



Read annotations & learn more about the 2009 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, selected by YALSA.

2009 Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

Along with the full [Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers list](#) below, the committee selected the following titles as the Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers.

1. **Abel, Jessica, and Soria, Gabriel.** *Life Sucks*. 2008. First Second, \$19.95 (978-1-59643-107-2).
2. **Franzini, Michael.** *One Hundred Young Americans*. 2007. Harper Collins, \$29.95 (978-0-06119200-5).
3. **Fulbeck, Kip.** *Permanence*. 2008. Chronicle Books, \$19.95 (978-0-8118-6131-1).
4. **Kuklin, Susan.** *No Choirboy: Murder, Violence and Teenagers on Death Row*. 2008. Henry Holt, \$17.95 (978-0805079500).
5. **McMann, Lisa.** *Wake*. 2008. Simon & Schuster, \$15.99 (978-1-4169-5357-9).
6. **Redd, Nancy Amanda.** *Body Drama*. 2008. Penguin Group, \$20.00 (978-1-592-40326-4).
7. **Scalin, Noah.** *Skulls*. 2008. Lark, \$14.95 (978-1600593758).
8. **Shiraz, Yasmin.** *Retaliation*. 2008. Rolling Hills Press, \$14.95 (978-0971817432).
9. **Smits, Kim and Maat, Matthijs.** *Custom Kicks*. 2008. Laurence King Publisher, \$19.95 (978-1-85669-542-8).
10. **Willin, Melvyn.** *Ghosts: Caught on Film*. 2007. David & Charles, \$16.99 (9780715327283).

2009 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

The Quick Picks list, presented annually at the ALA Midwinter Meeting suggests books that teens, ages 12-18, will pick up on their own and read for pleasure; it is geared to the teenager who, for whatever reason, does not like to read.

“The list is overflowing with diverse titles; we have everything from stunning portraits, tattoo revelations to fallen stars and skulls made of soap suds,” said Joy Millam, committee chair. “This list is a true reflection of the teens we serve. Our goal was to put out a list that gives every reluctant reader a book to connect with personally.”

2009 Titles

Fiction

Bodeen, S.A. *The Compound*. 2008. Feiwel & Friends, \$16.95 (978-0312370152).
They never thought the world would come to an end.

Booth, Coe. *Kendra*. 2008. Scholastic, \$16.99 (978-0439925365).
Looking for love in all the wrong places.

Collins, Suzanne. *Hunger Games*. 2008. Scholastic, \$17.99 (978-0439023481).
A survivor game, gone deadly.

Divine, L. *Drama High*, (series). 2008. Dafina Books, \$9.95.
Drama, drama, drama.

Fahy, Thomas. *The Unspoken*. 2008. Simon & Schuster, \$15.99 (978-1-4169-4007-4).
Cursed with your greatest fear.

Fields, Terri. *My Father's Son*. 2008. Roaring Brook Press, \$16.95 (978-1-59643-349-6).
Wearing the face of serial killer is tough.

Giles, Gail. *Right Behind You*. 2007. Little Brown, \$15.99 (978-0-3161-6636-2).
Life is rough; living with the knowledge you killed a kid.

Golden, Christopher. *Poison Ink*. 2008. Random House, \$8.99 (978-0-385-73483-7).
Group tattoos gone bad.

Hernandez, David. *Suckerpunch*. 2008. Harper Collins, \$16.99 (978-0-060117330-1).
Roadtrip with gun.

High, Linda Oatman. *Planet Pregnancy*. 2008. Boyds Mills Press, \$16.95 (978-1-59078-584-3).
Adopting, keeping and leaping.

Hopkins, Ellen. *Identical*. 2008. McElderry, \$17.99 (978-1-4169-5005-9).
Taboo, which twin has it worse?

James, Brian. *Thief*. 2008. Push, \$8.99 (978-0-545-03400-5).
Foster kids forced to steal.

Jordan, Dream. *Hot Girl*. 2008. St Martin's, \$9.95 (978-0-312-38284-1).
Things you want sometimes costs you more than you want to pay.

Kern, Peggy. *No Way Out*. 2008. Townsend Press, \$4.95 (978-1-49194-176-7).
Bluford High kid desperate for money.

Kropp, Paul. *Behind the Door*. 2008. HIP Edge, \$10.95 (978-1-897039-26-7).
Trapped without a door.

