Best Teen Titles of 2025

NCompass Live
January 7, 2026

presented by Sally Snyder
Nebraska Library Commission

Fiction for Younger Teens

Anderson, Laurie Halse ***REBELLION 1776***
396p. Caitlyn Dlouhy (Simon & Schuster) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-4169-6826-9

Arango, Andrea Beatriz ***IT'S ALL OR NOTHING, VALE***
247p. Random House (Penguin Random House) 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-593-81092-7

Cartaya, Pablo ***A HERO'S GUIDE TO SUMMER VACATION*** ✔
272p. Kokila (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-451-47975-4

Faruqi, Saadia ***THE STRONGEST HEART***
366p. Quill Tree Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-311585-9

Forest, Kristina ***HEARTSICK***
255p. Kokila (Penguin Random House) 2025 $12.99 ISBN 978-0-593-40728-8

Hamilton, Richard Ashley ***TECTIVE***
Illus. by Marco Matrone 180p. Maverick 2024 $14.99 ISBN 978-1545812440

Harrell, David ***A LITTLE POTATO AND HARD TO PEEL***
110p. Mascot Books (Amplify Publishing Group) 2025 $16.96 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-64543-405-4

Kelly, Erin Entrada & Kwame Mbalia ***ON AGAIN, AWKWARD AGAIN***
261p. Amulet Books (ABRAMS) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-4197-7563-5

Korman, Gordon ***SNOOP***
195p. Scholastic Press 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-5461-2608-9

Kraatz, Jeremey ***I WITNESSED THE LIZZY BORDEN STORY***
Illus. by Crystal Jayme 225p. Harper Alley (HarperCollins) 2025 $24.00 ISBN 978-0-06-324728-4; $15.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-324727-7

Leer, Samantha van ***THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL ZOO: Finding the Lost One***
228p. Pixel+Ink (Holiday House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-64595-293-0

LeGuin, Ursula ***A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA: A Graphic Novel***
Adapted & illus. by Fred Fordham Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $26.99 ISBN 978-0-06-328576-7

Lipsyte, Robert ***RHINO'S RUN***
182p. HarperCollins 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-334387-0

Méndez, Yamile Saied ***THE TROUBLE WITH SUNSHINE*** ✔
264p. Scholastic Press 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-5461-2274-6

Messner, Kate ***THE TROUBLE WITH HEROES***
352p. Bloomsbury 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-1-5476-1639-8

Paulino, Jasminne ***THE EXTRAORDINARY ORBIT OF ALEX RAMIREZ***
290p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-593-85931-5

Schmidt, Gary D. & Ron Koertge ***A DAY AT THE BEACH***
213p. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-338092-9

Shusterman, Neal ***ALL BETTER NOW***
515p. Simon & Schuster 2025 $21.99 ISBN 978-1-5344-3275-8

Smith, Cynthia Leitich, ed. ***LEGENDARY FRYBREAD DRIVE-IN: Intertribal Stories*** ✔
336p. Heartdrum (HarperCollins) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-331426-9

Tang, Betty C. ***OUTSIDER KIDS***
283p. Graphix (Scholastic Press) 2025 $34.99 ISBN 978-1-338-83272-3; $14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-338-83271-6

Watson, Renée ***ALL THE BLUES IN THE SKY***
179p. Bloomsbury Children's Books 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-1-5476-0589-7

Nonfiction for Teens

Fleming, Candace ***DEATH IN THE JUNGLE: Murder, Betrayal, and the Lost Dream of Jonestown*** 368p. Anne Schwartz Books (Penguin Random House) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-593-48006-9

Green, John ***EVERYTHING IS TUBERCULOSIS: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection*** 189p. Crash Course Books (Penguin Random House) 2025 $28.00 ISBN 978-0-525-55657-2

Hendrix, John ***THE MYTHMAKERS: The Remarkable Fellowship of C.S. Lewis & J.R.R. Tolkien*** 209p. Abrams Fanfare (ABRAMS) 2024 $24.99 ISBN 978-1-4197-4634-5

Kelly, Erin Entrada ***AT LAST SHE STOOD: How Joey Guerrero Spied, Survived, and Fought for Freedom*** 168p. Greenwillow (HarperCollins) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-321890-1

Myers, Walter Dean & Guy A. Sims ***BAD BOY: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR***
Art by Dawud Anyabwile 119p. HarperAlley (HarperCollins) 2025 $23.99 ISBN 978-0-06-309993-7; $16.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-309992-0

Robinson, James ***WHALE EYES*** ✔
Illus. by Brian Rea 292p. Penguin Workshop (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-593-52395-7

