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Best Books for Young Adults 2002

Draft January 2002

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Eighty-four books were chosen as Best Books for Young Adults by the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association. The list of titles includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and biography recommended for young adults ages 12-18. Thirteen titles received unanimous votes from the 15 member committee: *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares, four girls' adventures with a pair of magical pants; *Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher, the triumph of diversity and non-conformity over prejudice; *Breathing Underwater* by Alex Flinn, one boy's struggle with his own anger; *Damage* by A. M. Jenkins, a teen's downward spiral into depression; *You Don't Know Me* by David Klass, where a teen copes with his mother's boyfriend's abuse; *Cut* by Patricia McCormick, in which a teen overcomes her obsession with self-mutilation; *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson, one boy's survival on a remote island where he confronts his inner demons; *The Greatest: Muhammad Ali* by Walter Dean Myers, the biography of the famous fighter; *The Amber Spyglass* by Philip Pullman, the third book in the *His Dark Materials* fantasy trilogy; *What My Mother Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones, free verse celebrating a teen girl's coming-of-age; *The Land* by Mildred Taylor, the prequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*; *True Believer* by Virginia Euwer Wolff, where a teen works hard for success and learns hard truths



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about love; and, *Fighting Ruben Wolfe* by Markus Zusak, in which two brothers join an illegal fight circuit to help their family survive.

Committee members were: Donna McMillen, Chair, Fairwood Library, King County Library System, Renton, WA; Nicolas Buron, Queens Borough Public Library, New York, NY; Margaret Butzler, Bethel Park Public Library, Bethel Park, PA; Nicole Cooke, Montclair, NJ; Valerie Diamond, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD; Cynthia Dobrez, Harbor Lights School, Holland, MI; Donna Gilliland, University of Saint Thomas, Keffer Library, Minneapolis, MN; Nancy Maltby Henkel, Maple Valley Library, King County Library System, Maple Valley, WA; Diana Tixler Herald, Grand Junction, CO; Jan Hoberecht, Newton, KS; Andrea Howe, Albuquerque Academy Library, Albuquerque, NM; Susan Hunter, Riverside Middle School, Springfield, VT; Betsy Levine, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA; Diane Monnier, Bethesda Regional Library, Bethesda, MD; Cindy Welch, Harold Washington Library, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL; Stephanie Zvirin, Consultant, American Library Association, Chicago, IL; Angelina Benedetti, Administrative Assistant, King County Library System, Issaquah, WA.

An annotated list will appear in the March 15 issue of *Booklist* and is available on the [YALSA For Members Only](#) website. For more information, contact the YALSA office by phone at 800-545-2433 x 4390 or e-mail, yalsa@ala.org

Fiction

Bell, Hilari. ***A Matter of Profit***. 2001. HarperCollins, \$16.95 (0-06-029513-9).

Brashares, Ann. ***The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants***. 2001. Delacorte, \$14.95 (0-385-72933-2).

Brooks, Bruce. ***All That Remains***. 2001. Atheneum, \$16.00 (0-689-83351-2).

Card, Orson Scott. **Shadow of the Hegemon**. 2001. Tor Books, \$25.95 (0-312-87651-3).

Clement-Davies, David. **Fire Bringer**. 2000. Dutton Children's Books, \$19.95 (0-525-46492-1).

Color of Absence: Twelve Stories About Love and Hope. Edited by James Howe. 2001. Atheneum, \$16.00 (0-689-82862-4).

Cormier, Robert. **The Rag and Bone Shop**. 2001. Delacorte, \$15.95 (0-385-72962-6).

Crutcher, Chris. **Whale Talk**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$16.95 (0-06-029369-1).

Ferris, Jean. **Eight Seconds**. 2000. Harcourt, \$17.00 (0-15-202367-4).

Ferris, Jean. **Of Sound Mind**. 2001. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$16.00 (0-374-35580-0).

Fleischman, Paul. **Seek**. 2001. Cricket Books, \$16.95 (0-8126-4900-1).

Flinn, Alex. **Breathing Underwater**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$15.95 (0-06-029198-2).

Geras, Adele. **Troy**. 2001. Harcourt, \$17.00 (0-15-216492-8).

Griffin, Adele. **Amandine**. 2001. Hyperion Books for Children, \$15.99 (0-7868-0618-4).

Heneghan, James. **The Grave**. 2000. FS&G, \$17.00 (0-374-32765-3).

