

The ARRT Young Adult Fiction List

Second edition

**A Self-Evaluative Bibliography
for Readers Advisors**



Compiled and Published by the Adult Reading Round Table Steering Committee

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Adult Reading Round Table of Illinois

ARRT Young Adult Fiction List

The Adult Reading Round Table (ARRT) was founded in 1984 to promote readers' advisory services and fiction collections in public and school libraries. With approximately 200 librarian members in the greater Chicago area, ARRT presents workshops and lectures, professional development opportunities, genre studies, and book discussion training.

In 1999, members of the Adult Reading Round Table Steering Committee produced a workbook designed to help library staff evaluate their knowledge of popular fiction for adults. With the help of Duncan Smith, creator and product manager of NoveList, four levels of "familiarity" were established:

- I have read this author
- I have read about this author (reviews, interviews, articles)
- I have heard of this author (patron requests, other conversations)
- I have never heard of this author

The ARRT Popular Fiction List for adult literature has been revised three times since 1999. In 2003, after ARRT members completed a two-year genre study of Young Adult fiction, the Steering Committee produced a workbook of popular young adult authors and titles styled after the adult ARRT Popular Fiction List to help provide a comparable level of analyses of YA literature. The 2003 publication has now been completely reorganized and revised in this second addition.

Only those authors considered most influential or popular were included, which naturally meant that many wonderful and worthy authors were omitted. Most included authors write specifically for the young adult audience, although several adult authors who are extremely popular with teens are listed. Extra attention has been paid to including authors who portray a range of diversity, with consideration to representations of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ability. These authors have been integrated into the list within each subgenre. Librarians are encouraged to add authors of local interest to the list.

For more information about ARRT visit: www.arrtreads.org

How to use The ARRT Young Adult Fiction List

This list is designed as an introductory training tool to assist library staff in surveying their young adult fiction reading experience. After working through the list, any gaps in reading knowledge will be apparent. The reader can then decide to read reviews, short works, or particularly recommended novels in order to become more familiar with these authors. The ARRT Young Adult Fiction List can also be used to structure a discussion group or reading plan within an individual library or library system.

Further exploration and training will require in-depth genre study, using such readers' advisory sources as *What Do Young Adults Read Next*, *Teen Genreflecting*, *NoveList*, and the many genre-specific books, articles, and electronic resources available to librarians.

Each category includes a brief description of the key elements and appeal characteristics of the genre. Authors and titles that represent the genre follow. The authors included may write across genres, but the categories in which they're listed are the genres their works fit in most frequently.

The ARRT Young Adult Fiction List is designed to be a straightforward, enjoyable way to evaluate and broaden anyone's reading experience of young adult fiction, whether as a library school student or librarian.

Updated by the members of the 2015 Adult Reading Round Table Steering Committee, along with Heather Booth and Katie LaMantia: Mary Constance Back, Ted Balcom, Emily Borsa, Elizabeth Hopkins, Rebecca Malinowski, Annabelle Mortensen, Stacey Peterson, Megan Rosol, Becky Spratford, Bill Stephens, Melissa Stoeger, Magan Szwerek, Maggie Thomann, Karen Toonen, Greta Ulrich, Emily Vinci, Debbie Walsh, Debra Wischmeyer.

Many thanks to B.A. Binns, Miranda Paul, and *We Need Diverse Books* for their advice and expertise.

R=I've read this author

H=I've heard of this author (patron or colleague comments)

RA=I've read about this author (reviews, interviews, etc.)

NH=I've never heard of this author

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Action

Action features compelling, quick-paced plots. Whether the protagonist is rushing to solve a crime or fighting for survival in a life-or-death situation, these books draw in readers and keep them on the edge of their seats. The subgenres we have included in Action are Adventure, Thrillers, and Espionage.

