

# Fiction Reading List

## *for teens*



Greetings!

You are now holding a reading list suitable for Secondary school students. It is a guide to fiction works teenagers may find appealing.

This list is divided into two sections according to reading levels: Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary respectively. All items are found in the NLB public libraries.

These titles have been selected to support the Ministry of Education English curriculum for the Secondary levels. We considered topics and genres that may interest teenagers, such as Relationships, Fantasy and Mystery. We have also included Classics, contemporary works, and award-winners in Young Adult literature.

Teenagers have varying reading interests and abilities. For other reading suggestions not included here, please do not hesitate to email your enquiries to [ask@nlb.gov.sg](mailto:ask@nlb.gov.sg).

You may check the availability of the titles using the online library catalogue at <http://vistaweb.nlb.gov.sg>

Thank You.

Adult and Young People's Services  
Public Library Services



## For Lower Secondary:

| Title                    | Author         | Call No             | Publisher/<br>Year   | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| The Frankenstein factory | A.J. Butcher   | Y<br>English<br>BUT | London:<br>Atom,<br>2003   | 217             | Students at "Spy High" are exposed to a range of lessons – from academics to computer skills to hand combat – all for the purpose of nurturing them into excellent spies for the next generation.   |
| Fade to black            | Alex Flinn     | Y<br>English<br>FLI | New York:<br>Harper Tempest,<br>c2005                                | 184             | Alex, a HIV-positive high school student has been attacked in his car and Daria, his classmate with Down Syndrome, is the only witness. She claims that Clinton Cole, a bigot, is the culprit. But with three narratives and three points of views, the reader is left to determine who is telling the truth. |
| Dawn and dusk            | Alice Mead     | Y<br>English<br>MEA | New York:<br>Farrar, Straus and<br>Giroux,<br>2007                   | 151             | <i>Dawn and Dusk</i> depicts the lives of a thirteen-year-old boy, Azad, and his family and is set in the backdrop of the Iran-Iraq war where a bomb attack changes their lives dramatically.   |
| A step from heaven       | An Na          | Y<br>English<br>NA  | New York, N.Y.:<br>Speak,<br>2002, c2001                             | 160             | Young Ju emigrates to America with her parents at the age of four in search of a better life. The novel captures her growing up years in America where her life is entwined with two different cultures. The family's struggle is made worse after her father becomes disillusioned and abusive.              |
| Looking for Red          | Angela Johnson | Y<br>English<br>JOH | New York:<br>Simon & Schuster<br>Books for Young<br>Readers,<br>2002 | 116             | Michaela feels that she is responsible for her brother's death. Burying her pain and guilt, she continues to see her brother in her dream until she finds the courage to talk it out. This is a family fiction that deals with the loss of a sibling.   |

| Title                                   | Author           | Call No             | Publisher/<br>Year                             | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|---|------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Stormbreaker                            | Anthony Horowitz | Y<br>English<br>HOR | London:<br>Walker,<br>2000                     | 235             | A thrilling spy novel about a fourteen-year-old who is coerced into continuing his late uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, M16. After finding out that the death of his uncle is no accident, Alex Rider has to outsmart the people who want him dead, and at the same time deal with terrorists who are murdering children. |
| The true confessions of Charlotte Doyle | Avi              | Y<br>English<br>AVI | New York:<br>Orchard Books,<br>c1990           | 215             | Set in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte returns home after eight years of school in England. While Charlotte is onboard Seahawk, she is drawn into a web of suspicion, treachery and murder as the sea crews plot amongst themselves. Through the experience, she grows up from a protected young girl to a responsible and self-reliant woman.    |
| Kalpana's dream                         | Clarke Judith    | Y<br>English<br>CLA | Asheville, N.C.:<br>Front Street,<br>2004      | 164             | <i>Kalpana's Dream</i> is an intergenerational story between Neema and her great-grandmother. An essay assignment on "Who am I?" set her thinking about her identity and her relationship with her family members and siblings.   |
| The adventures of Vin Fiz               | Clive Cussler    | J<br>English<br>CUS | New York:<br>Philomel Books,<br>2006           | 167             | Follow a pair of siblings on their daring adventure in a magical airplane. Historical references are also made to the real airplane from 1911.  |
| Secret Santa                            | D.E. Athkins     | Y<br>English<br>ATH | New York:<br>Scholastic,<br>c2001              | 152             | Djuna Dufarge wants only the popular students in school to be invited to the Secret Santa bash but someone is planning to thwart her plan and play the game a different way.  |
| Skellig                                 | David Almond     | J<br>English<br>ALM | London:<br>Hodder Children's<br>Books,<br>1998 | 170             | <i>Skellig</i> is a popular read among younger teens who enjoy mystery and supernatural stories. Join Michael, the protagonist, in this mysterious journey to discover the meaning of life and death.   |

