

2010 SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

2010 Teens' Top Ten Nominees

The first 26 titles listed here are nominees for the 2010 Teens' Top Ten List sponsored by the Young Adult division of the American Library Association. If you read some of the books on this list, you will be able to cast your vote for any of the ones you thought were excellent in mid-August through mid-September.

Watersmeet by Ellen Jensen Abbott – Abisina is born into a colony of religious fanatics, where she is persecuted for her appearance, kept alive only because her mother is the healer. But when a new leader arrives, he rids the colony of the outcasts. Abisina escapes and is rescued by some dwarves, who help her journey to Watersmeet to find her father.

Wintergirls by Laurie Halse Anderson – Lia sees her eating disorder as a way to avoid so much: her stepmother's pressure to be a role model for her new stepsister, her parents' divorce, her mother constantly hounding over her daughter's eating habits whenever she finds the time in the rest of her life. But most importantly, she sees it as a means to escape the death of her best friend, the one she ignored the day she died from the same disease Lia is fighting herself.

Hate List by Jennifer Brown – Valerie and her boyfriend Nick are constantly picked on by other kids at Garvin High. They write a Hate List, and Nick participates in a Columbine type killing. Valerie survives and has to live with the consequences.

Heist Society by Ally Carter – Katarina is trying to get out of the family thievery business. When her father is suspected of stealing a priceless art collection from an Italian mobster, she has to steal them back to save his life—and she has no idea where they are.

Fire by Kristin Cashore – Fire is a monster, quite literally. She is extraordinarily beautiful and can control the minds of humans. Soon she gets sucked into the kingdom's political turmoil and encounters everything from cold princes to brightly colored bunny rabbits.

City of Glass by Cassandra Clare – Clary must dig deep within herself to complete the journey into the unfamiliar in the name of family and love. Clary goes to the City of Glass to try to save her mother — even though it may mean her own death.

The Roar by Emma Clayton – Mika's world appears to be based purely on mystery and lies, though he seems to be the only one who senses it. After his sister vanishes and a new government program that targets children rises, Mika decides that the only hope of finding his sister may be in beating the government at their own game.

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins – In the sequel to *The Hunger Games*, Katniss is faced with the challenges of being a victor of the Games, from keeping up the image of a romantic relationship with Peeta to trying to prevent any rioting in the other districts. But when the Capitol announces a twist that will affect Katniss forever, will she be able to survive re-entering the world of the Games?

Along for the Ride by Sarah Dessen – College-bound Auden lets academics drive her entire life until she moves to a beach town for the summer to live with her father, stepmother, and newborn half-sister. Slowly she learns to break out of her shell as she makes friends with the locals and falls for a trick bike rider.

Incarceron by Catherine Fisher – In a distant future, all the world's criminals are dumped in a vast, living prison called Incarceron, with live forests and mechanical animals, climate-controlled weather, and everlasting dark walls that stretch to nowhere. Seventeen-year-old Finn believes he should not be there and must rely on help from the outside to escape.

hush, hush by Becca Fitzpatrick – Nora ends up sitting next to Patch in biology. Patch is a scary guy, a fallen angel, and he is shrouded in mystery. But he has a knack for getting under Nora's skin. Many people seem to be out to get her and she is slowly starting to realize she is falling for Patch, even if he is trying to kill her.

If I Stay by Gayle Forman – After a drive with her family, Mia wakes up to find the car in pieces and the bodies of her family by the side of the road. She is in a coma, but she can see everything happening around her, almost as if she was a ghost. With her family gone, Mia has to decide if she should stay among the living or if she should pass on.

Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl – Lena isn't like the other girls in Gatlin, South Carolina. She's as different from them as a person can get. She is a Caster. Ethan wants to be different. He hates life in Gatlin. So when he runs into Lena, almost literally, something just clicks. Can an ancient curse, a shut-in uncle, and certain doom keep them apart?

