



**EMMA S. CLARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY
TEEN BOOK REVIEW PROGRAM
FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 & UP**



We are looking for teens in Grades 7 & up to read and review books from the most recent lists (published by the Young Adult Library Services Association, aka YALSA) of extraordinary books for teens. These reviews will be uploaded to [the Library's teen webpage](#) for the benefit of local teens.

Reviewers will **earn three hours of community service credit** for each book that they review. Reviewers can review up to three books for credit per quarter. Quarters are defined as Feb-Apr, May-Jul, Aug-Oct, and Nov-Jan. The quarters cross calendar years due to the release schedule of the YALSA lists.

Instructions:

1. Fill out the registration form below. Both the teen and a parent/guardian must sign the registration form. No reviews will be accepted and no community service awarded to any unregistered teen. Email your completed form to Teen Services Librarian, Emily Ostrander, at teens@emmaclark.org. Keep this part of the form with the instructions for your records.
2. Consult YALSA's 2022 Best Fiction for Young Adults and YALSA's 2022 Award for Excellence in Nonfiction lists for titles to review. The lists are attached to this packet. All books on the YALSA Lists are available as physical books at the library. Most are also available online through our free ebook/audiobook services, Overdrive/Libby (Libby is the newer form of the Overdrive app) and Hoopla. *Please note that the books on the YALSA list vary in maturity level, and may not all be appropriate for younger teens.*
3. After reading the Teen Review Formatting Guidelines, complete your review in a Word document or Google document and email it as an attachment to the Teen Services Librarian, Emily Ostrander, at teens@emmaclark.org. Be sure to include your full name in each email so we can send you your community service credit in a timely manner. Please save a copy of each review for your records. **All reviews must be a minimum of one page long, single-spaced, in 12pt Times New Roman font, and follow all the Teen Review Formatting Guidelines.** If the review is accepted, your certificate for three hours of community service credit will be emailed to you shortly after we receive the review, and your review will be uploaded to [the teen webpage](#).

Reviewers can receive 3 hours of community service credit for each accepted review, for up to a total of 3 reviews per quarter (9 hours of credit per quarter). The most hours of credit a teen can earn participating in the 2022 Teen Book Review program is 36 hours. We reserve the right to reject and/or request revising of any review that does not meet these requirements. Please check with your organization(s) that participation in this program meets their community service requirements. Please direct any questions to Emily Ostrander at (631) 941-4080, or teens@emmaclark.org

Teen Book Reviewer Registration Form -YALSA Extraordinary Books for Teens-
Teen and Parent/Guardian must sign this form - Please write neatly.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Date _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address _____

I have read all of the above requirements. I understand that the review(s) will be shared on the Emma Clark Teen Website (with my last name omitted from the review) and that **I will only receive community service credit if I meet all of the above-listed requirements of the program.**

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____



Teen Review Formatting Guidelines

In order to receive community service credit, you must follow these review guidelines.

Reviews must be of books from the YALSA lists attached to this form.

Reviews that do not meet the guidelines will be rejected and/or sent back for revision.

1. In a Word Document, using 12pt Times New Roman font, single-spaced, begin the review with a header containing the following pieces of information:
 - Author:
 - Title:
 - Genre:
 - Reviewer Name and Grade:
 - Date Reviewed:
2. In a new paragraph, or paragraphs, briefly summarize the book.
 - If the book is **fiction**, include the plot, setting, time period, main events, names and personalities of the main characters, and any other information that was important to the story.
 - If the book is **nonfiction**, include the type of information covered, how information is presented, if there is an index, appendixes, definition of terms, or cited sources, if it is successful in teaching the reader about the topic, and any other information that was important to the presentation of information in this book.

This section must be at least 300 words long, but also *should not exceed one page, single-spaced.*
3. In a new paragraph, answer the following questions:
 - Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?*
 - Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?*
 - What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?*
 - What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*
 - What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?*

Please *italicize* the questions, and then answer them in a new line (like a new paragraph but not indented) using at least one full sentence. Cite specific examples from the book, as needed, to back-up your answers.
4. In a new paragraph, please rate the book. The rating system is as follows:
 - 5 stars: I'm really glad I read this book; it was awesome!*
 - 4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.*
 - 3 stars: It was okay; I had hoped for better.*
 - 2 stars: I did not like this book but somebody else might.*
 - 1 star: I would not recommend this book.*

Please *italicize* the rating, then explain the reason for your rating in a new line. Using full sentences, cite specific examples of what was really good, just okay, or bad about the book.

