

# Realistic Fiction

## Teen Fiction Suggested Reading List

*Titles located in YA Fiction or YA paperbacks by the author's last name*

*\*Series*



**Wintergirls** by Laurie Halse Anderson  
Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder. (Grades 9+)



**Carter Finally Gets It** by Brent Crawford  
Awkward freshman Will endures many painful moments during his first year of high school before realizing that nothing good comes easily, focus is everything, and the payoff is usually incredible. (Grades 8+)



**Thirteen Reasons Why** by Jay Asher  
When Clay receives a box containing 13 cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends the night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death. (Grades 8+)



Played by Dana Davidson  
When Ian Striver is dared by "his boys" to sleep with plain Kylie Winship in just three weeks, he is up for the challenge, thinking it will be a breeze, but a series of unexpected events have surprises for both of them. (Grades 8+)



**Hope Was Here** by Joan Bauer  
When 16 year old Hope and her aunt move from Brooklyn to Wisconsin to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor. (Grades 8+)



**Something Like Normal** by Trish Doller  
When Travis returns home from Afghanistan, his parents are splitting up, his brother has stolen his girlfriend and car, and he has nightmares, but when he runs into Harper, a girl who has despised him, life starts looking up. (Grade 8+)



**Hanging on to Max** by Margaret Bechard  
When his girlfriend decides to give their baby away, seventeen-year-old Sam is determined to keep him and raise him alone. (Grades 8+)



**Before I Die** by Jenny Downham  
A terminally ill teenaged girl makes and carries out a list of things to do before she dies. (Grades 9+)



**Thousand Words** by Jennifer Brown  
Talked into sending a nude picture of herself to her boyfriend while she was drunk, Ashleigh became the center of a sexting scandal and is now in court-ordered community service, where she finds an unlikely ally. (Grades 9+)



**If I Stay** by Gayle Forman  
With no memory of the car accident itself, 17 year old Mia must come to terms with never really knowing what happened one horrific winter's day that changed her life forever. (Grades 8+)



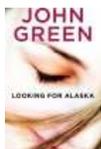
**Evolution, Me, and Other Freaks of Nature** by Robin Brande  
Following her conscience leads Mena to clash with her parents and former friends from their church, but might result in better things when she stands up for a teacher who refuses to include "Intelligent Design" in lessons on evolution. (Grades 7+)



**Breathing Underwater** by Alex Flinn  
Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, 16 year old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father. (Grades 8+)



**Sara's Face** by Melvin Burgess  
Sara wants so much to be famous that when a legendary, plastic-surgery-addicted rock star offers to take her under his wing and pay for her to have surgery too, she jumps at the chance despite her misgivings. (Grades 9+)



**Looking For Alaska** by John Green  
Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. (Grades 9+)



**The Secret Life of Prince Charming** by Deb Caletti  
When 17 year old Quinn learns that her charismatic but selfish father, with whom she has recently begun to have a tentative relationship, has stolen from the many women in his life, she decides she must avenge this wrong. (Grades 8+)



**Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey** by Margaret Peterson Haddix  
In the journal she is keeping for English class, 16 year old Tish chronicles the changes in her life when her abusive father returns home after a two-year absence. (Grades 7+)



**Prada and Prejudice** by Mandy Hubbard  
Donning designer high heels, Callie ends up falling down, smacking her head, and waking up in the year 1815 where she befriends a young girl named Emily and meets a dashing duke. (Grades 7+)



**Why We Broke Up** by Daniel Handler  
Min Green writes to Ed Slaterton in which she breaks up with him, documenting their relationship and how items in the accompanying box, from bottle caps to a cookbook, foretell the end. (Grades 8+)



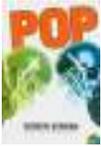
**Suckerpunch** by David Hernandez  
Wishing he were spending his summer relaxing, drawing, and dating, Marcus worries about where things will end up as he drives along with his brother and a loaded gun on their way to their father's house. (Grade 8+)



**Nantucket Blue** by Leila Howland  
Cricket is planning on spending a romantic summer on Nantucket Island near her crush, Jay--but the death of her friend's mother, and her own attraction to her friend's brother Zach are making this summer complicated. (Grade 8+)



