

Best New Teen Books of 2013



NLA/NEMA/MPLA Conference

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Presented by Sally Snyder
Nebraska Library Commission



Fiction for Younger Teens

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn *NOBODY*

400p. Egmont USA 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-60684-321-5

Claire (16) has spent her life reminding her parents and everyone that she is there. They just tend to forget. One day, looking out her window she sees a boy [Nix (17)] aiming a rifle at her. He is stunned that she sees him. He is a nobody, like her, and has been trained as an assassin. But now he questions why the Institute has sent him after her – she is no threat to anyone. A bit of magic with the idea that some people are completely evil, some are “normal” and some are forgettable.

Berk, Josh *STRIKE THREE YOU'RE DEAD*

256p. Knopf 2013 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-375-87008-8

Lenny Norbeck (12) and his two best friends, both named Mike, are spending the summer taking it easy until a new player for their Phillies team falls down dead on the pitching mound. Now they plan to solve the mystery of what happened to him.

Blackwood, Sage *JINX*

360p. HarperCollins 2013 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-212990-1

If you stay on the path you will stay alive. The Urwald forest surrounds Jinx's home and everyone knows to stay out of it. A wizard appears and buys him as his stepfather is abandoning him (to certain death) in the forest. As he grows up he is curious about the wizard, Simon's, workroom – which he is never to enter.

Bodeen, S. A. *THE RAFT*

231p. Feiwel & Friends (an imprint of Macmillan) 2012 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-312-65010-0

Robie (15) is a passenger on the delivery plane to the Midway Atoll where she lives with her parents when a storm causes them to crash. Now she is trying to survive in a life raft. This book

will be a popular choice with teens due to the survival aspect along with the specific knowledge Robie has from living on Midway, such as the danger of disease from fish living on the edge of the islands. It is bleak but so is her situation.

Carriger, Gail ***ETIQUETTE & ESPIONAGE***

320p. Little, Brown 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-316-19008-4

This is the first book in her new series aimed at teens, called “Finishing School.” Set in the same world as her “Parasol Protectorate” series but in a slightly earlier time period, we meet Sophronia, 14, who is always in the midst of kerfuffles and disturbances. Her latest stunt has landed her in a finishing school. But, while she does learn a proper curtsy, dancing and other expected things, she is also learning eavesdropping and diversion. She is soon investigating (on her own) the location of a vital, missing item. Could she have found her proper place?

Flake, Sharon ***PINNED***

228p. Scholastic 2012 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-05718-9

Ninth-grader Autumn’s goal is to be the best wrestler, and she is well on her way. Adonis, also in ninth grade, is focusing on academics; he is gifted and has the brains and the concentration to go far. He is also in a wheelchair, born without legs. Told in their alternating voices Autumn, who has trouble reading, is determined to convince Adonis he wants her in his life, and all he wants is for her to leave him alone.

Gansworth, Eric ***IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE***

350p. Arthur A. Levine Books (Scholastic) 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-41730-3

Lewis “Shoe” Blake (7th grade), lives on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation in upstate New York. It is the 1970s and Lewis, along with a number of other students from the rez, chose to attend the “white” school in the nearby town. Lewis is intelligent and is put in the top level of the 7th grade, the only student from the reservation in the group. A recipient of bullying (almost every day) Lewis may have finally found a friend when George moves to town, his father is stationed at the nearby Air Force base. Paul McCartney & Wings, a concert, a blizzard, and getting past doubts are included in this look at being different, and at friendship.

Gratz, Alan ***PRISONER B-3087***

260p. Scholastic 2013 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-45901-3

A fictional account of a true story. Yanek was 11 when Germany took over Krakow, 12 when the wall to keep Jews in the ghetto was built, and his bar mitzah was held secretly and quietly in an abandoned basement. He is eventually transferred to 10 different concentration camps, somehow continuing to survive.

