

STARTING OUT IN YA: REALISTIC



What Light

Jay Asher (YA AshJ)

Sierra lives two lives: a life growing trees in Oregon and a life at selling them trees in California at Christmas. Leaving one always means missing the other until this particular Christmas, when Sierra meets Caleb, and one life eclipses the other.



Tangerine

Edward Bloor (YA BloE)

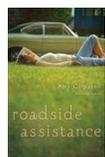
Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near-blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.



Awkward ①

Svetlana Chmakova (YA ChmS Graphic Novel)

After shunning Jaime, the school nerd, on her first day at a new middle school, Penelope Torres tries to blend in with her new friends in the art club, until the art club goes to war with the science club, of which Jaime is a member.



Roadside Assistance

Amy Clipston (YA CliA Inspirational Fiction) ☞

After her mother dies and she and her father move in with her wealthy aunt and cousin, Emily struggles when her car-loving, tomboy identity and her way of expressing her faith clash with the expectations of others.



Can't Look Away

Donna Cooner (YA CooD)

Torrey Grey's YouTube videos on fashion and beauty for teenagers were famous, but when her younger sister is killed by a drunk driver during a filming her world falls apart.



Illegal

Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin (YA ColE Graphic Novel)

Ebo's epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family.



New Kid

Jerry Craft (YA CraJ Graphic Novel)

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?



Ten Miles Past Normal

Frances O'Roark Dowell (YA DowF)

Because living with "modern-hippie" parents on a goat farm means 14-year-old Janie cannot have a normal high school life, she tries joining Jam Band, making friends with Monster, and spending time with elderly former civil rights workers.



Prom & Prejudice

Elizabeth Eulberg (YA EulE) ☞

For Lizzie Bennett, a music scholarship student at Connecticut's exclusive, girls-only Longbourn Academy, the furor over prom is senseless, but even more puzzling is her attraction to the pompous Will Darcy, best friend of her roommate's boyfriend.

Backfield Boys

John Feinstein (YA FeiJ)

Freshman footballers Jason and Tom are confronted with mounting evidence of deep-seated racial bias and speak out, risking their scholarships and chances to play.



Every Day After

Laura Golden (YA Goll)

A young girl fights to keep her mama out of the mental ward, her home away from the bank, and herself out of the orphanage after her father abandons the family in depression era Alabama.



Best of the Best

Tim Green (YA GreT) ☞

Determined to play in the Little League World Series, twelve-year-old Josh struggles to concentrate on his game and be the team's leader while also trying to cope with his parents' impending divorce.



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Mark Haddon (YA HadM)

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.



Last Summer at Eden

Christina Hergenrader (YA HerC Inspirational Fiction)

Eden, a summer camp in southern California, has hit rock-bottom with low enrollment, a tight budget, and burned-out staff. Can it be saved? Maybe not.



Roller Girl

Victoria Jamieson (YA JamV Graphic Novel)

Astrid has always done everything with her best friend Nicole. After signing up for roller derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. Is Astrid strong enough to be a roller girl?



Schooled

Gordon Korman (YA KorG) ☞

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Cap Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie, but when his grandmother lands in the hospital, he has to attend the local middle school.



All Summer Long

Hope Larson (YA LarH Graphic Novel)

13-year-old Bina has a long summer ahead of her. Her best friend is off to soccer camp for a month and he's been acting kind of weird lately anyway. Can she have fun on her own?

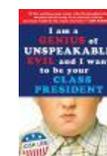


I Am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil

and I Want to Be Your Class President

Josh Lieb (YA LieJ)

12-year-old Oliver has everyone convinced that he is extremely stupid and lazy, but he is actually a rich, evil genius, and when he decides to run for class president, nothing will stand in his way.



Million-Dollar Throw

Mike Lupica (YA LupM) ☞

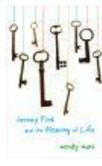
Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, so when he gets a chance to win a million dollars he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure.



