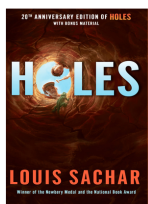
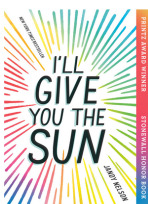


# Recommended Realistic Fiction Titles



**Holes** by Louis Sachar  
**YA FIC SACHAR**

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes: five feet wide and five feet deep. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something, and Stanley is trying to dig up the truth.



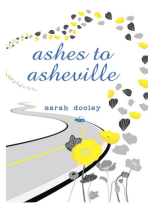
**I'll Give You the Sun** by Jandy Nelson  
**YA FIC NELSON**

At first, artists Jude and her twin brother Noah are inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them. Years later, they are barely speaking. Their mother's death changes the twins in different yet equally devastating ways . . . if they can find their way back to one another, they'll have a chance to remake their world.



**Diamond Boy** by Michael Williams  
**YA FIC WILLIAMS**

"Diamonds for everyone." That's what fifteen-year-old Patson Moyo hears when his family arrives in the Marange diamond fields. Soon Patson is working in the mines himself, hoping to find his girazi—the priceless stone that could change his life forever. But when the government's soldiers come to Marange, Patson's world is shattered. Join Patson as he succumbs to greed and finds his way out through a journey to South Africa in search of his missing sister, in search of freedom, and in search of himself.



**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.



**When You Were Everything** by Ashley Woodfolk  
**YA FIC WOODFOLK**

It's been twenty-seven days since Cleo and Layla's friendship imploded. Nearly a month since Cleo realized they'll never be besties again. Now, Cleo wants to erase every memory, good or bad, that tethers her to her ex-best friend. But pretending Layla doesn't exist isn't as easy as Cleo hoped, especially after she's assigned to be Layla's tutor. Despite budding new friendships with other classmates—and a raging crush on a gorgeous boy named Dom—Cleo's turbulent past with Layla comes back to haunt them both.



**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.



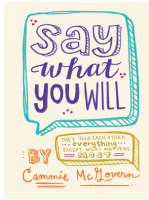
**The Closest I've Come** by Fred Aceves  
**YA FIC ACEVES**

Marcos Rivas wants to find love. He's not getting it at home, or from his boys. Marcos yearns for love, a cell phone, and maybe a pair of sneakers that aren't falling apart. But more than anything, Marcos wants to get out of Maesta—which seems impossible. When Marcos is placed in an after-school program for troubled teens with potential, he meets Zach and Amy. Which inspires Marcos to think about his future and what to fight for.



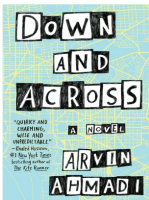
**Slider** by Pete Hautman  
**YA FIC HAUTMAN**

David can eat an entire sixteen-inch pizza in four minutes and thirty-six seconds. Not bad, but he'll have to do better: he's going to compete in the world's greatest pizza-eating contest, and he has to win it, because he borrowed his mom's credit card and spent \$2,000 on it. As if training to be a competitive eater weren't enough, he's also got to keep an eye on his little brother. And don't even get started on the new weirdness going on between his two best friends, Cyn and HeyMan.



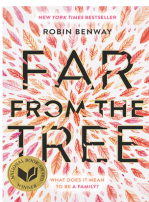
**Say What You Will** by Cammie McGovern  
**YA FIC MCGOVERN**

Born with cerebral palsy, Amy can't walk without a walker, talk without a voice box, or even fully control her facial expressions. Plagued by obsessive-compulsive disorder, Matthew is consumed with repeated thoughts, neurotic rituals, and crippling fear. Both in desperate need of someone to help them reach out to the world. As they spend time with each other, what started as a friendship eventually grows into something neither expected.



**Down and Across** by Arvin Ahmadi  
**YA FIC AHMADI**

Scott has hard time committing to anything; for most of his life he has quit before he has finished. Home alone for a few weeks, Scott quickly gets side tracked and skips an internship to attend a lecture in the city. Ironically, the author he cuts his internship to see is famous for studying and writing about grit, the art of resolve and stick-to-itiveness. If anyone can help him become more committed, the expert in grit might be his last best hope!



**Far From the Tree** by Robin Benway  
**YA FIC BENWAY**

Grace is a junior in high school, she is adopted and wants to search for her birth parents after she placed her baby up for adoption. What she finds instead are her two siblings. One sister, Maya, who was also adopted into a loving family, and Joaquin, their brother who has lived in foster care his entire life. The three siblings struggle with comprehending their different lots in life as they get to know each other and try to find their mother.



