



**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 2023 Best Fiction for Young Adults and YALSA's 2023 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, Libby/Libby (Libby is the newer form of the Libby 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 2023 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:
 - Title:
 - Author:
 - 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! Libby and Hoopla are eBook and Audiobook platforms available through the library. Libby has an app, which you can download and 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 Libby 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 2023 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 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>African Town</i> by Irene Latham and Charles Waters <i>African Town</i> tells the story of a West African community kidnapped by a rival king, sold to black market slavers and brought to Alabama in 1859. After the Civil War, the community worked together to build a town of their own.	Libby – ebook & audio	YA LATHA
<i>The Agathas</i> by Kathleen Glasgow and Liz Lawson Alice and Iris, both with secrets of their own, team up to solve the mystery of a missing fellow high school student using Agatha Christie's mystery books as a base for their detective work.	Libby – ebook & audio	YA GLASG
<i>Ain't Burned All the Bright</i> by Jason Reynolds A Black teen tries to find space to breathe during the summer of 2020 with a father in quarantine, a mother glued to the news, and siblings coping in their own ways in this illustrated verse novel.	Libby – ebook & audio	YA 811.6 REYNO
<i>All My Rage</i> by Sabaa Tahir Pakistani-American teens Salahudin and Noor have been best friends since childhood, but a fight drove them apart just when they needed each other the most. Now it's a tragedy that brings them back together.	Libby – ebook & audio	YA TAHIR
<i>All of Us Villains</i> by Amanda Foody and C. L. Herman Once every generation, the seven great magickal families of Ilvernath send one of their own to compete in a tournament of death to gain control of the rare and powerful high magick supply. This tournament, however, will be unlike any other in its history.	Libby – ebook & audio Hoopla – audio	YA FOODY
<i>All That's Left in the World</i> by Erik J. Brown After a deadly pathogen kills off much of the population and everyone they care about, Andrew and Jamie find each other when they need it most and band together to undertake a dangerous journey to search for civilization.	Libby – ebook & audio Hoopla – ebook & audio	TEEN BROWN
<i>Alone Out Here</i> by Riley Redgate When a planet-destroying event occurs ahead of schedule, a group of teens from around the world board and launch the prototype generation ship, Lazarus, before realizing that their supplies are severely limited and that there are no adults on board to take charge.	Libby – ebook & audio Hoopla – ebook & audio	YA REDGA

Bitter by Akwaeke Emezi [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA EMEZI

Black teen Bitter has come to find a safe haven at Eucalyptus, a home for vulnerable teens. When Bitter's talent of bringing her own art to life spirals out of control, she must find a way to stop what she has unleashed or risk destroying her entire town.

Dark Room Etiquette by Robin Roe [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) YA ROE

Rich and privileged 17-year-old Sayers Wayte is kidnapped by a man who tells him that he is his real father. As time passes, Sayers becomes increasingly confused, exhausted, and traumatized as he tries to decide what to believe and how to escape.

The Door of No Return by Kwame Alexander [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA ALEXA

In 1800's Ghana, Kofi's peaceful village life is disrupted when his brother accidentally kills a man in a wrestling match. Disaster follows when, despite the warnings of his elders, Kofi leaves the safety of his village to swim after dark.

The Drowned Woods by Emily Lloyd-Jones [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA LLOYD

Mer is a magical water diviner who agrees to assist a former spymaster, along with a few other unique characters, on a dangerous heist that will help her finally escape the clutches of the corrupt prince.

Foul Lady Fortune by Chloe Gong [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA GONG

Set in 1931 in the same world as Gong's *These Violent Delights* duology, this thrilling series opener pairs supernaturally-enhanced assassin Rosalind Lang and Nationalist spy Orion Hong on a mission to stop the grisly murders causing unrest in Shanghai.

Four For the Road by K.J. Reilly [Libby – ebook](#) YA REILL

It's been over a year since Asher's mother died and Asher is not okay. He plans a road trip to confront the drunk semi driver that hit his mother and who better to bring along than his new friends from his bereavement groups?

