

Adlington, L.J. *The Diary of Pelly D.* Greenwillow, 2005. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0060766174; ISBN-13: 978-0060766177). Pelly D. is a teenager who has it all: money, friends, and popularity. Then things on her planet start changing and suddenly it matters what your “genetic type” is. Pelly D. is the wrong genetic type, and now all she can do is confide to her diary as the world turns against her very existence. Will anyone hear her story?

Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier.* Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. \$9.41 (ISBN-10: 0374531269; ISBN-13: 978-0374531263). For the first twelve years of his life, Ishmael was a normal boy growing up in Sierra Leone. Then the rebels came and destroyed his village and his old life, kidnapping Ishmael and forcing him into the brutal life of a child soldier. The story of his journey from life as a boy soldier to freedom is harrowing, violent, and ultimately redemptive.

Castellucci, Cecil. *Beige.* Candlewick, 2007. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0763642320; ISBN-13: 978-0763642327). Katy, 15, thinks she knows everything there is to know about her father, “the Rat.” To other people he may be a famous punk rocker; to her, he dropped out of her life long ago and punk is just so much noise. When her mother needs to pursue graduate work in Peru, she leaves Katy with the Rat and Katy discovers that she doesn’t know everything about the Rat, or about herself.

Clare, Cassandra. *City of Bones.* Margaret K. McElderry, 2007. \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 1416955070; ISBN-13: 978-1416955078). Clary can’t believe her eyes when she sees a teenager get stabbed in a club and then vanish. This is how she discovers an entirely different New York City exists just outside her field of perception. This one is populated by demons, vampires, werewolves, and Shadowhunters, the humans who hunt and kill demons. Now Clary must find her place in this entirely new, and very dangerous, world.

Courter, Ashley Rhodes. *Three Little Words: A Memoir.* Antheneum, 2008. (ISBN-10: 1416948074; ISBN-13: 978-1416948070) Carrying her entire life in garbage bags, Ashley spent most of her childhood being shuffled between foster homes. Her experiences in the foster care system left her more determined than ever to have a good life, even when things in her foster homes were sometimes terrible. Now an adult, Ashley looks back on her childhood with an unflinching and inspiring honesty.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge.* Laurel-Leaf, 2004. \$6.99 (ISBN-10: 0440413311; ISBN-13: 978-0440413318). When Luther’s mother, “the Sarge,” says “jump,” Luther asks “how high?” Whether it’s running one of her senior group homes (even though he’s only 15) or otherwise assisting one of her scams, Luther does it, dreaming of escape. Is he going to have to wait for college; or can he figure out a way to gain his freedom now?

Trueman, Terry. *Inside Out.* HarperTeen, 2003. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0064473767; ISBN-13: 978-0064473767). A hold-up in a coffee shop; Zach, 16, is the last person you’d want in there. He’s a schizophrenic, and as the hold-up becomes a hostage situation he’s without the meds he needs. Yet somehow, despite the odds, Zach will make a difference in this volatile situation.

Westerfeld, Scott. *Uglies.* Simon Pulse, 2005. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0689865384; ISBN-13: 978-0689865381). In Tally Youngblood’s world, turning 16 is the most important year in your life, because that’s the year you get the operation. The operation is your ticket to a carefree life of glamour, parties, and excitement, a world where everyone is rebuilt to be gorgeous. All Tally wants is the operation, but she’s about to find out the very ugly truth behind the mask of her pretty universe.

Williams, Rita Garcia. *No Laughter Here.* Amistad, 2003. \$6.99 (ISBN-10: 0064409929; ISBN-13: 978-0064409926). Akilah and Victoria are best friends, but when Victoria comes back from visiting her grandmother in Nigeria, there’s something different about her. Victoria can’t figure out how her friend has changed, but when she discovers her secret it’s far beyond anything she’s ever imagined. In this sensitive novel the topic of female genital mutilation is discussed with rare insight and grace.

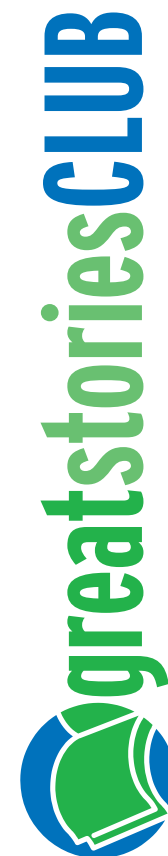
Woodson, Jacqueline. *After Tupac & D Foster.* Putnam, 2008. \$10.87 (ISBN-10: 0399246541; ISBN-13: 978-0399246548). Tupac Shakur’s life and music sets the soundtrack of the story of three girls growing up in Queens, New York. Using Tupac’s struggles and lyrics as an inspiration and a common thread, the three friends explore and expand the sound of their world as they search for their “big purpose” in life.