Holm, Jennifer. **Boston Jane: an Adventure**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$16.95 (0-06-028738-1).

Jenkins, A. M.. **Damage**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$15.95 (0-

0602-9099-4).

Jimenez, Francisco. **Breaking Through**. 2001. Houghton Mifflin, \$15.00 (0-618-01173-0).

Jordan, Sherryl. **Secret Sacrament**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$15.95 (0-06-028904-X).

Klass, David. **You Don't Know Me**. 2001. FS&G, \$17.00 (0-374-38706-0).

Koertge, Ron. **Brimstone Journals**. 2001. Candlewick, \$15.99 (0-7636-1302-9).

Les Becquets, Diane. **The Stones of Mourning Creek**. 2001. Winslow, \$16.95 (1-58837-004-6).

Love and Sex: Ten Stories of Truth. Edited by Michael Cart. 2001. Simon & Schuster, \$18.00 (0-689-83203-6).

Lynch, Chris. **Freewill**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$15.95 (0-06-028176-6).

McCormick, Patricia. **Cut**. 2000. Front Street, \$16.95 (1-886910-61-8).

McDonald, Janet. **Spellbound**. 2001. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$16.00 (0-374-37140-7).

McDonald, Joyce. **Shades of Simon Gray**. 2001. Random House, \$15.95 (0-385-32659-9).

Mikaelsen, Ben. **Touching Spirit Bear**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$15.95 (0-380-97744-3).

Moriarty, Jaclyn. **Feeling Sorry for Celia**. 2001. St. Martins, \$16.95 (0-312-26923-4).

Mosher, Richard. **Zazoo**. 2001. Houghton Mifflin, \$16.00 (0-618-13534-0).

Na, An. **A Step from Heaven**. 2001. Front Street, \$15.95 (1-886910-58-8).

Naidoo, Beverly. **The Other Side of Truth**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$15.95 (0-06-029628-3).

Nix, Garth. **Lirael**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$16.95 (0-06-027823-4).

Nolan, Han. **Born Blue**. 2001. Harcourt, \$17.00 (0-15-201916-2).

On the Fringe. Edited by Don Gallo. 2001. Penguin Putnam, \$17.99 (0-8037-2656-2).

Park, Linda Sue. **A Single Shard**. 2001. Houghton Mifflin, \$15.00 (0-395-97827-0).

Peck, Richard. **Fair Weather**. 2001. Dial Books for Young Readers, \$16.99 (0-8037-2516-7).

Pierce, Meredith Ann. **Treasure at the Heart of the Tanglewood**. 2001. Penguin Putnam, \$16.99 (0-670-89247-5).

Pierce, Tamora. **Protector of the Small: Squire**. 2001. Random House, \$15.95 (0-679-889-167).

Pratchett, Terry. **The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$15.89 (0-06-001234-X).

Pullman, Philip. **The Amber Spyglass**. 2000. Knopf, \$19.95 (0-679-87926-9).

Rees, Celia. **Witch Child**. 2001. Candlewick, \$15.99 (0-7636-1421-1).

Rice, David. **Crazy Loco**. 2001. Penguin Putnam, \$16.99 (0-8037-2598-1).

Ryan, Sara. **Empress of the World**. 2001. Penguin Putnam,

\$15.99 (0-670-89688-8).

Salisbury, Graham. **The Lord of the Deep**. 2001. Delacorte, \$15.95 (0-385-72918-9).

Sanchez, Alex. **Rainbow Boys**. 2001. Simon and Schuster, \$17.00 (0-689-84100-0).

Shinn, Sharon. **Summers at Castle Auburn**. 2001. Penguin Putnam, \$14.95 (0-441-00803-8).

Sones, Sonya. **What My Mother Doesn't Know**. 2001. Simon & Schuster, \$17.00 (0-689-84114-0).

Stratton, Allan. **Leslie's Journal**. 2000. Annick Press, \$19.95 (1-55037-665-9).

Tashjian, Janet. **The Gospel According to Larry**. 2001. Henry Holt, \$16.95 (0-8050-6378-1).

Taylor, Mildred. **The Land**. 2001. Penguin Putnam, \$17.99 (0-8037-1950-7).

Tingle, Rebecca. **The Edge On the Sword**. 2001. Penguin Putnam, \$18.99 (0-399-23580-9).

Vance, Susanna. **Sights**. 2001. Delacorte, \$15.95 (0-385-32761-7).

