/booksellers/press_release/murdock/

<http://english.byu.edu/Novelinks/Novel%20Pages/Dairy%20Queen.htm>

Title: Fat Kid Rules the World

Author: K.L. Going

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: School Library Journal Starred Review, Booklist Starred Review, Bulletin Starred Review

Awards: ALA Printz Honor Book, School Library Journal Best Book, Booklist Top Ten First Novels, Blue Ribbon Book of the Bulletin of Children's Books.

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Obesity, Drug Abuse, Suicide, Musicians, Homelessness

Desc: Troy Billings, an extremely obese 17 year old, contemplates jumping in front of a subway train, when he is saved by a legendary teenage punk rocker, who is currently homeless. A friendship, along with a band, is quickly formed between these two as they face the trials of life together.

Sources:

<http://klgoing.wordpress.com/2007/08/16/another-book-challenge/>

<http://www.klgoing.com/index2.htm>

<http://www.klgoing.com/fatkidresource.htm>

<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides-fatkid.html>

http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit_resources/authors/stories_behind/storygoing.html

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?p=0&ar=825&pa=5>

Title: First Part Last

Author: Angela Johnson

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: Publishers' Weekly Starred Review, Booklist Starred Review, School Library Journal Starred Review

Awards: Michael L. Printz Award, Abraham Lincoln Book Award Master List (IL), ALA Best Books For Young Adults, ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, Alabama Author's Award, Booklist Editors' Choice, CBC/NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book, Charlotte Award Suggested Reading List (NY), Coretta Scott King Award, Florida Teens Read Master List, Garden State Teen Book Award Nominee (NJ), Gateway Readers Award Nominee (MO), Georgia Peach Book Award Master List, Green Mountain Book Award Master List (VT), Iowa Teen Award Master List, IRA Young Adults' Choices, Rosie Award Nominee (IN), Sequoyah Young Adult Master List (OK), South Carolina Book Award Nominee, Volunteer State Book Award Master List (TN), YARP Award Master List (SD)

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Teenage pregnancy, teen fatherhood, high school, responsibility, inner city, friendship

Desc: High school sweethearts Bobby and Nia decide to give their baby up for adoption. But when Nia falls into an irreversible coma after childbirth, Bobby cannot let go of the child they created together. He must let go of his teenage ways to become the responsible father he needs to be for his daughter.

Sources:

<http://www.tracievaughnzimmer.com/First%20Part%20Last.htm>

<http://www.rebelhousewife.com/rebel-reviews/2007/11/12/the-first-part-last-discussion-questions.html>

<http://nicolepoliti.wordpress.com/2006/11/28/the-first-part-last-discussion-guide/>

http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Johnson%2C%20Angela&a=1

<http://www.scu.edu/character/upload/The-First-Part-Last-Lesson-Plans.pdf>

http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/tradebooks/teachingideas_firstpartlast.pdf

Title: Life is Funny

Author: E.R. Frank

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: Booklist Starred Review

Awards: ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Readers

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Family, Brooklyn, molestation, suicide, pregnancy, abuse, cutting, Muslim, friendship, relationships, loyalty, courage

Desc: This novel spans 7 years following the lives of 11 characters who weave in and out of each others struggles. Note that the book does include several explicit scenes.

Sources:

[http://www.sptimes.com/2004/02/16/Nie/An Interview with ER .shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2004/02/16/Nie/An_Interview_with_ER_.shtml)

<http://homepages.wmich.edu/~d2baker/Speak.pdf>

<http://www.auburnschools.org/ahs/Life%20is%20Funny.htm>

<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/1165/Frank-E-mily-R-1967-Sidelights.html>

http://misc.vassar.edu/archives/2005/04/how_to_get_publ_1.html

Title: Looking for Alaska

Author: John Green

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: School Library Journal Starred Review

Awards: 2006 Michael L. Printz Award Winner, 2005 Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist,, 2005 Top 10 Best Book for Young Adults, 2005 Teens' Top 10 Award, 2005 Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, A Booklist Editor's Choice Pick, Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection, Borders Original Voices Selection

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Boarding school, drinking, responsibility, pranks, elitism, death,

Desc: When Miles Halter goes away to boarding school to find a more interesting life than his current friendless one, he hooks up with a quirky pair. Together, Miles, the sexy Alaska and his roommate The Colonel learn many lessons as they experience life, and death, together.

