

Captivating Choices for Teens: High-Interest Books for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

Compiled by Megan Schliesman
Cooperative Children's Book Center
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Most of the books on this bibliography originally appeared in editions of *CCBC Choices*, the CCBC's annual best-of-the-year list, from the past few years. A few offer a sneak peak at titles that will be featured in *CCBC Choices 2010*.

Non-Fiction: Natural World

- Burns, Loree Griffin. *Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion*. (Scientists in the Field) Houghton Mifflin, 2007. 56 pages. Age 9 and older
- Jackson, Ellen. *The Mysterious Universe: Supernovae, Dark Energy, and Black Holes*. (Scientists in the Field) Houghton Mifflin, 2008. 60 pages. Age 10 and older
- Martin, Russell, and Lydia Nibley. *The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair*. Charlesbridge, 2009. 120 pages. Age 11 and older
- Stone, Tanya Lee. *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream*. Candlewick Press, 2009. 133 pages. Age 10 and older
- Thimmesch, Catherine. *Lucy Long Ago: Uncovering the Mystery of Where We Came From*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009. 63 pages. Age 10 and older
- Turner, Pamela S. *Life on Earth – and Beyond: An Astrobiologist's Quest*. Charlesbridge, 2008. 109 pages. Age 10 and older
- Turner, Pamela S. *A Life in the Wild: George Schaller's Struggle to Save the Last Great Beasts*. Melanie Kroupa Books / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. 103 pages. Age 10 and older
- Walker, Sally M. *Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland*. Carolrhoda, 2009. 144 pages. Age 10 and older

Non-Fiction: History and Biography

- Alsenas, Linas. *Gay America: Struggle for Equality*. Amulet, 2008. 160 pages. Age 12 and older
- Bredeson, Carmen. *After the Last Dog Died: The True-Life, Hair-Raising Adventure of Douglas Mawson and His 1911–1914 Antarctic Expedition*. National Geographic, 2003. 63 pages. Age 9 and older
- Crowe, Chris. *Up Close: Thurgood Marshall*. Viking, 2008. 248 pages. Age 12 and older
- Kaufman, Michael T. *1968*. Flash Point / Roaring Brook Press, 2009. 148 pages. Age 12 and older
- Krensky, Stephen. *Comic Book Century: The History of American Comic Books*. (People's History) Twenty-First Century, 2008. 112 pages. Age 10 and older
- Madden, Kerry. *Up Close: Harper Lee*. Viking, 2009. 223 pages. Age 12 and older
- Nelson, Kadir. *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*. Foreword by Hank Aaron. Jump at the Sun / Hyperion, 2008. 88 pages. Age 10 and older
- Nelson, Scott Reynolds, with Marc Aronson. *Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry*. National Geographic, 2008. 64 pages. Age 12 and older

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Scieszka, Jon. *Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka*. Viking, 2008. 106 pages. Age 8 and older

Sís, Peter. *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*. Frances Foster Books / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. 48 pages. Age 11 and older

Non-Fiction: Contemporary People and Issues

Ellis, Deborah. *Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees*. Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press, 2009. 128 pages. Age 12 and older

David, Laurie and Cambria Gordon. *The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming*. Orchard / Scholastic, 2007. 112 pages. Age 9 and older

Gore, Al. *An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming*. Viking / Rodale, 2007. 191 pages. Age 12 and older

Haney, Eric L. *Inside Delta Force: The Story of America's Elite Counterterrorist Unit*. Delacorte Press, 2006. 246 pages. Age 12 and older

Javna, John, Sophie Javna, and Jesse Javna. *50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth*. Hyperion, 2008. 128 pages. Age 12 and older

Kuklin, Susan. *No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row*. Henry Holt, 2008. 212 pages. Age 14 and older

Non-Fiction: Arts and Poetry

Albert, Michael. *An Artist's America*. Henry Holt, 2008. 48 pages. Age 8 and older

Grandits, John. *Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems*. Clarion, 2004. 48 pages. Age 8 and older

Nichols, Travis. *Punk Rock Etiquette: The Ultimate How-to Guide for Punk, Underground, DIY, and Indie Bands*. Flash Point / Roaring Brook Press, 2008. 138 pages. Age 13 and older

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Honeybee: Poems & Short Prose*. Greenwillow / HarperCollins, 2008. 164 pages. Age 12 and older

Smith, Hope Anita. *The Way a Door Closes*. Illustrated by Shane W. Evans. Henry Holt, 2003. 52 pages. Age 10 and older

Smith, Hope Anita. *Keeping the Night Watch*. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. Henry Holt, 2008. 73 pages. Age 10 and older

Vecchione, Patrice. *Faith and Doubt: An Anthology of Poems*. Henry Holt, 2007. 144 pages. Age 12 and older

Graphic Novels

Carey, Mike. *Re-Gifters*. Illustrated by Sonny Liew and Marc Hempel. Minx / DC Comics, 2007. 148 pages. Age 10 and older

Castellucci, Cecil and Jim Rugg. *The Plain Janes*. Minx / DC Comics, 2007. 172 pages. Age 12 and older

Lutes, Jason, and Nick Bertozzi. *Houdini: The Handcuff King*. Introduction by Glen David Gold. The Center for Cartoon Studies. Hyperion, 2007. 81 pages. Age 10 and older

Porcellino, John. *Thoreau at Walden*. From the writings of Henry David Thoreau. With an introduction by D. B. Johnson. Hyperion, 2008. 99 pages. Age 10 and older

