

Book Rave

Best Books for Teens

As selected by librarians from across the state of Oregon who serve to middle and high school-aged readers.

Reynolds, Jason

Long Way Down

Reeling with grief over the murder of his older brother, Will grabs his brother's gun and gets into the elevator. His goal: revenge. But the elevator ride is interrupted by six visitors, each with a message. Told in verse, this quick read packs a powerful punch.

Sanchez, Erika

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter

Olga, the perfect, obedient, quiet daughter, is dead, killed in a terrible accident. Grieving for her sister, Julia—the rebel, the loud one always getting in trouble—acts out more than ever. But also makes the shocking discovery that Julia may have been altogether less perfect and obedient than her family believed.

Shusterman, Neal

Scythe

In a world that has conquered disease and death, there is still a need for population control. Enter the “scythes,” an elite class charged with ending lives. Citra and Rowan are chosen to train together with Scythe Faraday—with the unpleasant caveat that whichever is chosen as a Scythe must kill the other.

Slater, Dashka

The 57 Bus: The True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed their Lives

In an impulsive moment, Richard, a black teenager, sets fire to the clothing of Sasha, a white agender teen, while riding on a bus. That moment leads to severe injury and a long recovery for Sasha; to felony charges and a shattered future for Richard.

Taylor, Laini

Strange the Dreamer

Lazlo Strange, foundling-turned-librarian, is at the center of a beautiful fantasy in which he undertakes a journey in pursuit of a dream. At the end of the road waits a whimsical half-goddess with blue skin and a tragic past, and the beleaguered, mythical city that draws them together.

Thomas, Angie

The Hate U Give

Starr Carter is living well—loving family, nice boyfriend, fancy private high school that will be her ticket out of the 'hood. Until That Night, when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her friend, Khalil, by a police officer. As the story blasts across national headlines, Starr is equally desperate to avoid the limelight and to have Khalil's innocence understood.

Watson, Renee

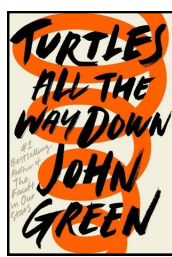
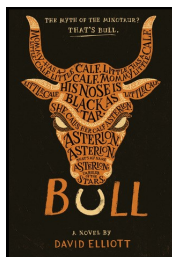
Piecing Me Together

Jade has some conflicted feelings about being a black scholarship student at a very rich, white private school on the other side of Portland. Now, she's just confused as she is funneled into a special mentor program for “at-risk” black girls. What do they think she's at risk for, especially when she seems to be more together than her assigned mentor?

Yoon, Nicola

The Sun is Also a Star

Science-minded Natasha and poetic good Korean son Daniel cross paths 12 hours before Natasha's family is due to be deported to Jamaica. They are pulled into romantic orbit as they and those around them muse on matters of race, national origin, prejudice, displacement, belonging, and the power of attraction.



Anderson, Jodi Lynn

Midnight at the Electric

Adri is an anti-social young woman living in a run-down future America. Preparing to be part of the first human colony on Mars unexpectedly puts Adri in touch with an aging cousin, an ancient tortoise named Galapagos, and a stash of old letters and a journal that reveal the lives of two other women, faced with overwhelming decisions at pivotal times in history.

Elliott, David

Bull

Written in multiple voices led by a devil-may-care Poseidon, this fast-paced novel in verse re-explores the story of The Minotaur. In Elliott's hands, the murderous half-man, half-bull living in a labyrinth becomes more human and sympathetic, his queenly mother more caring, and his kingly step-father a bigger jerk than seems humanly possible.

Green, John

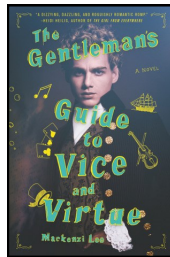
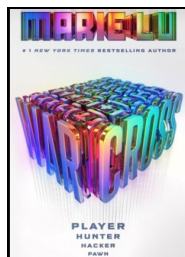
Turtles All the Way Down

Aza is trying to solve the disappearance of local billionaire Russell Pickett, sort out her growing feelings for his son Davis, and understand what's going wrong between her and her best friend, Daisy. But more than anything, Aza is gripped by anxiety and compulsions that create ever-tightening spirals in her mind.

Heiligman, Deborah

Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers

By all accounts, Vincent Van Gogh was a difficult and unsettling personality, living a life characterized by creative genius and personal demons. No one knew or loved him better than his brother, Theo. Their letters paint a portrait of unparalleled brotherly devotion.



Lockhart, E.

Genuine Fraud

A young woman on the run. A liar and a cheat hiding from Something Terrible. A story that starts at the end and is revealed slowly, going back chapter by chapter to the beginning, spinning toward a wild truth.

Lu, Marie

Warcross

Emika Chen is an increasingly desperate teen bounty hunter and hacker, on her own since the premature and much-mourned death of her father. Her one escape—the escape favored worldwide—is Warcross, the game that revolutionized VR gaming. When one wild decision brings her to the attention of the game's creator, her entire life is turned on its end as she is pulled deep into the inner workings of Warcross.

Mackenzi, Lee

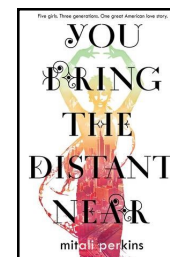
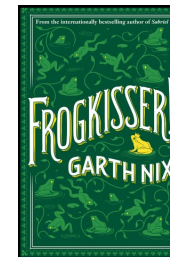
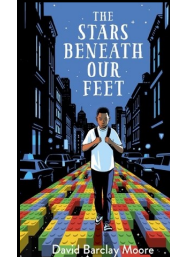
The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue

Henry "Monty" Montague's goal is to enjoy a hedonistic romp across 18th century Europe before being saddled with the responsibilities of a gentleman in charge of an estate. His plans are foiled—or at least complicated—by pirates, highwaymen, and Monty's own desperate love for his best friend and travel companion, Percy.

Menon, Sandhya

When Dimple Met Rishi

Dimple Shah is thrilled when her usually traditional Indian parents pay for her to attend an elite summer program for aspiring web developers. What she doesn't know about is their ulterior motive—to put her in close proximity to Rishi Patel in hopes of making their arranged marriage plans into a love match.



Moore, David Barclay

The Stars Beneath Our Feet

Lolly Rashpaul lives in a neighborhood controlled by gangs, the same gangs who killed his brother two months ago. Reeling with grief and trying to avoid joining a gang himself, Lolly is saved by an unexpected gift—two bags of Legos brought home for him by his mother's girlfriend. As Lolly creates a huge Lego city, he starts to see in own world in a new way.

Nix, Garth

Frogkisser!

The rather capable Princess Anya is up to her ears in trouble after her step-stepfather, the wicked sorcerer Duke Rickard, changes her sister's latest suitor into a frog. Anya is forced into an epic quest to change the frog back into a prince. Her only allies are a slightly addled talking dog and an incorrigible boy-turned-newt. Much adventure lies ahead.

Perez, Celia

The First Rule of Punk

Malú (please don't call her María Luisa) is mad. She's mad at her "SuperMexican" college professor mother for moving her far from the home and father she loves and for always pushing her to be a "proper señorita." Malú wants to be more punk, like her Dad. But when she decides to stir things up by forming a punk band, she learns that being punk brings her closer to home and her Mexican roots than she could have imagined.

Perkins, Mitali

You Bring the Distant Near

Three generations of Bengali women, starting with a move to New York City in the 1960s, struggle to understand race, culture, religion, and personal identity. Complex and flawed, each seeks to embrace their heritage on their own terms.