Gallant by V. E. Schwab [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA SCHWA

A mysterious letter summons white, British orphan Olivia Prior to Gallant, her estranged family's estate, where she uncovers the dark family legacy that her late mother tried to protect her from.

The Getaway by Lamar Giles [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) YA GILES

In the near future, Jay works in Karloff Country, “the funnest place around,” where the rich and powerful come to escape the crumbling outside world, but when things turn sinister at the resort, he and his friends must fight to survive.

Gideon Green in Black and White by Katie Henry [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA HENRY

When Gideon Green was younger, he was an obnoxious boy detective. Now retired, but still obsessed with film noir, Gideon must put on his fedora again to help his former best friend, Lily.

The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea by Axie Oh [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) YA OH

In this retelling of a classic Korean folktale, sixteen-year-old Mina sacrifices herself to the Spirit Realm and begins her quest to wake the Sea God and stop the storms that are destroying her homeland.

Hollow Fires by Samira Ahmed [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA AHMED

Indian American Safiya investigates the murder of a local Iraqi refugee, 14-year-old Jawad, who had previously been wrongly arrested and labeled a terrorist. It's told through the dual POV of Safiya, and Jawad's ghost, transcripts, news articles, and other media.

Home Field Advantage by Dahlia Adler [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) YA ADLER

The cheerleader and the quarterback is a total cliché, but what if the quarterback is a girl? Amber, cheerleader and closeted lesbian, tries to hide her feelings for Jaclyn “Jack” Walsh but when a plot to undermine all that Jack has worked for is revealed, Amber must decide where her loyalties lie.

The Honeys by Ryan LaSala [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) YA LASAL

After their twin sister's violent death, genderfluid teen Mars takes her place at the prestigious Aspen Conservancy Summer Academy to expose the camp's dark secrets—but the truth is scarier and more dangerous than they ever expected.

Hopepunk by Preston Norton [Libby – ebook](#) YA NORTO

Hope's sister Faith ran away to avoid being sent to a facility designed to "cure" homosexuality. Now her friend Danny is getting kicked out of his house for being gay, so she decides to stake a stand by moving him into her house and starting a punk band with him.

Hotel Magnifique by Emily J. Taylor [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA TAYLO

Jani barely makes ends meet taking care of her sister Zosa in the coastal town of Durc. When a magical traveling hotel appears, they manage to gain employment and think their problems are solved-- when they're really just beginning.

How to Survive Your Murder by Danielle Valentine [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA VALEN

Alice is about to testify at the trial of her sister's killer when she's knocked out in the courthouse bathroom and wakes up a year earlier on the night her sister was murdered, giving her a chance to change the outcome.

How You Grow Wings by Rimma Onoseta [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA ONOSE

Nigerian sisters Cheta and Zam dream of leaving home and their mother's abuse. Zam's dream becomes reality when their rich aunt invites her, but not Cheta, to live with them. While Zam struggles to adapt to a privileged life, Cheta turns to a darker path to engineer her escape.

I Kissed Shara Wheeler by Casey McQuiston [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA MCQUI

Chloe Green's world was turned upside once - when her moms relocated from the actual beach in California to False Beach, Alabama. But Chloe found her purpose - becoming valedictorian and beating the school's golden girl, Shara Wheeler. What's Chloe to do when Shara disappears before graduation? Find her, of course.

I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA SEPET

Seventeen-year-old Cristian is forced to become an informant for the Romanian Securitate in order to help save his ailing grandfather but under Ceausescu's totalitarian regime, spies are everywhere and no one is safe.

I'm the Girl by Courtney Summers [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA SUMME

Sixteen-year-old Georgia is thrilled to land her dream job at the exclusive resort, Aspera. When she discovers the body of a thirteen-year-old girl nearby, she agrees to help her sister Nora investigate Aspera's elite—but she's too dazzled by what she finds to realize the danger.

Icebreaker by A. L. Graziadei [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) YA GRAZI

During his freshman year of college, Mickey James III navigates the pressure of becoming the NHL's top draft spot while dealing with mental illness, keeping his grades up, and falling for his rival and teammate, Jaysen Caulfield.