| Title                              | Author             | Call No            | Publisher/<br>Year                        | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Life is funny                      | E.R. Frank         | Y English FRA      | New York: Puffin Books, 2002              | 263             | This book describes the lives of many kinds of characters from different backgrounds, who end up being intertwined with each other in various ways.  |
| My kiasu teenage life in Singapore | Ee Ling See        | Y SING English SEE | Singapore: Monsoon Books, 2005            | 175             | This amusing book consists of letters written by a teenage ASEAN scholar, covering subjects on crushes, friends, studying and life in Singapore.   |
| Al Capone does my shirts           | Gennifer Choldenko | J English CHO      | New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2004        | 228             | A delightful story of how twelve-year-old Moose Flanagan interacts with his family, especially his autistic younger sister, as well as the environment in which he resides. Alcatraz Island is the backdrop for this novel, which also includes a brief appearance by the infamous mobster himself, Al Capone.                       |
| Homeless bird                      | Gloria Whelan      | Y English WHE      | Harper Collins Publishers: New York, 2000 | 216             | When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an arranged marriage, it seems like a blessing for her impoverished family. However, she soon finds the marriage a test of her courage. A satisfying story with intricate details about traditional Indian life, its feudal customs and cultural change.                                     |
| Inventing Elliot                   | Graham Gardner     | Y English GAR      | London: Orion Children's, 2003            | 183             | A frequent victim of bullying in his old school, Elliot reinvents himself as a calmer, cooler person when he gets the opportunity to change schools. Unfortunately, he attracts the attention of the Guardians, a manipulative group that controls the school. Elliot is about to find out that "power" comes with a terrible price. |
| Dustbin baby                       | Jacqueline Wilson  | Y English WIL      | London: Corgi Books, 2002                 | 155             | A simple and humorous book about a girl who was abandoned as a baby, having been placed inside a pizza box and left in a dustbin. This story revolves around her relationship with her foster mother, friends and other issues she must face as a teen.  |

| Title  | Author          | Call No             | Publisher/<br>Year                          | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Stargirl   | Jerry Spinelli  | Y<br>English<br>SPI | New York:<br>Knopf,<br>2000                 | 186             | In this simple yet powerful story, Stargirl is a new student in high school that tries her best to make everyone happy with thoughtful and kind gestures. After an incident that results in Stargirl leaving, her boyfriend, Leo, realises the positive impact Stargirl has had on him as well as the overall student population.         |
| Itching for a fight: another almost true story by Dylan Douglas (age 13) | Joel Snape      | Y<br>English<br>SNA | London:<br>Scholastic,<br>2005              | 175             | A light-hearted story about school bullies and teenage crushes where the protagonist, Dylan, finds his own strength and identity at the end of the day.   |
| The love undercover  | Johanna Edwards | Y<br>English<br>EDW | New York, NY:<br>Simon Pulse,<br>2006       | 264             | Average looking Kaitlyn, whose father is a secret agent, finds that she not only has to protect Blaine from those who want him dead but she also has to keep him away from the girls in school!   |
| Heidi  | Johanna Spyri   | Y<br>English<br>SPY | New York:<br>Viking,<br>1996                | 202             | <i>Heidi</i> is a popular and heart-warming classic novel of a sharp-witted and thoughtful girl. The book comes with colourful illustrations and notes that provide greater insights into everyday life and culture during the 1800s.   |
| Rodzina  | Karen Cushman   | J<br>English<br>CUS | New York:<br>Clarion Books,<br>c2003        | 215             | Twelve-year-old orphan Rodzina is put on an orphan train to look for a family willing to adopt her, or to end up a slave. Being plain and uncouth, she is often rejected by potential families but finds her way out of difficult situations to finally find a family that is right for her.  |
| Naturally rude   | Linda Aronson   | Y<br>English<br>ARO | London:<br>Macmillan<br>Children's,<br>2007 | 192             | Ian Rude has damaged his girlfriend's cello and is forced to work for the psychotic Pocky family to earn the money for its repair. The story is filled with funny and action-packed incidents as Ian tries to hide the truth. On a serious note, it also points out the importance of open communication between you and your loved ones. |

