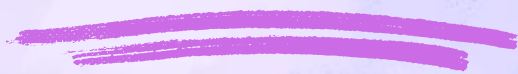


GENTLE READS FOR TEENS



GRADES 6-8

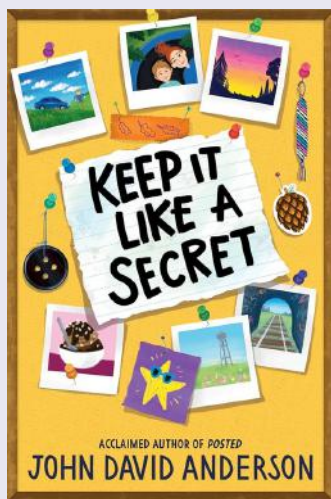
A selection of novels for teens that do not contain explicit or graphic content.



Albus, Kate

A Place to Hang the Moon

It is 1940 and William, 12, Edmund, 11, and Anna, 9, aren't terribly upset by the death of the not-so-grandmotherly grandmother who has taken care of them since their parents died. But the children do need a guardian, and in the dark days of World War II London, those are in short supply, especially if they hope to stay together. Could the mass wartime evacuation of children from London to the countryside be the answer?



Anderson, John David

Keep It Like a Secret

From the first moment Morgan can remember, Claire has always been there. Big sister and little brother. Cat and Mouse. They've always understood each other, saved each other, seen each other. And they stuck to their own code, unwritten but understood, that siblings were inseparable, that they had each other's backs, no matter what. At least, they used to.

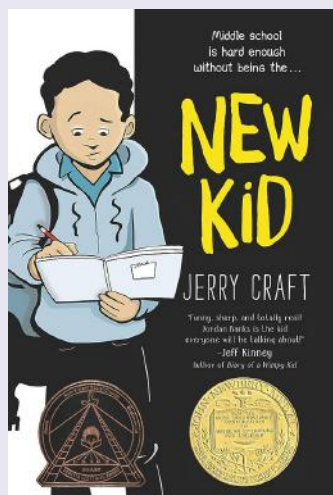


Brosgol, Vera

Plain Jane and the Mermaid

Jane is incredibly plain. Everyone says so: her parents, the villagers, and her horrible cousin who kicks her out of her own house.

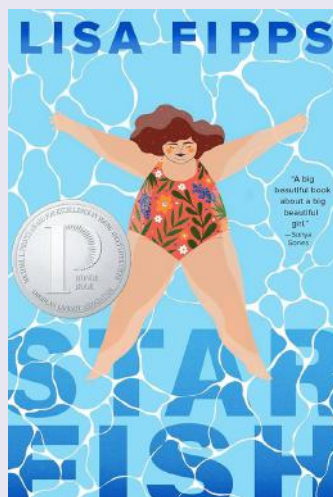
Determined to get some semblance of independence, Jane prepares to propose to the princely Peter, who might just say yes to get away from his father. It's a good plan! Or it would've been, if he wasn't kidnapped by a mermaid.



Craft, Jerry

New Kid

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.



Fipps, Lisa

Starfish

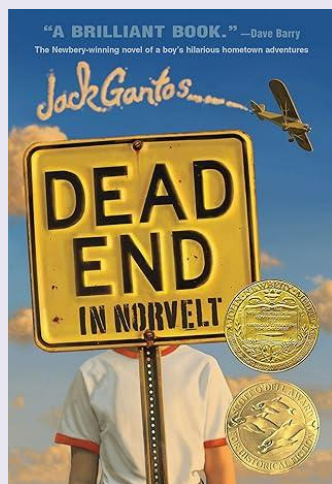
Ellie is tired of being bullied about her weight, so she tries to follow the Fat Girl Rules, like “avoid eating in public,” to stop her mom from criticizing her. But, Ellie also has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina. With this support, Ellie can learn to be her unapologetic self.



