

Best Fiction for Young Adults Top Ten 2012

The books, recommended for ages 12-18, meet the criteria of both good quality literature and appealing reading for teens. The list comprises a wide range of genre and styles, including contemporary realistic fiction, fantasy, horror, science fiction and novels in verse. In addition to the 113 books chosen for the [Best Fiction for Young Adults list](#), the committee also selected a Top Ten which is listed below.

[The Girl of Fire and Thorns](#)

by Rae Carson

After being kidnapped, Princess Elisa, bearer of the Godstone, and secret wife of a king, is forced to hike across a desert and ends up in a horrific war.

[Leverage](#)

by Joshua Cohen

An unlikely friendship between a stuttering, emotionally shattered, talented football player and a short, competitive gymnast, creates a bond that may help them stand up to three football bullies.

[Everybody Sees the Ants](#)

by A.S. King

Lucky faces a bully, meets a girl, and tries to bring his POW/MIA grandfather home from meetings that take place in his dreams as he struggles to find himself.

[Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe](#)

Garcia McCall

When Lupita's mother is diagnosed with cancer, the whole family shifts, bringing big changes for this tight-knit Mexican-American family.

[Shine](#)

by Lauren Myracle

When Cat's friend is brutally beaten in a hate crime, Cat feels driven to find out the truth about the assault and the attackers.

[A Monster Calls](#)

by Patrick Ness

The monster comes for Conor just after midnight, again and again. That is, until he's ready to share how he feels about his mom's cancer.

[Between Shades of Gray](#)

by Ruta Sepetys

In 1941, Lina and her family are taken from their home in Lithuania and sent to Siberia where, despite horrific conditions, Lina maintains hope that she will survive.

[The Scorpio Races](#)

by Maggie Stiefvater

Sean and Puck fall in love when each is desperate to win the Scorpio Races, when wild meat

eating water horses race on the beach.

[Daughter of Smoke and Bone](#)

by Laini Taylor

Karu questions how she came to be raised by the chimaera Brimstone. When she meets the seraph Akiva, events unfold that could answer her questions—but at great cost.

[How to Save a Life](#)

by Sara Zarr

Jill, who is grieving the death of her father, is appalled that her mother is adopting a baby and giving the pregnant mother, Mandy, a home... but Mandy's got a story of her own.

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[YALSA's Book Awards](#)

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