

# Recommended Middle School Titles



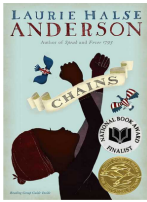
## **Last Day on Mars** *by Kevin Emerson* **YT FIC EMERSON**

While waiting to leave Mars before it burns up just like the Earth before it, Liam and his friend Phoebe discover some facts about time and space and realize that the human race is just one of the races trying to survive in space.



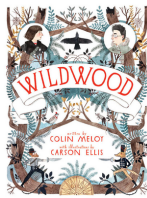
## **Fuzzy Mud** *by Louis Sachar* **YT FIC SACHAR**

When Tamaya and Marshall take a shortcut home from school, they discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.



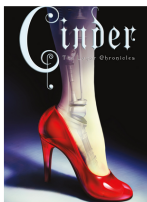
## **Chains** *by Laurie Halse Anderson* **YT FIC ANDERSON**

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight for freedom. In a cruel twist of fate, Isabel and her sister become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution. When Isabel meets a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.



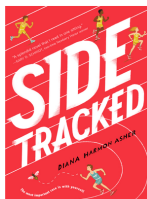
## **Wildwood** *by Colin Meloy* **YT FIC MELOY**

When her baby brother is kidnapped by crows, seventh-grader Prue McKeel ventures into the forbidden Impassable Wilderness—a dangerous and magical forest in the middle of Portland, Oregon—and soon finds herself involved in a war among the various inhabitants.



## **Cinder** *by Marissa Meyer* **YA FIC MEYER**

As plague ravages the overcrowded Earth, observed by a ruthless lunar people, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world in this futuristic take on the Cinderella story.



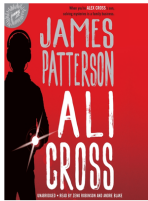
## **Sidetracked** *by Diana Harmon Asher* **YT FIC ASHER**

Joseph Friedman is friendless and puny, with ADD to boot. He spends most of his time avoiding the class bully and hiding out in the Resource Room. But the Resource Room teacher encourages (i.e., practically forces) him to join the school cross country team, and he meets Heather, a new student who's tough and athletic and refuses to be pushed around by anybody.



## **Fairest of All** *by Serena Valentino* **YT FIC VALENTINO**

Why exactly is the wicked Queen so nasty, particularly to Snow White? Perhaps it has something to do with the creepy-looking man in the magic mirror who's not just some random spooky visage...



## **Ali Cross** *by James Patterson*

**YT FIC PATTERSON**

Ali Cross has always looked up to his father, former detective and FBI agent Alex Cross. While solving some of the nation's most challenging crimes, his father always kept his head and did the right thing. Can Ali have the same strength and resolve? When Ali's best friend Gabe is reported missing, Ali is desperate to find him. At the same time, a string of burglaries targets his neighborhood—and even his own house. It's up to Ali to search for clues and find his friend. But being a kid sleuth isn't easy—especially when your father warns you not to get involved!—and Ali soon learns that clues aren't always what they seem. Will his detective work lead to a break in Gabe's case or cause even more trouble for the Cross family?



## **Stargirl** *by Jerry Spinelli*

**YT FIC SPINELLI**

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out. Then Stargirl arrives and everything changes. After 15 years of home schooling, she bursts into 10th grade in an explosion of color and ukulele music. But the scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl's arrival and rise and fall, normal Leo Borlock has tumbled into love with her.



## **When Friendship Followed Me Home** *by Paul Griffin*

**YT FIC GRIFFIN**

Ben Coffin has never fit in. A former foster kid, he keeps his head down at school to avoid bullies and spends his afternoons reading at the library. But that all changes when he finds a scruffy dog named Flip and befriends the librarian's daughter, Halley. For the first time, Ben starts to feel like he belongs. Then, everything changes, and Ben is more alone than ever. With a little help from Halley's magician father, Ben discovers his place in the world.



## **Framed!** *by James Ponti*

**YT FIC PONTI**

In Washington, D.C., twelve-year-old Florian Bates, a consulting detective for the FBI, and his best friend Margaret help thwart the biggest art heist in United States history.



## **The Truth About Twinkie Pie** *by Kat Yeh*

**YT FIC YEH**

When twelve-year-old GiGi and her big sister DiDi move to Long Island from South Carolina for GiGi to attend a fancy new private school, GiGi has a new recipe for success and makes new friends, but then discovers a family secret that turns her life upside-down.