If You Could See the Sun by Ann Liang [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA LIANG

Shortly after Alice's parents tell her that they can no longer afford her tuition at her elite boarding school in Beijing, Alice develops an uncontrollable ability to turn invisible and begins spying and divulging the secrets of her classmates for a hefty price.

In the Serpent's Wake by Rachel Hartman [Libby – ebook](#) TEEN HARTM

In this multifaceted fantasy, sequel to *Tess of the Road*, Tess sails in search of the last World Serpent to save her dying friend. Their high-seas adventure runs into the volatile political situation in the Archipelagos, where indigenous nations have been subjugated by colonizers.

Into the Sublime by Kate A. Boorman [Libby – ebook](#) YA BOORM

Four thrill-seeking teenagers explore an unmapped cave system in search of a legendary lake, the Sublime, rumored to have the power to change things for those brave enough to face their fears. When only three return, it's up to Amelie, the group's planner, to tell their tale to the police.

Iron Widow by Xiran Jay Zhao [Libby – ebook & audio](#) TEEN ZHAO

Zetian becomes a concubine-pilot, the other half of a yin-yang pair able to pilot a giant mecha Chrysalis in an endless war, in order to kill the celebrated male pilot responsible for her sister's death in this gripping queer, feminist SF retelling of Chinese history.

Iveliz Explains It All by Andrea Beatriz Arango [Libby – ebook & audio](#) TEEN ARANG

After the death of her father, 12-year-old Iveliz is left reeling with no one to turn to as she struggles to manage her mental health.

Jumper by Melanie Crowder [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA CROWD

Blair is a 19-year-old wildland firefighter who works hard alongside her best friend to prove herself in a male-dominated field for a chance to become a smokejumper, but she is hiding a secret that could change everything.

Kiss & Tell by Adib Khorram [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA KHORR

As the only out gay member of the Canadian boy band, Kiss & Tell, white teen Hunter is used to dealing with scrutiny but even he is unprepared for pressure when his ex-boyfriend leaks revealing texts to the press right in the middle of Kiss & Tell's tour.

Lakelore by Anna-Marie McLemore [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) YA MCLEM

Two non-binary teens, Bastian Silvano and Lore Garcia, are pulled into a magical world under a lake - but can they keep their worlds above water intact?

The Last Laugh by Mindy McGinnis [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook](#) YA MCGIN

In this dark sequel to McGinnis' Poe-inspired thriller, *The Initial Insult*, Tress Montor succumbs to guilt over murdering her friend, though still committed to finding the truth about her parent's disappearance, while Ribbit Usher plans his own fiery revenge on the bullies who humiliated him.

The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) TEEN SOONT

Twelve year old Sai is assistant to Mangkon's most celebrated mapmaker. When they set out on a journey to chart the seas, she has no idea that the ship may actually be heading to the fabled Sunderlands, a land thought to be guarded by dragons.

The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School by Sonora Reyes [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA REYES

Yamilet is dealing with a lot: fallout from being outed, keeping her brother out of trouble, and navigating a new school. The last thing she needs is a distraction in the form of a smart, funny, and cute classmate, who also is openly queer. But that is exactly who Bo is.

The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen by Isaac Blum [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA BLUM

When fifteen-year-old Hoodie Rosen and his Orthodox Jewish family move to a new town, Hoodie is shunned for hanging out with a non-Jewish girl while anti-Semitic hate crimes rise in town.

Live, Laugh, Kidnap by Gabby Noone [Libby – audio](#) YA NOONE

Welcome to Violet, Montana - home of a once thriving now barely surviving cult and now also home to a mega-church. Also home to a lot of other people just trying to live. Zoe, Genesis, and Holly are three teens caught up in it all and take matters into their own hands.

Love Radio by Ebony LaDelle [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA LADEL

Can Prince, aka DJ LoveJones, convince Danielle, the girl he's been crushing on since middle school, to fall in love with him in three dates? She doubts it but she agrees to let him try - especially once she gets to know the guy behind the smooth talking radio voice.

