

Must Read Books for Teens

	Title	First	Author	Summary
1	The Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas	Adams	In this collection of novels, Arthur Dent is introduced to the galaxy at large when he is rescued by an alien friend seconds before Earth's destruction, and embarks on a series of amazing adventures, from the mattress swamps of Sgornshellous Zeta to the Restaurant at the End of the Universe.
2	Little Women	Louisa May	Alcott	Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.
3	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Sherman	Alexie	Sherman Alexie's humorous, semiautobiographical novel, illustrated by Ellen Forney, follows 14-year-old Junior — poor, skinny and with a freakishly big head — as he leaves his school on the Spokane Indian Reservation for a mostly white school in a nearby town. Alexie captures the pain and awkwardness of adolescence while also meditating on the devastation that poverty, racism and alcoholism have wreaked on Native American communities.
4	Speak	Laurie Halse	Anderson	After being raped at a party, teenage Melinda is unable to tell angry partygoers why she called the police — and eventually stops speaking all together. <i>Speak</i> follows Melinda as she overcomes her past, and finds her voice.
5	Go Ask Alice		Anonymous	Originally sold as the real diary of an actual teenager, <i>Go Ask Alice</i> is the faux-memoir of a 15-year-old girl whose life is dominated by her drug problems, following her experiences from her indoctrination into the world of drugs to just before her death from an overdose.
6	Thirteen Reasons Why	Jay	Asher	When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing 13 cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recount the events leading up to her death.
7	The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret	Atwood	Set in the near future, America has become a puritanical theocracy and Offred tells her story as a Handmaid under the new social order.
8	Pride and Prejudice	Jane	Austin	A story told in three parts of a gradual union of one sister held back by unconquerable pride and the other blinded by prejudice.
9	Tuck Everlasting	Natalie	Babbitt	The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when it discovers that a 10-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret, about a spring of magical water that prevents the drinker from ever growing any older.
10	Fahrenheit 451	Ray	Bradbury	In a far future world, television dominates, and books are outlawed. The totalitarian regime has ordered all books to be burned by "firemen," whose job is to start the fires rather than stop them. But one fireman begins to see the value of the printed word.
11	The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Series	Ann	Brashares	During their first summer break spent apart, longtime friends Lena, Tibby, Carmen and Bridget each embark on adventures that they share with each other through a pair of jeans that they have decided will be worn by all, and so will absorb all of their stories.
12	The Princess Diaries series	Meg	Cabot	Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne.
13	The Stranger	Albert	Camus	Caught in the grip of forces he does not understand, a quiet, ordinary clerk in Algiers commits a murder.
14	In Cold Blood	Truman	Capote	Recounts the murder of the Clutter family in 1959, and the investigation, which led to the capture, trial, and execution of two killers.
15	The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Stephen	Chbosky	In a thought-provoking, coming-of-age novel, teenager Charlie struggles to cope with the complex world of high school. He deals with the confusions of sex and love, the temptations of drugs and the pain of losing a close friend and favorite aunt.
16	The House on Mango Street	Sandra	Cisneros	For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and rundown tenements. She tells her story in a series of vignettes, as she tries to rise above the hopelessness of her surroundings and come into her own power.
17	The Mortal Instruments series	Cassandra	Clare	Able to see demons and those who hunt them, Clary Fray is drawn into the world of the Shadowhunters when her mother slips into a coma and travels to the City of Glass, the capital of their secretive country, where she uncovers important truths about her family's past.
18	The Alchemist	Paulo	Coelho	Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, sets out from his home in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of buried treasure, but through his encounters with a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself a king, and an Alchemist, he learns the value of the treasures found within himself.
19	Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist	Rachel	Cohn	High school student Nick O'Leary, member of a rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart. That fateful five minutes leads to an all-night quest to find their favorite band's secret show.
20	The Hunger Game series	Suzanne	Collins	In the ruins of a future North America, a young girl is picked to leave her impoverished district and travel to the decadent Capitol for a battle to the death in the savage Hunger Games. But for Katniss Everdeen, winning the Games only puts her deeper in danger as the strict social order of Panem begins to unravel.
21	The Chocolate War	Robert	Cormier	The world of Trinity School is turned upside down when freshman Jerry Renault refuses to sell chocolates for the school's annual fundraiser. Jerry becomes a nonconformist hero for some — and a target of hatred for others.
22	The Maze Runner series	James	Dashner	Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up in the middle of a maze, with no memory, and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape. But once he escapes, he discovers the outside world is a new and dangerous place.

