



Summer 2021 Teen Book Recommendations



Realistic Fiction

Title	Author	Description
<i>Darius the Great</i>	Adib Khorram	Clinically-depressed Darius Kellner, a high school sophomore, travels to Iran to meet his grandparents, but it is their next-door neighbor, Sohrab, who changes his life.
<i>Monday's Not Coming</i>	Tiffany D. Jackson	When her friend Monday Charles goes missing and Monday's mother refuses to give her a straight answer, Claudia digs into her disappearance. Galvanized by real-life accounts of black girls whose disappearances went unnoticed, the author depicts a young African American teen unwilling to let her best friend fall through the cracks.
<i>Clap When You Land</i>	Elizabeth Acevedo	Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people ... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance -- and Papi's secrets -- the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.
<i>Firekeeper's Daughter</i>	Angeline Boulley	Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths. <i>Trigger Warning: touches on darker themes such as "drugs, violence, sexual assault, etc."</i>
<i>Felix Ever After</i>	Kacen Callender	Black, queer, and trans Felix explores love, friendship, and possibly retribution in this powerful #OwnVoices story of identity and self-worth. Seventeen-year-old Felix Love hopes the summer art program he's attending will help raise his grades and increase his chances of getting a full scholarship to attend Brown. Surrounded by a diverse and mostly queer group of artist friends, Felix navigates complicated relationships, including transphobia and harassment from his own friends, from his loving but still learning father, and from an anonymous bully.

Historical Fiction

Title	Author	Description
<i>We Are Not Free</i>	Traci Chee	2021 Printz Honor Book For fourteen-year-old budding artist Minoru Ito, her two brothers, her friends, and the other members of the Japanese-American community in southern California, the three months since Pearl Harbor was attacked have become a waking nightmare: attacked, spat on, and abused with no way to retaliate--and now things are about to get worse, their lives forever changed by the mass incarcerations in the relocation camps.





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Historical Fiction *(continued)*

Title	Author	Description
<i>The Fountains of Silence</i>	Ruta Sepetys	At the Castellana Hilton in 1957 Madrid, eighteen-year-old Daniel Matheson connects with Ana Moreno through photography and fate as Daniel discovers the incredibly dark side of the city under Generalissimo Franco's rule.
<i>Lovely War</i>	Julie Berry	New York City, 1942. World War II is at its zenith. A stunningly attractive couple meets in a Manhattan hotel room for a forbidden tryst. But these are no ordinary lovers. When immortals Ares and Aphrodite are caught by the latter's jealous husband, the goddess of passion must justify her actions, or face judgment on Mount Olympus. To plead her case, she spins a tale that took place in Europe some twenty-five years earlier- the story of four mortals whose lives entwined in the crucible of World War I.
<i>Angel of Greenwood</i>	Randi Pink	A historical YA novel that takes place during the Greenwood Massacre of 1921, in an area of Tulsa, OK, known as the Black Wall Street.
<i>The Black Kids</i>	Christina Hammonds Reed	Set in 1992 during the Rodney King Riots, Ashley Bennett, a wealthy high school senior, gets caught up in the riots. She must deal with the horrible truth that wealth will not protect her and her family from danger and violence.

Science Fiction

Title	Author	Description
<i>The Sound of Stars</i>	Alechia Dow	In an alien invaded society in which music, art, and books are illegal, Ellie keeps a secret library. When an alien stumbles upon her library, the two embark on a journey to save humanity.
<i>Skyward</i>	Brandon Sanderson	After her disgraced pilot father is killed, Spensa wants nothing more than to prove that she can be a great pilot and help defeat the invading alien force called the Krell.
<i>They Both Die at the End</i>	Adam Silvera	Mateo and Rufus, complete strangers, meet up on their End Day, the day they will die, and form a powerful and heartbreaking bond.
<i>Scythe</i>	Neal Shusterman	In the first book of this trilogy, Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice a Scythe, a person who must decide who lives and who dies in a world with no hunger, disease, or death.
<i>The Weight of the Stars</i>	K. Ankrum	A light science fiction novel about Ryann, a delinquent teen who wants to become an astronaut, and Alexandria, whose mother is on a one-way space mission. The two spend night after night searching for radio signals in space, and form an unlikely relationship.



