Best Books for Young Adults 2002

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Go straight to the list or view the Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults from titles on the list. The annotated list is available on the YALSA Members Only section of the web site.

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Eighty-four books were chosen as Best Books for Young Adults by the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association. The list of titles includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and biography recommended for young adults ages 12-18. Thirteen titles received unanimous votes from the 15 member committee: The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares, four girls' adventures with a pair of magical pants; Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher, the triumph of diversity and non-conformity over prejudice; Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn, one boy's struggle with his own anger; Damage by A. M. Jenkins, a teen's downward spiral into depression; You Don't Know Me by David Klass, where a teen copes with his mother's boyfriend's abuse; Cut by Patricia McCormick, in which a teen overcomes her obsession with self-mutilation; Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelsen, one boy's survival on a remote island where he confronts his inner demons; The Greatest: Muhammad Ali by Walter Dean Myers, the biography of the famous fighter; The Amber Spyglass by Philip Pullman, the third book in the His Dark Materials fantasy trilogy; What My Mother Doesn't Know by Sonya Sones, free verse celebrating a teen girl's coming-of-age; The Land by Mildred Taylor, the prequel to Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry; True Believer by Virginia Euwer Wolff, where a teen works hard for success and learns hard truths.
about love; and, Fighting Ruben Wolfe by Markus Zusak, in which two brothers join an illegal fight circuit to help their family survive.

Committee members were: Donna McMillen, Chair, Fairwood Library, King County Library System, Renton, WA; Nicolas Buron, Queens Borough Public Library, New York, NY; Margaret Butzler, Bethel Park Public Library, Bethel Park, PA; Nicole Cooke, Montclair, NJ; Valerie Diamond, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD; Cynthia Dobrez, Harbor Lights School, Holland, MI; Donna Gilliland, University of Saint Thomas, Keffer Library, Minneapolis, MN; Nancy Maltby Henkel, Maple Valley Library, King County Library System, Maple Valley, WA; Diana Tixler Herald, Grand Junction, CO; Jan Hoberecht, Newton, KS; Andrea Howe, Albuquerque Academy Library, Albuquerque, NM; Susan Hunter, Riverside Middle School, Springfield, VT; Betsy Levine, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA; Diane Monnier, Bethesda Regional Library, Bethesda, MD; Cindy Welch, Harold Washington Library, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL; Stephanie Zvirin, Consultant, American Library Association, Chicago, IL; Angelina Benedetti, Administrative Assistant, King County Library System, Issaquah, WA.

An annotated list will appear in the March 15 issue of Booklist and is available on the YALSA For Members Only website. For more information, contact the YALSA office by phone at 800-545-2433 x 4390 or e-mail, yalsa@ala.org

**Fiction**


Klass, David. **You Don't Know Me.** 2001. FS&G, $17.00 (0-374-38706-0).


McCormick, Patricia. **Cut.** 2000. Front Street, $16.95 (1-886910-61-8).

McDonald, Janet. **Spellbound.** 2001. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $16.00 (0-374-37140-7).


Sanchez, Alex. Rainbow Boys. 2001. Simon and Schuster, $17.00 (0-689-84100-0).


Weaver, Beth. Rooster. 2001. Winslow, $15.95 (1-58837-001-1).


**Nonfiction**


Hoose, Phillip. **We Were There, Too!: Young People in U.S. History.** 2001. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $26.00 (0-374-38252-2).

Kendall, Martha. **Failure Is Impossible: the History of


Murphy, Jim. Blizzard: the Storm that Changed America. 2000. Scholastic, $18.95 (0-590-67309-2).


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