Welcome to Real Life

Realistic Fiction for Young Adults

YA Fiction 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. Grades 8-12

YA Fiction Anderson, L
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. Grades 8-12

YA Fiction Bauer, J
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. Grades 7-9

YA Fiction Caletti, D
The Secret Life of Prince Charming, by Deb Caletti
Seventeen-year-old Quinn has heard all her life about how untrustworthy men are, so when she discovers that her charismatic but selfish father, with whom she has recently begun to have a tentative relationship, has stolen from the many women in his life, she decides she must avenge this wrong. Grades 9-12

YA Fiction Cohen, J
Leverage, by Joshua C. Cohen
High school sophomore Danny excels at gymnastics but is bullied, like the rest of the gymnasts, by members of the football team, until an emotionally and physically scarred new student joins the football team and forms an unlikely friendship with Danny. Grades 9-12

YA Fiction Dessen, S
What Happened to Goodbye, by Sarah Dessen
Following her parents' bitter divorce as she and her father move from town to town, seventeen-year-old Mclean reinvents herself at each school she attends until she is no longer sure she knows who she is or where she belongs. Grades 7-12

YA Fiction Friend, N
Bounce, by Natasha Friend
Thirteen-year-old Evyn's world is turned upside-down when her father, widowed since she was a toddler, suddenly decides to marry a woman with six children, move with Ev and her brother from Maine to Boston, and enroll her in private school. Grades 6-8

YA Fiction Hesser, T
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. Grades 8-10

YA Fiction 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. Grades 5-8

YA Fiction Kantor, M
Maybe One Day, by Melissa Kantor
Zoe thought that being cut from her ballet program was the worst thing that could happen, but when her best friend Olivia is diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, Zoe quickly learns that not being able to dance is the least of her problems. Grades 9-12

YA Fiction Kirby, J
Golden, by Jessi Kirby
Seventeen-year-old Parker Frost has never taken the road less traveled. Valedictorian and quintessential good girl, she's about to graduate high school without ever having kissed her crush or broken the rules. So when fate drops a clue in her lap—one that might be the key to unraveling a town mystery—she decides to take a chance. Grades 8-12

YA Fiction Lockhart, E
The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks, by E. Lockhart
Sophomore Frankie starts dating senior Matthew Livingston, but when he refuses to talk about the all-male secret society that he and his friends belong to, Frankie infiltrates the society in order to enliven their mediocre pranks. Grades 7-12

YA Fiction Mass, W
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 rela-
tionships, and the loss of something important to her. **Grades 5-8**

YA Fiction McNamee, G
*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. **Grades 8-12**

YA Fiction Myracle, L
*TTYL*, by Lauren Myracle
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. **Grades 8-10**

YA Fiction Myers, W
*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. **Grades 7-12**

YA Fiction Quick, M
*Boy 21*, by Matthew Quick
Finley, an unnaturally quiet boy who is the only white player on his high school's varsity basketball team, lives in a dismal Pennsylvania town that is ruled by the Irish mob, and when his coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred there from an elite private school in California, he finds that they have a lot in common in spite of their apparent differences. **Grades 7-12**

YA Fiction Rowell, R
*Eleanor & Park*, by Rainbow Rowell
Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. **Grades 9-12**

YA Fiction Shusterman, N
*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”. **Grades 8-12**

YA Fiction Smith, R
*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. **Grades 5-9**

YA Fiction Sonnenblick, J
*Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip*, by Jordan Sonnenblick
After an injury ends former star pitcher Peter Friedman's athlet-