① This book is the first of a series

☞ This author has written other books that may be appropriate

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Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life

Wendy Mass (YA MasW)

Just before his 13th birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life.



A Mango-Shaped Space

Wendy Mass (YA MasW)

Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.



There's Something About Sweetie

Sandhya Menon (YA MenS)

Ashish and Sweetie both have something to prove. But with each date they realize there's an unexpected magic growing between them. Can they find their true selves without losing each other?



Dairy Queen ①

Catherine Murdock (YA MurC)

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.



All the Right Stuff

Walter Dean Myers (YA MyeW) ②

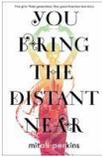
Paul volunteers at a Harlem soup kitchen where he listens to lessons about "the social contract" from an elderly African American man, and mentors a 17-year-old unwed mother who wants to make it to college on a basketball scholarship.



A Step From Heaven

An Na (YA NaA)

After their emigration from Korea to the US, Young Ju and her family struggle in their new world, weighed down by the difficulty of learning English, their insular family life, and the traditions of the country they left behind.



You Bring the Distant Near

Mitali Perkins (YA PerM)

From 1965 through the present, an Indian American family adjusts to life in New York City, alternately fending off and welcoming challenges to their own traditions.



Freak the Mighty ①

Rodman Philbrick (YA PhiR)

At the beginning of 8th grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, combine forces to make a powerful team.



Geekerella

Ashley Poston (YA PosA)

Geek girl Ellie hopes to go to the ExcelsiCon Cosplay Ball to meet Darien, the actor (and closet nerd), scheduled to play the lead in a reboot of the classic sci-fi series Ellie & her dad used to watch.



Ghost: Track, Book 1 ①

Jason Reynolds (YA ReyJ) ②

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.



The Teashop Girls

Laura Schaefer (YA SchL)

Fourteen-year-old Annie, along with her two best friends, tries desperately to save her grandmother's beloved, old-fashioned teashop in Madison, Wisconsin, while she also learns to accept the inevitability of change in life.

The Wednesday Wars ①

Gary Schmidt (YA SchG) ②

On Wednesday afternoons in 1967 when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, 7th-grader Holling stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read Shakespeare's plays and he learns much of value about the world he lives in.

I'll Be There

Holly Goldberg Sloan (YA SloH)

Raised by a father who keeps constantly on the move, Sam has long been the voice of his silent younger brother but everything changes when Sam meets Emily and, welcomed by her family, the brothers are faced with normalcy for the first time.

Windfall

Jennifer E. Smith (YA SmiJ) ②

Alice loves Teddy, her best friend, but has never told him. When she buys him a lottery ticket that turns out to be a winner, their lives are changed forever and their friendship is put to the ultimate test.

Peak ①

Roland Smith (YA SmiR) ②

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie ①

Jordan Sonnenblick (YA SonJ) ②

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

Stargirl

Jerry Spinelli (YA SpiJ)

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Flipped

Wendelin Van Draanen (YA VanW)

The first time she saw him, she flipped. The first time he saw her, he ran. That was the 2nd grade, but not much has changed by the 7th. In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Homecoming

Cynthia Voigt (YA VoiC)

The four Tillerman children, abandoned by their emotionally ill mother, travel on foot from New England to their paternal grandmother's Maryland farm in search of a place to call home.

Love & Gelato

Jenna Evans Welch (YA WelJ) ②

Lina is spending the summer in Tuscany. She's only there because it was her mother's dying wish that she get to know her father. But what kind of father isn't around for sixteen years? All Lina wants to do is get back home.

P.S. I Like You

Kasie West (YA WesK) ②

Every day in chemistry class, high school student and aspiring songwriter Lily Abbott is finding notes left to her by a mystery boy, love letters really, and she hopes they are from Lucas, a boy she is attracted to--so when she finds out they are really from, she is shocked and unsure about how to respond.

