

Poetry For Teens

Novels in Verse

The Death of Jayson Porter

by Jaime Adoff, 2008

Y ADOFF

In the Florida projects, sixteen-year-old Jayson struggles with the harsh realities of his life which include an abusive mother, a drug-addicted father and not fitting in at his predominately white school, that combine to bring him to the brink of suicide.

Shark Girl

by Kelly Bingham, 2007

Y BINGHAM

After a shark attack causes the amputation of her right arm, fifteen-year-old Jane, an aspiring artist, struggles to come to terms with her loss and the changes it imposes on her day-to-day life and her plans for the future.

Keesha's House

by Helen Frost, 2003

Y FROST

Seven teens facing such problems as pregnancy, closeted homosexuality and abuse each describe in poetic forms what caused them to leave home and where they found home again.

Split Image: A Portrait in Poems

by Mel Glenn, 2000

Y GLENN

A series of poems reflect the thoughts and feelings of various people--students, the librarian, parents, the principal and others--about the seemingly perfect Laura Li and her life inside and out of Tower High School.

Bronx Masquerade

by Nikki Grimes, 2001

Y GRIMES

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Out of the Dust

by Karen Hesse, 1997

Y HESSE

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

The First Part Last

by Angela Johnson, 2003

Y JOHNSON

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

Shakespeare Bats Cleanup

by Ronald Koertge, 2003

Y KOERTGE

When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love and loss.

The Realm of Possibility

by David Levithan, 2004

Y LEVITHAN

A variety of students at the same high school describe their ideas, experiences and relationships in a series of interconnected free verse stories.

Heaven Looks a Lot Like the Mall

by Wendy Mass, 2007

Y MASS

When high school junior Tessa Reynolds falls into a coma after getting hit in the head during gym class, she experiences heaven as the mall where her parents work and she revisits key events from her life, causing her to reevaluate herself and how she wants to live.

Sold

by Patricia McCormick, 2006

Y MCCORMICK

Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi, though poor, enjoys her life until the Himalayan monsoons wash away her family's crops and she is sold to a brothel in India by her stepfather.

Song of the Sparrow

by Lisa Ann Sandell, 2007

Y SANDELL

In fifth-century Britain, nine years after the destruction of their home on the island of Shalott brings her to live with her father and brothers in the military encampments of Arthur's army, seventeen-year-old Elaine describes her changing perceptions of war and the people around her as she becomes increasingly involved in the bitter struggle against the invading Saxons.

One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies

by Sonya Sones, 2004

Y SONES

Fifteen-year-old Ruby Milliken leaves her best friend, her boyfriend, her aunt and her mother's grave in Boston and reluctantly flies to Los Angeles to live with her father, a famous movie star who divorced her mother before Ruby was born.

What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know

by Sonya Sones, 2007

Y SONES

Fourteen-year-old Robin Murphy is so unpopular at high school that his name is slang for "loser," and so when he begins dating the beautiful and popular Sophie her reputation plummets, but he finds acceptance as a student in a drawing class at Harvard.

What My Mother Doesn't Know

by Sonya Sones, 2001

Y SONES

Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.

A Bad Boy Can Be Good for a Girl

by Tanya Lee Stone, 2006

Y STONE

Josie, Nicolette and Aviva all get mixed up with a senior boy who can talk them into doing almost anything he wants. In a blur of high school hormones and personal doubt, each girl struggles with how much to give up and what ultimately to keep for herself.

Jinx

by Margaret Wild, 2001

Y WILD

With the help of her understanding mother and a close friend, Jen eventually outgrows her nickname, Jinx, and deals with the deaths of two boys with whom she had been involved.

Make Lemonade

by Virginia Euwer Wolff, 1993

YPB WOLFF

In order to earn money for college, fourteen-year-old LaVaughn babysits for a teenage mother.

True Believer

by Virginia Euwer Wolff, 2001

Y WOLFF

Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it--an occasion to rise to.

Non Fiction

Seize the Story: a Handbook for Teens Who Like to Write

by Victoria Hanley, 2008

808.02 HAN

Insider tips about writing fiction, creating characters and dialogue, along with interviews and advice from successful authors.

The Brimstone Journals

by Ronald Koertge, 2001

Y 811 KOE

In a series of short interconnected poems, students at a high school nicknamed Brimstone reveal the violence existing and growing in their lives.

Girl Coming in for a Landing

by April Halprin Wayland, 2002

Y 811 WAY

A collection of over 100 poems recounting the ups and downs of one adolescent girl's school year.

The Poet Slave of Cuba: a Biography of Juan

Francisco Manzano

by Margarita Engle, 2006

Y 811.54 ENG

Juan Francisco Manzano was born in 1797 into the household of wealthy slaveowners in Cuba. He spent his early years at the side of his owner's wife, entertaining her friends. His poetry was his outlet, reflecting the beauty and cruelty of his world.

After The Death of Anna Gonzales

by Terri Fields, 2002

Y 811.54 FIE

Poems written in the voices of forty-seven people, including students, teachers and other school staff, record the aftermath of a high school student's suicide and the preoccupations of teen life.

Learning to Swim: A Memoir

by Ann Warren Turner, 2000

Y 811.54 TUR

A series of poems convey the feelings of a young girl whose sense of joy and security at the family's summer house is shattered when an older boy who lives nearby sexually abuses her.

Falling Hard: 100 Love Poems By Teenagers

edited by Betsy Franco, 2008

811.608 FAL

A collection of one hundred love poems written by teens.

Tell the World: Teen Poems from WriterCorps

Foreword by Sherman Alexie, 2008

811.608 TEL

A stunning collection of poems by teen who have taken part in workshops run by WritersCorps, a national alliance of literary arts programs for youth.

For more book recommendations, check
the Tigard Teen Blog:

tpltigardteen.blogspot.com



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