Krovatin, Christopher and Yates, Kelly (Illus). *Venomous*. 2008. Ginee Seo Books, \$16.99 (978-1-4169-2487-6). When rage is in your blood.

Langan, Paul. *Schooled*. 2008. Townsend Press, \$4.95 (978-1-49194-177-4).
Bluford boy has NBA dreams.

Mac, Carrie. *Pain & Wastings*. Orca Soundings, \$9.95 (978-1-55143-904-4).
Facing life with death.

Mancusi, Mari. *Gamer Girl*. Dutton, \$16.99 (978-0525479956).
Avatar or the real you?

McDaniel, Lurlene. *Prey*. 2008. Random House, \$10.99 (978-0-385-73453-0).
Who's using whom?

McDonnell, Margot. *Torn to Pieces*. 2008. Random House, \$15.99 (978-0-385-0-73559-9).
When mom disappears, secrets are revealed.

McMann, Lisa. *Wake*. 2008. Simon & Schuster, \$15.99 (978-1-4169-5357-9).
Stranded in other people's dreams..

Mead, Richelle. *Frostbite: A Vampire Academy Novel*. 2008. Penguin, \$8.99 (978-1-59514175).
Love and jealousy collide.

Millner, Denene and Miller, Mitzi. *Hotlanta* (Series). 2008. Point, \$8.99 (0-545-00308-3).
Atlanta just got hotter.

Neri, G. *Chess Rumble*. 2007. Lee and Low Books, \$18.95, (978-1-58430-279-7).
Real life battles, chess style.

Olsen, Sylvia. *Middle Row*. 2008. Orca, \$9.95 (978-155143-899-3).
When you are not where you are supposed to be...

Pauley, Kimberly. *Sucks to Be Me: The All-True Confessions of Mina Hamilton, Teen Vampire (Maybe)*. 2008. Mirrorstone, \$14.95, (978-0-7869-5028-7). It bites when your parents are vampires.

Perez, Marlene. *Dead is the New Black*. Harcourt, \$7.95 (978-0152064082).
Latest accessory: a mini-coffin..

Reisz, Kristopher. *Unleashed*. 2008. Simon Pulse, \$7.99 (978-1-4169-4007-4).
Why be a human, when you can be a werewolf?

Schroeder, Lisa. *I Heart You, You Haunt Me.* 2008. Simon & Schuster, \$7.99 (978-1-4169-5520-7).

Imagine having your dead boyfriend “living” at your house.

Schumacher, Julie. *Black Box.* 2008. Delacorte, \$15.99 (978-0385735421).

Depression, close to home.

Scott, Elizabeth. *Living Dead Girl.* 2008. Simon Pulse, \$17.00 (978-4169-6059-1).

Painful to the end.

Shiraz, Yasmin. *Retaliation.* 2008. Rolling Hills Press, \$14.95 (978-0971817432).

Everyone’s involved when one girl gets jumped.

Sitomer, Alan Lawrence. *The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez.* 2008. Hyperion Books for Children, \$17.99 (978-1-4231-1072-9).

Sonia is everything to everyone except herself.

Snow, Carol. *Switch.* 2008. Harper Teen, \$16.99 (978-0061452086).

Shocked into a gorgeous body.

Stolarz, Laurie Faria. *Project 17.* 2007. Hyperion, \$15.99 (978-0-7868-3856-1).

Teens and an abandoned insane asylum take on a Blair Witch twist.

Taylor, Brooke. *Undone.* 2008. Walker Books, \$16.95 (978-802709763-6).

Losing a friend—inheriting a friend’s to-do list

Trondheim, Lewis. *Kaput and Zosky.* 2008. Roaring Brook Press, \$13.95 (978-1-59643-132-4).

Two rotten aliens coming to a planet near you.

Varrato, Tony. *Fakie.* 2008. Lobster Press, \$7.97 (978-1-897073-79-7).

New town, new identity, same danger.

Varrato, Tony. *Outrage.* 2008. HIP Edge, \$10.95 (978-1-897039-28-1).

Bad days sometimes just get worse.

Weaver, Will. *Saturday Night Dirt.* 2007. Farrar, Straus Giroux, \$14.95 (978-0-374-35060-4).

One night can make a difference at the speedway.

Nonfiction

Abel, Jessica, and Soria, Gabriel. *Life Sucks.* 2008. First Second, \$19.95 (978-1-59643-107-2).

