

Clean Reads:
Books that don't offend



TITLE	AUTHOR	LOCATION
<i>A Lantern in Her Hand</i>	Beth Streeter Aldrich	YA FIC ALD
Newlyweds, Will and Abbie move to Nebraska to start a new life, but nothing could prepare them for the hardships of the frontier.		
<i>Fever 1793</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	YA AND
Matilda Cook practically runs her parents' coffee shop in Philadelphia. She is growing tired of her humdrum life, but everything changes in 1793 when the yellow fever breaks out and starts taking the lives of her loved ones.		
<i>Aunt Dimity Beats the Devil</i>	Nancy Atherton	FIC ATH
When Lori Shepherd travels to an old Gothic castle to examine a rare book collection, she uncovers a tragic love story that existed between the old residents of the castle.		
<i>Hope Was Here</i>	Joan Bauer	YA BAU
16-year-old Hope had no idea what was in store for her when she and her aunt moved to Wisconsin to work at a local diner as waitress and cook. They find themselves in the middle of a political war as the head of the diner is running for Mayor in a very corrupt government.		
<i>Rules of the Road</i>	Joan Bauer	YA BAU
Sixteen-year-old Jenna has two things in her life that she is quite proud of: her job as a salesperson at Gladstone's shoes and her Illinois driver's license. She has her concerns when the 73-year-old president of Gladstone's asks Jenna to accompany her on a road trip to Texas, but the pay is too good to pass up.		
<i>24 Girls in 7 Days</i>	Alex Bradley	YA FIC MEY
Jack Grammar has two weeks until his senior prom, and he is dateless. His two best friends go behind his back and post a personal ad in the school newspaper to find Jack a date. 24 girls respond, and Jack has 7 days to date them all and make his final decision.		

TITLE	AUTHOR	LOCATION
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<i>Lucky T</i>	Kate Brian	YA FIC BRI
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Do you believe in lucky charms (rabbit's feet, clovers, etc.)? Carrie believes that an old t-shirt that her absent father sent her years ago is lucky, so she is horrified when her mother accidentally donates the shirt to a charity called Help India. Carrie's luck turns so fast that she flies halfway across the world to Calcutta, India to retrieve her t-shirt.

<i>All American Girl</i>	Meg Cabot	YA CAB
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Samantha, a fairly typical high school girl, inadvertently saves the president from an assassination attempt and instantly becomes a national hero. Her popularity soars; she is made junior ambassador of the United States; and, she starts to develop a love interest with the President's son.

<i>Avalon High</i>	Meg Cabot	YA FIC CAB
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Ellie detests her real name, Lady Elaine, which her parents christened her in honor of the famous medieval Lady of Shalott. So, when she moves to a new town and enrolls at Avalon High, she is shocked to learn that many of the teachers and students actually believe in the medieval Arthurian tales, and some even believe that Arthur is returning.

<i>Teen Idol</i>	Meg Cabot	YA CAB
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Jenny has a big secret to keep! Famous heartthrob actor, Luke Striker, is coming to her hometown to do research for an upcoming movie and he decided to go undercover at the local high school as a student. Jenny is Luke's guide and the only one who knows his secret.

<i>Diary of a Teenage Girl Series</i>	Melody Carlson	YA SERIES DIARY C1
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This teen series follows the diary entries of sixteen-year-old Caitlin O'Conner as she grapples with feelings and scenarios typical of today's teens. Caitlin explores such issues as peer pressure, teen crushes, rebellious tendencies, and her relationship with God.

<i>Catherine, Called Birdy</i>	Karen Cushman	YA CUS
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Written in diary format, this is the tale of thirteen-year-old Catherine (who prefers to be called Birdy) who is growing up in England at the end of the twelfth century. Birdy finds life dull as she is forced to sit inside and learn to be a lady. Things become interesting, however, when her father tries to marry her off, and Birdy is reluctant to fall into the social stereotypes of ancient England.

