

Michigan Library Association Thumbs Up! Award: Great Books for Teens from 2008

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN 9781416905851.

Isabel is a slave in Rhode Island at the beginning of the American Revolution. When her kindly mistress dies she and her sister get sold to a cruel woman in New York with ties to the British. Isabel makes decisions about where her loyalties lie based on which side is more likely to grant her freedom.

@Ashihara, Hinako. *Sand Chronicles*. San Francisco: Shoji Beat, 2008. ISBN 9781421514772.

After her parents get divorced, Ann Uekusa and her mother move from Tokyo to rural Shimane. Accustomed to the anonymity of city living, Ann can't get used to the almost overbearing kindness of the people in her mother's hometown. But when personal tragedy strikes, Ann discovers how much she needs that kindness.

Bodeen, S.A. *Compound*. New York: Feiwel & Friends, 2008. ISBN 9780312370152.

Fifteen-year-old Eli, his parents and sisters have spent six years in a lavish underground compound created by his wealthy father to protect them from a nuclear disaster. His grandmother and twin brother were left behind and presumed perished, until Eli discovers the awful truth.

Brothers, Megan. *Debbie Harry Sings in French*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 2008. ISBN 0805080805.

After a stint in rehab where the music of Blondie becomes his recovery touchstone, 16-year-old former alcoholic Johnny is sent to live with his uncle to start anew. School bullies call him "faggot," but eyeliner-wearing Johnny knows he's not gay because he's smitten with Maria, a Goth chick who shares his love of '80s punk.

@Cashore, Kristin. *Graceling*. New York: Harcourt, 2008. ISBN 9780152063962.

Book #2: *Fire*, published October 2009.

Feared as a killer since her childhood, Lady Katsa uses her unusual Grace (superhuman gift) in the service of her uncle, King Randa.

\*Collins, Suzanne. *Hunger Games*. New York: Scholastic, 2008. ISBN 9780439023481.

Katniss lives in a future in which one boy and one girl from each of 12 districts must compete in a competition to the death for reality TV. Her younger sister is chosen to compete but Katniss, who has been hunting to survive, goes in her place.

Trilogy: *Hunger Games*. Book #2: *Catching Fire*, 2009.

Connor, Leslie. *Waiting for Normal*. New York: Harper Collins, 2008. ISBN 0060890886.

Following the divorce of her mom and stepfather, Addie copes with a new school and missing her little sisters while trying to keep her mom under control.

De la Pena, Matt. *Mexican Whiteboy*. New York: Delacorte, 2008. ISBN 9780385733106.

No matter where he lives, half white, half Mexican 16-year-old Danny Lopez is an outsider. But baseball is the great equalizer.

Doctorow, Cory. *Little Brother*. New York: Tor Teen, 2008. ISBN 9780765319852.

When he ditches school one Friday morning, 17-year-old Marcus is hoping to get a head start on the Harajuku Fun Madness clue. But after a terrorist attack in San Francisco, he and his friends are swept up in the extralegal world of the Department of Homeland Security.

@Frost, Helen. *Diamond Willow*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. ISBN 0374317763. In her small Alaskan town, 12-year-old Diamond Willow, named for the tree, prefers to be just "Willow" but muses that if her parents had called her "Diamond," "would I have been one of those sparkly kinds of girls?" Instead she describes herself as an average, part-Athabaskan girl with one good friend, who finds herself more comfortable around her family's sled dogs than with people.

\*\*Gaiman, Neil. *Graveyard Book*. New York: HarperCollins Pub., 2008. ISBN 9780060530921. An orphaned boy is raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

Gallante, Cecilia. *Patron Saint of Butterflies*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008. ISBN 9781599902494.

Secluded at the Mount blessing compound under the rule of the manipulative Emmanuel, 14-year-old Agnes strives for sainthood. Her best friend, Honey, questions Emmanuel's tactics and authority, and secretly longs for a normal life with TV, fashionable clothes and fast food.

George, Jessica Day. *Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008. ISBN 9781599901091.

A girl travels east of the sun and west of the moon to free her beloved prince from a magic spell.

Goldman, Steven. *Two Parties, One Tux, and a Very Short Film about the Grapes of Wrath*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008. ISBN 9781599902715.