## **The Key to Extraordinary** *by Natalie Lloyd*

**YT FIC LLOYD**

Twelve-year old orphan, Emma Casey, lives by a haunted graveyard in her Tennessee town. She gives tours, and helps her brother and Granny Blue with the family bakery, and waits for the destiny dream of her ancestors—but when it comes it shows her only a key. She finds that she must solve a ghostly mystery that has haunted her town for generations.



## **The Detective's Assistant** *by Kate Hannigan*

**YT FIC HANNIGAN**

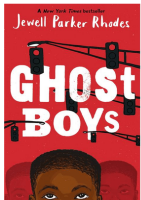
In 1859, Nell goes to live with her aunt, Kate Warne, a female detective for Pinkerton's National Detective Agency, and helps her aunt solve cases, including a mystery surrounding Abraham Lincoln and the mystery of what happened to Nell's own father.



## **A Spy in the House** *by Y.S. Lee*

**YA FIC LEE**

Rescued from the gallows in 1850s London, young orphan and thief Mary Quinn is offered a place at Miss Scrimshaw's Academy for Girls where she is trained to be part of an all-female investigative unit called The Agency and, at age seventeen, she infiltrates a rich merchant's home in hopes of tracing his missing cargo ships.



## **Ghost Boys** *by Jewell Parker Rhodes*

**YT FIC RHODES**

After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.



## **Anna and the French Kiss** *by Stephanie Perkins*

**YA FIC PERKINS**

When Anna's romance-novelist father sends her to an elite American boarding school in Paris for her senior year of high school, she reluctantly goes, and meets an amazing boy who becomes her best friend, in spite of the fact that they both want something more.



## **Book Scavenger** *by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman*

**YT FIC BERTMAN**

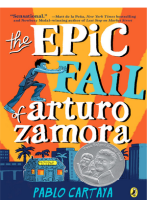
After twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to figure out the secrets of an odd book they find before the men who attacked Emily's hero solve the mystery or come after the friends.



## **City of Ghosts** *by Victoria Schwab*

**YT FIC SCHWAB**

Ever since her near-fatal drowning, Cassidy has been able to pull back the "Veil" that separates the living from the dead and see ghosts, not that she wants to, and she was really looking forward to a ghost-free summer at the beach; however her parents are going to start filming a TV series about the world's most haunted places, starting with Edinburgh with its graveyards, castles, and restless phantoms—and Cass and her personal ghost companion, Jacob, are about to find out that a city of old ghosts can be a very dangerous place indeed.



## **The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora** *by Pablo Cartaya*

**YT FIC CARTAYA**

When his family's restaurant and Cuban American neighborhood in Miami are threatened by a greedy land developer, thirteen-year-old Arturo, joined by Carmen, a cute poetry enthusiast, fight back, discovering the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.



## **Cogheart** *by Peter Bunzl*

**YT FIC BUNZL**

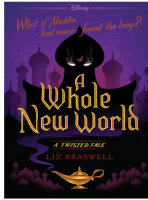
When her father goes missing, thirteen-year-old Lily Hartman must team up with a clockmaker's son, Robert, and her mechanimal fox, Malkin, to solve the mystery of her father's disappearance and his world-changing invention, a perpetual motion machine called the Cogheart.



## The Greatest Zombie Movie Ever *by Jeff Strand*

### YA FIC STRAND

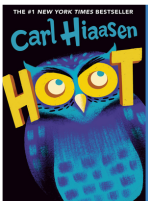
After producing three horror movies that went mostly ignored on YouTube, Justin and his filmmaking buddies decide it's time they create something noteworthy, something epic. They may not have money or a script, but they have passion. And, after a rash text message, they also have the beautiful Alicia Howtz (Justin's crush) as the lead. With only one month to complete their movie, a script that can't possibly get worse, and the hopes and dreams of Alicia on the line, Justin is feeling the pressure. Add to that a cast of uncooperative extras and incompetent production assistants, and Justin must face the sad, sad truth. He may actually be producing The Worst Zombie Movie Ever...