Freeman, Megan

Alone

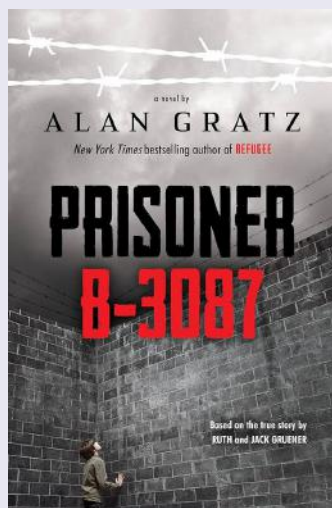
After a secret sleepover with her two best friends, Maddie wakes up alone - the town has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned. With no one to rely on other than a Rottweiler named George, Maddie learns to survive on her own.



Gantos, Jack

Dead End in Norvelt

Jack's summer seems to be ruined by his parents grounding him for life and a strange affliction that makes his nose bleed every time he's shocked or surprised. But, when his mom signs him up to help an elderly neighbor write obituaries, Jack is in for plenty of excitement - and more nosebleeds.



Gratz, Alan

Prisoner B-3087

Yanek Gruener is a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland when the Nazis invade. Everything he has and everyone he loves is brutally taken from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner, his arm tattooed with the number B-3087. Forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another as World War II rages around him, Yanek encounters evil he could never have imagined—and yet finds surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror.



Karim, Violet Chan

Summer Vamp

After a lackluster school year, Maya anticipates an even more disappointing summer. The only thing she's looking forward to is cooking and mixing ingredients in the kitchen, which these days brings her more joy than mingling with her peers . . . that is until her dad's girlfriend registers her for culinary summer camp! Maya's summer is saved! . . . or not.



Kim, Jessica

Stand Up, Yumi Chung!

On the outside, Yumi is incredibly shy, but on the inside, she is ready to host her own comedy special. Yumi is supposed to spend her summer in test-prep tutoring, but she stumbles upon a comedy camp that will change her life.



LaRocca, Rajani

Midsummer's Mayhem

Mimi Mackson struggles with feeling invisible in her family full of talented people, but when a new bakery in town holds a contest, Mimi sees an opportunity to prove herself. As Mimi's dad returns from a business trip with a new attitude and her siblings begin fighting more, Mimi begins to wonder if the ingredients from the new bakery are the cause of all this chaos.



Northrop, Michael

On Thin Ice

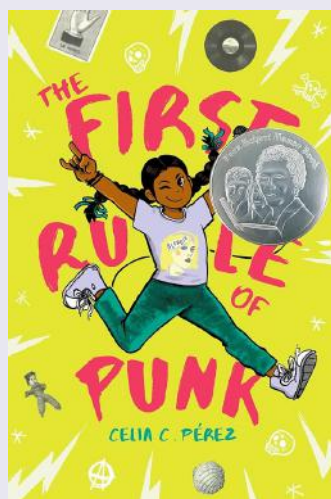
Targeted by the school bully because of his spinal abnormality, twelve-year-old social outcast Ked Eakins organizes an innovative but risky venture to save his home while finding a creative place to belong.



Ortega, Claribel A.

Witchlings

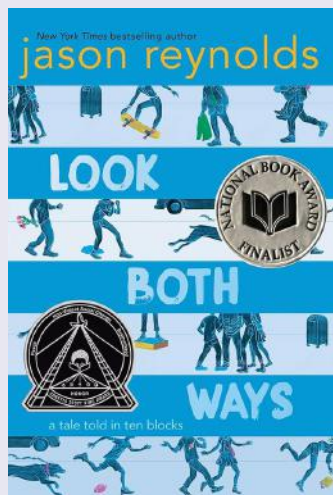
Every year, in the magical town of Ravenskill, Witchlings who participate in the Black Moon Ceremony are placed into covens and come into their powers as full-fledged witches. And twelve-year-old Seven Salazar can't wait to be placed in the most powerful coven with her best friend! But on the night of the ceremony, in front of the entire town, Seven isn't placed in one of the five covens. She's a Spare!



Perez, Celia C.

