

## **Young Adult Library Services Association Best Fiction for Young Adults: 2017-2020**

**A Heart in a Body in the World** · Caletti, Deb

**Find It: Y CAL**

After a traumatic incident, Annabelle manages to finish her senior year with the support of her friends and family and the comfort of routine: school, work, cross-country. One night, she reaches her breaking point and she begins to run – across the US. Along the way she becomes a reluctant activist. (2019)

**All Eyes on Us** · Frick, Kit

**Find It: Y FRI**

In alternate chapters, Amanda faces family pressure to marry Carter, knowing he cheats, and Paulina pretends to date Carter to alleviate family and church pressure about being a lesbian. (2020)

**Burn Baby Burn** · Medina, Meg

**Find It: Y MED**

Nora López graduates from her Queens, New York, high school in the summer of 1977--a summer marked by a heat wave, arson, and the Son of Sam murders. (2017)

**The Cruel Prince** · Black, Holly

**Find It: Y BLA**

Violently taken from her human home, Jude has struggled to navigate the dark world of the Fae. Jaded from years of being viewed as inferior for being human, she publicly challenges the wicked Prince Cardan and his friends, unleashing the prince's wrath upon her and her sisters. (2019)

**Darius the Great is Not Okay** · Khorram, Adib

**Find It: Y KHO**

Darius is not okay with his impossible-to-please father, his mother and sister's shared Farsi sisterhood, and his "Fractional Persian" heritage. A family trip to his mother's homeland means learning more about his family, himself, and the many forms love can take. (2019)

**Dread Nation** · Ireland, Justina

**Find It: Y IRE**

In post-Civil War America where the dead have refused to stay buried, Jane has spent her entire life training in a special combat school for African American children, preparing to save the lives of the wealthy. When entire families go missing, she learns her combat skills are incredibly useful- against both the dead and the living. (2019)

**Eliza and Her Monsters** · Zappia, Francesca

**Find It: Y ZAP**

Fellow students don't know that, when she's not at school, reclusive senior Eliza is LadyConstellation, creator of the wildly popular Monstrous Sea. New student Wallace is a huge fan of the webcomic, and he slowly breaks through her shell. However, trying to keep her two lives separate may cost Eliza everything. (2018)

**The Female of the Species** · McGinnis, Mindy

**Find It: Y MCG**

The social hierarchy of a small-town high school is revealed through the voices of Alex, Jack, and Peekay. (2017)

**The Field Guide to the North American Teenager** · Philippe, Ben

**Find It: Y PHI**

After his mother gets a new job as a professor at the University of Texas, Norris, a Black French Canadian who has lived in Montreal his whole life, has to adjust to high school in Austin, Texas. (2020)

**Foolish Hearts** · Mills, Emma

**Find It: ebook**

When Claudia finds herself ensnared in a school production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, she must also navigate the elaborate politics of her private girls' school, her budding friendship with prickly Iris, and a charming, tentative romance in addition to family drama in this funny, feel-good contemporary novel. (2019)

**The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue** · Lee, Mackenzi.

**Find It: Y LEE**

Montague, the son of a British nobleman, embarks on a European tour with his best friend (and secret crush) Percy and his sister Felicity. Along the way, they encounter adventure and conflict that leads them to a very different destiny than the one awaiting their return to England. (2018)

**Ghost** · Reynolds, Jason.

**Find It: ebook**

His dad shot a gun at him, and "Ghost" Crenshaw has been running ever since. (2017)

**Girls on the Verge** · Waller, Sharon Biggs

**Find It: Y WAL**

After learning she is pregnant from her first sexual encounter, Camille is forced to make a decision. When she runs out of options in her Texas hometown, she, Annabelle, and her disapproving best friend, Bea, set off on a road trip to get an abortion. (2020)

**Goodbye Days** · Zentner, Jeff

**Find It: Y ZEN**

Carver's three best friends are killed in a car accident soon after he sends the driver a text message, and grief and guilt take their toll. When the grandmother of one of his deceased friends asks for a "goodbye day," Carver agrees, hoping for closure. (2018)

**The Hate U Give** · Thomas, Angie

**Find It: Y THO**

Starr Carter is a black girl caught between two worlds: her poor, black neighborhood, and her suburban, mostly white high school. Occupying this liminal space becomes nearly impossible when Starr witnesses, and is forced to speak out about, the fatal shooting of her unarmed friend by a white cop. (2018)

**Heroine** · McGinnis, Mindy

**Find It: Y MCG**

After Mickey Catalan, a star athlete, is sidelined by a car crash, she relies on pain medicine to help her recover faster. When she discovers that it isn't enough, Mickey spirals out of control, and her need for relief leads her to lie, steal, and shoot up. (2020)

**The Lie Tree** · Hardinge, Frances

**Find It: Y HAR**

In 1868, Faith's father is providing expertise at an archaeological dig, and when his body is found, most assume suicide amid the allegations of falsified discoveries. Only Faith suspects murder. (2017)

