



2018 YA Book Picks



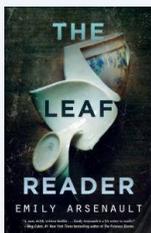
BOOK RATINGS:     

No Opinion - You Be the Judge
So-So
Even Better
Good Read
Awesome, Don't Pass Up



Solo
 Kwame Alexander

Blade never asked for the life of the rich and famous. In fact, he would give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback, or to no longer be part of a family known most for lost potential, failure and tragedy. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship assuming, like many, that Blade will become just like his father. In reality, the only thing Blade has in common with Rutherford is the music that lives inside them. But not even the songs that flow through Blade's soul are enough when he is faced with two unimaginable realities: the threat of losing Chapel forever, and the revelations of a long-held family secret, one that leaves his questioning everything he thought was true. All that remains is a letter and a ticket to Ghana both of which could bring Blade the freedom and love he has been searching for, or leave him feeling even more adrift. Recommendation: .

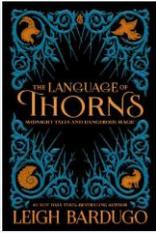


The Leaf Reader
 Emily Arsenault

Marnie Wells knows that she creeps people out. It is not really her fault; her brother is always in trouble, and her grandmother, who's been their guardian since Mom took off, is eccentric. So no one even bats an eye when Marnie finds an old book about reading tea leaves and starts telling fortunes. The ceremony and symbols are weirdly soothing, but she knows that none of it is real and hopes that everyone else does too.

Then basketball star Matt Cotrell asks for a reading. He has been getting emails from someone claiming to be his best friend, Andrea Quinley, who disappeared and is presumed dead. While they always denied they were romantically involved, a cloud of suspicion now hangs over Matt. But Marnie sees a kindred spirit: someone who, like her, is damaged by association.

Suddenly the readings seem real and, despite the fact that they are telling Marnie things about Matt that make him seem increasingly dangerous, she cannot shake her initial attraction to him. In fact, it is getting stronger, and that could turn out to be deadly. Recommendation: .



The Language of Thorns, Midnight Tales and Dangerous Magic
Leigh Bardugo

Travel to a world of dark bargains struck by moonlight, of haunted towns and hungry woods, of talking beasts and gingerbread golems, where a young mermaid's voice can summon deadly storms and where a river might do a lovestruck boy's bidding but only for a terrible price.

Inspired by myth, folklore, and fairy tale, this book is a collection of short stories filled with betrayals, revenge, sacrifice and love. Recommendation: 📖.

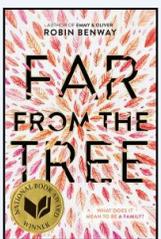


Alex, Approximately
Jenn Bennett

Classic movie buff Bailey “Mink” Rydell has spent months crushing on a witty film geek she only knows online by “Alex.” Two coasts separate the teens until Bailey moves in with her dad, who lives in the same California surfing town as her online crush.

Faced with doubts (what if he is a creep in real life, or *worse*?) Bailey does not tell Alex she has moved to his hometown, that she has landed a job at the local tourist-trap museum, or that she is being heckled daily by the irritatingly hot museum security guard, Porter Roth—a.k.a. her new arch-nemesis.

Life is a whole lot messier than the movies, especially when Bailey discovers that tricky fine line between hate, love, and whatever it is she is starting to feel for Porter. As the summer months go by, Bailey must choose whether to cling to a dreamy online fantasy in Alex or take a risk on an imperfect reality with Porter. The choice is both simpler and more complicated than she realizes, because Porter Roth is hiding a secret of his own – he is Alex. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



Far from the Tree
Robin Benway

Being the middle child has its ups and downs. But for Grace, an only child who was adopted at birth, discovering that she is a middle child is a different ride altogether.

After putting her own baby up for adoption, Grace goes looking for her biological family, including Maya, her loudmouthed younger biological sister, who has a lot to say about their newfound family ties. Having grown up the snarky brunette in a house full of chipper redheads, she is quick to search for traces of herself among these not-quite-strangers. And when her adopted family's long-buried problems begin to explode to the surface, Maya cannot help but wonder where exactly it is that she belongs.

There is also Joaquin, their stoic older biological brother, who has no interest in bonding over their shared loss of their biological mother. He is the only one that was never adopted and, after seventeen years in the foster care system, he has learned that there are no heroes, and that secrets and fears are best kept close to the vest, where they cannot hurt anyone but him.

