

### **Riot, by Walter Dean Myers**

Written in screenplay format like his Printz Award-winning *Monster*, Myers's historical novel is set in 1863 New York City during the Civil War draft riots, which began as a protest against conscription and resulted in a clash between the city's Irish and African-American populations. The streets are no longer safe for 15-year-old Claire, whose parents (her father is black, her mother Irish) run the Peacock Inn restaurant/tavern.

### **Rooftop, by Paul Volponi**

Still reeling from seeing police shoot his unarmed cousin to death on the roof of a New York City housing project, seventeen-year-old Clay is dragged into the whirlwind of political manipulation that follows.

### **Runner, by Carl Deuker**

But the weather-beaten sailboat Chance Taylor and his father call home is thirty years old and hasn't sailed in years. One step from both homelessness and hunger, Chance worries about things other kids his age never give a thought: Where will the money come for the electricity bill, grocery bill, and moorage fees? So when a new job falls his way, he jumps at the opportunity. He knows how much he will earn; what he doesn't know is how much he will pay.

### **Winter Girls, by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Lia and Cassie are best friends, wintergirls frozen in fragile bodies, competitors in a deadly contest to see who can be the thinnest. But then Cassie suffers the ultimate loss—her life—and Lia is left behind, haunted by her friend's memory and racked with guilt for not being able to help save her. In her most powerfully moving novel since *Speak*, award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson explores Lia's struggle, her painful path to recovery, and her desperate attempts to hold on to the most important thing of all—hope.

### **Yellow Flag, by Robert Lipsyte**

In Kyle's family, his older brother, Kris, has always been the racer, born and bred to it, like his father and grandfather and great-grandfather before him. And that's just fine with Kyle; he's got other things to do. Now Kris is out of commission, injured, and Kyle has no choice but to drive. Does he want to drive just long enough to keep Kris's seat warm, or does he want to race—and win?

## **Non-Fiction**

### **Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures From the Archives of the Anne Frank House, by Menno Metselaar**

Beginning with a single photograph of the cover of Anne Frank's diary and the quote, "One of my nicest presents," this small, beautifully formatted book is accessible, compelling, and richly pictorial. First published by the Anne Frank House under the title *The Story of Anne Frank*, the book immediately immerses readers in the girl's life via a series of family photographs, many previously unpublished.

### **Columbine, by David Cullen**

It's to his credit that Cullen...makes the reader care about getting it right. *Columbine* is an excellent work of media criticism, showing how legends become truths through continual citation; a sensitive guide to the patterns of public grief, foreshadowing many of the same reactions to Sept. 11 (lawsuits, arguments about the memorial, voyeuristic bus tours); and, at the end of the day, a fine example of old-fashioned journalism.

### **Look Me in the Eye: My Life With Asperger's, by John Elder Robison**

In an entertaining and inspirational memoir of living with Asperger's Syndrome, the author describes life growing up different in an unusual family, his unusual talents, his struggle to live a "normal" life, his diagnosis at the age of forty with Asperger's, and the dramatic changes that have occurred since that diagnosis.

### **Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25 and the Search for the American Dream, by Adam W. Shepard**

*Scratch Beginnings* is Shepard's response to the now-famous books *Nickel and Dimed* and *Bait and Switch*, where Barbara Ehrenreich has written on the hopeless pursuit of the American Dream. This book offers his observation of what it is like for so many people on the lower end of the spectrum, the crappy end of the stick. In this poignant account, Shepard goes on a search for the vitality of the American Dream, and, in turn, discovers so much more.

### **Shooting Stars, by LeBron James**

From the ultimate team—basketball superstar LeBron James and Buzz Bissinger, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Friday Night Lights* and *Three Nights in August*—a poignant, thrilling tale of the power of teamwork to transform young lives, including James's own.

## **What is the "Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award"?**

The Abraham Lincoln Award is awarded annually to the author of the book voted as most outstanding by participating students in grades nine through twelve in Illinois. It is named for Abraham Lincoln, one of Illinois' most famous residents and himself an avid reader and noted author.

The award is sponsored by the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA) and is designed to encourage high school students to read for personal satisfaction and become familiar with authors of young adult and adult books.