The First Rule of Punk

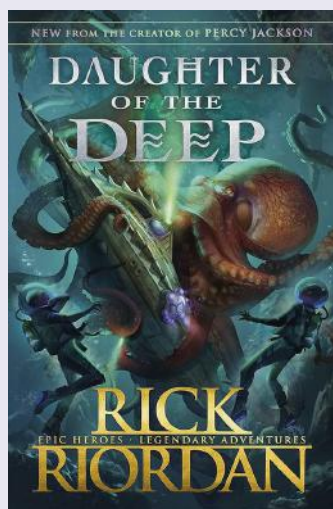
Twelve-year-old Malú has a rough first day at her new school - she upsets the school's queen bee, violates the dress code, and disappoints her college-professor mom. Her dad, who lives a thousand miles away, tells her it'll get better with time. When Malú assembles a group of like-minded misfits and starts a band, she begins to feel at home.



Reynolds, Jason

Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks

In a collection of ten stories, readers can explore the unique stories of neighborhood kids heading home from their school day. Follow lifelong friends, a female skateboarder, two devoted gamers, and more as they recount their experiences in school.



Riordan, Rick

Daughter of the Deep

Ana Dakkar is a freshman at Harding-Pencroft Academy, a five year high school that graduates the best marine scientists, naval warriors, navigators, and underwater explorers in the world. Ana's freshman year culminates with a weekend trial at sea, but on the bus ride to the ship, Ana and her classmates witness a terrible tragedy that changes the trajectory of their lives.



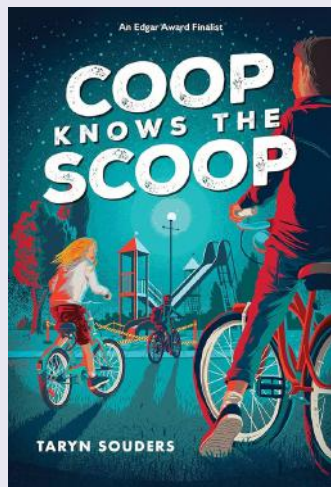
Rochon, Farrah

Fate Be Changed: A Twisted Tale

Merida understands that as princess of Clan DunBroch, she has certain obligations—but that doesn't mean she has to like it.

Especially when one of those obligations means losing her freedom by becoming betrothed to a man she has never met.

Determined to chart her own path, Merida follows magical wisps to a witch's cottage, where she is given a magic pastry, but instead of feeding Elinor the pastry, Merida eats it herself.

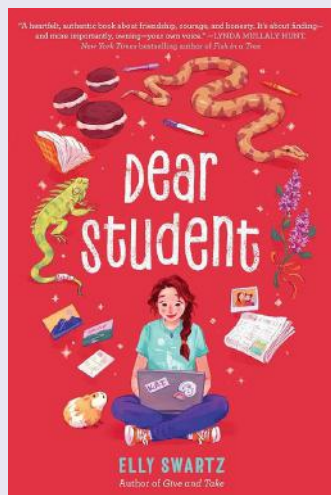


Souders, Taryn

Coop Knows the Scoop

Windy Bottom, Georgia is usually a peaceful place. Coop helps his mom at her café and bookstore, hangs out with his grandpa, bikes around with his friends Justice and Liberty, and is determined to live up to his dad's legacy.

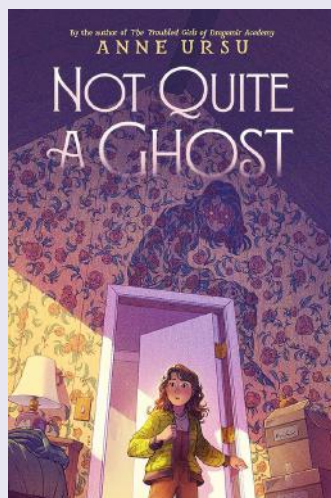
Windy Bottom is full of all kinds of interesting people, but no one has ever caused a problem. Until now. Will Coop and his friends get to the bottom of the mystery and clear Gramps's name before it's too late?



Swartz, Elly

Dear Student

When Autumn becomes the secret voice of the advice column in her middle school newspaper she is faced with a dilemma -- can she give fair advice to everyone, including her friends, all while keeping her identity a secret?