Sources:

http://us.penguin.com/static/rguides/us/looking_for_alaska.html

<http://www.sparksflyup.com/alaska.php>

http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya_webpage/ritba/ritba07/alaska.htm

http://www.hclib.org/pub/bookspace/BookClubKid_discussionquestions.cfm?ISBN=978-0142402511+&Title=Looking+For+Alaska

Title: Make Lemonade (1st in a trilogy)

Author: Virginia Euwer Wolff

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: Publishers' Weekly Starred Review, Booklist Starred Review

Awards: Oregon Book Award for Young Readers, Bank Street Child Study Book Award, Top of the List, School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, Parent's Choice Book Award, A Best Kids' Book of 1993, Bulletin for the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon Book, A YALSA Best Book for Young Adults, Golden Kite Award, Michigan Library Association Thumbs Up! Award for YA Fiction, A Children's Book of Distinction, Pacific Northwest Young Reader's Choice Award Nominee, Iowa Teen Award Nominee, Preiselbar Award, A YALSA Popular Paperback for Young Adults, 2002

Genre: Poetic Verse, Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: teenage pregnancy, harassment, poverty, inner city, high school

Desc: Determined LaVaughn will do whatever it takes to get out of the projects and be the first in her family to go to college. In order to help save money for her education, she takes a job babysitting for Jolly, a teenage mother of two. She becomes Jolly's sole support system, but her personal involvement could cost her all that she's worked for.

Sources:

http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=309370&event=1016

<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides-make.html>

http://www.hbook.com/magazine/articles/2001/may01_wolff_sutton.asp

<http://literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Pubs/0300-17.html>

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/%7Eramseyil/wolff.htm>

http://www.edb.utexas.edu/resources/booksR4teens/book_reviews/book_reviews.php?book_id=71

<http://www.resourceroom.net/comprehension/bookreviews/makelemonade.asp>

Title: Monster

Author: Walter Dean Myers

HB Rating: 1

Other Ratings: Publishers' Weekly Starred Review, Booklist Boxed Review

Awards: Michael L. Printz Award, Boston Globe–Horn Book Award Honor Book, National Book Award Finalist, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, Coretta Scott King Honor Book Nominee, Kentucky Bluegrass Award, Arizona Young Reader's Award, ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers,, ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, ALA Booklist Editors' Choice, Bulletin Blue Ribbon, Horn Book Fanfare, Publishers Weekly Best Book, Book Sense 76 Pick, Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist, New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, Edgar Allan Poe Award Nominee, CCBC Choice, BCCB Blue Ribbon Book, YALSA Best Book for Young Adults, TAYSHAS High School Reading List, Volunteer State Young Adult Book Award Master List, Iowa Teen Award Nominee, Evergreen Young Adult Book Award Nominee, Buckeye Children's Book Award nominee, Wyoming Soaring Eagle Book Award Nominee, A YALSA 100 Best of the Best for the 21st Century?1994-2003, 2005, YALSA Popular Paperback for Young Adults, 2006

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Courtroom, Identity, Stereotypes, Peer Pressure, Juvenile Delinquent, Prison, Justice, Crime

Desc: Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon has been charged as an accomplice to murder. His situation seems so surreal, that he writes it as a screenplay to a movie. Through the courtroom and jailhouse drama, the readers are given the facts of the case from different perspectives, and Steve has to prove that he is not the monster that the prosecutor is trying to paint him to be.

Sources: <http://www.harperchildrens.com/hch/parents/teachingguides/myers.pdf>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~reading/ieo/bibs/myers.html>

<http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-monster/forfurtherreference.html>

http://www.readwritethink.org/calendar/calendar_day.asp?id=670

http://www.harperteen.com/global_scripts/product_catalog/book_xml.asp?isbn=0064407314&tc=rg

<http://english.byu.edu/Novelinks/reading%20strategies/Monster/Monster.htm>

http://litplans.com/authors/Walter_Dean_Myers.html

http://www.edb.utexas.edu/resources/booksR4teens/book_reviews/book_reviews.php?book_id=73

Title: Notes from the Midnight Driver

Author: Jordan Sonnenblick

HB Rating: 1

Other Ratings: Booklist Starred Review, Horn Book Starred Review

Awards: Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominee, South Carolina Young Adult Book Award, Gateway Award Nominee (Missouri),

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: high school, intergenerational relationships, drunk driving, guitar, personal responsibility, friendship, family, divorce, death

Desc: After involving himself in a drunk driving accident, Alex Gregory is assigned to community service at a nursing home, where he is assigned to one of the most difficult patients. Through music, the two form a bond, helping each other cope with their circumstances.