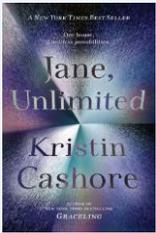
Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



The Chaos of Standing Still
Jessica Brody

Ryn has one unread text message on her phone, and it has been there for almost a year. She has not tried to read it. She can't. She won't. That one message is the last thing her best friend ever said to her before she died. As Ryn finds herself trapped in the Denver International Airport on New Year's Eve, thanks to a never-ending blizzard on the one-year anniversary of her best friend's death, fate literally runs into her. And his name is Xander.

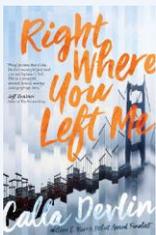
When the two accidentally swap phones, Ryn and Xander are thrust into the chaos of an unforgettable all-night adventure, filled with charming and mysterious strangers, a secret New Year's Eve bash, and a possible Illuminati conspiracy hidden within the Denver airport. But as the bizarre night continues, all Ryn can think about is that one unread text message. It follows her wherever she goes, because Ryn cannot get her brilliantly wild and free-spirited best friend out of her head. Ryn cannot move on. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



Jane, Unlimited
Kristin Cashore

Jane has lived an ordinary life, raised by her aunt Magnolia, an adjunct professor and deep sea photographer. Jane counted on Magnolia to make the world feel expansive and to turn life into an adventure. But Aunt Magnolia was lost a few months ago in Antarctica on one of her expeditions. Now, with no direction, a year out of high school, and obsessed with making umbrellas that look like her own dreams (but mostly just mourning her aunt), she is easily swept away by Kiran Thrash, a glamorous, capricious acquaintance who shows up and asks Jane to accompany her to a gala at her family's island mansion called Tu Reviens.

Jane remembers her aunt telling her: "If anyone ever invites to you to Tu Reviens, *promise me* that you'll go." With nothing but a trunkful of umbrella parts to her name, Jane ventures out to the Thrash estate. Then her story takes a turn, or rather, five turns. What Jane does not know is that Tu Reviens will offer her choices that can ultimately determine the course of her untethered life. But at Tu Reviens, every choice comes with a reward, or a price. Recommendation: 📖.



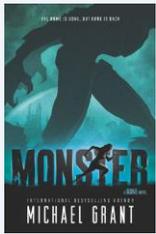
Right Where You Left Me
Calla Devlin

After Charlotte's father is kidnapped, she and her mother must overcome their differences and find a way to rescue him. In search of the perfect story to put a human face on a tragedy for his newspaper, her dad would fly into the eye of the storm. And now he is heading to the Ukraine, straight into the aftermath of a deadly earthquake. She does not want him to leave. She does not want to spend the week alone in a silent house with her mother, whose classically Russian reserve has built a wall between them that neither of them knows how to tear down. But she does not tell this to her father and neither does she tell him to stay. Charlotte thinks she is holding it together until the FBI comes knocking on their door.

Now, it is all she can do to fight off the horrifying images in her head. The quake has left so many orphans and widows, but she and her mom refuse to be counted among them. Whatever it takes

to get her father back, Charlotte will do it even if it means breaking a promise or the law.

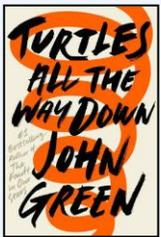
Recommendation: 📖.



Monster (Gone Series #7)

Michael Grant

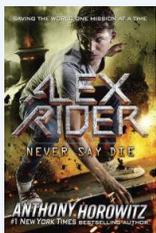
It has been four years since a meteor hit Perdido Beach and everyone disappeared. Everyone, except the kids trapped in the FAYZ, an invisible dome that was created by an alien virus. Inside the FAYZ, animals began to mutate and teens developed dangerous powers. The terrifying new world was plagued with hunger, lies, and fear of the unknown. Now the dome is gone and meteors are hitting earth with an even deadlier virus. Humans will mutate into monsters and the whole world will be exposed. As some teens begin to morph into heroes, they will find that others have become dangerously out of control and that the world is on the brink of a monstrous battle between good and evil. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖📖.



Turtles All the Way Down

John Green

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there is a hundred thousand dollar reward at stake and her best and most fearless friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis. Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.

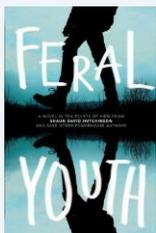


Alex Ryder Never Say Die (Alex Ryder Series Book 11)

Anthony Horowitz

Following the events of *Scorpia Rising*, Alex relocates to San Francisco as he slowly recovers from the tragic death of his best friend and caregiver, Jack Starbright, at the hands of terrorists working for SCORPIA. With Jack gone, Alex feels lost and alone, but then, out of the blue, he receives a cryptic email—just three words long, but enough to make Alex believe that Jack may be alive. Armed with this shred of hope, Alex boards a flight bound for Egypt and embarks on a dubious quest to track Jack down.