Loveless by Alice Oseman [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA OSEMA

White 18-year-old Georgia has never been in a relationship or even kissed anyone. So for her first year at university she's determined to find someone- a pursuit that is complicated by Georgia's growing realization that she may not be attracted to anyone.

A Magic Steeped in Poison by Judy I. Lin [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA LIN

Ning's sister is in danger of dying after drinking poisoned tea, the same that killed her mother. Ning enters the competition to find the kingdom's greatest shennong-shi—masters of the ancient and magical art of tea— to win a favor from the princess, her only chance to save her sister.

Man Made Monsters by Andrea L. Rogers [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook](#) YA ROGER

A collection of horror short stories following a Cherokee family over generations as they encounter monsters and fantastical creatures ranging from vampires and werewolves to creatures drawn from Cherokee oral tradition.

The Most Dazzling Girl in Berlin by Kip Wilson [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA WILSO

Amidst poverty, hunger, and the rise of the Nazi Party, 18-year-old orphan Hilde finds work, acceptance, and love in a queer cabaret in 1932 Berlin.

The Name She Gave Me by Betty Culley [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA CULLE

In this novel in verse, Rynn searches for her birth mother but ends up connecting with a younger sister that she didn't know existed.

No One Is Alone by Rachel Vincent [Libby – ebook](#) [Hoopla – ebook](#) YA VINCE

Michaela's mom dies suddenly and she is forced to move in with her father-- who has an entire family in the next town over that she never knew about, including a teenage daughter her own age.

Nothing Burns as Bright as You by Ashley Woodfolk [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA WOODF

Woodfolk captures the intensity of female friendship growing into first love in this fast-paced verse novel. Taking place over the course of a single day, flashbacks intertwine with the present day aftermath of a fire set on school grounds that sparks the end of a relationship.

Nothing More to Tell by Karen McManus [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA MCMAN

Four years ago, three teens found the body of their teacher in the woods behind the school. Now, teen journalist Brynn has moved back to town and is investigating the cold case for her true crime internet show internship. She is not prepared for what she is about to find.

The Ogress and the Orphans by Kelly Barnhill [Libby – ebook & audio](#) TEEN BARNH

Stone-in-the-Glen used to be a lovely town, but it's a mean and miserly place. When an incident involving one of the children from Orphan House leads to suspicion stoked by the Mayor concerning the Ogress living near town, the orphans take it upon themselves to unmask the true villain.

One for All by Lillie Lainoff [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) YA LAINO

When her ex-Musketeer father is murdered, Tania, who suffers from a chronic illness is sent to a boarding school that secretly teaches a select group of girls to wield swords and spy on treacherous nobles in order to protect France as a new, clandestine branch of the Musketeers.

One True Loves by Elise Bryant [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) TEEN BRYAN

Lenore is having trouble committing to a path after high school, despite her parents' pressure. She's also not a hopeless romantic like her BFF Tessa (of Happily Ever Afters). She's too pragmatic for grand swooping love—until she embarks on a European cruise and meets insufferable Alex Lee.

Our Crooked Hearts by Melissa Albert [Libby – ebook & audio](#) TEEN ALBER

A series of increasingly unsettling incidents leads white teen Ivy to suspect that her mother may be harboring dangerous and magical secrets from her past.

Queen of the Tiles by Hanna Alkaf [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA ALKAF

Najwa Bakri is ready to return to competitive Scrabble after she watched her best friend, Trina Low, suddenly die at a tournament. Najwa has spent the past year dealing with her grief which she thinks is under control until someone starts posting from Trina's Instagram...what if Trina's death wasn't natural?

The Red Palace by June Hur [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA HUR

1758, Joseon, Korea: 18-year-old palace nurse Hyeon becomes embroiled in the investigation of four dead women when her beloved mentor is arrested for the crime in spite of the mysterious posters around town accusing the Crown Prince of the same murders.