Greenwald, Tommy ***CHARLIE JOE JACKSON'S GUIDE TO SUMMER VACATION***
Illus. by J.P. Coovert 223p. Roaring Brook Press 2013 \$14.99 ISBN 978-1-59643-757-9

Charlie Joe Jackson is in middle school and hates to read. In this third book he goes to Camp Rituhbukkee, which is a lot like summer school to him. He is a little lost among the group of nerds he finds there, even with two of his good friends there. While he is definitely not in his element, Charlie Joe finds he does have something to contribute.

Jung, Mike ***GEEKS, GIRLS, AND SECRET IDENTITIES***

307p. Arthur A. Levine Books (Scholastic) 2012 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-33548-5

Vincent, and his two best friends live in Copperplate City, the home of Captain Stupendous, the best superhero in the world! The three friends have studied everything they could about Capt S. including his most often used battling techniques. When Polly, Vincent's crush, receives Cpt. S.'s powers as the prior recipient is dying, the threesome offer to teach her all she needs to know to be successful – just in time to face the mad scientist: Professor Mayhem.

Korman, Gordon ***THE HYPNOTISTS***

232p. Scholastic 2013 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-50322-8

The Sentia Institute has shown a sudden interest in the potential abilities of 12-yr-old Jackson Opus (Jax). He may have the ability to hypnotize people. The Institute is exploring his abilities and as the tests go on, Jax begins to wonder if the director has particular plans for his abilities.

Meyer, Marissa ***SCARLET***

452p. Feiwel & Friends 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-312-64296-9

(The Lunar Chronicles, Bk 2)

Cinder, Kai, and Scarlet's stories alternate. Scarlet lives on a vegetable farm in France. Her grandmother has disappeared and the police have given up. An accidental meeting with Wolf, a street fighter, sets her on a course to search for her grandmother. Meanwhile Cinder is trying to escape from prison and Kai can see no way to avoid marrying the Lunar Queen Levana. Plenty of mystery and action moves the story forward. The second of a planned four book series, this title also successfully incorporates aspects of the fairy tale into a science fiction tale.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***THE RUNAWAY KING***

331p. Scholastic 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-28415-8

(Sequel to *The False Prince*, this is Bk 2 in the trilogy)

Jaron (14) chooses to flee the castle in secret, hoping it will help him keep the throne. Carthya is threatened by pirates and possibly by a neighboring country. Jaron is gambling that he will be able to stop the pirate threat. This series reads like the Ranger's Apprentice series.

Paulsen, Gary and Jim ***ROAD TRIP***

128p. Wendy Lamb Books (Random House) 2013 \$ ISBN 978-0-385-74191-0

Told by Ben (14) and the family's border collie, Atticus, while on their way to pick up a rescued border collie puppy, Ben and his father work through some issues. They also help and are helped by others they pick up along the way. Humor and heart.

Shusterman, Neal ***SHIP OUT OF LUCK***

291p. Dutton (Penguin group) 2013 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42226-6

Ansty and his family are coerced into joining Mr. Crawley and Lexie for a 7-day cruise. Trouble still follows Ansty (because how could it be his fault?) and soon he is enmeshed in an international incident (and possibly guilty of a federal offense). Ansty has heart for the troubles of others and continues to try to help where he can. Humorous and touching.

Vanderpool, Clare ***NAVIGATING EARLY***

300p. Delacorte Press (Random House) 2013 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-385-74209-2

Jack (13) is sent from Kansas to a boarding school in Maine. There he befriends Early Auden, a strange boy who is fascinated with the number pi and believes it is telling him a story. He also believes his brother is still alive after WWII and following the story will find him. The boys take a rowboat and go on a quest into the mountains during a week of school vacation. Danger and adventure await them.

West, Kasie ***PIVOT POINT***

343p. HarperCollins 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-211737-3

When her parents announce they are divorcing and Addie (Addison, HS junior) will need to choose whether to live with her mother, in the place she has always lived, or with her father, who is moving outside the protected compound where those with special abilities can use them freely. Addie is able to look 6 weeks into the future to see two different paths she could take, and what will happen in each choice.