At this point the review should be at least one page long, single spaced. If it is not, please revisit the review and see where you can dig deeper!

5. Once you are satisfied with the review, email the completed review as an attached Word or Google document to Emily Ostrander at teens@emmaclark.org. Please include your **full name** in the body of the email, so that we can send the community service credit to you in a timely manner. Please save a copy of the review for your records.

Thank you and happy reviewing!

A Quick Note on eFormats:

If you prefer to read on a device rather than print books, eFormats are a great option! Overdrive and Hoopla are eBook and Audiobook platforms available through the library. Overdrive has an app called Libby, which you can download and use to read or listen to books, if you prefer to use your phone or tablet instead of the computer. Hoopla does not have an app, BUT unlike Overdrive where you might have to wait for a book (we purchase a limited number of licenses to the book, similarly to how we purchase a limited number of print copies), Hoopla's titles are always available! If you need help navigating either platform, ask a librarian, we're happy to help!

YALSA's 2022 Best Fiction for Young Adults

About this List: The Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) Best Fiction for Young Adults list is comprised of fiction titles published for young adults in the past 14 months (November 1, 2020 through December 15, 2021) that are recommended reading for ages 12 to 18. "Best" is defined as: "Of the highest quality, excellence, or standing." As applied to teen fiction, this definition means that only the most outstanding, interesting, and valuable teen titles (according to YALSA) are found on this list.

Title and Author	eFormats	Physical Book Call Number
<i>Ace of Spades</i> by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé	Overdrive – ebook & audio	YA ABIKE
Ambitious queen bee Chiamaka and loner scholarship kid Devon are the only Black students at school. That's all they have in common until an online bully going by the name "Aces" starts spilling all their secrets. Chiamaka and Devon will have to join forces to bring Aces down—or lose everything.		
<i>Amari and the Night Brothers</i> by B.B. Alston	Overdrive – ebook & audio Hoopla – audio	TEEN ALSTO
Amari's brother Quinton has disappeared, and her only hope of finding him is to follow in his footsteps and become a Junior Agent with the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs.		
<i>American Betiya</i> by Anuradha D. Rajurkar	Overdrive – ebook & audio	YA RAJUR
Indian American teen Rani's first love, already complicated by cultural differences, becomes even more confusing when Oliver asks more from her than she can give. Rani must decide if she can blend her family traditions with her American boyfriend and, if she can't, what happens next.		
<i>The Awakening of Malcolm X</i> by Ilyasah Shabazz and Tiffany D. Jackson	Overdrive – ebook & audio Hoopla – audio	YA SHABA
While serving a sentence in Charlestown Prison, Malcolm Little is introduced to the teachings of Islam and begins to correspond with Elijah Mohammad. As he struggles to process his anger and his past, he begins to solidify his beliefs and become the man known as Malcolm X.		
<i>The Barren Grounds</i> by David A. Robertson	Overdrive – ebook & audio Hoopla – ebook	TEEN GN ROBER
Indigenous foster kids Morgan and Eli feel lost and isolated in their new home. But when Eli's drawings open a portal to another world populated by talking animals, Morgan and Eli finally feel at home. They need the world of Misewa. And as it turns out, Misewa needs them too.		
<i>Beasts of Prey</i> by Ayana Gray	Overdrive – ebook & audio	YA GRAY
Unlikely duo Koffi and Ekon may have conflicting ulterior motives, but they must cooperate to survive the Greater Jungle and find the legendary monster called the Shetani—a magical, murderous beast that has been plaguing the area for almost 100 years.		

Blackout by Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon
Overdrive – ebook & audio **YA BLACK**

Summer in New York City. When the power goes out, sparks fly. All across the city, Black teens find love—on the subway, at the library, walking home. Everyone is headed to the same block party, and their stars will have realigned when the lights come back on.

The Block by Ben Oliver Overdrive – ebook & audio **YA OLIVE**

After the events of *The Loop*, Luka finds himself once again held prisoner by Happy, who tries to use him to find out where his friends are. Escape is only the first step, though—to take Happy down, Luka and his crew will need to find a whole army.

