

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Speak** . A trauma has silenced Melinda and caused her to be rejected by students in her high school. Melinda's surprisingly funny observations take you from her state of isolation to the moment she finds the power to speak.

Avi. **Nothing But the Truth: A Documentary Novel**. A ninth-grader's suspension for humming "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Bauer, Joan. **Squashed**. As a sixteen-year-old pursues her two goals -- growing the biggest pumpkin in Iowa and losing twenty pounds herself -- she strengthens her relationship with her father and meets a young man with interests similar to her own.

Bauer, Marion Dane. **On My Honor**. When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

Blume, Judy. **Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret**. No one ever told Margaret Simon that eleven-going-on-twelve would be such a hard age. When her family moves to New Jersey, she has to adjust to life in the suburbs, a different school, and a whole new group of friends. Margaret knows she needs someone to talk to about growing up-and it's not long before she's found a solution.

Brooks, Bruce. **All that Remains** . Three novellas highlighting teens whose lives are affected in various ways by a death in the family.

Brooks, Kevin. **Lucas**. Caitlin becomes isolated as the other young adults of Hale Island develop and immediate and intense hatred for the attractive and mysterious newcomer she befriends.

Cleary, Beverly. **Dear Mr. Henshaw**. In his letters to his favorite author, Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Clements, Andrew. **Frindle**. What if one day you decided to stop calling a word like pen "pen" and started calling it something else--like "frindle"? When Nicholas Allen does just that, and encourages all of his friends to start using the new word, his experiment turns the town upside down.

Codell, Esme Raji. **Sahara Special**. Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.

Creech, Sharon. **Walk Two Moons**. After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **The Watsons Go to Birmingham -1963**. When Kenny's 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up.

Danziger, Paula and Martin, Ann M. **P.S. Longer Letter Later**. Twelve-year-old best friends Elizabeth and Tara-Starr continue their friendship through letter-writing after Tara-Starr's family moves to another state.

Deem, James. **3 NB's of Julian Drew** . A troubled 15-year-old boy keeps a secret, cryptic diary about his life with his father and abusive stepmother.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Because of Winn Dixie**. Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Fine, Anne. **The Tulip Touch**. Natalie, who lives in the large hotel managed by her father, has a dangerous friendship with Tulip, the wildly uncontrollable girl on a neighboring farm.

Fleischman, Paul. **Seedfolks**. One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners themselves are transformed.

Freeman, Suzanne. **The Cuckoo's Child**. Mia refuses to believe that her parents are not coming back after they're reported lost at sea.

Flinn, Alex. **Breathing Underwater** . Nick is ordered to attend counseling and keep a journal after hitting his girlfriend.

Gantos, Jack. **Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key**. To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

Green, John. **Looking For Alaska** . Miles "Pudge" Halter is abandoning his safe-okay, boring life. Pudge becomes encircled by friends whose lives are everything but safe and boring. When tragedy strikes the close-knit group, it is only in coming face-to-face with death that Pudge discovers the value of living and loving unconditionally.

Haddix, Margaret. **Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey** . In her English journal, Tish writes what life is like at home after her father returns.

Halliday, John. **Shooting Monarchs** . A serial killer, an outcast and an unexpected ending.

Hannigan, Katherine. **Ida B-and her plans to maximize fun, avoid disaster, and (possibly) save the world**. In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.

Henkes, Kevin. **Olive's Ocean** . On summer vacation at grandmother's cottage at the ocean, Martha comes to grips with the death of a classmate and her odd request, her ailing grandmother, her first serious crush and betrayal and her desire to become a writer

Hiassen, Carl. **Hoot**. Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Horvath, Polly. **Everything on a Waffle**. Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

Johnson, Angela. **The First Part Last** . Sixteen-year-old Bobby accepts responsibility for raising his infant daughter, despite protests from his family and the challenges of staying in school and maintaining friends.