Nonfiction for Teens

Bascomb, Neal ***THE NAZI HUNTERS***

219p. Arthur A. Levine (Scholastic) 2013 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-43099-9

The subtitle says it: "How a team of spies and survivors captured the world's most notorious Nazi." Adolph Eichmann escaped and lived for years in Argentina after WWII ended. VOYA describes this title as a "spy story...with an evil genius... and zealous advocates" seeking justice. Well-told, with photos from the search and surveillance. It is amazing to me that the search was discontinued more than once due to "rumors" being considered not worth following, along with the lack of photographic evidence that Eichmann was living where reported. The spy story continues with a conspiracy to kidnap him (since Argentina would not extradite him) and bring him to justice.

Jenks, Andrew ***ANDREW JENKS: My Life as a Young Filmmaker***
223p. Scholastic 2013 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-545-41727-3

His family moved to Belgium when he was nine years old. He was lost until his mom bought a video camera to send tapes back to the States. Andrew spent all his spare time with the camera. They returned to New York when he was in 6th grade, but he still kept video-taping anything and everything. He uses a scrapbook approach to tell his story with many photos and plenty of white space with the text. Sure to appeal to teens familiar with his show and/or interested in life after high school/college.

Johnson, Rebecca L. ***ZOMBIE MAKERS: True Stories of Nature's Undead***
48p. Millbrook Press (Lerner) 2013 \$30.60 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-7613-8633-9

Tells of animals (mostly bugs) in nature that inject other creatures who then no longer act in their own best interest – in effect they are zombies. After each example is explained, the author includes a brief “The Science Behind the Story” explained by scientists and/or university professors. Fascinating, and icky. Numerous photos.

Plain, Nancy ***LIGHT ON THE PRAIRIE: Solomon D. Butcher, Photographer of Nebraska's Pioneer Days*** 102p. University of Nebraska Press 2012 \$16.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-8032-3520-5

Solomon Butcher arrived in Nebraska at the age of 24, to help his father, brother, and brother-in-law homestead a section of land in Custer County. This fascinating title gives the reader a biography of Butcher, some history of Nebraska, and a look at 62 of Butcher's photos, many of them taken in Nebraska. The 2013 Nebraska Center for the Book, Youth Nonfiction Award.

Roach, Mary ***GULP: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal***
348p. W.W. Norton & Co. 2013 \$26.95 ISBN 978-0-393-08157-2

Amazing stories of research, happenstance, and the workings of the human digestive tract. (Marketed as an adult book, but it is sure to interest teens, with sections such as spit, gas, and fecal transplants.)

Sheinkin, Steve ***BOMB: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon***
266p. Roaring Brook Press 2012 \$19.99 ISBN 978-1-59643-487-5

The author of *The Notorious Benedict Arnold* tells of the Manhattan Project and scientists from other nations who assisted. Other nations (like Russia) were hoping to steal the secrets of the bomb. It includes attempts to thwart the Nazi scientists seeking a similar bomb; as well as information on the aftermath – after the bomb was used. This title received the following 2013 awards:

Excellence in Nonfiction Award

Honor: Newbery Award

Honor: Sibert Award

Wittenstein, Vicki Oransky ***FOR THE GOOD OF MANKIND?: The Shameful History of Human Medical Experimentation*** 94p. Twenty First Century Books 2013 \$35.93 (PLB) ISBN 978-1-4677-0659-9

Sickening, but likely to catch teens attention. The author discusses a number of cases, starting in the 1700s, of experiments on unknowing patients to learn more about what the human body can stand. In the late 1700s, Edward Jenner introduced the cowpox virus, then later the smallpox virus, on young children's arms (including his own son) to prove the former could save lives. It is unclear whether he had permission to do so on the other children. The author acknowledged that the information learned has contributed to our knowledge but the use of people for experiments without their knowledge is reprehensible. The development of laws to protect people is also addressed.

