

Survival ...of the Fittest



Books about Wilderness Survival for Young Adults

J919.89 Arm

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: the extraordinary true story of Shackleton and the Endurance, by Jennifer Armstrong
The true story of the crew of the *Endurance*, frozen at sea for 9 months, and finally forced to make a long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach civilization.

YFic Blackwood

Wild Timothy, by Gary Blackwood
10-year-old Timothy, more interested in reading than in physical activity, reluctantly accompanies his enthusiastic father on a camping trip and, when he accidentally becomes lost in the woods, discovers that he is capable of surviving on his own.

978 Cal

The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party,
by Marian Calabro
Uses materials from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47.

YFic Carter, A

Between a Rock and a Hard Place
by Alden Carter
Everyone in Mark's family takes a 10 day trip in the wilderness as a "coming of age" ritual. Mark dreads the trip, especially sharing it with his diabetic cousin who has never spent time in the woods. But when the trip becomes a fight for survival, the two must learn to work together.

YFIC Cindrich, L

In the Shadow of the Pali, by Lisa Cindrich
In the late nineteenth century, twelve-year-old Liliha is sent to the Kalaupapa Leprosy Colony at Molokai, Hawaii, where she struggles to endure savage living conditions and people, as well as her own disease.

YFIC Cooney, C

Flight #116 is Down, by Caroline Cooney
Teenager Heidi Landseth helps rescue people from a plane crash on her family's property, and the experience changes her life forever.

YFIC Defoe

Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe
The classic story of a man shipwrecked on a deserted island for nearly thirty years.

YFic Dygard

Wilderness Peril, by Thomas J. Dygard
Two teenage boys camping in the Minnesota woods encounter a desperate airplane hijacker attempting to escape with three-quarters of a million dollars.

YFic French

Pursuit, by Michael French
After a boy falls to his death on a hiking trip, his brother is pursued through the wilderness by the man he believes responsible.

YFic George

River Rats, Inc., by Jean Craighead George
Traveling illegally at night on the Colorado River with a mysterious cargo, two boys are shipwrecked and must depend for survival on their own ingenuity and a wild boy they find living along the river.

Yfic Hausman, G

Escape from Botany Bay, by Gerald Hausman
In 1791, after being transported to Australia in the first shipment of convicts, Mary Bryant, her husband, two children, and seven other convicts, unable to endure the terrible conditions of the penal colony, organize a daring escape in an open boat.

YFic Heneghan, J / YRACK Hen

Wish Me Luck, by James Heneghan
While on an ocean voyage to Canada to escape the air raids in his Liverpool home, twelve-year-old Jaimie Monaghan faces another kind of life-threatening situation.

YFic Hobbs / YRACK Hob

Far North, by Will Hobbs
After the destruction of their floatplane, 16-year-old Gabe and his friend, Raymond, a Dene Indian, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories.

YFIC Hokenson, T

The Winter Road, by Terry Hokenson
Seventeen-year-old Willa, still grieving over the death of her older brother and the neglect of her father, decides to fly a small plane to fetch her mother from Northern Ontario, but when the plane crashes she is all alone in the snowy wilderness.

Fiction King

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon
by Stephen King
After wandering away from her mother and brother, 9-year-old Trisha must survive in the wilderness of Maine with only a sandwich and her walkman.



YFic Marsden / YRACK Mar
Tomorrow, When the War Began

by John Marsden

A group of juniors from an Australian high school set off on an adventure in the outback, but when they return to civilization, they find their world turned upside down.

*Part of a seven book series.

YFic Mikaelson, B
Touching Spirit Bear, by Ben Mikaelson

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice. He is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

YFic Morey / YRACK Mor / Fiction Morey
Death Walk, by Walt Morey

Joel Rogers steals aboard a friend's plane flying to the Alaskan frontier and suddenly finds himself stranded in the wilderness and on the run from two murderers.

YRACK Nel
The Girl Who Owned a City, by O.T. Nelson

When a plague sweeps over the earth killing everyone except children under twelve, ten-year-old Lisa organizes a group to rebuild a new way of life.

YFic O'Dell
Island of the Blue Dolphins, by Scott O'Dell

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

YFic Paulsen / YRACK Pau
Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen

Brian is on his way to the Canadian wilderness to visit his father. When the pilot of the single engine plane has a heart attack, and the plane crashes, Brian is left alone in the wilderness with only a hatchet and his wits.

*Also try *The River, Brian's Winter*, and *Brian's Return*.

YRACK Pfe / Rack Pfe / 796.522 Pfe
Within Reach: My Everest Story

by Mark Pfetzer

The author describes how he spent his teenage years climbing mountains in the United States, South America, Africa, and Asia, with an emphasis on his two expeditions up Mount Everest.

YFIC Philbrick, W
The Journal of Douglas Allen Deeds : the Donner Party expedition, by Rodman Philbrick

Douglas Deeds, a 15-year-old orphan, keeps a journal of his travels by wagon train as a member of the ill-fated Donner Party, which became stranded in the Sierra Nevada mountains in the winter of 1846-47.

YFIC Salisbury
Night of the Howling Dogs, by Graham Salisbury

In 1975, eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii, find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami

YFIC Smith, R
Peak, by Roland Smith

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

YFic Swarthout
Whichaway, by Glendon Swarthout

Fifteen-year-old Whichaway, son of a stone-faced Arizona rancher, legs broken in an accident atop a windmill, struggles to survive after cattle rustlers have left him to die.

YFic Taylor / YRACK Tay
The Cay, by Theodore Taylor

When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old black man are stranded on a tiny Caribbean island where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion.

YFic Vanasse
Out of the Wilderness, by Deb Vanasse

Josh tries to endure living in the Alaskan wilderness with his father and half-brother Nathan, but Nathan's uncompromising reverence for nature and its wild creatures cause difficulties that reinforce Josh's determination to return to city life.

YFIC Weaver, W
Memory boy : a novel, by Weaver, Will

Sixteen-year-old Miles and his family must flee their Minneapolis home and begin a new life in the wilderness after a chain of cataclysmic volcanic explosions creates dangerous conditions in their city.

613.69 Wil
Wild: Stories of Survival from the World's Most Dangerous Places.

Brings together the best writing about men and women fighting for their lives in the wilderness, from surviving raids, droughts, and sandstorms in the desert with the Bedouins, to a description of terrifying adventures on the Amazon.

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225 N. Cross St.
Wheaton, IL 60187
668-1374 x520