Zarr, Sara. *Story of a Girl.* Little, Brown, Young Readers, 2007. \$7.99 (ISBN-10: 0316014532; ISBN-13: 978-0316014533). Haven’t you heard? Deanna is one of “those” girls, the kind that goes too far with boys and is nothing but trouble. At least that’s what everyone has said about her since she was 13 years old. At 15, Deanna’s life is still overshadowed by one thing that happened two years ago. Can she find the strength to move past that and make peace with her family, her friends, and herself?

The Great Stories CLUB related reading list was compiled by YALSA’s Outreach to Young Adults with Special Needs Committee.

Related Reading for Participating Teens

“New Horizons” Theme



Dickinson, Peter. *Eva*. Laurel-Leaf, 1989. \$6.99 (ISBN-10: 0440207665; ISBN-13: 978-0440207665). Eva doesn't remember the accident, only the picnic before. After waking from a coma, Eva knows something has changed. When she looks into a mirror for the first time, she understands. The face looking back at her is the face of her playmate, Kelly. Kelly was a young, female chimpanzee. Now Eva is that chimpanzee.

Downham, Jenny. *Before I Die*. David Fickling Books, 2007. \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 0385751834; ISBN-13: 978-0385751834). Tessa only has a few months to live and she refuses to spend them in some hospital bed as her body gives out. Instead, she makes a list of all the things she wants to experience before she dies and sets out trying to make the absolute most of the time she has left. What would you do if you were 17 and knew you were going to die?

Elkeles, Simone. *How to Ruin a Summer Vacation*. Flux, 2006. \$9.95 (ISBN-10: 0738709611; ISBN-13: 978-0738709611). Traveling to a different country for a summer vacation sounds like a dream come true, right? Wrong. Not when it's a summer vacation in Israel, with a different language and teens whose worries aren't the latest brands but joining the army. And not when it's a trip with a father Amy has barely seen and who doesn't mention Amy to his family until she shows up on his doorstep.

Friesen, Jonathan. *Jerk, California*. Speak, 2008. \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 0142412031; ISBN-13: 978-0142412039). Sam has Tourette's Syndrome, which hasn't made high school the best experience. His abusive stepfather, Old Bill, hasn't helped either. But now Sam is about to embark on a cross country road trip, with the girl of his dreams no less, to discover the truth about his real father and maybe even the truth about himself.

Hautman, Pete. *Rash*. Simon & Schuster, 2006. \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 0689869045; ISBN-13: 978-0689869044). In the future, it's all about safety—no risks, no hurt feelings. Break a rule, go to jail, like 24 percent of the population, just like when Bo loses his temper and gets sent to jail. Once there, he discovers that the warden is running forbidden games of a violent sport long abandoned—something called football. Bo's about to find out what competition really means.

Hoose, Philip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. \$13.57 (ISBN-10: 0374313229; ISBN-13: 978-0374313227). Nine months before Rosa Parks famously refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was arrested for the same act of defiance. Yet Colvin's story has been largely forgotten. What prompted her to act? In this biography, Claudette finally tells her story, which reflects the struggles and triumphs of the Civil Rights movement.

Johnson, Maureen. *13 Little Blue Envelopes*. HarperTeen, 2005. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0060541431; ISBN-13: 978-0060541439). Ginny's aunt dies, leaving her thirteen envelopes and the first set of instructions: buy a ticket to London. Each envelope is a new destination, a new discovery, as Ginny finds out more about her aunt, the world, and herself.

Levithan, David. *Boy Meets Boy*. Knopf, 2003. \$8.95 (ISBN-10: 0375832998 ISBN-13: 978-0375832994). Imagine a high school where everyone can be who they truly are, nothing hidden, everyone accepted. Where the football quarterback is also the Homecoming Queen. Paul may live in a perfect town, but he still gets nervous asking out the guy he likes.

