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.



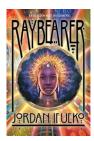
Acevedo, Elizabeth Clap When You Land

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



Jackson, Tiffany D.

Grown

him.

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.

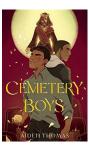
More Than Just a Pretty Face

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."

"2021 Top Ten Best Fiction", American Library Association, January 14, 2021. http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2021-top-ten-best-fiction (Accessed January 22, 2021) Document ID: e13c0f56-6c52-4ce5-9ccc-c94d00a3f980



Compiled by Jan T. Kamiya Young Adult Librarian McCully-Möiliʻili Public Library Hawaii State Public Library System January 2021