23	The Three Musketeers	Alexandre	Dumas	Alexandre Dumas's classic novel about the nobleman D'Artagnan who, along with three Musketeers, defend the honor of Anne of Austria against the plots of Cardinal Richelieu during the reign of France's King Louis XIV.
24	Invisible Man	Ralph	Ellison	A first-person account of a fictional African American man who grows up in the South and then tries to find his place in New York City. The novel describes the hero's attempt to discover his relationship to a society filled with violence and animosity.
25	The House of the Scorpion	Nancy	Farmer	In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. Escape is his only chance to survive — but even that may not save him.
26	As I Lay Dying	William	Faulkner	It is the story of the death of Addie Bundren and her poor, rural family's quest and motivations—noble or selfish—to honor her wish to be buried in her hometown of Jefferson, Mississippi.
27	The Great Gatsby	F. Scott	Fitzgerald	The tragic story of the wealthy Jay Gatsby and his attempt to win back the love of Daisy Buchanan.
28	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Jonathan Safran	Foer	Follows nine-year-old Oskar Schell as he encounters a number of interesting characters in his search for information about his father who died in the World Trade Tower and tries to find the lock that fits the mysterious key his father had.
29	The Diary of a Young Girl	Anne	Frank	Anne's diary, the observations of an imaginative, friendly, sometimes petty, and rather normal teenage girl, comes to an abrupt and silent end.
30	The Graveyard Book	Neil	Gaiman	The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.
31	100 Years of Solitude	Gabriel	Garcia Marquez	The rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family.
32	Lord of the Flies	William	Golding	The classic study of human nature depicts the degeneration of a group of schoolboys marooned on a desert island. Ralph, Piggy, Simon and their fellow castaways attempt to develop their own society — and fail disastrously.
33	The Princess Bride	William	Goldman	This tale of a handsome farm boy who, aided by a drunken swordsman and a gentle giant, rescues a beautiful princess named Buttercup comes with a slyly humorous, metafictional edge: Goldman claims to have merely abridged an earlier text by one "S. Morgenstern" (actually a pseudonym) and peppers his text with clever commentary.
34	An Abundance of Katherines	John	Green	Always being dumped by girls named Katherine, Colin Singleton, a washed-up child prodigy with a Judge Judy-obsessed best friend, embarks on a quest to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which will affect all of his future relationships and change his life.
35	Looking for Alaska	John	Green	Sixteen-year-old 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.
36	Paper Towns	John	Green	One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life, until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.
37	The Fault in Our Stars	John	Green	Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few more years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at the Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.
38	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark	Haddon	Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically gifted, autistic boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secrets about his mother.
39	A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine	Hansberry	A three-act play concerned with the tensions in a middle- class African American family living on Chicago's Southside in the 1950s.
40	The Scarlet Letter	Nathaniel	Hawthorne	Classic tale about Hester Prynne, her lover, their child, and Hester's husband, and the effect of sin on the mind and spirit of these characters.
41	Dune	Frank	Herbert	Paul Atreides, the son of a betrayed duke, is given up for dead on a treacherous desert planet and adopted by its fierce, nomadic people, who help him unravel his most unexpected destiny.
42	Siddhartha	Herman	Hesse	A moral allegory, set in ancient India, about one soul's quest for the ultimate answer to the enigma of man's role in this world. The hero, Siddhartha, undergoes a series of experiences to emerge in a state of peace and wisdom.
43	The Outsiders	S.E.	Hinton	S.E. Hinton was just 16 years old when she wrote this novel about kids getting caught up in class struggles. Ponyboy is a greaser, from the wrong side of the tracks; he runs afoul of the upper-class Socs, leading to an epic rumble between the two gangs.
44	Crank series	Ellen	Hopkins	Kristina Snow is the perfect daughter, until she meets a boy who introduces her to drugs. She becomes a very different person, struggling to control her life and her mind, as she grows up and has children of her own.
45	Farewell to Manzanar	Jean	Houston	In 1942, when Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven-years-old, her family was uprooted from their home in California and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp. Relays, through the eyes of a young girl, how the internment affects the various members of her family.
46	Les Miserables	Victor	Hugo	Jean Valjean, a French peasant who has been released from prison where he spent nineteen years for stealing a loaf of bread for his starving family, finds himself threatened by people and events from his past.