**Like a Love Story** · Nazemian, Abdi

**Find It: ebook**

Three teens—an Iranian youth hiding his sexuality for fear of death, an openly gay photographer, and an aspiring fashion designer with an HIV-positive uncle—all find love, along with their voices, as activists in 1989 New York during the height of the AIDS crisis. (2020)

**Long Way Down** · Reynolds, Jason

**Find It: Y REY**

Will's brother has been shot. In this free-verse novel, Will steps into an elevator ready to head downstairs and to follow the rules he's been taught and avenge his brother's death, when he encounters the ghosts of victims of a chain reaction caused by a shooting. (2018)

**Lovely War** · Berry Julie

**Find It: ebook**

Aphrodite leads her legal self-defense in front of Hephaestus and Ares to justify her infidelity. Her proof? The love stories—that she helped create—of two couples during WWI. When her tale is done, both lives and love will be different in this beautiful book. (2020)

**Monday's Not Coming** · Jackson, Tiffany D.

**Find It: Y JAC**

When Claudia's best friend Monday suddenly disappears without a trace, Claudia knows something is up and will not stop until she uncovers the possible horrifying truth. (2019)

**Neanderthal Opens the Door to the Universe** · Norton, Preston

**Find It: Y NOR**

Aaron is the star of Happy Valley High School until he suffers a concussion after a boating accident, or receives a visit from God, depending on who you believe. God gives him a to-do list and tells him he will need the help of Cliff Hubbard (a.k.a. Neanderthal). (2019)

**Patron Saints of Nothing** · Ribay, Randy

**Find It: Y RIB**

After Jay, a Filipino American high school senior gets word that his once-close cousin and pen pal Jun is dead, he travels to the Philippines to uncover the truth. (2020)

**Pet** · Emezi, Akwaeke

**Find It: Y EME**

Pet lives in a world without monsters, or so she thinks. After a monster shows itself to her, she must work to uncover the secrets her world has been hiding and to protect people she loves. (2020)

**Piecing Me Together** · Watson, Renee

**Find It: Y WAT**

Artist Jade has big dreams, but she recognizes that coming from a rough neighborhood creates barriers. She reluctantly joins Woman to Woman, a mentoring program that promises a scholarship. Her well-intentioned mentor, also black, doesn't understand Jade has no desire to be "saved." Each has things to learn from the other. (2018)

**The Poet X** · Acevedo, Elizabeth

**Find It: Y ACE**

Xiomara Batista struggles with, well, most things in her life- her mother, her twin, and her place in the Catholic church. In the past, she's used her fists to solve problems, as well as secretly writing poetry, but now it may be time to use those poems to fight back. (2019)

**The Reader** · Chee, Traci

**Find It: Y CHE**

With overlapping stories of swashbuckling pirates and merciless assassins, this stunning series opener introduces a world where reading is unheard of and a young orphan struggles to discover her family's secrets. (2017)

**Salt to the Sea** · Sepetys, Ruta

**Find It: Y SEP**

It's near the end of WWII and four refugees travel on foot during January to board the Wilhelm Gustloff, a ship bound for safety. (2017)

**Scythe** · Shusterman, Neal

**Find It: Y SHU**

In a distant future in which humanity has practically conquered death, the population is controlled by Scythes, the only beings capable of causing death. (2017)

**The Serpent King** · Zentner, Jeff

**Find It: Y ZEN**

One is the son of a snake-handling preacher serving time in prison. One is a fashionista with New York dreams. (2017)

**Strange the Dreamer** · Taylor, Laini

**Find It: Y TAY**

Lazlo Strange is an orphan raised by monks, and he's dedicated his life to learning. His favorite story is of Weep, the lost fairytale city that was literally removed from memory. This is the story of his search for the magical city. (2018)

**The Sun is Also a Star** · Yoon, Nicola

**Find It: Y YOO**

Daniel decides to let fate dictate his life and NaTasha doesn't believe in fate. But today, NaTasha will believe in anything if it allows her to avoid deportation. (2017)

**What Girls Are Made Of** · Arnold, Elana

**Find It: Y ARN**

Sixteen-year-old Nina experiences sex, betrayal, loss, and a dysfunctional home life, all while trying to understand what it means to be female in the world and whether love can ever be truly unconditional. (2018)

**What if It's Us** · Albertalli, Becky & Silvera, Adam

**Find It: Y ALB**

After the universe brings Arthur and Ben together outside the post office, neither make a move and both leave wondering if they missed a chance at love. What if they were meant to be? (2019)

**With the Fire on High** · Acevedo, Elizabeth

**Find It: Y ACE**

As both a senior in high school and a mother, Emoni must balance her last year at school with her culinary aspirations, as well as also her obligations to her daughter and grandmother. When Malachi and a new cooking elective enter the picture, Emoni's strengths begin to shine bright. (2020)