Bluebird by Sharon Cameron Overdrive – ebook **YA CAMER**

In 1946, German-born Eva arrives in America, recruited to help with the top secret Bluebird program. But Eva is only interested in one thing: justice for those who suffered at the hands of her father.

The City Beautiful by Aden Polydoros Overdrive – ebook & audio **YA POLYD**

Amidst the glitz and glamour of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, Alter Rosen, a gay, Jewish, Romanian immigrant teen, becomes possessed by the dybbuk of his murdered friend and must avenge the deaths of his friend and a growing number of other local Jewish boys.

Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas Overdrive – ebook & audio Hoopla – audio **YA THOMA**

Black teen Maverick Carter tries to stay on the periphery of the King Lords gang in Garden Heights. After becoming a teen dad, he finds it even more difficult to stay on the right side of the law and support his family, too.

The Corpse Queen by Heather M. Herrman Overdrive – ebook & audio **YA HERRM**

Molly's talent as a grave-robber comes in handy when she is enlisted to help her aunt procure bodies for surgical students.

The Cost of Knowing by Brittney Morris Overdrive – ebook & audio **YA MORRI**

Foreseeing his younger brother's impending death, Black teen Alex resolves to make Isaiah's final hours the best he can instead of running away as he had before the accident that killed his best friend. To do so, both brothers must learn about their ancestors and themselves.

A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow by Laura Taylor Namey Overdrive – ebook & audio **YA NAMEY**

Grief-stricken by her abuela's death and breakups with her BFF and boyfriend, Lila Reyes travels from sunny Miami to gloomy old England for a change of scenery. Cuban spices, British baking, and a cute boy soon have Lila questioning everything she thought she knew and everything she thought she wanted.

Curses by Lish McBride Overdrive – ebook & audio **YA MCBRI**

When Merit refuses to marry a prince, she is cursed to live as a beast. Tevin's family runs cons on rich girls, but after his mom runs afoul of the beast, she trades him for her freedom. This fresh, gender-bent “Beauty and the Beast” retelling examines what “beastly” really is.

The Darkness Outside Us by Eliot Schrefer Overdrive – ebook & audio **YA SCHRE**

Two white teenage boys from rival countries wake up on a spaceship they don't remember boarding to perform a mission that may not be real with an OS that is becoming increasingly untrustworthy. At least they have each other.

Don't Hate the Player by Alexis Nedd Overdrive – ebook & audio **YA NEDD**

Hidden behind her studious, college-bound image, Emily Romero is also an amazing gamer. She's kept that life secret from her classmates and, more importantly, from her parents for years. But when a boy from her past intersects with both lives, her secret may be exposed.

Donuts and Other Proclamations of Love by Jared Reck [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA RECK**

Oscar knows what he wants to do after high school: cook for his wise-cracking Swedish grandfather's food truck. Change comes in the form of Lou, an overachiever with big plans and ideas. Now Oscar must reckon with the new girl in his life, his grandfather's past, and his own future.

Dustborn by Erin Bowman [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA BOWMA**

After the mysterious General attacks Delta's home in search of her long-hidden secret and kidnaps her family in the process, she will do anything to get them back. But life on the wastes is brutal and short, and Delta must learn who she can trust in order to take down the General.

Electric Kingdom by David Arnold [Overdrive – audio](#) **YA ARNOL**

In a postapocalyptic wilderness where swarms of flesh-eating flies may descend at any moment, the fates of two groups of teenage travelers, a young woman on a strange mission from her father, and a mysterious figure called "The Deliverer" collide. Primary characters are white, Black, and Jordanian.

Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry by Joya Goffney [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **TEEN GOFFN**

To prevent the contents of her missing journal from going public, Quinn, a wealthy Black senior at a predominantly white high school, must face seven of her biggest fears. Reluctantly, she teams up with attractive and mysterious Carter to complete the list and find the blackmailer.

Fat Chance, Charlie Vega by Crystal Maldonado [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA MALDO**

Meet Charlie Vega: half-Puerto Rican in a white Connecticut town, body-positive (or trying to be) despite her mother's fat-shaming, best friend to the amazing Amelia, never been kissed. Charlie is determined to find a way to be more than just the fat brown girl standing in Amelia's perfect shadow.

Fierce as the Wind by Tara Wilson Redd [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA REDD**

When Hawaiian teen Miho's boyfriend breaks up with her, the pain feels insurmountable. But Miho redirects her feelings into training for and competing in a triathlon. Will this new challenge set her free?

