

Best Books for Young Adults 2007

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has announced its 2007 recommended list of Best Books for Young Adults. The list, prepared annually, was released during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, Washington, held January 19-24, 2007. The books, recommended for ages 12-18, meet the criteria of both good quality literature and appealing reading for teens. The winning titles comprise an extremely diverse list that includes verse novels, graphic novels, fantasy, realistic fiction, comedy, historical fiction, and of course nonfiction. The following list just includes the titles that are owned by McIntyre Library; for the complete list visit www.ala.org/ala/yalsa. For help finding any of these books, please visit the Reference Desk on the first floor.

FICTION

Almond, David. **Clay**. (IMC CBC on order)

In a novel steeped in religious symbolism, strange new kid Stephen convinces Davie to create a giant golem who will obey his command to kill the local bully.

Anderson, M.T. **The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation; v. 1: The Pox Party**. (CBC Fic An242p 2006)

He was raised as an experiment and considered a piece of property. Now that revolution has come to America, will Octavian find freedom?

Bondoux, Anne-Laure. **The Killer's Tears**. (IMC CBC Fic B6409k 2006)

When murderer Angel Allegria kills young Paolo's parents, the killer and the orphan embark together on a journey of rebirth and redemption.

Booth, Coe. **Tyrell**. (IMC CBC Fic B64471t 2006)

Homeless teen Tyrell resists the pressures of the streets to keep his family together and maintain a relationship with "good girl" Novisha.

Brooks, Kevin. **The Road of the Dead**. (IMC CBC Fic B7917r 2006)

Cole and his psychic brother Ruben journey to the ghostly moors of Dartmoor to discover the truth behind their sister's brutal murder.

Cohn, Rachel and Levithan, David. **Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist**. (IMC CBC on order)

When Nick asks a total stranger in a New York punk club to be his girlfriend for five minutes, a chaotic night of music and romance ensues.

Dessen, Sarah. **Just Listen**. (IMC CBC on order)

Being nice, never complaining, and avoiding conflict no longer work for Annabel Green. Can she listen to her own voice and speak up?

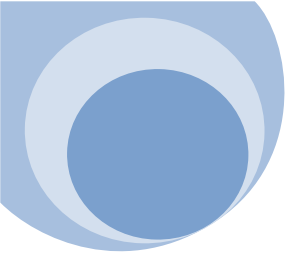
Frost, Helen. **The Braid**. (IMC CBC Fic F9296b 2006)

In tightly structured, braided poems, two sisters tell of their difficult separation when one leaves Scotland for a better life in Canada in the mid-1800s.

Gantos, Jack. **The Love Curse of the Rumbauchs**. (IMC CBC on order)

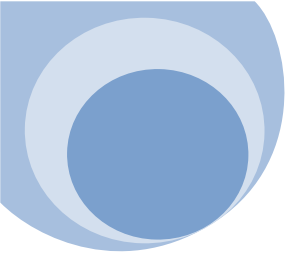
Loving your mother is a blessing; loving her so much you feel the need to perform taxidermy on her is a curse.

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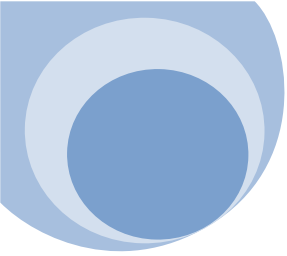
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- Giles, Gail. **What Happened to Cass McBride?**. (IMC CBC Fic G3924w 2006)
In this taut, psychologically rich thriller, Cass McBride and her tormentor, who has buried her alive, form a unique and surprising bond.
- Going, K.L. **Saint Iggy**. (IMC CBC Fic G5614s 2006)
Meth-damaged Iggy Corso faces many obstacles, including his expulsion from school, but he still yearns to make a difference.
- Green, John. **An Abundance of Katherines**. (IMC CBC Fic G8233a 2006)
After the nineteenth girl named Katherine breaks his heart, Colin and his friend Hassan hit the road. Can a mathematical formula help a former child prodigy find the new love of his life?
- Hartnett, Sonya. **Surrender**. (IMC CBC Fic H2567su 2005)
As 20-year-old Gabriel lies dying, he remembers his miserable childhood and the influence of his mysterious companion, Finnigan.
- Hoffman, Alice. **Incantation**. (IMC CBC Fic H6757i 2006)
Secrets are dangerous during the Spanish Inquisition—especially if you are secretly Jewish.
- Johnson, Harriet McBryde. **Accidents of Nature**. (IMC CBC Fic J6326a 2006)
Jean has lived her life as the poster child for cerebral palsy until she meets Sara at a summer camp for teens with disabilities, where she becomes aware of the politics of the differently abled community.
- Koss, Amy Goldman. **Side Effects**. (IMC CBC on order)
Fourteen-year-old Izzy's life changes when she is diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Larson, Kirby. **Hattie Big Sky**. (IMC CBC Fic L3296h 2006)
In 1918, 16-year-old Hattie Brooks runs a 400-acre Montana farm, faces threats from wolves, and fights prejudice and loneliness.
- McCormick, Patricia. **Sold**. (IMC CBC Fic M1374s 2006)
In this startling, frank novel in free verse, a 13-year-old Nepalese girl is sold into prostitution by her stepfather after a monsoon leaves her family destitute.
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. **Dairy Queen**. (IMC CBC Fic M9413d 2006)
Running her family's dairy farm and fulfilling others' expectations makes D.J. feel like a cow, until she finds herself training the rival school's quarterback.
- Myers, Walter Dean. **Street Love**. (IMC CBC Fic M9925st 2006)
This story told in free verse is set against a background of street gangs and poverty in Harlem in which seventeen-year-old African American Damien takes a bold step to ensure that he and his new love will not be separated.
- Na, An. **Wait for Me**. (IMC CBC on order)
Mina struggles with being the perfect daughter, taking care of her sister, falling in love, and living a life that's true.
- Pierce, Tamora. **Terrier**. (IMC CBC Fic P6118t 2006)
When sixteen-year-old Beka becomes "Puppy" to a pair of "Dogs," as the Provost's Guards are called, she uses her police training, natural abilities, and a touch of magic to help them solve the case of a murdered baby in Tortall's Lower City.



