



Making it Real: Reaching the Reluctant Young Adult Reader

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My Ten Favorite Books from the 2009 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers:

1. Bodeen, S.A. – *The Compound* – Nuclear war? Or lies?
2. Farndon, John – *Do Not Open* – “An Encyclopedia of the World’s Best-Kept Secrets
3. Varrato, Tony – *Fakie* – Will a new look, town, and name save him from ruthless assassins?
4. Greenberg, Steve – *Gadget Nation* – Journey through the eccentric world of invention.
5. Collins, Susan – *Hunger Games* – Survivor in the future, who wants to live the most?
6. Kuklin, Susan – *No Choirboy: Murder, Violence and Teenagers on Death Row* – True stories of teens’ lives.
7. Fulbeck, Kip – *Permanence* – Whys of tattoos answered in the lasting “color.”
8. Giles, Gail – *Right Behind You* – Can you deal with life after killing a kid?
9. McDonnell, M – *Torn to Pieces* – Frequently absent mother and strange phone calls lead to a nightmarish life.
10. McMann, Lisa – *Wake* – Dreamwalker gets sucked into her classmates’ dreams.

Ten Clues to Finding a Reluctant Reader

1. Says she does not like to read
2. May want to read the same book over and over again
3. May be more interested in nonfiction than in fiction
4. Turns to the end of the book to check the number of pages
5. May be “too busy” with work, AP classes, after school activities, sports, etc.
6. Wants to read the books that everyone is talking about
7. May just never have found the “right” book
8. Could be “any” teen from any demographic
9. Says reading sucks
10. May actually “read” a lot, but just not books

Is It a Quick Pick? Ten questions

1. Does it “hook” me right from the beginning?
2. Do I find the cover appealing?
3. Is it about people like me?
4. Do I finish the book?
5. Do I talk about the book with my friends?
6. Does the book “move”? Is it a page turner?
7. Is it funny? Or scary? Does it keep its promise?
8. Have I heard about this author?
9. What about the format? Is it easily read?
10. Is it a “baby book?”

Is It a Quick Pick? Answers to the above ten questions

1. Does it “hook” me right from the beginning? My Father’s Son
2. Do I find the cover appealing? Gadget Nation / Body Drama / Life Sucks
3. Is it about people like me? The Girls
4. Do I finish the book? The First Part Last
5. Do I talk about the book with my friends? The Knife of Never Letting Go
6. Does the book “move”? Is it a page turner? Cut
7. Is it funny? Or scary? Does it keep its promise? Unwind / What My Mother Doesn’t Know
8. Have I heard about this author? Skeleton Key: An Alex Rider Adventure
9. What about the format? Is it easily read? Postsecret: Extraordinary Confessions from Ordinary Lives
10. Is it a “baby book”? Between Boardslides and Burnout