

Books for Boys

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, by Sherman Alexie (contains **mature themes**):

Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, this story chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: the master detective of all time, with his assistant Watson, solves the most baffling crimes.

Airborn, by Kenneth Oppel: Matt Cruse is the 15-year-old cabin boy aboard the Aurora, the 900-foot luxury airship he has called home for the past two years. Matt learns about the fantastic, impossible creatures that fly through the clouds and sets out on a quest to find them.

Airman, by Eoin Colfer: Conor is a student of flight. Unfortunately he uncovers a conspiracy during his studies and is imprisoned for his knowledge. With elements reminiscent of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Conor must decide if revenge is worth the cost of his soul.

The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho: a young shepherd boy goes on a heroic journey that leaves the reader questioning dreams, fate, and faith.

Anpao: An American Indian Odyssey, by Jamake Hightower: based on native American myths, a hero searches for the home of the Sun to gain his heart's desire.

Beowulf: A New Telling, by Robert Nye: He comes out of the darkness, moving in on his victims in deadly silence. When he leaves, a trail of blood is all that remains. He is a monster, Grendel, and all who know of him live in fear. Only one man dares to stand up to Grendel's fury -- Beowulf.

The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak: It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, a boy, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, by John Boyne: Berlin, 1942: a tale of a tragic friendship in the midst of a terrible war.

The Call of the Wild, by Jack London: the story of a greathearted dog and the man he loves.

The Chosen, by Chaim Potok: different strains of Judaism lead two Brooklyn boys to an appreciation of each other's rites of passage.

The Contender, by Robert Lipsyte: a high-school dropout in Harlem discovers boxing and the meaning of manhood.

The Count of Monte Cristo, by Alexander Dumas: a timeless adventure tale of the ultimate revenge.

The Da Vinci Code, by Dan Brown: popular murder mystery that puts a spin on the way we look at some of the world's most celebrated art.

The Dog Who Wouldn't Be, by Farley Mowat: hilarious but true adventure of a boy and his dog on the Canadian prairie.

A Good Dog, by Jon Katz: the author's moving account of his relationship with a lovable but unpredictable border collie, Orson.

Frostborn (Thrones and Bones #1), by Lou Anders: Meet Karn. He is destined to take over the family farm in Norrøngard. His only problem? He'd rather be playing the board game Thrones and Bones. Join Karn and his half-giantess friend Thianna on an action-packed adventure that is rife with Norse mythology and history.

The Graveyard Book, by Neil Gaiman: Bod is an unusual boy who inhabits an unusual place—he's the only living resident of a graveyard. Can a boy raised by ghosts face the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead?

The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas: Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Adams: galaxy-hopping Arthur Dent and galaxy-tour-guide writer Ford Prefect race to save the universe in a series of antic events.

The Hot Zone, by Richard Preston: The bestselling landmark account of the first emergence of the Ebola virus.

The House of the Scorpion, by Nancy Farmer: Matteo Alacran was not born; he was harvested with the DNA from El Patron, lord of a country called Opium. Can a boy who was bred to guarantee another's survival find his own purpose in life? And can he ever be free?

I, Robot, by Isaac Asimov: fascinating tales of beyond tomorrow by the master of science fiction.

Omega City, by Diana Peterfreund: *The Goonies* meet *National Treasure* in this fast-paced novel about Gillian Seagret and her brother Eric attempting to find the lost technology of a Cold War scientist and save their father's reputation.

The Once and Future King, Part 1: "The Sword in the Stone." by T.H. White: a boy receives an education from Merlin before growing up to become King Arthur.

Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes, by Jonathan Auxier: Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes is the utterly beguiling tale of a ten-year-old blind orphan who has been schooled in a life of thievery. One fateful afternoon, he steals a box from a mysterious traveling haberdasher—a box that contains three pairs of magical eyes. Along with his loyal sidekick—a knight who has been turned into an unfortunate combination of horse and cat—and the magic eyes, he embarks on an unforgettable, swashbuckling adventure to discover his true destiny.

Ready Player One, by Ernest Cline: In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—but when Wade stumbles upon a hidden clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

Ripper, by Stefan Petrucha: There is a killer loose in New York City, and Carver Young is the only one who sees the startling connection between the recent string of murders and the most famous serial killer in history: Jack the Ripper. Time is winding down until the killer claims another victim, but Carver soon sees that, to The Ripper, this is all a game that he may be destined to lose.

Ryan Quinn and the Rebel's Escape, by Ron McGee: Ryan is blindsided when his father disappears and his mother is abducted. Left with nothing but questions, he soon discovers his parents have been leading a double life. They actually work with the Emergency Rescue Committee, an underground organization that has performed dangerous rescue missions since World War II, and they've been secretly training Ryan to follow in their footsteps.

The Screaming Staircase (Lockwood and Co.), by Jonathan Shroud: Ghosts + Sherlock Holmes + a Harry Potteresque trio = Lockwood & Co. Only young people have the psychic abilities required to see and eradicate the ghosts of London. Lucy Carlyle teams up with Anthony Lockwood and his partner George to take down the most haunted house in England.

Scythe (Arc of the Scythe Book 1), by Neal Shusterman: A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

Steelheart (Reckoners Book 1), by Brandon Sanderson: Ten years ago, Calamity came. It was a burst in the sky that gave ordinary men and women extraordinary powers. The awed public started calling them Epics. But Epics are no friend of man. Nobody fights the Epics...nobody but the Reckoners. A shadowy group of ordinary humans, they spend their lives studying Epics, finding their weaknesses, and then assassinating them. And David wants in. He wants Steelheart - the Epic who is said to be invincible. The Epic who killed David's father. He's seen Steelheart bleed. And he wants revenge.

The Summer of '49, by David Halberstan: titanic struggle for dominance between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox.

The Three Musketeers, by Alexander Dumas: 17th-century France provides the colorful background for this extraordinary adventure story.

Usborne Illustrated Guide to Norse Myths and Legends by Cheryl Evans and Anne Millard (EDC Publishing): Wodan, Thor, Loki, and more come to life in this dramatically illustrated retelling of Norse myths.

Unwind (Unwind #1) by Neal Shusterman (contains **mature themes**): The Second Civil War was fought over reproductive rights. The chilling resolution: Life is inviolable from the moment of conception until age thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, parents can have their child "unwound," whereby all of the child's organs are transplanted into different donors, so life doesn't technically end. Connor is too difficult for his parents to control. Risa, a ward of the state, is not enough to be kept alive. And Lev is a tithe, a child conceived and raised to be unwound. Together, they may have a chance to escape and to survive.

The Warrior Heir, by Cinda Williams Chima: Jack is Weirlind, part of an underground society of magical people who live among us. At their helm sits the feuding houses of the Red Rose and the White Rose, whose power is determined by playing The Game - a magical tournament in which each house sponsors a warrior to fight to the death. The winning house rules the Weir. As if his bizarre heritage isn't enough, Jack finds out that he's not just another member of Weirlind - he's one of the last of the warriors - at a time when both houses are scouting for a player.

Wicked Girls, by Stephanie Hemphill: a fictionalized account of the Salem Witch trials from three of the real young women living in Salem in 1692. This novel is written as a collection of free verse poems.