A young man with dark hair and a friendly smile is the central focus. He is wearing a black zip-up hoodie and has a black backpack on his shoulders. He is holding an open book in his hands at the bottom of the frame. The background is a soft-focus mix of orange and green, suggesting an indoor setting with plants.

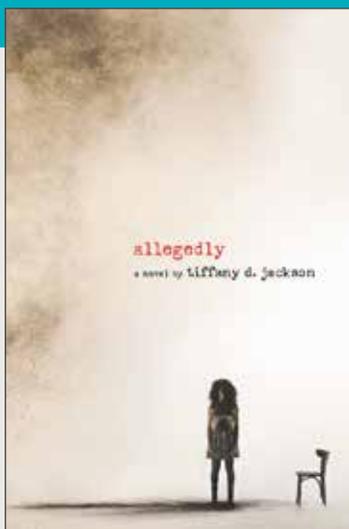
INTERNATIONAL  
**LITERACY**  
ASSOCIATION

# YOUNG ADULTS' CHOICES

## 2018 Reading List

# What Is the Young Adults' Choices Reading List?

The Young Adults' Choices project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to the International Literacy Association, and was supervised by the Association's Literature for Young Adults Committee. The goals of the project are to encourage young people to read; to make teens, educators, librarians and media specialists, and parents and families aware of new literature for young adults; and to provide middle and secondary school students with an opportunity to voice their opinions about books being written for them and in whose pages they can find characters and experiences to which they can relate. The books included on this reading list reflect themes, topics, and stories young adults value.



*Allegedly*. Tiffany D. Jackson.  
Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins.

## **Allegedly**

**Tiffany D. Jackson. Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins.**

Convicted of killing a baby at the age of 9, Mary was sent to baby jail. Now out and living in a group home, each day is about survival. Discovering she's pregnant, Mary wonders if telling the truth about the alleged crime would keep the state from taking her baby away.

## **Baseball Genius**

**Tim Green and Derek Jeter. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.**

Jalen loves baseball. Not only that, but also he is a genius. He can accurately analyze and predict pitchers' game strategies. When Jalen is caught stealing baseballs from Yankees star James Yager, he puts his special skills to the test. Ultimately, Jalen will need his friends and his unusual talent to save both Yager's career and his reputation.

## **Frogkisser!**

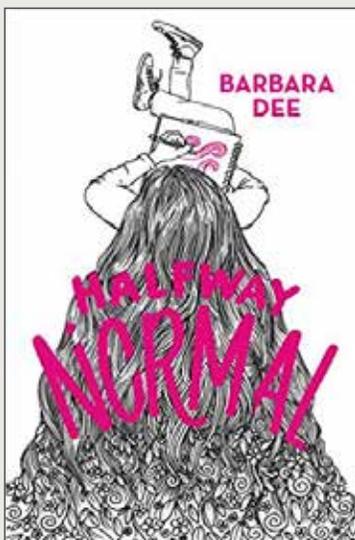
**Garth Nix. Scholastic Press.**

Nothing in Princess Anya's life is pleasant: her evil, power-hungry stepfather; her ability to break curses with a kiss; her difficult Quest; or her traveling companions (a talking dog and a boy thief trapped as a newt). She isn't amused at all, but readers certainly will be.

## **Halfway Normal**

**Barbara Dee. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.**

Norah is "that girl" who just completed two years of chemotherapy for leukemia. Now back to school, her old friends don't understand her and other students avoid her. Then Norah meets Griffin, a cute guy who is a fan of Greek mythology like she is. Will Norah keep her "that girl" identity a secret from him or share her real identity?



*Halfway Normal*. Barbara Dee.  
Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's  
Publishing.

## \*The Hate U Give

Angie Thomas. Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins.

Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. What everyone wants to know is: What really went down that night? Will Starr tell?

## How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child

Sandra Uwiringiyimana with Abigail Pesta. Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins.

