

Brande, Robin. *Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. \$7.99 (ISBN-10: 0440240301; ISBN-13: 978-0440240303). Imagine you're Mena. Everyone hates you; the whole school, your friends, the guy you like. You've been ousted out of the church group and your parents won't even speak to you. Only her lab partner, Casey is still speaking to her, and she's fortunate that he does because her school life will be taking a very dramatic turn—all because of evolution.

Chaltas, Thalia. *Because I Am Furniture*. Speak, 2010. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0142415103; ISBN-13: 978-0142415108). Anke's father abuses her brother and sister but he never lays a hand on her. This should make her life easier, but to Anke all it means is that her father doesn't even know she exists; to him, she is worth no more notice than a piece of furniture. When she joins the volleyball team at school, Anke begins to learn she has a voice and a chance to change her family forever.

Cushman, Karen. *The Midwife's Apprentice*. HarperCollins, 1996. \$5.99 (ISBN-10: 006440630X; ISBN-13: p780064406307). A girl named Brat is sleeping on a dung heap when the local midwife kicks her awake and bids her to start working. Slowly, Brat becomes Beetle, learning how to be a midwife. With new-found belief in herself, Beetle renames herself Alyce. When she fails during a difficult delivery, Alyce suffers a blow to her fragile confidence. Through time and introspection, she will regain her strength and become more than the midwife's apprentice.

Cypess, Leah. *Mistwood*. Greenwillow, 2010. \$11.55 (ISBN-10: 0061956996; ISBN-13: 978-0061956997). The Shifter has always protected the Kings of Samorna, it is her sworn magical duty. Now, The Shifter has been called back to the court from the magical forest of Mistwood, and she takes the shape of a young woman named Isabel. She begins to try to solve the mystery of her past. Why did she leave the court and where does her duty lie now that she's back? Will she have a second chance to set things right?

Dowd, Siobhan. *Solace of the Road*. David Fickling Books, 2010. \$13.49 (ISBN-10: 0375849718; ISBN-13: 978-0375849718). Holly knows that someday, she'll escape the group home in England she is currently living in and make it back to Ireland, where she will find her mother. Once Holly finds a blonde wig, she decides it is time to start her journey. She changes her name to Solace and sets off for Ireland. On the road, Solace will meet friends and dangers and will discover the truth about her mother and herself.

Efaw, Amy. *After*. Viking, 2009. \$7.20 (ISBN-10: 0670011835). This is the story of what happens after. After Devon puts the baby in the dumpster, after the police come to her apartment, after she is charged with attempted murder, after she has to face up to how she got into this situation. This is the story of not just how Devon deals with her actions but how she has a chance to work toward redemption in the new "after" of her life.

Ryan, Carrie. *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*. Decolorte Press, 2010 \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 0385736827; # ISBN-13: 978-0385736824). In a town surrounded by fences meant to keep out the Unconsecrated, the undead who crave human flesh, Mary often wonders what lies beyond the fences. Her mother has told her stories of what lies beyond their border, but they are so hard to believe, given she has lived her whole life in this town. The Guardians protect them, the Sisters guide them, but is that enough to stop the oncoming terror of the Unconsecrated?

Sachar, Louis. *Small Steps*. Decolorte Press, 2008. \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 0385733151; ISBN-13: 978-0385733151). Armpit is returning to his home town after two years at a juvenile facility. To make the transition, his counselor advises him to "take small steps and keep moving forward." The only person who seems to have faith in him is his next door neighbor Ginny, who is disabled. His life starts to spin out of control when he meets up with his friend from Camp, X-Ray. Can he get his life back under control?

Sheth, Kashmira. *Keeping Corner*. Hyperion, 2009. \$5.99 (ISBN-10: 0786838604; ISBN-13: 9780786838608). Leela has been engaged since she was two years old and will soon start living with her husband. She cares more about bangles and ribbons than school—but when Leela's husband dies, she's a widow at the age of twelve. Tradition says that she must spend the next year in her home. Leela might go crazy until her old schoolteacher offers to tutor her. Education allows Leela to blossom, but there are many barriers to Leela's dreams.

Shiraz, Yasmin. *Retaliation*. Rolling Hills Press, 2008. \$11.66 (ISBN-10: 097181743X; ISBN-13: 978-0971817432). Teshera is a good girl. That's why it doesn't make any sense when she is attacked and beaten by three girls at school. Who attacked her and why? Teshera's brother and mother vow revenge, but is that really the best solution? As Teshera begins to heal with the help of her boyfriend, Ahmed, she and her family must deal with the consequences not only of her attack but with the impact and costs of retaliation.