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Fantasy

Title	Author	Description
<i>Ash Princess</i>	Laura Sebastian	Held captive by the brutal Kaiser since age six when she witnessed her mother's murder, Theodosia, called Ash Princess, is now sixteen and prepared to reclaim the throne by any means necessary.
<i>Children of Blood and Bone</i>	Tomi Adeyemi	Seventeen-year-old Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy.
<i>Legendborn</i>	Tracy Deonn	To discover the truth behind her mother's mysterious death, Bree Matthews infiltrates a magical secret society claiming to be the descendants of King Arthur and his knights. Bree must decide if she will use her magic to take down this group or join the fight in a magical war.
<i>Akata Witch</i>	Nnedi Okorafor	Twelve-year-old Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has magical powers, which she and three similarly gifted friends use to catch a serial killer.
<i>Cemetery Boys</i>	Aiden Thomas	Yadriel, a trans boy, summons the angry spirit of his high school's bad boy, and agrees to help him learn how he died, thereby proving himself a brujo, not a bruja, to his conservative family.

Mystery/Thriller/Horror

Title	Author	Description
<i>Sadie</i>	Courtney Summers	West McCray, a popular podcaster, searches a small town for Sadie, a teen who disappeared trying to find her sister's murderer. Can West find Sadie before it's too late?
<i>The Silence of Bones</i>	June Hur	In Joseon Dynasty-era Korea, sixteen-year-old Seol, an indentured servant within the police bureau, becomes entangled in a politically-charged investigation into the murder of a noblewoman
<i>A Good Girl's Guide to Murder</i>	Holly Jackson	As her senior capstone project, Pippa Fitz-Amobi is determined to find the real killer in a closed, local murder case, but not everyone wants her meddling in the past.
<i>Wilder Girls</i>	Rory Power	A gory story about an all girl's school quarantined from the rest of the world because of a strange and infectious disease called the Tox.





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Mystery/Thriller/Horror *(continued)*

Title	Author	Description
<i>Elatsoe</i>	Darcie Little Badger	Elatsoe is no ordinary seventeen year old. She can raise the ghosts of the dead, a skill passed down through her Lipan Apache family. When her cousin is murdered, she must use her wits and magic to uncover the mystery of his death and the secrets of her town.

Romance

Title	Author	Description
<i>Love From A to Z</i>	S.K. Ali	Eighteen-year-old Muslims Adam and Zayneb meet in Doha, Qatar, during spring break and fall in love as both struggle to find a way to live their own truths.
<i>Yes No Maybe So</i>	Becky Albertalli, Aisha Saeed	Jamie Goldberg, who chokes when speaking to strangers, and Maya Rehrman, who is having the worst Ramadan ever, are paired to politically canvas their neighbor. They must also navigate the cross-culture relationship they form while canvassing.
<i>This is My Brain in Love</i>	I.W. Gregorio	Rising high school juniors Jocelyn Wu and Will Domenici fall in love while trying to save the Wu family restaurant, A-Plus Chinese Garden.
<i>Tell Me Three Things</i>	Julia Buxbaum	Sixteen-year old Jessie, still grieving over her mother's death, moves from Chicago to "The Valley" with a new stepfamily but no new friends, until an anonymous fellow student emails and offers to help her navigate the school's treacherous social waters
<i>Like a Love Story</i>	Abdi Nazemian	When Reza moves to New York City at the height of the 1980's AIDS epidemic, he finds friendship and companionship with Judy and Art who are both are bullied by fat-shaming, homophobic peers. When truths begin to unravel the three must deal with the fallout of Reza's sexuality, Art and Judy's friendship, and more.

Nonfiction/Biography

Title	Author	Description
<i>The Beautiful Struggle</i>	Ta-Nehisi Coates	"A memoir from Ta-Nehisi Coates, in which he details the challenges on the streets and within one's family, especially the eternal struggle for peace between a father and son and the important role family plays in such circumstances."
<i>SHOUT</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	A memoir in verse shares the author's life, covering her rape at thirteen, her difficult early childhood, and her experiences surrounding her publication of "Speak."





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Nonfiction/Biography *(continued)*

Title	Author	Description
<i>We Are Displaced</i>	Malala Yousafzai	In this book, which is part memoir, part communal storytelling, Malala not only explores her own story, as a displaced child in Pakistan, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her journeys -- girls who have lost their community, relatives, and often the only world they've ever known.
<i>Flowers in the Gutter: The True Story of the Edelweiss Pirates, Teenagers Who Resisted the Nazis.</i>	K.R. Gaddy	The Edelweiss Pirates were a loosely organized group of working-class young people in the Rhine Valley of Germany. They faced off with Nazis during the Third Reich and suffered consequences for their resistance during and after World War II.
<i>Stamped</i>	Jason Reynolds	This book depicts a history of racist and antiracist ideas in America, from their roots in Europe until today, as well as ways readers can recognize and "stamp" out racist thoughts in their daily lives.
<i>The 57 Bus</i>	Dashka Slater	Tells the true story of an agender teen who was set on fire by another teen while riding a bus in Oakland, a crime that focuses on the concepts of race, class, gender, crime, and punishment.