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|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Now and zen            | Linda C Gerber    | Y<br>English<br>GER | New York:<br>Speak,<br>2006                           | 214             | A story about an American-born Japanese teenager who goes for a school exchange program in Tokyo, using it as a chance to escape from her troubles. The author has skilfully depicted the culture of Japan and their way of life in the story.   |
| When my name was Keoko | Linda Sue Park    | Y<br>English<br>PAR | New York:<br>Clarion Books,<br>2002                   | 199             | A poignant account of the Japanese oppression of Koreans during World War Two, this story is told through the eyes of a ten-year-old Korean girl and her thirteen-year-old brother. The captivating factor of this novel is its ability to educate young readers on both the tyranny of war and the strength of the human spirit during times of crises. |
| The silent boy         | Lois Lowry        | Y<br>English<br>LOW | Boston, Mass.:<br>Houghton Mifflin<br>Co.,<br>2003    | 178             | A moving and descriptive story written through the eyes of a curious girl and her encounter and friendship with a boy who does not talk.   |
| Holes                  | Louis Sachar      | Y<br>English<br>SAC | New York:<br>Farrar, Straus and<br>Giroux,<br>1998    | 233             | It is mandatory for all boys at a juvenile detention camp to dig holes everyday. The story focuses on friendship and teen issues, with a compelling storyline to discover the mystery behind each hole.  |
| The book of dead days  | Marcus Sedgwick   | Y<br>English<br>SED | London:<br>Orion Children's,<br>2003                  | 264             | Besides magic, this story illustrates the greed and selfishness of Man, in contrast with the naivety, friendship and loyalty of an orphaned teen. The plot is interesting and well carried out.  |
| On my honor            | Marion Dane Bauer | Y<br>English<br>BAU | New York:<br>Bantam<br>Doubleday Dell,<br>1987, c1986 | 90              | When Joel's rebellious behaviour causes his best friend Tony to drown in a river, he becomes overwhelmed with remorse and is plagued by the guilt of being disobedient. This book is commendable as it is able to help young adults understand a difficult subject with ease.  |

| Title   | Author         | Call No       | Publisher/<br>Year  | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation   |
|---|----------------|---------------|---|-----------------|--|
| The curious incident of the dog in the night-time | Mark Haddon    | Y English HAD | Oxford: London: David Fickling Books; Jonathan Cape, 2003 | 271             | We see the world through the eyes of an autistic boy who set off on an adventure of his own when he tries to solve the mystery of a murdered dog.  |
| Hard luck   | Mary Arrigan   | Y English ARR | Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, c2007                        | 77              | <i>Hard Luck</i> is an easy-to-read book about an orphan who runs away from home to escape the abuse of his foster parents. Without a shelter over his head, he faces new challenges with each passing day.  |
| Crash course                                      | Matthew Reilly | Y English REI | New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005  | 207             | <i>Crash Course</i> is a sports fiction story about car racing and a teenager, Jason, who is determined to win a car race.   |
| The rose queen                                    | M.E. Rabb      | Y English RAB | New York, N.Y.: Speak, c2004                              | 186             | Samantha and Sophie take on new identities to escape from their stepmother. However they become suspects in the disappearance of a popular girl. How can the sisters protect their identities and try to locate a missing person in the shortest time possible?                                  |
| Reunion   | Meg Cabot      | Y English CAB | New York: Avon Books, 2005, c2001                         | 289             | This plot is full of twists and turns and filled with supernatural beings. Suze, who has the ability to see and communicate with ghosts, meets the RLS Angels. These are people who have been killed in a horrible car accident and will stop at nothing to seek revenge against their murderer. |
| Invitation to the game                            | Monica Hughes  | Y English HUG | New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1993, c1990                 | 183             | A sci-fi adventure set in the year 2154 where jobs have been taken over by robots and machines. After graduation, Lisse and friends are jobless and they live each day without a hope for the future until the game invitation arrives!  |

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|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Fleshmarket     | Nicola Morgan           | Y<br>English<br>MOR | London:<br>Hodder<br>Children's,<br>2003                      | 264             | A story set in 19th century Edinburgh and based on true characters Dr Knox and corpse stealers Burke and Hare. A teenage protagonist by the name of Robbie seeks to avenge his mother's death in this historical fiction.  |
| The pigman      | Paul Zindel             | Y<br>English<br>ZIN | New York:<br>HarperTrophy,<br>2005                            | 166             | Two high school mates befriend an old man whom they find through a game of phoning strangers. The old man trusts them but they betray his trust one day, only to realise the folly of their youth later.   |
| Dough boy       | Peter Marino            | Y<br>English<br>MAR | New York:<br>Holiday House,<br>c2005                          | 221             | <i>Dough Boy</i> is a frank and unpretentious take on body image, fashion and divorce, voiced with a touch of sarcasm. Fifteen-year-old Tristan is fat but his bulk has never much bothered him and his family, until the day the attractive daughter of his mother's boyfriend appears. |
| Patiently Alice | Phyllis Reynolds Naylor | Y<br>English<br>NAY | New York:<br>Atheneum Books<br>for Young<br>Readers,<br>c2003 | 243             | <i>Patiently Alice</i> is a book in the Alice series. In this instalment, Alice and her friends face challenges as summer camp counsellors for disadvantaged children. At the same time, Alice has to manage her feelings about relationships and her father's impending marriage.       |
| The dad dilemma | Rhiannon Cross          | Y<br>English<br>CRO | London:<br>Piccadilly,<br>2004                                | 184             | Camilla's life changes the moment she is introduced to her father's new girlfriend, Abby. She begins to hatch a number of plots to get rid of Abby. At the same time, Camilla begins developing feelings for her best friend, Patrick.   |



