

Serving the Underserved  
Readers Advisory

# What Teens Want (in the library, that is)

**Survey and talk to your teens to find out what types of books (genres and themes) they like to read. Evaluate your collection based on these genres and themes. Get to know a few titles and authors for each and create a reader's advisory guide like the one below. Be sure to include YA, adult and juvenile titles.**

## Horror

Thriller, monsters, ghosts, vampires, supernatural, occult, or unexplained phenomena. May overlap with mystery.

*The Christmas Killer* by Patricia Windsor

*Wolf Rider: a tale of terror* by Avi

*Vampires* by Jane Yolen

*Meg: a novel of deep-sea terror* by Steve Alten

*Companions of the Night* by Vivian Vande Velde

*In the Forests of the Night* by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes (a 14 year old girl)

*Fear Nothing* by Dean Koontz

*Tooth Fairy* by Graham Joyce

*The Beast* by Peter Benchley

YA Authors: Isobell Carmondy  
Caroline Cooney  
Richie Tankersley Cusick  
Diane Hoh  
Christopher Pike  
L.J. Smith  
R.L. Stine

Adult Authors: Stephen King  
Dean Koontz  
John Peel  
Anne Rice

Kies, Cosette. *SupernaturalFiction for Teens: more than 130 Good Paperbacks to Read for wonderment, fear and fun.*

*What Fantastic Fiction Do I Read Next? A reader's guide to recent fantasy, horror and science fiction.*

Best Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror. *VOYA*, April issue.

## Mystery, Suspense and Thrillers

Teen detectives, stalkers, psychopaths, murders, missing objects.

*Fell* by M.E. Kerr

*The Trouble with Lemons* by Daniel Hayes

*The Weirdo* by Theodore Taylor

*Ruby in the Smoke* by Phillip Pullman

*Deadly Deception* by Betsy Haynes

*Strange Files of Fremont Jones* by Dianne Day

*Crocodile Sandbank* by Elizabeth Peters

**YA Authors:** Lois Duncan  
Mary Downing Hahn  
Gloria Miklowitz  
Joan Lowry Nixon

**Adult Authors:** Lillian Jackson Braun  
Sue Grafton  
John Grisham  
Tony Hillerman

Stillwell, Steven. *What Mystery Do I Read Next?*

MysteryNet.com [www.MysteryNet.com](http://www.MysteryNet.com)

## Romance

Primarily female, soap opera, Christian, humorous, romantic, contemporary or historical

*Kisses* by Judith Caseley

*The Wind Blows Backward* by Mary Downing Hahn

*The Silver Kiss* by Annette Curtis Clause

*Beauty* by Robin McKinley

*Is Kissing a Girl Who Smokes Like Licking an Ashtray* by Randy Powell

*The Raging Quiet* by Sherryl Jordan

*If You Come Softly* by Jacqueline Woodson

**Authors:** Judy Blume  
Paula Danzinger  
Norma Kline  
Many, many more

## Historical Fiction

All time periods and countries, romance, mystery, history or classics

*The Seamstress* by Sara Tuvel Bernstein  
*Beyond the Burning Time* by Katherine Lasky  
*The Ramsay Scallop* by Frances Temple  
*The Year of Impossible Goodbyes* by Sook Nyul Choi  
*The Glory Field* by Walter Dean Myers  
*King of Shadows* by Susan Cooper

**Authors:** Karen Cushman  
Karen Hess  
Katherine Lasky  
Scott O'Dell  
Anne Rinaldi

Adamson, Lynda. *Recreating the Past: a guide to American and World Historical Fiction for Children and Young Adults.*

Coffey, Rosemary. *America as Story*

Soon's Historical Fiction Site      [www.uts.cc.utexas.edu/~soon/histfiction/index.html](http://www.uts.cc.utexas.edu/~soon/histfiction/index.html)

## Humor

Mixed in with all other genres. (Humorous romance, humorous sci-fi, etc.)

*Slot Machine* by Chris Lynch  
*Rats Saw God* by Rob Thomas  
*Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones  
*The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*The Heroic Life of Al Capsella* by J. Clark  
*Sunshine Rider: the first vegetarian western* by Rick Hardman  
*The Adventures of Blue Avenger* by Norma Howe  
*Ace Hits the Big Time* by Barbara Murphy  
*Love Among the Walnuts* by Jean Ferris

**Authors:** Joan Bauer

Ellen Conford  
Ron Koertge  
Gordon Korman  
Randy Powell  
Jerry Spinelli  
Patricia Wrede

## **Fantasy**

Fairy, time travel, alternate worlds, urban, magic, animal, high, humorous, myth, legend, quest, sorcery, hero, or role playing.

The Golden Compass by Phillip Pullman  
The Changeover by Margaret Mahy  
Magic Circle by Donna Jo Napoli  
Neverever by Will Shetterly  
Ella Enchanted by Gail Levine  
Others See Us by William Sleator  
Lost Years of Merlin by T.A. Barron  
Dark Lord of Derkholm by Diana Wynn Jones

**Authors:** Lloyd Alexander  
Peter Beagle  
Terry Brooks  
Brian Jacques  
Madeline L'Engle  
Anne McCaffrey  
Robin McKinley  
Tamora Pierce  
Patricia Wrede

Harold, Diana Tixier. *Fluent in Fantasy.*

MacRae, Cathi Dunn. *Presenting Young Adult Fantasy*

*What Fantastic Fiction Do I Read Next? A reader's guide to recent fantasy, horror and science fiction.*

Lynn, Ruth Nadelman. *Fantasy Fiction for Children and Young Adults.*

## Science Fiction

Alternate worlds, humorous, time travel, aliens, utopia, alternate history, end of the world, virtual reality, militaristic, space empires, or hard core.

