

REALISTIC FICTION FOR OLDER TEENS



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

YA - Young Adult **TEEN** - Teen Room **L** - Denotes Lexile Level

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

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THE UPSIDE OF UNREQUITED by Becky Albertalli ~~~~~YA ALBER
Avoiding relationships to protect her sensitive heart, plus-sized Molly supports her once-cynical twin, Cassie, when the latter has her own bout of lovesickness, a situation that is complicated by sibling dynamics and an unexpected romantic triangle. (HL490)

THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN by Sherman Alexie ~~~~~YA ALEXI
Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. (600L)

SAINTS AND MISFITS by S. K. Ali ~~~~~YA KING
Fifteen-year-old Janna Yusuf, a Flannery O'Connor-obsessed book nerd and the daughter of the only divorced mother at their mosque, tries to make sense of the events that follow when her best friend's cousin--a holy star in the Muslim community--attempts to assault her at the end of sophomore year. (730L)

WINTERGIRLS by Laurie Halse Anderson ~~~~~YA & TEEN ANDER
Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder. (730L)

ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL by Jesse Andrews ~~~~~YA & TEEN ANDRE
Greg has managed to become part of every social group at his Pittsburgh high school without having any friends, but his life changes when his mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl he once knew in Hebrew school who has leukemia. (820L)

WHAT LIGHT by Jay Asher ~~~~~YA ASHER
Sierra's family runs a Christmas tree farm in Oregon, and every year they pack up and move to California to set up their Christmas tree lot for the season. So Sierra lives two lives: her life in Oregon and her life at Christmas. By reputation, Caleb is not your perfect guy: years ago, he made an enormous mistake and has been paying for it ever since. But Sierra sees beyond Caleb's past and becomes determined to help him find forgiveness and, maybe, redemption, this Christmas. (HL690L)

FAR FROM THE TREE by Robin Benway ~~~~~YA BENWA
Three teenagers, biological siblings separated by adoption, explore the meaning of family in all its forms--how to find it, how to keep it, and how to love it. (HL780L)

LIE by Caroline Bock ~~~~~TEEN BOCK
A group of Long Island high school seniors conspire to protect Jimmy after he brutally assaults two Salvadoran immigrants, until they see the moral implications of Jimmy's actions and the consequences of being loyal to a bully. (HL610L)

HATE LIST by Jennifer Brown ~~~~~YA & TEEN BROWN
After her boyfriend goes on a shooting rampage at school, Valerie is implicated because of her involvement in writing the list of names and so now must come to terms with what has happened, her feelings for the boy she once loved, and the part she played that resulted in such tragic events. (HL760L)

LOVE AND OTHER PERISHABLE ITEMS by Laura Buzo ~~~~~TEEN BUZO
A fifteen-year-old Australian girl gets her first job and first crush on her unattainable university-aged co-worker, as both search for meaning in their lives. (HL810L)

ESSENTIAL MAPS FOR THE LOST by Deb Caletti ~~~~~YA & TEEN CALET
When Mads discovers a dead body while she's swimming in the lake, she begins to obsess over who the woman was and what led her to commit suicide by jumping off a bridge. But when she starts to fall for Billy, the woman's troubled son, Mads isn't sure how much longer she can keep her obsession a secret. (HL650L)

TEACH ME TO FORGET by Erica M. Chapman ~~~~~YA CHAPM
After a failed suicide attempt, Ellery tries to return the gun she bought to the store and runs into Colter Sawyer, a boy from her school, who does everything he can to prevent her from trying to take her life again. (HL580L)

NICK AND NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST by Rachel Cohn and David Leviathan ~~~~~YA & TEEN COHN
High school student Nick O'Leary, member of a rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart, in a tie-in title which includes an eight-page insert of photos from the film. (1020L)

SKINNY by Donna Cooner ~~~~~YA COONE
After undergoing gastric-bypass surgery, a self-loathing, obese teenage girl loses weight and makes the brave decision to start participating in high school life, including pursuing her dream of becoming a singer and finding love. (670L)

