

Tewksbury Public Library Teen Services Department

Book Suggestions for Teens

Search for these items in our [Catalog](#)
More ideas? Try [Books & Authors](#),
[Goodreads](#), or [NoveList](#) (requires library card)

***Because I Am Furniture* - Chaltas, Thalia (T)**

The youngest of three, fourteen-year-old Anke feels both relieved and neglected that her father abuses her brother and sister but ignores her, but when she catches him with one of her friends, she finally becomes angry enough to take action.

***Freakboy* - Clark, Kristin (T)**

Told from three viewpoints, seventeen-year-old Brendan, a wrestler, struggles to come to terms with his place on the transgender spectrum while Vanessa, the girl he loves, and Angel, a transgender acquaintance, try to help.

***The Lightning Dreamer: Cuba's Greatest Abolitionist* - Engle, Margarita (T)**

In free verse, evokes the voice of Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda, a book-loving writer, feminist, and abolitionist who courageously fought injustice in nineteenth-century Cuba.

***Jumped In* - Flores-Scott, Patrick (T)**

In the two years since his mother left him with his grandparents in Washington, Sam has avoided making friends and perfected the art of being a slacker, but being paired with a frightening new student for a slam poetry unit transforms his life.

***Hidden* - Frost, Helen (T)**

When fourteen-year-olds Wren and Darra meet at a Michigan summer camp, both are overwhelmed by memories from six years earlier when Darra's father stole a car, unaware that Wren was hiding in the back.

***Rumble* - Hopkins, Ellen (T)**

Also try: *Tilt*, *Tricks*, & *Burned*

Eighteen-year-old Matt's atheism is tested when, after a horrific accident of his own making that plunges him into a dark, quiet place, he hears a voice that calls everything he has ever disbelieved into question.

Novels

in VERSE

***Addie on the Inside* - Howe, James (T)**

Companion to: *The Misfits*, *Totally Joe*, &

Also Known As Elvis

Outspoken thirteen-year-old Addie Carle learns about love, loss, and staying true to herself as she navigates seventh grade, enjoys a visit from her grandmother, fights with her boyfriend, and endures gossip and meanness from her former best friend.

***Coaltown Jesus* - Koertge, Ronald (T)**

Also try: *Stoner* & *Spaz* & *Now Playing*

Praying for help after the sudden death of his 17-year-old brother, young Walker is astonished by the appearance of an irreverent Jesus in his bedroom who imparts unexpected strength and comfort while helping Walker understand some of life's biggest questions.

***Kiss of Broken Glass* - Kuderick, Madeleine (T)**

A tale told through evocative verse chronicles a mandatory 72-hour psych evaluation of a teen who has been caught cutting herself in an effort to feel alive.

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.

***Heaven Looks a Lot Like the Mall* - Mass, Wendy (T)**

Also try: *Every Soul a Star* & *A Mango-Shaped Space*

When high school junior Tessa Reynolds falls into a coma after getting hit in the head during gym class, she experiences heaven as the mall where her parents work, and she revisits key events from her life, causing her to reevaluate herself and how she wants to live.

***Under the Mesquite* - McCall, Guadalupe Garcia (T)**

Throughout her high school years, as her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on more responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings, while finding refuge in acting and writing poetry.

***Sold* - McCormick, Patricia (T, E)**

Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi, though poor, enjoys her life until the Himalayan monsoons wash away her family's crops and she is sold to a brothel in India by her stepfather. She remembers her mother's wisdom, "Simply to endure is to triumph," until the day comes that she can reclaim her life.

***Street Love* - Myers, Walter Dean (T)**

Also try: *Monster* & *Scorpions*

This story told in free verse is set against a background of street gangs and poverty in Harlem in which seventeen-year-old African American Damien takes a bold step to ensure that he and his new love will not be separated.

***October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* - Newman, Lesléa**

Relates, from various points of view, events from the night of October 6, 1998, when twenty-one-year-old Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, was lured out of a Wyoming bar, savagely beaten, tied to a fence, and left to die.

***Dr. Bird's Advice for Sad Poets* - Roskos, Evan (T)**

A sixteen-year-old boy wrestling with depression and anxiety tries to cope by writing poems, reciting Walt Whitman, hugging trees, and figuring out why his sister has been kicked out of the house.

***Stop Pretending: What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy* - Sones, Sonya (T)**

Also try: *What My Mother Doesn't Know*

A younger sister has a difficult time adjusting to life after her older sister has a mental breakdown.

***The Language Inside* - Thompson, Holly (T)**

Raised in Japan, American-born tenth-grader Emma is disconcerted by a move to Massachusetts for her mother's breast cancer treatment, because half of Emma's heart remains with her friends recovering from the tsunami.

***A Time to Dance* - Venkatraman, Padma (T)**

In India, a girl who excels at Bharatanatyam dance refuses to give up after losing a leg in an accident.

***Waiting* - Williams, Carol Lynch (T)**

Also try: *Signed*, *Skye Harper*

As the death of her older brother devastates the family, teenaged London struggles to find redemption and finds herself torn between her brother's best friend and a handsome new boy in town.

Poetic novels for different ages?

Check out these authors!

Children's Fiction

Alexander, Kwame (*The Crossover*) (J)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis (*The Red Pencil*) (J)

Sternberg, Julie (*Eleanor* series) (J)

Weston, Robert Paul (*Zorgamazoo*) (J)

Wissinger, Tamera Will (*Gone Fishing*) (J)

Adult Fiction

Hopkins, Ellen (*Collateral*) (A)

Sones, Sonya (*The Hunchback of Neiman Marcus*) (A)

Suggest changes to this list
by emailing ccoveney@mvlc.org.

Created by Corinne Coveney, © 2015.
Summaries taken from library catalog.

Tewksbury Public Library
300 Chandler Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876
978-640-4490 www.tewksburypl.org