Sources:

<http://www.jordansonnenblick.com/index.php>

http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya_webpage/ritba/ritba08/midnightdriver.htm

<http://www.teachertimesavers.com/Notes%20From%20the%20Midnight%20Driver%20Sample%20Pages.pdf>

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6375765.html?nid=2788>

Title: Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida

Author: Victor Martinez

HB Rating: 1

Other Ratings: Publishers' Weekly Starred Review

Awards: Pura Belpré Award, 1996 National Book Award, 1996 Americas Award, The Horn Book's 1997 Fanfare Honor List, A Publishers Weekly "Best Book of 1996"

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Mexican-American, poverty, family, alcoholism, death, gangs, death, racism

Desc: This coming of age story of a Manuel Hernandez, a Mexican-American teenager, gives gripping details about the challenges he faces living in a poor California town. A series of vignettes, from his alcoholic father's actions, his sister's miscarriage, his initiation into a gang, etc. all come together to paint a vivid and poetic picture of this Mexican-American teen's life experience.

Sources:

<http://www.harperchildrens.com/rgg/rggparrot.htm>

http://urbandreams.ousd.k12.ca.us/language_arts/extended/09/martinez/index.html

<http://urbandreams.ousd.k12.ca.us/lessonplans/parrot/subunit.html>

http://www.edhelper.com/books/Parrot_In_The_Oven.htm

http://theliterarylink.com/parrot_questions.html

http://www.lindakreft.com/Americas/pdf/voices_parrot.pdf

http://www.edb.utexas.edu/resources/booksR4teens/book_reviews/book_reviews.php?book_id=88

Title: Sold

Author: Patricia McCormick

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: Publishers' Weekly Starred Review, Booklist Starred Review

Awards: National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature,

Genre: Story told in Poetic Verse

Themes: India, Child prostitution

Desc: Lakshmi is a 13 year old girl who is sent to the city to work for a household in order to provide income to her poor family back at home. However, she soon learns that she's sold into the world of childhood prostitution. Based on researched events, McCormick has carefully constructed this tale with enough detail to help the reader understand the horrors of the sexual exploitation of young girls in India, but not so much detail that it's inappropriate for teenagers. Her poetic prose paints a vivid picture of the landscape, the people and the emotions that converge throughout this story.

Sources

http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya_webpage/ritba/ritba08/sold.htm

http://www.bookbrowse.com/reading_guides/detail/index.cfm?book_number=1876

<http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com/data/books/dgpdf/07868517161686.pdf>

<http://www.pattymccormick.com/>

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6369325.html?nid=2788>

<http://pdfs.voya.com/VO/YA2/VOYA200612AuthorTalk.pdf>

<http://english.byu.edu/Novelinks/Novel%20Pages/Sold.htm>

Title: Speak

Author: Laurie Halse Anderson

HB Rating: 1

Other Ratings: Booklist Starred Review, Kirkus Pointer Review

Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults, ALA Top-10 Best Book for Young Adults, ALA Quick Pick for Young Adults, Edgar Allan Poe Award finalist, IRA Young Adult Choice, Junior Library Guild Selection, Michael L. Printz Honor Book (American Library Association), National Book Award Finalist, New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, New York Times Bestseller List, SCBWI Golden Kite Award, YALSA Popular Paperback for Young Adults

State Awards: Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award runner-up, California Young Reader Medal nominee, Black-Eyed Susan Book Award nominee (Maryland), Garden State Teen Book Award (New Jersey), Iowa Teen Book Award nominee, Heartland Award (Kansas), Kentucky Bluegrass Award, Maud Hart Lovelace Youth Reading Award nominee (Minnesota), Teen Three Apples Award nominee (New York), 2005 New York Reads Together Book, Carolyn W. Field Award (Pennsylvania), Pennsylvania Young Readers Choice Young Adult List, Rhode Island Teen Book Award nominee, South Carolina Young Adult Book Award, Volunteer State Young Adult Book Award (Tennessee), Tayshas High School Reading List (Texas), Evergreen Young Adult Book Award (Washington)

Bookseller and Media Recognition: Booklist Editors' Choice, School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon Book, Fanfare, The Horn Book's Honor List, Los Angeles Times Award finalist, Publishers Weekly Bestseller

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: High School, Cliques, Rape, Bullying, Art, Cutting, Family

Desc: Melinda enters her freshman year in high school hated by everyone. She is blamed for calling the cops to a summer party. But what really happened at the party, that Melinda is raped, is slowly revealed through this text that gives a witty and honest portrayal of high school life. Melinda eventually finds her voice through her art and is able to express the truth of that fateful evening.

