

Welcome to REAL LIFE

Realistic Fiction for Young Adults

YFIC Alexie, S

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian, by Sherman Alexie

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot

Teen Novel Anderson / RACK AND

Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Jfic Avi / YFIC Avi / YRACK AVI

Nothing But the Truth, by Avi

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

YFIC Bauer / YRACK BAU

Hope Was Here, by Joan Bauer

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

YFIC Brande, R

Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature, by Robin Brande

Following her conscience leads high school freshman Mena to clash with her parents and former friends, but might result in better things when she stands up for a teacher who refuses to include "Intelligent Design" in lessons on evolution.

YFIC Flake

Money Hungry, by Sharon G. Flake

All thirteen-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again.

Also try the sequel, *Begging for Change***.

Teen Novel Flinn

Breathing Underwater, by Alex Flinn

Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father.

YFIC Hesser

Kissing Doorknobs, by Terry Spencer Hesser

Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life and affect her relationships with her family and friends

YFIC Jaramillo, A

La Linea, by Ann Jaramillo

When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.

YFIC Kadohata

Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

YFIC Konigsburg / YRACK KON

Silent to the Bone, by E. L. Konigsburg

When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.

YFIC Lisle, J

Black Duck, by Janet Taylor Lisle

Years afterwards, Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend's family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum-smuggling trade

YFIC Mass

Mango Shaped Space, by Wendy Mass

Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the loss of something important to her.

YFIC McNamee

Acceleration, by Graham McNamee

Stuck working in the Lost and Found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him.

YFIC Miracle

TTYL, by Lauren Miracle

Chronicles, in "instant message" format, the day-to-day experiences, feelings, and plans of three friends, Zoe, Maddie, and Angela, as they begin tenth grade.

Also try **TTFN, and **L8R, G8R**

YFIC Myers / YRACK MYE

Monster, by Walter Dean Myers

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

YFIC Na

A Step from Heaven, by An Na

A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.

YFIC Rallison

All's Fair in Love, War, and High School, by Janette Rallison

When head cheerleader Samantha Taylor does poorly on the SAT exam, she determines that her only hope for college admission is to win the election for student body president, but her razor wit and acid tongue make her better suited to dishing out insults than winning votes.

YFIC Schmidt, G

The Wednesday Wars, by Gary D. Schmidt

During the 1967 school year, when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

YFIC Sharenow, R

My Mother the Cheerleader : a novel, by Robert Sharenow

Thirteen-year-old Louise uncovers secrets about her family and her neighborhood during the violent protests over school desegregation in 1960 New Orleans.

YFIC Sheldon / YRACK SHE

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen, by Dyan Sheldon

In her first year at a suburban New Jersey high school, Mary Elizabeth Cep, who now calls herself "Lola," sets her sights on the lead in the annual drama production, and finds herself in conflict with the most popular girl in school.

YFIC Shusterman

The Schwa Was Here, by Neal Shusterman

A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone. The two boys form a partnership, and conduct a series of experiments designed to test the limits of the "Schwa Effect".

YFIC Smith / YRACK SMI

Zach's Lie, by Roland Smith

When Jack Osborne is befriended by his school's custodian and a Basque girl, he begins to adjust to his family's sudden move to Elko, Nevada, after entering the Witness Security Program, but the drug cartel against which his father will testify is determined to track them down.

YFIC Sones

One of those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies, by Sonya Sones

Fifteen-year-old Ruby Milliken leaves her best friend, her boyfriend, her aunt, and her mother's grave in Boston and reluctantly flies to Los Angeles to live with her father, a famous movie star who divorced her mother before Ruby was born.

YRACK STR

Give a Boy a Gun, by Todd Strasser

Events leading up to a night of terror at a high school dance are told from the point of view of various people involved.

YFIC Tolan

Surviving the Applewhites, by Stephanie S. Tolan

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

YFIC Trueman

Stuck in Neutral, by Terry Trueman

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

YFIC Woodson

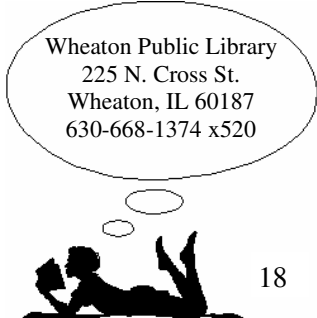
Locomotion, by Jacqueline Woodson

In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school.

YFIC Zevin, G

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac, by Gabrielle Zevin

After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life.



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