Klass, David. **You Don't Know Me** . John, a 14-year-old boy from a small town defends himself against an abusive home life, an outcast school life, and being a social misfit by living outside of himself.

Konigsburg, E.L. **From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**. Claudia knew that she could never pull off the old-fashioned kind

of running away...so she decided not to run FROM somewhere, but TO somewhere. And so, after some careful planning, she and her younger brother, Jamie, escaped -- right into a mystery that made headlines! Also: **The View from Saturday**.

Luna, Louisa. **Brave New Girl**. Doreen feels like an outcast at school and in her family. Luckily, her best friend Ted is able to be there for her.

Mackler, Carolyn. **The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things**. Fifteen-year-old Virginia Shreves learns how to manage her weight, the wandering hands of Froggy Welsh the Fourth, and an accusation of date rape against her perfect older brother when her best friend Shannon moves to Washington and she is forced to deal with her problems on her own for the first time in her life.

MacLachlan, Patricia. **Baby**. Taking care of an abandoned baby helps a family come to terms with the death of their own infant son.

McCormick, Patricia. **Cut**. Callie, 13 and confined to a treatment facility for self-mutilation, gradually begins to take him to understand some of the reasons behind her problems.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Monster**. 16 year-old Steve finds himself on trial for murder. Reality blurs as he views his own trial as if he were the filmmaker he dreams of becoming, transcribing it scene by scene into a script. Also: **Scorpions**.

Murray, Martine. **The Slightly True Story of Cedar B. Hartley, Who Planned to Lead an Unusual Life**. When twelve-year-old Cedar loses her dog, it sets off a chain of events leading her to find a new friend, become an acrobat, and learn some bitter-sweet truths about family, community, and herself.

Nelson, Blake. **Rock Star Superstar**. Sixteen year old bass players Peter learns bittersweet lessons of life, love and rock and roll during his sophomore and junior years of high school, playing with the underground band, The Tiny Masters of Today.

O'Dell, Kathleen. **Agnes Parker...Girl in Progress**. Agnes Parker isn't the class outcast or its queen bee-which is okay except that sometimes the middle just seems . . . really . . . ordinary. So Agnes sets out to be a different version of the girl she's always been. Someone who won't always get clobbered by bullies, who can some-times be cool and confident-and maybe catch the eye of that new boy in class?

Park, Linda Sue. **When My Name Was Keoko: A Novel of Korea in World War II**. With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

Paterson, Katherine. **Bridge to Terabithia**. The life of a boy in rural Virginia expands when he befriends a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Paulsen, Gary. **The Crossing**. Manny, a street kid fighting for survival in a Mexican border town, develops a strange friendship with an emotionally disturbed American soldier who decides to help him get across the border.

Powell, Randy. **Three Clams and an Oyster**. Three members of a flag football team search for a fourth teammate over a weekend in which they confront their attitudes about friendship, girls, and their shared past.

Rivers, Karen. **The Healing Time of Hickeys**. The diary of 16-year old Haley, who is coping with a bunch of trouble in her last year of high school.

Rosoff, Meg. **how i live now**. Set during a shocking occupation by terrorist forces, Rosoff's novel is narrated by 15-year-old Daisy, a wry and alienated young woman who finds true love, mystical connections, and a sense of home with her cousins in England.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Becoming Naomi Leon**. When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her faith.

Rylant, Cynthia. **Missing May**. After the death of her beloved aunt who has raised her, Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

Sachar, Louis. **Holes**. As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Sones, Sonya. **One of those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies**. After her mother dies of cancer, Ruby is forced to move to "Caliphony-a" to live with her father, the famous movie star, Whip Logan.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Maniac Magee**. After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Wrinker**. As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

Voigt, Cynthia. **Bad Girls**. After meeting on the first day in Mrs. Chemsky's fifth-grade class, Margalo and Mikey help each other in and out of trouble, as they try to maintain a friendship while each asserts her independence.

REALISTIC FICTION FOR TEENS