Yet SCORPIA knows Alex's weakness. And the question of whether Jack is alive soon takes a backseat to a chilling new terrorist plot, one that will play with Alex's mind as he grasps the magnitude of what is at stake. From Egypt to France to Wales, from luxury yachts to abandoned coal mines, Alex traverses a minefield of dangers and cryptic clues as he fights to discover the truth. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖📖.



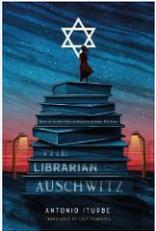
Feral Youth

Shaun David Hutchinson

At Zeppelin Bend, an outdoor-education program designed to teach troubled youth the value of hard work, cooperation, and compassion, ten teens are left alone in the

wild. The teens are a diverse group who come from all walks of life, and were all sent to Zeppelin Bend as a last chance to get them to turn their lives around.

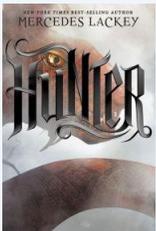
They have just spent nearly two weeks hiking, working, learning to survive in the wilderness, and now their instructors have dropped them off eighteen miles from camp with no food, no water, and only their packs, and they will have to struggle to overcome their vast differences if they hope to survive. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



The Librarian of Auschwitz
Antonio Iturbe

Based on the experience of real-life Auschwitz prisoner Dita Kraus, this is the incredible story of a girl who risked her life to keep the magic of books alive during the Holocaust.

Fourteen-year-old Dita is one of the many imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. Taken, along with her mother and father, from the Terezín ghetto in Prague, Dita is adjusting to the constant terror that is life in the camp. When Jewish leader Freddy Hirsch asks Dita to take charge of the eight precious volumes the prisoners have managed to sneak past the guards, she agrees. And so Dita becomes the librarian of Auschwitz. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖📖.

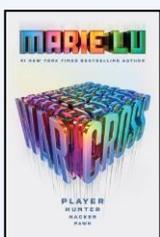


Hunter
Mercedes Lackey

They came after the Disaster. Some were terrors ripped from our collective imaginations, remnants of every mythology across the world. And some were like nothing anyone had ever dreamed up, even in their worst nightmares. Monsters.

Long ago, the barriers between our world and the Otherworld were ripped open, and it has taken centuries to bring back civilization in the wake of the catastrophe. Now, the luckiest Cits live in enclosed communities, behind walls that keep them safe from the hideous monsters fighting to break through. Others are not so lucky.

To Joyeaux Charmand, who has been a Hunter in her tight-knit mountain community since she was a child, every Cit without magic deserves her protection from dangerous Othersiders. Then she is called to Apex City, where the best Hunters are kept to protect the most important people. Joy soon realizes that the city's powerful leaders care more about luring Cits into a false sense of security than protecting them. More and more monsters are getting through the barriers, and the close calls are becoming too frequent to ignore. Yet the Cits have no sense of how much danger they are in. To them, Joy and her corp of fellow Hunters are just action stars they watch on TV. When an act of sabotage against Joy takes an unbearable toll, Joy uncovers a terrifying conspiracy in the city. There is something much worse than the usual monsters infiltrating Apex, and it may be too late to stop them. Recommendation: 📖📖📖.

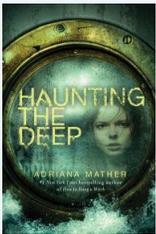


Warcross
Marie Lu

For the millions who log in every day, Warcross is not just a game, it is a way of life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. Struggling to make ends

meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down Warcross players who bet on the game illegally. But the bounty-hunting world is a competitive one, and survival has not been easy. To make some quick cash, Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation.

Convinced she is going to be arrested, Emika is shocked when instead she gets a call from the game's creator, the elusive young billionaire Hideo Tanaka, with an irresistible offer. He needs a spy on the inside of this year's tournament in order to uncover a security problem, and he wants Emika for the job. With no time to lose, Emika's whisked off to Tokyo and thrust into a world of fame and fortune that she has only dreamed of. But soon her investigation uncovers a sinister plot, with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



Haunting the Deep
Adriana Mather

Samantha Mather knew her family's connection to the infamous Salem Witch Trials might pose obstacles to an active social life. But having survived one curse, she never thought she would find herself at the center of a new one.

This time, Sam is having recurring dreams about the *Titanic* where she has been walking the deck with first-class passengers, like her aunt and uncle. Meanwhile, in Sam's waking life, strange missives from the *Titanic* have been finding their way to her, along with haunting visions of people who went down with the ship.

Ultimately, Sam and the Descendants, along with some help from heartthrob Elijah, must unravel who is behind the spell that is drawing her ever further into the dream ship and closer to sharing the same grim fate as its ghostly passengers. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖. Also available in the series – *How to Hang a Witch*.



