



Coming of Age Stories

Center Moriches Free Public Library
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 Compiled by Miss Laura

The following titles can be found in the Young Adult section.

Acevedo, E. The Poet X

Xiomara Batista, the daughter of devout immigrants, discovers the power of slam poetry and begins participating in a school club as part of her effort to understand her mother’s strict religious beliefs and her own developing relationship to the world.

Asphyxia. The Words in My Hands

Deaf since the age of three, Piper has always been told that she needs to compensate in a world that puts those who can hear above all else. But when she meets Marley, a whole new world opens up—one where Deafness is something to celebrate rather than hide, and where resilience and hope are created by taking action, building a community, and believing in something better.

Anderson, C. What Beauty There Is

Living in harsh poverty during a brutal Idaho winter, Jack searches for the drug money that sent his father to prison to keep his brother out of foster care, while Ava, under the control of a merciless father, makes a wrenching choice to help the brothers survive.

Anderson, L.H. Speak

Melinda finds herself an outcast at her high school for calling the cops on an end of summer party, and although she finds comfort in her art class, she still holds a terrible secret. **[Available as a novel and graphic novel]**

Cabot, M. The Princess Diaries

Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is princess and the heir to the throne.

Caletti, D. Girl, Unframed

Reluctantly returning to film star mother’s home in California, Sydney finds herself the object of unwanted attention before a thrilling night gone wrong calls her loyalties into question.

Chbosky, S. The Perks of Being a Wallflower

A series of letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the coming-of-age trials of a high-schooler named Charlie. In a quest through friendship and the trials of love, Charlie battles to find himself.

Gaku, K. Boys Run the Riot (volume 1)

High schooler Ryo knows he’s transgender, although he cannot tell anyone, until he discovers that Jin, a new student in his class, has the same taste in clothing as he does. **[Manga title]**

Gansworth, E. Give Me Some Truth

As the tension between those on the Tuscarora Reservation and the surrounding communities grows, teens Carson Mastick and Maggi Bokoni dream of exploring their own artistic dreams beyond the reservation.

Hahn, E. Never Saw You Coming

In this powerful story about forgiveness and love, 18-year-old Meg Hennessey travels north to meet the family she never knew existed to find answers and instead falls for Micha Allen, who is dealing with his own traumatic past.

Hand, C. The How & the Why

Adopted as an infant, Cass has questions about who she is and where she came from that her adoptive parents can't answer, but eighteen years ago, Cass's birthday mother wrote her a series of letters that may just hold the answers she is searching for.

Hopkins, E. Impulse

A story told by a seventeen-year-old boy about the physical violence and mutual hatred between gangs of the rich and the poor, and the fumbling search by teenagers of the urban slums for personal dignity and a place in the world.

Lo, M. Last Night at the Telegraph Club

When Lily realizes she has feelings for a girl in her math class, it threatens Lily's oldest friendships and even her father's citizenship status and eventually, Lily must decide if owning her truth is worth everything she has ever known.

Méndez, Y. Furia

Seventeen-year-old Camila Hassan, a rising soccer star in Rosario, Argentina, dreams of playing professionally, in defiance of her fathers' wishes and at the risk of her budding romance with Diego.

Murphy, J. Dumplin'

Sixteen-year-old Willowdean wants to prove to everyone in her small Texas town that she is more than just a fat girl, so, while grappling with her feelings for a co-worker who is clearly

attracted to her, Will and some other misfits prepare to compete in the beauty pageant her mother runs.

Myers, W. D. All the Right Stuff

After his father is shot and killed, Paul DuPree finds a summer job at a Harlem soup kitchen. Elijah, the soup man, questions Paul about tough life choices, even though Paul would rather be playing basketball. Over the summer, Paul begins to understand the importance of taking control of your life.

Nelson, J. I'll Give You the Sun

A story of first love, family loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her twin brother Noah.

Polonsky, A. Spin With Me

Told in two voices, seventh-graders Essie, in North Carolina for just one semester, and Ollie, a non-binary, "gender weird" classmate, develop a gentle romance while Essie ponders her label.

Reynolds, J. Long Way Down

As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghost who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know *[Available as a novel and graphic novel]*

Rowell, R. Eleanor and Park

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two-star-crossed-misfits-smart enough to know that first loves almost never last, but brace and desperate enough to try.

Smith, A. Winger

Two years younger than his classmates at a prestigious boarding school, fourteen-year-old Ryan Dean West grapples with living in the dorm for troublemakers, falling for his female best friend who thinks of him as just a kid, and playing wing on the Varsity rugby team with some of his frightening new dorm-mates.

Thomas, A. On the Come Up

A follow up to the award-winning *The Hate U Give* finds Bri, an ambitious young rapper pouring her frustrations into a first song only to find herself at the center of a viral controversy that forces her to become the menace that her public reputation has portrayed her to be.

Zepeda, M. Boys of the Beast

Three teenage boy cousins on a road trip through California and the Southwest come to terms with truths about their families and themselves.

Zrull, L. Goth Girl, Queen of the Universe

In a scheme to reunite with her estranged biological mother, foster kid Jess joins a cosplay team working toward a competition in New York, but along the way she learns the value of the family you choose for yourself.

Zusak, M. The Book Thief

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.