<i>The Midwife's Apprentice</i>	Karen Cushman	YA CUS
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Alyce has spent her whole life struggling to survive. All she has ever known is being homeless and hungry. When the town's tough and greedy midwife takes Alyce on as an apprentice one day, Alyce finally knows what it feels like to have food to eat and a roof over her head.

TITLE	AUTHOR	LOCATION
<i>The City of Ember</i>	Jeanne DuPrau	YA FIC DUP
<p>Lina lives in the year 241 in a society that began with good intentions and went dreadfully amuck. People are locked into the domed city with no knowledge of other places and no means of escaping. On her twelfth birthday, Lina is assigned the job of message bearer, and her travels throughout the city cause her to stumble across some shocking discoveries about her society and to find an ancient map that might be able to help her escape.</p>		
<i>The House of Scorpion</i>	Nancy Farmer	YA FAR
<p>Matteo Alacran lives in a futuristic society where science is far more developed than today. Matteo is no ordinary boy; he is a clone of the emperor of Opium, the city in highest control. In his society, clones are scorned and treated as animals, but Matteo's situation is unique because the real Matteo has ordered that the young boy be lavished with all the luxuries of any well-to-do human.</p>		
<i>Love Among the Walnuts</i>	Jean Ferris	YA FER
<p>Sandy lives with his multi-millionaire parents in a house that is excluded from the rest of society. His uncles have been scheming ways to steal their brother's money, and after a poisonous birthday cake causes Sandy's parents to fall into a coma, Sandy and the butler must find the anecdote to the poison.</p>		
<i>The Thief Lord</i>	Cornelia Funke	J FUN
<p>Prosper and Boniface have just lost their mother, and their horrible and cruel aunt now has custody of them. They run away to Venice to escape her clutches and meet up with a ragtag gang of kids who are all led by the Thief Lord.</p>		
<i>Soulsurfer</i>	Bethany Hamilton	797.3 HAM
<p>Many will recall the true story of young surfer, Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm to a shark. This is her autobiography. It tells about her life before the attack, and it also talks about how she continues to surf with only one arm now.</p>		
<i>Hoot</i>	Carl Hiaason	J FIC HIA
<p>Twelve-year-old Roy just moved to Coconut Cove, Florida when he discovered that the town is putting a construction site into a protected area. He joins with his friends to save the owls who live at the site.</p>		
<i>Leaving Protection</i>	Will Hobbs	J HOB
<p>Sixteen-year-old Robbie Daniels needs a summer job, and just when he feels that all hope is lost, he meets a salmon fisherman named Tor Torsen. Tor offers Robbie a job as a salmon fisher, but Robbie soon discovers that salmon is not the only thing that Tor is searching for in the dark waters.</p>		

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<i>The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place</i>	E.L. Konigsburg	YA FIC KON
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12-year-old Margaret is rescued from her dull summer camp by her two quirky uncles. She is thrilled by the rescue because it means that she will be able to help them with the beautiful towers that they have been constructing in their backyard for the past 45 years. Much to her horror, however, she discovers that the neighbors have been talking to the city council to have the towers removed!

<i>Gathering Blue</i>	Lois Lowry	YA LOW
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In this companion book to *The Giver*, Lowry tells the story of young Kira, who is growing up in a futuristic society where anyone who is imperfect is cast out to die. Kira has a twisted leg that makes it difficult for her to walk, and she should have been cast out at birth, but she has a unique talent that sets her apart from the rest of society- Kira can weave beautiful things with her hands.

<i>The Messenger</i>	Lois Lowry	YA FIC LOW
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This is also a companion book to the Newberry award winner, *The Giver*. It tells the story of young outcast, Mattie, who discovers that he has a hidden power of healing. Afraid that his power will not be pleasing to the leaders in his society, Mattie attempts to conceal his gift of healing from the leaders.