Sandra's inspiring memoir moves from the grim reality of a rebel attack on and massacre in her Congolese village through her family's perilous, extended journey to the United States where, as refugees, they face poverty and prejudice. Always courageous, she comes to find hope and healing in art and activism.

## Juniper Lemon's Happiness Index

Julie Israel. Dial/Penguin Random House.

Juniper records the day's highs, lows, and happiness rating on index cards. She should be excited for the new year, but her sister's death clouds each day, until she finds a letter Cami wrote to "you." Juniper needs to deliver the letter, but she must find out who "you" is.

## Long Way Down

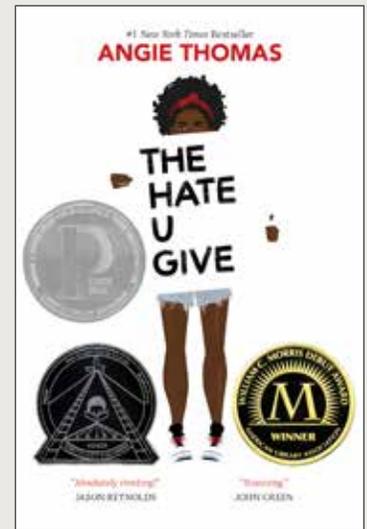
Jason Reynolds. Atheneum/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Will's older brother Shawn is shot and killed. Will reviews The Rules in his head. There are three: don't cry, don't snitch, and "if someone you love/gets killed,/find the person/who killed/them and/kill them." Will locates Shawn's gun and leaves his family's eighth-floor apartment. On each floor of the descending elevator, Will is joined by another victim or perpetrator in the chain of violence that took his brother's life.

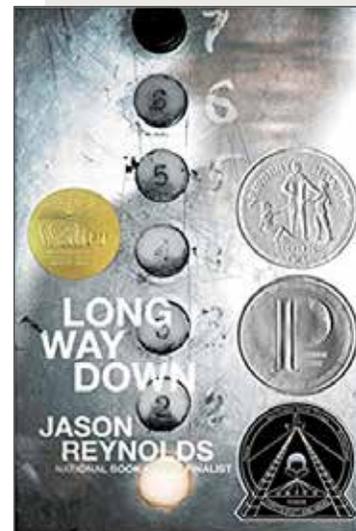
## Loving vs. Virginia

Patricia Hruby Powell. Ill. Shadra Strickland. Chronicle.

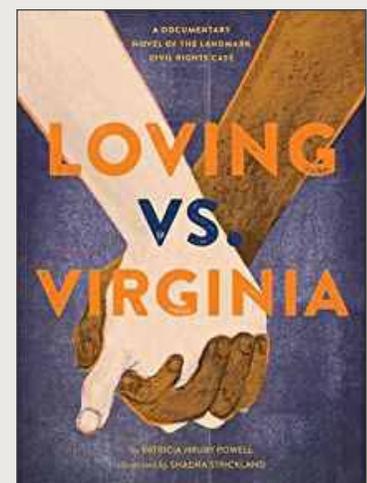
In 1955, two teenagers broke the law by falling in love and getting married. Living in pre-civil rights Virginia, the Lovings were determined to let their relationship triumph over those who treated them with prejudice and cruel injustice. This couple ultimately saw victory when their case for interracial marriage went before the U.S. Supreme Court.



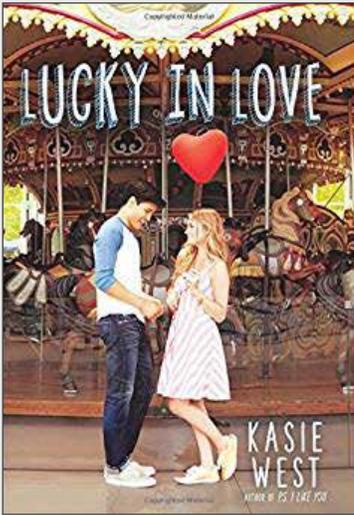
*The Hate U Give.* Angie Thomas. Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins.