Yolen, Jane & Heidi E.Y. Stemple ***BAD GIRLS: Jezebels, Murderesses, Thieves & Other Female Villains*** I.us. by Rebecca Guay 164p. Charlesbridge 2013 \$18.95 ISBN 978-1-58089-185-1

A look at some of the bad women of history, 26 ladies in 24 chapters, each chapter focuses on one (or two) ladies who were very bad, or were they coerced, or foolish, or controlled? Jane Yolen and her daughter offer the basic details, as we know them, in text then debate each case in one page in graphic novel format. This will likely inspire some readers to find out more about some of the women: Delilah, Lizzie Borden, Mata Hari, and Bonnie Parker to name a few.

Fiction for Older Teens

Black, Holly ***THE COLDEST GIRL IN COLDTOWN***
419p. Little, Brown 2013 \$ 19.00 ISBN 978-0-316-21310-3

Tana (17), ex-boyfriend Aidan, and vampire Gavriel (found chained to a bed) travel to the nearest Coldtown – a walled city of vampires – to try to save Aidan from becoming a vampire.

Bray, Libba ***THE DIVINERS***
578p. Little, Brown 2012 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-316-12611-3

Evie (17) is sent to New York to live with her uncle after she embarrasses the son of an Ohio small-town big shot. She loves her punishment and spends some time in speak-easys downing the booze. The supernatural is everywhere in this book, Evie has a talent – to “see” the past life of objects, and her uncle runs the Museum of American Folklore, Superstition, and the Occult. But now there is a bloody killer on the loose with no clues as to who may be next. He could be an evil spirit – Evie is determined to find out.

Cass, Kiera ***THE ELITE***
323p. HarperCollins 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-205996-3

(Sequel to *The Selection*) Thirty-five girls were chosen for The Selection, for Prince Maxon to meet, get to know, and eventually choose a wife to later be Queen. Now, with only six young ladies left, they are called The Elite and (main character) America Singer is still among them. She is still

not certain whether she wants a life with the Prince or her former wish – to marry Aspen and live in poverty as a six. There are 8 caste levels, who you are is determined by your caste. The King, Queen, and Prince are, of course, ones. America was a five when she arrived at the castle. Rebels attack the castle more than once and America is trying to understand what they want and why they want it, along with all the duties and tests assigned to them for the competition.

Condie, Ally **REACHED**

512p. Dutton 2012 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42366-9

(Matched trilogy, Bk 3) Cassia, Ky, and Xander each contribute to the rebellion against the Society as they worry and wonder how the others are doing. A terrible illness is spreading and soon it seems no one can stop it, not the Society and not the rebellion. As people struggle for their freedom to choose, some begin to wonder if things will ever get better.

Lyga, Barry **GAME**

517p. Little, Brown & Co. 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-316-12587-1

Sequel to *I Hunt Killers*

The NYPD asks Jazz to go to New York to help try to catch the Hat-Dog Killer, named for the marks he makes on his victims. Along with this is the fact that Billy Dent, Jazz's serial killer father, has escaped from prison and is playing mind games again.

Jazz continues to hope he will not become a killer, too, reminding himself that "people are real. People matter." And that is the main reason he continues to help the police, to separate himself from his father and others. Like the first title this one is creepy and gory!!

Warning: cliff-hanger!! Additionally, the movie rights have been sold for *I Hunt Killers*.

McDowell, Beck **THIS IS NOT A DRILL**

216p. Nancy Paulsen Books (Penguin) 2012 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25794-0

Emery and Jake, high school seniors, visit a first grade class three mornings a week to teach French. On this morning a distraught father comes into the room to take his son home. There is soon a horrible situation as they discover the father recently returned from Iraq, is suffering PTSD, has a gun and is willing to use it. The teens do their best to keep the children calm and think of a way to calm the father. Tense and hard to read at times, this title gives a sense of what it could be like to be in such a situation.