Wilson, Diane Lee. *Black Storm Comin'*. Margaret K. McElderry, 2006. \$6.99 (ISBN-10: 0689871384; ISBN-13: 9780689871382). After his father accidentally shoots Colton in the leg, he abandons his family. Colton's mother is sick, and it's up to him to find a doctor and get the family to California. The only way he can get the money he needs is to pass for white and join the Pony Express. Hiding his mixed race is a difficult task in 1860, but Colton will face any challenge to save his family.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Locomotion*. Speak, 2010. \$7.99 (ISBN-10: 0142415529; ISBN-13: 978-0142415528). Lonnie Collins Motion, an eleven-year-old foster child, can still smell the honeysuckle talc powder that his mama used. Losing his family at the age of seven, he learns through the power of writing and the guidance of a new teacher that his own words keep his parents alive and give him strength and comfort.

Related Reading for Participating Teens

"Second Chances" Theme

Elkeles, Simone. *Perfect Chemistry*. Walker Books, 2008. \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 0802798225; ISBN-13: 978-0802798220). Brittany is the perfect, popular girl. Alex is a member of the Latino Bloods gang. Now Alex and Brittany are lab partners and neither one is happy about it. When Alex accepts a bet that he can get Brittany to sleep with him, their relationship starts to change in ways that surprise even Alex. Now their chemistry is throwing off sparks neither expected, but do they really have a chance to make their relationship work?

Forman, Gayle. *If I Stay*. Speak, 2010. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 014241543X; ISBN-13: 978-0142415436). Should she stay or should she go? For Mia, caught somewhere between this world and the next after a terrible car accident that kills her parents, this question will determine if she lives or dies. As Mia's body lays in a coma, she looks back at her life and tries to decide what her next choice should be. Does she still have a chance to live? If she does, is trying to live worth the pain and struggle?

Giles, Gail. *Right Behind You*. Little Brown, 2009. \$7.99 (ISBN-10: 0316166375; ISBN-13: 978-0316166379). Setting a child on fire sends Kip to a juvenile facility for four years. When he's released he, his father, and his stepmom move to Indiana to start a new life. Once the townspeople find out about Kip's past, the family needs to find another place to live. They finally find one in Texas, and it is there that Kip meets Samantha, a mysterious next-door neighbor who also has a story of her own. Can he tell her about his past? Will she reject him? If so, will they have to move again?

Herlong, M.H. *The Great Wide Sea*. Puffin, 2010. \$6.99 (ISBN-10: 0142416703; ISBN-13: 978-0142416709). The last thing Ben expected after his mother died was for his father to sell everything they owned and move him and his two brothers onto a sailboat to live for a year while cruising in the Bahamas. Just when things can't get any worse, their father disappears during a storm, and now survival is in Ben's hands. He and his brothers have only a damaged boat and their own skills to keep them alive.

Hijuelos, Oscar. *Dark Dude*. Atheneum, 2009. \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 1416949453; ISBN-13: 9781416949459). Rico gets called "dark dude" a lot—and it's not a compliment. Thanks to his light skin and hair, everyone thinks he's white, not Cuban. Rico dreams of creating comic books with his friend Jimmy and misses Gilberto, his friend who took his lottery winnings and left Harlem for Wisconsin. Rico runs away with Jimmy, hitchhiking to Gilberto's farm. There, Rico will figure out whether he's just a dark dude or something more.

Johnson, LouAnne. *Muchacho*. Knopf, 2009. \$10.87 (ISBN-10: 0375861173; ISBN-13: 978-0375861178). Ever since he was eight years old, Eddie has known that his life is going to be full of drug-running and gang life. Now he is in an alternative high school and has one last chance to change his life. Once he meets Lupe, a girl with big dreams, and connects with some teachers at his school, Eddie starts to believe that life may have more to offer him than he always thought.

Katcher, Brian. *Playing with Matches*. Laurel Leaf, 2009. \$7.99 (ISBN-10: 0385735456; ISBN-13: 978-0385735452). High school junior Leon Sanders doesn't normally have girls lining up to go out with him, but suddenly there are two: Melody Hennon, burn victim and school outcast with a great sense of humor; and Amy Green, the popular cheerleader Leon's been crushing on for years. Although he enjoys a strong friendship and genuine attraction to Melody, Leon can't resist the temptation to date Amy instead. When he realizes it's Melody he cares about, will he have a second chance to win the heart of the girl he betrayed?

Keat, Nawuth. *Alive in the Killing Fields: Surviving the Khmer Rouge Genocide*. National Geographic Children's Books, 2009. \$15.95 (ISBN-10: 142630515X; ISBN-13: 978-1426305153). In this gripping true story, readers first meet Mop at age nine, when he witnesses the savage murder of his mother and family members by soldiers of the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. His life is spared only because he is thought to be dead. As the brutal regime enslaves his people, Mop must do whatever necessary to fight for survival.