*Long Way Down.* Jason Reynolds. Atheneum/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.



*Loving vs. Virginia.* Patricia Hruby Powell. Ill. Shadra Strickland. Chronicle.



*Lucky in Love.* Kasie West. Point/Scholastic.

## **Lucky in Love**

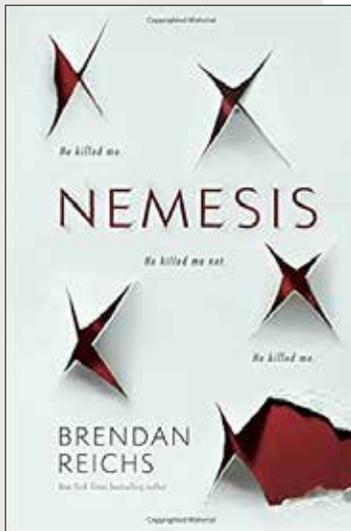
**Kasie West. Point/Scholastic.**

Sometimes planning can't prepare you for the unexpected, like winning the lottery! In a flash, Maddie's life becomes unrecognizable, and she is suddenly in the spotlight and doesn't know who to trust. Seth, her coworker at the local zoo, seems to be the only one who doesn't know. Will things change if he finds out?

## **Nemesis**

**Brendan Reichs. G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House.**

Min is murdered every two years on her birthday. Noah is plagued by nightmares of murder. An asteroid is headed toward Earth, threatening life on Earth. Min and Noah are connected, as they share the same birthday and soon discover a conspiracy in their small town of Fire Lake, Idaho, hiding a lifetime of lies.



*Nemesis.* Brendan Reichs. G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House.

## **Once and for All**

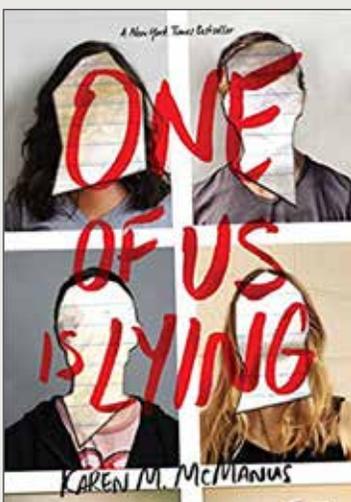
**Sarah Dessen. Viking/Penguin Random House.**

Helping her wedding planner mother every summer, Louna has seen a lot of happily-ever-afters. But because her own first love ended tragically, she has fiercely guarded her heart against another potential break. This summer, the charming Ambrose has set his sights on her. Louna must now decide if it is worth the risk to give love a second chance.

## **One of Us Is Lying**

**Karen M. McManus. Delacorte/Penguin Random House.**

Five students enter detention at Bayview High on Monday afternoon. Simon, the creator of Bayview's ruthless gossip app, is dead before the end of detention. He had much to post about his four classmates on Tuesday. All had motive—so who is the murderer? Or are they all covering for someone else? Someone is definitely lying.



*One of Us Is Lying.* Karen M. McManus. Delacorte/Penguin Random House.

## **The Other F-Word**

**Natasha Friend. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Three teens discover they share the same sperm donor. They begin a quest, each with their motivations and feelings, to find donor dad. But how do strangers manage such a nerve-wracking and daunting endeavor together when they have just met? What if they cannot find him? What if they do?

## Piecing Me Together

Renée Watson. Bloomsbury Children's Books.

Jade must escape her neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. After receiving a scholarship to a mostly white private school, she gets matched up with a mentor for "at-risk" girls and finds it to be pretty demeaning. Jade doesn't need support, and maybe it is she who will teach these entitled people a lesson.

## Point Guard

Mike Lupica. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Gus is more excited about basketball than any other sport he's ever played. Gus has been practicing new moves, and lately he's more surprised when he misses his shot than when he scores. When his friend Teddy tries out for the team, it looks like his school's home team will be unstoppable.