Sources: <http://www.writerlady.com/speakh.html>

<http://www.teenreads.com/authors/au-anderson-laurie.asp>

<http://halseanderson.livejournal.com/>

<http://www.viterbo.edu/personalpages/faculty/GSmith/LessonPlanforSpeak.htm>

<http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-speak/objectsplaces.html>

<http://www.webenglishteacher.com/lhanderson.html>

<http://www.sheboyganfalls.k12.wi.us/cyberenglish9/Speak/speak.htm>

http://www.edb.utexas.edu/resources/booksR4teens/book_reviews/book_reviews.php?book_id=105

<http://www.lsu.edu/faculty/jpullia/3223speakllesson.htm>

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/laurieanderson.htm>

<http://homepages.wmich.edu/~d2baker/speakplans2.htm>

<http://english.byu.edu/Novelinks/Novel%20Pages/Stargirl.htm>

Title: Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes

Author: Chris Crutcher

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: School Library Journal Starred Review, Publishers' Weekly Starred review

Awards: American Bookseller Pick of the Lists, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, School Library Journal Best Book, California Young Reader Medal, ALA Best of the Best Books for Young Adults

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Friendship, Abuse, Obesity, High School, Swimming, free speech, abortion

Desc: Sarah and Eric's friendship is formed because of their abnormalities. Eric is obese and Sarah has severe facial burns from an abusive father when she was just three years old. So when Eric joins the swim team and begins losing weight, Sarah feels she will lose her only friend. When she decides to stop talking, she becomes institutionalized and is forced to deal with the abuse of her childhood.

Sources:

<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides-stayingfat.html>

<http://www.chriscrutcher.com/>

http://eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/1a/34/52.pdf

http://web.cortland.edu/wiki/index.php?title=Unit_plan-The_Wave&redirect=no

<http://www.msu.edu/user/schne138/resourcepacket/index.html>

http://www.edb.utexas.edu/resources/booksR4teens/book_reviews/book_reviews.php?book_id=107

http://www.harperchildrens.com/webcontent/teachers_guides/pdf/0060094893.pdf

<http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/b/m/bmc199/LLED/index.htm>

[http://www.nipissingu.ca/faculty/johnh/EDUC4406/Powerpoints/EDUC4406Week5.ppt#256,1,EDUC 4406 WEEK 5](http://www.nipissingu.ca/faculty/johnh/EDUC4406/Powerpoints/EDUC4406Week5.ppt#256,1,EDUC_4406_WEEK_5)

Title: Stuck in Neutral

Author: Terry Trueman

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: Booklist Starred Review

Awards: Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2002 Kentucky Bluegrass Award, Publishers Association 2001 NASEN Highly Commended Award (UK), Amazon.com's 2000 Editor's Choice Top Ten Books for Young Adults, 2003 Evergreen Young Adult Book Award Nominee, 2002-2003 WEMA Golden Archer Award Nominee, 2001-2002 Maine Student Book Award Nominee, 2001 Isinglass Teen Book Award , Michigan Library Thumbs Up Award Nominee , Volunteer State Book Award Reading List, 2002 Black Eyed Susan Award Nominee, Maryland, 2002 Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominee, 2002 Sheffield Commended Book Title (UK), 2003 Arizona Young Readers Award Nominee, 2000 Booklist Editors Choice Awards, Parents Guide to Children's Media Outstanding Achievement in Fiction Books-2000, Booklist 10 Best First Novels, 2004-2005 Colorado Blue Spruce Book Award Nominee, 2004-2005 Iowa Teen Award Nominee, 2005 Books Change Lives Award California Center for the Book and Honors, YABA Best 100 Books for Teens South Carolina Dept of Education, 2001 Quick Picks for YAs, 2001 Children's Book Council's Not Just For Children Anymore List, Birmingham R.E.A.D.S. Summer Reading List, Public Library of Nashville "For Teens" List, Ocean County Teen Reads "Rebound" List, Overbooked YA Stars List, 2000 Great Books for Teens - Cincinnati Library, Maine State Book Award Sneak Peek List, 2000 Bartlett Library Hot Picks for Fall, Tennessee Association of School Librarians List, 2001 New York Public Library--Best Reads for Teens, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, 2000 Seattle Post Intelligencer Best Teen Reads for Summer

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Cerebral Palsy, Euthanasia, Family, Communication

Desc: Told through the eyes of Shawn McDaniel, who is a teenager with Cerebral Palsy who cannot communicate with his surrounding world. The reader experiences Shawn's personal thoughts and emotions as his everyday life is controlled by his family and caregivers. Shawn fears that his father plans to kill him to put him out of what his father thinks is his misery.