YA Best Sellers

Title	Author	Description
<i>Red Queen</i>	Victoria Aveyard	Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood -- those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and Mare is drawn further into the Silver world. She must risk everything as she looks to help fellow Reds.
<i>Shadow and Bone</i>	Leigh Bardugo	Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkov is taken from obscurity and her only friend, Mal, to become the protégé of the mysterious Darkling, who trains her to join the magical elite in the belief that she is the Sun Summoner, who can destroy the monsters of the Fold.
<i>The Selection</i>	Kiera Cass	After being forced to register in The Selection, a competition to become the next princess of Illéa and the bride of Prince Maxon, America Singer's life changes as she discovers a life outside her comfort zone.
<i>City of Bones</i>	Cassandra Clare	Clary Fray, a seemingly average teenage New Yorker, is whisked into a world of Shadowhunters, vampires, werewolves, faeries, and demons. She must adjust to and navigate this new world as she discovers her true identity.





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YA Best Sellers *(continued)*

Title	Author	Description
<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins	Katniss Everdeen volunteers to take her sister's place in the deadly Hunger Games, in which there can only be one survivor. She desperately fights for her life and unknowingly entangles herself into a budding romance.
<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i>	John Green	Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at a cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.
<i>A Court of Thorns and Roses</i>	Sarah J. Mass	"Dragged to a treacherous magical land she only knows about from stories, Feyre discovers that her captor is not an animal, but Tamlin, a High Lord of the faeries. As her feelings toward him transform from hostility to a fiery passion, the threats against the faerie lands grow. Feyre must fight to break an ancient curse, or she will lose Tamlin forever"-- Provided by publisher.
<i>One of Us is Lying</i>	Karen M. McManus	On a seemingly normal day in Bayview High, Simon Kelleher dies in detention and Bronwyn, Nate, Addy, and Cooper, the four students in detention with him just moments before his death, are now the prime suspects in a murder investigation.
<i>Cinder</i>	Marissa Meyer	Meyer crafts a futuristic world in her fairytale retelling of Cinderella featuring Linh Cinder, a cyborg mechanic who lives in New Beijing of the Eastern Commonwealth during the time of a deadly pandemic. When Cinder is tasked with a special assignment from Prince Kai she meets unexpected people and uncovers hidden information about herself.
<i>All the Bright Places</i>	Jennifer Niven	"Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school--both teetering on the edge--it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another" Provided by publisher.
<i>Divergent</i>	Veronica Roth	In Veronica Roth's dystopian world, people are split into five factions based on their personalities and values. Beatrice Prior faces a life-altering decision as she must choose a faction that she has to remain in for the rest of her life.
<i>Eleanor & Park</i>	Rainbow Rowell	"Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try"-- Provided by publisher.
<i>An Ember in the Ashes</i>	Sabaa Tahir	"Laia is a Scholar living under the iron-fisted rule of the Martial Empire. When her brother is arrested for treason, Laia goes undercover as a slave at the empire's greatest military academy in exchange for assistance from rebel Scholars who claim that they will help to save her brother from execution"-- Provided by publisher.





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YA Best Sellers *(continued)*

Title	Author	Description
<i>The Hate U Give</i>	Angie Thomas	Starr Carter, a sixteen-year-old black girl living in the underprivileged neighborhood, Garden Heights, witnesses the innocent murder of her childhood best friend, Khalil at the hands of a white police officer. Thomas tells a riveting story following Starr's journey for justice.
<i>The Book Thief</i>	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 story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Books to Look for in 2021

Title	Author	Description
<i>Love Is for Losers</i>	Wibke Brueggemann	While her mother builds a clinic in Syria and her best friend abandons her for a boyfriend, fifteen-year-old Phoebe lives with her godmother and discovers her own sexuality and vulnerability.
<i>Wings of Ebony</i>	J. Elle	Half-god, half-human Rue is snatched from her Houston home to Ghazan, a secret land of gods, by her estranged father, then must face an evil determined to steal everything from her.
<i>The Gilded Ones</i>	Namina Forna	Inspired by the culture of West Africa, this feminist fantasy debut traces the experiences of Deka, who is invited to leave her discriminatory village to join the emperor's army of near-immortal women warriors.
<i>Realm Breaker</i>	Victoria Aveyard	This new fantasy series (from the author of the Red Queen series) tells the story of Corayne an-Amarat and her quest to save her kingdom from an army determined to burn it to the ground.
<i>Yolk</i>	Mary Choi	Struggling with emotional problems and an eating disorder, Jayne, a Korean American college student living in New York City, is estranged from her accomplished older sister June, until June gets cancer.