## A Whole New World *by Liz Braswell*

### YT FIC BRASWELL

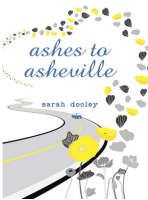
When Jafar steals the Genie's lamp, he uses his first two wishes to become sultan and the most powerful sorcerer in the world. Agrabah lives in fear, waiting for his third and final wish. To stop the power-mad ruler, Aladdin and the deposed Princess Jasmine must unite the people of Agrabah in rebellion. But soon their fight for freedom threatens to tear the kingdom apart in a costly civil war.



## Hoot *by Carl Hiaasen*

### YT FIC HIAASEN

Everybody loves Mother Paula's pancakes. Everybody, that is, except the colony of cute but endangered owls that live on the building site of the new restaurant. Can the awkward new kid and his feral friend prank the pancake people out of town? Or is the owls' fate cemented in pancake batter?



## Ashes to Asheville *by Sarah Dooley*

### YT FIC DOOLEY

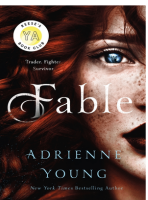
After Mama Lacy's death, Fella was forced to move in with her grandmother. The move meant saying goodbye to her sister Zoey and her other mother, Mama Shannon. Then one night, Zoey shows up determined to fulfill Mama Lacy's dying wish: to have her ashes spread over the lawn of the last place they were all happy as a family. Their adventure to Asheville, North Carolina takes one disastrous turn after another, but their journey helps them rediscover the bonds that make them sisters.



## The Whispers *by Greg Howard*

### YT FIC HOWARD

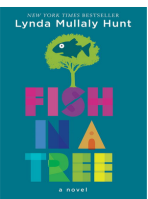
Riley believes in the whispers, magical fairies that will grant you wishes if you leave them tributes. He wishes bullies at school would stop picking on him. He wishes his crush Dylan liked him. But most of all, Riley wishes for his mom to come back home. She disappeared a few months ago, and Riley is determined to crack the case. Riley goes on a camping trip with his friend Gary to find the whispers and ask them to bring his mom back home. But Riley doesn't realize the trip will shake the foundation of everything that he believes in forever.



## Fable *by Adrienne Young*

### YA FIC YOUNG

It's been four years since the night Fable watched her mother drown during an unforgiving storm. The next day her father abandoned her on a legendary island filled with thieves and little food. The only thing that keeps her going is the goal of getting off the island, finding her father, and demanding her rightful place beside him and his crew.



## Fish in a Tree *by Linda Mullaly Hunt*

### YT FIC HUNT

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help. However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. As her confidence grows, Ally discovers that there's a lot more to her, and to everyone, than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.





## The Sisters of Straygarden Place *by Hayley Chewins*

**YT FIC CHEWINS**

Seven years ago, the Ballastian sisters' parents left them in the magical Straygarden Place, a house surrounded by tall silver grass and floating trees. They left behind a warning saying never to leave the house or go into the grass. "Wait for us," the note read. "Sleep darkly." Ever since then, the house itself has taken care of Winnow, Mayhap, and Pavonine. When Winnow, does the unthinkable and goes outside into the grass, everything Mayhap thought she knew about her home, her family, and even herself starts to unravel.



## Restart *by Gordon Korman*

**YT FIC KORMAN**

Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids—trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?



## The Stars Beneath our Feet *by David Barclay Moore*

**YT FIC MOORE**

Unable to celebrate the holidays in the wake of his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly Rachpaul struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city at the Harlem community center.



## The Ruins of Gorlan *by John Flanagan*

**YT FIC FLANAGAN**

Fifteen-year-old Will has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom, highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing. The exiled Morgarath, Lord of the Mountains of Rain and Night, is gathering his forces for an attack on the kingdom. This time, he will not be denied....



## I Wanna Be Where You Are *by Kristina Forest*

**YT FIC FOREST**

When Chloe Pierce's mom forbids her to apply for a spot at the dance conservatory of her dreams, she devises a secret plan to drive two hundred miles to the nearest audition. But Chloe hits her first speed bump when her annoying neighbor Eli insists upon hitching a ride, threatening to tell Chloe's mom if she leaves him and his smelly dog, Geezer, behind. So now Chloe's chasing her ballet dreams down the east coast—two unwanted (but kinda cute) passengers in her car, butterflies in her stomach, and a really dope playlist on repeat. Filled with roadside hijinks, heart-stirring romance, and a few broken rules.