Geektastic (stories), Black, Holly and Castelluci, Cecil, eds. – Anyone who has ever been labeled or proclaimed themselves to be "geeks" will fall to the floor laughing and fall in love with the many different short stories and illustrations by some of the top young adult authors.

Dragonfly by Julia Golding – A princess from a country formed on rules is being forced to marry a prince from a different country who just likes to live life. They dislike each other on sight— and then they are kidnapped. Can they travel back home, through enemy territory, without strangling each other?

The Reformed Vampire Support Group by Catherine Jinks – Grumpy vampire Nina is in a support group so that she doesn't prey on humans. But things start to look grimmer than ever when one of the vampires in the support group shows up dead. Will Nina be able to get to the bottom of this crime before another vampire is attacked?

I Am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil... by Josh Lieb – A young boy (who happens to be an evil genius) wants to be student body president to attract his father/arch-nemesis' attention. After using his almost unlimited resources, he thinks he has the election in the bag, when suddenly everything goes wrong that no amount of money can fix.

Twenty Boy Summer by Sarah Ockler – Anna joins her best friend Frankie's family for a beach vacation in California. Frankie and Anna make a bet to attract 20 boys in 20 days.

Anna struggles with a painful secret and falls in love with Sam — and isn't sure she can finish their bet.

Witch and Wizard by James Patterson – Siblings Whit and Wisty are suddenly pronounced a witch and a wizard by their oppressive government. They are sent to prison, where they learn to use their powers with hopes to escape.

By the Time You Read This, I'll Be Dead by Julie Anne Peters – Daelyn Rice is determined to succeed in killing herself this time. Using a website for “completers,” she reveals a history of bullying and torment that started in kindergarten. One day, though, a boy sits with her as she is waiting to be picked up from school. While she makes it known that she wants to be alone, he won't give up on her.

Bloodhound by Tamora Pierce – Beka has grown and needs to take on new assignments. When her old partner gets hurt, she is sent out on a new type of mission. Finding love and a culprit can be complicated in a big city—but nothing is too hard for the Terrier!

Strange Angels by Lili St. Crow – Dru's family kills mythical creatures. After a catastrophe befalls her parents, she wants revenge. To find out what happened to her family, she'll need to learn to trust others.

Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater – Ever since being saved by a wolf as a child, Grace has been fascinated with the wolves around her Minnesota home. But the wolves are becoming restless and need Grace's help to save them. One of the wolves takes human form and falls in love with Grace — but as the weather grows colder, he'll turn back into a wolf, likely forever. Soon, he must make a life or death decision to stay with the one he loves.

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya by Nagaru Tanigawa – Haruhi Suzumia is a high-school student who is bored by normal humans. She wants something supernatural to happen, so she starts a club with a boy named Kyon. Little does she know that everyone that signs up from her club is either a Time Traveler, Alien, or Esper.

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld – The prince of Austria-Hungary is on the run, his parents murdered. Deryn Sharp is a girl who pretends to be a boy to live out her dream. One chooses to go on an adventure; the other is forced into it. The pair are on opposite sides but must work together to escape from German troops.

City of Fire by Laurence Yep – Twelve-year-old Scirye vows to avenge her sister's death and reclaim a stolen treasure for her people by taking on the villainous dragon Badik and the strange Dr. Roland. She and her companions travel to a Hawaiian island created by magic, where a goddess helps them in their quest to stop Dr. Roland from achieving a great power.

FICTION

The Carbon Diaries 2015 by Saci Lloyd – With equal amounts immediacy and tart humor, South London teen Laura chronicles in biting journal entries the first year of

Britain's new, stringent carbon rationing points system. She balances big-picture fears (blackouts, riots) with everyday issues of crushes and friends, finding release in her "screaming, Straight X punk" band. Gripping, perceptive, and impassioned, this provocative debut is speculative fiction at its finest.