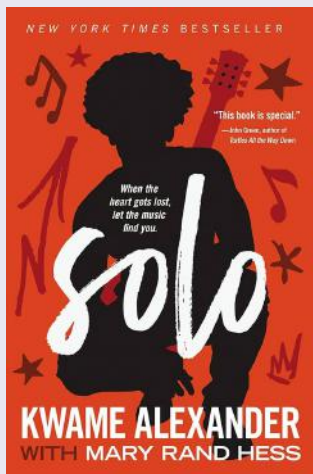
Ursu, Anne

Not Quite A Ghost

The house seemed to sit apart from the others on Katydid Street, silent and alone, like it didn't fit among them. For Violet Hart—whose family is about to move into the house on Katydid Street—very little felt like it fit anymore. The attic bedroom in their new house is shadowy, creaky, and wrapped in old yellow wallpaper covered with a faded tangle of twisting vines and sickly flowers. After moving in, Violet falls ill—and does not get better. And soon, Violet starts to suspect that she might not be alone in the room at all.

GRADES 9-12

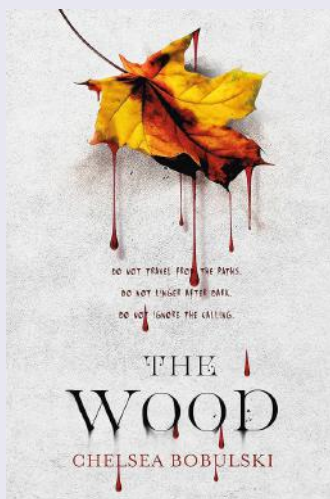
★ These books are for readers who are ready for more sophisticated plots. They may contain some content, language, and situations for older teens. ★



Alexander, Kwame

Solo

Blade never asked for a life of the rich and famous. In fact, he'd give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback. Or to no longer be part of a family known most for lost potential, failure, and tragedy. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship, assuming—like many—that Blade will become just like his father.

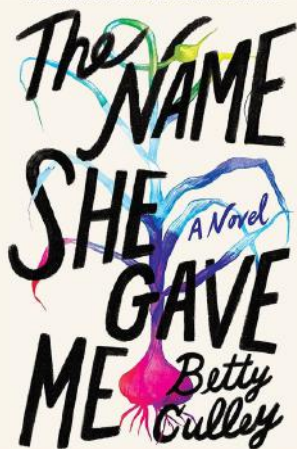


Bobulski, Chelsea

The Wood

Winter didn't ask to be the guardian of the wood, but when her dad inexplicably vanishes, she's the one who must protect travelers who accidentally slip through the wood's portals. The wood is poisoned, changing into something more sinister. Winter must now put her trust in Henry—a young man from eighteenth century England who knows more than he should about the wood—in order to find the truth and those they've lost.

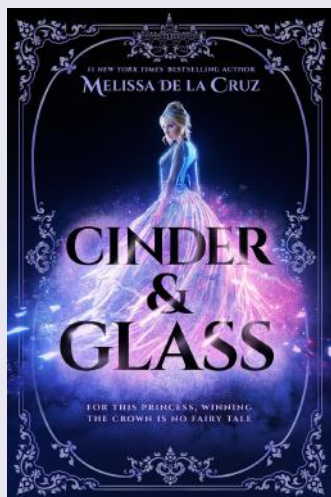
TWO NAMES. TWO FAMILIES. ONE HEALING HEART.



Culley, Betty

The Name She Gave Me

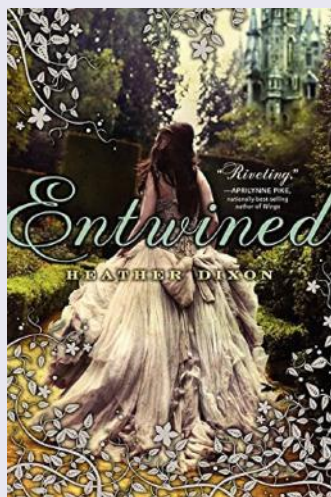
When Rynn was born, her birth mother named her Scheherazade. It's one of the only things Rynn has from her. Now sixteen, Rynn and her adoptive parents live on a small garlic farm in central Maine. Rynn's father is kind and gentle but oblivious to Rynn's mother's temper and coldness toward their daughter. Rynn has longed to know her birth family for years. She can't legally open her adoption records until she turns eighteen, but that won't stop her from searching on her own.



