

INTERNATIONAL  
**LITERACY**  
ASSOCIATION

# YOUNG ADULTS' CHOICES

## 2019 Reading List



# What Is the Young Adults' Choices Reading List?

The Young Adults' Choices project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to the International Literacy Association, and was supervised by the Association's Literature for Young Adults Committee. The goals of the project are to encourage young people to read; to make teens, educators, librarians and media specialists, and families and caregivers aware of new literature for young adults; and to provide middle and secondary school students with an opportunity to voice their opinions about books being written for them and in whose pages they can find characters and experiences to which they can relate. The books included on this enclosed list reflect current trends in young adult literature and titles that will engage today's readers.



*#MurderTrending.*  
Gretchen McNeil.

## **#MurderTrending**

**Gretchen McNeil. Freeform.**

In this suspenseful, futuristic dark comedy, 17-year-old Dee Guerra is convicted of murdering her stepsister. Sent to Alcatraz 2.0, Dee has to live and survive in prison while also knowing that her life is now being viewed on a live-streaming lethal reality television show, where the prison executioners kill society's convicted criminals in gruesome ways. Will Dee's death earn high ratings?

## **All That I Can Fix**

**Crystal Chan. Simon Pulse.**

Just when Ronney thinks his life can't possibly become any more mortifying and complicated, someone opens all the cages of an exotic zoo and wild animals now roam free in his hometown. Can he keep all the pieces of his life from imploding while the whole world seems to be going crazy?



*All That I Can Fix.* Crystal Chan.

## **Ash Princess**

**Laura Sebastian. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.**

After enduring years of captivity and shame, Theodosia realizes she must rise up and take back the power that is rightfully hers. By using her intellect, she begins a perilous journey to regain her kingdom and end the injustices her people are suffering. This epic fantasy is an exciting series starter.



*Batman: Nightwalker.*  
Marie Lu.

## **Batman: Nightwalker**

**Marie Lu. Random House Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.**

Before he was the Dark Knight, Bruce Wayne, 18-year-old heir to the Wayne Enterprises conglomerate, just wanted to graduate from high school. An impulsive act leads him to work with Gotham's police force to apprehend the Nightwalkers, a violent group fashioned after Robin Hood. Battling his attraction to a dangerous foe, he must use his brains to save his city and his closest friends.

## **\*Be Prepared**

**Vera Brosgol. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Attending summer camp is a rite of passage. But what if your single mother can't afford to send you to some swanky, expensive one, and instead sends you to Russian camp? Here you can learn about your culture and where you come from, struggle to belong, and still encounter all of the same nightmares of scary outhouses and camp drama.



*\*Be Prepared. Vera Brosgol.*

## **The Button War**

**Avi. Candlewick.**

Set in Poland during World War I, Patryk and his friends entertain themselves by making and completing dares—some harmless, some dangerous. When the Germans invade their village, Patryk's friends up the ante by recklessly stealing buttons off enemy uniforms. Lines blur between the "button war" and the dark brutality of the real war raging around them.

## **Camp Valor**

**Scott McEwen. St. Martin's Griffin.**

Surprised by being released from prison after being framed for someone else's crime, Wyatt finds himself in a secret government training camp for teenage agents. By struggling to survive the brutal training and putting his training to use in real life, will he prove himself worthy of a second chance?



*Camp Valor. Scott McEwen.*

## **The Cheerleaders**

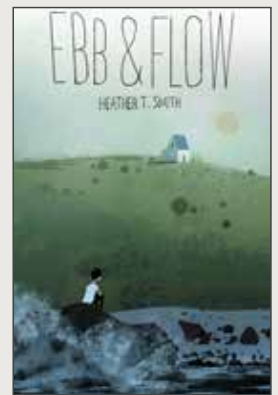
**Kara Thomas. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.**

A tragic accident, a double murder, and a suicide—all involving cheerleaders—forever taints the town of Sunnybrook. As the town prepares to honor the five-year anniversary of their deaths, the surviving sister to the suicide, Monica, starts to uncover long-buried secrets when she would prefer to forget.