McGinnis, Mindy **NOT A DROP TO DRINK**

309p. Katherine Tegen Books (HarperCollins) 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-219850-1

In this dystopian novel, Sixteen-year-old Lynn has been taught by her extremely isolationist mother to protect the pond at all costs. It is life for them and they shoot and kill anything or anyone that approaches. After her mother's accidental death and the arrival of new people, over time, she changes her actions and mindset. The first line is: "Lynn was 9 the first time she killed to defend the pond,..."

Morgan, Kass ***THE 100***

323p. Little, Brown 2013 \$18.00 ISBN 978-0-316-23447-4

The last humans have been orbiting earth for many years in a space station type home. Breaking the rules is criminal activity. Now the Chancellor has decided that 100 teens being held in confinement, many age 17, will be dropped to earth to hopefully survive and send back data to prove earth is livable again. Shades of a penal colony crossed with *Lord of the Flies*, this has already been selected by the CW to create a TV series.

Myers, Walter Dean ***ALL THE RIGHT STUFF***

213p. Amistad (HarperCollins) 2012 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-196087-1

Paul (16) works in a soup kitchen the summer after his father was killed in a random shooting. Elijah, who works there too, quizzes him each day on aspects of “the social contract,” something Paul has never heard about. As they talk, almost every conversation ends with Elijah saying, “We’ll talk more about this tomorrow,” leaving Paul without an answer to his question. Paul talks with others about the social contract and they each have an opinion on it. He is also mentoring an unwed mother (17) who is hoping for a college scholarship for basketball. *Booklist* calls it “‘expository material’ successfully dramatized by the characters.”

Myers, Walter Dean ***INVASION***

212p. Scholastic 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-38428-5

May 1944, Josiah Wedgewood, called Woody (19), is in the 29th infantry preparing for Omaha Beach. They joke about how the Germans will run from them and they will be going home by October. However, it is horrendous, men die everywhere. Woody and the 29th continue across France, thinking of home when not fighting. He happens across a friend from home, Marcus Perry, who is black and drives a supply truck. Segregation in the Army is not a main focus, but it is there. Some language and talk of sex are included, and certainly should be expected in a book about war. Written to accompany his two titles: *Fallen Angels* and *Sunrise Over Fallujah*

Rowell, Rainbow ***ELEANOR & PARK***

325p. St. Martin’s Griffin 2013 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-250-01257-9

2013 Boston Globe/Horn Book winner

It is 1986 in Omaha, Eleanor sits next to reluctant Park on the bus. Over time, they go from grudging seat-mates to reading comics together to becoming each other’s first love. They talk about many things, including the fact that first love never lasts. Each is a victim of foul-mouthed bullies. Park because he is half-Korean and smart, Eleanor because she is big, has odd clothes and bright red hair. The chapters alternate between the two main characters points of view. Realistic and touching. The ending has a bit of hope for them both.

Rowell, Rainbow **FANGIRL**

433p. St. Martin's Griffin 2013 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-250-03095-5

Twin sisters from Omaha, fans of the Simon Snow book series, start their freshman year at UNL, but will live separately for the first time. One, Cath, is having trouble adjusting. Wren is the sister who pushed for the change and Cath feels like a fish out of water. She turns to the fanfiction she and Wren wrote together for two years, now writing it alone. It is the one familiar place for her now.

Stiefvater, Maggie **THE DREAM THIEVES**

437p. Scholastic 2013 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-545-42494-3

Ronan is endangering the other raven boys, and Blue, as his ability to bring things out of dreams strengthens. They continue to search for Glendower, a dead Welsh king they believe is hidden somewhere nearby, and who is the Grey Man and what is he looking for?