| Title                  | Author           | Call No            | Publisher/<br>Year                        | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Better than yesterday  | Robyn Schneider  | Y English SCH      | New York, N.Y.: Delacorte Press, c2007    | 220             | Four friends are at Hilliard Preparatory School for their summer session, hoping to relive the good old times they had during their freshman year. However, things change after Blake picks up some bad habits and he disappears from school one day. <i>Better than Yesterday</i> is filled with valuable life lessons that readers can relate to. |
| Freak the mighty       | Rodman Philbrick | Y English PHI      | New York, N.Y.: Blue Sky Press, 1993      | 169             | A story about friendship, determination and courage between two disabled teenagers. Find out how Maxwell, a retarded teen who is large for his age, and Kelvin, a tiny intelligent boy, become friends, and how they overcome their disabilities to bring victory in their lives.   |
| A window in Copacabana | Roza Garcia      | English GAR – [MY] | New York: Henry Holt and Co., c2005       | 248             | In just a few days, three policemen have been found dead in different locations. There are no witnesses and no links among them. A woman claims to have seen something, which she thinks is crucial to the case.  |
| Uglies                 | Scott Westerfeld | Y English CRE      | New York: Harper Collins Publisher, 2005  | 425             | This is a world where all girls will turn into gorgeous ladies at the age of sixteen. Tally cannot wait for the day but her girlfriend, Shay, is not so sure about the change and runs away. A sci-fi thriller that unearths the truth behind the "Pretties".   |
| Bloomability           | Sharon Creech    | Y English CRE      | New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1998 | 273             | A simple read about a thirteen-year-old girl, Dinnie, discovering her inner self and potential in the midst of adapting to the customs and culture of Switzerland.  |
| Death mountain         | Sherry Shahan    | Y English SHA      | Atlanta: Peachtree, 2005                  | 202             | Erin is on a journey to find her mother, whom she believes has abandoned her. In her quest, she hikes through the Sierra Nevada Mountains with her friend, Mae. A natural disaster strikes and the girls are lost and forced to fight for their lives in the rugged and perilous mountains.   |

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|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| The king of slippery falls | Sid Hite           | Y English HIT  | New York: Scholastic Press, c2004             | 217                     | When a sixteen-year-old boy stumbles upon clues that allude to his royal heritage, he and his friend are so excited about the possibility of him becoming a prince. As the story unravels however, readers will discover that there are more important qualities than status.                   |
| Flight of the raven        | Stephanie S. Tolan | Y English TOL  | New York: Haper Collins Publishers, 2001      | 294                     | A terrorism thriller about a boy with telepathic power who is held hostage by the militia in order to help them to destroy the world.   |
| Bone by bone by bone       | Tony Johnston      | Y English JOH  | New Milford, Conn.: Roaring Brook Press, 2007 | 184                     | A story about a friendship between two boys of different races. David's father does not approve of his son's friendship with Malcolm, a black boy. Despite the disapproval, David continues to befriend Malcolm, all the while hoping that his father will change his mind.                     |
| Memory boy                 | Will Weaver        | Y English WEA  | New York: HarperTrophy, 2003                  | 230                     | A boy and his family struggle for survival after a catastrophic volcanic eruption. The Newells escape from their suburban home into the woods in a bid to avoid the destructive residual ash from the eruption. To their surprise, the wilderness is not as peaceful a place as they had hoped. |