## **Ebb & Flow**

**Heather T. Smith. Kids Can Press.**

Jett returns to Newfoundland to spend emotional healing time with his grandmother after an extraordinarily difficult year. As he examines his memories within the sea glass he finds on the beach, Jett comes to grips with his shameful act of betrayal. As the summer ebbs, Jett finds forgiveness, redemption, and hope.



*Ebb & Flow. Heather T. Smith.*

## **Furyborn**

**Claire Legrand. Sourcebooks Fire.**

Through a series of seven elemental magic trials forced upon her, Rielle survives as the apparent Queen of Sun and Salvation. Centuries later, Eliana learns pure evil lies at the heart of the Empire. When the stories of Rielle and Eliana intersect, the fate of the world is in peril. This dark fantasy adventure abounds in passion and danger.



*Furyborn. Claire Legrand.*



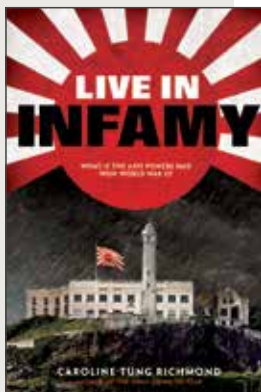
*Illegal*. Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin. Ill. Giovanni Rigano.



*Legends of the Lost Causes*. Brad McLelland and Louis Sylvester.



*Lies You Never Told Me*. Jennifer Donaldson.



*Live in Infamy*. Caroline Tung Richmond.

## ***Illegal***

**Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin. Ill. Giovanni Rigano. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky.**

In this epic graphic novel, 12-year-old Ebo, a boy from Ghana, takes a daring and dangerous journey to Europe to find his brother, Kwame. Ebo risks his life when he travels through the Sahara Desert, through the scary streets of Tripoli, and across the Mediterranean Sea on a treacherous trek, hoping to reunite with his family.

## ***The Last Girl on Earth***

**Alexandra Blogier. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.**

Li is the only human left on earth. When the Abdoloreans invaded Earth 16 years ago, Li's human-sympathizer father raised her, training her to blend in with the invader aliens. Abdoloreans appear human, but they have different intellects, feelings, and powers. When Li becomes romantically involved with Ryn, disastrous consequences could be in the offing.

## ***Legends of the Lost Causes***

**Brad McLelland and Louis Sylvester. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

This genre-bending Western has it all: adventure, suspense, good vs. evil, and zombies. When Keech's foster family is killed in a fire, he vows to avenge the evil Bad Whiskey who shattered his world. After joining up with a band of orphans, Keech travels through treacherous lands to fight the risen dead and find the mysterious and powerful Char Stone.

## ***Lies You Never Told Me***

**Jennifer Donaldson. Razorbill.**

Elyse's life is a little too much like her role as Juliet in her school's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, with illicit relationships, lies, and family drama. Gabe is discovering that his romantic choices can have hazardous effects. This novel, with unseen twists and turns, reveals that choices can have dire consequences.

## ***Live in Infamy***

**Caroline Tung Richmond. Scholastic Press.**

In this alternate historical fiction, the United States and the Allied powers have lost World War II. Japan, Italy, and Germany control the territories. Ren, a 16-year-old boy, joins the rebel movement that wants the United States to regain its power and bring back freedom to all citizens. This dystopian fantasy world, based on historical events, demonstrates how race, social status, and power control life and death.

## **Louisiana's Way Home**

**Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick.**

Louisiana Elefante's granny wakes her in the middle of the night, saying it is time for them to leave. Louisiana isn't worried at first—Granny often has middle-of-the-night wild ideas. Sadly, this time they are not coming back. Louisiana must find a new home and her place in the world. (This title is a companion to *Raymie Nightingale*.)



*Louisiana's Way Home.*  
Kate DiCamillo.

## **Lucky Little Things**

**Janice Erlbaum. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Emma is having a difficult eighth-grade year. Her aunt has died and her best friend, Savvy, is more interested in being in the popular group than with her. One day, Emma receives a letter telling her to write down 10 lucky things she wants to happen. At first, the letter's promise comes true, but then complications arise. Does Emma really make her own luck?