Wein, Elizabeth **ROSE UNDER FIRE**

346p. Hyperion 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-4231-8309-9

A companion book to *Code Name Verity*, Rose Justice is an American determined to help England in the Second World War. She is a pilot and begins ferrying planes from England to Paris. When she is captured she is taken to Ravensbrook, an atrocious women's concentration camp. Befriending some of the Polish women there she soon is shockingly aware of the medical experiments the Germans inflict on the Polish women they call "rabbits."

Yancey, Rick **THE 5TH WAVE**

457p. G.P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin) 2013 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-399-16241-1

The first wave was loss of power. The aliens came and took out electricity. Having now survived four different waves, Cassie has promised her younger brother she will join him in the camp the military is taking him to, but she also knows not to trust anyone. Teaming up with others is dangerous, since the aliens inhabit people's bodies. Cassie is willing to risk it because she has to get to Sammy.

Zadoff, Allen **BOY NOBODY**

337p. Little, Brown & Co. 2013 \$18.00 ISBN 978-0-316-19968-1

Boy Nobody (16) (his name changes with each assignment) was brought into the fold at age 12, when his father died. He was taught what he needed to know and now he gets close to someone usually at a new school for him, assassinates his target, and disappears; off to his next assignment. This time, for the first time, the person he is supposed to get close to, the mayor's daughter, awakens romantic feelings. Can he kill her father? The short chapters, and twists, will appeal to readers. Similar to but also much different from the first book on the list, *Nobody*.

New Titles in Popular Series

Carter, Ally *PERFECT SCOUNDRELS*

328p. Disney Hyperion 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-4231-6600-9

Heist Society, Bk 3)

Katarina Bishop is looking for the original will of her friend Hale's grandmother. Plenty of scheming and risk-taking with a twist or two. Fans of the series will be happy with this addition.

Delaney, Joseph *SLITHER*

Illus. by Patrick Arrasmith 380p. HarperCollins 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-219234-9

(The Last Apprentice series, Bk 11)

Slither drinks blood to live (think a different kind of vampire). He is evil but he has promised a farmer before he died, to take his daughters to their aunt and uncle, and he will keep that promise. They run into some trouble along the way, and one of the troubles is running into Grimalkin, the witch assassin – who is still protecting the Fiend's head. The series is still somewhat scary in places.

Delaney, Joseph *I AM ALICE*

Illus. by Patrick Arrasmith 432p. HarperCollins 2013 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-171513-6

(The Last Apprentice series, Bk 12)

Some history of Alice before she meets Tom Ward, the Spook's last apprentice. Then the book moves on to tell of her going into the dark to find the third and last weapon he will need to fight the Fiend. Alice learns she is more powerful than she believed, can she still help Tom?

Flanagan, John *THE HUNTERS* (The Brotherband Chronicles, Book 3)

432p. Philomel (The Penguin Group) 2012 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25621-9

(The Brotherband Chronicles, Book 3) Hal (the skirl), the rest of his brotherband, and Thorn (an adult Skandian) are sailing after the pirate Zovac and his crew, who stole the Andomal, Skandia's most beloved treasure. They must enter the port and town that protects pirates in order to find where Zovac is. Then they will need to find a way out again.

Korman, Gordon **HIDEOUT**

275p. Scholastic 2013 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-44866-6

(sequel to *Swindle*, *Zoobreak*, *Framed*, and *Showoff*) The 5th book in series.

S. Wendell Palomino (Swindle) is back, claiming he never agreed to the animal shelter allowing Luthor (the Doberman) to be adopted. Now all the gang must take turns hiding Luthor at their respective summer camps while they work on a way to prove Swindle is lying.

Smith, Alexander Gordon **EXECUTION**

320p. Farrar, Straus & Giroux 2012 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-374362249

The fifth and final book in the series. Alex and others have finally escaped the horrible prison build a mile under the earth. Alex needs to continue to hang onto his humanity, after having been made into a monster – and he needs to find and kill Furnace.



Sally Snyder

Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services

Nebraska Library Commission

1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023

800-307-2665 or 402-471-2045; sally.snyder@nebraska.gov