

Top YA for Summer Reading

ALEX Awards – Adult books with appeal for teens

- “The Queen of Blood,” by Sarah Beth Durst, published by Harper Voyager, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. (9780062413345). Daleina is determined to keep her family safe from vengeance-seeking spirits, placing her in the crossfire of an insecure queen and powerful spirits.
- “The Regional Office is Under Attack!”, by Manuel Gonzales, published by Riverhead, an imprint of Penguin Random House (9781594632419). Fraught with explosive action, female assassins, teenage crushes, and even a cyborg, this fast-paced, dynamic story of revenge explores what happens to a group of woman hell-bent on defending the world from evil forces.
- “In the Country We Love: My Family Divided” by Diane Guerrero with Michelle Burford, published by Henry Holt and Co. (9781627795272). After Diane Guerrero returned home from school one day to find her family deported, the 14-year-old went on to combat self-injury and suicidal thoughts, finish her education, and to become a successful actress and citizenship activist.
- “Buffering: Unshared Tales of a Life Fully Loaded,” by Hannah Hart, published by Dey Street an imprint of William Morrow, a division of HarperCollins Publishers, (9780062457516). Candid and thoughtful, Hart’s memoir details her difficult childhood and rise to internet fame.
- “Arena,” by Holly Jennings, published by Ace Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House (9781101988763). Virtual gaming: Kali's team is competing to win, not to die.
- “Every Heart a Doorway” by Seanan McGuire, a Tor Book published by Tom Doherty Associates (9780765385505). Sometimes kids disappear. Sometimes they come back. And when they come back, they need a place to go. At the Home for Wayward Children, everybody has a story, and some stories have better ending than others.
- “Romeo and/or Juliet: A Choosable-Path Adventure,” by Ryan North, published by Riverhead Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House (9781101983300). Take the lead in this choose-your-own-adventure graphic novel. Fantastic, dense illustrations draw you into a Romeo and Juliet retelling like none other you’ve ever experienced. Romance isn’t dead and in the end, maybe Romeo and Juliet aren’t either.
- “Die Young with Me: A Memoir,” by Rob Rufus, published by Touchstone, an imprint of Simon & Schuster (9781501142611). A story of punk rock, first love, cancer and the incredible power of music to get us through the hardest times in our lives. Rufus details his brave fight for his life in this tender and contemplative memoir.
- “The Wasp that Brainwashed the Caterpillar” by Matt Simon, published by Penguin Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House (9780143128687). Simon explores the benefits of evolution, in these odd yet compelling stories that range from creatures adapting to find food to having sex.

- “The Invisible Life of Ivan Isaenko,” by Scott Stambach, published by St. Martin’s Press (9781250081865). He has no arms or legs. She has blood that is betraying her. They are the smartest people in the children’s hospital and the only ones who understand, and they take “star-crossed lovers” to a whole new level.

Edwards Award – honors an author for their body of work

- Sarah Dessen wins the 2017 Edwards Award for “Dreamland”, “Keeping the Moon”, “Just Listen”, “The Truth About Forever”, “Along for the Ride”, “What Happened to Goodbye?”, and “This Lullaby.”



Morris Award – to a first time author

- *The Serpent King* written by Jeff Zentner – In a small southern town, senior year finds three misfit friends facing the prospect of their separate futures with both hope and dread. Dill fears he will never escape his snake-handling father’s poisonous legacy. However, Lydia, a fashion blogger, and Travis, a fantasy warrior, foresee hopeful future

YALSA Nonfiction Award and Printz Award – best book written for teens each year

- **March: Book Three** by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell, – Powerful and captivating, this graphic novel depicts the Civil Rights movement from fall of 1963 through the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Following John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and fellow activists, the artwork brings to life the brutality, loss, and successes members experienced while carrying out a series of nonviolent protests to overcome local barriers and exercise their right to vote. Equally moving as a stand-alone title or conclusion to the March trilogy, *March: Book Three* will hook readers from the opening scene and leave them questioning how they themselves might answer the call of injustice long after the last page is turned.