SUBCATEGORY	POPULAR AUTHORS	R	RA	H	NH
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Adventure

Adventures are contemporary stories of survival. Teens discover hidden strengths as they are thrust into extreme circumstances. These fast-paced stories feature plenty of excitement as protagonists use ingenuity and personal strength to overcome obstacles in scenarios that may include fantastical elements. **Gary Paulsen's** longstanding favorite *Hatchet* is many teens' first introduction to Adventure.

S.A. Bodeen				
Joseph Bruchac				
Matt de la Peña				
Richard Paul Evans				
Andrew Klavan				
Valynne E. Maetani				
James Patterson				
Roland Smith				
Mark Walden				

R=I've read this author

H=I've heard of this author (patron or colleague comments)

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NH=I've never heard of this author

Espionage

Teen spies, often part of a larger crime-fighting organization, use their intelligence and resourcefulness to thwart crime and save the world. Secret societies, devious villains, and technological gadgets abound in these exciting page-turners.

Robin Benway				
Gail Carriger				
Ally Carter				
Charlie Higson				
Anthony Horowitz				
Y.S. Lee				
Robert Muchamore				
Lindsay Smith				
Allen Zadoff				

R=I've read this author

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Thrillers

Thrillers feature a protagonist who must piece together clues in order to solve or prevent a crime. Action-packed and featuring an element of peril, these books often combine elements of both suspense and mysteries. Plot twists cause tension to build and create an atmosphere of fear and anxiety. Unlike adult novels, there are few pure mysteries or whodunits in teen fiction. **Caroline B. Cooney's** *Face on the Milk Carton* and **Lois Duncan's** *I Know What You Did Last Summer* are enduring examples.

Kevin Brooks				
Patrick Carman				
Harlan Coben				
John Feinstein				
Michelle Gagnon				
Lamar Giles				
April Henry				
Michelle Hodkin				
Barry Lyga				
Gretchen McNeil				
Kathy Reichs				
Sara Shepard				
Todd Strasser				

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Graphic Novels & Manga

SUBCATEGORY **POPULAR AUTHORS** **R** **RA** **H** **NH**

Graphic Novels

Graphic novels convey stories through words and pictures arranged in sequential panels. GNs can be original works or collections of previously published comics. The term “graphic novel” can be a misnomer, as this format encompasses fiction, nonfiction, and biography/memoir. In this list, we have included GNs specifically geared towards teen audiences; however, many teens cross over into adult titles. See the Adult Popular Fiction List for additional graphic novel authors.

Brian Michael Bendis <i>Miles Morales: Ultimate Spider-Man</i>				
Cory Doctorow <i>In Real Life</i>				
Faith Erin Hicks <i>Friends With Boys</i>				
Brian Lee O’Malley <i>Seconds</i>				
Liz Prince <i>Tomboy</i>				
Noelle Stevenson <i>Nimona</i>				
Jillian and Mariko Tamaki <i>This One Summer</i>				
Raina Telgemeier <i>Drama</i>				
Paul Tobin <i>Bandette</i>				
Brian K. Vaughan <i>Runaways</i>				
G. Willow Wilson <i>Ms. Marvel</i>				
Gene Luen Yang <i>Boxers and Saints</i>				

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Manga

Manga refers to a style of Japanese comic books and graphic novels. Manga is oftentimes a popular entry point for younger teens. Unlike traditional Western texts, Manga is read from back to front and from right to left. As with Graphic Novels, the appeal is visual storytelling in addition to written narrative. Manga popularity often coincides with media tie-ins, including television and film.

Keisuke Fujikawa <i>Wandering Son</i>				
Sui Ishida <i>Tokyo Ghoul</i>				
Masahi Kishimoto <i>Naruto</i>				
Tite Kubo <i>Bleach</i>				
Yoshiki Nakamura <i>Skip Beat!</i>				
Eiichiro Oda <i>One Piece</i>				
Tsugumi Ohba and Takeshi Obata <i>Death Note</i>				
Yana Toboso <i>Black Butler</i>				
Akira Toriyama <i>Dragon Ball Z</i>				
Maokoto Yukimura <i>Vinland Saga</i>				
Mi-Kyung Yun <i>Bride of the Water God</i>				

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H=I've heard of this author (patron or colleague comments)

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Realistic Fiction

Realistic Fiction deals with issues that today’s teens face. Relationships, sexual identity, race, friendships, family hardships, school, and coming of age experiences all can play a main part in Realistic Fiction. The Realistic Fiction subgenres include: Relationships, Reflective, Humor, and Historical.