**The Speed of Falling Objects** by Nancy Richardson Fischer  
**YA FIC FISCHER**

After losing an eye in a childhood accident, Danny had to relearn her perception of movement and space. Now she keeps her head down, studies hard and works to fulfill everyone else's needs. If only she were more athletic, charismatic, and attractive life would be perfect. When her dad calls with an offer to join him to film the next episode of his popular survivalist show, Danny jumps at the chance to prove herself. When their small plane crashes in the Amazon, and a terrible secret is revealed, Danny must face the truth about the parent she worships, survive the rainforest's deadly threats and find her way home.



**Schooled** by Gordon Korman  
**YT FIC KORMAN**

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a school counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school.



**Ordinary Girls** by Blair Thornburgh  
**YA FIC THORNBURGH**

When Plum and Ginny's family's finances hit a snag, sending chaos through the house, the two drift apart like they never have before. Plum, a self-described social outcast, strikes up a secret friendship with the class jock, while Ginny's usual high-strung nature escalates to pure hysterics. Why does everything feel different this year? Maybe because Ginny is going to leave for college soon. Maybe because Plum finally has something that she doesn't have to share with her self-involved older sister. Or maybe because the girls are forced to examine who they really are instead of who their late father said they were. And who each girl discovers—beneath the years of missing their dad—could either bring them closer together...or drive them further apart.



**Be Not Far From Me** by Mindy McGinnis  
**YA FIC MCGINNIS**

Ashley is more at home with trees overhead than a roof. So when she goes hiking in the Smokies with her friends for a night of partying, the falling dark and creaking trees are second nature to her. When Ashley catches her boyfriend with another girl, drunken rage sends her running into the night, stopped only by a nasty fall into a ravine. Morning brings the realization that she's alone - and far off trail. Lost in undisturbed forest and with nothing but the clothes on her back, Ashley must figure out how to survive despite the red streak of infection creeping up her leg.



**Again, But Better** by Christine Riccio  
**YA FIC RICCIO**

Shane has been doing college all wrong. Pre-med, stellar grades, and happy parents...sounds ideal—but Shane's made zero friends, goes home every weekend, and romance...what's that? Time's a ticking, and she needs a change. Shane signs up for a semester abroad in London. She's going to right all her college mistakes: make friends, pursue boys, and find adventure! She is soon faced with the complicated realities of living outside her bubble, and when self-doubt sneaks in, her new life starts to fall apart.



**Rosie Loves Jack** by Mel Darbon  
**YA FIC DARBON**

When they're separated, Rosie will do anything to find the boy who makes the sun shine in her head. Even defy her parents' orders and run away from home. Even struggle across London and travel to Brighton on her own, though the trains are cancelled and the snow is falling. Even though people might think a girl like Rosie, who has Down syndrome, could never survive on her own.



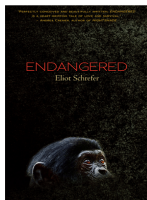
**Jane Anonymous** by Laurie Faria Stolarz  
**YA FIC STOLARZ**

"Jane" was just your typical 17-year-old getting ready to start her senior year. She never would've imagined that in her town where nothing ever happens, a series of small coincidences would lead to a devastating turn of events that would forever change her life. Now, it's been three months since "Jane" escaped captivity and returned home. Three months of being that girl who was kidnapped, the girl who was held by a "monster." But, what if everything you thought you knew—everything you thought you experienced—turned out to be a lie?



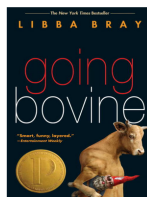
**Love, Hate & Other Filters** by Samira Ahmed  
**YA FIC AHMED**

American-born Maya Aziz is torn between worlds. The proper one her parents expect for their good Indian daughter: attending a college close to their suburban Chicago home, and being paired off with an older Muslim boy who's "suitable" to her mother. And then there is the world of her dreams: going to film school and living in New York City—and maybe, just maybe, pursuing a boy she's known her entire life who's suddenly falling into her orbit at school. When a terrorist attack occurs in another Midwestern city, the prime suspect happens to share her last name. In an instant, Maya's community, consumed by fear and hatred, becomes unrecognizable, and her life changes forever.



**Endangered** by Eliot Schrefer  
**YT FIC SCHREFER**

Sophie is not happy to be back in the Congo for the summer, but when she rescues an abused baby bonobo she becomes more involved in her mother's sanctuary--and when fighting breaks out and the sanctuary is attacked, it is up to Sophie to rescue the apes and somehow survive in the jungle.



**Going Bovine** by Libba Bray  
**YA FIC BRAY**

All Cameron wants is to get through high school—and life in general—with a minimum of effort. But that's before he's given some bad news: he's sick and he's going to die. Which totally sucks. Hope arrives in the winged form of Dulcie, a loopy punk angel/possible hallucination with a bad sugar habit. She tells Cam there is a cure—if he's willing to go in search of it. With the help of a death-obsessed, video-gaming dwarf and a yard gnome, Cam sets off on the mother of all road trips through a twisted America . . . into the heart of what matters most.