Fifteen Hundred Miles from the Sun by Jonny Garza Villa **YA VILLA**

When Julian drunkenly outs himself on Twitter, his plans for a low-key last few months of high school are blown out of the water. With his crush, Mat, all the way across the country, Jules will have to navigate the consequences of his father's homophobia on his own.

Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA BOULL**

When tragedy strikes her close-knit community, eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine—the daughter of a white mother and an Ojibwe father—agrees to go undercover for a dangerous FBI investigation. What she finds cuts close to the bone, and Daunis has to draw on all her strengths to face the truth.

The Forest of Stolen Girls by June Hur [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA HUR**

In this taut mystery set in 15th century Korea, two estranged sisters search for their missing father, a detective who vanished while investigating the disappearance of thirteen girls. As they follow his trail, they discover disturbing connections to their past and the incident that broke apart their family.

Gilded by Marissa Meyer [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA MEYER**

Cursed by the god of lies, the village blames Serilda for every unlucky instance, though their children love her well-spun stories. But when she tries to spin a tale to save two moss maidens from the wicked Erlking, she gets caught in a dangerous web of deception.

The Girls I've Been by Tess Sharpe [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA SHARP**

Nora is a white seventeen-year-old trying to have a normal life after escaping her con-artist mother. When she gets caught in a bank heist gone terribly wrong, she'll have to use her skills from her past life to get herself and others out alive.

- The Great Bear*** by David Robertson [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA ROBER**
Indigenous foster kids Morgan and Eli travel through Eli’s drawn portal again, finding themselves returned to the magical Misewa but in a much different time than their previous adventure. Morgan and Eli must team up with a young Fisher to protect the village against a new threat.
- The Heartbreak Bakery*** by A.R. Capetta [Overdrive – ebook](#) **YA CAPET**
After a bitter breakup, Syd bakes ALL THE FEELINGS into a batch of brownies—literally, because every couple that eats them breaks up, too. Now Syd must undo the damage. But with cute bike messenger Harley helping out, finding the perfect recipe to mend heartbreak is more complicated than Syd ever imagined.
- Hold Back the Tide*** by Melinda Salisbury [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) **YA SALIS**
Alva lives with a murderer. Everyone knows her father killed her mother, and now Alva plans her escape from the Highlands, where her father tends the loch. But the water levels are dropping. Something is killing livestock. Then Alva sees the impossible, and everything she knows comes crashing down.
- Home Is Not a Country*** by Safia Elhillo [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA ELHIL**
Muslim and Arabic-speaking Nima doesn't feel like she belongs in her American town, but she doesn't feel she belongs with her mother and the "old country" way of thinking, either. When reality tilts and Nima can suddenly see different paths of her life, belonging begins to mean something different.
- How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love with the Universe*** by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland
[Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA VASQU**
When Moon Fuentez reluctantly agrees to accompany her social-media influencer twin, Star, on a national charity tour, she forms a snarky, tender connection with Santiago, who is overshadowed by his own famous sibling.
- Hunting by Stars*** by Cherie Dimaline [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook](#) **YA DIMAL**
In a dystopian future where people have stopped dreaming, the government harvests bone marrow from Indigenous people for the dreams they still carry. When French is captured, his found family refuses to forget him. Reuniting will require sacrifices, betrayals, and desperate bids for a survival that is anything but assured.
- Hurricane Summer*** by Asha Bromfield [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA BROMF**
Tilla and her sister Mia travel to Jamaica to spend the summer with their father, but when he leaves them with their aunts, uncles, and cousins in the country and returns to the city, Tilla must find her own way despite the many expectations and assumptions surrounding her.
- In the Wild Light*** by Jeff Zentner [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA ZENTN**
Their Tennessee town is caught in the opioid crisis, but Cash and Delaney find beauty in the little things. When Delaney wins a boarding-school scholarship that includes tuition for Cash, he must balance his broken past with the possibility of a future full of life and love.
- Indestructible Object*** by Mary McCoy [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA MCCOY**
After her long-time boyfriend breaks up with her on their joint podcast, white teen Lee Swan decides to start a new podcast investigating her parents’ failing marriage as a means of coping with her own increasingly cynical views on love.
- Indivisible*** by Daniel Aleman [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA ALEMA**
When 16-year old Mexican American Mateo's undocumented parents are deported, he does what he can to keep his younger sister safe. While keeping up appearances at school and helping run his family’s hard-built bodega, he fights to reunite the family.
- The Initial Insult*** by Mindy McGinnis [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) **YA MCGIN**
Tress has finally had enough of her ex–best friend’s lies, and she is determined to find out what Felicity knows about Tress’s parents’ disappearance, no matter what. Felicity has buried the memories, but it’s time to dig them up if she wants to stay alive in this Poe-inspired literary mashup.