Rust in the Root by Justina Ireland [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA IRELA

In an alternate 1937 suffering from environmental disaster, Black mage Laura joins the Bureau of the Arcane's Conservation Corps to combat the Blight, hoping to get her own mage's license. On her first mission, she discovers strange new powers--and that the Blight isn't what it seems.

A Scatter of Light by Malinda Lo [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA LO

Aria Tang is sent to California to spend the summer with her grandmother after compromising pictures of Aria are shared. She befriends Steph, her grandmother's gardener, and is welcomed into the working-class queer community that Steph is a part of.

Scout's Honor by Lily Anderson [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA ANDER

Prudence Perry was a Lady Bird Scout, sworn to protect an unsuspecting populace from interdimensional monsters, but she's been retired for three years. Thus it is with reluctance that she agrees to train a new trio of Scouts to face the horrors that caused her to leave the Lady Birds.

The Summer of Bitter and Sweet by Jen Ferguson [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA FERGU

Metis teen Lou finds her final summer before college upended by the return of a former best friend and the unexpected release from prison of her rapist biological father.

The Sunbearer Trials by Aiden Thomas [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA THOMA

Teo, seventeen-year-old trans son of Quetzal, goddess of birds, is one of the ten semidioses chosen to compete in The Sunbearer Trials, an event held to determine who will be sacrificed to light the temples of Reino del Sol.

Sunny G's Series of Rash Decisions by Navdeep Singh Dhillon [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA DHILL

Sunny decides to spend Prom night making only rash decisions, in honor of his beloved brother, who recently died. He shaves off his beard, stops wearing his turban, and befriends rash-behavior-expert Mindii, who promises to help. What follows is a wild night of fun, drama, romance, grief, and possibility.

Thirst by Varsha Bajaj [Libby – ebook & audio](#) TEEN BAJAJ

Twelve-year-old Minni lives in the poorest part of Mumbai with limited access to water. Minni dreams of finishing school and getting a good job, but after witnessing thieves stealing water, she has some hard choices to make.

This Vicious Grace by Emily Thiede [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA THIED

Alessa is the Finestra, gifted divine power to protect her island from demons, paired with another chosen capable of withstanding her deadly touch. When she is almost assassinated, Alessa hires street fighter Dante to be her bodyguard until she can find her fated partner and save the world.

A Thousand Steps into Night by Traci Chee [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA CHEE

After a mysterious incident with a demon causes Miuko to start becoming a demon herself, she is forced to flee her home and seek out a way to reverse the curse. It's not long, however, before she starts to wonder if she really wants her old life back.

Undercover Latina by Aya de León [Libby – ebook](#) YA DELEO

Fourteen-year-old Latina Andréa spies for The Factory, an international organization protecting people of color. On her first solo mission, she joins a new school and passes as white Andrea Burke to befriend Kyle, the estranged son of a white supremacist suspected of plotting a deadly attack.

Valiant Ladies by Melissa Grey [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA GREY

Proper ladies by day and sword-wielding vigilantes by night, best friends Kiki and Ana face their biggest challenge when Kiki's brother is murdered on the same night that Kiki's engagement is announced to high society in 17th century Potosi.

Very Bad People by Kit Frick [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA FRICK

Years ago, Calliope and her sisters survived a car crash - their mother didn't. Questions have swirled around that day ever since. Now Calliope will attend the boarding school her mother went to, leaving her family and idyllic town behind. Will she gain answers or will secrets surface that should stay buried?

Vinyl Moon by Mahogany L. Browne [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA BROWN

Forced to move from California to Brooklyn, Angel can't shake the feeling that everything that led her here is her fault. With the help of her new classmates and connecting with literature and music, Angel begins to rebuild her confidence, sense of identity, and relationship with her family.

The Weight of Blood by Tiffany D. Jackson [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – ebook & audio](#) YA JACKS

In a town with segregated proms, racial tensions are simmering right below the surface. Maddy Washington, a bullied girl who has been pretending to be white, goes to the first integrated prom with the star quarterback and all the town's racial tensions come to an explosive confrontation.

