

Especially for Teens

Emma S. Clark  
Memorial Library

# Realistic Fiction

## For Younger Teens

The abbreviations after the title indicate where the books can be found:

**YA** - Young Adult Fiction

**TEEN** - Teen Room

**J** - Children's Room

**Please note: Books vary widely in maturity level and content.**

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**TEN THINGS I HATE ABOUT ME** by Randa Abdel-Fattah-----YA ABDEL  
Lebanese-Australian Jamilah, known in school as Jamie, hides her heritage from her classmates and tries to pass by dyeing her hair blonde and wearing blue-tinted contact lenses, until her conflicted feelings become too much for her to bear. (HL720L)

**CLOSE TO FAMOUS** by Joan Bauer -----YA & TEEN BAUER  
Twelve-year-old Foster McFee and her mother escape from her mother's abusive boyfriend and end up in the small town of Culpepper, West Virginia, where they use their strengths and challenge themselves to build a new life, with the help of the friends they make there. (540L)

**PEELED** by Joan Bauer -----YA & TEEN BAUER  
Thinking that the editor of the local paper is behind the hysteria surrounding ghostly sightings and strange happenings at the Ludlow house, high school newspaper reporter Hildy Biddle decides to investigate the strange events herself and ends up making enemies while uncovering facts that some feel should remain secret. (620L)

**SORRY, YOU'RE LOST** by Matt Blackstone-----YA BLACK  
New Jersey seventh grader and class clown Denny Murphy has just lost his mother, his father is uncommunicative, he is in trouble with his teachers, and to top it all off, his best friend has a scheme to get dates for the end-of-year school dance. (820L)

**AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS** by Gennifer Choldenko-----YA & TEEN CHOLD, J CHO  
A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister Natalie. (600L)

**IF A TREE FALLS AT LUNCH PERIOD** by Gennifer Choldenko-----YA CHOLD & J CHO  
Kirsten and Walker, seventh-graders at an elite private school, alternate telling how race, wealth, weight, and other issues shape their relationships as they and other misfits stand up to a mean but influential classmate, even as they are uncovering a long-kept secret about themselves. (530L)

**WAITING FOR NORMAL** by Leslie Connor -----YA CONNO  
Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York. (570L)

**WHAT HAPPENED TO GOODBYE** by Sarah Dessen -----YA & TEEN DESSE  
Following her parents' bitter divorce as she and her father move from town to town, seventeen-year-old Mclean reinvents herself at each school she attends until she is no longer sure she knows who she is or where she belongs. (HL760L)

**TEN MILES PAST NORMAL** by Frances O'Roark Dowell -----YA & TEEN DOWEL  
Because living with "modern-hippy" parents on a goat farm means fourteen-year-old Janie Gorman cannot have a normal high school life, she tries joining Jam Band, making friends with Monster, and spending time with elderly former civil rights workers. (960L)