SUBCATEGORY	POPULAR AUTHORS	R	RA	H	NH
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Historical

Historical fiction is set in a time period at least 25 years prior to when it was actually written. These novels transport a reader to a different time and place, giving them a feel for what it was like to live during that time period. Historical novels can center on real historical figures and events, or simply take place in the past with fictional characters. They are rich with details to paint a clear picture of life during that time. **Markus Zusak’s** best-selling novel *The Book Thief* is a key title in this genre, along with classic favorites such as *Wolf by the Ears* by prolific author **Ann Rinaldi**.

Laurie Halse Anderson				
Anne Blankman				
Jennifer Donnelly				
Anna Godbersen				
Chris Lynch				
Kekla Magoon				
Carolyn Meyer				
Ruta Sepetys				
Robin Talley				
Elizabeth Wein				

R=I’ve read this author

H=I’ve heard of this author (patron or colleague comments)

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NH=I’ve never heard of this author

Humor

Realistic Humor approaches real issues and situations in a light-hearted way. Humor can range from comedies to sarcastic narratives in a darker tone. While the entire book may not be funny, the focus is to approach a range of situations with levity. From Meg Cabot's *Princess Diaries* series to Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*, these books cover life's ups and downs through a comedic lens.

Jesse Andrews				
Brent Crawford				
Maureen Johnson				
Kody Keplinger				
Bill Konigsberg				
Gordon Korman				
David Lubar				
Carolyn Mackler				
Andrew Smith				
Jordan Sonnenblick				

R=I've read this author

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Reflective

These novels focus on the internal struggles of the main character, particularly difficulties that may not be publicly acknowledged. The plot of the novel follows the main character's journey to self-discovery as he or she learns how to integrate their newly found identity into their public life. Indispensable examples of this type of novel include Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and Walter Dean Myers' *Monster*.

Laurie Halse Anderson				
Jay Asher				
Cris Beam				
Robin Brande				
Emily M. Danforth				
Sharon Draper				
Tanuja Desai Hidier				
Ellen Hopkins				
A.S. King				
E. Lockhart				
Jandy Nelson				
Jennifer Niven				
Jason Reynolds				
Tess Sharpe				
Francisco X. Stork				
Padma Venkatraman				
Paul Volponi				
Rita Williams-Garcia				

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NH=I've never heard of this author

Relationships

Novels in this subgenre highlight the external conflicts faced by teens in the larger world. They focus on relationships of all kinds—with friends, significant others, family, and the community. Exemplary titles in this genre include *Rainbow Boys* by Alex Sanchez and *Looking for Alaska* by John Green.

Kwame Alexander				
Sarah Dessen				
Sara Farizan				
Gayle Forman				
John Green				
Jenny Han				
Brent Hartinger				
David Levithan				
Cammie McGovern				
Meg Medina				
Lauren Myracle				
Mitali Perkins				
Stephanie Perkins				
Julie Anne Peters				
Rainbow Rowell				
Aisha Saeed				
Benjamin Alire Sáenz				
Earl Sewell				
Jennifer E. Smith				
Courtney Summers				
Jacqueline Woodson				
Sara Zarr				

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H=I've heard of this author (patron or colleague comments)

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NH=I've never heard of this author

Speculative Fiction

Speculative fiction asks and answers the question “what if.” These books feature plots where the impossible is possible via magic, technology, or the supernatural. The appeal of Speculative fiction is the escape into another world, time, or universe. The detailed world building is often the basis for series or trilogies. The Speculative fiction subgenres include: Science Fiction, Dystopia, Fantasy, Paranormal, and Horror.