## Reaper

Kyra Leigh. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Rosie Wolf dies in an accident and finds out she's not in Paradise. Unfortunately, she must now deal with the Grim Reaper, who—surprise—turns out to be a beautiful woman with a frightening attitude problem. Rosie learns that to move on to a better afterlife, she must go back to Earth and collect three souls. Can Rosie complete her grisly task?

## Slider

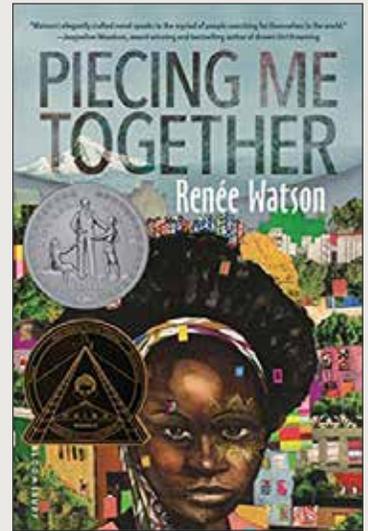
Pete Hautman. Candlewick.

When David accidentally charges \$2,000 to his mom's credit card, he uses his talent for devouring large quantities of food at several competitive eating contests to earn back the money. While keeping his financial struggles a secret, David helps with his autistic younger brother, Mal, and finds that he is also good at being a super supportive brother.

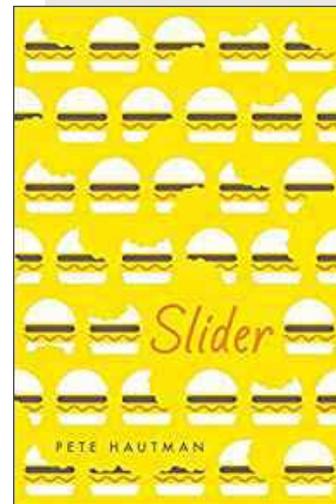
## Spinning

Tillie Walden. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

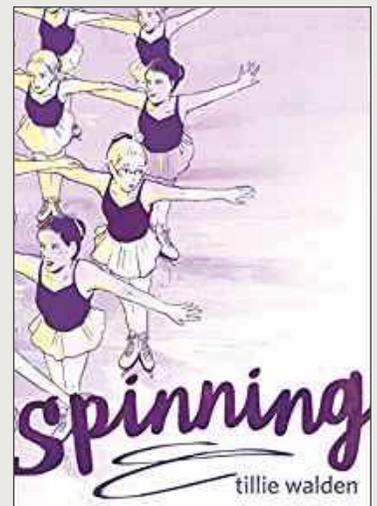
Walden's graphic memoir describes her passionate dedication to figure skating—the grueling routine of practices and performances, the heady rewards of glamour and winning—and her falling away from that life as she discovers art, her first girlfriend, and the missing pieces of herself. A story that's unexpectedly engaging for all.



*Piecing Me Together.* Renée Watson. Bloomsbury Children's Books.



*Slider.* Pete Hautman. Candlewick.



*Spinning.* Tillie Walden. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.



*10 Things I Can See From Here.*  
Carrie Mac. Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books.

### **\*10 Things I Can See From Here**

**Carrie Mac.** Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books.

Maeve is in a state of constant anxiety. Her mind is frantic with catastrophic "what ifs" and worst-case scenarios. When her mother travels to Haiti for six months, Maeve moves to Vancouver with her dad, a very pregnant stepmom, and two brothers. Maeve's life changes when she meets free-spirited Salix and a romance begins.

### **Textrovert**

**Lindsey Summers.** Kids Can.

A mix-up of cell phones should be easy to fix—simply meet and exchange them. However, for Keeley and Talon, the process becomes complicated when they fall for each other, only for Keeley to realize that Talon is also "TJ," the football nemesis of Keeley's twin brother. It's a delightful romantic tangle.



*There's Someone Inside Your House.* Stephanie Perkins.  
Dutton/Penguin Random House.

