

The Best 2007 & 2008 Adult Books for Teenagers

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This and That

- Feldman, Ellen, 1941-. Scottsboro : a novel. 1st ed. New York : W. W. Norton, c2008.
Alice Whittier, a crusading young journalist in 1931, leaves New York and travels to Scottsboro, Alabama, to cover the trial of nine African-American boys who have been accused of raping two white prostitutes who happened to be riding on the same freight train as the boys.
- Akpan, Uwem. Say you're one of them. 1st ed. New York : Little, Brown and Co., 2008.
An ex-mas feast -- Fattening for Gabon -- What language is that? -- Luxurious hearses -- My parent's bedroom. A collection of short stories by Uwem Akpan that celebrate the resilience and wisdom of children in third world countries.
- Menzel, Peter, 1948-. What the world eats. Berkeley, CA : Tricycle Press, c2008.
A collection of photographs depicting twenty-five families from twenty-one different countries, and includes Chad, Equador, Greenland, Japan, Mongolia, and others, and also describes the cost of a weeks worth of food, and other cultural information for each listed country.
- Jacob, Mark. Chicago under glass : early photographs from the Chicago daily news. Chicago : University of Chicago Press :, 2007.
Presents a photographic history of the city of Chicago from 1901 to 1930, from collections compiled by the Chicago Daily News that tell of labor strikes, sporting events, crime scenes, bootleggers, immigrants, and everyday life.
- Hill, Joe. 20th century ghosts. 1st US ed. New York : HarperCollins, c2007.
A collection of fifteen original ghost stories by award-winning author Joe Hill, son of authors Stephen King and Tabitha King.

Is This Home?

- King, Susan, 1951-. Lady Macbeth : a novel. 1st ed. New York : Crown Publishers, c2008.
Married, pregnant, then quickly widowed, Gruadh, the last female descendent of Scotland's most royal line, is forced to wed her husband's murderer, the warlord Macbeth. Determined to protect her interests and those of her infant son, she vows to preserve her family's legacy at any cost.

McMasters, Kelly. Welcome to Shirley : a memoir from an atomic town. 1st ed. New York : PublicAffairs, c2008.

The author discusses her idyllic childhood in Shirley, New York, a typical American working-class town, and considers how attitudes toward the town changed when neighbors began getting sick from waste from a nearby nuclear laboratory.

Harrison, Kathryn. While they slept : an inquiry into the murder of a family. 1st ed. New York : Random House, c2008.

Explores Billy Gilley's 1984 murders of his parents and younger sister and draws from interviews with Billy, his older sister, family, friends, and professionals as well as the author's personal experiences to examine the effects of physical and verbal abuse on children.

Mistaken identity : two families, one survivor, unwavering hope. West Monroe, La : Howard Books, 2008.

After a tragic accident on an Indiana highway, two blond girls of similar features were mistaken for one another. Whitney Cerak lived but was comatose, while Laura Van Ryn actually died, but was sent to the hospital to be treated. Misidentification! It was a result coroner's carelessness, and with that, unimaginable consequences upon two families.

Are You My Friend?

Rosoff, Meg. What I was. 1st American ed. New York : Viking, 2008, c2007.

In 1960s Britain, a young boarding school student breaks rules to maintain a friendship with a reclusive teen who lives in a hut by the sea, and after his friend falls ill, learns a dark secret that changes both of their lives.

Reardon, Robin. A secret edge. New York : Kensington, 2007.

Sixteen-year-old Jason Peele and his Indian boyfriend Raj spend a lot of time debating the philosophy of the pacifist Gandhi and his teaching of nonviolence. Their disagreement on the subject is cause for much of the conflict in this coming-of-age novel.

Tucker, Todd, 1968-. Over and under. 1st ed. New York : Thomas Dunne Books, 2008.

The bond of friendship is tested when the fathers of two twelve-year-old boys become enemies during the Borden Casket Company labor strike -- one is a manager, and the other is a union laborer -- as the boys, Andy and Tom, share one last life-changing summer.

Overcoming Obstacles

Garigliano, Jeff. Dogface : a novel. Pbk. ed. San Francisco : MacAdam/Cage, 2008, c2007.

Fourteen-year-old Loren has always been obsessed with all things military, so when his mother sends him to a boot camp that claims it can whip any teen back into shape, Loren thinks it will be a chance to live the military life he's always dreamed of, until he learns the camp is actually a scam run by an ex-con and his ditzy wife.

Thompson, Neal. Hurricane season : a coach, his team, and their triumph in the time of Katrina.

1st Free Press hardcover ed. New York : Free Press, 2007.

In a rousing testament to the fighting spirit of New Orleans, Thompson relates the remarkable story of the John Curtis Patriots--the high school football team that battled back from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina to become a beacon of hope for a beleaguered city.

Hill, Lawrence, 1957-. Someone knows my name : a novel. 1st American ed. New York : W.W. Norton & Co, c2007.