## For Upper Secondary:

| Title  | Author          | Call No             | Publisher/<br>Year                                | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation   |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Go ask Alice   | Anonymous       | Y<br>English<br>GO  | New York:<br>Aladdin<br>Paperbacks,<br>1998       | 185             | One of the most controversial books of our time and based on a real diary of a fifteen-year-old girl who is unwittingly lured into taking drugs and then becomes addicted to them. It offers an up-close and personal look into the insecurities of teens, and the tragic consequences of addiction.     |
| Breathing underwater                                   | Alexandra Flinn | Y<br>English<br>FLI | New York:<br>HarperCollins<br>Publishers,<br>2001 | 263             | Popular sixteen-year-old Nick finds himself friendless and court-ordered to attend counselling after hitting his girlfriend. Part of the court order includes writing a reflective journal, where we learn, in Nick's own words, about his relationship with Caitlin and his life with a violent father. |
| Life on the refrigerator door                          | Alice Kuipers   | Y<br>English<br>KUI | London:<br>Macmillan<br>Children's,<br>2007       | 226             | Claire lives with her mother but they hardly see each other. Her Mum does not even get to tell Claire about her upcoming check-up, as the teenager is caught up with school, dating and hanging out with friends. A poignant sketch of teen angst and the need to make time for those you love.          |
| The lovely bones                                       | Alice Sebold    | English<br>SEB      | Boston:<br>Little, Brown,<br>2002                 | 328             | A heart-wrenching story narrated by a murdered daughter. Susie recounts her own rape and murder as she watches over her family from heaven. As her family and friends try to cope with their grief in different ways, Susie shares with us her wonderful memories of her time with them                  |
| I'd tell you I love you, but then I'd have to kill you | Ally Carter     | Y<br>English<br>CAR | New York:<br>Hyperion,<br>c2006                   | 284             | Meet Cameron, teenage spy-in-training at a special school (think Hogwarts, but without the magic). Groomed since childhood to follow in her parents' footsteps as a covert agent, she has to decide if she wants to throw all that away when she falls in love with someone outside the school.          |

| Title                                     | Author                | Call No                  | Publisher/<br>Year                                     | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| The collected stories of Arthur C. Clarke | Arthur Charles Clarke | English<br>CLA –<br>[SH] | New York:<br>Tom Doherty<br>Associates,<br>2001, c2000 | 966             | This collection of short stories by the sci-fi master will enthrall and intrigue you. Included are the classics <i>The Sentinel</i> , which inspired the film <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> , and <i>Nine Billion Names of God</i> .   |
| Touching spirit bear                      | Ben Mikaelson         | Y<br>English<br>MIK      | New York:<br>HarperCollins<br>Publishers,<br>2001      | 241             | Cole is a delinquent teenager who is in the biggest trouble of his life. To avoid prison, Cole chooses an alternative rehabilitation system based on Native American traditions. Full of angst and intent on blaming others for his situation, it remains to be seen if Cole can shed his anger and reform.             |
| The other side of truth                   | Beverley Naidoo       | Y<br>English<br>NAI      | London:<br>Puffin Books,<br>2000                       | 227             | Two young children are sent away from a Nigeria in the midst of a civil war. The siblings find themselves stranded in London and placed in foster care, struggling to adjust to new environments. When their journalist father contacts them from a detention centre in London, they are determined to spring him free. |
| Great expectations                        | Charles Dickens       | English<br>DIC           | London:<br>Penguin,<br>2003                            | 514             | Pip, our orphaned protagonist, encounters a slew of characters that set into motion events that change his life. He has hope of a beautiful relationship and a wonderful opportunity, but is faced with many adversities as we follow him through this engaging classic.  |
| Whale talk                                | Chris Crutcher        | Y<br>English<br>CRU      | New York:<br>Greenwillow<br>Books,<br>c2001            | 220             | T.J. is smart and athletically gifted, but refuses to take part in high-school sports until an act of injustice in school spurs him to form a swim team of the most outrageous outcasts. Find out if this band of misfits can overcome their many challenges and find the acceptance they crave.                        |

| Title                        | Author            | Call No       | Publisher/<br>Year                              | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---|-----------------|---|
| The coroner's lunch          | Colin Cotterill   | English COT   | New York: Soho Press, 2004                      | 257             | Cotterill's tales of the unlikely crime solver, Dr Siri Paiboun, chief and only coroner of Laos, have drawn a faithful following. You see, comrade Siri is not without his allies – he speaks to the dead. <i>The Coroner's Lunch</i> is the first book in the series.                          |
| Prep: a novel                | Curtis Sittenfeld | English SIT   | New York: Random House, 2005                    | 406             | This book touches on the very root of what every teenage student wants – to belong. The various identifiable snippets of school life and characters bring the reader deeper into the preppy boarding school world of the story.   |
| The thirteenth tale: a novel | Diane Setterfield | English SET   | New York: Atria Books, 2006                     | 406             | At her deathbed, renowned writer Vida Winter decides to reveal the truth after living a life of fabricated stories. She summons young biographer Margaret Lea and promises to tell her the truth. Margaret's suspicions however, lead her to discover the real truth of Vida's mysterious past. |
| Tightrope                    | Gillian Cross     | Y English CRO | Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1999 | 199             | Ashley begins to notice that someone is following her every move, someone who seems to know her deepest secret, and she starts to receive threatening messages. A poignant and heartbreaking novel, even as the suspense and action in the book keeps your adrenalin pumping.                   |
| Zorro: a novel               | Isabel Allende    | English ALL   | New York: HarperCollins Publishers, c2005       | 390             | A modern re-telling of the legend of Zorro by acclaimed author Allende. Set in the period when Mexico and parts of California were under Spanish rule, Allende weaves the story of the masked swordsman with gusto and humour.  |