47	Brave New World	Aldus	Huxley	Novel of soulless streamlined Eden, a shocking look at a frightening future.
48	Howl's Moving Castle	Diana Wynne	Jones	The eldest of three sisters in a land where being the eldest is considered a misfortune, Sophie is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice — until a witch turns her into an old woman, and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared wizard Howl.
49	Flowers for Algernon	Daniel	Keyes	When brain surgery makes a mouse into a genius, dull-witted Charlie Gordon wonders if it might also work for him. It does ... but then the mouse begins to regress.
50	The Dark Tower series	Stephen	King	Roland, the last gunslinger, pursues his quest for The Dark Tower.
51	A Separate Peace	John	Knowles	Introverted, intellectual Gene and his daredevil best friend, Phineas, are roommates at a posh New England boarding school just before World War II, but a conflict of loyalties leads them to tragedy.
52	Into the Wild	Jon	Krakauer	"Into the Wild" tells the story of Chris McCandless, a twenty-four-year-old who walked into the Alaskan wilderness on an idealistic journey and was found dead of starvation nearly four months later.
53	To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper	Lee	Author Harper Lee explores racial tensions in the fictional "tired old town" of Maycomb, Ala., through the eyes of 6-year-old Scout Finch. As her lawyer father, Atticus, defends a black man accused of rape, Scout and her friends learn about the unjust treatment of African-Americans — and their mysterious neighbor, Boo Radley.
54	A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine	L'Engle	Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, when they set out to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel.
55	The Chronicles of Narnia series	C.S.	Lewis	Explores the lives of the Pevensie children as they discover a magical land that can be reached through the back of a wardrobe...
56	The Call of the Wild	Jack	London	Jack London's classic novel presents the adventures of an unusual dog, part Saint Bernard and part Scotch shepherd, forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields, where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.
57	The Giver Series	Lois	Lowry	In the future, society has eliminated discord, converting everyone to "Sameness." In three linked stories, Jonas, destined to hold memories of the time before Sameness; Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg; and healer Matty must discover the truth about their society and restore emotion, meaning and balance to their world.
58	Life of Pi	Yann	Martel	Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.
59	Twilight Series	Stephenie	Meyer	When 17-year-old Bella Swan leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Wash., she meets Edward, an exquisitely handsome boy at school, for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction, and who she comes to realize is not wholly human. Bella must choose between vampire Edward and werewolf Jacob, while avoiding the attentions of less friendly vampires.
60	Death of a Salesman	Arthur	Miller	Presents the script of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play in which Willy Loman, a sixty-three-year-old traveling salesman, is forced to face the reality he has avoided all his life.
61	The Crucible	Arthur	Miller	A play based on the Salem witchcraft trials of 1692.
62	Beloved	Toni	Morrison	Sethe, an escaped slave living in post-Civil War Ohio, struggles to keep Beloved, an intruder, from gaining possession of her present while throwing off the legacy of her past.
63	Abhorsen Trilogy	Garth	Nix	In the Old Kingdom, magic is real and the dead walk — and sometimes, they walk right across the magical Wall and into the New Kingdom. The series follows skilled necromancer Sabriel and her companions as they fight to send the dead back into the realm of Death.
64	The Things They Carried	Tim	O'Brien	Related stories, linked by recurring characters and an interwoven plot, recreate an American foot soldier's experience in the Vietnam War.
65	Animal Farm	George	Orwell	A political satire in which the animals take over running the farm but find their utopian state turning into a dictatorship.
66	The Inheritance Cycle	Christopher	Paolini	The series that began with <i>Eragon</i> follows poor farm boy Eragon as he grows into a master swordsman who fights alongside his dragon, Saphira, to help save the Empire from evil and darkness.
67	Hatchet	Gary	Paulsen	After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.
68	My Sister's Keeper	Jodi	Picoult	Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures, and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.
69	The Bell Jar	Sylvia	Plath	The heartbreaking story of a talented young woman who descends into madness.
70	His Dark Materials	Philip	Pullman	In this hit series, young Lyra Belacqua tries to prevent kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments; helps Will Parry — a boy from another world — search for his father; and finds that she and Will are caught in a battle between the angelic forces of the Authority and those gathered by her rebel uncle, Lord Asriel.

71	The Fountainhead	Ayn	Rand	The story of a gifted young architect, his violent battle against conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with a beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him.
72	Interview with the Vampire	Anne	Rice	The story of the vampire Lestat through the ages as he searches for the origin and meaning of his own dark immortality.
