



# Great Summer Reads



- Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Chains.** Thirteen-year-old Isabel expects to be freed from slavery, as promised, following the death of her owner in Rhode Island in 1776. Instead she's torn from her younger sister and sold to a wealthy and cruel Loyalist in New York City.
- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **The Boy Who Dared.** Helmuth grows increasingly uncomfortable about the lies he hears being told as the Nazis rise to power during the 1930s. Will his decision to publish the truth cost him his life?
- Blundell, Judy. **What I Saw and How I Lied.** Evie, 15 and innocent, has been content to live below the radar of her mother's radiant beauty. Her family's sudden vacation to Palm Beach in 1947 ends all that in this suspenseful mystery.
- Caletti, Deb. **The Fortunes of Indigo Skye.** If you were a waitress and got a \$2.5 million tip, would you change jobs? Would you change your friends? Would you change yourself?
- Cashore, Kristin. **Graceling.** Thanks to her special talent, or "grace," Lady Katsa has been an efficient, if sometimes conflicted, assassin for her uncle, the King. When she meets Po, a foreign prince who is also graced, her life takes a turn.
- Collins, Suzanne. **Hunger Games.** Kat finds herself in the center of a nationally televised reality TV show in which twenty-six teens must fight each other to the death—and the playing field is anything but level.
- Coy, John. **Box Out.** Liam, a sophomore, has been elevated to his high school's varsity basketball team, but feels discomfort at the "optional" Athletic Fellowship meeting's "champion's prayer." He's Catholic, comfortable with his faith and how he sees it played out by his grandma and parents. However, Liam becomes uncomfortable with the coach's insistence on the "power of prayer" and his pressure for all to join in.
- De Alcantara, Pedro. **Backtracked.** A privileged slacker born April 3, 1990, Thomas Latrella does not learn about the other lives he'd lived until Feb 28, 2006. The New York City subway becomes the conduit for Tommie's awakening to the history of his city—and his responsibilities as a human being.
- Doctorow, Cory. **Little Brother.** In the aftermath of the bombing of a major bridge in San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus and his friends are rounded up, jailed and tortured as terrorist suspects. Finally released into what is now a police state run by the Department of Homeland Security, Marcus uses his expertise in computer hacking to rage against the system.
- Freitas, Donna. **The Possibilities of Sainthood.** Can Antonia Lucia Labella, 15, become the first living Catholic saint? Only if she convinces the Vatican to endorse her as the Patron Saint of Daddy's Heart or the Patron Saint of the Kiss. Lighthearted but sincere, this combination of romance and religion makes a fun read.
- Gaiman, Neil. **The Graveyard Book.** Taken in as a toddler and raised by ghostly inhabitants of a neighborhood cemetery following the vicious murder of his family, Bod grows and learns in this tale that is in turn scary, whimsical, quixotic, and tender.
- Hardy, Mark. **Nothing Pink.** Vincent knows deep down that he is gay. Though he has never acted on his feelings in any way, he knows his father, a Southern Baptist minister, could never accept this about him.
- Klass, David. **Whirlwind.** This second installment of the "Caretaker Trilogy" finds young Jack arriving home to discover he's being blamed for the death of his parents and suspected in the disappearance of PJ, his girlfriend. Nonstop action propels Jack and Gisco into the Amazonian jungles to rescue PJ and once again avert ecological disaster, leaving several threads of the story open for the final episode.
- Lupica, Mike. **The Big Field.** The author's winning formula tells of fourteen-year-old Hutch's conflicts on the baseball field with a talented new player who takes "his" position—shortstop—and widens the rift with Hutch's father, a former player who refuses to help his son at all as they move toward the championship.
- Mortensen, Greg and David Oliver Relin. **Three Cups of Tea.** Mountain climber turned school-builder Greg Mortenson tells of his adventures in Pakistan and Afghanistan. His is a truly inspirational story still being played out in today's headlines.
- Myers, Walter Dean. **Game.** Drew's senior basketball season is critical if he hopes to play his way out of Harlem and into a D-1 school. A serious guy, respectful of his parents and sister and even teachers at school, he's benched and has to play his way back onto the court. The basketball action is detailed, while subplots show the knife edge that separates success from failure.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Sunrise Over Fallujah.** Remember Richie from *Fallen Angels*? His nephew, Robin becomes part of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of a civil affairs unit stationed in Baghdad. Robin's views change as he is exposed to the war in different ways.