| Title                        | Author          | Call No                  | Publisher/<br>Year                            | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation   |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| The Eyre affair              | Jasper Fforde   | English<br>FFO –<br>[MY] | London:<br>New English<br>Library,<br>2001    | 384             | In another world-that-might-have-been, Thursday Next is a detective with the Literary Division, and she is on the case of a villain who is plotting to kidnap the much-loved Jane Eyre from her own novel. A thoroughly enjoying and engrossing mystery filled with appearances by a host of literary characters.              |
| Of sound mind                | Jean Ferris     | Y<br>English<br>FER      | New York:<br>Farrar Straus<br>Giroux,<br>2004 | 215             | Theo, the only hearing child of two deaf parents, finds himself a stranger in between the deaf and hearing worlds, until he meets Ivy, who can also both hear and sign. Just as Theo is spreading his wings outside home, tragedy strikes as his father suffers a stroke and Theo is forced to become caretaker of the family. |
| False impression             | Jeffrey Archer  | English<br>ARC –<br>[TH] | London:<br>Macmillan,<br>c2005                | 385             | Set in the days just before and after September 11, this thriller by the bestseller author centres on an art appraiser and historian trying to rescue a masterpiece from her unscrupulous and ruthless boss.   |
| Me, the missing and the dead | Jenny Valentine | Y<br>English<br>VAL      | New York, N.Y.:<br>HarperTeen,<br>2008        | 201             | Lucas cannot stop thinking of his dad, who disappeared five years ago. This winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize tells the coming-of-age story of a fifteen-year-old boy as he unwittingly unravels the mystery of an abandoned urn of ashes and makes a stunning discovery about the mystery in his own life.      |
| The namesake                 | Jhumpa Lahiri   | English<br>LAH –<br>[MO] | New York:<br>First Mariner<br>Books,<br>2004  | 291             | The story unfolds with the strong roots the parents of an Indian family transplanted to America still retain for their own country and culture. Their American-born son Gogol feels no connection to his roots though, even with his traditional name, and attempts to live as a true blue American teenager.                  |

| Title  | Author                 | Call No             | Publisher/<br>Year                         | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| My sister's keeper   | Jodi Picoult           | English<br>PIC      | New York:<br>Atria Books,<br>2004          | 423             | Anna was conceived to help her older sister fight leukaemia by providing transfusions, platelets, and bone marrow. Now thirteen, Anna has had enough when she is asked to donate her kidney. Tired of being a good sister and sacrificing her own health, she hires a lawyer to fight her parents for the rights to her body.   |
| An abundance of Katherines   | John Green             | Y<br>English<br>GRE | New York:<br>Dutton Books,<br>2006         | 227             | After being dumped by his nineteenth girlfriend, former child prodigy Colin decides to take a road trip with his best friend, Hassan. Colin attempts to chart his love life in a mathematical equation to predict how his future relationships will turn out. Hassan, the sidekick, provides the laughter in this interesting novel about friendship, love, and self-discovery. |
| The starry rift: tales of new tomorrows: an original science fiction anthology | Jonathan Strahan (Ed.) | Y<br>English<br>STA | New York, N.Y.:<br>Viking,<br>c2008        | 530             | <i>The Starry Rift</i> features 16 sci-fi short stories from acclaimed authors such as Neil Gaiman ( <i>Orange</i> ), Garth Nix ( <i>Infestation</i> ) and Scott Westerfeld ( <i>Ass-hat Magic Spider</i> ), which give readers a taste of the future.  |
| Sophie's world: a novel about the history of philosophy                        | Jostein Gaarder        | English<br>GAA      | New York:<br>Berkley Books,<br>1997, c1994 | 523             | The start of a philosophic journey kicks off when fourteen-year-old Sophie receives a mysterious letter, containing only the enigmatic question, "Who are you?" While undergoing a correspondence course on philosophy, she discovers her own existential truth. An accessible novel on the history of philosophy and a thought provoking read.                                 |