Sources:

<http://www.hampton-brown.com/PDF/HSINZ.T3.TG.Stuck.pdf>

http://www.terrytrueman.com/books_TeachingAids.htm

<http://nicolepoliti.wordpress.com/2006/07/25/stuck-in-neutral/>

http://www.harperchildrens.com/webcontent/teachers_guides/pdf/0064472132.pdf

<http://www.cuip.net/schools/gearup/chicago/archive/yal/units/stuck/unit.doc>

Title: Touching Spirit Bear

Author: Ben Mikalson

HB Rating: 5

Other Ratings: School Library Journal Starred Review

Awards: Book Sense 76 Pick, Nevada Young Readers' Award, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, California Young Reader Medal, Flicker Tale Children's Book Award (North Dakota), Beehive Award (Utah), Golden Archer Award (Wisconsin), Golden Sower Award (Nebraska), Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award (Minnesota)

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Survival, Alaska, Personal responsibility, Native American

Desc: After brutally beating up a 9th grade classmate, cold-hearted Cole Matthews avoids jail by participating in a Native American tradition called Circle Justice. Part of his restitution involves being banished to the Alaskan Wilderness for a year, where the tables are turned and he faces his own gruesome attack...by a bear.

Sources:

<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides-touching.html>

<http://www.emporia.edu/libsv/wawbookaward/curriculumguides/cg03-04.htm#touching>

http://www.benmikaelsen.com/educators_corner.htm

[http://www.sd79.bc.ca/programs/abed/FN_resource Touching Spirit Bear.pdf](http://www.sd79.bc.ca/programs/abed/FN_resource_Touching_Spirit_Bear.pdf)

<http://www.op97.k12.il.us/curriculum/summer/MSSummerReading.pdf>

http://www.hardee.k12.fl.us/Junior_high/touching_spirit_bear.htm

<http://www.webenglishteacher.com/mikaelsen.html>

<http://www.masters.ab.ca/bdyck/Justice/Web%20page/PAGE2/>

<http://www.marquette.k12.wi.us/staff2/touchingspiritbearweblinks.htm>

<http://english.byu.edu/Novelinks/Novel%20Pages/Touching%20Spirit%20Bear.htm>

Title: True Believer (2nd in a trilogy)

Author: Virginia Euwer Wolff

HB Rating: 1

Other Ratings: Publishers' Weekly Starred Review, School Library Journal Starred Review, Booklist Starred Review, Kirkus Pinter Review, Bulletin Starred Review,

Awards: 2001 National Book Award for Young People's Literature , The Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Readers (Oregon), School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon Book, Printz Award Honor Book, YALSA Best Book for Young Adults, YALSA Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults, Texas Lone Star Master List, TAYSHAS High School Reading List, Michigan Library Association Thumbs Up! Award for YA Fiction nominee, A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, Michigan Library Association Thumbs Up! Award for YA Fiction nominee, Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Award, Golden Kite Award, Carnegie Medal finalist, Book Sense 76 Top Ten Teen List, American Bookseller's Association, American Library Association Notable Children's Book, Jane Addams Book Award Honor Book, Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominee, South Carolina Young Adult Book Award Nominee, Texas Lone Star Reading List, 2002-2003, New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, IBBY Honour Award, IRA/CBC Young Adults' Choice, Missouri Gateway Readers' Choice Award for Teens Nominee, Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award Program Master List, Volunteer State Young Adult Book Award Master List, Garden State Teen Book Award Nominee, Pacific Northwest Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee, Nevada Young Readers' Award Nominee, Evergreen Young Adult Book Award Nominee, A YALSA 100 Best of the Best for the 21st Century, California Young Reader Medal Nominee

Genre: Poetic Verse

Themes: High School, Friendship, Homosexuality, Grammar

Desc: Fifteen year old LaVaughn decides to improve herself at school, even if that means leaving her friends behind. She's a strong female character who's willing to stand up for what's right. She leans on her old male friend Jody to help support her, but when she falls romantically for him, she's devastated when he doesn't return her affection.