### **There's Someone Inside Your House**

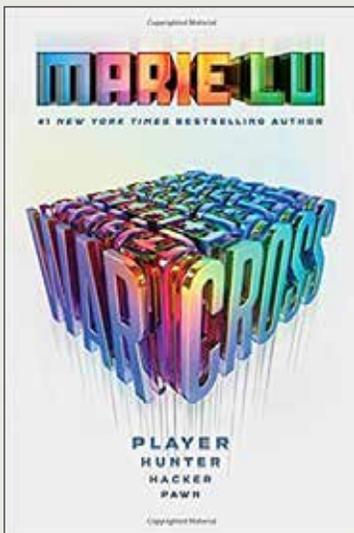
**Stephanie Perkins.** Dutton/Penguin Random House.

Makani is still tormented by the reason she has left her native Hawaii to live in rural Nebraska with her grandmother. Suddenly gruesome murders begin, each more hideous than the last. Everyone in Makani's small town is on edge, because the murders seem random. But are they? Dark secrets abound in this page-turner.

### **They Both Die at the End**

**Adam Silvera.** HarperTeen/HarperCollins.

Imagine an app that matches you with a friend for your last day alive. When Death-Cast calls and matches total strangers, Mateo and Rufus, for their last day of life, they find the unexpected of love, loss, life, and death in their one last great adventure.



*Warcross.* Marie Lu. G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House.

### **The Valiant**

**Lesley Livingston.** Razorbill/Penguin Random House.

Fallon, the daughter of a Celtic king, is awaiting her 17th birthday when she can join her father's army. Instead, in a cruel twist of fate, she is captured and sold to a training school for female gladiators—owned by her greatest enemy, Julius Caesar. Now, she must fight for her life, her honor, and her freedom.

### **\*Warcross**

**Marie Lu.** G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House.

The world is obsessed with the game of Warcross. It is a diversion, an escape, a way to make money. During the Championships, brilliant coder Emika hacks in and catches the attention of everyone—including the game's creator. He makes her an irresistible offer that sets her life on a thrilling (and dangerous!) new course she never could have imagined.

## Waste of Space

Gina Damico. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Ten teens, cast in a reality show, are locked in a spaceship ready to blast off into the unknown. The show is a hit, but the ship and the trip are fake. When communications break down, the scientists and technicians flee, leaving the teens to figure out how to escape.

## What Girls Are Made Of

Elana K. Arnold. Carolrhoda/Lerner Publishing Group.

Sixteen-year-old Nina faces the emotional challenges of a devastating break-up in this thoughtful and gut-wrenching novel. Nina looks for fulfillment by working at an animal shelter as she attempts to define her true self by her own terms and not by a boy's. A gritty, honest book about love and the conditions we attach to it.

## What I Lost

Alexandra Ballard. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Elizabeth has landed in Wallingfield for her eating disorder. She works the program but realizes her food avoidance stems from her mother's food issues and negative comments. Elizabeth wants to overcome but still plans to restrict food. Can the mysterious packages she receives give her hope to win this battle?

## Windfall

Jennifer E. Smith. Delacorte/Penguin Random House.

Best friends Alice and Teddy are joined by more than friendship. Both parentless, they have seen their share of bad luck. But on Teddy's 18th birthday, Alice buys him a lottery ticket and he wins \$140 million. Has their luck finally changed?

## York: The Shadow Cipher

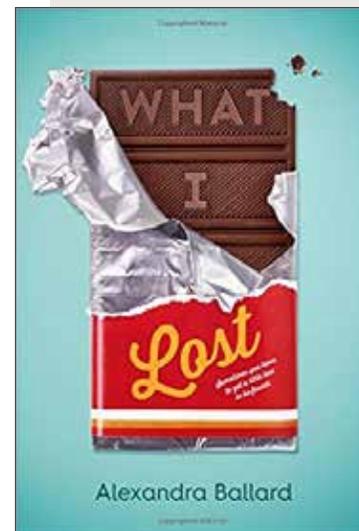
Laura Ruby. Walden Pond/HarperCollins.

