

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Teens' Top Ten Reads 2018

A division of the American Library Association, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), is dedicated to supporting libraries by providing and promoting services to teens. Each year since 2003, YALSA has sponsored the "Teens' Top Ten." A select group of teens nominate young adult titles and then teens across the country read and vote for their ten favorites. The 2018 winners were announced during Teen Read Week earlier this month and these titles are great reading suggestions for fans of young adult fiction.

Jason Reynolds' "Long Way Down" earned starred reviews from many sources and was a favorite of teens in 2018. In this thought-provoking novel in verse, Will tucks a gun into his waistband and leaves his family's apartment to seek revenge for his brother's violent death. Will takes the apartment building's elevator down seven floors and on his trip to the street, his encounters with other people riding the elevator prompt him to assess his plan.

A reviewer for Kirkus gave this novel a star and said, "... this is a raw, powerful, and emotional depiction of urban violence. The structure of the novel heightens the tension, as each stop of the elevator brings a new challenge until the narrative arrives at its taut, ambiguous ending... Reynolds masterfully weaves in textured glimpses of the supporting characters. Throughout, readers get a vivid picture of Will and the people in his life, all trying to cope with the circumstances of their environment while expressing the love, uncertainty, and hope that all humans share. This astonishing book will generate much needed discussion."

Young adult fiction fans devoured both Marie Lu's "Legend" and "Young Elites" series. This year, her new novel, "Warcross" earned her more starred reviews and a spot in the Teens' Top Ten. For those looking for an action-packed, science fiction adventure, add this book to your to-be-read pile. Need more convincing? Take a look at what this reviewer from School Library Journal had to say:

"Readers will move effortlessly through Lu's fantastic writing, and they will enjoy getting to know this international cast of characters. The author adeptly weaves together exciting video games scenes, virtual reality, and romance. The great plot twist and cliff-hanger ending clearly leaves room for a sequel."

Author John Green is known for witty dialog, serious teen angst, and wickedly smart characters. It should come as no surprise to YA lit fans that Green's "Turtles All the Way Down" was the top pick from teens in 2018. It has been six years since "The Fault in Our Stars" grabbed us by the heartstrings, but this latest novel that explores the subject of mental illness was definitely worth the wait, okay? Okay.

Consider this from a starred review in Publisher's Weekly, "In an age where troubling events happen almost weekly, this deeply empathetic novel about learning to live with demons and love one's imperfect self is timely and important."

For the full list of YALSA's Teens' Top Ten titles, visit <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten>. These titles are available in the Teen Space and through our digital book lending service, Overdrive, at <https://nebraska.auth.overdrive.com>.