Kate in Waiting by Becky Albertalli [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA ALBER**

Kate, a junior, is ecstatic to finally get a lead role in the school musical, and playing opposite the dreamy new guy she and her best friend are both crushing on is icing on the cake. But what will happen to their friendship if he chooses one of them?

Kneel by Candace Buford [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) **YA BUFOR**

After Black football prodigy Russel Boudreaux protests the unfair arrest and suspension of his best friend Marion by taking a knee during the national anthem, he quickly becomes a target of hate and fear in his small Louisiana town.

Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Malinda Lo [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA LO**

In 1954, 17-year-old Chinese American Lily Hu takes a chance and visits San Francisco's Telegraph Club, a lesbian nightclub, with her friend Kath and starts to understand why she's always felt a bit different from the other girls she's grown up with.

The Life I'm In by Sharon G. Flake [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) **YA FLAKE**

Charlese Jones is angry, defiant, and grieving the loss of her parents when her sister turns her out of the only home she's ever known. On her way to her grandparents, Char is lured into a human-trafficking web. She will need all her strength and determination to escape.

Like Other Girls by Britta Lundin [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook](#) **YA LUNDI**

Mara Deeble, a white teen in rural Oregon, is used to being “one of the boys.” When four other girls join her in trying out for the football team, she is forced to confront her internalized misogyny and closeted sexuality.

List of Ten by Halli Gomez **YA GOMEZ**

Troy, a white teen living with Tourette Syndrome and OCD, has plans to kill himself on the 10th anniversary of his diagnosis, believing there cannot possibly be a good life for him in the future. As his circumstances change, however, he begins to find reasons to live.

Little Thieves by Margaret Owen [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA OWEN**

Vanja, the goddaughter of Death and Fortune, is a thief of epic proportions, stealing not only gold and jewels but even a certain princess's identity. But her hustle threatens to collapse when a lesser god puts a curse on her that will only break if she returns everything she stole.

Love in English by Maria E. Andreu [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) **YA ANDRE**

When Ana immigrates to New Jersey from Argentina at sixteen, she has to grapple with a new country, new school, changed family dynamics, and two very different boys, all in a language in which she hasn't achieved fluency.

Luck of the Titanic by Stacey Lee [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA LEE**

Seventeen-year-old British Chinese acrobat Valora Luck stows away aboard the Titanic in order to reunite with her twin brother and convince him to join her in America for a career in the Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Margot Mertz Takes It Down by Carrie McCrossen and Ian McWethy [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA MCCRO**

Margot Mertz is building her college fund by quietly solving people's Internet emergencies, but when a fellow classmate asks her to take down a local revenge-porn site, she may have bitten off more than she can chew.

Me (Moth) by Amber McBride [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA MCBRI**

Black teen Moth's family died in a car accident, leaving her lost and unmoored until she meets Sani, a Navajo teen with his own dark family struggles. As an impromptu road trip leads further west and closer to each other, they each begin to see their own way forward.

The Mirror Season by Anna-Marie McLemore [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA MCLEM**

Latinx teen Graciela struggles to piece her shattered world back together and reclaim the gifts that earned her the nickname "La Bruja de los Pasteles" after she and a soon-to-be transfer student, a white cis boy named Lock, are sexually assaulted at a party.

Mister Impossible by Maggie Stiefvater [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) **YA STIEF**

With the help of their mentor, Bryde, Ronan and Hennessy try to evade the Moderators and repair the ley line to its full power. Meanwhile, Jordan tries to find a way to keep herself alive and awake, no matter what happens to Hennessy.

My Contrary Mary by Cynthia Hand, Brodi Ashton, and Jodi Meadows [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA HAND**

Mary, Queen of Scots must navigate engagement to a prince, nefarious political schemes, and her secret shapeshifting abilities if she is to keep her head (and her tail) in this reimagined historical tale.

