

## YOUNG ADULT BOOKS FOR THE SECONDARY ENGLISH CLASSROOM

Compiled by Barbara Campbell

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### Curriculum Connections:

- Green, John. *An Abundance of Katherines*. Dutton Books, 2006. Coming of age - journey to self realization (Catcher in the Rye)
- Almond, David. *Clay*. Delacorte, 2006. Revenge - good and evil - (Frankenstein, Golem)
- Anderson, M. T. *Feed*. Candlewick, 2002. Dystopias - scientific experimentation - repressive society (Fahrenheit 451, Brave New World)
- Appignanesi, Richard. *Romeo and Juliet*. Amulet Books, 2007. Graphic Novel/Manga format original text of the play used but adapted - set in present day Tokyo
- Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion*. Atheneum, 2002. Dystopias - cloning - (Brave New World, Frankenstein)
- Green, John. *Looking for Alaska*. Dutton, 2005. Coming of age - teenage rebellion (Catcher in the Rye)
- Hinds, Gareth. *Beowulf*. Candlewick, 2007. Graphic novel version - Epic Hero
- Hodges, Margaret. *Merlin and the Making of the King*. Holiday House, 2004. Arthurian Legends
- Hodges, Margaret. *Saint George and the Dragon: A Golden Legend*. Little, Brown, 1984. Middle Ages - Hero
- Hoffman, Mary. *Women of Camelot: Queens and Enchantresses at the Court of King Arthur*. Abbeville, 2000. (Arthurian Legends)
- Kimmel, Eric A. *The Hero Beowulf*. Farrar, Straus Giroux, 2005. Epic Hero
- Lowry, Lois. *Gossamer*. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Dystopias - repression (Brave New World) most recent in series beginning with "The Giver"
- Meyer, Carolyn. *Loving Will Shakespeare*. Harcourt, 2006. Historical fiction - Agnes "Anne" Hathaway – (Shakespeare)
- Morpurgo, Michael. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Candlewick, 2004. (Arthurian Legends)
- Westerfeld, Scott. *Pretties*. Simon Pulse, 2005. Dystopias - repression - conformity (Brave New World; Fahrenheit 451)
- Westerfeld, Scott. *Specials*. Simon Pulse, 2006. Dystopias - repression - conformity (Brave New World; Fahrenheit 451)
- Westerfeld, Scott. *Uglies*. Simon Pulse, 2005. Dystopias - repression - conformity (Brave New World; Fahrenheit 451)
- Williams, Marcia. *Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*. Walker Books, 2007. (Middle Ages)

### Female Protagonists:

- Atwater-Rhodes, Amelia. *Shattered Mirror*. Delacorte, 2001. Horror - vampires - witches.  
This author wrote her first novel at age 13; this is her 3rd.
- Cushman, Karen. *The Loud Silence of Francine Green*. Clarion, 2006. Historical Fiction - 1949 – conformity - coming of age
- Dessen, Sarah. *Just Listen: A Novel*. Viking, 2006. Attempted rape, anorexia, relationships (partner with Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson)
- Dessen, Sarah. *The Truth about Forever*. Viking, 2004. Self actualization - coming of age - relationships
- Dowd, Siobhan. *A Swift Pure Cry*. David Fickling Books, 2007. Teenage pregnancy - poverty -grief
- Draper, Sharon M. *Copper Sun*. Atheneum, 2006. Historical Fiction – slavery (2007 CORETTA SCOTT KING AUTHOR AWARD)
- Hostetter, Joyce. *Blue*. Boyds Mills, 2006. Historical Fiction - 1940's polio epidemic - race relations
- Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*. Scholastic, 2006. Autism - siblings with disabilities - (2007 NEWBERY HONOR)
- McCormick, Patricia. *Sold*. Hyperion, 2006. Novel in Verse - Human trafficking - prostitution
- McDonald, Janet. *Spellbound*. Frances Foster Books, 2001. Teenage mother - high school dropout - humor
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. *Dairy Queen: A Novel*. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Gender-role reversal - coming of age - football
- Patron, Susan. *The Higher Power of Lucky*. Atheneum, 2006.  
Really for younger readers but censorship issues could spark discussion -NEWBERY Award 2007
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life as We Knew It*. Harcourt, 2006. Science Fiction - diary - survival after disaster

