

Fantasy and Science Fiction for Young Adults

Listed below are fantasy and science fiction books for young adults. These books vary in the difficulty of both the text and the content. Not all books are appropriate for all readers. (Annotations from Library of Congress).

Alexander, Lloyd. ***The Book of Three***. Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper to a famous oracular sow, sets out on a hazardous mission to save Prydain from the forces of evil.

Almond, David. ***Kit's Wilderness***. Thirteen-year-old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal mining town of Stoneygate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.

Almond, David. ***Skellig***. Unhappy about his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel.

Anderson, M.T. ***Feed***. In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.

Anderson, M.T. ***Whales on Stilts***. Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.

Appelt, Kathi. ***The Underneath***. An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack and two kittens born underneath the house endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

Armstrong, Alan. ***Whittington***. Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.

Avi. ***The Book without Words: A Fable of Medieval Magic***. Having tried for years to unlock the secrets of the magical Book Without Words, old man Thorston dies in failure and the book is passed on to his servant, Sybil, and her magical raven who eagerly begin the process of breaking the code.

Bell, Hilari. ***The Goblin Wood***. A young Hedgewitch, an idealistic knight, and an army of clever goblins fight against the ruling hierarchy that is trying to rid the land of all magical creatures.

Black, Holly. ***Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale***. Sixteen-year-old Kaye, who has been visited by faeries since childhood, discovers that she herself is a magical faerie creature with a special destiny.

Bray, Libba. ***A Great and Terrible Beauty***. After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

Bray, Libba. ***Rebel Angels***. Gemma and her friends from the Spence Academy return to the realms to defeat her foe, Circe, and to bind the magic that has been released.

Brooks, Kevin. ***Being***.

Bruchac, Joseph. ***Whisper in the Dark***. An ancient and terrifying Narragansett native-American legend begins to come true for a teenage long-distance runner, whose recovery from the accident that killed her parents has stunned everyone, including her guardian aunt in Providence, Rhode Island.

Card, Orson Scott. ***Ender's Game***.

Cary, Kate. ***Bloodline***. In this story told primarily through journal entries, a British soldier in World War I makes the horrifying discovery that his regiment commander is descended from Count Dracula.

Crutcher, Chris. ***The Sledding Hill***. Billy, recently deceased, keeps an eye on his troubled best friend, fourteen-year-old Eddie, and helps him stand up to a conservative minister and English teacher who is orchestrating a censorship challenge.

Curry, Jane Louise. ***The Black Canary***. Twelve-year-old James has no interest in music until he discovers a portal to seventeenth-century London in his uncle's basement, and finds himself in a situation where his beautiful voice and his biracial background serve him well.

De la Cruz, Melissa. ***Blue Bloods***. Select teenagers from some of New York City's wealthiest and most socially prominent families learn a startling secret about their bloodlines.

Delaney, Joseph. ***Revenge of the Witch***. Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties."

DiCamillo, Kate. ***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane***. Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***The Magician's Elephant***. When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day and she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***The Tale of Despereaux***. The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

DuPrau, Jeanne. ***The City of Ember***. In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

DuPrau, Jeanne. ***The People of Sparks***. Having escaped to the Unknown Regions, Lina and the others seek help from the village people of Sparks.

Farmer, Nancy. ***The House of the Scorpion***. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Farmer, Nancy. ***The Sea of Trolls***. After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

Ferris, Jean. ***Once Upon a Marigold***. A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.

Gaiman, Neil. ***Coraline***. Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Gaiman, Neil. ***The Graveyard Book***. Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Double Identity***. When Bethany's parents suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

Leavitt, Martine. ***Keturah and Lord Death***. When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love.

Levine, Gail Carson. ***Ella Enchanted***. In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Lowry, Lois. ***Gathering Blue***. Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

Lowry, Lois. ***The Giver***. Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Lowry, Lois. ***Gossamer***. While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream-giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinistees.

Lowry, Lois. ***The Messenger***. In this novel that unites characters from "The Giver" and "Gathering Blue," Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.

McGowan, Keith. ***The Witch's Guide to Cooking with Children***. Eleven-year-old inventor Sol must recover his self-confidence if he and his eight-year-old sister, Connie, are to escape the clutches of Hansel and Gretel's witch, to whom they have been led by their new stepmother and the man they believe to be their father.

McNaughton, Janet. ***The Secret Under My Skin***. In the year 2368, humans exist under dire environmental conditions and one young woman, rescued from a workcamp and chosen for a special duty, uses her love of learning to discover the truth about the planet's future and her own dark past.