Not My Problem by Ciara Smyth [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA SMYTH**

It all starts when Aideen pushes overachiever Maebh down the stairs on purpose so a minor injury can give Maebh a break from her overwhelming schedule. Soon, other classmates are asking for favors. Aideen's all in. After all, it's more fun to fix other people's problems than deal with your own.

Off the Record by Camryn Garrett [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA GARRE**

When Josie, a Black high school senior, wins a chance to join a film's press tour and write a feature piece on the film's young star, she has to balance her assignment, growing feelings for her interview subject, and a major #MeToo story that an actress wants Josie to break.

One of the Good Ones by Maika Moulite and Maritza Moulite [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) **YA MOULI**

When Black teen activist Kezi Smith is killed while in police custody, Kezi's two sisters, girlfriend, and friend go on the graduation road trip Kezi planned before her death, using the Negro Motorist Green Book as inspiration.

The Ones We're Meant to Find by Joan He [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) **YA HE**

Cee, a multiracial young woman living alone on an island for three years, doesn't know who she is or where she came from yet feels compelled to cross the vast ocean in search of her sister, until a stranger arrives and challenges everything she thought she knew.

The Other Merlin by Robyn Schneider [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA SCHNE**

Prince Arthur would rather be a librarian. Lancelot is a disgraced guard who flirts with all the boys. Merlin is an ambitious bisexual girl named Emry in disguise as a boy. Fate has big plans for these kids—if they can survive all the courtly intrigue and adolescent drama.

The Other Side of Perfect by Mariko Turk [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA TURK**

After a severe injury, half-Japanese, half-white teen Alina is forced to give up her lifelong dream of becoming a professional ballerina and figure out who she is without being able to participate in the passion that previously defined her life.

Perfect on Paper by Sophie Gonzales [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA GONZA**

For 10 dollars, students can slide a letter into locker #89 and get personalized advice for all their relationship woes. Secretly, it's Darcy Phillips writing to everyone. When she's found out by new student Brougham, all of Darcy's carefully kept secrets threaten to spill out into the open.

Perfectly Parvin by Olivia Abtahi [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA ABTAH**

Parvin Mohammadi, Iranian American and white, gets humiliatingly dumped at freshman orientation and decides to remake herself into the perfect rom-com girl to attract a Homecoming date. Is there room for the real Parvin—loud, funny, and queen of pranks—in high school or a relationship?

Pumpkin by Julie Murphy [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA MURPH**

Waylon Brewer—tall, fat, white, redheaded, queer—is waiting for the end of high school so he can live the fabulous life he's dreamed of. When a video of Waylon in drag goes viral and he's nominated for prom queen as a joke, he has only one choice: run for prom queen for real.

The River Has Teeth by Erica Waters [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA WATER**

In the woods of Tennessee, magic is in the air, and girls are going missing. When Natasha Greymont asks for the help of local witch Della Lloyd to solve her sister's disappearance, their combined rage and desperation might be just what their world needs to stitch itself back together again.

Rural Voices: 15 Authors Challenge Assumptions About Small-Town America edited by Nora Shalaway Carpenter
[Overdrive – ebook](#) **YA RURAL**

A great mix of authors diverse in ethnicity, gender identity, and sexuality shares stories about teens living in small towns.

She Drives Me Crazy by Kelly Quindlen [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) **YA QUIND**

Scottie, a white basketball player, and Irene, an Indian-American cheerleader, have a history of bad blood. When a fender-bender forces them to commute to school together, they hatch a fake-dating scheme to get back at Scottie's ex and to help Irene's bid for a competitive athletic award.

A Sitting in St. James by Rita Williams-Garcia [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA WILLI**

This epic historical novel follows a plantation-owning family on the brink of financial ruin and the enslaved people forced to work for them during the last few years of the antebellum era in south Louisiana.

Six Crimson Cranes by Elizabeth Lim [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA LIM**

Shiori must find a way to overpower her stepmother, the Queen, who has turned her six brothers into cranes and banished Shiori from her home in this East Asian-inspired retelling of the "Six Swans" fable from the Brothers Grimm.

The Sky Blues by Robbie Couch [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA COUCH**

When openly gay, white teen Sky's plans for an elaborate promposal to his longtime crush, Ali, an Arab-American and possibly not-gay classmate, are derailed by a homophobic and racist email prank, Sky and his group of friends devise a plan to uncover the culprits while also publicly embracing and celebrating Sky's identity.