Vegetarian vampire looks for love.

Badillo, Steve and Werner, Doug. *Skateboarding: Legendary Tricks.* 2008. Tracks Publishing, \$12.95 (978-1884654305).
Skateboarding, trick by trick.

Black, Holly and Naifeh, Ted (Illus.). *Good Neighbors: Kin.* Scholastic, \$16.99 (978-0439855624).
Problem parents and faeries.

Boos, Ben. *Swords: An Artist's Devotion.* 2008. Candlewick, \$24.99 (978-0763631428).
Amazing blades.

Bower, Crai S. and Millard, Travis (illus). *Farts: A Spotter's Guide.* 2008. Chronicle, \$12.95 (978-0811866095).
SBD's and more: full sound effects.

Bowman, Robin (photographer). *It's Complicated: The American Teenager.* 2007. Umbrage Editions, \$40.00 (978-1884167690).
414 intriguing portraits.

Carey, Percy and Wimberly, Ronald (Illus.). *Sentences: The Life of M.F. Grimm.* 2007. Vertigo, \$19.99 (978-1-4-12-1046-5).
Sesame Street to drug dealer to rap star.

Comickers Magazine. *Comickers Art 2: Create Amazing Manga Characters.* 2008. HarperCollins, \$24.95 (978-0061452543).
Essential guide for all aspiring manga artists.

Conley, Erin Elisabeth. *Uncool: A Girl's Guide to Misfitting In.* 2008. Orange Avenue Publishing, \$9.95 (978-0-977-2660-9-8).
When fitting in isn't what you want.

D'Arcy, Sean. *Freestyle Soccer Tricks.* 2008. Firefly, \$14.95 (978-1554074044).
Bend it like Beckham and then some.

Ecclesine, Patrick. *Faces of Sunset Boulevard.* Santa Monica Press, \$39.95 (978-1595800404).
LA comes alive.

Editors of Cosmogirl. *All the Questions About Hair, Makeup, Skin & More.* 2008. Hearst Books, \$5.95 (978-1-58816-644-9).
Your beauty questions answered.

Eminem. *The Way I Am.* 2008. Dutton, \$40.00 (978-0525950325).
In his own words.

Fardon, John. *Do Not Open: An Encyclopedia of the World's Best-Kept Secrets.* 2007. DK, \$24.99 (0-7566-33205-6).
South Park meets World Book.

Franco, Betsy (Ed.) *Falling Hard: 100 Love Poems by Teenagers.* 2008. Candlewick Press, \$15.99 (978-0-7636-3437-7).
Love in their words.

Franzini, Michael. *One Hundred Young Americans.* 2007. Harper Collins, \$29.95 (978-0-06119200-5).
Photos and true stories, state by state.

Fulbeck, Kip. *Permanence.* 2008. Chronicle Books, \$19.95 (978-0-8118-6131-1).
Behind every tattoo there's a story..

Garza, Mario. *More Stuff on My Cat: 2x the Stuff + 2x the Cats = 4x the Awesome.* 2008. Chronicle, \$12.95 (978-0811862257).
Feline hijinks.

Greenberg, Steve. *Gadget Nation: A Journey Through the Eccentric World of Invention.* 2008. Sterling, \$19.95 (140273686X). Quirky innovations and inventions.

Haden, Christen. *Creepy Cute Crochet: Zombies, Ninjas, Robots, and More!* 2008. Quirk, \$14.95 (978-1594742323).
Make your own zombie.

Hague, Michael. *In the Small.* 2008. Little Brown, \$19.99 (978-0-316-01323-4).
When predator becomes prey.

Harrison, Ian. *Take Me to Your Leader: Weird, Strange, and Totally Useless Information.* 2007. DK, \$25.00 (0-7566-3202-1).
Trivia and pop culture, strange but true.

Horowitz, Anthony and Johnston, Antony. *Point Blank: The Graphic Novel.* 2008. Philomel, \$14.99 (978-0-399-25026-2).
Alex Rider in full color.

Hudson, Noel. *The Band Name Book.* 2008. Boston Mills Press, \$29.95 (978-1-55046-487-0).
The good, the bad, and the shocking.

Khidekel, Marina. *The Quiz Life.* 2008. Delacorte Press, \$6.99 (978-0-375-84263-4).
The real you, revealed.

Kibuishi, Kazu. *Flight: Vol. 4.* 2007. Villard, \$24.95 (978-0-345-49040-7).
Short stories go graphic.