Bonechiller by Graham McNamee – Four high school students face off against a soul-stealing beast that has been making young people disappear in their small Ontario, Canada, town for centuries.

Audrey, Wait by Robin Benway – Audrey Cuttler's life is turned upside down when her ex-boyfriend's song about their break up hits the top of the charts, making Audrey a prime target for the paparazzi, who are documenting her every move, hoping to catch her messing up, and causing her nothing but misery.

Boost by Kathy Mackel – 13-year-old Savvy's biggest test in this basketball novel, which features play-by-play action and deals empathetically with both the pleasure and pressure of athletic competition, comes when her integrity is called into question with accusations of steroid use.

Along for the Ride by Sarah Dessen – Auden gets a chance to recapture the carefree teen life she missed while her parents were going through a divorce when she goes to spend the summer with her dad and his new family in a charming beach town and meets fellow insomniac Eli, an intriguing loner fighting demons of his own.

Sweethearts by Sara Zarr – Jennifer Harris, years after being the tormented outsider on the playground, has reinvented herself into Jenna Vaughn, a popular girl with what seems to be the perfect life, but when a childhood friend re-enters her life, she is forced to confront the most traumatic event of her past and question who she really is.

Another Faust by Daniel Nayeri – Years after five children mysteriously disappeared from cities across Europe, they reappear at an exclusive party in New York City under the tutelage of a suspicious benefactor, but their unique gifts--reading minds, stopping time, seducing with false beauty, and more--begin to bring them more consequences than benefits.

Pretty Monsters: Stories by Kelly Link – Weirdly wonderful and a touch macabre, the nine short stories take readers into worlds with elements of reality but also supply a fantastic twist.

Right Behind You by Gail Giles – After spending over four years in a mental institution for murdering a friend in Alaska, fourteen-year-old Kip begins a completely new life in Indiana with his father and stepmother under a different name, but has trouble fitting in and finds there are still problems to deal with from his childhood.

Ten Cents a Dance by Christine Fletcher – The nightclub lifestyle of Chicago in the 1940s is reflected in the eyes of Ruby, a 15-year-old who secretly takes a job as a taxi dancer. The author accurately captures the conflicted lives of teenagers, the culture, and music of the era. Ruby's nerve and sass make her a distinctive character, and she brings the language, rhythms and social changes of the 1940s alive.

Notes from the Midnight Driver by Jordan Sonnenblick – After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness.

One Wish by Leigh Brescia – Wrenn Scott wins the lead role in the high school musical and sees it as her chance at popularity, so she begins making a sincere effort to lose the weight she thinks has always held her back, but takes things way too far.

Smart Boys & Fast Girls by Stephie Davis – Making the varsity cross-country team puts Natalie Page on the fast track to popularity, but her nearly perfect new life is tripped up when she starts to fail geometry and falls for her new tutor, a cute, smart boy with a girlfriend, a disdain for sports and athletes, and no interest in Natalie whatsoever.

Mexican Whiteboy by Matt de la Pena – This fast-paced baseball story is unique in its gritty realism and honest portrayal of the complexities of life for inner-city teens, framed in the context of the emotional confusion of broken homes and bicultural pressures. De la Pena poignantly conveys the message that, despite obstacles, you must believe in yourself and shape your own future.

Reality Check by Peter Abrahams – After a knee injury destroys sixteen-year-old Cody's college hopes, he drops out of high school and gets a job in his small Montana town; but when his ex-girlfriend disappears from her Vermont boarding school, Cody travels cross-country to join the search.

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment by James Patterson – Nonstop action carries this page-turner breathlessly from start to finish. A group of genetically enhanced kids who can fly and have other unique talents are on the run from part-human, part-wolf predators called Erasers in this exciting SF thriller.

Maximum Ride: School's Out – Forever by James Patterson – Fans of the first book will be delighted with this continuation of the story. Fans will be thrilled with the ongoing character growth and well-timed revelations.