Vande Velde, Vivian. **Being Dead**. 2001. Harcourt, \$17.00. (0-15-216320-4).

Vijayaraghaven, Vineeta. **Motherland**. 2001. Soho Press, \$23.00 (1-56947-217-3).

Weaver, Beth. **Rooster**. 2001. Winslow, \$15.95 (1-58837-001-1).

Werlin, Nancy. **Black Mirror**. 2001. Dial Books for Young Readers, \$16.99 (0-8037-2605-8).

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **Every Time a Rainbow Dies**. 2001. William Morrow, \$15.95 (0-688-16245-2).

Wittlinger, Ellen. **Razzle**. 2001. Simon and Schuster, \$17.00 (0-689-83565-5).

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. **True Believer**. 2001. Atheneum, \$17.00 (0-689-82827-6).

Zusak, Markus. **Fighting Ruben Wolfe**. 2001. Scholastic, \$15.95 (0-439-24188-X).

Nonfiction

Colton, Larry. **Counting Coup: the True Story of Basketball and Honor on the Little Big Horn**. 2000. Warner Books, \$24.95 (0-446-52683-5).

Cooper, Michael. **Fighting for Honor: Japanese Americans and World War II**. 2000. Houghton Mifflin, \$16.00 (0-395-91375-6).

Fisher, Antwone, with Mim Eichler Rivas. **Finding Fish**. 2001. HarperCollins, \$25.00 (0-688-17699-2).

Fradin, Dennis Brindell. **Bound for the North Star: True Stories of Fugitive Slaves**. 2000. Clarion, \$20.00 (0-395-97017-2).

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan. **Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist**. 2001. Delacorte, \$14.95 (0-385-32806-0).

Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by 20th Century American Art. Edited by Jan Greenberg. 2001. Harry Abrams, \$19.95 (0-8109-4386-7).

Hoose, Phillip. **We Were There, Too!: Young People in U.S. History**. 2001. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$26.00 (0-374-38252-2).

Kendall, Martha. **Failure Is Impossible: the History of**

American Women's Rights. 2001. Lerner, \$22.60 (0-82225-1744-2).

Ketchum, Liza. **Into the New Country: Eight Remarkable Women of the West.** 2000. Little Brown, \$18.95 (0-316-49597-2).

King, Daniel. **Chess: From First Moves to Checkmate.** 2001. Kingfisher, \$16.95 (0-7534-5387-8).

Lawlor, Laurie. **Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit.** 2001. Holiday House, \$22.95 (0-8234-1588-0).

Lee, Bruce; selected and edited by John Little. **Bruce Lee: the Celebrated Life of the Golden Dragon.** 2000. Tuttle, \$24.95 (0-8048-3230-7).

Marrin, Albert. **George Washington and the Founding of a Nation.** 2001. Dutton Children's Books, \$30.00 (0-525-46481-6).

Murphy, Jim. **Blizzard: the Storm that Changed America.** 2000. Scholastic, \$18.95 (0-590-67309-2).

Myers, Walter Dean. **Bad Boy: a Memoir.** 2001. HarperCollins, \$15.89 (0-06-029523-6).

Myers, Walter Dean. **The Greatest: Muhammad Ali.** 2001. Scholastic, \$16.95 (0-590-54342-3).

Nelson, Marilyn. **Carver: a Life in Poems.** 2001. Front Street, \$16.95 (1-886910-53-7).

Orgill, Roxane. **Shout, Sister, Shout!: Ten Girl Singers Who Shaped a Century.** 2001. Simon and Schuster, \$18.00 (0-689-81991-9).

Owen, David. **Hidden Evidence: Forty True Crimes and How Forensic Science Helped Solve Them.** 2000. Firefly Books Ltd., \$24.95 (1-55209-483-9).

Things I Have to Tell You: Poems and Writing by Teenage Girls. Edited by Betsy Franco. 2001. Candlewick, \$8.99, \$15.99 (0-7636-1035-6, 0-7636-0905-6).

Voices: Poetry and Art From Around the World. edited by Barbara Brenner. 2000. National Geographic Society, \$18.95 (0-7922-7071-1).

Words with Wings: a Treasury of African-American Poetry and Art. Edited by Belinda Rochelle. 2001. HarperCollins, \$16.95 (0-688-16415-3).

Yell-OH Girls!: Emerging Voices Explore Culture, Identity and Growing-Up Asian American. edited by Vickie Nam. 2001. HarperCollins, \$13.00 (0-06-095944-4).

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