



# Building A Home Library

Ages 12-14



Interested in more book titles? We suggest the following sites for great reading.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/summerreading/recsummerreading/recommendedreading.htm>

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# Welcome to the world of books for your home!

Here are suggested contemporary book titles either for a great start to or enhancement of your home library. A home library collection is an ever-present resource for children and adults. The American Library Association/Children's Book Council Joint Committee and the ALSC Quicklists Consulting Committee recommend these titles for children ages 12-14. Three other pamphlets recommend books for children ages 0-3, 4-7, and 8-11. Ask your librarian or bookseller for more suggestions.

Alvarez, Julia.

**Before We Were Free.** Random, 2004. The universal concerns of young people exploring their own identities while trying to make sense of the wider world are mirrored in this novel that describes the turbulent unrest of the Dominican Republic in 1960 through the eyes of 12-year-old Anita de la Torre. A Belpré Award for Narrative winner. 🎧

Anderson, M. T.

**Feed.** Candlewick, 2002. Brain implants "feed" information, communication and advertisements directly into the brains of teenagers in this futuristic, biting satire. 🎧

Bauer, Joan.

**Hope Was Here.** Putnam, 2000. Sixteen-year-old short-order waitress Hope serves up hash and good humor and finds both a worthy cause to fight and a sweet romance when she and her aunt move to Wisconsin. A Newbery Honor Book. 🎧

Bruchac, Joseph.

**The Warriors.** Darby Creek, 2003. Fast-paced sports action mixes with traditional Algonquin beliefs in this story of young Jake Forrest who reluctantly leaves the reservation to live with his widowed mother and attend boarding school.

Cooney, Caroline B.

**The Face on the Milk Carton.** Delacorte, 1990; reissued 1996. Over her morning cereal, Jane Johnson sees a milk carton advertisement for a missing child—herself. This classic tale of mystery still leaves readers on edge.

Creech, Sharon.

**Walk Two Moons.** HarperCollins, 1994. Thirteen-year-old Sal relates the plight of her friend Phoebe, whose mom abandoned her, while taking a road trip with her grandparents to visit her own mom who also left abruptly. A Newbery Medal winner.

Cushman, Karen.

**Catherine, Called Birdy.** Clarion, 1994. Much to her father's chagrin, spunky Catherine tries various creative means to get out of marrying various suitors in Medieval England. A Newbery Honor Book.

Halls, Kelly Milner, Rick Spears, and Roxyanne Young.

**Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures That May or May Not Exist.** Illus. by Rick Spears. Darby Creek, 2006. What's the true name for those legendary animals that may or may not exist? Cryptids! Discover Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster, the Orang-pendek of Sumatra and the study of cryptozoology itself.

Holt, Kimberly Willis.

**When Zachary Beaver Came to Town.** Henry Holt, 1999. Toby and Cal meet the fattest man in the world when the sideshow comes to their small Texas town. At first they gawk and treat him poorly, but they soon befriend him and help him leave his trailer and re-enter the world. 🎧

L'Engle, Madeleine.

**A Wrinkle in Time.** Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1962. When a government experiment runs amok, Meg and her extraordinarily bright younger brother Charles Wallace must travel the cosmos to rescue their scientist father and combat evil. A Newbery Medal winner. 🎧

Levine, Gail Carson.

**Ella Enchanted.** HarperCollins, 1997. The tale of Cinderella is expanded in this adventure-filled story of Ella and a childhood curse that makes her obey everyone. A Newbery Honor Book. 🎧

Lowry, Lois.

**The Giver.** Houghton Mifflin, 1993. Jonas' illusions are shattered when he is assigned the job of memory receiver and suddenly realizes that things are not as good as they seem. A Newbery Medal winner. 🎧

Lubar, David.

**Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie.** Dutton, 2005. High school isn't easy especially when there are bullies, old friends finding new people to hang out with, girls and a new baby in the family to deal with, but Scott finds that keeping a diary makes it easier to cope in this hilarious novel.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert.

**Dairy Queen.** Houghton Mifflin/Graphia, 2006. D.J. is used to hard work as she's been spending the summer running the family farm and helping train the rival high school's quarterback but that doesn't quite prepare her for how difficult things get when she decides to try out for her school's all-male football team. 🎧

Murphy, Jim.

**An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793.** Clarion, 2003. The fledgling American government fled as doctors tried all kinds of ineffectual treatments to save the 10% of Philadelphia's population who died over the course of the summer of the Yellow Fever epidemic. A Newbery Honor Book and a Sibert Medal winner.

Myers, Walter Dean.

**Monster.** HarperCollins, 1999. The prosecution labeled sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon a monster for his role in the

death of a convenience store owner. Steve tells his side of the story in screenplay format – an appropriate choice for this fast-paced book focusing on the issues of truth versus perception and action versus intention. 🎧

Pratchett, Terry.

**The Wee Free Men.** HarperCollins, 2003. When nine-year-old Tiffany's little brother is stolen by the Queen of Faerie, her latent magic skills quickly mature as she blossoms into a formidable witch. Tiffany is assisted in her quest to free her brother by the hilarity-invoking Wee Free Men, six-inch tall blue men with a fondness for strong drink, strong language, and other pictsie tricks.

Sachar Louis.

**Holes.** Farrar Straus Giroux, 1998. Stanley Yelnats' bad luck reaches a new low when he arrives at Camp Green Lake for juvenile delinquents. A sadistic warden, a back-breaking dig for an unknown object and a most unusual group of boys come together in this humorous, quick-paced and compelling tall tale of the Yelnats family's redemption. 🎧

Sonnenblick, Jordan.

**Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie.** Scholastic, 2005.

Jeff thinks he has enough stress navigating eighth grade, unraveling the mysteries of girls and exploring his love of music; but when his five-year-old brother is diagnosed with leukemia, Jeff evaluates his life anew. Primarily written in journal format, the story is told in a fresh, realistic and often humorous voice.

Woodson, Jacqueline.

**Miracle's Boys.** G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2000. The temptations of gangs and the struggle against poverty scar this urban family as they try to survive their parents' deaths. But the three brothers find great strength in their love for each other and in the memories of their parents, enabling them to endure and even grow. 🎧

🎧 Available in an audio edition from Listening Library