## **Magic, Madness, and Mischief**

**Kelly McCullough. Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Kalvan learns he has magical powers when, disturbingly, a snarky, talking fire hare appears to him, giving advice. Kalvan discovers the Corona Borealis, a crown controlling the power of the world, has been taken by a dark force and the proper balance of power is in peril. Can Kalvan both take control of his life and restore order to the world?



*Magic, Madness, and Mischief.* Kelly McCullough.

## **Marvel Studios 101**

**Adam Bray. DK.**

What is Marvel? Who is the Winter Soldier? What is so special about Wakanda? Why should I stay until the end of the credits? These are a few of the questions answered in this Marvel anthology. Full-color pictures, graphs, and timelines make this book a must-have for all who love the Marvel Universe.



*Marvel Studios 101.* Adam Bray.

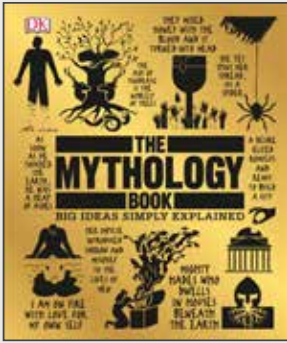
## **Meet the Sky**

**McCall Hoyle. Blink.**

A hurricane is heading straight for Sophie's coastal North Carolina home. Separated from her family during the evacuation, she finds herself trapped with the worst person possible—reckless Finn Sanders, the boy who shattered her heart. But he might be just who she needs—if they can survive the storm.



*Meet the Sky.* McCall Hoyle.



The Mythology Book. DK.

## The Mythology Book

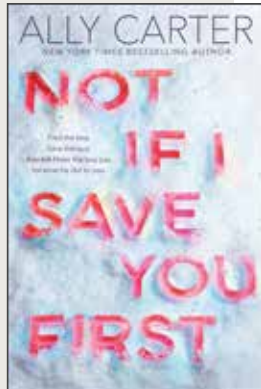
DK.

Enjoy 80 of the world's greatest myths and characters, from the gods of Greek mythology to the Norse heroes, in this attractive volume. Included are early creation stories and classic hero narratives with particular emphasis on the afterlife. Each myth is explained clearly, with special emphasis on understanding the importance of mythology within different world cultures.

## Not If I Save You First

Ally Carter. Scholastic Press.

After six years of separation following a traumatic event at the White House, survivalist Maddie is surprised and irritated when reunited with Logan in remote Alaska. Before she can confront Logan, unknown assailants kidnap him. Can Maddie survive long enough to save them both?

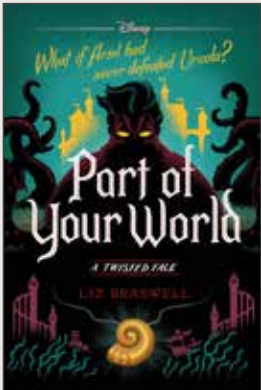


Not If I Save You First.  
Ally Carter.

## Part of Your World: A Twisted Tale

Liz Braswell. Disney Press.

Five years have elapsed since the sea witch, Ursula, defeated Ariel and kidnapped her father, King Triton. Ursula, having stolen Ariel's voice and married Prince Eric, is attempting to control the Dry World. Ariel, with help from her friends, realizes that her mission is more than saving her father. Her future and the fate of the Dry and Wet Worlds rely on her success.



Part of Your World: A Twisted Tale. Liz Braswell.

## The Prince and the Dressmaker

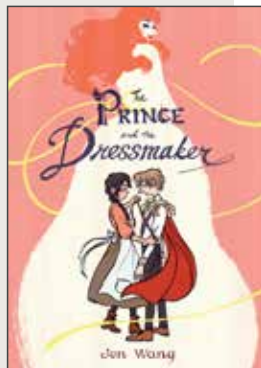
Jen Wang. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

How do you handle your parents trying to arrange your marriage when you are the prince by day, but Lady Crystallia at night? With a secret weapon, of course! Prince Sebastian's best friend, Frances, is a beautiful dressmaker, and he is keeping her a secret from the world so she can keep *his* secret. How long can Frances keep her dreams a secret to protect her best friend?