McNamee, Graham. ***Bonechiller***. Four high school students face off against a soul-stealing beast that has been making young people disappear in their small Ontario town for centuries.

Meyer, Stephenie. ***New Moon***. When the Cullens, including her beloved Edward, leave Forks rather than risk revealing that they are vampires, it is almost too much for eighteen-year-old Bella to bear, but she finds solace in her friend Jacob until he is drawn into a "cult" and changes in terrible ways.

Meyer, Stephenie. ***Twilight***. When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human.

Nix, Garth. ***Sabriel***. Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.

Oppel, Kenneth. ***Airborn***. Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Paolini, Christopher. ***Eragon***. In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Pattou, Edith. ***East***. A young woman journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear who is the victim of a cruel enchantment.

Pearson, Mary E. ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***. In the not-so-distant future, when synthetic bodies and brains are possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

Pratchett, Terry. ***The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents***. A talking cat, intelligent rats, and a strange boy cooperate in a Pied Piper scam until they try to con the wrong town and are confronted by a deadly evil rat king.

Pullman, Philip. ***The Golden Compass***. Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Said, S.F. ***Varjak Paw***. Guided by the spirit of his legendary Mesopotamian ancestor, Jalal, Varjak Paw, a pure-bred cat, leaves his home and pampered existence and sets out to save his family from the evil Gentleman who took their owner, the Contessa, away.

Said, S.F. ***The Outlaw Varjak Paw***. During a harsh winter, Varjak Paw, a cat with great powers, leads his companions as they search for food, elude dangerous gangs, and hope to locate a hidden city where they can all be safe.

Scott, Michael. ***The Alchemyst: The secrets of the immortal Nicholas Flamel***. While working at summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book.

Sedgwick, Marcus. ***The Dark Horse***. Having risen to power as chief of his people, the Storn, sixteen-year-old Sigurd leads them as they try to resist the bloodthirsty invaders known as the Dark Horse and makes a shocking discovery about his foster sister Mouse.

Sedgwick, Marcus. ***The Foreshadowing***. Having always been able to know when someone is going to die, Alexandra poses as a nurse to go to France during World War I to locate her brother and to try to save him from the fate she has foreseen for him.

Slade, Arthur. ***Dust***. Eleven-year-old Robert is the only one who can help when a mysterious stranger arrives, performing tricks and promising to bring rain, at the same time children begin to disappear from a dust bowl farm town in Saskatchewan in the 1930s.

Stead, Rebecca. ***When You Reach Me***. As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Stroud, Jonathan. ***The Amulet of Samarkand***. Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace.

Velde, Vivian Vande. ***Heir Apparent***. While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

Ward, Rachel. ***Numbers***. Jem knows when she looks at someone the exact date they will die, so she avoids relationships and tries to keep out of the way, but when she meets a boy named Spider, they become more involved than either of them had planned.

Westerfeld, Scott. ***Peeps***. Cal Thompson is a carrier of a parasite that causes vampirism, and must hunt down all of the girlfriends he has unknowingly infected.

Westerfeld, Scott. ***Pretties***. Upon Tally's sixteenth birthday she undergoes an operation to turn from an ugly duckling into a stunning girl, but she makes a promise just before the surgery to be the guinea pig for a future experiment.

Westerfeld, Scott. ***Specials***. When she is turned into a super-modelesque super-fighting machine, Tally, a former ugly, is ordered to keep the uglies down and the pretties stupid in a carefully engineered world of perfection where she refuses to play by the rules.

Westerfeld, Scott. ***Uglies***. Transformation into a super beauty on her sixteenth birthday and reuniting with her friend Peris will only happen if Tally Youngblood's friend Shay also agrees to the operation.

Wooding, Chris. ***The Haunting of Alaizabel Cray***. As Thaniel, a wych-hunter, and Cathaline, his friend and mentor, try to rid the alleys of London's Old Quarter of the terrible creatures that infest them, their lives become entwined with that of a woman who may be either mad or possessed.

Yancy, Rick. ***The Monstrumologist***. In 1888, twelve-year-old Will Henry chronicles his apprenticeship with Dr. Warthrop, a scientist who hunts and studies real-life monsters, as they discover and attempt to destroy a pod of Anthropophagi.

Zevin, Gabrielle. ***Elsewhere***. After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

Zuckerman, Linda. ***A Taste for Rabbit***. Quentin, a rabbit who lives in a walled compound run by a militaristic government, must join forces with Harry, a fox, to stop the sinister disappearances of outspoken and rebellious rabbit citizens.

List compiled by Diane Linenbroker

Updated: 10/4/2010