De la Cruz, Melissa

Cinder & Glass

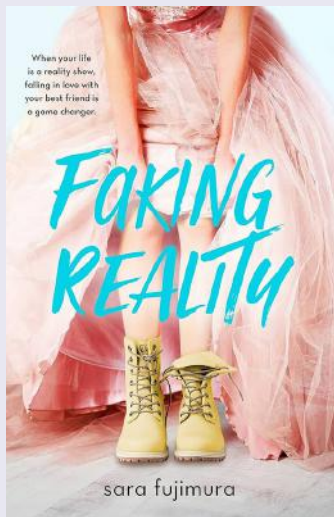
Cendrillon de Louvois was poised to be the most eligible maiden in all of France. But the death of her father, the king's favorite advisor, has left Cendrillon at the will of her cruel stepmother and stepsisters. Dubbed Lady Cinder by the court, Cendrillon is forced to become a servant to her new family. But when she attends the royal ball, she catches the eye of the handsome Prince Louis and his younger brother, Auguste.



Dixon, Heather

Entwined

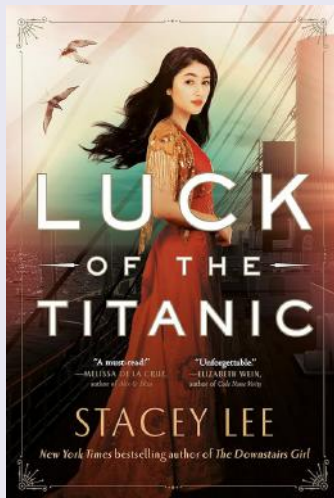
Confined to their dreary castle while mourning their mother's death, Princess Azalea and her eleven sisters join The Keeper, who is trapped in a magic passageway, in a nightly dance that soon becomes nightmarish.



Fujimara, Sara

Faking Reality

Dakota McDonald swore after “The Great Homecoming Disaster” that she’d never allow her romantic life to be a plot line in her parents’ HGTV show again. But when the restaurant run by the family of her best friend (and secret crush), Leo, is on the line, Dakota might end up eating her own words.



Lee, Stacey

Luck of the Titanic

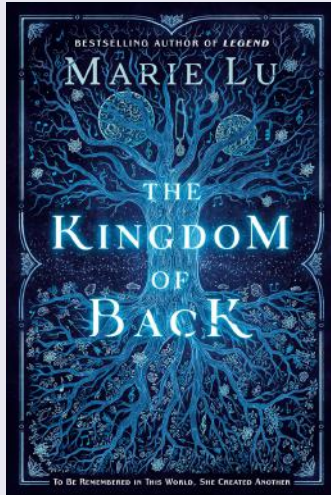
Valora Luck dreams to leave England behind to become a circus performer in New York. When she is denied at the gangway for being Chinese, she sneaks onto the ship as a stowaway. But when disaster strikes, Val must switch her focus from her dreams to survival.



Lord, Emma

Tweet Cute

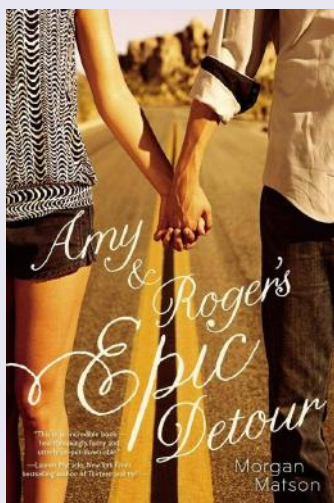
Meet Pepper, swim team captain, chronic overachiever, and all-around perfectionist. Enter Jack, class clown and constant thorn in Pepper’s side. When he isn’t trying to duck out of his obscenely popular twin’s shadow, he’s busy working in his family’s deli. As Pepper and Jack engage in a viral spat on Twitter, the two begin falling for each other in real life.