## Rebound

Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Grieving the loss of his father, all Chuck wants to do is escape into his comics but, instead, his mother sends him to his grandparents' home for the summer. With the help of his stern grandfather and his basketball-loving cousin, he learns about his past and how to face the future. (This title is a companion to *The Crossover*.)

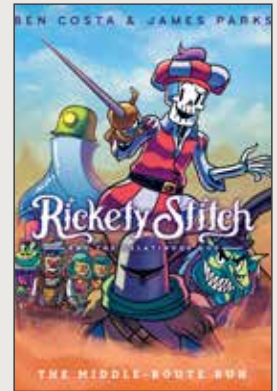


The Prince and the Dressmaker. Jen Wang.

## **\*Rickety Stitch and the Gelatinous Goo 2: The Middle Route Run**

**Ben Costa and James Parks. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.**

Rickety Stitch is a skeleton with a soul. He walks, he talks, and he sings on a mission to discover his shadowy past and find the mythical Epoli. Rickety's sidekick, Goo, a gelatinous blob, accompanies him in new adventures where fantasy trope characters, humor, and surprises abound. This enjoyable series continuation has a cliffhanger ending.



*\*Rickety Stitch and the Gelatinous Goo 2: The Middle Route Run. Ben Costa and James Parks.*

## **Robots and Drones: Past, Present, and Future** **Mairghread Scott and Jacob Chabot. First Second/** **Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Robots are our partners, assistants, and protectors. Pouli, a mechanical bird, humorously shows the history of robots and how they work now and speculates on their future. Programming languages, components for robot construction, and a host of other topics are explained. Covered also are ethical issues, including artificial intelligence and the use of military drones.



*\*Speak: The Graphic Novel. Laurie Halse Anderson. Ill. Emily Carroll.*

## **\*Speak: The Graphic Novel**

**Laurie Halse Anderson. Ill. Emily Carroll. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Melinda has experienced a tragedy right before starting high school. Now she doesn't know how she can survive with everyone accusing her of lying and ruining other people's futures. Her only solace is art class. She is friendless and lonely, stuck in a loveless house, just trying to fly under the radar, until she can't any longer.

## **The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: 2 Fuzzy, 2 Furious** **Shannon Hale and Dean Hale. Marvel.**

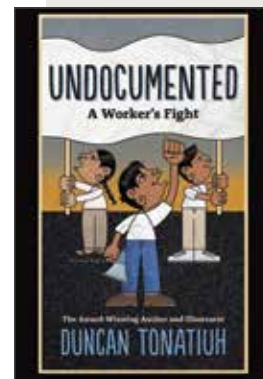
Being a superhero is complicated. Doreen Green, a middle schooler, is also Squirrel Girl, a bushy-tailed superhero. In this second series installment, Squirrel Girl becomes involved in a mall war between two towns. Is the mascot competition actually more sinister than it seems? Meanwhile, Doreen and her best (human) friend, Ana Sofia, learn the importance of being honest.



*The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: 2 Fuzzy, 2 Furious. Shannon Hale and Dean Hale.*

## **Undocumented: A Worker's Fight** **Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams ComicArts.**

This graphic novella tells the story of Juan, an undocumented Mixteco-speaking worker from Mexico, who enters the United States to work in the fields as a way to provide for his family. He risks everything when he stands up for himself and the rest of his community by leading the fight for better wages and workers' rights.



*Undocumented: A Worker's Fight. Duncan Tonatiuh.*

\* Titles that received the most votes

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To learn more about the Young Adults' Choices project, including how to participate and to access previous years' reading lists, please visit [literacyworldwide.org/choices](https://literacyworldwide.org/choices).



