2021 YALSA’s Top Ten Best Fiction for Teens

YALSA’s Best Fiction for Young Adults Committee presents fiction titles published for young adults in the past 16 months that are recommended reading for ages 12 to 18. YALSA—The Young Adults Library Services Association—is a division of the American Library Association. Some titles may be available in e-formats. Check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance.

Acevedo, Elizabeth
**Clap When You Land**
YA Acevedo, Gr. 8 and up
Camino Rios waits at the airport for a flight that never arrives, while Yahaira Rios finds out that her father has died in a plane crash. Little do these girls know, they are sisters sharing a father who lived a double life with families in both the Bronx and the Dominican Republic.

Hardinge, Frances
**Deeplight**
YA Hardinge, Gr. 7 and up
The gods are gone, but pieces of them remain. When Hark finds the still-beating heart of a dead god, he uses it to save his friend Jelt’s life. As Jelt slowly transforms into a monstrous version of himself, Hark must decide if the consequences are worth it.

Ifueko, Jordan
**Raybearer**
YA Ifueko, Gr. 8 and up
When Tarisai is chosen to be a member of the Crown Prince’s Council of Eleven, she must fight against the magical wish to which her mother, The Lady, has bound her: gain the prince’s trust and then kill him.

Jackson, Tiffany D.
**Grown**
YA Jackson, Gr. 8 and up
Enchanted feels like she is in a dream when big star Korey Fields mentors her singing career, but the dream quickly turns into an obsessive, violent nightmare.

Johnson, Kim
**This Is My America**
YA Johnson, Gr. 9 and up
With the clock ticking on her father’s death-row sentence and her brother accused of killing a white classmate, Tracy has just 267 days to uncover the racist secrets of her small Texas town and prove her family’s innocence.

Longo, Jennifer
**What I Carry**
YA Longo, Gr. 8 and up
White 17 year old Muir has spent her entire life in foster care following strict rules for herself to prepare for surviving in the real world. As she begins her last foster placement before she ages out, Muir struggles to keep her distance and protect her heart.

Masood, Syed M.
**More Than Just a Pretty Face**
YA Masood, Gr. 9 and up
Danyal is a pretty face but not much of a student. Then he gets a chance to be recognized academically at school and impress the girl of his dreams. But Bisma, the book-smart girl who helps him with his project, keeps edging into his heart.

McGinnis, Mindy
**Be Not Far From Me**
YA McGinnis, Gr. 10 and up
Ashley Hawkins (white, 17) has spent a lot of time learning survival skills, but they may not be enough when she takes off on her own during a camping trip; a nasty fall leaves her alone with a broken foot and nothing but the clothes on her back.

Thomas, Aiden
**Cemetery Boys**
YA Thomas, Gr. 8 and up
When trans Latinx teen Yadriel accidentally summons the wrong ghost while trying to prove to his family that he is a real brujo, he must find a way to help Julian get what he wants so he can release him to the afterlife.

Torres Sanchez, Jenny
**We Are Not from Here**
YA Torres Sanchez, Gr. 9 and up
Pulga and Pequeña are at a crossroads. Life in their town is ruled by violence, and gang leader Rey has his hooks in them both. If they want to live, Pulga, Pequeña, and Pulga’s friend Chico must flee Guatemala to the U.S. border aboard the dangerous trains known as "La Bestia."

http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2021-top-ten-best-fiction
( Accessed January 22, 2021)
Document ID: e13c0f56-6c52-4ce5-9ccc-c94d00a3f980

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McCully-Mōlīili Public Library
Hawaii State Public Library System
January 2021