- FOUL TROUBLE** by John Feinstein-----YA FEINS  
College recruiters are clamoring to sign up Terrell Jamerson, the #1 high school basketball player in the country. But not all of these recruiters are straight shooters, and Terrell will have to think fast if he wants to stay in the game. (770L)
- THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB** by Heather Vogel Frederick-----YA & TEEN FREDE, J FRE  
When the mothers of four sixth-grade girls with very different personalities pressure them into forming a book club, they find, as they read and discuss "Little Women," that they have much more in common than they could have imagined. (750L)
- WHERE YOU'LL FIND ME** by Natasha Friend-----YA FRIEN  
After her mother's attempted suicide, thirteen-year-old Anna goes to live with her father and his new family, and learns to navigate the shifting loyalties of middle school friendships. (520L)
- IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE** by Eric Gansworth-----YA GANSW  
Seventh-grader Lewis "Shoe" Blake from the Tuscarora Reservation has a new friend, George Haddonfield from the local Air Force base, but in 1975 upstate New York there is a lot of tension and hatred between Native Americans and whites--and Lewis is not sure that he can rely on friendship. (870L)
- MY LIFE IN PINK AND GREEN** by Lisa Greenwald-----YA & TEEN GREEN, J GRE  
When the family's drugstore is failing, seventh-grader Lucy uses her problem solving talents to come up with solution that might resuscitate the business, along with helping the environment. (680L)
- SHUG** by Jenny Han-----TEEN HAN  
Twelve-year-old Annemarie "Shug" Wilcox, who believes she is freakishly tall, freakishly flat-chested, and freakishly freckled, learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South. (680L)
- SURE SIGNS OF CRAZY** by Karen Harrington-----YA & TEEN HARRI  
Twelve-year-old Sarah writes letters to her hero, To Kill a Mockingbird's Atticus Finch, for help understanding her mentally ill mother, her first real crush, and life in her small Texas town, all in the course of one momentous summer. (750L)
- LEMONADE MOUTH** by Mark Peter Hughes-----TEEN HUGHE  
A disparate group of high school students thrown together in detention form a band to play at a school talent show and end up competing with a wildly popular local rock band. (800L)
- SCHOOLED** by Gordon Korman-----TEEN KORMA  
After his hippie grandmother ends up in the hospital, Cap Anderson is forced to leave the commune where he is homeschooled and attend Claverage Middle School, where his odd looks and behavior make him the target of bullies. (740L)
- UNGIFTED** by Gordon Korman-----YA & TEEN KORMA, J KOR  
Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school. (730L)
- SLEEPING FRESHMEN NEVER LIE** by David Lubar-----TEEN LUBAR  
Dealing with bullies, the separation of old friends, and unsuccessful romances as a high school student, Scott decides to write a journal for his younger sibling in order to give him a helpful guide for surviving all the dramas, struggles, and issues he will be forced to face when he gets put into the game. (560L)
- BIG FIELD** by Mike Lupica-----YA & TEEN LUPIC  
Losing his spot as shortstop on the team to a new arrival named D-Will, Hutch finds the transition difficult, especially when his father, an ex-professional shortstop, starts giving his replacement all of his tips and attention. (970L)
- HEAT** by Mike Lupica-----TEEN LUPIC  
Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof. (940L)
- SUMMER BALL** by Mike Lupica-----YA & TEEN LUPIC  
Having led his team to the national championship, Danny is given the opportunity to attend Right Way basketball camp, but knowing that he will be playing with the best in the country puts the pressure on and makes him realize that he will have to rise to the challenge in order to prove himself once again. (910L)
- A MANGO-SHAPED SPACE** by Wendy Mass -----YA & TEEN MASS, J MAS  
Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the loss of something important to her. (770L)

**WE ARE ALL MADE OF MOLECULES** by Susin Nielsen-----YA & TEEN NIELS  
Thirteen-year-old brilliant but socially-challenged Stewart and mean-girl Ashley must find common ground when, two years after Stewart's mother died, his father moves in with his new girlfriend--Ashley's mother, whose gay ex-husband lives in their guest house. (710L)

**WONDER** by R.J. Palacio-----YA PALAC  
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. (790L)

**CRISS CROSS** by Lynne Rae Perkins-----TEEN PERKI  
Provides a coming-of-age tale as a young girl struggles with the hardships of becoming a woman while hanging with her friends, trying to learn to drive, dealing with family dramas and experiencing life in a new town--all while trying to find a meaningful relationship with a caring boy in the process. (820L)

**FREAK THE MIGHTY** by W.R. Philbrick-----TEEN PHILB  
At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team. (1000L)

**BOY 21** by Matthew Quick-----YA & TEEN QUICK  
Finley, a quiet boy who is the only white player on his school's varsity basketball team, lives in a dismal Pennsylvania town that is ruled by the Irish mob, and when his coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred from an private school in California, he finds that they have a lot in common in spite of their differences. (830L)

**SORTA LIKE A ROCKSTAR** by Matthew Quick-----TEEN QUICK  
Although Amber Appleton lives in a school bus with her unfit mother, she is a relentless optimist who helps everyone, but eventually she experiences one burden more than she can bear and slips into a deep depression. (1030L)

**THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SISTERS** by Luanne Rice-----YA & TEEN RICE  
Although Amber Appleton lives in a school bus with her unfit mother, she is a relentless optimist who helps everyone, but eventually she experiences one burden more than she can bear and slips into a deep depression. (720L)

**BEFORE WE GO EXTINCT** by Karen Rivers-----YA RIVER  
After Sharkey's best friend commits suicide (or was it an accident?) in front of him, he spends the summer processing his grief on an abandoned beach resort island where his dad is the caretaker. (750L)

**OKAY FOR NOW** by Gary D. Schmidt-----YA SCHMI  
While Doug struggles to be more than the thug that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, as they explore Audubon's art. (850L)

**THE WEDNESDAY WARS** by Gary D. Schmidt-----YA & TEEN SCHMI, J SCH  
During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in. (990L)

**THE SCHWA WAS HERE** by Neal Shusterman -----YA SHUST  
A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone. (790L)

**COUNTING BY 7S** by Holly Goldberg Sloan-----YA SLOAN, J SLO  
Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident. (770L)

**PEAK** by Roland Smith -----YA & TEEN SMITH  
A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest. (760L)

**CURVEBALL: THE YEAR I LOST MY NERVE** by Jordan Sonnenblick-----YA SONNE  
After an injury ends former star pitcher Peter Friedman's athletic dreams, he concentrates on photography which leads him to a girlfriend, new fame as a high school sports photographer, and a deeper relationship with the beloved grandfather who, when he realizes he is becoming senile, gives Pete all of his professional camera gear. (800L)

**FALLING OVER SIDWAYS** by Jordan Sonnenblick-----YA SONNE

Harassed at her middle school, not taken seriously at home, and with a "perfect" older brother, Matthew, to live up to, thirteen-year-old Claire has always felt like her life was cursed--then one morning, when she and her beloved father are talking at breakfast, her father suddenly falls over with a stroke, and suddenly everything changes. (860L)

**NOTES FROM THE MIDNIGHT DRIVER** by Jordan Sonnenblick-----TEEN SONNE  
After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love and forgiveness. (930L)

**ZEN AND THE ART OF FAKING IT** by Jordan Sonnenblick-----YA SONNE  
When San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master. (840L)

**GOODBYE STRANGER** by Rebecca Stead-----YA STEAD  
As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvacious Em, crusader Tab, and a curious new friend--or more than friend--Sherm, she finds the answer she has been seeking since she barely survived an accident at age eight: "What is my purpose?" (560L)

**UNFRIENDED** by Rachel Vail-----YA VAIL  
When thirteen-year-old Truly is invited to sit at the Popular Table, she finds herself caught in a web of lies and misunderstandings, made unescapable by the hyperconnected social media world. (670L)

**FLIPPED** by Wendelin Van Draanen -----TEEN VANDR  
From their first meeting in second grade through seventh grade, a young girl pursues her sweetheart, Bryce, but everything turns upside down the following year, when Bryce becomes the pursuer and she finally starts losing interest. (720L)

**THE RUNNING DREAM** by Wendelin Van Draanen -----YA & TEEN VANDR  
Losing her leg in a car accident and fitted with a prosthetic that challenges her athletic ambitions, Jessica finds herself alienated from former friends and is tutored by a misfit girl she previously avoided. (HL650L)

**SO B. IT** by Sarah Weeks-----YA WEEKS  
Living with her mentally disabled mother who only knows just over twenty words, young Heidi has learned to live in her special world until a new word is suddenly used and repeated by her mother; causing Heidi to think it might be a key to a secret past about which she knows so little. (860L)

**STANFORD WONG FLUNKS BIG-TIME** by Lisa Yee-----TEEN YEE  
After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong must struggle to pass his summer-school class, keep his failure a secret from his friends and satisfy his academically demanding father. (650L)

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Any questions? Contact Nanette Feder, Teen Services Librarian at [teens@emmaclark.org](mailto:teens@emmaclark.org)  
Emma S. Clark Memorial Library 631.941.4080