

101 Books High School Students Love to Read

(list constructed by Kelly Gallagher)

Coming of Age/Peer Pressure/Relationships

1. The Bluford series, Paul Langan. Life in an inner city school.
2. *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak. Death narrates this story of a young girl who finds solace in books during the Holocaust.
3. *Cut*, Patricia McCormick. Callie, a fifteen-year old, is a “cutter” who seeks help for her self-destruction.
4. *Dark Angel*, David Klass. A family has a dark secret that is about to reemerge.
5. *Dreamland*, Sarah Dessen. This book explores the consequences of having an abusive boyfriend.
6. *Evolution, Me, and Other Freaks of Nature*, Robin Brande. Mena knew her first day of high school would be bad, but this bad? Examines the evolution of debate in high school.
7. *The First Part Last*, Angela Johnson. A sixteen year-old father struggles to care for his baby.
8. *Gossip Girl* series, Cecily Von Ziegesar. Life in side a New York City jet set private school.
9. *I am the Messenger*, Markus Zusak. A botched bank robbery changes a nineteen-year-old’s life.
10. *I Love You, Beth Cooper*, Larry Doyle. Denis’s life changes when he blurts out at his graduation speech that he loves Beth Cooper.
11. *Invisible*, Pete Hautman. Doug, 17, has come to terms with a tragic past.
12. *It’s Kind of a Funny Story*, Ned Vizzini. A teen seeks counseling in a psychiatric hospital.
13. *Just Listen*, Sarah Dessen. An incident at a high school party has far-reaching consequences.
14. *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini. Two young boys in 1970s Afghanistan take very different paths.
15. *Lemonade Mouth*, Mark Peter Hughes. Five outcasts in detention form a bond.
16. *Looking for Alaska*, John Green. Miles, 16, is an outcast sent to a boarding school.
17. *Madapple*, Christina Meldrum. A girl raised in isolation must learn to cope with the world after her mother dies.
18. *Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac*, Gabielle Zevin. A teenager loses her memory after a bad fall.
19. *My Sister’s Keeper*, Jodi Picoult. Examines the difficult choices a family must make when one of the children is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.
20. *Nineteen Minutes*, Jodi Picoult. Another delicate topic: the consequences of a high school shooting.
21. *The Pact*, Jodie Picoult. A teenage suicide has devastating consequences for two families.

22. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky. Charlie, a freshman, tries to find his way in a high school.
23. *Rooftop*, Paul Volponi. A shooting becomes a focal point for social justice.
24. *The Rules of Survival*, Nancy Werlin. The story of three siblings struggling to overcome child abuse.
25. *Running Out of Time*, Margaret Peterson Haddix. Jessica, who thinks it is 1840, is more than surprised to find out it is really 2006.
26. *The Skin I'm In*, Sharon Flake. An adolescent navigates an inner-city school.
27. *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*, Davis Lubar. Scott Hudson hopes to survive his freshman year.
28. *Snitch*, Allison van Diepen. A teen tries to navigate between rival gangs.
29. *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*, Peter Cameron. James, 18, is trying to find his way in the world after high school graduation. For mature readers.
30. *Someone Like You*, Sarah Dessen. Two best friends lean on each other when a calamity occurs.
31. *A Step from Heaven*, An Na. The trials and tribulations of a Korean family's journey to America.
32. *Strays*, Ron Koerge. Ted's parents are killed in a car crash, and his troubles are just beginning.
33. *Street Pharm*, Allison van Diepen. A teenager takes over his father's drug dealing business but must decide if it's worth it.
34. *That Summer*, Sarah Dessen. A teenage girl deals with her parents' divorce.
35. *Thirteen Reasons Why*, Jay Asher. A teenager receives haunting audiotapes after a suicide.
36. *This Lullaby*, Sarah Dessen. A modern-day teen romance.
37. *The Truth about Forever*, Sarah Dessen. A teen has to cope with her father's death.
38. *Twisted*, Laureie Ralle Anderson. Tyler, busted for tagging, tries to find his way through his senior year.
39. *Tyrell*, Coe Booth. Tyrell is determined to stay clean despite a father in jail and a mother who is involved in welfare fraud.
40. *Upstate*, Kalisha Buckhanon. Two lovers are separated by a horrendous crime.

Fantasy/Science Fiction/ Vampire

41. The Alfred Kropp Series, Rick Yancey. Fifteen-year-old Alfred has a series of adventures after finding a magic sword.
42. *A Certain Slant of Light*, Laura Whitcomb. Helen died 130 years ago, but she's still around.
43. Cirque du Freak series, Darren Shan. There is more to a traveling freak show than meets the eye.
44. The Demonata series, Amelia Atwater-Rhodes. The adventures of a 300-year old night stalker.
46. *Elsewhere*, Gabrielle Zevin. Liz is getting younger, not older, every day.