THE BRILLIANT LIGHT OF AMBER SUNRISE by Matthew Crow ~~~~~YA & TEEN CROW
Life threatening cancer brings Francis and Amber together. But Francis's recovery is taking a different path from Amber's. He's actually getting better. And although he knew who he was before cancer, before Amber, now he has no idea how to live--or how to let go. (880L)

THE MISEDUCATION OF CAMERON POST by Emily M. Danford ~~~~~YA DANFO
In the early 1990s, when gay teenager Cameron Post rebels against her conservative Montana ranch town and her family decides she needs to change her ways, she is sent to a gay conversion therapy center. (1120L)

THE MOON AND MORE by Sarah Dessen ~~~~~YA DESSE
During her last summer at home before leaving for college, Emaline begins a whirlwind romance with Theo, an assistant documentary filmmaker who is in town to make a movie. (HL710L)

MY LIFE NEXT DOOR by Huntley Fitzpatrick ~~~~~YA & TEEN FITZP
When Samantha, the seventeen-year-old daughter of a wealthy, perfectionist, Republican state senator, falls in love with the boy next door, whose family is large, boisterous, and just making ends meet, she discovers a different way to live, but when her mother is involved in a hit-and-run accident Sam must make some difficult choices. (HL720L)

JUST ONE DAY by Gayle Forman ~~~~~YA & TEEN FORMA
Sparks fly when American good girl Allyson encounters laid-back Dutch actor Willem, so she follows him on a whirlwind trip to Paris, upending her life in just one day and prompting a year of self-discovery and the search for true love. (HL750L)

THE FAULT IN OUR STARS by John Green ~~~~~YA & TEEN GREEN
Despite the medical miracle that has bought her a few more years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, but when Augustus Waters suddenly appears at the Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be rewritten. (850L)

LOOKING FOR ALASKA by John Green ~~~~~TEEN GREEN
Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. (930L)

TURTLES ALL THE WAY DOWN by John Green ~~~~~YA GREEN
It all begins with a fugitive billionaire and the promise of a cash reward. Turtles all the way down is about lifelong friendship, the intimacy of an unexpected reunion, Star Wars fan fiction, and tuatara. But at its heart is Aza Holmes, a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. (840L)

MAYBE ONE DAY by Melissa Kantor~~~~~YA KANTO
Zoe thought that being cut from her ballet program was the worst thing that could happen, but when her best friend, Olivia, is diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, Zoe quickly learns that not being able to dance is the least of her problems. (HL770L)

EVERYBODY SEES THE ANTS by A.S. King~~~~~YA KING
Experiencing vivid dreams about meeting his long-lost POW/MIA grandfather, Lucky Linderman struggles to fit into a home life marked by a distant father, a weary mother and a cruel bully who compromises Lucky's grasp on reality. (HL710L)

REALITY BOY by A.S. King~~~~~YA KING
An emotionally damaged seventeen-year-old boy in Pennsylvania, who was once an infamous reality television show star, meets a girl from another dysfunctional family, and she helps him out of his angry shell. (HL620L)

STILL LIFE WITH TORNADO by A.S. King~~~~~YA KING
A talented 16-year-old artist slowly discovers the history of domestic violence behind why her brother left the family years earlier and why she suddenly cannot make art. (Lexile Unavailable)

THE TRAGEDY PAPER by Elizabeth Laban~~~~~YA LABAN
While preparing for the most dreaded assignment at the prestigious Irving School, the Tragedy Paper, Duncan gets wrapped up in the tragic tale of Tim Macbeth, a former student who had a clandestine relationship with the wrong girl, and his own ill-fated romance with Daisy. (HL740L)

THE DISENCHANTMENTS by Nina LaCour~~~~~YA & TEEN LACOU
Colby's post-high school plans have long been that he and his best friend Beth would tour with her band, then spend a year in Europe, but when she announces that she will start college just after the tour, Colby struggles to understand why she changed her mind and what losing her means for his future. (780L)

