

Sweeney, Kate—***This One's for You***

Former best friends and recent graduates Cass and Syd go on an impromptu road trip to follow the reunion tour of The Darlas, a rock band that Cass' mom used to play in before she died.

Thomas, R. Eric—***Kings of B'more***

Inspired by the movie Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Harrison plans a wild send-off for his best friend who is moving out of state.

Turner, Erika

***And Other Mistakes***

Cross country runner Aaliyah's senior year becomes way more complicated after she's outed by a church elder, creating tension at school and at home.

Valdes Greenwood, David

***Brighter Than the Moon***

Shani thinks that Jonas might be hiding something in their online relationship and enlists her friend Ash to spy on Jonas, but soon they're all keeping major secrets.

Wientge, Kristi

***Best Friends, Bikinis, and Other Summer Catastrophes***

Alex wants to spend her summer building a treehouse with her best friend Will, but his sudden interest in another girl threatens to ruin everything.

Winters, Julian

***As You Walk On By***

After a promposal goes horribly wrong at a party, Theo hides out for the rest of the evening and is joined, one-by-one, by other kids dealing with issues of their own.

Woltz, Anna—***Talking to Alaska***

Parker had to give up her dog last year and discovers she now belongs to her new classmate and (already) mortal enemy, Sven.

Woodfolk, Ashley

***The Beauty That Remains***

Bandmates Autumn, Shay, and Logan each lose someone close to them and must work through their grief.

**A few notes:**

- These book lists are examples, not complete lists of books which fit into the genre.
- Not all books will be of interest to every reader.
- Teen Scene staff are always eager to help you find a book that fits your personal taste and interests. Just ask!

# Realistic Fiction



## Suggestions for Young Adult books that ...

- Contain events that didn't really happen, but could have.
- Address issues or challenges that are relatable for current teens.
- Take place now or in the recent past.

Photo credit: Jack Marlon

CITY OF *Salem*  
AT YOUR SERVICE  
**Salem Public Library**



**Salem Public Library Teen Scene**  
585 Liberty St. SE • Salem, OR  
[www.cityofsalem.net/community/library](http://www.cityofsalem.net/community/library)

Acevedo, Elizabeth

### ***Clap When You Land***

Camino, who lives in the Dominican Republic, and Yahaira, from New York City, learn that they share a father after he dies in an airplane crash.

Ahmadi, Arvin—***Down and Across***

Aimless Scott seeks out a famous psychologist for help picking out a future, but a crossword-writing college girl turns his one-day visit into an unexpected adventure.

Ahmed, Samira

### ***Love, Hate & Other Filters***

Maya's parents want her to go to college and marry a suitable Muslim boy, while she dreams of going to film school. But both dreams are shattered by a terrorist attack hundreds of miles away.

Bishop, Jeff

### ***A Heavy Dose of Allison Tandy***

Cam starts to see visions of his comatose ex-girlfriend while on painkillers for a basketball injury.

Chao, Gloria

### ***When You Wish Upon a Lantern***

Former best friends Liya and Kai haven't spoken in a long time but come together to rekindle a wish-granting tradition in hopes of saving Liya's family's lantern store.

Culley, Betty

### ***The Name She Gave Me***

Rynn's relationship with her adoptive mother is strained when she discovers she has a biological sister living in foster care in a nearby town.

Deaver, Mason—***The Ghosts We Keep***

Liam feels alone and isolated after losing their older brother Ethan in a hit-and-run accident but forms a bond in grief with Ethan's best friend, Marcus.

Ferguson, Jenny

### ***The Summer of Bitter and Sweet***

Lou's summer is complicated by the reappearance of her former best friend, having to work alongside her ex-boyfriend, and a letter from her biological father.

Forest, Kristina—***Zyla & Kai***

Cynical Zyla and hopeless romantic Kai run away together during a school trip, leaving their family and friends confused because the unlikely duo had been broken up for months.

Giles, Lamar

### ***Not So Pure and Simple***

Del inadvertently signs up for a Purity Pledge at church while trying to impress his long-time crush, Kiera.

Hayden, Chaz

### ***The First Thing About You***

Harris moves across country and wants to make an impression beyond "new kid in a wheelchair" and devises a way to sort the kids he meets by asking them their favorite color.

Hibbert, Talia

### ***Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute***

Celine's former best friend Brad ditched her for the popular kids, but they'll have to sort through their differences to win an outdoor survival competition.

Kadohata, Cynthia—***Checked***

To help pay for his dog's cancer treatment, 11-year-old Conor gives up hockey and finds himself considering who he is without the sport that has defined him.

Kronzer, Nicole

### ***The Roof Over Our Heads***

Finn's theatrical family puts on an immersive, historical play in hopes of saving their home, but he's struggling with his lines, his crush, and his long-time rival.

Lin, Alice—***Fireworks***

Lulu's summer plans go awry when a childhood neighbor turned K-pop sensation returns home from South Korea under mysterious circumstances.

Lundin, Britta—***Like Other Girls***

After getting kicked off the basketball team, Mara joins the football team and inadvertently inspires several other girls to join as well, including her Mara's crush.

Mason, Lizzy

### ***Remind Me to Hate You Later***

Jules committed suicide, and her best friend Natalie along with her boyfriend Carter band together to expose the truth behind her death before her influencer mother writes a book about it.

Meriano, Anna—***It Sounds Like This***

Yasmín tries to learn the tuba after inadvertently getting the low brass section of the marching band suspended while trying to deal with an online bullying problem.

Rigaud, Debbie—***Simone Breaks All the Rules***

Simone makes a list of adventurous things she's never tried in an effort to shake things up from the life she's led with her overprotective immigrant family.

Schumacher, Ashley

### ***The Renaissance of Gwen Hathaway***

After losing her mother, Madeline tries to keep things simple and unchanging, but a boy from the Renaissance Faire changes everything.