A Snake Falls to Earth by Darcie Little Badger [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA LITTL**

Nina is a Lipan Apache teen living in the very near future. Oli is a cottonmouth person in the Reflecting World. When the snake boy ventures to Earth to seek the help of a human girl, they must turn the tides of change to protect those they love.

Some Girls Do by Jennifer Dugan [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA DUGAN**

Sparks fly when Ruby hits Morgan with her car. But track star Morgan is out and proud, and beauty queen/mechanic Ruby is closeted. These very different girls need nearly opposite things from each other. Can their worlds combine, or are they destined to crash and burn?

Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet by Laekan Zea Kemp [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA KEMP**

Mexican-American young adults Pen (an aspiring baker and the heir apparent to her family's restaurant) and Xander (an undocumented immigrant searching for the father who abandoned him) develop a tender connection amidst their own personal crossroads and trouble in their Austin, TX, neighborhood.

Starfish by Lisa Fipps [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA FIPPS**

Ellie's sister gave her the name Splash at her fifth birthday party, and Ellie can no longer recall a time when she wasn't shamed for being fat. With the help of a supportive dad and some therapy, Ellie begins to demand to be treated like a human being.

Sugar Town Queens by Malla Nunn [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA NUNN**

When mixed-race teen Amandla discovers that her white mother's wealthy and estranged family has been living in nearby Johannesburg, South Africa, she sets out to uncover the secrets that have forced her and her mother to fend for themselves in the impoverished Sugar Town township.

The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling by Wai Chim

Overdrive – ebook & audio Hoopla – audio

YA CHIM

Anna Chiu is the daughter of two Chinese immigrants in Australia. Between taking care of her siblings, mentally ill mother, the family restaurant, and school, the new delivery boy might be a welcome change—or a distraction that threatens the precarious balance Anna has maintained for so long.

Sway with Me by Syed M. Masood

Overdrive – ebook

YA MASOO

Worried that he will be alone when his guardian—a centenarian great-grandfather—dies, Arsalan seeks out the help of his classmate Beenish, whose stepmother is a matchmaker. In exchange, he agrees to participate in a Bollywood-inspired dance number at her sister's wedding.

Switch by A.S. King

Overdrive – ebook & audio

YA KING

Javelin prodigy Truda lives in a world where time has stopped moving forward, and it's still June 23, 2020. Tru may be the only person who knows how to fix it, if she can hang on as the house her father built literally turns upside down.

This Poison Heart by Kalynn Bayron

Overdrive – ebook & audio

YA BAYRO

Brooklyn-raised Black teen Briseis Green has a magical affinity for making plants grow and flowers bloom with a single touch. When she suddenly inherits an old country house, Bri discovers an in-demand apothecary, built-in clientele, a secret garden full of poisonous plants, and a dangerously dark family legacy.

This Will Be Funny Someday by Katie Henry

Overdrive – ebook & audio Hoopla – audio

YA HENRY

When quiet, lonely Isabel, a white teen living in Chicago, unwittingly stumbles into performing stand-up comedy, she has two problems: her new college-aged comedy friends don't know she's 16, and she has to keep comedy a secret from everyone else she knows, especially her controlling boyfriend.

The Way Back by Gavriel Savit

Overdrive – ebook & audio

YA SAVIT

Two separate losses drive Yehuda Leib and Bluma further and further away from their home and closer to each other. Their separate dealings with the Angel of Death may cost them their lives—or may finally lead them home.

We Are the Ashes, We Are the Fire by Joy McCullough

Overdrive – ebook & audio

YA MCCUL

After her sister's rapist is convicted but only sentenced to time served, an outraged Em turns to writing a novel about Marguerite de Bressieux, a 15th century sword-wielding rape survivor, as a means of processing her sister's trauma.

What About Will by Ellen Hopkins

YA HOPKI

When Trace's older brother Will suffers a head injury playing football, no one knows how hard things will get. Their mom spends most of her time on the road, their dad works a lot, and Trace is left to figure out when it's time to speak up about Will's addiction.

What Beauty There Is by Cory Anderson

Overdrive – ebook & audio

YA ANDER

If they're going to survive the harsh Idaho winter, Jack must either relinquish his brother to foster care or find the stash of money from the high-stakes job that sent his father to prison. Ava is determined to help, but she's hiding a dangerous secret.