WE WERE LIARS by E. Lockhart~~~~~YA LOCKH
Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer. (HL600L)

NOT IF I SEE YOU FIRST by Eric Lindstrom~~~~~YA LINDS
Blind sixteen-year-old Parker Grant navigates friendships and romantic relationships, including a run-in with a boy who previously broke her heart, while coping with her father's recent death. (Lexile Unavailable)

SECOND CHANCE SUMMER by Morgan Matson~~~~~TA & TEEN MATSO
Taylor Edwards' family might not be the closest-knit but for the most part, they get along just fine. Then Taylor's dad gets devastating news, and her parents decide that the family will spend one last summer together at their lake house in the Pocono Mountains. As the summer progresses and the Edwards become more of a family, they're more aware than ever that they're battling a ticking clock. (1020L)

THE UNEXPECTED EVERYTHING by Morgan Matson~~~~~YA & TEEN MATSO
Seventeen year old Andie always has a plan, but when her father suffers a political scandal, her summer med school program is taken away from her, and a new guy comes into the picture, she finds a lot of unexpected things can happen when you're busy making other plans. (950L)

YAQUI DELGADO WANTS TO KICK YOUR ASS by Meg Medina~~~~~YA MEDIN
One morning before school, some girl tells Piddy Sanchez that Yaqui Delgado hates her and wants to kick her ass. Piddy doesn't even know who Yaqui is, or what she's done to piss her off. Word is that Yaqui thinks Piddy is stuck-up, shakes her stuff when she walks, and isn't Latin enough with her white skin, good grades, and no accent. And Yaqui isn't kidding around, so Piddy better watch her back. (HL670L)

DAIRY QUEEN by Catherine Gilbert Murdock ~~~~~TEEN MURDO
After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. (990L)

I'LL GIVE YOU THE SUN by Jandy Nelson ~~~~~YA & TEEN NELSO
A story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her twin brother Noah. (HL740L)

OPTIMISTS DIE FIRST by Susin Nielsen-Fernlund ~~~~~YA NIELS
When Petula de Wilde, who is anything but wild, meets Jacob in their school's dorky art therapy program, his friendship (and something more) helps her overcome intense fears since her sister died. And he has a secret of his own. (HL580L)

WE ARE ALL MADE OF MOLECULES by Susin Nielsen-Fernlund ~~~~~YA & TEEN NIELS
Seventeen year old Andie always has a plan, but when her father suffers a political scandal, her summer med school program is taken away from her, and a new guy comes into the picture, she finds a lot of unexpected things can happen when you're busy making other plans. (HL710L)

ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES by Jennifer Niven ~~~~~YA & TEEN NIVEN
Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school--both teetering on the edge--it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another. (830L)

YOU BRING THE DISTANT NEAR by Mitali Perkins ~~~~~YA PERKI
From 1965 through the present, an Indian American family adjusts to life in New York City, alternately fending off and welcoming challenges to their own traditions. (HL720L)

KETCHUP CLOUDS by Annabel Pitcher ~~~~~YA PITCH
Zoe, a teenager in Bath, England, writes letters to a death-row inmate in Texas, hoping to find comfort in sharing her guilty secret over the death of a friend with someone who can never tell her family. (890L)

READY TO FALL by Marcella Pixley ~~~~~YA PIXLE
Seventeen-year-old Max, struggling to come to terms with his mother's death, is cast as the ghost in Hamlet and finds strength in his new theater friends. (730L)

THE MEMORY OF THINGS by Gae Polisner ~~~~~YA ROWEL
On the morning of September 11, 2001, sixteen-year-old Kyle Donohue watches the first twin tower come down, then while fleeing home to safety, he finds a girl covered in ash who has no memory. (HL680L)

FORGIVE ME, LEONARD PEACOCK by Matthew Quick ~~~~~YA QUICK
A day in the life of a suicidal teen boy saying good-bye to the four people who matter most to him. (980L)