73	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children	Ransom	Riggs	After a family tragedy, Jacob feels compelled to explore an abandoned orphanage on an island off the coast of Wales, discovering that the children once kept there — including his own grandfather — may have been dangerous, and may be still alive.
74	Percy Jackson and the Olympians series	Rick	Riordan	Always trouble-prone, the life of teenager Percy Jackson (Logan Lerman) gets a lot more complicated when he learns he's the son of the Greek god Poseidon.
75	Divergent Series	Veronica	Roth	In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.
76	Harry Potter series	J.K.	Rowling	The adventures of Harry Potter, the Boy Who Lived, and his wand-wielding friends at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry, Ron and Hermione must master their craft and battle the machinations of the evil wizard Voldemort and his Death Eaters.
77	The Catcher in the Rye	J.D.	Salinger	With the author's death, the classic novel about young Holden Caulfield's disillusionment with the adult world and its "phoniness" will only rise in popularity — and controversy, since it is a favorite target of censors, who often cite profanity and sexual references in their efforts to ban the book.
78	The Lovely Bones	Alice	Sebold	While adjusting to life in Heaven, a fourteen-year-old girl watches the effects of her death on those she left behind.
79	Romeo and Juliet	William	Shakespeare	William Shakespeare's story of two young lovers whose families oppose their union, forcing them to take drastic measures to stay together, with tragic results.
80	Frankenstein	Mary	Shelley	Mary Shelley's classic novel about the hysteria that ensues when Dr. Victor Frankenstein creates a monster and subsequently casts it out into a horrified community.
81	Maus I	Art	Spiegelman	A brutally moving work of art--widely hailed as the greatest graphic novel ever written--Maus recounts the chilling experiences of the author's father during the Holocaust, with Jews drawn as wide-eyed mice and Nazis as menacing cats.
82	Stargirl	Jerry	Spinelli	Mica Area High School has never seen anything like Susan "Stargirl" Caraway, a classic Manic Pixie Dream Girl who wears Native American buckskins, plays the ukulele and cheers for both teams at sporting events. A story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love.
83	Of Mice and Men	John	Steinbeck	Sustained by the hope of someday owning a farm of their own, two migrant laborers arrive to work on a ranch in central California.
84	The Pearl	John	Steinbeck	Terrible events follow the discovery of a magnificent pearl by a poor Mexican fisherman.
85	Dracula	Bram	Stoker	In the mountains of Transylvania, Jonathan Harker, meets his latest client, the wealthy Count Dracula. In a few days he sees the sinister side and true nature of Dracula.
86	The Joy Luck Club	Amy	Tan	The personal, often painful, histories of four Chinese American women who began meeting in San Francisco in 1949 to play mah jong are revealed as the daughter of one who has died searches for her sisters in China to tell them about the mother they never knew.
87	The Hobbit	J.R.R.	Tolkien	Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.
88	The Lord of the Rings	J.R.R.	Tolkien	Tolkien's seminal three-volume epic chronicles the War of the Ring, in which Frodo the hobbit and his companions set out to destroy the evil Ring of Power and restore peace to Middle-earth. The beloved trilogy still casts a long shadow, having established some of the most familiar and enduring tropes in fantasy literature.
89	It's Kind of a Funny Story	Ned	Vizzini	An ambitious new student at Manhattan's prestigious Executive Pre-Professional High School, Craig Gilner suddenly discovers that he has become an average kid among a group of brilliant students, a discovery that leads to increasing anxiety and a battle with clinical depression, during which he encounters a motley crew of fellow patients battling their own problems.
90	The Color Purple	Alice	Walker	An expression of love and humanity, the story of a poor, barely literate black woman in the rural South during the early decades of this century, and her struggle for independence.
91	Uglies Series	Scott	Westerfield	Scott Westerfeld's four-part series follows teenage Tally as she uncovers the truth about her future world, where a mandatory operation at age 16 converts natural "Uglies" into conformist "Pretties."
92	Night	Elie	Wiesel	A Jewish boy loses his entire family because of Nazi atrocities. Includes Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech delivered by Elie Wiesel in 1986.
93	The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar	Wilde	Dorian Gray, an exceptionally beautiful young man in Victorian England, retains his youthful and innocent appearance over the years while his portrait reflects both his age and evil soul as he pursues a life of decadence and corruption.
94	The Book Thief	Markus	Zusak	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 storytelling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.
95	The Odyssey		Homer	The epic poem recounting the experiences of Odysseus during his return from the Trojan War.