



Teen & Young Adult Social Issues

Grades 9 - 12

NF = Nonfiction *YA = Young Adult* *AF = Adult Fiction*

These books are a variety of young adult, adult fiction, and nonfiction around the theme of social issues from which to select.

Honors/AP: Students should look for their summer assignment on the English Department website or from the individual course teachers. Students should select a title from this list in addition to the assignments slated for honors/AP coursework.

General and Scholarship: students should select a title with an expectation of assignments and/or assessments at the beginning of the school year.

YA *Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher

There's bad news and good news about the Cutter High School swim team. The bad news is that they don't have a pool. The good news is that only one of them can swim anyway. Bestselling author Chris Crutcher's controversial and acclaimed novel follows a group of outcasts as they take on inequality and injustice in their high school.

YA *It's Kind of a Funny Story* by Ned Vizzini

Like many ambitious New York City teenagers, Craig Gilner sees entry into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School as the ticket to his future. Determined to succeed at life-which means getting into the right high school to get into the right college to get the right job-Craig studies night and day to ace the entrance exam, and does. That's when things start to get crazy.

NF *West by West: My Charmed, Tormented Life* by Jerry West

WEST BY WEST recounts West's difficult journey from an abusive childhood in West Virginia (and the loss of a beloved brother to war) to his All-American success at West Virginia University, and his brilliant 40-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers. He speaks openly for the first time about his lifelong battle with depression, low self-esteem, and his complex relationships with NBA legends, with owners, with coach Phil Jackson, and many more.

YA We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

Each summer the wealthy, seemingly perfect, members of the Sinclair family gather on their private island. *We Were Liars* is the story of those annual reunions; in particular what happened during a summer that protagonist Cadence is unable to remember. Prejudice, greed, and shifting patriarchal favoritism among the three adult sisters contrasts with the camaraderie and worldview of the teenage cousins and their dear friend Gat. Lazy days of sticky lemonades on the roof and marathon Scrabble games give way to twisty suspense, true love, and good intentions gone horribly wrong.

YA Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell

The story follows dual narratives by Eleanor and Park, two misfits living in Omaha, Nebraska from 1986 to 1987. Eleanor, a fat, 16-year-old girl with curly red hair, and Park, a half-Korean, 16-year-old boy, meet on a school bus on Eleanor's first day at the school and gradually connect through comic books and mixtapes of '80s music, sparking a love story.

NF We Should Hang Out Sometime: Embarrassingly, a True Story by Josh Sundquist

From Paralympic ski racer and YouTube star, Josh Sundquist, comes an always-funny (and sometimes-awkward) memoir about teenage misadventures.

AF A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Meet Ove. He's the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul.

YA Wintergirls by Laurie Halse Anderson

Tells the story of a girl, Lia Overbrook, who suffers from anorexia and self harm. She struggles to fight her mental illness while balancing everything else in her life.

NF Wasted by Marya Hornbacher

Why would a talented young woman enter into a torrid affair with hunger, drugs, sex, and death? Through five lengthy hospital stays, endless therapy, and the loss of family, friends, jobs, and all sense of what it means to be "normal," Marya Hornbacher lovingly embraced her anorexia and bulimia -- until a particularly horrifying bout with the disease in college put the romance of wasting away to rest forever. A vivid, honest, and emotionally wrenching memoir, *Wasted* is the story of one woman's travels to reality's darker side -- and her decision to find her way back on her own terms.

● *All summaries taken from Amazon*