Sources:

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/book.cfm?sid=813&pid=417088&agid=21>

<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides-true.html>

<http://www.viterbo.edu/personalpages/faculty/GSmith/JoeyPigzaDiscussion.html>

Title: Twisted

Author: Laurie Halse Anderson

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: Kirkus Starred Review, KLIATT Starred Review

Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults 2008, ALA Quick Pick for Young Adults 2008, International Reading Association Top Ten of 2007, New York Public Library Best Books for the Teen Age, New York Times Bestseller List

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: High School, Parents, Suicide, Rumors, Popularity, Video Games

Desc: After a summer of hard labor, Tyler Miller begins his senior year capturing the eye of one of the most popular girls in school. But when naked pictures of her surface, and he is wrongfully accused of taking them, his life begins to unravel around him.

Sources: <http://halseanderson.livejournal.com/>

<http://www.writerlady.com/twistedh.html>

<http://us.penguin.com/static/rguides/us/twisted.html>

<http://www.ourmedia.org/node/301359>

Title: The Uglies (first book in a series)

Author: Scott Westerfield

HB Rating: None given (other books in the series given a 2 rating)

Other Ratings: School Library Journal Starred Review, Booklist Starred Review, Kirkus Starred Review

Awards: Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best for Teens *Kirkus* Editor's Choice, New York Public Library's "Books for the Teen Age", *School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year, Texas Lone Star Reading List, VOYA's Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers, YALSA Best Books For Young Adults, YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, YALSA Quick Picks Nominee,

Genre: Science Fiction

Themes: Personal Appearance, Future, Acceptance, Brainwashing, Conformity, Plastic Surgery,

Utopia/Dystopia

Desc: In this futuristic world, Tally Youngblood cannot wait for the operation that will make her Pretty, and she can rejoin all her 16 year old friends in Prettyville. But a new friend Shay has her second guessing her operation. Shay and Tally eventually join a secret colony of others who have escaped the surgery and who do not judge each other by their outside beauty. But when Tally accidentally alerts the authorities to their whereabouts, all that the colony has worked for and built is destroyed.

Sources:

http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya_webpage/ritba/ritba07/uglies.htm

<http://scottwesterfeld.com/>

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/book.cfm?tab=7&pid=504653&agid=10>

<http://www.islma.org/pdf/UgliesDiscussionKit.pdf>

<http://english.byu.edu/Novelinks/Novel%20Pages/Uglies.htm>

Title: Unwind

Author: Neal Shusterman

HB Rating: None given

Other Ratings: School Library Journal Starred Review

Awards: ALA Best Books For Young Adults, ALA Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, Bank Street Best Books of the Year, NYPL "Books for the Teen Age," 2008 Texas Lonestar Award List Nominee

Genre: Science Fiction

Themes: Life Quality, Organ harvesting, Families, Friendship, Runaways, Religion, Law, Abortion, Human Rights

Desc: Set in a futuristic society where unwanted teens are harvested for their body parts, three teenagers try to escape this lawful procedure. Shusterman has written a chilling story that will have students arguing for their rights as human beings.

Sources: <http://www.storyman.com/books/unwind.html?animate=1>

<http://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/Unwind.html>

Title: Whale Talk

Author: Chris Crutcher

HB Rating: 2

Other Ratings: Publisher's Weekly Starred Review

Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults, New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age, ALA Top 10 Best Book for Young Adults, Book Sense 76 Pick 2003-2004 Kentucky Bluegrass Award, Iowa High School Book Award, South Carolina YA Book Award, Nevada Young Reader Award, Garden State Teen Book Award, Pacific Northwest Young Reader Choice Award, Virginia Young Reader's Program, California Young Reader Medal, Heartland Award, ILF Rosie, Missouri Gateway Award, Pennsylvania Readers Choice, Volunteer State Book Award, Soaring Eagle Wyoming Young Adult Book, Rhode Island Teen Book, Maryland's Black-Eyed Susan Award, Colorado Blue Spruce Award

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Swimming, Multi-racial, Athletes, High school, friendship, adoption, bullies

Desc: Senior T.J. Jones decides to start a swim team at a school with no pool. He assembles a group of misfits to join the team and earn a letter jacket, angering the "real" athletes of the school.

Sources:

<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides-whale.html>

http://www.viterbo.edu/personalpages/faculty/GSmith/Chris_Crutcher.htm

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/crutcher.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/hmscards/whaletalk>

<http://www.scott.lib.mn.us/whale.html>

<http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/HarperChildrens/Kids/BookDetail.aspx?isbn13=9780688180195&BDMode=9>

<http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2007/02/25/news/iowa/4326f1994afd10ae8625728d0013550d.prt>