Jane Harper, Library media specialist, Homewood-Flossmoor HS, Flossmoor, IL  
Patrice Nelson, Library media specialist, Victor J. Andrew HS, Tinley Park, IL  
Katie Udstuen, Library media specialist, Tinley Park HS, Tinley Park, IL

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# **A Few Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award Titles, Plus Other Notable Books**

**So Many Books, So Little Time! Catch Up on the Best New Books for Young Adults**



**The Secondary Reading League's 33rd Day of Reading**

## Fiction Titles

### **After, by Amy Efav**

An infant left in the trash to die. A teenage mother who never knew she was pregnant . . . Before That Morning, these were the words most often used to describe straight-A student and star soccer player Devon Davenport: responsible, hardworking, mature. But all that changes when the police find Devon home sick from school as they investigate the case of an abandoned baby.

### **Along for the Ride, by Sarah Dessen**

Auden missed childhood thanks to her parents' divorce, which she navigated with the gravitas of a 30-year-old. No bike-riding, no giggly sleepovers. Just schoolwork, college ambitions and relentless insomnia. In the summer before college, she spontaneously joins her dad, his 20-something wife and new baby at their oceanfront house, hoping to transform into someone who enjoys normal teenage fun: beach, boardwalk, bonfires and beers.

### **An Abundance of Katherines, by John Green**

Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

### **Because I am Furniture, by Thalia Chaltis**

Anke's father is abusive to her brother and sister. But not to her. Because, to him, she is like furniture— not even worthy of the worst kind of attention. Then Anke makes the school volleyball team. She loves the confidence that she gets from the sport. For the first time, Anke is making herself seen and heard, working toward the day she will be able to speak up loud enough to rescue everyone at home— including herself.

### **Catching Fire, by Suzanne Collins**

Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has won the annual Hunger Games with fellow district tribute Peeta Mellark. But it was a victory won by defiance of the Capitol and their harsh rules. Katniss and Peeta should be happy. After all, they have just won for themselves and their families a life of safety and plenty. But there are rumors of rebellion among the subjects, and Katniss and Peeta, to their horror, are the faces of that rebellion. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge.

### **Daemon Hall, by Andrew Nance**

Famed horror author Ian Tremblin is conducting a literary contest to locate the next generation of young authors for writing of the macabre. As they read their stories aloud, strange occurrences begin to happen, and one by one, the finalists begin to disappear. While Daemon Hall unleashes its terror, someone will die and others will believe that they are insane. This horror story offers a twist-a tale of terror written within short stories told by the characters themselves.

### **The Declaration, by Gemma Malley**

In the year 2140, it is illegal to be young. Children are all but extinct. The world is a better place. Longevity drugs are a fountain of youth. Sign the Declaration, agree not to have children and you too can live forever. Not everyone thinks Longevity is a good thing, but you better be clear what side you're on. . . . Surplus Anna is about to find out what happens when you can't decide if you should cheat the law or cheat death.

### **Does My Head Look Big in This?, by Randa Abdel-Fattah**

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith—without losing her identity or sense of style.

### **Finding Nouf, by Zoe Ferraris**

When sixteen-year-old Nouf goes missing, her prominent family calls on Nayir al-Sharqi, a pious desert guide, to lead the search party. Ten days later, just as Nayir is about to give up in frustration, her body is discovered by anonymous desert travelers. But when the coroner's office determines that Nouf died not of dehydration but from drowning, and her family seems suspiciously uninterested in getting at the truth, Nayir takes it upon himself to find out what really happened.

### **The Help, by Kathryn Stockett**

Miss Eugenia Phelan ("Skeeter" to her friends) is a young woman of privilege who enjoys her fellow Junior Leaguers but sometimes finds their ways at odds with her own principles. She plays the part of her station in 1960s Mississippi but can't help feeling dissatisfied with keeping house and acting as recording secretary at league meetings, and yearns for something more.

### **Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins**

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen cannot believe it when her younger sister Prim is chosen as the female tribute from their district at the Reaping. In this futuristic society, each district is required to send two tributes to the Games in the Capitol where they must fight to the death while the whole country watches on live television.

### **I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You, by Ally Carter**

As a sophomore at a secret spy school and the daughter of a former CIA operative, Cammie is sheltered from "normal teenage life" until she meets a local boy while on a class surveillance mission.

### **If I Stay, by Gayle Forman**

In the blink of an eye everything changes. Seventeen-year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall what happened afterwards, watching her own damaged body being taken from the wreck. Little by little she struggles to put together the pieces- to figure out what she has lost, what she has left, and the very difficult choice she must make.