| Title                 | Author             | Call No                  | Publisher/<br>Year                         | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Bridge to Terabithia  | Katherine Paterson | Y<br>English<br>PAT      | New York:<br>HarperTrophy,<br>1987         | 191             | Jesse is a young boy who grows up distant from his family and classmates until he meets Leslie. In the woods, Leslie creates the world of Terabithia and invites Jesse into the magical kingdom of imagination. Paterson paints here a heartrending story about growing up pains, friendship and loss.                          |
| The kite runner       | Khaled Hosseini    | English<br>HOS           | New York:<br>Riverhead Books,<br>2003      | 324             | Set in Afghanistan, this is a poignant story of friendship, family and lies. Hassan, the son of a servant, and Amir, son of the employer, grow up together as best friends. The book traces Amir's journey as he bears the after-effects of his betrayal of Hassan after an eventful kite-flying competition.                   |
| The devil wears Prada | Lauren Weisberger  | English<br>WEI –<br>[MO] | New York:<br>Anchor Books,<br>2006         | 432             | Andrea has an opportunity to work as an editor's assistant at a prestigious fashion magazine – an opportunity many girls would die for. For her though, it is a chance to move on to writing for a serious magazine if she can impress her devil of a boss, although she may very well damn her own soul in the process.        |
| The Spellman files    | Lisa Lutz          | English<br>LUT –<br>[MY] | London:<br>Simon &<br>Schuster,<br>2007    | 360             | Izzy Spellman works for the family's detective agency, where spying on fellow family members comes naturally to the whole family. Things come to a head when Izzy finds out her parents have hired her fourteen-year-old sister to spy on her latest love interest. Come meet the Spellmans in this witty and fast-paced story. |
| Killing Mr. Griffin   | Lois Duncan        | Y<br>English<br>DUN      | New York:<br>Laurel-Leaf<br>Books,<br>2005 | 222             | A group of ordinary students hit upon the idea of playing a cruel joke on their loathed teacher by kidnapping him. But did they mean to kill Mr. Griffin? This story illustrates how intense emotions such as anger and hatred can lead to a life-changing mistake.   |



| Title                             | Author            | Call No            | Publisher/<br>Year                                      | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| On the edge: stories at the brink | Lois Duncan (Ed.) | Y English ON       | New York: Simon & Shuster Books for Young Readers, 2000 | 211             | A compilation of 12 thought-provoking short stories by different writers in different genres. Each story depicts teens that are experiencing life on the edge, either physically or mentally.   |
| The giver                         | Lois Lowry        | Y English LOW      | Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993                          | 180             | What is a perfect world? An interesting story set in a utopia that will capture the reader's attention from the beginning till the end. It also starts the reader thinking about the rules and values set by a society, and whether these societal norms should always be questioned.   |
| If minds had toes                 | Lucy Eyre         | English EYR        | London: Bloomsbury, 2007                                | 281             | Fifteen-year-old Ben has been chosen to settle the bet between two leading philosophers. Follow Ben into the World of Ideas, as he learns about issues such as morality, ethics, and self, which he tries to apply to his ordinary life. Written in a light-hearted tone, this book is a good start into the world of philosophy. |
| So much to live for               | Lurlene McDaniel  | Y English MAC      | London: Bantam Press, 1996                              | 158             | Dawn's leukaemia is in remission but her best friend Sandy is gone. She bravely returns to summer camp for teenagers with cancer, this time as a counsellor, unsure if she can do a good job. Her first challenge is learning to understand the spoilt and unfriendly Marlee.   |
| Amagansett                        | Mark Mills        | English MIL – [TH] | London; New York: Fourth Estate, 2004                   | 358             | A literary thriller and murder mystery set in the small fishing community of Long Island in 1947. As you turn the pages to unearth the real killer, you get a good glimpse of the conflict between the different strata of the class structure, and the geography and history of Long Island.                                     |

| Title                              | Author           | Call No            | Publisher/<br>Year         | No. of<br>Pages | Annotation  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| The adventures of Huckleberry Finn | Mark Twain       | English TWA        | London: Penguin, 2003      | 393             | On their raft, Huckleberry Finn embarks on a series of high adventure with runaway slave Jim along the great Mississippi River. Despite the highly entertaining antics of Huckleberry Finn and best friend Tom Sawyer, the novel also probes into the darker themes of slavery and racism. This is a classic coming-of-age novel. |
| The book thief                     | Markus Zusak     | English ZUS        | Sydney: Picador, 2005      | 584             | Set in Germany during World War Two, Death himself, complete with dark humour, tells us a story about an orphaned German girl trying to make sense of the war. Her love of books and words, and her story-telling skills sustain her, her foster family, and the Jewish man they are harbouring in their basement.                |
| Just like that                     | Marsha Qualey    | Y English QUA      | New York: Dial Books, 2005 | 233             | At only eighteen years old, a sudden tragic accident causes the death of two friends and leaves Hanna reeling. An exploration of friendship, family, love, guilt and self, the story focuses on how Hanna manages her relationship with her family and friends after a life-changing experience.                                  |
| Ender's game                       | Orson Scott Card | English CAR – [SF] | London: Orbit, 2001        | 324             | A sci-fi novel where six-year-old Ender is tested and prepared for a battle between mankind and an alien race bent on the destruction of Earth. Ender is made commander of Earth's last battle fleet, while believing that it is just another simulated war game.   |

