YOUNG ADULTS’ CHOICES
2015 Reading List
What Is the Young Adults’ Choices List?

The value of young adult literature is certainly not something new, but it is true that its popularity is increasing at a rapid rate. According to the Association of American Publishers, YA book sales increased by 22.4% during the first three quarters of 2014 compared with the year prior. And we believe it’s safe to say the books included on this list are going to keep those stats high.

The Young Adults’ Choices project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to what was then the International Reading Association (now the International Literacy Association), and was supervised by the Literature for Young Adults Committee. The goals of the project are to encourage young people to read; to make teens, teachers, librarians, and parents aware of new literature for young adults; and to provide middle and secondary school students with an opportunity to voice their opinions about books being written for them.

The Bane Chronicles

The enigmatic Magnus Bane, the gorgeous, powerful high warlock from The Mortal Instruments and The Infernal Devices series, gets his time in the limelight in this collection of 11 short stories. Events that take place over two centuries highlight Magnus’s alluring personality, flamboyant style, and sharp wit.

Better Off Friends
Elizabeth Eulberg. Point.

For Macallan and Levi, it was “friends at first sight.” They hang out after school and share inside jokes, and their families are close. They are platonic and happy, except they keep getting in each other’s way. If they become more than friends, will it be worth the complications?

The Body in the Woods
April Henry. Henry Holt.

Three very different teens join Portland County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue to search for an autistic man lost in the woods, but what they find instead is a dead body. In a friendship forged in danger, fear, and courage, they work to find the victim’s killer before it’s too late.
*City of Heavenly Fire: The Mortal Instruments, Book Six*

Cassandra Clare. Margaret K. McElderry.

Darkness has descended on the Shadowhunter world. Chaos and destruction overwhelm the Nephilim as Clary, Jace, Simon, and their friends band together to fight the greatest evil they have ever faced. Sebastian Morgenstern is on the move. Lives are lost, love is sacrificed, and the whole world changes.

**Cress: The Lunar Chronicles, Book Three**

Marissa Meyer. Feiwel & Friends.

The fugitives Cinder, Captain Thorne, Scarlet, and Wolf plot to overthrow Queen Levana and her army, and their best hope lies with Cress, who has been trapped on a satellite since childhood. After a daring rescue, Cress finally wins her freedom, but at a high price.

**The Crossover**

Kwame Alexander. HMH Books for Young Readers.

Josh Bell and his twin brother, Jordan, are awesome on the basketball court. They must come to grips with growing up on and off the court as they realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price. This story’s heart-pounding climax proves to be a game changer for the entire family.

**Cruel Beauty**

Rosamund Hodge. Balzer + Bray.

Betrothed to Ignifex, the evil ruler of her kingdom, Nyx has always known her fate was to marry him, kill him, and free her people from his tyranny. But on her 17th birthday, she moves into his castle, and nothing is what she expected—particularly her charming and beguiling new husband.

**Dangerous**

Shannon Hale. Bloomsbury USA Children’s.

At a NASA-like summer boot camp, Maisie Danger Brown uncovers a conspiracy, making her the only person standing between Earth and annihilation. Just a regular girl from Salt Lake City, Maisie must devise a plan to save the world and courageously act before she loses her heart—and her life.

**Divided We Fall: Divided We Fall, Book One**

Trent Reedy. Arthur A. Levine.

Danny Wright enlisted in the Idaho National Guard because he wanted to serve his country. When the governor orders the Guard to police a protest in Boise, his gun misfires, causing 12 to die. As tensions build, a second American civil war could be in the offing.
Don’t Look Back
Jennifer L. Armentrout. Disney-Hyperion.
Before she disappeared with her best friend, Cassie, everyone said Sam had it all—popularity, wealth, and a dream boyfriend. Now she has resurfaced, but Cassie is still missing. She doesn’t know who she is or what happened that fateful night. Will Sam remember before it’s too late?

Escape From Lucien: Amulet, Book Six
Kazu Kibuishi. Graphix.
Navin and his classmates’ journey to Lucien, a city ravaged by war and plagued by mysterious creatures, where they search for a beacon essential to their fight against the Elf King. Meanwhile, Emily heads back into the Void with Max, one of the Elf King’s loyal followers, where she learns his darkest secrets.

Far From You
Tess Sharpe. Disney-Hyperion.
Sophie and her best friend Mina are confronted by a masked man in the woods. Sophie survives, but Mina is not so lucky. When the cops cast blame on Sophie, no one believes her innocence. After a forced stint in rehab, Sophie returns home to find the truth on her own.

Fat Boy vs. The Cheerleaders
Geoff Herbach. Sourcebooks Fire.
It’s geeks versus jocks in an epic battle of the beverages! Gabe, aka Chunk, a marching band geek, drowns his dysfunctional family woes in a voracious soda habit. When the proceeds from the school’s soda machine are transferred from the band to the cheerleaders, hijinks and trouble ensues. Revenge can be sweet.

Girls Like Us
Gail Giles. Candlewick.
Quincy and Biddy are both graduates of their high school’s special ed program, but they are quite different. Suspicious Quincy aggressively faces the world, while gentle Biddy is frightened to move outside her front door. As roommates in their first “real world” apartment, they must rely on each other to survive.

