

## The World of Teen Fiction

I absolutely love teen fiction and lately that is all I have been checking out. I try to rationalize it by saying it helps to know what's on the shelves, but that's denial talking. Even if I wasn't a librarian I would still make a beeline for the teen section. Why? Because the books are fantastic! Sure, the majority talk of teens and their struggles with relationships and school, but who doesn't relate to those types of issues? Just because a book is labeled as teen doesn't mean it's easier than an adult book. Teen books can challenge views of society, as in "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins. But they can also be fun, as in "Fancy White Trash" by Marjetta Geerling (which had me laughing out loud). That's what books are...entertaining. Books give readers a chance to think, to imagine, to feel, and even to disagree. So whether you're a teen or an adult, why not check out the growing and fascinating world of teen fiction.

Here are just a few of the great teen books we have at the library:

"Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian" by Sherman Alexie – A hilarious and poignant account of Arnold Spirit (aka Junior), a Spokane Indian who decides to leave the reservation and go to an all-white school. Junior, a budding cartoonist, uses humor and determination to deal with being caught between two cultures. Grades 7 and up

"The Forest of Hands and Teeth" by Carrie Ryan – Mary lives in a village surrounded by imminent danger: zombies known as the Unconsecrated and only fences keep out this continuous threat. Mary dreams of life beyond the stifling horror she has always known, but will there be a price for those dreams? Grade 9 and up

"The White Darkness" by Geraldine McCaughrean – Fourteen-year-old Symone is fascinated by the Antarctic, especially the explorer Captain Laurence Titus Oates. So when she has the opportunity to visit the South Pole with a family friend she is excited to go. But the seemingly normal trip turns into a secret expedition filled with terror. Will Symone survive the hostile elements and the threats to her life? Winner of the 2008 Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature. Grade 7 and up.

"Breathe My Name" by R.A. Nelson – Seventeen-year-old Frances lives quietly with her adopted family after her mother smothered her sisters and attempted to kill Frances. As Frances starts falling for the new boy in school she receives a note from her mother: she has been released and wants to see Frances. Is it to finish what she started years ago? Can Frances face her past and her mother? Grade 9 and up.

"Map of the Known World" by Lisa Ann Sandell – 14-year-old Cora is isolated from her parents following the death of her older brother, Nate. As she begins high school, his absence looms large. His "bad boy" reputation makes mention of him off-limits. Only his best friend and accident survivor, Damian, knows who Nate really was. As Cora becomes his friend, Damian slowly reveals Nate's true passion, character, and plans. Cora must deal with her grief and find the strength to make herself happy. Grades 7 & up

"Deadly Little Secret" by Laurie Stolarz – Three months ago Camelia's life changed: she was saved by a mysterious (and handsome) stranger. Now her junior year has started and the stranger (named Ben) goes to her school. But Ben's past follows him: his

girlfriend died and many people believe he killed her. While Camelia struggles with her growing feelings for him, she becomes the object of a stalker's obsession. Sequel: "Deadly Little Lies". Grade 7 and up

So, embrace the world of teen fiction and see what the library has to offer. You just might surprise yourself!

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