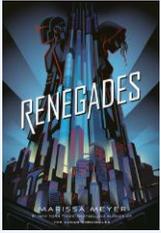
The Falconer (Falconer Series #1)
Elizabeth May

Edinburgh, 1844. Beautiful Aileana Kameron only looks the part of an aristocratic young lady. In fact, she's spent the year since her mother died developing her ability to sense the presence of sithichean, a faery race bent on slaughtering humans. She has a secret mission: to destroy the faery who murdered her mother. But when she learns she's a Falconer, the last in a line of female warriors and the sole hope of preventing a powerful faery population from massacring all of humanity, her quest for revenge gets a whole lot more complicated. Recommendation: 📖. Also available: *The Vanishing Throne (Book #2)*.



The Big Lie
Julie Mayhew

Nazi England, 2014. Jessika Keller is a good girl, a champion ice skater, model student of the Bund Deutscher Mädel, and dutiful daughter of the Greater German Reich. Her best friend, Clementine, is not so submissive. Passionately different, Clem is outspoken, dangerous, and radical, and the regime has noticed. Jess cannot keep both her perfect life and her dearest friend, her first love. But which can she live without? Recommendation: 📖📖📖.

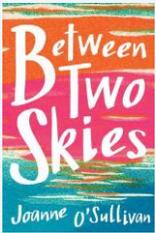


Renegades
Marissa Meyer

Secret Identities.
Extraordinary Powers.
She wants vengeance. He wants justice.

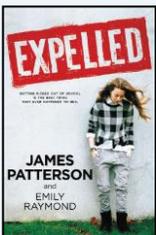
The Renegades are a syndicate of prodigies, humans with extraordinary abilities who emerged from the ruins of a crumbled society and established peace and order where chaos reigned. As champions of justice, they remain a symbol of hope and courage to everyone, except the villains they once overthrew.

Nova has a reason to hate the Renegades, and she is on a mission for vengeance. As she gets closer to her target, she meets Adrian, a Renegade boy who believes in justice and in Nova. But Nova's allegiance is to a villain who has the power to end them both. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖📖.



Between Two Skies
Joanne O'Sullivan

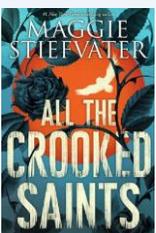
Bayou Perdu, a tiny fishing town way, way down in Louisiana, is home to sixteen-year-old Evangeline Riley. She has her best friends, Kendra and Danielle; her wise, beloved Mamere; and back-to-back titles in the under-sixteen fishing rodeo. But, dearest to her heart, she has the peace that only comes when she takes her skiff out to where there is nothing but sky and air and water and wings. It is a small life, but it is Evangeline's. And then the storm comes, and everything changes. Amid the chaos and pain and destruction comes Tru a fellow refugee, a budding bluesman, and a balm for Evangeline's aching heart. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



Expelled
James Patterson

Theo Foster's Twitter account *used* to be anonymous--until someone posted a revealing photo that got him expelled. No final grade. No future. No *fair*. Theo's resigned to a life of misery working at the local mini-mart when a miracle happens: Sasha Ellis speaks to him. Sasha Ellis knows his name. She was also expelled for a crime she did not commit, and now he has the perfect way to get her attention: find out who set them up.

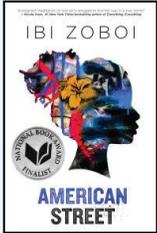
To uncover the truth, Theo has to get close to the suspects: the hacker, the quarterback, the mean girl, the vice principal, and his own best friend. What secrets are they hiding? And how can Theo catch their confessions on camera? Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



All the Crooked Saints
Maggie Stiefvater

Here is a thing everyone wants: A miracle. Here is a thing everyone fears: What it takes to get one. Any visitor to Bicho Raro, Colorado, is likely to find a landscape of dark saints, forbidden love, scientific dreams, miracle-mad owls, estranged affections, one or two orphans, and a sky full of watchful desert stars. At the heart of this place you will find the Soria

family, who all have the ability to perform unusual miracles. And at the heart of this family are three cousins longing to change its future: Beatriz, the girl without feelings, who wants only to be free to examine her thoughts; Daniel, the Saint of Bicho Raro, who performs miracles for everyone but himself; and Joaquin, who spends his nights running a renegade radio station under the name Diablo Diablo. They are all looking for a miracle. But the miracles of Bicho Raro are never quite what you expect. Recommendation: 📖.



American Street
Ibi Zoboi

On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find *une belle vie*, a good life.

But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins - Chantal, Donna, and Princess - the grittiness of Detroit's west side, a new school, and a surprising romance, all on her own.

Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream? Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.