

Social Issues

- *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

- *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

- *Hate List* by Jennifer Brown

Sixteen-year-old Valerie, whose boyfriend Nick committed a school shooting at the end of their junior year, struggles to cope with integrating herself back into high school life, unsure herself whether she was a hero or a villain.

- *Go Ask Alice* by Anonymous

A fifteen-year-old drug user chronicles her daily struggle to escape the pull of the drug world.

- *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his baby daughter.

- *The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline B. Cooney

A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.

- *Homecoming* by Cynthia Voigt

Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

- *Izzy Willy Nilly* by Cynthia Voigt

A car accident causes fifteen-year-old Izzy to lose one leg and face the need to start building a new life as an amputee.

- *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold

In the sweet, untroubled voice of a precocious teenage girl, Susie relates the awful events of her death. With love, longing, and a growing understanding, Susie watches her family as they cope with their grief--her father embarks on a search for the killer, her sister undertakes a feat of amazing daring, her little brother builds a fort in her honor--and begin the difficult process of healing.

- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

- *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult

The people of Sterling, New Hampshire, are forever changed after a shooting at the high school leaves ten people dead, and the judge presiding over the trial tries to remain unbiased, even though her daughter witnessed the events and was friends with the assailant.

- *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton

Rivalry between rich and poor gangs in 1960s Oklahoma leads to the deaths of three teenagers and intense soul-searching for one of the youths involved, a sensitive fourteen-year-old writer named Ponyboy.

- *The Rules of Survival* by Nancy Werlin

Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

- *Story of a Girl* by Sara Zarr

During the summer after her sophomore year, Deanna Lambert tries to come to terms with the reputation with which she was slapped in the eighth grade when she was caught by her father in the backseat of a car with a high school senior, and struggles with her still-strained relationship with her father and her changing feelings for her best friend, Jason.

- *To Kill a Mockinbird* by Harper Lee

Eight-year-old "Scout" Finch tells of life in a small Alabama town where her father is a lawyer.

- *The Chosen One* by Carol Lynch Williams

In a polygamous cult in the desert, Kyra, not yet fourteen, sees being chosen to be the seventh wife of her uncle as just punishment for having read books and kissed a boy, in violation of Prophet Childs' teachings, and is torn between facing her fate and running away from all that she knows and loves.

- *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes

After being mentally retarded for all of his thirty-two years, Charlie Gordon undergoes an operation designed to change his life.

*List Created by Karla Keesecker

*Some Bibliographical Information from www.titlewave.com