The Here and Now
Ann Brashares. Delacorte.
Prenna James came to New York from a different time—a future where a mosquito-borne illness has mutated into a pandemic, leaving the world in ruins. Those who escaped to the present day must follow a strict set of rules to ensure future survival. When Prenna finds forbidden love, everyone’s life is in danger.
The Impossible Knife of Memory
Laurie Halse Anderson. Viking Books for Young Readers.
For the past five years, Hayley Kincaid and her father, Andy, have been on the road, never staying long in one place as he struggles to escape the demons that have tortured him since his return from Iraq. When they return home, Hayley hopes for normalcy and a boyfriend.

In Real Life
Anda is obsessive about Coarsegold Online, a massive multiplayer role-playing game, where she can be a leader, a fighter, and a hero. When Anda befriends a Chinese player who violates the rules, she realizes questions of morality are complex when the virtual world meets reality.

The Iron Trial: Magisterium, Book One
Holly Black and Cassandra Clare. Scholastic.
Call has been warned by his father to stay away from magic. But despite his best efforts, he succeeds at Iron Trial and is admitted into the Magisterium. Call finds a place that’s both sensational and sinister, with dark ties to his past and a twisty path to his future.

The Night Gardener
In this spine-chilling fable, two abandoned Irish siblings travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house that is as mysterious as the inhabitants themselves. Soon the children are confronted by a mysterious stranger and an ancient curse that threatens their lives.

Noggin
John Corey Whaley. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.
When Travis Coates died from leukemia, his head was removed and stored in a freezer. Five years later, it was reattached to some other guy’s body. Yes, Travis is still 16, but everything and everyone around him has changed. How can the new Travis and the old Travis exist together?

The Only Thing to Fear
Caroline Tung Richmond. Scholastic.
It’s been nearly 80 years since the allies lost WWII in a crushing defeat against Hitler’s genetically engineered super soldiers. Zara lives a life of oppression in the Eastern America Territories. A revolution is growing, and a rogue rebel group is plotting a deadly coup. Can Zara help take down the Führer?
**Rebel Belle: Rebel Belle, Book One**  
Rachel Hawkins. G.P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers.  
After a strange dispute at a homecoming dance, Harper Price is imbued with incredible abilities. She becomes a Paladin, one of an ancient line of guardians with agility, super strength, and lethal fighting instincts. When Harper finds she is charged to protect David Stark, the subject of a mysterious prophecy, life gets complicated.

**The Rule of Three**  
Eric Walters. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.  
One shocking afternoon, computers around the globe shut down in a viral catastrophe. Driving home, Adam encounters a storm tide of anger and fear as the region becomes paralyzed. As resources dwindle, crises mount, and chaos descends, he will see his suburban neighborhood band together for protection and survival.

**Rumble**  
After Matthew’s younger brother Luke commits suicide, his family struggles to make sense of the situation. Matthew blames himself for not doing more to prevent the bullying that Luke, who was gay, experienced. As Matthew becomes increasingly cynical and unforgiving, it seems not even his girlfriend, Hayden, can help, until the unexpected happens.

**Since You’ve Been Gone**  
Before Sloane, Emily didn’t go to parties. She barely talked to guys and didn’t do anything crazy. Enter Sloane, a social tornado and the best kind of friend. Sloane disappears, however, leaving a list with 13 bizarre tasks for Emily to accomplish. What will Emily do?

**Sisters**  
Raina Telgemeier. Graphix.  
Raina and Amara are sisters, but their relationship isn’t perfect. Raina is a music-loving homebody, while her little sister is outdoorsy, adventuresome, and constantly getting on Raina’s nerves. When a baby brother enters the picture and something doesn’t seem right between their parents, they must figure out a way to get along.
To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before
Lara Jean Song has five secret love letters in her hatbox, one to each boy she’s ever loved. When the letters are unexpectedly mailed, Lara Jean’s love life goes from imaginary to out of control.

True or False?
DK Publishing.
This browsing treat offers tidbits on topics that include nature, space, history, culture, and the human body. Each page presents a piece of information commonly believed to be true; the book then sheds light on the fact’s veracity and also includes some related content.

The Walled City
Jin, Mei Yee, and Dai all live in the Walled City, a lawless labyrinth run by crime lords and overrun with street gangs. Teens must traffic drugs or work in brothels—or, like Jin, hide. But when Dai offers Jin a chance to find her lost sister, she begins a breathtaking race to escape.

*We Were Liars
E. Lockhart. Delacorte.
Beauty and wealth can’t overcome the disaster caused by a group of four friends: the Liars. When a revolution leads to an accident, secrets are kept, and lies are told. The truth is buried deeply in the mind of a brilliant, damaged girl, where reality becomes an illusion.

*Books that received the highest amount of votes.
More About Young Adults’ Choices

Thank you to the 2014–2015 ILA Young Adults’ Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were Stephanie Burdic (cochair) and Lisa Morris-Wilkey (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Carrie Brandon, David Grossman, Cathy Heller, Debbie Remington, and Anne Taylor.

For more information on the Young Adults’ Choices list, or to learn how to become involved, visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.