

Recommended reading for Middle School - Young Adult Trudy Ludwig Book List

NOTE: please read first to make sure the content and reading level is age-appropriate for your particular young reader.

Checked
books are in
Napa Library
for review.

- ✓ Asher, Jay. ***Thirteen Reasons Why***. New York: Penguin Group, 2007. Personally, I think this should be required reading for middle school/high school students. Clay Jensen, a high school student receives a package of tapes in the mail from Hannah, his classmate and crush, who committed suicide two weeks earlier. In the tapes, she explains there are thirteen reasons (namely 13 people and their actions) who contributed to her decision to end her life. A powerful read!
- ✓ Brown, Jennifer. ***Hate List***. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2010. I couldn't put this book down! Five months ago, Val's boyfriend, Nick, opened fire at students in their high school cafeteria. Val, who didn't know of Nick's intent at the time, was also wounded and is now implicated in the crime because of a written list she and her boyfriend made of the people they hated. Val is forced to face her demons and those of her peers when she returns to school to complete her senior year.
- ✓ Crutcher, Chris. ***Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes***. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1993. An unforgettable novel about high school social outcasts Eric and Sarah who help one another to stand up against social cruelty among their peers and bullying adults. IMPORTANT: Deals with mature, sensitive subject matter.
- ✓ Flake, Sharon. ***The Skin I'm In***. New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 1998. Seventh grader Maleeka, with the guidance of a new teacher, overcomes her low self-esteem and the bullying behaviors of her peers.

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Friel, Maeve. ***Charlie's Story***. Georgia: Peachtree Publishers Ltd., 1997. A fourteen-year-old girl named Charlie struggles to come to terms with the reasons for her mother's desertion, her father's silence, and the cruelty of her classmates.

- ✓ Golding, William. ***Lord of the Flies***. New York: Coward-McCann, 1962. A group of English schoolboys are plane-wrecked on a deserted island. This classic exposes the brutality among competitive peers.
- ✓ Hinton, S.E. ***The Outsiders***. New York: Puffin Books, 1967, 1995. The two different social groups epitomize the struggles teen face with their search for self, peer pressure, gang violence, lack of parental influence and socioeconomic status.
- ✓ Howe, James. ***The Misfits***. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 2003. For seventh graders who don't fit in their school decide to create a third party, 'The No-Name Party' in the upcoming school elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.
- ✓ Howe, James. ***Totally Joe***. New York: Athenium, 2005. In his "alphabiography" project for his seventh grade teacher, twelve-year-old Joe writes about his life, friends, and what it's like to be a middle school gay student. Joe's voice is embedded with sensitivity, honesty, and humor.

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- ✓ Mayfield, Sue. ***Drowning Anna***. New York: Hyperion, 2002. Ann tries to kill herself because of the ongoing vicious acts done to her by Hayley, her so-called friend. This is a great book for generating thoughtful discussion.
- ✓ Spinelli, Jerry. ***Stargirl***. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000. In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.
- ✓ Wilhelm, Doug. ***The Revealers***. Virginia: RR Donnelley & Sons Company, 2011. Three seventh grader social outcasts who are tired of being bullied team up in a unique, scientific way to publicly raise awareness of the bullying going on at Parkland Middle School.
- ✓ Zusak, Markus. ***The Book Thief***. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2007. This is an extraordinary and haunting novel of survival and courage in Nazi Germany during WWII. A young girl learns about the power of words and how they can lead to salvation or destruction.

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