### Male Protagonists:

- Adoff, Jaime. *Jimi & Me*. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2005. Novels in verse - fathers and sons - grief
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Twisted*. Viking, 2007. Coming of age - relationships - community service - making choices
- Bradley, Alex. *24 Girls in 7 days*. Dutton, 2005. Dating - great characters and humor

Hobbs, Will. *Crossing the Wire*. HarperCollins, 2006. Illegal aliens - perseverance - poverty - pursuing a dream  
Lupica, Mike. *Heat*. Philomel Books, 2006. Illegal aliens (Cuban)- baseball  
Morgenroth, Kate. *Echo*. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - unusual use of time in plot design  
St. James, James. *Freak Show*. Dutton Children's Books, 2007. GLBTQ - drag queen - acceptance  
Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars*. Clarion Books, 2007. Coming of age - Shakespeare - Junior High - Vietnam War - (Newbery and Printz Honor, 2007)  
Vaught, Susan. *Trigger*. Bloomsbury / Holtzbrinck, 2006. Suicide - brain damage - acceptance

### Poetry:

Holbrook, Sara. *Wham! : It's a Poetry Jam*. Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2002. Guide to performing poetry alone and in groups  
Holbrook, Sara. *By Definition: Poems of Feelings*. Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2003.  
Poems for adolescents and teenagers that touch upon issues such as love, disappointment, honesty, and maturity.  
Marsalis, Wynton. *Jazz A-B-Z: An A to Z Collection of Jazz Portraits*. Candlewick, 2005.  
Various poetry styles relate to styles of music and personalities of musicians.  
Nelson, Marilyn. *A Wreath for Emmett Till*. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Heroic crown of sonnets  
Nye, Naomi Shihab. *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*. Greenwillow, 2002.  
Poems about the Middle East, the Palestinians, war and peace, and about being an Arab-American  
WritersCorps. *Paint Me Like I Am: Teen Poems from WritersCorps; foreward by Nikki Giovanni*.  
HarperTempest, 2003. Poems by urban teens

### Alternate Points of View:

Foon, Dennis. *Skud*. Groundwood Books, 2003. 4 POV - male high school seniors -gangs - bullies - coming of age  
Giles, Gail. *What Happened to Cass McBride? : A Novel*. Little, Brown and Company, 2006.  
3 POV - male and female – suicide suspense - revenge  
Nelson, Blake. *Gender Blender*. Delacorte , 2006. 2 POV - male and female - GLBTQ  
Trueman, Terry. *Cruise Control*. HarperTempest, 2004. Partner with "Stuck in Neutral" –  
Shaun's brother Paul tells what life is like with a severely disabled sibling - family issues  
Trueman, Terry. *Stuck in Neutral*. HarperCollins, 2000. Partner with "Cruise Control" - Story told from POV Shaun, a severely disabled teenage boy - euthanasia - family issues  
Wild, Margaret. *One Night*. Knopf /Random House, 2004, 2003. 3 POV - male and female - novel in verse - teen pregnancy  
Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Death is the narrator - holocaust  
Kass, Pnina. *Real Time : A Novel*. Clarion Books, 2004. Multiple POV - terrorism - Germans/Israel

### Short Story Collections:

Cart, Michael, ed. *Rush Hour: Bad boys; a Journal of Contemporary Voices*. Delacorte , 2004. 17 authors and artists examine the concept of recklessness, making choices and accepting consequences  
Cart, Michael, ed. *Rush Hour: a Journal of Contemporary Voices. Vol. 4, Reckless*. Delacorte , 2006. "Bad Boys"  
Debut issue of Journal - published twice a year - includes quality essays, short stories, poetry, artwork and excerpts from YA novels.  
Carter, Alden R. *Love, Football, and Other Contact Sports*. Holiday House, 2006.  
Loosely connected series of stories following a group of friends through high school years. Various narrators.  
Levithan, David, ed. *21 Proms*. Scholastic, 2007. 21 stories related to Prom by YA authors  
Pierce, Tamora, ed. *Young Warriors: Stories of Strength*. Random House, 2005.  
15 short stories examine the concept of warrior, drawing on history, mythology, fantasy, and science fiction.

### Graphic Novels:

Drooker, Eric. *Blood Song: A Silent Ballad*. Harcourt, 2002. Graphic Novels - Strong woman - alienation  
Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*. Pantheon Books, 2003. Graphic Novels –  
Growing up as an Iranian Woman  
Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return*. Pantheon Books, 2004. Graphic Novels –  
sequel to Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood  
Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*. First Second, 2006. Graphic novel (PRINTZ AWARD)