Yelchin, Eugene ***I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS*** ✔
427p. Candlewick Press 2025 $22.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-1553-3

Yellowhorn, Eldon & Kathy Lowinger ***OURS TO TELL: Reclaiming Indigenous Stories***
134p. Annick Press 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-1-77321-953-0; $14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-77321-954-7

Fiction for Older Teens

Coles, Jay ***YOUR FINAL MOMENTS***
305p. Scholastic Press 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-5461-2556-3

Collins, Suzanne ***SUNRISE ON THE REAPING***
382p. Scholastic Press 2025 $27.99 ISBN 978-1-5461-7146-1

Crossan, Sarah ***WHERE THE HEART SHOULD BE***
381p. Greenwillow Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $21.99 ISBN 978-0-06-338491-0

Dunmore, Scarlett ***HOW TO SURVIVE A HORROR MOVIE***
252p. Union Square & Co. 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1454963332

Fahmy, Huda ***HUDA F WANTS TO KNOW***
209p. Dial Books (Penguin Random House) 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-0-593-85561-4; $19.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-85562-1

Forman, Gayle ***AFTER LIFE***
261p. Quill Tree Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-334614-7

Gilbert, Katie ***LOVE, CANTER, ACTION***
278p. Union Square & Co. 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-4549-5717-1; $13.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4549-5718-8

Goodman, Jessica ***THE MEADOWBROOK MURDERS***
328p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-593-69871-6

Gregson, Marc J. ***AMONG SERPENTS***
478p. Peachtree Teen 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-68263-706-7

Henry, April ***WHEN WE GO MISSING***
261p. Christy Ottaviano Books (Little, Brown & Co.) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-316-47999-8

Muñoz, Lauren ***VERY DANGEROUS THINGS*** ✔
337p. G.P.Putnm's Sons 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-593-85789-2

Ogle, Rex ***WHEN WE RIDE***
327p. Norton Young Readers (W.W. Norton & Co.) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-324-05282-1

Oppel, Kenneth ***BEST OF ALL WORLDS***
245p. Scholastic Press 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-5461-5820-2

Parker, Natalie C. ***THE ASSASSIN'S GUIDE TO BABYSITTING***
313p. Candlewick Press 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3009-3; $12.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-4791-6

Power, Rory ***KILL CREATURES***
269p. Delacorte Press (Penguin Random House) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-593-30231-6

Sain, Ginny Myers ***WHEN THE BONES SING***
339p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-593-62548-4

Sawyerr, Hannah V. ***TRUTH IS*** ✔
476p. Amulet Books (ABRAMS) 2025 $ ISBN 978-1-4197-7683-0

Sindu, SJ ***TALL WATER*** ✔
Illus. by Dion MBD 245p. HarperAlley (HarperCollins) 2025 $26.99 ISBN 978-0-06-309016-3; $18.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-309015-6

Tamaki, Mariko ***THIS PLACE KILLS ME***
Illus. by Nicole Goux 266p. Abrams Fanfare 2025 $26.99 ISBN 978-1-4197-6846-0; $19.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4197-6845-3

Taylor, Emily J. ***THE OTHERWHERE POST***
392p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2025 $20.99 ISBN 978-0-593-40454-6

Ukazu, Ngozi ***FLIP***
310p. First Second 2025 $25.99 ISBN 978-1-250-17951-7; $18.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-250-17952-4

Wibberley, Emily & Austin Siegemund-Broka ***HEIRESS TAKES ALL***
368p. Little, Brown & Co. 2024 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-316-56675-9; $12.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-316-56676-6

Wibberley, Emily & Austin Siegemund-Broka ***HEIRESS AMONG THIEVES***
419p. Little, Brown & Co. 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-316-56679-7

New Titles in Popular Series

Libenson, Terri ***ENTIRELY EMMIE*** (Emmie & Friends series, Book 9)
294p. Storytide (HarperCollins) 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-0-06-332098-7; $15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-332097-0

Yang, Gene Luen ***THE BOOKS OF CLASH, vol. 4***
Art by Les McClaine & Alison Acton 126p. First Second 2024 $26.99 ISBN 978-1-250-81631-3; $17.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-250-81632-0

Yang, Gene Luen ***THE BOOKS OF CLASH, vol. 5***
Art by Kendall Goode & Alison Acton 125p. First Second 2025 $26.99 ISBN 978-1-250-81633-7; $17.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-250-81634-4

Abbreviations Note: (pbk) – paperback edition

✔ means the title was added to the list since the NLA conference

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