Maximum Ride: Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports by James Patterson – The time has come for Max, Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman, and Angel to face their ultimate enemy and, despite many obstacles, try to save the world from a sinister plan to re-engineer a select population into a scientifically superior master race.

Surface Tension: A Novel in Four Summers by Brent Runyon – Every summer, Luke and his parents take a two-week vacation at their cabin on a lake. The story follows the boy over the course of four summers: at 13, 14, 15, and 16. From early teen excitedness to midteen pretension, this is a subtle and often humorous portrait of how age influences one's outlook on life, friends, parents, girls, etc.

What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell – In this sophisticated thriller, 15-year-old Evie grows up quickly when she discovers her adored parents are not the people she thought they were. Evie must sort through secrets, lies, and her own grief to find the truth. Blundell has crafted a suspenseful, historical mystery set in 1947.

NONFICTION

Bill of Rights: Freedom from Unfair Searches and Seizures, Robert Winters, ed. – Primary documents and articles relate the history of the 4th amendment and give a context for contemporary cases.

America's Failure in Vietnam by Richard Brownell – This book traces the various factors that led to America's prolonged and unsuccessful involvement in Vietnam. From misjudging the enemy's capabilities to the strong anti-war movement, many reasons contributed to the failure.

Organic Foods by Debra Miller – Readers will learn about the history of the organic movement, its controversies, and its impact. Well-organized and carefully researched, with illustrations.

Electronic Devices in Schools by Jill Hamilton – Readers will discover different perspectives about using cell phones, ipods, YouTube, and more in school.

Police Lab by David Owen – Part forensics lesson and part historical crime review, this book blends fascinating and manageable detail with specific examples of famous cases most readers will recognize.

No Time to Think by Howard Rosenberg – The authors' premise is that a demand for a constant flow of information via the Internet and cable news networks has led to inaccuracies in reporting.

Latinos and the Nation's Future, Henry Cisneros, ed. – The 16 essays are designed to inform general readers about the on going Hispanization of the country. Among the topics are the Latino way of becoming American, increasing Hispanic mobility into the middle class, housing, and the power of education and community action.

Graphic Design by Stuart Kallen – Examines the history of graphic design, discusses how the field has changed throughout time, and examines how it is used.

Sweat and Blood by Gloria Skurzynski – Examines the history of labor unions in the United States, and describes the conditions faced by the early worker force, which was made up of settlers and immigrants, and also covers strikes and the famous strike leaders.

The Teen Brain Book by Dale Carlson – Explores what science and philosophy have to say about the brain and how it works, especially for teens, looking at how the brain helps people create a sense of self, and discussing learning and memory, individuality, behavior, human nature, intelligence, and change.

Mr. Lincoln's high-tech war : how the North used the telegraph, railroads, surveillance balloons, iron-clads, high-powered weapons, and more to win the Civil War by Thomas Allen – Examines how Abraham Lincoln's interest in technology played a role in the outcome of the Civil War; and explains how the telegraph, railroads, surveillance balloons, and other inventions helped the North win the war and rebuild the economy.

Rejected: Tales of the Failed, Dumped, and Canceled, Jon Friedman, ed. – From the New Yorker to television's Saturday Night Live to the perfect boyfriend to the suddenly silent agent, these are stories about moving on after being in the wrong place at the wrong time. The collection has something for everyone, laughs on just about every page, and an ultimately uplifting spirit; if every rejection is an opportunity, then the chance to be a part of this fine, funny collaboration was probably worth it.

The Thought that Counts by Jared Douglas Kant – A true account of a teenager's struggle with obsessive-compulsive disorder, describing the warning signs, where to get help, and how to manage the symptoms at home and school, and outlining treatments that have proven to be effective.

God Grew Tired of Us by John Bul Dau – Presents a first-person account of the terror, suffering, and tragedy of the Sudanese Civil War and how the author, John Bul Dau, eventually made his way out of the country to America.