

What's New in YA Literature?

Hot New Series:

“The Forest of Hands and Teeth,” by Carrie Ryan

- *The Forest of Hands and Teeth* (2009)
- *The Dead Tossed Waves* (2010)
- *The Dark and Hollow Places* (2011)

Following an outbreak of a disease that turns infected humans into zombies, the surviving citizens of the world live in isolated, fortified settlements and work to keep the infection at bay.

“Chaos Walking,” by Patrick Ness

- *The Knife of Never Letting Go* (2008)
- *The Ask and the Answer* (2009)
- *Monsters of Men* (2010)

In a small town on a distant planet populated by men whose thoughts are broadcast for all to hear, a spaceship crashes in the wilderness and one young person meets his first female. This young woman's arrival starts a chain reaction among the planet's governors who are intrigued by her mental silence and threatened by the promise of settlement her arrival implies.

“Maze Runner,” by James Dashner

- *The Maze Runner* (2009)
- *The Scorch Trials* (2010)

Young men in various stages of adolescence develop a rustic society in a walled compound surrounded by an ever-changing and impenetrable maze guarded by mechanized robots programmed to kill.

“The Last Survivors,” by Susan Beth Pfeffer

- *Life as We Knew It* (2006)
- *The Dead and the Gone* (2008)
- *This World We Live In* (2010)

A collision between an asteroid and the moon nudges the satellite closer to the earth with disastrous results. In a rural suburb and in New York City, families fight to survive in a post-apocalyptic world.

****“The Missing,” by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

- *Found* (2008)
- *Sent* (2009)
- *Sabotaged* (2010)

Best friends Jonah and Chip and Jonah's younger sister Katherine, inspired by a series of mysterious and vaguely threatening anonymous notes Chip and Jonah have received, begin to uncover the identities of the two boys, both of whom had been adopted as infants.

Multimedia Series

****“Skeleton Creek,” by Patrick Carman**

- *Skeleton Creek* (2009)
- *Ghost in the Machine* (2009)
- *The Crossbones* (2010)

****“The Amanda Project,” by Stella Lennon**

- *Invisible I* (2009)
- *Signal from Afar* (2010)
- *Do You See?* (TBA)

** These choices have 7-9th grade appeal

New Stand-alone Titles:

***The Last Summer of the Death Warriors* (2010), by Francisco X. Stork**

Pancho finds an unlikely ally in a fellow boarding student at a home for orphaned teen boys: a young man with terminal cancer.

***Almost Perfect* (2009), by Brian Katcher**

When Logan discovers that the new girl who befriends him on the first day of school and on whom he develops a crush is transgendered, he begins to question his own sexuality.

***The Monstrumologist* (2009), by Rick Yancey**

This 2010 Printz honor winner is a novel of gothic horror describing young Will Henry's apprenticeship to a "monstrumologist," a para-scientist who studies monsters.

***I Am Not a Serial Killer* (2010), by Dan Wells**

A clinically diagnosed sociopath obsessed with serial killers and their crimes, John Wayne Cleaver struggles with his own murderous impulses when a serial killer targets his small town.

*****Tell Us We're Home* (2010), by Marina Tamar Budhos**

Three young teen girls—each of whom is a recent immigrant to the United States—have one thing in common: members of each girl's family are employed as service workers in the homes of their wealthy schoolmates. When one girl's mother is accused of stealing from her employer, the three friends' divergent reactions threaten the girls' relationships.

*****The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin* (2010), by Josh Berk**

Fifteen-year-old Will "Hamburger" Halpin is a student with profound deafness participating in mainstream education for the first time. There he befriends the school nerd and gets involved in the mystery of the popular class jerk's death.

***Will Grayson, Will Grayson* (2010), by John Green and David Levithan**

Told in alternating chapters from the points of view of two teens named Will Grayson, this co-authored novel describes both young men's friendship with the outrageous and inappropriately nicknamed Tiny Cooper, an outgoing gay student who is producing a musical of his life story.

***Into the Wild Nerd Yonder* (2009), by Julie Halpern**

Fifteen-year-old Jessie always thought that her two cool girlfriends were the only things keeping her from being a social outcast. When her best friends adopt a "punk" style to get the attention of Jessie's older brother, Jessie begins to question their friendship, particularly as she starts to branch out herself.

***King of the Screw-Ups* (2009), by K. L. Going**

After he agrees to a forced exile from his family home and moves into a trailer park with his gay, cross-dressing, glam-rocker uncle, eighteen-year-old Liam finds his bliss in the fashion world.

***How to Say Good-bye in Robot* (2009), by Natalie Standiford**

Quirky high school senior Bea becomes friends with a fascinating but mercurial school outcast known as Ghost Boy.

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Novels Dealing with Bullying and Aggression

*****Brutal* (2009), by Michael Harmon**

Following her move to her father's idyllic California town, punk rocker and talented singer Poe confronts her new school's elitist bullies.

***Good Girls* (2006), by Laura Ruby**

When a cell-phone image of sixteen-year-old Audrey engaged in an intimate act with a classmate is circulated among her peers, she finds unlikely comfort and compassion with a group of rumored "sluts."

***Bad Apple* (2009), by Laura Ruby**

After Tola, an introverted artist and high school junior, is falsely accused of having an affair with her teacher, she is forced to speak the truth about their platonic relationship.

*****American Born Chinese* (2007), by Gene Luen Yang**

In this graphic novel and Printz winner, three short stories connect to describe a Chinese-American young man's confrontation with and consideration of his own prejudice.

***Hate List* (2009), by Jennifer Brown**

After her boyfriend, using a list he and high school junior Valerie jokingly called a "Hate List," opens fire in their high school, Valerie is the target of suspicion and hostility from classmates who assume she had something to do with the crime.

*****Almost Fabulous* (2009), by Michele Radford**

When fourteen-year-old Fiona discovers her extrasensory talent, she must decide whether or not to use it to thwart the Mean Girl in her secondary school.

*****The Cinderella Society* (2010), Kay Cassidy**

This first book in a planned series describes the conflict between the Cinderella Society and the Wickedes, members of which are installed in every high school and who battle for control of the "Reggies" (regular students).

***By the Time You Read This, I'll Be Dead* (2010), by Julie Ann Peters**

Long the target of bullying and the survivor of several suicide attempts, fifteen-year-old Daelyn plans to end her life once and for all.

***Jumped* (2009), by Rita Williams-Garcia**

After Trina unknowingly insults Dominique in the school hallway, Dominique makes plans to beat Trina up when classes are over. Leticia, who witnesses both the imagined slight and Dominique's vow for revenge, watches but does nothing as the girls occupy an inevitable collision course.

***Boot Camp* (2007), by Todd Strasser**

When fifteen-year-old Garrett is kidnapped from his home and transported to a correctional "boot camp," he endures institutional bullying while planning his escape.

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