Printz Honor books

- *Asking for It* By Louise O’Neill – After a party, Emma Donovan is found dumped outside her house with no recollection of the previous night. Pictures go viral showing her being raped. Lacking support from her small Irish town, Emma becomes a shell of her previous self, struggling with the question of whether she asked for it.
- *Scythe* By Neal Shusterman – In a future where death has been eradicated, scythes are selected to control overpopulation by “gleaning” random members of society. Teens Citra and Rowan are selected as apprentices and are thrust into a world of political intrigue. “Scythe” is a powerful examination of ethics, humanity and the flaws of immortality.

- *The Sun is Also a Star* By Nicola Yoon



Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers

Nonfiction

- Higgins, Nadia Abushanab. *Feminism: Reinventing the F-Word*. 2016. Illus. Twenty First Century Books / Lerner, \$35.99. 9781467761475. A discussion of feminism, what it is, what it isn't, and why it is important.

Fiction

- Buxbaum, Julie. *Tell Me Three Things*. 2016. Delacorte Press / Random House Children's Books. \$17.99. 9780553535648. A mysterious admirer helps Jessie adjust to her new life in LA.
- Garvin, Jeff. *Symptoms of Being Human*. 2016. Balzer + Bray / HarperCollins, \$17.99. 9780062382863. Riley, the child of a Congressman, secretly blogs about being gender fluid.
- Johnston, E.K. *Exit, Pursued by a Bear*. 2016. Dutton Books / Penguin Random House, \$17.99. 9781101994580. Hermione is raped at cheer camp. In the year that follows, she deals with rumors, flashbacks, and a re-centering of her life.
- Lemire, Jeff. *Plutona*. 2016. Illus. Image Comics, \$16.99. 9781632156013. A group of teens find the body of the superhero, Plutona, and must decide how to handle the situation.
- Lukavics, Amy. *Daughters Unto Devils*. 2015. Harlequin Teen / Harlequin, \$17.99. 9780373211586. After a dreadful winter, Amanda and her family find a new home on the prairie. Unfortunately, the demon spirits are already waiting for them.
- Nijkamp, Marieke. *This Is Where It Ends*. 2016. Sourcebooks, \$17.99. 9781492622468. A violent student with a grudge and a gun holds his classmates and teachers hostage for an hour.
- Reynolds, Jason and Brendan Kiely. *All American Boys*. 2015. Atheneum / Simon and Schuster, \$17.99. 9781481463331. Accused of shoplifting and resisting arrest, Rashad is beaten by a police officer. Racial tension runs high as friends take sides and a community is divided.
- Russo, Meredith. *If I Was Your Girl*. 2016. Flatiron, \$17.99. 9781250078407. Amanda is facing a lot of challenges, but nothing is as big as starting over after being relentlessly bullied for her transgender identity. ★
- Tash, Sarvenaz. *The Geek's Guide to Unrequited Love*. 2016. Simon & Schuster BFYR / Simon & Schuster, \$17.99. 9781481456531. Graham has realized he is in love with his best friend and partner in comic book creation, Roxy. What better place to declare his feelings than New York Comic Con?

Teen Top Ten

- *Alive* by Chandler Baker. Disney/Hyperion. 9781484706831.
- *All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. 9780385755887. ★
- *The Game of Love and Death* by Martha Brockenbrough. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books. 9780545668347.
- *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo. Macmillan/Henry Holt & Co. 9781627792127. ★
- *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon. Random House/Delacorte Press. 9780553496642. ★
- *Every Last Word* by Tamara Ireland Stone. Disney/Hyperion. 9781484705278. ★
- *The Novice: Summoner: Book One* by Taran Matharu. Macmillan/Feiwel & Friends. 9781250080059.
- *lluminae* by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. 9780553499117.
- *When* by Victoria Laurie. Disney/Hyperion. 9781484700082.
- *Suicide Notes from Beautiful Girls*. By Lynn Weingarten. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse. 9781481418584.

Virginia Readers' Choice Lists 2017–2018 High School: students can read these throughout the year and vote on their favorite.

- The Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik
- Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys ★
- Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens agenda by Becky Albertalli
- Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Pérez
- More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera
- An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir ★
- Dumplin' by Julie Murphy
- Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon ★
- All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven ★

★ Books I have read and loved

Book reviews and info from ala.org/yalsa