Kim, Derek Kirk. *Good As Lily*. Illustrated by Jesse Hamm. Minx / DC Comics, 2007. 147 pages. Age 12 and older

Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Raven*. Illustrated by Ryan Price. (Visions in Poetry) KCP Poetry / Kids Can Press, 2006. 48 pages. Age 11 and older

Tamaki, Mariko. *Skim*. Illustrated by Jillian Tamaki. Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press, 2008. 141 pages. Age 14 and older

Thayer, Ernest L. *Casey at the Bat*. Illustrated by Joe Morse. (Visions in Poetry) KCP Poetry / Kids Can Press, 2006. 48 pages. Age 9 and older

Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*. Color by Lark Pien. First Second, 2006. 233 pages. Age 13 and older

Short Story Collections

Ellis, Deborah. *Lunch with Lenin and Other Stories*. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2008. 169 pages. Age 13 and older

Hautman, Pete, editor. *Full House: 10 Stories about Poker*. Putnam, 2007. 161 pages. Age 12 and older

Levithan, David. *How They Met, and Other Stories*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. 244 pages. Age 14 and older

Myers, Walter Dean. *What They Found: Love on 145th Street*. Wendy Lamb Books / Random House, 2007. 243 pages. Age 13 and older

Peters, Julie Anne. *Grl2grl: Short Fictions*. Little, Brown, 2007. 151 pages. Age 14 and older

Stinson, Kathy. *101 Ways to Dance*. U.S. edition: Second Story Press, 2007. 150 pages. Age 13 and older

Tan, Shaun. *Tales from Outer Suburbia*. Arthur A. Levine Books / Scholastic, Inc., 2009. 92 pages. Age 12 and older

Up All Night: A Short Story Collection. Laura Geringer Books / HarperTeen / HarperCollins, 2008. 227 pages. Age 13 and older

Novels

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Illustrated by Ellen Forney. Little, Brown, 2007. 240 pages. Age 13 and older

Almond, David. *The Savage*. Illustrated by Dave McKean. U.S. edition: Candlewick Press, 2008. 79 pages. Age 11 and older

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*. Viking, 2009. 288 pages. Age 13 and older

Blundell, Judy. *What I Saw and How I Lied*. Scholastic Press, 2008. 284 pages. Age 13 and older

Brooks, Kevin. *Black Rabbit Summer*. U.S. edition: The Chicken House / Scholastic, 2008. 488 pages. Age 13 and older

Bruchac, Joseph. *The Way*. Darby Creek, 2007. 156 pages. Age 11 and older

Caletti, Deb. *The Fortunes of Indigo Skye*. Simon & Schuster, 2008. 298 pages. Age 12 and older

Cohn, Rachel, and David Levithan. *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. 183 pages. Age 13 and older

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic Press, 2008. 420 pages. Age 12 and older

Farr, Richard. *Emperors of the Ice: A True Story of Disaster and Survival in the Antarctic, 1910-13*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. 217 pages. Age 12 and older

Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*. Illustrated by Dave McKean. HarperCollins, 2008. 312 pages. Age 10 and older

Harter, Brent. *Split Screen*. HarperTempest / HarperCollins, 2007. 288 pages. Age 12 and older

Jenkins, A. M. *Repossessed*. HarperTeen / HarperCollins, 2007. 224 pages. Age 13 and older

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- Konigsberg, Bill. *Out of the Pocket*. Dutton, 2008. 264 pages. Age 13 and older
- Larbalastier, Justine. *How to Ditch Your Fairy*. Bloomsbury, 2008. 304 pages. Age 12 and older
- Lipsyte, Robert. *Yellow Flag*. HarperTeen / HarperCollins, 2007. 234 pages. Age 14 and older
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. *Dairy Queen*. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. 278 pages. Age 13 and older
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Game*. HarperTeen / HarperCollins, 2008. 218 pages. Age 12 and older
- Ness, Patrick. *The Knife of Never Letting Go*. (Chaos Walking: Book One) U.S. edition: Candlewick Press, 2008. 479 pages. Age 12 and older
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *The Dead & the Gone*. Harcourt, 2008. 321 pages. Age 13 and older
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life As We Knew It*. Harcourt, 2006. 337 pages. Age 13 and older
- Portman, Frank. *King Dork*. Delacorte Press, 2006. 344 pages. Age 14 and older
- Trueman, Terry. *7 Days at the Hot Corner*. HarperTempest / HarperCollins, 2007. 150 pages. Age 12 and older

Additional CCBC Resources

The CCBC has a number of original bibliographies on its web site. Many of them feature books that may be especially appealing to reluctant readers, including those with specific interests. Lists that are especially relevant include:

- 40 Books about Science and Scientists
- 40 Books about Sports
- 40 Books about Survival
- 50 Multicultural Books Every Child Should Know
- Eco-Reading: Selected Literature for Children and Teens about Our Earth and the Environment
- Edgy Young Adult Books: Examining Boundaries in Literature for Teens
- Fantastic Fiction: Great Fantasy Books for Ages 11-17
- Fantasy for 9 to 12-Year-Olds: Borrowers, Boggarts, Broomsticks and Beyond
- Graphic Novels for Libraries: Recommended Books for Children and Teens
- It's a Mystery! Books for Curious Kids and Teens
- Never Too Old: Picture Books to Share with Older Children and Teens

Go to www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/ and click on "CCBC Publications" and then "Complete List" under "Bibliographies and Booklists" to link to the individual lists and see others.

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