McDonald, Janet. *Twists and Turns*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. \$6.95 (ISBN-10: 0374400067; ISBN-13: 978-0374400064). Keeba and Teesha have graduated high school; in their Brooklyn neighborhood, they've avoided the pregnancies and other problems of their friends and neighbors, but they're not the going-to-college types. Can they turn their talent for braiding hair into a business?

Murdock, Catherine. *Dairy Queen*. Graphia, 2006. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0618863354; ISBN-13: 978-0618863358). Just like her brothers, 15-year-old DJ does a full day's work at the family dairy farm. Just like her brothers, she loves sports. Both were football stars who got scholarships. What if DJ wants to be just like her brothers and play football?

Myers, Walter Dean. *Street Love*. Amistad, 2006. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0064407322; ISBN-13: 978-0064407328). Damien has everything going for him. Junice has the whole world against her. Damien is a basketball star about to go to a great college. Junice has a mother in jail and a grandmother who can't take care of her and her sister. Damien and Junice have nothing in common except their love for each other. Will that be enough to help them make whole new life together?

Oda, Eiichiro. *One Piece*. Viz Media, LLC, 2003. \$7.95 (ISBN-10: 1569319014; ISBN-13: 978-1569319017) In this continuing manga series, Monkey D. Luffy used to be an average teenage boy. Once he received magical powers, however, he became the leader and captain of a group of heroic pirates, the Straw Hats. Now Luffy and the Straw Hats sail the world, having magical, mystical adventures as they search for the greatest pirate treasure of all time: One Piece. If Luffy can survive and find One Piece, he'll become the King of the Pirates.

Pearson, Mary E. *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*. SquareFish, 2008. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0312594410; ISBN-13: 978-0312594411). When Jenna wakes up after a year in a coma, she can't seem to make the pieces of her life fit together. Why are there so many empty spaces in her memories and in her history? Why does it seem like her parents have hidden her away from her old life? When she discovers the truth of who she is now and

how she got to be this way, she has to reevaluate everything she thinks it means to be Jenna Fox and, even, to be human.

Pena, Matt de la. *Ball Don't Lie*. Delacorte, 2005. \$7.99 (ISBN-10: 0385734255; ISBN-13: 978-0385734257). There's one thing Sticky knows: everyone in your life lies. From Sticky's prostitute mom to all the places he stayed in foster care. While everyone might lie and let you down, there's one thing Sticky can always count on: he's going to be the best on the court and even when everything else is awful, the ball don't lie. Now 17, Sticky is going to have to confront all his demons if he wants to be in the game.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *The Dead and Gone*. Harcourt, 2008. \$11.56 (ISBN-10: 0152063110; ISBN-13: 978-0152063115). When a meteor hits the moon, everything changes, particularly the life of 17-year-old Alex Morales. When his parents fail to return home after this global catastrophe, he is the only one left to take care of his two younger sisters. Foraging for survival in New York City, Alex takes on tremendous responsibilities as provider and protector, but will that be enough to keep his family together at what seems like the end of the world?

Saenz, Benjamin Alire. *Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood*. Rayo, 2004. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0060843748; ISBN-13: 978-0060843748). Sammy doesn't live in that Hollywood; his is a barrio in New Mexico. He watches as friends and loved ones die, struggle with drugs, and fight injustice. All Sammy wants is for his family to be safe and to leave Hollywood. What should he do when those dreams turn out to be in conflict with one another?

Sarkar, Dona. *How to Salsa in a Sari*. Kimani True, 2008. \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 0373830882; ISBN-13: 978-0373830886). Archivals Cat and Issa are forced to learn to live with each other and respect each other's heritage when Issa's Indian mother decides to marry Cat's Latino father.

Strahan, Jonathan, ed. *The Starry Rift*. Firebird, 2008. \$9.64 (ISBN-10: 0142414387; ISBN-13: 978-0142414385). What will the future be like? Sixteen authors speculate on the many different worlds that might be just beyond the horizon of now. From exploring space to fighting computers for the survival of Earth, this book offers unique, exciting visions of the many different worlds to come.

Stratton, Allan. *Chanda's Secrets*. Annick Press, 2004. \$9.37 (ISBN-10: 1550378341; ISBN-13: 978-1550378344). It seems like everyone Chanda Kabelo, a sixteen-year-old girl in small South African town, knows has some connection to HIV/AIDS. Many of her friends and family members are infected and sick, yet Chanda finds no one wants to talk about what's happening. Does she have the courage to speak out and change her life?