When We Make It by Elisabet Velasquez

Overdrive – ebook & audio

YA VELAS

Puerto Rican teen Sarai navigates life in 1990's Bushwick, Brooklyn, as her community faces gentrification, poverty, and addiction.

Where the Rhythm Takes You by Sarah Dass

Overdrive – ebook & audio

YA DASS

After her mother's death, Afro-Caribbean teen Reyna abandons her artistic plans to work at the family hotel in Tobago. But when ex-boyfriend Aiden—now a famous musician—returns, Reyna must relive romantic regrets and decide if it's worth taking a second shot at a life she never got to lead.

- Who I Was with Her*** by Nita Tyndall [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) **YA TYNDA**
Corinne has kept her sexuality and her girlfriend Maggie a secret from everyone she knows, so she is forced to grieve alone when Maggie suddenly dies. Corinne finds solace in talking to Elissa, Maggie’s ex, but things get complicated when they become increasingly drawn to each other.
- With You All the Way*** by Cynthia Hand [Overdrive – ebook](#) **YA HAND**
At 16, white Ada thinks she’s ready for sex. With no obvious prospects at hand, she convinces her longtime acquaintance Nick that they should exit the “v-club” together. But it turns out there’s more to the deed than just a physical act—feelings and emotions matter too.
- The Words in My Hands*** by Asphyxia [Hoopla – ebook](#) **YA ASPHY**
In a near-future Australia experiencing economic collapse and food shortages, white Deaf teen Piper meets Marley, a Child of a Deaf Adult (CODA), who introduces her to sign language, the local Deaf community, and the practice of growing “wild food” illegally on public land in this colorfully illustrated epistolary novel.
- Year of the Reaper*** by Makiia Lucier [Overdrive – ebook & audio](#) **YA LUCIE**
When a murderer connected to the queen threatens the fragile peace between two kingdoms ravaged by war and plague, nobleman Cas, newly home from his time as a prisoner of war, is tasked with finding the killer and uncovering her secrets.
- Your Heart, My Sky: Love in a Time of Hunger*** by Margarita Engle [Overdrive – ebook](#) **YA ENGLE**
During Cuba's euphemistically named "special period in times of peace," a pair of teens fall in love as they struggle to find food for their families.

YALSA's 2022 Award for Excellence in Nonfiction

About the Award:

YALSA's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12-18) during the November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021 publishing year. Five titles are deemed the finalists, and only one wins the award. The award is bestowed on the title that (according to YALSA), best honors a work for subject, treatment, and accessibility to young adults.

2022 Winner

Ambushed! The Assassination Plot Against President Garfield by Gail Jarrow

[Overdrive – ebook](#)

973.84 JARRO

An intricately detailed narrative of the assassination of President Garfield, Jarrow uses historical documents, newspaper accounts, and diary entries to create an engaging chronology of events as part of her Medical Fiascoes series.

2022 Finalists

Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre by Brandy Colbert

[Overdrive – ebook & audio](#)

976.686 COLBE

Colbert contextualizes the Tulsa Race Massacre which had its hundredth year anniversary this year to commemorate the harrowing events using her skillful writing for teen audiences. A well-researched accounting of the racial violence that cannot be forgotten.

From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement by Paula Yoo

[Overdrive – ebook & audio](#)

305.895 YOO

Yoo weaves an emotional story within a story of a movement that began after the death of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American at the hand of two white men. The book follows the chain of events and trial simultaneously capturing the country's treatment of Asian and their efforts to overcome it.

In The Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months and Years After the 9/11 Attacks by Don Brown

[Overdrive – ebook](#)

TEEN GN BROWN

For a new generation living in a post-9/11 era, Brown writes and illustrates the events of the terrorist attack immediately after not only at Ground Zero but the country and military operations abroad. With a style that befits the mood, the combination of words and art shines.

The Woman All Spies Fear: Code Breaker Elizebeth Smith Friedman and Her Hidden Life by Amy Butler Greenfield

[Overdrive – ebook & audio](#)

B FRIEDMAN

With her work buried and credit given to others, female codebreaker Elizebeth Smith Friedman's life and accomplishments are given prime coverage. The book celebrates her intelligence, creativity, and tenacity during World War I and II and the legacy she leaves behind filled with intrigue, spying, and ciphers.