It's junior year and Mitchell goes from having no dates to two dates to the prom, his best friend telling him he's gay, and his usually strong academic record is in jeopardy thanks to a rather inappropriate claymation film he submitted in lieu of an English paper.

Green, John. *Paper Towns*. New York: Dutton Books, 2008. ISBN 9780525478188.

One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

\*\*Harmon, Michael B. *Last Exit to Normal*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. ISBN 9780375840982.

Ben's father announces he's gay when Ben is 14 so his mom walks out. Three years and a whole lot of trouble later, Dad and his partner Edward take Ben to Rough Butte, Montana so Ben can grow up in a different environment.

Katcher, Brian. *Playing with Matches*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2008. ISBN 9780385735445.

Ten billion women in the world and the universe can't spare one for Leon Sanders, until he makes Melody laugh. Then the fun begins.

\*\*Krovatin, Chris. *Venomous*. New York: Antheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN 9781416924876.

Locke is a teenager with a huge anger problem which he calls “Venom”. While trying to get the better of his venom, Locke makes some friends, falls in love, beats somebody up, gets a tattoo, and basically lives his teenaged life.

Lockhart, E. *Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*. New York: Hyperion, 2008. ISBN 9780786838189.

Frankie Landau-Banks at age 14: Debate Club. A mildly geeky girl attending a highly competitive boarding school. Frankie Landau-Banks at age 15: A knockout figure. A sharp tongue. A chip on her shoulder. And a gorgeous new senior boyfriend: the supremely goofy, word-obsessed Matthew Livingston. Frankie—no longer the kind of girl to take “no” for an answer.

@Marcheta, Melina. *Jellicoe Road*. New York: Harper Teen, 2008. ISBN 0061431834.

Just when Taylor's only guardian, Hannah, disappears from the Jellicoe School campus, she must lead her classmates in secret war games against neighboring locals (Townies) and a camp of military kids (Cadets).

@Murdock, Catherine. *Princess Ben*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2008. ISBN 9780618959716.

A girl is transformed, through instruction in life at court, determination, and magic, from sullen, pudgy, graceless Ben into Crown Princess Benevolence, a fit ruler of the kingdom of Montagne as it faces war with neighboring Drachensbett.

@Ness, Patrick. *Knife of Never Letting Go*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN 9780763639310.

Pursued by power-hungry Prentiss and mad minister Aaron, young Todd and Viola set out across New World searching for answers about his colony's true past and seeking a way to warn the ship bringing hopeful settlers from Old World.

Series Name: Chaos Walking. Book #2: Ask and the Answer, 2009.

@Pearson, Mary. *Adoration of Jenna Fox*. New York: Henry Holt, 2008. ISBN 9780805076684.  
New book by this author (not a sequel): *The Miles Between* published October 2009.

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

Scott, Elizabeth. *Living Dead Girl*. New York: Simon Pulse, 2008. ISBN 9781416960591.

Kidnapped at 10 from a school field trip, and held captive by a psycho child molester until age 15, “Alice” has to choose her replacement, knowing she would rather be dead than alive.

Scott, Elizabeth. *Stealing Heaven*. New York: Harper Teen, 2008. ISBN 9780061122804.

In Heaven, Danielle decides she doesn't want to steal anymore even though it's all her mom has taught her to do well.

Stratton, Allan. *Chanda's Wars*. New York: Harper Teen, 2008. ISBN 9780060872625.

Chanda Kabelo, a teenaged African girl, must save her younger siblings after they are kidnapped and forced to serve as child soldiers in General Mandiki's rebel army.

Sequel to *Chanda's Secrets*.

@Werlin, Nancy. *Impossible*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN 0803730020.

Are you going to Scarborough Fair? Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme! This is the story behind the ballad, featuring teen Lucy Scarborough. Part fantasy, romance, and mystery.

Zarr, Sara. *Sweethearts*. New York: Little, Brown, and Co., 2008. ISBN 9780316014557.

After losing her soul mate, Cameron, when they were nine, Jennifer, now seventeen, transforms herself from the unpopular fat girl into the beautiful and popular Jenna, but Cameron's unexpected return dredges up memories that cause both social and emotional turmoil.

(New book, published October 2009, *Once Was Lost*.)

\* Winner of the 2008 Thumbs Up! Award

\*\*2008 Honor Book

@Did not make the top 20

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