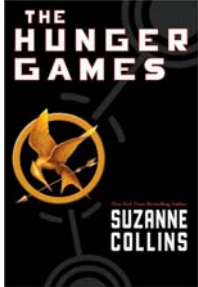


## Teen Fiction in Hot!

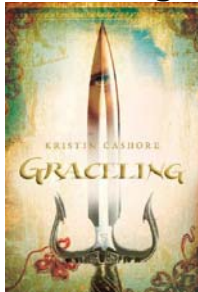
One of the hottest areas of publishing right now is teen literature. Initially sparked by the Harry Potter books and most recently springboarded by the Twilight phenomenon, books aimed at teens, especially those with a science fiction or paranormal theme are very popular. Helping to sustain this interest is the fact that several of these books are very well written stories featuring strong characters in fascinating settings. While they are often aimed at the teen market, they are appealing to readers of all ages. At the library, Brenda McKinney reads a lot of books in this section. Here are some of her more recent favorites.

### **The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins



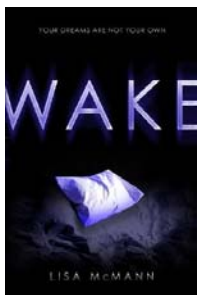
Katniss Everdeen is a girl from The Seam, a rural part of what once was Appalachia, now part of District 12 in the first of a trilogy. Set in the future, two children or tributes, are chosen from each district to compete with each other in a fight to the death, televised live around the country. Katniss and the male tribute from District 12, Peeta, manage to fight and outwit their enemies, knowing that only one of them can survive. All the while they try to ignore the larger horror of participating in the Hunger Games.

### **Graceling** by Kristin Cashore



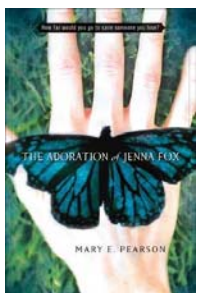
Graceling takes readers inside the world of Katsa, a warrior-girl in her late teens with one blue eye and one green eye. This gives her haunting beauty, but also marks her as a Graceling. Gracelings are beings with special talents—swimming, storytelling, dancing. Katsa's Grace is considered more useful: her ability to fight (and kill, if she wanted to) is unequalled in the seven kingdoms. Forced to act as a henchman for a manipulative king, Katsa channels her guilt by forming a secret council of like-minded citizens who carry out secret missions to promote justice over cruelty and abuses of power.

### **Wake** by Lisa McMann



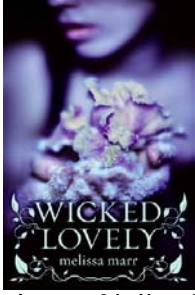
Janie dreams along with her fellow students when they fall asleep near her—on the bus, in study hall, in boring classes, etc. She begins to dream with loner Cabel Sturmheller and discovers both his horrific childhood abuse and longstanding feelings for her. Janie and Cabel's friendship is sweetly drawn, their conversations are smooth, and their romantic tension builds naturally. The language is realistically gritty. McMann also gives useful attention to the science of dreaming.

### **The Adoration of Jenna Fox** by Mary Pearson



Sometime in the near future, Jenna Fox, 17, awakens from an 18-month-long coma following a devastating accident, her memory nearly blank. She attempts reorientation by watching videos of her childhood, recorded beyond reason by worshipful parents, but mysteries proliferate. Jenna can recite passages from Thoreau yet can't remember having any friends. As memories return, however, Jenna starts picking at the explanation her parents have spun until it unravels. Pearson uses each revelation to steadily build tension until the true horror comes into focus.

## **Wicked Lovely** Melissa Marr



Seventeen-year-old Aislinn has a secret; she sees fairies everywhere working their mischief and doggedly following her for reasons she does not understand. Even when she looked away, she heard them: laughing and squealing, gnashing teeth and beating wings. One of them, the handsome Keenan, takes a particular interest in her. He is the Summer King, on a centuries-long quest for his queen, the one person who will be able to help him unseat his vicious mother, Beira, the Winter Queen. As Keenan pursues Aislinn, convinced she is his true mate, secrets emerge about Aislinn's family history and she wrestles with the decision to become the Summer Queen.

*Dave Miller is Hope Branch Supervisor, Bartholomew County Public Library*