Lu, Marie

The Kingdom of Back

Born with a gift for music, Nannerl Mozart has just one wish--to be remembered forever. But even as she delights audiences with her playing, she has little hope she'll ever become the acclaimed composer she longs to be. As Nannerl's hope grows dimmer with each passing year, the talents of her beloved younger brother, Wolfgang, only seem to shine brighter. until one day a mysterious stranger from a magical land appears with an irresistible offer. But his offer may cost her everything.



Matson, Morgan

Amy & Roger's Epic Detour

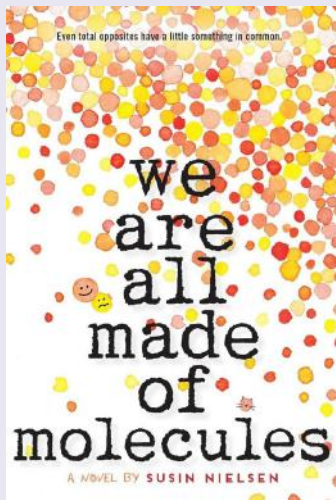
After her father's sudden death, Amy's mom has decided to start anew—in Connecticut, just before the start of senior year. And she's decided that it'll be Amy's job to get the car from California to Connecticut. The only problem? Amy hasn't gotten behind the wheel since the car accident that took her father's life. Enter Roger, a family friend, tasked by his mother to help Amy drive across the country.



Morrill, Stephanie

Within These Lines

Evalina Cassano's life in an Italian-American family in 1941 is quiet and ordinary ... until she falls in love with Taichi Hamasaki, the son of Japanese immigrants. But anti-Japanese feelings erupt across the country after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Taichi and his family are incarcerated in a Japanese internment camp. Taichi relies on letters from Evalina as his connection to the outside world. At home, Evalina begins to radically speak out against these racial injustices.



Nielsen-Ferlund, Susin

We Are All Made of Molecules

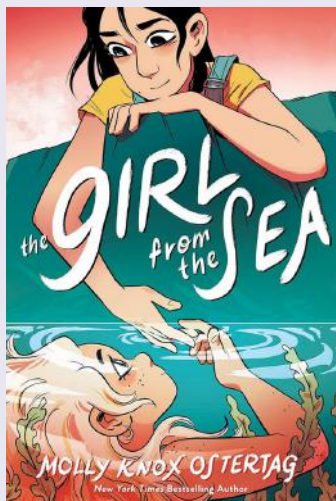
Trying to make the best of things while their parents move in together, a socially clueless genius and a less-than-bright but popular girl tackle a mean-spirited bully with their combination of hapless nerd power and popularity.



Oh, Axie

XOXO

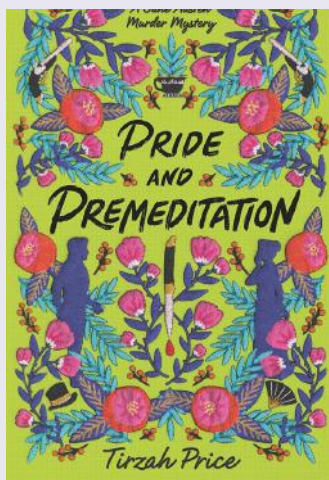
Cello prodigy Jenny has one goal: to get into a prestigious music conservatory. When she meets mysterious, handsome Jaewoo, it's clear he's the kind of boy who would uproot her careful plans. But in a moment of spontaneity, she allows him to pull her out of her comfort zone ... before he disappears without a word. Three months later, when Jenny and her mother arrive in South Korea, she's shocked to discover that Jaewoo is a student at the same elite arts academy where she's enrolled for the semester.



Ostertag, Molly Knox

The Girl From the Sea

Fifteen-year-old Morgan can't wait to finish high school and escape the island where she lives, leaving behind her sad divorced mom, her volatile younger brother, and her friends who don't understand her at all. The one night, Morgan is saved from drowning by a mysterious girl named Keltie, and her life changes drastically.