*Doomsday Book* by Connie Willis

*Eva* by Peter Dickinson

*Interstellar Pig* by William Sleator

*Invitation to the Game* by Monica Hughes

*Enchantress from the Stars* by Sylvia Engdahl

*Virtual War* by Gloria Skuznski

*Moonseed* by Stephen Baxter

*Shade's Children* by Garth Nix

*Anvil of the Stars* by Greg Bear

**Authors:** Douglas Adams  
Piers Anthony  
Orson Scott Card  
William Sleator  
Neal Shusterman  
Roger Zelansky

*What Fantastic Fiction Do I Read Next? A reader's guide to recent fantasy, horror and science fiction.*

Reid, Suzanne. *Presenting Young Adult Science Fiction*

## Adventure

Heroes, survival, war, espionage, or teens on their own.

*Flight 116 is Down* by Caroline Cooney

*Running Out of Time* by Margaret Haddix

*Tomorrow When the War Began* by John Marsden

*Deathwatch* by Robb White

*Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers

*Grounding of Group Six* by Julian F. Thomas

*The Place of Lions* by Eric Campbell

*Into Thin Air* by John Krakner

**Authors:** Jean Craighead George  
Will Hobbs  
Harry Mazer  
Gloria Miklowitz

Gary Paulsen  
Theodore Taylor

## Sports

Fiction, nonfiction, biography, boys or girls.

*Slam* by Walter Dean Myers

*Wrestling Sturbridge* by Rich Wallace

*Venus to the Hoop* by Sara Corbett

*Harnessing Anger: the way of an American fencer* by Peter Westbrook

*Roughnecks* by Tomas Cochran

*My Brother Stealing Second* by Jim Naughton

**Authors:** Chris Crutcher

Carl Dueker

Thomas Dygard

Robert Lypsyte

Chris Lynch

## Graphic Novels

Comic books, sequential art, adventure, humor, series, violence, super heroes.

*Astro City* by Kurt Busiek

*Bat Man: the dark knight returns* by Frank Miller

*Big Book of Urban Legends* by Robert Fleming

*Elfquest*

*Maus* by Art Spiegelman

*Mind Riot: coming of Age in Comics* by Karen Hirsch

*Sandman* by Neil Gaiman

*Tale of One Bad Rat* by Bryan Talbot

*Watchmen* by Alan Moore

Comics, Comix and Graphic Novels by Roger Sabin

Graphic Novels by D. Aviva Rothschild

Comics Get Serious

[www.rationalmagic.com/Comics/Comics.html](http://www.rationalmagic.com/Comics/Comics.html)

## **Realistic Fiction**

Problem novels, coming of age, substance abuse, violence, headlines, social issues, teen relationships, death, body image, physical disabilities, crime, sexuality, mental illness, incest, pregnancy.....

*Time for Dancing* by Davida Wills Hurwin (friend dying)

*I Can Hear the Morning Dove* by James Bennett (suicide)

*Izzy, Willy, Nilly* by Cynthia Voigt (loses leg in accident resulting from drunk driving)

*Swallowing Stones* by Joyce McDonald (accidental shooting)

*Luckiest Girl in the World* by Steven Levenkron (self-mutilation)

*Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline Cooney (missing teen)

*Slake's Limbo* by Felice Holman (homeless)

*Way Past Cool* by Jess Mowry (gangs)

*Letters from the Inside* by John Marsden (prison)

*Dear Nobody* by Berlie Doherty (pregnancy)

*Tenderness* by Robert Cormier (teenage serial killer)

*When She Was Good* by Norma Fox Mazer (abuse)

*Dancing on the Edge* by Han Nolan (mental illness)

*Peeling the Onion* by Wendy Orr (disfigurement)

*True Colors of Caitlynn Jackson* by Carol Lynch Williams (teen abandoned by parent)

*Smack* by Melvin Burgess (heroin)

*Whistle Me Home* by Barbara Wersba (sexual identity)

*Kissing Doorknobs* by Terry Spencer Hesser (obsessive compulsive disorder)

## **And the List Goes On and On What is right for your library?**

**Poetry**

**Short Stories**

**Media Tie-Ins**

**“Classics”**

**Magazines**

**Multicultural Materials**

**Series Paperbacks**

**Books on Tape**

**Videos  
Music CDs  
CD-ROM  
Internet**

**Sure Fire Hits  
(at my library, that is)**

Any book by Caroline Cooney

*Swallowing Stones* by Joyce McDonald

*Rats Saw God* by Rob Thomas

*Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers

Any book by Anne Rinaldi

*Holes* by Louis Sachar

*It Happened to Nancy* by an Anonymous Teenager

*The Top Ten of Everything*

All the *Harry Potter* books

*Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman

Any book by Will Hobbs