GABI, A GIRL IN PIECES by Isabel Quintero ~~~~~YA & TEEN QUINT
Sixteen-year-old Gabi Hernandez chronicles her senior year in high school as she copes with her friend Cindy's pregnancy, friend Sebastian's coming out, her father's meth habit, her own cravings for food and cute boys, and especially, the poetry that helps forge her identity. (HL820L)

ELEANOR & PARK by Rainbow Rowell ~~~~~YA ROWEL
Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try (HL580L)

FANGIRL by Rainbow Rowell ~~~~~YA ROWEL
Cath is a Simon Snow fan. The whole world is a Simon Snow fan, but for Cath, being a fan is her life. Cath's sister has grown away from fandom, but Cath can't let go. Is she ready to start living her own life? Write her own stories? Open her heart to someone? Or will she just go on living inside somebody else's fiction? (HL570L)

THIS SONG WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE by Leila Sales ~~~~~YA SALES
Nearly a year after a failed suicide attempt, sixteen-year-old Elise discovers that she has the passion, and the talent, to be a disc jockey. (HL720L)

THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING by Robyn Schneider ~~~~~YA & TEEN SCHNE
Star athlete and prom king Ezra Faulkner's life is irreparably transformed by a tragic accident and the arrival of eccentric new girl Cassidy Thorpe. (930L)

MORE HAPPY THAN NOT by Adam Silvera ~~~~~YA & TEEN SILVE
After enduring his father's suicide, his own suicide attempt, broken friendships, and more in the Bronx projects, Aaron Soto, sixteen, is already considering the Leteo Institute's memory-alteration procedure when his new friendship with Thomas turns to unrequited love. (850L)

WINGER by Andrew Smith ~~~~~YA SMITH
Two years younger than his classmates at a prestigious boarding school, fourteen-year-old Ryan Dean West grapples with living in the dorm for troublemakers, falling for his female best friend who thinks of him as just a kid, and playing wing on the Varsity rugby team with some of his frightening new dorm-mates. (890L)

TWO ROADS FROM HERE by Teddy Steinkellner ~~~~~YA STEIN
Five high school seniors face one life-changing decision and two very different roads.

EVERY LAST WORD by Tamara Ireland Stone ~~~~~YA STONE
Consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off, a girl coping with Purely-Obsessional OCD learns to accept herself and take control of her life through her experiences in poetry club. (HL750L)

MARCELO IN THE REAL WORLD by Francisco X. Stork ~~~~~YA & TEEN STORK
Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. (700L)

THE HATE U GIVE by Angie Thomas ~~~~~YA THOMA
After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Kahlil died. (HL590L)

THE LIST by Siobahn Vivian ~~~~~YA & TEEN VIVIA
Every year at Mount Washington High School somebody posts a list of the prettiest and ugliest girls from each grade-- this is the story of eight girls, freshman to senior, and how they are affected by the list. (750L)

HIGHLY ILLOGICAL BEHAVIOR by John Corey Whaley ~~~~~YA & TEEN WHALE
Agoraphobic sixteen-year-old Solomon has not left his house in three years, but Lisa is determined to change that--and to write a scholarship-winning essay based on the results. (HL700L)

THE PROBABILITY OF MIRACLES by Wendy Wunder ~~~~~YA & TEEN WUNDE
Having spent years in and out of hospitals for a life-threatening illness, pragmatic sixteen-year-old Cam is relocated by her miracle-seeking mother to a town in Maine known for its mystical healing qualities. (800L)

THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR by Nicole Yoon ~~~~~YA YOON
Natasha is a girl who believes in science and facts. Daniel has always been a good son and good student. But when he sees Natasha he forgets all that and believes there is something extraordinary in store for both of them. (HL 650L)

STORY OF A GIRL by Sara Zarr ~~~~~YA & TEEN ZARR
After being caught in a compromising situation with her brother's best friend in the back of a car, Deanna's life is forever changed as vicious rumors begin to spread all over town and ruin her reputation. (760L)