Price, Tirzah

Pride and Premeditation

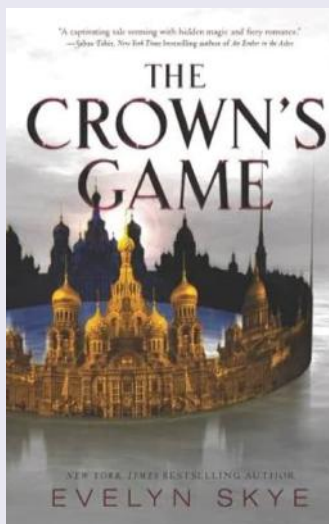
When a murder rocks London high society, seventeen-year-old aspiring lawyer Lizzie Bennet uses the opportunity to prove herself, despite constant interference by Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy. Lizzie is convinced the authorities have the wrong person, but soon the case and her feelings for Darcy become far more complicated.



Sanderson, Brandon

Skyward

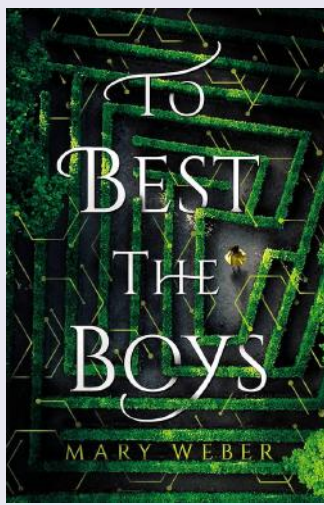
Humanity has been driven to almost-extinction by attacks from alien Starfighters. Spensa, a teenage girl living amongst some of the last remaining humans, dreams of becoming a pilot. When she discovers the wreckage of an ancient ship, she realizes her dream might be possible.



Skye, Evelyn

The Crown's Game

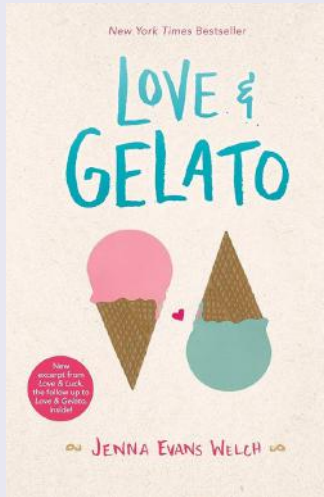
Follow two teens in Imperial Russia who must compete for the right to become the Imperial Enchanter, or die in the process.



Weber, Mary

To Best the Boys

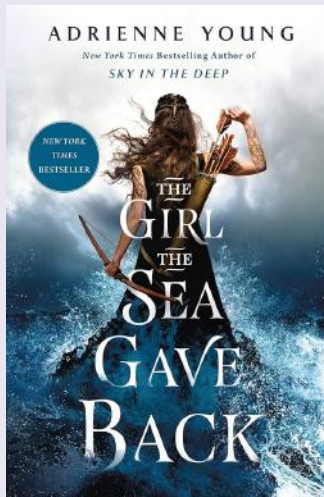
In the province of Caldon, where women train to become wives and men pursue education, Rhen Tellur wants nothing more than to become a scientist. In order to reach her goals, Rhen applies for an all-male scholarship competition. But not everyone is ready for a girl breaking beyond society's limits, and not everyone will survive the competition.



Welch, Jenna Evan

Love & Gelato

Lina is spending the summer in Tuscany, but not because she wants to. It was her mother's dying wish that she gets to know her father who has been absent for sixteen years. But, when Lina receives a journal her mother kept while living in Italy, Lina uncovers a world of secret romance, art, and hidden bakeries.



Young, Adrienne

The Girl the Sea Gave Back

Tova has lived around the Svell her entire life, and despite their fear of her, they use her for her gift as a Turthtongue. But, for the first time in generations, the leaders of Svell are divided. When Tova is looked to as a decision-maker, she will set into motion a series of events that will change her life forever.



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Compiled by Allyson Koehler
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