**First Part Last** by Angela Johnson  
Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter. (Grades 8+)



**Pop** by Gordon Korman  
Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water. (Grades 8+)



**Cheater** by Michael Laser  
When brilliant student Karl gets talked into participating in an elaborate cheating operation at his school, he ends up involved in a bigger problem than he ever anticipated. (Grades 7+)



**The Earth, My Butt and Other Rounds Things** by Carolyn Mackler  
An overweight teen is sure that she's the weakest link in her high-powered family - until her handsome, athletic, star-student brother has a shocking fall from grace. (Grades 8+)



**Saving Francesca** by Melina Marchetta  
Francesca could use her outspoken mother's help with the problems of being one of a handful of girls at a parochial school that has just turned co-ed, but her mother has suddenly become severely depressed. (Grades 8+)



**Pushing the Limits** by Katie McGarry  
Rendered a subject of gossip after a traumatic night that left her with terrible scars on her arms, Echo is dumped by her boyfriend and bonds with bad-boy Noah, whose tough attitude hides an understanding nature and difficult secrets. (Grades 8+)



**Cut** by Patricia McCormick  
While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation, and gradually starts to get better. (Grades 8+)



**Monster** by Walter Dean Myer  
While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, 16 year old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. (Grades 7+)



**Sunrise Over Fallujah** by Walter Dean Myers  
Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him. (Grades 7+)



**L8R, G8R** by Lauren Myracle  
Throughout their senior year, Zoe, Maddie, and Angela continue to share "instant messages" with one another about their day-to-day experiences as they consider college, sex, the importance of prom, and the inevitable end of their inseparable trio. (Grades 8+)



**A Step From Heaven** by An Na  
Young Ju Park is unhappy with her journey to America as her family suffers hard times upon their arrival, yet when her father suddenly becomes violent, Young Ju is thankful when he leaves so that her family can start over. (Grades 8+)



**The Sky is Everywhere** by Jandy Nelson  
In the months after her sister dies, 17 year old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician. (Grades 9+)



**King Dork** by Frank Portman  
After stumbling upon one of his father's old books, hints and clues are revealed to a secret past that may lead to answers regarding his father's life and mysterious death. (Grades 10+)



**Punkzilla** by Adam Rapp  
A runaway boy nicknamed Punkzilla who sustains himself on the streets of Portland through petty crimes decides to try to kick his meth habit, turn his life around, and go on a journey to Tennessee to visit his dying older brother. (Grades 9+)



**Winger** by Andrew Smith

Younger than his classmates at a boarding school, Ryan Dean West grapples with living in the dorm for troublemakers, falling for his friend who thinks of him as just a kid, and playing wing on the Varsity rugby team. (Grades 9+)



**Give a Boy a Gun** by Todd Strasser

The story of two boys who hold their classmates hostage at a high school dance, and offers facts about guns and school violence throughout the story. (Grades 8+)



**The List** by Siobhan Vivian

Enduring a cruel annual ritual through which an anonymous list is posted naming each grade's prettiest and ugliest girl, eight selected high school girls explore how they see themselves and each other. (Grades 9+)



**It's Kind of a Funny Story** by Ned Vizzini

A humorous account of a New York City teenager's battle with depression and his time spent in a psychiatric hospital. (Grades 9+)



**When You Were Here** by Daisy Whitney

When his mother dies three weeks before his high school graduation, Danny goes to Tokyo, where his mother had been going for cancer treatments, to learn about the city his mother loved and come to



**Story of a Girl** by Sara Zarr

After being caught in a compromising situation with her brother's best friend in the back of a car, Deanna's life is forever changed as vicious rumors begin to spread all over town and ruin her reputation. (Grades 9+)



**The Secret Rite of Butterflies** by Lizabeth Zindel

Maggie worries about making friends at her new high school until she is invited to join an elite secret society devoted to eavesdropping and recording the "truth" about students and faculty. (Grades 9+)



**Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac** by Gabriella Zevin

A toss of the coin ends up changing Naomi's life after a slip on the stairs results in amnesia, a disconnect with the life she once led, and a new relationship with a young man with a questionable past. (Grades 8+)

