

# Dear Diary...



# Diary Books for Young Adults

YFIC Ayres

Ayres, Katherine. *North by Night: a story of the Underground Railroad.*

Presents the journal of a 16-year-old girl whose family operates a stop on the Underground Railroad.

YFIC Billingsley, F

Billingsley, Frannie. *The Folk Keeper*

Corinna must disguise herself as a boy in order to keep her dangerous job as Folk Keeper. Making this difficult is her hair, which grows two inches each night, and the one person who knows her true identity.

YRACK Cla

Clark, Catherine. *Truth or Dairy*

This is the journal of Courtney Von Dragen Smith: middle child, product of divorce, would-be vegetarian. Vowing to spend her senior year guy-free after her boyfriend dumps her, she finds that life has other plans.

YFIC Cleary

Cleary, Beverly. *Strider.*

In a series of diary entries, Leigh tells how he comes to terms with his parents' divorce, acquires joint custody of an abandoned dog, and joins the track team at school.

YFIC Creech / YRACK Cre

Creech, Sharon. *Absolutely Normal Chaos*

In a journal written for her English class, Mary Lou writes of summer romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his father.

YFIC Cushman / YRACK Cus

Cushman, Catherine. *Catherine, Called Birdy*

Encouraged to practice her letters, 13-year-old Birdy keeps a journal in which she describes her daily adventures: fighting off bad breath, wreaking havoc on her relatives, and avoiding marriage like the plague.

YFIC Deem / YRACK Dee

Deem, James. *3 NBs of Julian Drew.*

The journals of a troubled fifteen-year-old boy who lives with his father and emotionally and physically abusive stepmother and her children after the death of his own mother years ago.

Yfic DeVillers, J

DeVillers, Julia. *How my private, personal journal became a bestseller : a novel*

A young woman accidentally turns in a private story from her journal instead of an English assignment and becomes a best-selling author almost overnight.

YFic Easton, K

Easton, Kelly. *The Life History of a Star*

14-year-old Kristin uses her diary to record her confused thoughts about the physical changes brought on by adolescence and the strain of living with the "ghost" of her beloved older brother who was physically and mentally destroyed while serving in Vietnam.

YFIC Grant,

Grant, Cynthia. *The Cannibals, Starring Tiffany Spratt*

In her journal the relentlessly superficial Tiffany, head of the cheerleading group called the Cannibals, describes the excitement and turmoil of her senior year in high school.

YFIC Grimes

Grimes, Nikki. *Jazmin's Notebook*

Jazmin, an African-American teenager who lives with her older sister in a small Harlem apartment in the 1960s, finds strength in writing poetry and keeping a record of events in her notebook.

YFIC Haddix / YRACK Had

Haddix, Margaret Peterson.

*Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey.*

In the journal she is keeping for English class, 16-year-old Tish chronicles the changes in her life when her abusive father returns home after a two-year absence.

YFIC Holmes

Holmes, Barbara. *Letters to Julia.*

In her journal, chapters of the novel she is writing, and letters to a New York editor who has befriended her, a 15-year-old budding author reveals her journey of self discovery in the midst of a dysfunctional family.

YFIC Juby

Juby, Susan. *Alice, I Think*

Fifteen-year-old Alice keeps a diary as she struggles to cope with the embarrassments and trials of family, dating, school, work, small town life, and a serious case of "outcastitis."

\*\*also try *Miss Smithers* and *Alice Macleod, realist at last*

YFIC Koertge

Koertge, Ron. *Shakespeare Bats Cleanup*

When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love, and loss.

YFIC Marsden

Marsden, John. *So Much To Tell You.*

Sent to a hospital by her mother, Marina, a disfigured Australian girl who refuses to speak, reveals her thoughts and feelings in a diary.

Yfic McWilliams, K

McWilliams, Kelly. *Doormat: a novel*

Fourteen-year-old Jaime has always been a doormat, but her diary reveals how getting the lead in a school play, finding her first boyfriend, discovering her dream, and helping her best friend cope with being pregnant transform her life.

YRACK New

Newman, Leslea. *Fat Chance*

In a series of diary entries, 13-year-old Judi recounts her struggles to lose weight, hide her bulimia from her mother, find a boy friend, and decide on a profession.

YFIC Paulsen, G

*The Amazing Life of Birds : (the twenty-day puberty journal of Duane Homer Leech)*, as discovered by Gary Paulsen

As twelve-year-old Duane endures the confusing and humiliating aspects of puberty, he watches a newborn bird in a nest on his windowsill begin to grow and become more independent, all of which he records in his journal.

YFIC Pfeffer

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life as We Knew It*

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions

YRACK Ter

Terris, Susan. *Nell's Quilt.*

Urged at the age of eighteen to marry a man she doesn't want, Nell delays the event by working a quilt, slowly starving herself, and observing the unhappy lot of many women in turn-of-the-century Massachusetts before arriving at a decision to rescue herself from the brink of death and take charge of her life.

Fiction Thomas / RACK Tho

Thomas, Rob. *Rats Saw God.*

On the verge of flunking out of school, Steve York is given one last chance: write a one hundred page journal detailing his relationships with family and friends, and explaining how he went from honors student to failure in just one year.

YFIC Van Draanen, W

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Runaway*

After running away from her fifth foster home, Holly, a twelve-year-old orphan, travels across the country, keeping a journal of her experiences and struggle to survive.

YRACK Zin

Zindel, Paul. *The Amazing and Death Defying Diary of Eugene Dingman*

Eugene Dingman is celebrating his 15th birthday when he begins this humorous and thoughtful collection of letters and journal entries about his summer as a waiter at a ritzy resort. He comes to terms with his deadbeat father, and copes with his crush on a gorgeous waitress.

## SERIES

*My Name is America*

Fictional accounts of well known and sometimes lesser known episodes in American history. Each story is told in journal form, by a young person experiencing each episode first hand.

YFIC Cabot

Cabot, Meg. *The Princess Diaries.*

Trying her best to get through high school, 14-year-old Mia is shocked to discover that her father is the Prince of Genovia (a small European principality) — making her a princess and heir to the throne.

\*sequels include *Princess in the Spotlight, Princess in Love, Princess in Waiting*, and *Princess in Pink*

YFIC Rennison

Rennison, Louise.

*Angus Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging.*

Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a 14-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

\*sequels include *On the Bright Side, I'm Now the Girlfriend of a Sex God, Knocked Out by My Nunga-Nungas, Dancing in my Nuddy Pants, Startled by His Furry Shorts*, and *Love is a Many Trousered Thing*

*Royal Diaries*

This series gives new perspective on well known historical figures such as Marie Antoinette, Elizabeth I, and Cleopatra. Look for *Royal Diaries* in a title search in the online catalog.

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