SUBCATEGORY	POPULAR AUTHORS	R	RA	H	NH
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Dystopia

Dystopia is Science Fiction that depicts a future world whose people are oppressed by a controlling force or organization following a major societal disruption, as exemplified in **Lois Lowry’s** classic dystopian novel, *The Giver*. The teen protagonist experiences limited freedoms in these future worlds, and his or her rebellion usually brings about a world shift or change for the entire world. Unlike adult Dystopias, teen stories usually end on a positive or hopeful note. An increase in popularity of Dystopia followed the publication of **Suzanne Collins’s** *The Hunger Games* series.

Paolo Bacigalupi				
Ilsa J. Bick				
Kiera Cass				
Joelle Charbonneau				
Ally Condie				
James Dashner				
Michael Grant				
Marie Lu				
Patrick Ness				
Lauren Oliver				
Veronica Roth				
Pat Schmatz				
Neal Shusterman				

R=I’ve read this author

H=I’ve heard of this author (patron or colleague comments)

RA=I’ve read about this author (reviews, interviews, etc.)

NH=I’ve never heard of this author

Fantasy

Fantasy is Speculative fiction based on magic or myth. The plots usually emphasize journeys, whether psychological or physical, and stress the importance of human courage, sacrifice, and kindness. Readers often forge a personal connection with the characters over the course of the novel or series. Classics including J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series continue to be popular with teen audiences.

Leigh Bardugo				
Kristin Cashore				
Cinda Williams Chima				
John Flanagan				
Neil Gaiman				
Julie Kagawa				
Robin LaFevers				
Sarah J. Maas				
Ellen Oh				
Cindy Pon				
Rick Riordan				
Sabaa Tahir				
Laini Taylor				

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NH=I've never heard of this author

Horror

Horror elicits feelings such as dread, fear, and terror through supernatural elements and unexplainable phenomena. While Horror and Paranormal works both include supernatural aspects, readers who choose to read Horror *want* to be scared. Atmosphere helps set the tone and create a place where fear will arise.

Kendare Blake				
Rin Chupeco				
Alexander Gordon Smith				
Daniel Kraus				
Jonathan Maberry				
Ransom Riggs				
Madeleine Roux				
Marcus Sedgwick				
Darren Shan				
Carly Anne West				
Cat Winters				

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NH=I've never heard of this author

Paranormal

Paranormal fiction is Fantasy that features characters who either possess paranormal abilities or are supernatural beings such as werewolves, vampires, and angels. **Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight*** series ushered in a period of popularity for this genre. As in urban fantasy, Paranormal novels are often set in a realistic contemporary setting and typically include a central romance.

Kelley Armstrong				
Holly Black				
Libba Bray				
Cassandra Clare				
Melissa De la Cruz				
Becca Fitzpatrick				
Kami Garcia				
Amanda Hocking				
Lauren Kate				
Richelle Mead				
Daniel José Older				
Maggie Stiefvater				

R=I've read this author

H=I've heard of this author (patron or colleague comments)

RA=I've read about this author (reviews, interviews, etc.)

NH=I've never heard of this author

Science Fiction

Science Fiction is Speculative fiction based on science or technology. The plots often explore topics such as socio-political systems, the meaning of self or humanity, or technological dependencies. Readers engage with these thought-provoking subjects and reflect on the characters' reactions. The importance of human ingenuity and adaptability are often stressed. Classics such as *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card have enduring popularity.

Eoin Colfer				
Cory Doctorow				
Alexandra Duncan				
Malinda Lo				
Pittacus Lore				
Marissa Meyer				
Nnedi Okorafor				
Susan Beth Pfeffer				
Beth Revis				
Brandon Sanderson				
Robison Wells				
Scott Westerfeld				
Rick Yancey				

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H=I've heard of this author (patron or colleague comments)

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