**Our White House: Looking In Looking Out.** Vignettes chronologically describe the design, building, rebuilding and life in our Presidents' official residence. Unexpectedly fun! Extra bits (the press corps, the Easter Egg Roll, Presidential ghosts, pets, etc) and many full-page color illustrations enliven the text.

Rhodes-Courter, Ashley. **Three Little Words: a Memoir.** Wrenchingly painful memories of a girl lost in Florida's foster care system, whose pluck eventually led to the conviction of certain individuals and an overhaul of the state's tracking system.

Russell, P. Craig. **Coraline.** The graphic novel adaptation of Neil Gaiman's original spooky story in which Coraline discovers a parallel house with parallel parents with a few differences from the originals!

Sturm, James and Rich Tommaso. **Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim Crow.** A graphic novel account of the career of Negro League pitcher Satchel Paige, discussing the show he put on as a popular player, as well as the respect he demanded as an African-American.

Tan, Shaun. **Tales from Outer Suburbia.** REALLY short stories fabulously illustrated by the author are in turn enigmatic, whimsical, poignant, mesmerizing and provocative.

Wallace, Rich. **Perpetual Check.** A weekend chess tournament in Scranton, Pennsylvania, pits aggressive high school senior Zeke, a multi-sport athlete, against his brother, Randy, a pudgy freshman who has been beating Zeke nine times out of ten. Who's gonna lose?

Yancey, Rick. **Alfred Kropp: The Thirteenth Skull.** The third book in the Alfred Kropp series. If you missed the first two, start there. The adventures of reluctant hero, Alfred, 16, continue as he finds that as the last direct descendant of Lancelot (yep, of the Round Table) he has not only the opportunity but the wherewithal to save the world—again.

Watkins, Steve. **Down Sand Mountain.** Things are not tranquil along the Peace River as a bewildered Dewey starts seventh grade in Sand Mountain, Florida, in 1966. Racial issues simmer beneath the surface, as the war in Vietnam, sexual and social issues add weight to this powerful coming-of-age story.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **After Tupac and D Foster.** An unnamed girl finds meaning for her own life from Tupac Shakur. His life, lyrics, and death help her and her best friend Neeka understand D Foster, a new girl at school who has bounced from one foster family to another all her life.

Wright, Bil. **When the Black Girl Sings.** As the only black student in her exclusive private Connecticut prep school, Lahni faces enough trouble before her parents, who are white, begin to talk about divorce. When her music teacher challenges her to enter a singing competition, the pressures intensify.



**For other hot reads, check with your local public libraries!  
They always have great new reads for teens.**

#### Iowa Teen Award Nominees 2009-2010

Alexie, Sherman. **Absolute True Diary of a Part-time Indian.**

Beddor, Frank. **Looking Glass Wars.**

Boyne, John. **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: a Fable.**

Davis, Sampson. **We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Helped Us Succeed.**

Deuker, Carl. **Gym Candy.**

Feinstein, John. **Cover-Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl.**

Hautman, Pete. **Invisible.**

Kadohata, Cynthia. **Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam.**

Koss, Amy. **Side Effects.**

Larson, Kirby. **Hattie Big Sky.**

Mass, Wendy. **Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life.**

Nuzum, K. A. **A Small White Scar.**

Smith, Roland. **Peak.**

Spillebeen, Geert. **Kipling's Choice.**

Yancey, Rick. **Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp.**