King, Dennis. *Art of Modern Rock: Mini #1: A-Z.* 2007. Chronicle, \$18.95 (978-08118-634-2).
Posters that rock.

Kuklin, Susan. *No Choirboy: Murder, Violence and Teenagers on Death Row.* 2008. Henry Holt, \$17.95 (978-0805079500).
Teen inmates: raw and uncensored.

Li, Yishan. *500 Manga Creatures.* 2008. HarperCollins, \$19.95 (978-4921205072).
Chibis, dragons and manga mania!

The Manga University Culinary Institute and Hattori, Chihiro. *The Manga Cookbook.* 2007. Japanime Co. Ltd., \$14.95 (978-4921205072).
Japanese cooking, manga-style.

Ngo, Karen. *Indognito.* 2008. Little, Brown and Company, \$0.00 (978-0-316-03550-7).
Doggies in costumes= irresistible.

O'Meara, Donna. *Volcano: A Visual Guide.* Firefly, \$29.95, (978-1-55-407353-5).
Lava flowing around the world.

Paglen, Trevor. *I Could Tell You But Then You Would Have to Be Destroyed By Me.* Melville House, \$22.95 (3933633328).
Military secrets revealed.

Peckham, Aaron. *Mo'Urban Dictionary: Ridonkulous Street Slang Defined.* 2007. Andrews McMeel Publishing, \$12.99 (978-0-7407-6875-0).
Holla! A funky, fresh fularious book.

Powell, Ben. *Skateboarding Skills: The Reader's Guide.* Firefly, \$16.95 (978-1-55407-360-3).
All the moves, tricks and tips to get you skating.

Reber, Deborah. *Chill: Stress-Reducing Techniques for a More Balanced, Peaceful You.* 2008. Simon & Schuster, \$9.99 (978-1-4169-5526-7).
Relax, take a deep breath...and chill.

Redd, Nancy Amanda. *Body Drama.* 2008. Penguin Group, \$20.00 (978-1-592-40326-4).
Real girls, real bodies, real issues, real answers.

Saffel, Steve. *Spider-Man, The Icon.* 2007. Titan Books, \$49.95 (978-1-845-76685-6).
A ginormous visual feast.

Sanchez, Reymundo and Rodriguez, Sonia. *Lady Q: The Rise and Fall of a Latin Queen.* 2008. Chicago Review Press, \$24.95 (978-1556527227).
The titles says it all.

Scalin, Noah. *Skulls*. 2008. Lark, \$14.95 (978-1600593758).
From bread slices to garbage bags.

Shapiro, Bill. *Other People's Love Letters: 150 Letters You Were Never Meant to See*. 2007. Clarkson Potter/Crown Publishing Group, \$22.50 (978-0-307-38264-1).
Voyeuristic valentines.

Smith, Larry and Fershleiser, Rachel. *Not Quite What I Was Planning: Six Word Memoirs by Writers Famous and Obscure*. 2008. Harper Perennial, \$12.00 (978-0061374050).
Short quips summarizing life.

Smits, Kim and Maat, Matthijs. *Custom Kicks*. 2008. Laurence King Publisher, \$19.95 (978-1-85669-542-8).
Sneak peek at cool sneaks.

Spears, Rick and BB, Chuck (Illus.). *Black Metal, Vol. 1*. 2007. Oni Press, \$11.95 (978-1932664720).
Death Metal misfits invade suburbia.

Steinberger, Major Aimee. *Japan Ai: A Tall Girl's Adventures in Japan*. 2007. Go! Media, \$16.99 (978-1-933617-83-1).
The ultimate J-pop fan's travel book.

Tanen, Sloan and Hagen, Stefan. *Appetite for Detention*. Bloomsbury, \$14.99 (978-1599900759).
Move over peeps, these chicks are cute!

Willin, Melvyn. *Ghosts: Caught on Film*. 2007. David & Charles, \$16.99 (0715327283).
Believe it or not.

Wilson, Daniel H. *How to Build a Robot Army: Tips on Defending the Earth Against Alien Invaders*. 2007. Bloomsbury Publishing, \$13.95 (1-59691-281-2).
Robot allies are in your future.

Zinczeko, David. *Eat This, Not That!*. 2008. Rodale, \$19.95 (978-1-59486-854-2).
Look at a pie chart in a whole new way.