

Top 20 Young Adult Books of the 20th Century

Selected by Seattle Public Library's Young Adult Librarians & Specialists.



Hinton, S.E.
The Outsiders

Without parents and in the face of constant threats from a violent gang, three brothers struggle to stay together and stay alive.



Salinger, J.D.
Catcher in the Rye

Holden Caulfield underground in New York City, searching for truth.



Blume, Judy
Forever

Two high school seniors believe their love to be so strong that it will last forever.



Anonymous,
Go Ask Alice

The chronicles of a 15-year-old drug user, struggling to get clean.



Cormier, Robert
The Chocolate War

Refusing to sell boxes of school chocolates can be very dangerous.



Frank, Anne
Diary of a Young Girl

Anne's innermost feelings, written in her secret hiding place.



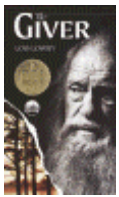
Angelou, Maya
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

An African American writer's painful youth.



Lee, Harper
To Kill a Mockingbird

. A sleepy Southern town is awakened by tragedy and changed forever.



Lowry, Lois
The Giver

. Entrusted with his society's memories, Jonas discovers some terrible secrets.



Golding, William
Lord of the Flies

A group of schoolboys, stranded on a deserted island without grownups, are forced to fend for themselves and create a society of their own.



Block, Francesca Lia
Weetzie Bat

. The wild adventures of Weetzie and her cool L.A. friends - Dirk, Duck and My-Secret-Agent-Lover-Man.



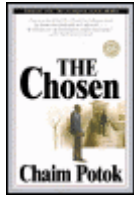
L'Engle, Madeleine
A Wrinkle In Time

After an atomic physicist disappears, his children and their friend go on an interplanetary search through time and space to find him.



Paulsen, Gary
Hatchet

When his plane crashes in the wilderness, 13-year-old Brian must survive on his own, with only a hatchet to aid him.



Potok, Chaim
The Chosen

Two Jewish boys with different religious traditions become friends and grow up together in Brooklyn, New York.



Walker, Alice
The Color Purple

In letters to God, Celie, an African American woman who has suffered abuse and despair, talks about her past sorrows and her positive outlook for the future.



Knowles, John
A Separate Peace

In a New England boys high school at the beginning of World War II, a pair of close friends face a life-altering experience.



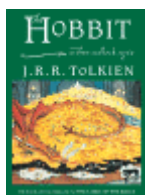
Daly, Maureen
Seventeenth Summer

For Angie Morrow, it would be a summer she'd never forget.



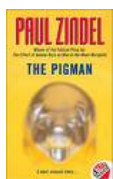
Spiegelman, Art
Maus

The son of a Holocaust survivor tells his father's story in comic book form.



Tolkien, J.R.R.
The Hobbit

Bilbo Baggins, a happy and comfortable Hobbit, is drawn into a fantastic adventure by Gandalf the Wizard.



Zindel, Paul
The Pigman

Two unhappy high school sophomores and their intriguing relationship with an elderly man.