## The Girl Who Drank the Moon *by Kelly Regan Barnhill*

**YT FIC BARNHILL**

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as a sacrifice in hopes it will keep the witch of the forest from terrorizing their town. But Xan, is kind and gentle; she rescues the abandoned children and delivers them to families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight. Xan decides she must raise this magical girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. To keep Luna safe, Xan locks her magic deep inside her—to emerge on her thirteenth birthday. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. It is up to Luna to protect those who have protected her—even if it means the end of the loving, safe world she's always known.



## Magyk *by Angie Sage*

**YT FIC SAGE**

The 7th son of the 7th son, aptly named Septimus Heap, is stolen the night he is born by a midwife who pronounces him dead. That same night, the baby's father, Silas Heap, comes across a bundle in the snow containing a newborn girl with violet eyes. The Heaps take this helpless newborn into their home, name her Jenna, and raise her as their own. But who is this mysterious baby girl, and what really happened to their beloved son, Septimus?



## The Lost Years

by T.A. Barron

**YT FIC BARRON**

A raging sea tosses a boy upon the shores of ancient Wales. Left for dead, he has no memory, no name, and no home. But it is his determination to find out who he is - to learn the truth about his mysterious powers - that leads him to a strange and enchanted land. And it is there he discovers that the fate of this land and his personal quest are strangely entwined. He is destined to become the greatest wizard of all time--known to all as Merlin.

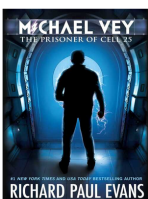


## Love and Gelato

by Jenna Evans Welch

**YA FIC WELCH**

Lina is spending the summer in Tuscany. She's only there because it was her mother's dying wish that she get to know her father. But what kind of father isn't around for sixteen years? All Lina wants to do is go back home. But then she is given a journal that her mom had kept when she lived in Italy. Suddenly Lina's uncovering a world of secret romances, art, and hidden bakeries. A world that inspires her, along with the ever-so-charming Ren, to follow in her mother's footsteps and unearth a secret that has been kept for far too long. It's a secret that will change everything she knew about her mother, her father—and even herself.

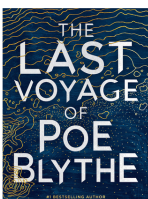


## Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25

by Richard Paul Evans

**YT FIC EVANS**

Michael Vey, a fourteen-year-old with Tourette's syndrome who possesses special electric powers, discovers that a cheerleader named Taylor also has special powers. With the help of Michael's friend, Ostin, the three of them set out to discover how Michael and Taylor ended up this way, but their investigation brings them to the attention of a powerful group who wants to control the electric children.

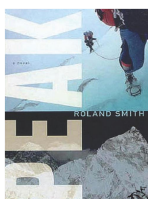


## The Last Voyage of Poe Blythe

by Ally Condie

**YA FIC CONDIE**

There is something Poe Blythe, the seventeen-year-old captain of the Outpost's last mining ship, wants far more than the gold they tear from the Serpentine River. Poe wants revenge. Poe has vowed to annihilate the river raiders who robbed her of everything two years ago. But as she navigates the treacherous waters of the Serpentine and realizes there might be a traitor among her crew, she must also reckon with who she has become, who she wants to be, and the ways love can change and shape you. Even—and especially—when you think all is lost.



## Peak

by Roland Smith

**YA FIC SMITH**

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit—and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.



## Steelheart

by Brandon Sanderson

**YA FIC SANDERSON**

How far would you go for revenge if someone killed your father? If someone destroyed your city? If everything you ever loved was taken from you? David Charleston will go to any lengths to stop Steelheart. But to exact revenge in Steelheart's world, David will need the Reckoners—a shadowy group of rebels bent on maintaining justice. And it turns out that the Reckoners might just need David too.



## The Unwanteds

by Lisa McMann

**YT FIC MCMANN**

Thirteen-year-old Alex tries his hardest to be stoic when his fate is announced as Unwanted, even while leaving behind his twin, Aaron, a Wanted. Upon arrival at the destination where he expected to be eliminated, Alex discovers a secret—behind the mirage of the "death farm" there is instead a place called Artime. In Artime, each child is taught to cultivate their creative abilities and learn how to use them magically, weaving spells through paintbrushes and musical instruments. It's a rare occurrence for twins to be separated between Wanted and Unwanted, and as Alex and Aaron's bond stretches across their separation, a threat arises for the survival of Artime that will pit brother against brother in an ultimate, magical battle.