



About the Alex Award:

The Alex Awards identify the top 10 adult books each year that have the most interest and appeal to young adults ages 12 to 18. Titles vary in subject and content, and are selected for their demonstrated or probable appeal to the personal reading tastes of young adults. Additional factors in the identification of these titles are language, plot, style, setting, dialog, characterization, and design. This booklist contains the newest additions to the Alex Awards' ranks.

Books on this List are Located in the Following Sections of the Adult Department:

000-999 – Non-Fiction
B – Biography and Memoir
FIC – Fiction
GN – Graphic Novel
PB RACK – Paper Back Rack
SF – Science Fiction and Fantasy

Realistic Fiction

The Kids are Gonna Ask / Gretchen Anthony / FIC ANTHO / 2020 / 406 pg
The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot / Marianne Cronin / FIC CRONI / 2021 / 326 pg
Plain Bad Heroines / Emily M. Danforth / FIC DANFO / 2020 / 623 pg
Lawn Boy / Jonathan Evison / FIC EVISO / 2018 / 312 pg
Green / Sam Graham-Felsen / FIC GRAHA / 2018 / 301 pg
She Rides Shotgun / Jordan Harper / FIC HARPE / 2017 / 257 pg
A Lady's Guide to Fortune-Hunting / Sophie Irwin / FIC IRWIN / 2022 / 325 pg
The Only Good Indians / Stephen Graham Jones / FIC JONES / 2020 / 310 pg
How Lucky / Will Leitch / FIC LEITC / 2021 / 290 pg
The Swallows / Lisa Lutz / FIC LUTZ / 2019 / 402 pg
Red, White & Royal Blue / Casey McQuiston / FIC & PB RACK MCQUI / 2019 / 421 pg
Chef's Kiss / Jarrett Melendez / GN MELEN / 2022 / 137 pg
True Biz / Sara Nović / FIC NOVIC / 2022 / 386 pg
The Rose Code / Kate Quinn / FIC QUINN / 2021 / 624 pg
Wash Day Diaries / Jamila Rowser / GN ROWSE / 2022 / 191 pg

Newest Top 10 Books of the Year Written for Adults With Special Appeal to Young Adults Ages 12 through 18

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

Updated January 2023

Any questions?
Contact Emily Ostrander, Teen Services
Librarian at Teens@emmaclark.org
Emma S. Clark Memorial Library
631-941-4080



Home After Dark / David Small / GN SMALL /
2018 / 399 pg

The Book of Essie / Meghan MacLean Weir /
FIC WEIR / 2018 / 319 pg

The Nickel Boys / Colson Whitehead /
FIC WHITE / 2019 / 213 pg

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Fiction

Light from Uncommon Stars / Ryka Aoki /
SF AOKI / 2021 / 372 pg

We Ride Upon Sticks / Quan Barry / FIC BARRY
/ 2020 / 366 pg

A Boy and His Dog at the End of the World /
C.A. Fletcher / FIC FLETC / 2019 / 365 pg

The Witch's Heart / Genevieve Gornichec /
FIC GORNI / 2021 / 359 pg

An Unkindness of Magicians / Kat Howard /
FIC HOWAR / 2017 / 354 pg

The Library of the Dead / T. L. Huchu /
FIC HUCHU / 2021 / 330 pg

How Long 'Til Black Future Month? / N. K.
Jemisin / SF JEMIS / 2018 / 400 pg

The House in the Cerulean Sea / TJ Klune /
FIC KLUNE / 2020 / 398 pg

*Babel, Or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane
History of the Oxford Translators'
Revolution* / R.F. Kuang / FIC KUANG /
2022 / 544 pg

Winter's Orbit / Everina Maxwell / SF MAXWE /
2021 / 430 pg

Down Among the Sticks and Bones / Seanan
McGuire / SF MCGUI / 2017 / 187 pg

Middlegame / Seanan McGuire / SF MCGUI /
2019 / 528 pg

Circe / Madeline Miller / FIC MILLE / 2018 / 393 pg

Spinning Silver / Naomi Novik / SF NOVIK /
2018 / 466 pg

Riot Baby / Tochi Onyebuchi / FIC ONYEB /
2019 / 176 pg

Black Sun: Between Earth and Sky / Rebecca
Roanhorse / SF ROANH / 2020 / 454 pg

The Kaiju Preservation Society / John Scalzi /
SF SCALZ / 2022 / 264 pg

Lore Olympus / Rachel Smythe / GN SMYTH /
2021 / 384 pg

Daughter of the Moon Goddess / Sue Lynn Tan /
FIC TAN / 2022 / 503 pg

Malice / Heather Walter / FIC WALTE / 2021 /
470 pg

The Clockwork Dynasty / Daniel H. Wilson /
FIC WILSO / 2017 / 309 pg

Biography and Memoir

Solutions and Other Problems / Allie Brosh /
GN BROSH / 2020 / 518 pg

*A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea: One
Refugee's Incredible Story of Love, Loss,
and Survival* / Melissa Fleming /
956.9104 FLEMI / 2017 / 274 pg

Gender Queer / by Maia Kobabe / GN KOBAB /
2020 / 239 pg

I'm Glad My Mom Died / Jennette McCurdy /
B MCCURDY / 2022 / 304 pg

*The Impossible First: From Fire to Ice--Crossing
Antarctica Alone* / Colin O'Brady /
919.8904 OBRAD / 2020 / 279 pg

High School / Sara Quin & Tegan Quin / B QUIN /
2019 / 369 pg

*Crossing the Line: A Fearless Team of Brothers
and the Sport that Changed their Lives
Forever* / Kareem Rosser / B ROSSER /
2021 / 287 pg

The High Desert: Black. Punk. Nowhere. / James
Spooner / GN SPOON / 2022 / 368 pg

Educated / Tara Westover / PB RACK WESTO and
B WESTOVER / 2018 / 334 pg

Solito / Javier Zamora / B ZAMORA / 2022 / 384 pg

Non-Fiction

Between the World and Me / Ta-Nehisi Coates /
305.800973 COATE / 2015 / 152 pg

Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio / Derf Backderf /
GN BACKD / 2020 / 279 pg

Humans of New York: Stories / Brandon Stanton /
974.71 STANT / 2015 / 428 pg

*The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and
What Comes After* / Clemantine Wamariya
and Elizabeth Weil / 967.571 WAMAR /
2018 / 274 pg

More Titles Available Via

Inter-Library Loan:

The Black God's Drums / P. Djèlí Clark / 111 pg

Malagash / Joey Comeau / 2017 / 175 pg

Dominicana / Angie Cruz / 2019 / 322 pg

In Waves / AJ Dungo / 2019 / 367 pg

Electric Arches / Eve L. Ewing / 2017 / 90 pg

Roughneck / Jeff Lemire / 2017 / 272 pg

Do You Dream of Terra-Two? / Temi Oh / 2019 /
532 pg

All Systems Red / Martha Wells / 2019 / 171 pg