

Tewksbury Public Library Teen Services Department

Book Suggestions for Teens

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[Goodreads](#), or [NoveList](#) (requires library card)

***Split* - Avasthi, Swati (T)**

A teenaged boy thrown out of his house by his abusive father goes to live with his older brother, who ran away from home years ago to escape the abuse.

***The Perks of Being a Wallflower* - Chbosky, Stephen (T, M)**

A haunting coming of age novel told in letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the life of Charlie, a freshman in high school who is a wallflower, shy and introspective, and very intelligent, it's a story of what it's like to grow up in high school, tracing a course through uncharted territory in the world of first dates, family dramas and new friends.

***I Swear* - Davis, Lane (T)**

After Leslie Gatlin kills herself, her bullies reflect on how things got so far.

***Lock and Key* - Dessen, Sarah (T)**

When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about Cora's new life, what makes a family, how to allow people to help her when she needs it, and that she too has something to offer others.

***Blank Confession* - Hautman, Pete (T)**

A new and enigmatic student named Shayne appears at high school one day, befriends the smallest boy in the school, and takes on a notorious drug dealer before turning himself in to the police for killing someone.

Teen Issues:

Child Abuse

& Bullying

***Burned* - Hopkins, Ellen (T, E)**

Sequel: *Smoke*

Also try: *Fallout & Identical*

Seventeen-year-old Pattyn, the eldest daughter in a large Mormon family, is sent to her aunt's Nevada ranch for the summer, where she temporarily escapes her alcoholic, abusive father and finds love and acceptance, only to lose everything when she returns home.

***Stuck on Earth* - Klass, David**

On a secret mission to evaluate whether the human race should be annihilated, a space alien inhabits the body of a bullied fourteen-year-old boy.

***Missing* - MacPhail, Catherine (T)**

Shortly after her runaway brother is declared dead, thirteen-year-old Maxine begins receiving phone calls from someone claiming to be her brother.

***Jellicoe Road* - Marchetta, Melina (T)**

Abandoned by her drug-addicted mother at the age of eleven, high school student Taylor Markham struggles with her identity and family history at a boarding school in Australia.

Key to Locations:

T = teen fiction

A = adult fiction

J = juvenile fiction

S = sound recording

E = e-book or e-audio

TG = teen graphic

AG = adult graphic

M = made into movie

Ordered by author's
last name unless
otherwise marked.

***The Knife That Killed Me* - McGowan, Anthony (T)**

Paul Varderman, a secondary student in an English Catholic School, is a loner until, just as he is becoming friends with "the freaks," the school bully encourages Paul to join his gang and gives him a knife to carry as an incentive.

***If You Find Me* - Murdoch, Emily (T)**

A broken-down camper hidden deep in a national forest is the only home fifteen year-old Carey can remember. The one bright spot is Carey's younger sister, Jenessa, who depends on Carey to survive. All they have is each other, as their mentally ill mother comes and goes with greater frequency. Until one day their mother disappears for good, and two strangers arrive. Suddenly, the girls are thrust into a new world of high school, clothes and boys. Now, Carey must face the truth of why her mother abducted her ten years ago, while haunted by a past that won't let her go. Carey knows she must keep her sister close, and her secrets even closer, or risk watching her new life come crashing down.

***Darius & Twig* - Myers, Walter Dean (T)**

Two best friends, a writer and a runner, deal with bullies, family issues, social pressures, and their quest for success coming out of Harlem.

***Chasing the Bear* - Parker, Robert B. (T)**

Spenser reflects back to when he was fourteen-years-old and how he helped his best friend Jeannie when she was abducted by her abusive father.

***Freak* - Pixley, Marcella (T)**

Twelve-year-old Miriam, poetic, smart, and quirky, is considered a freak by the popular girls at her middle school, and she eventually explodes in response to their bullying, revealing an inner strength she did not know she had.

***Burn* - Phillips, Suzanne (T)**

Bullied constantly during his freshman year in high school, Cameron's anger and isolation grows, leading to deadly consequences.

***Bruiser* - Shusterman, Neal (T)**

Inexplicable events start to occur when sixteen-year-old twins Tennyson and Brontë befriend a troubled and misunderstood outcast, aptly nicknamed Bruiser, and his little brother, Cody.

***I'll Be There* - Sloan, Holly Goldberg (T)**

Raised by an unstable father who keeps constantly on the move, Sam Border has long been the voice of his silent younger brother, Riddle, but everything changes when Sam meets Emily Bell and, welcomed by her family, the brothers are faced with normalcy for the first time.

***Some Girls Are* - Summers, Courtney (T)**

Regina, a high school senior in the popular — and feared — crowd, suddenly falls out of favor and becomes the object of the same sort of vicious bullying that she used to inflict on others, until she finds solace with one of her former victims.

***Forbidden* - Suzuma, Tabitha (T)**

Sixteen-year-old Maya and seventeen-year-old Lochan tell, in their separate voices, of their confusion and longing as they fall in love with one another after years of functioning as parents to three younger siblings due to their alcoholic mother's neglect.

***Crossing Lines* - Volponi, Paul (T)**

High school senior Adonis struggles to do the right thing when his fellow football players escalate their bullying of a new classmate, Alan, who is transgender.

***The Rules of Survival* - Werlin, Nancy (T, E)**

Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

***Choker* - Woods, Elizabeth (T)**

Teenaged Cara, solitary and bullied in high school, is delighted to reconnect with her childhood friend Zoe whose support and friendship help Cara gain self-confidence, even as her classmates start dying.

Suggest changes to this list
by emailing ccoveney@mvlc.org.
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Summaries taken from library catalog.

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