Kidnapped and taken from her family as a child, Aminata is forced aboard a ship bound for South Carolina, where she arrives at age 12, weak and ill, the other slaves her only family. But soon she is sold again and begins an exodus that will lead to Canada, where she discovers the same relentless hardship and stinging prejudice. Her hunger for freedom drives her back across the Atlantic to England, and in 1792, Aminata undertakes yet another ocean crossing, bound for the place of her birth.

McElwain, Jason. The game of my life : a true story of challenge, triumph, and growing up autistic. New York : New American Library, c2008.

Chronicles the experiences of Jason McElwain, a young man with autism who served as his high school basketball team's manager and shocked everyone with his shooting skills during a game in which the coach allowed him to play.

Could This Be True?

Discover's 20 things you didn't know about everything. New York : Collins, c2008.

A collection of twenty columns originally written for "Discover Magazine" which discuss scientific topics, such as obesity, aliens, the Internet, and germs.

Craughwell, Thomas J., 1956-. Stealing Lincoln's body. Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007.

Provides an account of the attempted theft of President Abraham Lincoln's corpse in 1876 by a gang of Chicago counterfeiters who planned to hold the body for ransom, shares the secret of where Lincoln and his young son were buried after the robbery attempt, and discusses the return of the remains to their present location.

Christy, Bryan. The lizard king : the true crimes and passions of the world's greatest reptile smugglers. 1st ed. New York : Twelve, 2008.

Presents an account of Mike Van Nostrand's inheritance of a reptile import-export business in Florida from his father which he turned into a lucrative smuggling operation before Fish and Wildlife Services agent Chip Bepler went after him, put him away for eight months, revoked his export license, and issued a 250,000 dollar fine.

Boese, Alex. Elephants on acid : and other bizarre experiments. 1st ed. Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, c2007.

Describes a variety of bizarre scientific and sociological experiments, including tests on the effects of LSD on an elephant, the validity of scratch-n-sniff paper, memory, sleep learning, if women who play hard to get are more attractive, and many more.

Facing Adversity

Bagley, T. H. (Tennent H.), 1925-. Spy wars : moles, mysteries, and deadly games. New Haven [Conn.] : Yale University Press, c2007.

Former CIA agent Tennent H. Bagley reflects on the Nosenko controversy during the 1960s; supporting his and the Angleton's handling of the situation and providing insider insight into what actual occurred during the KGB defector's time working for the CIA and interrogation.

Picoult, Jodi, 1966-. Nineteen minutes : a novel. 1st Atria Books hardcover ed. New York : Atria Books, 2007.

The people of Sterling, New Hampshire, are forever changed after a shooting at the high school leaves ten people dead, and the judge presiding over the trial tries to remain unbiased, even though her daughter witnessed the events and was friends with the assailant.

Near death in the mountains : true stories of disaster and survival. New York : Vintage Books, 2008.

This anthology offers a spellbinding collection of the greatest writing about survival mountaineering disasters.

Gillespie, Marcia. Maya Angelou : a glorious celebration. 1st ed. New York : Doubleday, c2008.

An illustrated biography, complete with family photographs and letters, of poet, playwright, and humanitarian Maya Angelou, displaying her life and work as an author, actress, director, and civil-rights activist.

Successful Wisdom

Stross, Randall E. Planet Google : how one company's all-encompassing vision is transforming our lives. New York : Free Press, 2008.

Stross explores the secretive world of today's most transformative and potentially disruptive company, uncovering Google's bold, provocative pursuit of control of all the world's information.

Pausch, Randy. The last lecture. 1st ed. New York : Hyperion, c2008.

Computer science professor Randy Pausch, who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, discusses how to overcome obstacles in one's life and achieve one's dreams.

McKay, Kim. True green : 100 everyday ways you can contribute to a healthier planet.

Washington, DC : National Geographic, c2006.

Describes one hundred ways in which individuals can make a positive difference in the environment through simple lifestyle changes in the home, in the garden, at work, while shopping and traveling, and in the community.

Graphic Symbols

Beronä, David A. Wordless books : the original graphic novels. New York : Abrams, c2008.

Examines the history of these woodcut books and the art and influence of pioneers like Frans Masereel, Lynd Ward, Otto Nüchel, William Gropper, Milt Gross, Laurence Hyde, and others.

Miles, Barry, 1943-. Peace : 50 years of protest. Pleasantville, NY : Reader's Digest, c2008.

Introduction -- "I am become death" -- The cold war -- Happy birthday, peace symbol -- The Aldermaston marches -- Peace around the world -- The fashion for peace -- Apocalypse now? -- Peace now!. Examines the origins and chronicles the fifty-year history of the famous peace symbol, which was first used by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) at the 1958 Aldermaston protest march in England.

Out of picture : art from the outside looking in. Villard Books trade pbk. ed. New York : Villard, 2007-c2008.

From the creators at Blue Sky Studios--the same Academy Award-winning group that has produced "Ice Age" and "Toy Story"--comes another gorgeously illustrated, full-color graphic novel short story anthology.