Kuklin, Susan. *No Choirboy: Murder, Violence & Teenagers on Death Row*. Henry Holt, 2008. \$17.99 (ISBN-10: 0805079505; ISBN-13: 978-0805079500). Roy, Mark, LA and Mary all have something in common; their lives have been shattered by violent acts that have forever changed them. In this book, you will hear the first-person stories of men sentenced to death row for crimes committed as teenagers and hear from the families affected by their crimes. Their stories prompt the question: is anyone deserving of forgiveness and mercy when a life has been taken? You decide.

Larson, Hope. *Mercury*. Atheneum, 2010. \$9.99 (ISBN-10: 1416935886; ISBN-13: 978-1416935889). After Tara's house burned down, her mother had to move away to try to support them. Tara wants to rebuild, but her mother says they will never have enough money. Meanwhile, more than a hundred years in the past, Tara's ancestor Josey falls for the wrong man, a decision that will change both girls' lives. In this graphic novel, Tara's and Josey's stories are about to unite in a mesmerizing intersection.

Mah, Adeline Yen. *Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter*. Laurel Leaf, 2001. \$6.99 (ISBN-10: 0440228654; ISBN-13: 978-0440228653). Wu Mei must live like a real-life Cinderella in her cruel stepmother's home. She works hard in school and has great success, but that just makes her stepmother angrier. Yet even that can't stop Wu Mei's dreams and her determination to change her life and do something great. This absorbing memoir tells the true story of how Wu Mei never gave up and became a doctor and writer.

Monninger, Joseph. *Baby*. Front Street Press, 2007. \$15.34 (ISBN-10: 1590785029; ISBN-13: 978-1590785027). Baby has one last chance to make it work in a foster home. The last place she wants to be is in the foster home with Mary and Fred, a couple who raise sled dogs, but she find that she loves being with the dogs. When her old boyfriend shows up and brings trouble with him, it's time for Baby to make some big choices about the kind of life she wants to have.

Oliver, Lauren. *Before I Fall*. Harper, 2010. \$17.99 (ISBN-10: 006172680x, ISBN-13: 9780061726804). Popular Samantha has recently died in a car crash. You would think that would be the end of her story, but, instead, she finds that she is reliving the same day over and over again. So she starts off on her journey as a mean, snobbish, obnoxious Samantha. But day by day, Samantha learns more about her life *and* her death. Can any of that change who she is or what happens to her?

Peña, Matt de la. *We Were Here*. Delecorate Press, 2010. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0385736703; ISBN-13: 978-0385736701) Something really terrible happened in Miguel's life. Now Miguel has to spend a year in juvie and he's sent to a group home. Once there, he meets Mong and Rondell. Mong is planning an escape and, before you know it, the three of them are on the lam in southern California, trying to keep from being recaptured and headed for the border while Miguel tries to figure out his future. Does he have a future?

Pratchett, Terry. *Nation*. HarperCollins, 2009. \$8.99 (ISBN-10: 0061433039; ISBN-13: 978-0061433030). A tsunami wipes out an entire island village, leaving Mau the only survivor of his people, called the Nation. Meanwhile, a lone survivor from a shipwreck, Daphne, is washed up on the island's shore, where they both meet and learn to survive. Refugees from the other islands start to arrive, and it will take all of Daphne's and Mau's practical sense and wit to help them survive as well. Just when everyone feels safe and secure, their world turns upside down yet again. Can they survive this time?

Rabin, Staton. *Black Powder*. Margaret K. McElderry, 2005. \$16.95 (ISBN-10: 0689868766; ISBN-13: 9780689868764). Langston's best friend Neely has just died in a gang shooting. Langston is upset and wishes he could change what happened. Then he gets his chance, thanks to the time machine his science teacher has invented. It's not just about saving Neely—he's going back to 1278, when Sir Francis Bacon has created the first gunpowder in the West. If Langston can destroy the formula for gunpowder, he could save many people. But can Langston stop progress?

Rapp, Adam. *Punkzilla*. Candlewick, 2009. \$16.99 (ISBN-10: 0763630314; ISBN-13: 978-0763630317). When fourteen-year-old Jaime, aka Punkzilla, a juvie runaway, discovers his long-estranged, gay brother is dying of cancer, he leaves his gang hideout and sets off cross country on a Greyhound bus. His most valuable possession is a notebook, where he writes graphic letters to his brother as an eclectic array of characters pick him up and carry him closer to his destination. Will he get there in time? Who will he find?

Reinhardt, Dana. *How to Build a House*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2009. \$7.99 (ISBN-10: 0375844546; ISBN-13: 978-0375844546). Seventeen-year-old Harper needs answers and has no one to talk to. Why are her beloved stepmother and stepsisters moving out? Does her longtime guy friend Gabriel just want a casual thing with her, or does he really care? For the summer, she is sent to a volunteer camp in Tennessee where she and a group of teens will help rebuild a house destroyed by a hurricane. She easily makes new friends, but will she learn to deal with her real life that is causing her so much pain?