We Weren't Looking to be Found by Stephanie Kuehn [Libby – ebook](#) [Hoopla – ebook](#) YA KUEHN

Two girls from different backgrounds staying at a mental health treatment center overcome their assumptions to forge a supportive friendship, while struggling to break out of self-destructive cycles of depression, anxiety, and addiction.

What We Harvest by Ann Fraistat [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA FRAIS

After a blight spreads through the farms in Wren's rural town, ruining their famously magical crops and turning people into monsters, Wren and her ex-boyfriend must uncover the secret of the town's magic to stop the blight from taking everyone.

When You Get the Chance by Emma Lord [Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#) YA LORD

Millie Price is dead set on becoming a Broadway star but her introverted dad doesn't want her to leave home. When Millie finds her dad's LiveJournal from 2003, she decides to finally find out who her birth mother is.

The Year I Stopped Trying by Katie Heaney [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA HEANE

After accidentally missing an assignment, Mary, a straight-A student, finds herself in the midst of an existential crisis and makes a conscious decision to see what happens when she stops trying altogether.

You'd Be Home Now by Kathleen Glasgow [Libby – ebook & audio](#) YA GLASG

Emory's brother, Joey, is an addict but no one finds out until the night of a fatal car accident. Now that Joey is home from rehab, Emory finds herself struggling to help her brother maintain sobriety while also navigating her own issues.

YALSA's 2023 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, 2021 through October 31, 2022 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.

2023 Winner

Victory. Stand! Raising My Fist for Justice by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes

[Libby – ebook](#)

TEEN GN SMITH

In this stunningly illustrated graphic memoir, 1968 Olympic gold medalist Tommie Smith recounts how his love of running and his passion for activism resulted in one of the most enduring images in sports history and the fight for civil rights.

2023 Finalists

Abuela, Don't Forget Me by Rex Ogle

[Libby – ebook & audio](#)

YA B OGLE

Rex Ogle's companion to *Free Lunch* and *Punching Bag* weaves humor, heartbreak, and hope into life-affirming poems that honor his grandmother's legacy, capturing and celebrating the powerful presence a woman he could always count on to give him warm hugs and ear kisses, to teach him precious words in Spanish, to bring him to the library where he could take out as many books as he wanted, and to offer safety when darkness closed in.

American Murderer: The Parasite That Haunted the South by Gail Jarrow [Libby – ebook](#) YA 616.9654 JARRO

Imagine microscopic worms living in the soil. They enter your body through your bare feet, travel to your intestines, and stay there for years sucking your blood like vampires. You feel exhausted. You get sick easily. It sounds like a nightmare, but that's what happened in the American South during the 1800s and early 1900s. Doctors never guessed that hookworms were making patients ill, but zoologist Charles Stiles knew better. Working with one of the first public health organizations, he and his colleagues treated the sick and showed Southerners how to protect themselves by wearing shoes and using outhouses so that the worms didn't spread.

A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome by Ariel Henley

[Libby – ebook & audio](#) [Hoopla – audio](#)

YA B HENLEY

At only eight months old, identical twin sisters Ariel and Zan were diagnosed with Crouzon syndrome -- a rare condition where the bones in the head fuse prematurely. They were the first twins known to survive it. Growing up, Ariel and her sister endured numerous appearance-altering procedures. Surgeons would break the bones in their heads and faces to make room for their growing organs. While the physical aspect of their condition was painful, it was nothing compared to the emotional toll of navigating life with a facial disfigurement. Ariel explores beauty and identity in her young-adult memoir about resilience, sisterhood, and the strength it takes to put your life, and yourself, back together time and time again.

Unequal: A Story of America by Michael Eric Dyson and Marc Favreau

[Libby – ebook & audio](#)

YA 323.1196 DYSON

The true story of racial inequality—and resistance to it—is the prologue to our present. You can see it in where we live, where we go to school, where we work, in our laws, and in our leadership. *Unequal* presents a gripping account of the struggles that shaped America and the insidiousness of racism, and demonstrates how inequality persists. As readers meet some of the many African American people who dared to fight for a more equal future, they will also discover a framework for addressing racial injustice in their own lives.