### **Keysha's Drama, by Earl Sewell**

Sixteen-year-old Keysha Kendall is a judge's signature away from foster care when she's sent to live with the father she never knew. Suddenly she has her own room in his big fancy house, a high-powered stepmother and a popular half brother who can introduce her to all the right people at her new school.

### **The Knife of Never Letting Go, by Patrick Ness**

A dystopian thriller follows a boy and girl on the run from a town where all thoughts can be heard — and the passage to manhood embodies a horrible secret.

### **The Last Song, by Nicholas Sparks**

Her parents' divorce left 17-year-old Veronica Miller embittered and confused. Three years later, "Ronnie" still seethes with anger toward her father, a musician and teacher who has abandoned hectic New York City for the quiet beach town of Wilmington, North Carolina. Nevertheless, she reluctantly agrees to her mother's altruistic plan that for the good of all concerned, she should visit her estranged father in his new home.

### **Leaving Paradise, by Simone Elkeles**

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-olds Caleb and Maggie relate the difficulties of readjusting to school, and changing relationships with family, friends, and one another, a year after a drunk driving accident sent her to the hospital with a crippling leg injury and him to prison.

### **Love You, Hate You, Miss You, by Elizabeth Scott**

Amy's best friend is dead, and Amy thinks it is her fault. After a summer spent at Pinewood treatment center, Amy must grapple with her grief, her guilt, and her return to high school without Julia. Through a combination of letters to Julia and first-person narrative, readers learn about their friendship, their families, Amy's drinking, and the night that changed everything.

### **The Luxe, by Anna Godbersen**

In Manhattan in 1899, five teens of different social classes lead dangerously scandalous lives, despite the strict rules of society and the best-laid plans of parents and others.

### **The Morgue and Me, by John Ford**

Christopher just needed a job to kill time the summer after high school graduation. He didn't expect it to be in the morgue. Or that he would accidentally discover a murder cover-up. Or that his discovery would lead him to a full-blown investigation involving bribery, kidnappings, more murders . . . and his best friend. And he certainly could never have predicted that Tina—loud, insanely hot, ambitious newspaper reporter Tina—would be his partner.

### **Muchacho, by Lou Anne Johnson**

Eddie Corazon is angry. He's also very smart. But he's working pretty hard at being a juvenile delinquent. He blows off school, even though he's a secret reader. He hangs with his cousins, who will always back him up—when they aren't in jail. Then along comes Lupe, who makes his blood race. She sees something in Eddie he doesn't even see in himself. But in Eddie's world, it's a thin line between tragedy and glory.

### **One of the Survivors, by Susan Shaw**

What do you do when the world stops making sense? When your mother dies in a house fire trying to save a cat. When 24 of your classmates die in a fire, but you and your best friend survive. When people blame you for surviving and come to your house to throw garbage in your yard and chant "Murderer! Murderer!" Fourteen-year-old Joseph Edward Campbell keeps a journal, to "fill time, fill the page, fill my mind," anything to keep himself from thinking.

### **Pop, by Gordon Korman**

When Marcus moves to a new town in the dead of summer, he doesn't know a soul. While practicing football for impending tryouts, he strikes up an unlikely friendship with an older man. He can't believe his good luck when he finds out that Charlie is actually Charlie Popovich, or "the King of Pop," as he had been nicknamed during his career as an NFL linebacker. But that's not all. There is a secret about Charlie that his family is desperate to hide.

### **Purple Heart, by Patricia McCormick**

In this suspenseful psychological thriller, 18-year-old Matt Duffy, a private with memory problems following a traumatic brain injury, receives the Purple Heart in Iraq and gradually unravels the contradictory events that led to the honor. McCormick raises moral questions without judgment and will have readers examining not only this conflict but the nature of heroism and war.

### **Reality Check, by Peter Abrahams**

In the latest engrossing crime novel from Abrahams (*Nerve Damage*), Colorado football star Cody Laredo's junior year has gotten off to a dreadful start. After his girlfriend, Clea, is sent to a boarding school across the country (triggering a fight and a breakup), he tears his ACL during a football game and quickly spirals into a depression that leads to him dropping out of school. When he learns that Clea has gone missing, he decides to travel across the country to investigate.