Mixed Media Novels

Title	Author	Description
<i>Long Way Down</i>	Jason Reynolds	As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.
<i>The Black Flamingo</i>	Allan Wolf	A coming-of-age story about Michael, a mixed race gay teen who discovers the Drag Society and, along the way, discovers who he is.



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Mixed Media Novels *(continued)*

Title	Author	Description
<i>The Snow Fell Three Graves Deep: Voices from the Donner Party</i>	Dean Atta	In 1846, a group of emigrants bound for California face a choice: continue on their planned route or take a shortcut into the wilderness. Eighty-nine of them opt for the untested trail, a decision that plunges them into danger and desperation and, finally, the unthinkable.
<i>Illuminae</i>	Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff	This epic space opera, written in classified documents, emails, chats, and interviews, tells the story of newly broken up Kady and Ezra, as they battle an invading force, a plague, and a rogue ship.
<i>Punching the Air</i>	Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam	Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy.

Award Winning Novels

Title	Author	Description
<i>The Field Guide to the North American Teenager</i>	Ben Philippe	William C. Morris Award Winner 2020 When Norris, a black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as clichés from "a bad 90s teen movie."
<i>The House in the Cerulean Sea</i>	TJ Klune	Alex Award Winner 2021 "Buttoned-up and by-the-book Linus is sent to investigate a classified orphanage on a strange island by Extremely Upper Management. Forced out of his comfort zone, he is surprised to find love and family in this magically joyful tale." Provided by ALA.org
<i>Sigh, Gone: A Misfit's Memoir of Great Books, Punk Rock, and the Fight to Fit In</i>	Phuc Tran	Alex Award Nominee 2021 "Reflecting on his life's journey from Vietnamese refugee to tattoo artist and classicist, Tran considers the identities he's wielded (bookworm, skateboarder, punk rocker) while processing the racism he has seen, felt, and even perpetuated." Provided by ALA.org
<i>If These Wings Could Fly</i>	Kyrie McCauley	William C. Morris Award Winner 2021 "Living in a house that magically conceals the damage inflicted by her volatile father's rampages, Leighton Barnes finds nothing strange in the thousands of crows descending on her town. As tensions mount in town and at home, she struggles with simultaneously wanting to escape and to protect her mother and younger sisters. Through haunting, lyrical prose McCauley builds a devastatingly authentic tale of intergenerational trauma and violence and society's "blind eye" that perpetuates it." Provided by ALA.org



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Award Winning Novels *(continued)*

Title	Author	Description
<i>The Impossible First: From Fire to Ice - Crossing Antarctica Alone</i>	Colin O'Brady	Alex Award Winner 2021 Mindset expert Colin O'Brady recounts his experience as the first to traverse Antarctica solo and unassisted. Drawing strength from prior successes, failures, and his support system, he endures whiteouts, subzero temperatures, and starvation while pulling a 365-pound supply sled.

Teen Volunteer Suggestions

Title	Author	Description
<i>And Then There Were None</i>	Agatha Christie	In a blood-chilling and suspenseful novel, Agatha Christie tells the story of ten people who are stuck on a solitary island with a murderer in their midst. Slowly, they begin to die one-by-one, and they must find the identity of the killer before it is too late.
<i>Hunted</i>	Meagan Spooner	When her father makes a risky and foolish mistake that destroys their family's fortune, Yeva is forced back into the inn in the woods where she grew up. After her father's mysterious disappearance while hunting, Yeva investigates the truth about this ominous forest through Spooner's Beauty and the Beast retelling.
<i>The Sun is Also a Star</i>	Nicola Yoon	Yoon's heartfelt novel is set in New York City and follows Natasha Kingsley and Daniel Bae, two teenagers whose stories intertwine unexpectedly. In the span of only one day, they get to know each other and fall in love despite their extremely different life circumstances and personalities.
<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	Rebecca Skloot	Rebecca Skloot's biography tells the untold story of Henrietta Lacks, a black woman in a time of racial segregation whose cells, known as HeLa, completely revolutionized the medical field, helping scientists develop the polio vaccine and better understand cancer.
<i>Little Women</i>	Louisa May Alcott	Alcott gives a coming-of-age story following the four March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy and their progression from young girls into strong, independent women.