

Humor and Light Fiction for Young Adults

Listed below are books with light and/or humorous themes. Some books have serious themes but contain a great deal of humor. 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).

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.

Braff, Joshua. ***The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green***. Jacob Green, a young Jewish boy growing up in 1970s suburban New Jersey, struggles to deal with his fear of disappointing and yearning to escape the demands and expectations of his tyrannical and narcissistic father, Abram.

Boyce, Cottrell. ***Millions***. After their mother dies, two brothers find a huge amount of money which they must spend quickly before England switches to the new European currency, but they disagree on what to do with it.

Cabot, Meg. ***All-American Girl***. A sophomore girl stops a presidential assassination attempt, is appointed Teen Ambassador to the United Nations, and catches the eye of the very cute First Son.

Choldenko, Gennifer. ***Al Capone Does My Shirts***. A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Creech, Sharon. ***Absolutely Normal Chaos***. Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up considerably during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his biological father.

Crutcher, Chris. ***King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography***. Chris Crutcher, author of young adult novels such as "Ironman" and "Whale Talk," as well as short stories, tells of growing up in Cascade, Idaho, and becoming a writer. (Nonfiction)

Curtis, Christopher Paul. ***Bucking the Sarge***. Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***Because of Winn-Dixie***. Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Elish, Dan. ***Born too Short: The Confessions of an Eighth-Grade Basket Case***. Thirteen-year-old Matt is so envious of his best friend Keith that he wishes things would go badly for him, and when Keith's fortune changes while at the same time Matt finds his first true girlfriend, Matt is overcome with guilt.

Ferris, Jean. ***Love among the Walnuts***. Born and raised in isolation in a wealthy, eccentric family, Sandy is shocked when he, his parents, and their servants become victims of a vicious plot by his greedy uncles to incapacitate them and take their money.

Hannigan, Katherine. ***Ida B: --and her plans to maximize fun, avoid disaster, and (possibly) save the world***. In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.

Hautman, Pete. ***Godless***. When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own.

Horvath, Polly. ***The Canning Season***. Thirteen-year-old Ratchet spends a summer in Maine with her eccentric great-aunts Tilly and Penpen, hearing strange stories from the past and encountering a variety of unusual and colorful characters.

Horvath, Polly. ***Everything on a Waffle***. Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

Kinney, Jeff. ***The Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's journal***. Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

Kinney, Jeff. ***The Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules***. Greg Heffley tells about his summer vacation and his attempts to steer clear of trouble when he returns to middle school and tries to keep his older brother Rodrick from telling everyone about Greg's most humiliating experience of the summer.

Lubar, David. ***Punished!*** After Logan receives a face full of magic dust from a man in the reference section of the library, he finds the only way to stop his incessant punning is to find oxymorons, anagrams, and palindromes to fulfill the requirements of three quests.

Lubar, David. ***Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie.*** While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.

Paulsen, Gary. ***The Boy Who Owned the School: A Comedy of Love.*** Jacob Freisten, often in a fog, tries to ease through high school unnoticed; but a beautiful classmate takes notice of him and his life begins to change.

Paulsen, Gary. ***How Angel Peterson Got His Name: And other Outrageous Tales about Extreme Sports.*** Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

Peck, Richard. ***The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts.*** In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean, old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

Rennison, Louise. ***Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging: Confessions of Georgia Nicholson.*** Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

Rylant, Cynthia. ***God Went to Beauty School.*** A novel in poems that reveal God's discovery of the wonders and pains in the world He has created.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. ***Notes from the Midnight Driver.*** After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness.

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Loser.*** Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Maniac Magee.*** After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

List compiled by Diane Stevens

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