47. The Gemma Doyle trilogy, Libba Bray. Gemma, who has visions, travels to other worlds.
48. *A Great and Terrible Beauty*, Libba Bray. The School Library journal calls this novel “an interesting combination of fantasy, light horror, and historical fiction, with a dash of romance thrown in for good measure.”
49. *The Host*, Stephanie Meyer. The human race is infiltrated by a species of parasites.
50. *House of the Scorpion*, Nancy Farmer. In the future, a scientist brings a number of clones to life.
51. *How I Live Now*, Meg Rosoff. A world war breaks out in the twenty-first century.
52. *Life as We Knew It*, Susan Beth Pfeffer. A meteor collides with the moon, with disastrous results for Earthlings.
53. *Mother’s Helper*, A. Bates. A most unusual babysitting experience.
54. *Rash*, Pete Hautman. Life in 2076 is not easy.
55. *Rebel Angels*, Libba Bray. A sequel to *A Great and Terrible Beauty*.
56. *Remember Me*, Christopher Pike. Shari is dead, and she is determined to find out who killed her.
57. The Twilight Saga series. Stephen Meyer. A teenage romance with a vampire twist.
58. The Uglies series, Scott Westerfeld. Life in a futuristic society where everyone is “ugly.”
59. *Walk of the Spirits*, Richie Tankersley Cusick. Seventeen-year-old Miranda hears voices at night.
60. Wheel of Time series, Robert Jordan. The world has been broken by a phenomenal power in this series that is reminiscent of J.R.R. Tolkien.
61. *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War*, Max Brooks. The world is threatened by a zombie invasion.

Memoir and Nonfiction

62. *Always Running: La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A.*, Luis Rodriguez. Memoirs of an East L.A. gang member.
63. *Come Back: A Mother and Daughter Journey to Hell and Back*, Claire and Mia Fontaine. A riveting account of a mother’s fight to rescue her daughter from drugs.
64. *Getting Away with Murder*, Chris Crowe. The story of Emmett Till, a fourteen-year-old African American boy murdered for “inappropriately” talking to a white woman.
65. *Girl, Interrupted*, Susanna Kaysen. A sixteen-year old is hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital.
66. *The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls. Another account of growing up in an eccentric, dysfunctional family.
67. *Kick Me: Adventures in Adolescence*, Paul Feig. A series of stories about the rigors of high school survival.
68. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, Ishmael Beah. A twelve-year-old’s account of surviving civil war in Sierra Leone.
69. *Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member*, Sanyika Shakur. The personal account of an L.A. gangbanger.

70. *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science*, John Fleischman. The incredible story of a recovery from severe trauma, and what it taught the scientific community.
71. *Running with Scissors*, Augusten Burroughs. An account of growing up in an eccentric, dysfunctional family.
72. *True Notebooks*, Mark Salzman. The author tries to reach convicts through the formation of a writing group.
73. *Undaunted Courage*, Stephen Ambrose. Meriwether Lewis overcomes disease, starvation, hostile Native Americans, and an unforgiving environment as he explores the American West.
74. *U.S. Army Survival Handbook*, Department of the Army. How to survive under the most adverse conditions.
75. *Young Men and Fire*, Norman Maclean. The courageous story of Forest Service smoke jumpers.

Poetry

76. *Burned*, Ellen Hopkins. Growing up in an abusive household, told in verse.
77. *Crank*, Ellen Hopkins. A teenager's struggle with crystal meth, told in poetic form.
78. *Glass*, Ellen Hopkins. This picks up *Crank* a year later.
79. *Paint Me Like I Am: Teen Poems from WritersCorps*, Bill Aquado. Poems written by disadvantaged youth.
80. *A Rose that Grew from Concrete*, Tupac Shakur. The poetry of the late rapper.
81. *Tears for Water*, Alicia Keys. Poems that recall the singer childhood.
82. *Things I Have to Tell You: Poems and Writings by Teenage Girls*, Betsy Franco Yars. Teens from around the country submit poems about growing up.
83. *You Hear Me? Poems and Writing by Teenage Boys*, Betsy Franco Yas. Read world topics addressed through poems and notes.

Sports

84. *Ball Don't Lie*, Matt De La Pena. Stick, 17, is determined to make it out of the neighborhood through basketball.
85. *Black and White*, Paul Volponi. Two boys, "Black" and "White" try to make it to big-time basketball.
86. *Crackback*, John Coy. The trials and tribulations of teenage life, woven through the lens of a high school football team.
87. *Gym Candy*, Carl Deuker. Mick Johnson, high school football star, considers using steroids.
88. *Knights of the Hill Country*, Tim Tharp. Readers who liked *Friday Night Lights* will like this football drama.
89. *Three days in August*, Buzz Bissinger. An in-depth, behind the scenes look at three-game series between the Chicago Cubs and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Mystery

90. *Crazy Little Things*, Adam P. Knave. Twelve very strange tales.
91. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Mark Haddon. A poodle, Wellington, has been murdered. Christopher, who is autistic, is on the case.
92. *Fake IE*, Walter Sorrells. Chase, 16, only has six days to figure out why his mother disappeared.
93. *Falling*, Christopher Pike. FBI agent Kelly Feinman is on the trail of the “Acid killer.
94. *The Lovely Bones*, Alice Sebold. Susie Salmon recalls her murder from heaven (10th grade curriculum)
95. *The Perfect Shot*, Elaine Marie Alphin. A triple homicide is not what it seems.

Graphic Novels

96. *300*, Frank Miller. Only a few hundred warriors stand against a huge army.
97. *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*, Frank Miller. Gotham is falling apart, and Batman has not been seen for ten years.
98. *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, Alan Moore. A group of adventurers are pulled together to protect the Empire.
99. *Sin cCity: The Hard Goodbye*, Frank Miller. Tough guy Marv hunts the back streets to find the murderer of his girlfriend.
100. *V Is for Vendetta*, Alan Moore. Rebellion under authoritarian British government.
101. *Watchmen*, Alan Moore. Time calls this story of Crimebusters a “masterpiece.”