In an alternate history of New York City, it is a race against time as Tess, Theo, and Jamie try to prove the Old York Cipher is real. Fifty-seven years ago, the Morningstar twins came to New York with a vision for magnificence. The Cipher must now be solved to save the people's hopes and dreams. This is an exciting series starter.

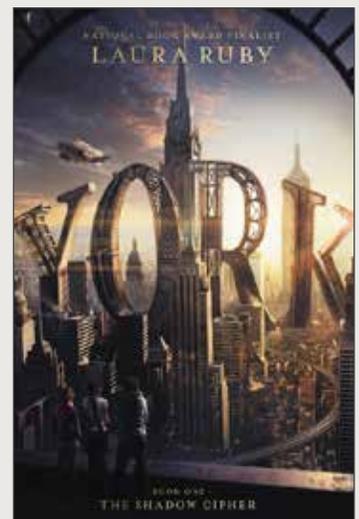
\*Titles that received the most votes



Waste of Space. Gina Damico. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



What I Lost. Alexandra Ballard. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.



York: The Shadow Cipher. Laura Ruby. Walden Pond/HarperCollins.

# Young Adults' Choices 2018 Reading List

*Allegedly.* Tiffany D. Jackson. Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins.

*Baseball Genius.* Tim Green and Derek Jeter. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

*Frogkisser!* Garth Nix. Scholastic Press.

*Halfway Normal.* Barbara Dee. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

*\*The Hate U Give.* Angie Thomas. Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins.

*How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child.* Sandra Uwiringiyimana with Abigail Pesta. Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins.

*Juniper Lemon's Happiness Index.* Julie Israel. Dial/Penguin Random House.

*Long Way Down.* Jason Reynolds. Atheneum/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

*Loving vs. Virginia.* Patricia Hruby Powell. Ill. Shadra Strickland. Chronicle.

*Lucky in Love.* Kasie West. Point/Scholastic.

*Nemesis.* Brendan Reichs. G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House.

*Once and for All.* Sarah Dessen. Viking/Penguin Random House.

*One of Us Is Lying.* Karen M. McManus. Delacorte/Penguin Random House.

*The Other F-Word.* Natasha Friend. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

*Piecing Me Together.* Renée Watson. Bloomsbury Children's Books.

*Point Guard.* Mike Lupica. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

*Reaper.* Kyra Leigh. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

*Slider.* Pete Hautman. Candlewick.

*Spinning.* Tillie Walden. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

*\*10 Things I Can See From Here.* Carrie Mac. Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books.

*Textrovert.* Lindsey Summers. Kids Can.

*There's Someone Inside Your House.* Stephanie Perkins. Dutton/Penguin Random House.

*They Both Die at the End.* Adam Silvera. HarperTeen/HarperCollins.

*The Valiant.* Lesley Livingston. Razorbill/Penguin Random House.

*\*Warcross.* Marie Lu. G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House.

*Waste of Space.* Gina Damico. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

*What Girls Are Made Of.* Elana K. Arnold. Carolrhoda/Lerner Publishing Group.

*What I Lost.* Alexandra Ballard. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

*Windfall.* Jennifer E. Smith. Delacorte/Penguin Random House.

*York: The Shadow Cipher.* Laura Ruby. Walden Pond/HarperCollins.

\*Titles that received the most votes

## More About Young Adults' Choices

Thank you to the 2017–2018 ILA Young Adults' Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were Stephanie Burdic (cochair) and Lisa Morris-Wilkey (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Jill Bellomy, Beth Brendler, Patricia Evans, Kimberly Powers, Julianne Scullen (trainee), Jessica Lorentz Smith (trainee), Aimee Thompson (trainee), Kerry Townsend, and Marney Welmers.

To learn more about the Young Adults' Choices project, including how to participate and access to previous years' reading lists, please visit [literacyworldwide.org/choices](http://literacyworldwide.org/choices).