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- Portman, Frank. **King Dork**. (IMC CBC on order)
While creating outrageous album covers and trying to name his band, 14-year-old Tom grapples with his father's death.
- Pratchett, Terry. **Wintersmith**. (IMC CBC Fic P8872wi 2006)
Waily, waily, waily! In this Discworld novel, witch-in-training Tiffany Aching accidentally attracts the attention of the Wintersmith, imperiling her family and requiring the expertise of the Wee Free Men.
- Rosoff, Meg. **Just in Case**. (IMC CBC on order)
After David rescues his baby brother from a near-tragic occurrence, the 15-year-old struggles to reinvent himself and change his destiny.
- Selvadurai, Shyam. **Swimming in the Monsoon Sea**. (IMC CBC Fic Se496s 2005)
Against the backdrop of a sultry Sri Lankan summer, 14-year-old Amrith makes discoveries about both his family's past and his own sexuality when his Canadian cousin visits.
- Sturtevant, Katherine. **A True and Faithful Narrative**. (IMC CBC Fic St978t 2006)
In seventeenth century London, women don't write—except for Meg, who disobeys her father to pen the story of a young merchant kidnapped by pirates and enslaved in Algiers.
- Turner, Megan Whalen. **The King of Attolia**. (IMC CBC Fic T8554k 2006)
Eugenides must convince his new queen, his court, and his subjects of his ability to rule, despite his disreputable past as a liar and a thief.
- Vaught, Susan. **Trigger**. (IMC CBC Fic V4654t 2006)
After blowing a hole in his head with a gun and suffering severe brain damage, Jersey Hatch sets out to discover why he did it.
- Werlin, Nancy. **The Rules of Survival**. (IMC CBC Fic W4944r 2006)
When Matthew and his younger sisters witness a man confronting an abusive parent, they think they may have found a hero who will save them from their vicious mother.
- Wittlinger, Ellen. **Blind Faith**. (IMC CBC on order)
Liz's grieving mother joins a spiritualist church despite objections from her atheist father. With the help of her friend Nathan, Liz, who feels trapped in the middle, finds her own path.
- Yang, Gene Luen and Lark Pien. **American Born Chinese**. (IMC CBC Fic Y165a 2006)
Combining three different stories, one drawn from Chinese mythology, this graphic novel explores racism and self-hatred as a young boy struggles to come to terms with his heritage.
- Zusak, Markus. **The Book Thief**. (IMC CBC Fic Z897b 2006)
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.



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NON-FICTION

Bausum, Ann. **Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement.** (IMC CBC 920 B3284f 2006)

Though Lewis and Zwerg were of different races, their lives became entwined as their activism helped end segregation.

Fleischman, Sid. **Escape!: the Story of the Great Houdini.** (IMC CBC 921 H8135e 2006)

A spellbinding biography of the amazing Harry Houdini written by a fellow magician.

Fradin, Judith Bloom and Fradin, Dennis Brindell. **5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight From Slavery.** (IMC CBC 920 F8414f 2006)

In this true story, a couple goes to extraordinary lengths to escape slavery, eventually helping others by sharing their experiences.

Freedman, Russell. **Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.** (IMC CBC 323.11 F8756f 2006)

Through photos and eyewitness accounts, Freedman draws readers close to the dramatic 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and the ordinary people who participated.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America.** (IMC CBC 973.5 H7778u 2006)

Oral histories and archival photographs enrich the story of King Cotton, deepening readers' understanding of the place of an iconic crop in American history.

Jacobson, Sid and Colon, Ernie. **The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation.** (IMC CBC on order)

This concise graphic novel re-creation of the government's official report conveys the horror of 9/11 and looks at how it happened.

Lat. **Kampung Boy.** (IMC CBC on order)

Mat's Malaysian village comes alive in this graphic novel, showing a picture of life in a 1950s Muslim kampung. Western influences, however, threaten his familiar world.