# More About Young Adults' Choices

**Thank you to the 2018–2019 ILA Young Adults' Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams.**

**Project cochairs: Stephanie Burdic, Omaha, NE, and Lisa Morris-Wilkey, Casa Grande, AZ**

## **AREA 1**

**Jessica Lorentz Smith (team leader), Bend, OR**  
Bend Senior High School (Bend, OR) ▪ Cascade Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ High Desert Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ LaPine Middle School (LaPine, OR) ▪ LaPine High School (LaPine, OR) ▪ Marshall High School (Bend, OR) ▪ Mountain View High School (Bend, OR) ▪ Pacific Crest Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ Pilot Butte Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ Sky View Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ Summit High School (Bend, OR) ▪ Westside Village Magnet School (Bend, OR)

## **AREA 2**

**Aimee Thompson (team leader), Old Orchard Beach, ME**  
Biddeford High School (Biddeford, ME) ▪ Gorham Middle School (Gorham, ME) ▪ Kennebunk High School (Kennebunk, ME) ▪ Loranger Memorial School (Old Orchard Beach, ME) ▪ Middle School of the Kennebunks (Kennebunk, ME) ▪ Noble Middle School (Berwick, ME) ▪ Noble High School (Berwick, ME) ▪ Old Orchard Beach High School (Old Orchard Beach, ME) ▪ Saco Middle School (Saco, ME) ▪ Thornton Academy (Saco, ME)

## **AREA 3**

**Jill Bellomy (team leader), Dallas, TX, and Nina James (trainee), Sarasota, FL**  
Greenhill Upper & Middle School (Addison, TX) ▪ Highland Park Middle School (Dallas, TX) ▪ McIntosh Middle School (Sarasota, FL) ▪ Parish Episcopal Middle & Upper School (Dallas, TX) ▪ Riverview High School (Sarasota, FL) ▪ Skyline High School (Dallas, TX)

## **AREA 4**

**Julianne Scullen (team leader), Andover, MN**  
Coon Rapids Middle School (Coon Rapids, MN) ▪ Coon Rapids High School (Coon Rapids, MN) ▪ Northdale Middle School (Coon Rapids, MN)

## **AREA 5**

**Kimberly Powers (team leader), Hudson, WI, and Cheryl McCall (trainee), Crestwood, KY**  
East Oldham Middle School (Crestwood, KY) ▪ Hudson Middle School (Hudson, WI) ▪ Hudson High School (Hudson, WI) ▪ North Oldham High School (Goshen, KY) ▪ North Oldham Middle School (Goshen, KY) ▪ Oldham County High School (Buckner, KY) ▪ Oldham County Middle School (La Grange, KY) ▪ South Oldham High School (Crestwood, KY) ▪ South Oldham Middle School (Crestwood, KY)

# Choices Project Recruitment

**W**e are looking for team leaders for our Children’s, Teachers’, and Young Adults’ Choices projects in the areas listed below for the years 2020–2023. Want to participate? ILA members are encouraged to complete the team leader application form, found at [literacyworldwide.org/choices](https://literacyworldwide.org/choices). Please note this requires a three-year commitment to the project and support from area schools.

## Children’s Choices

Area 1: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington

Area 3: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas

Area 4: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming

Area 5: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

## Teachers’ Choices

Area 1: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington

Area 2: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont

Area 3: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas

Area 4: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming

## Young Adults’ Choices

Area 2: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont

Area 3: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas

Area 5: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

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- *ILA E-ssentials*: Evidence-based teaching tips from top experts
- *ILA Bridges*: Ready-to-use, standards-based interdisciplinary units
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- Discounts of up to 35% on professional books from *leading publishers*
- Special rates on *partner programs*
- The opportunity to subscribe to our peer-reviewed, research-based *journals*

Learn more at  
[literacyworldwide.org/membership](http://literacyworldwide.org/membership)

## ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers, and experts across 146 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught, and evaluated. ILA's *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017* provides an evidence-based benchmark for the development and evaluation of literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather, and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices, and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students, and inform policymakers. ILA publishes *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, and *Reading Research Quarterly*, which are peer reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit [literacyworldwide.org](http://literacyworldwide.org).



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