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| Nailed                               | Patrick Jones  | Y<br>English<br>JON | New York, N.Y.:<br>Walker & Co.,<br>c2006            | 216             | Bret hopes for acceptance from his peers, but is not willing to conform and give up his love for acting. As he seeks out his own identity and approval from his father, friends and teachers, he often meets obstacles along the way. A great read that depicts the relationship between father and son, and the challenges faced by teenagers. |
| Rats                                 | Paul Zindel    | Y<br>English<br>ZIN | New York:<br>Hyperion Books<br>for Children,<br>1999 | 204             | Mutant rats are about to invade Staten Island and it is up to a pair of siblings to stop these terrifying rodents. A fast-paced and horrific story that is sure to increase your heartbeat with every turn of the page.   |
| Do androids dream of electric sheep? | Philip K. Dick | English<br>DIC      | London:<br>Millennium,<br>1999                       | 210             | In a post-holocaust setting, bounty hunter Rick Deckard sets out to retire six Nexus-6s. The straightforward predator-prey plot gets increasingly murky as it gets harder to separate artificiality from reality. This cult sci-fi hit poses the fundamental question of what it means to be human, and the subsequent ethical implications.    |
| Tribute to another dead rock star    | Randy Powell   | Y<br>English<br>POW | New York:<br>Farrar Straus<br>Giroux,<br>1999        | 215             | Back in Seattle for a tribute to his dead rock star mother, Grady has nowhere else to go, and is currently bunking in with his younger half-brother Louie and stepmother. But Grady has mixed feelings about staying with his retarded half-brother and controlling stepmother. A humorous and touching story on family issues.                 |
| Fahrenheit 451                       | Ray Bradbury   | English<br>BRA      | New York:<br>Random House,<br>1953                   | 179             | This book is set in an unsettling alternate world where a fireman's job is to start fires instead of stopping them, and where learning is suppressed and books are burnt. Guy has been a fireman for ten years, but things take a horrifying turn for him when he is forced to burn down his own house.   |

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| The outsiders        | S. E. Hinton  | Y<br>English<br>HIN | Basingstoke:<br>Macmillan,<br>1979                   | 128             | Fourteen-year-old Ponyboy's world is clearly divided into the "greasers" and the "socs". The turning point comes when his fellow greaser Johnny kills a soc, and Ponyboy's black and white world crumbles. This novel explores the theme of bullying, friendship, loyalty and growing up.                                     |
| Stetson              | S. L. Rottman | Y<br>English<br>ROT | New York:<br>Viking,<br>2002                         | 222             | A dialogue-driven story about a teenager who yearns to escape his small town and absent father. Stetson is determined to graduate from high school but is close to being expelled. When he meets the sister he never knew he had, it starts to change the direction of both their lives.                                      |
| Water for elephants  | Sara Gruen    | English<br>GRU      | London:<br>Hodder,<br>2007                           | 335             | A vivid tale set in the world of a travelling circus during the Great Depression, Jacob Jankowski is the narrator whose life we follow as he runs away to join the circus. Meet a wide cast of circus performers, both human and animal, and take in the love story between Jacob and the wife of the animal trainer.         |
| King of shadows      | Susan Cooper  | Y<br>English<br>COO | New York:<br>Margaret K.<br>McElderry Books,<br>1999 | 186             | Nat is performing with his acting troupe at the famous Globe Theatre when he suddenly finds himself tossed back to Shakespeare's time, working under the playwright himself. A historical fiction that weaves the past and present together and which will capture a reader's interest in theatre and drama.                  |
| Discovery at Roswell | Terry Deary   | Y<br>English<br>DEA | London:<br>Kingfisher,<br>1996, 2007                 | 89              | Rod's long-cherished dream is to be an FBI agent, and he is well on his way to becoming one. But who could have imagined that UFOs would get in his way as he carries out a deceptively simple assignment? An intriguing tale spun around real persons involved in the supposed alien spacecraft sighting at Roswell in 1947. |

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| Guards! Guards!        | Terry Pratchett     | English<br>PRA –<br>[FN] | London:<br>Corgi Books,<br>1997 | 316             | Plots are brewing to usurp the Patrician of Ankh-Morpork. With a stolen magic book, a dragon is summoned by a secret brotherhood to terrorise the city. The plan backfires when the dragon, refusing to be merely a pawn, proclaims itself king. Comic chaos ensues in this great starting point to the ever-popular Discworld fantasy series. |
| More Far Eastern tales | W. Somerset Maugham | English<br>MAU –<br>[SH] | London:<br>Vintage,<br>2000     | 297             | Somerset Maugham was an intrepid traveller across Singapore, Malaysia and the wider Malay Archipelago when the area was under British and Dutch influence. Here is a collection of short stories that, with keenness and generosity, depict a way of life long since passed into history.  |



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