<i>Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie</i>	David Lubar	YA FIC LUB
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Scott Hudson is a quirky and insecure freshman trying to make a place for himself at his new high school. He joins the school paper and becomes a stage manager for the school drama team to fit in.

<i>Bloody Jack</i>	L.A. Meyer	YA MEY
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Jacky Faber's real name is Mary. Mary was a homeless 12-year-old girl struggling to stay alive; Jacky is a "boy" on a naval ship seeking adventure. This is an exciting tale of how Jacky learns to live like a sailor while keeping her true identity as a female concealed.

<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	Lucy Maud Montgomery	YA MON
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This classic tale is about an orphan girl named Anne who moves to Prince Edward Island to live with a middle-aged brother and sister. She gets herself into quite a few scrapes as her strong imagination allows her to throw caution to the wind in pursuit of adventure.

<i>Dairy Queen</i>	Catherine Gilbert Murdock	YA FIC MUR
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15-year-old D.J. is a bit of a tom-boy, and she becomes even more so when her father, a dairy farmer, becomes injured, and D.J. starts doing most of the work on the farm. As if working on the farm and going to school isn't enough to keep D.J. busy, she agrees to train Brian for football tryouts at their local high school.

TITLE	AUTHOR	LOCATION
<i>Airborn</i>	Kenneth Oppel	YA FIC OPP
This exciting fantasy story is about young Kate and Matt who cross paths when they both find themselves aboard the luxurious airship, <i>Aurora</i> . A huge storm grounds the <i>Aurora</i> on a mysterious island, and Kate and Matt find creatures that they never knew existed.		
<i>Jacob Have I Loved</i>	Katherine Paterson	YA PAT
Louise is so jealous of her beautiful and talented twin sister Caroline that she has begun to hate her sister and hate the world. It isn't until she befriends a mysterious old man named Cal Wallace that Louise finally starts to understand that she has talents of her own.		
<i>A Long Way from Chicago</i>	Richard Peck	J PEC
Joey and his little sister spend every summer away from Chicago visiting their Grandma in her small hometown. Joey loves spending the summers with his grandmother because she is spunky and is anything but a good influence on Joey and his sister.		
<i>Freak the Mighty</i>	Rodman Philbrick	J PBK PHI
Max is really big for his age, but he's not the smartest kid around. Kevin has a birth defect that has stunted his growth, but he's brilliant. When the two meet and become friends, they realize that together they have it all.		
<i>The Chosen</i>	Chaim Potok	FIC POT
Reuven and Danny befriended each other when they were fourteen and playing on opposing Yeshiva baseball teams. Both boys are Jewish, but Reuven is a Hasidic Jew, and Danny is an Orthodox Jew. When their parents learn about the friendship, they strongly disapprove, but Reuven and Danny refuse to stop being friends.		
<i>The Only Alien on the Planet</i>	Kristen Randle	YA RAN
Ginny moves with her family to the East Coast and has to start at a new school. She feels really out of place, but she finds a boy at school who is even more out of place than she is. Smitty Tibbs never talks or even makes eye contact with anyone. \		
<i>Holes</i>	Louis Sachar	J SAC
Stanley Yelnats has always had bad luck; it just runs in the family. When he is falsely convicted of stealing a pair of sneakers, Stanley gets sent to a summer boot camp in the dessert where he has to dig a huge hole each day.		
<i>I Was a Non-Blonde Cheerleader</i>	Kieran Scott	YA FIC SCO
Annisa has just moved with her family from New Jersey to Florida. Things are a lot different for Annisa in Florida, and she stands out like a soar thumb with her short brown hair in a school that is almost entirely blonde.		

TITLE	AUTHOR	LOCATION
<i>Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen</i>	Dyan Sheldon	YA SHE
Lola is distraught when she moves from her hometown New York City to a small town in New Jersey. But, she soon realizes that her vibrant personality and exaggerated stories find a very captivated audience at her new school. Good-girl Carla does not like Lola's soaring popularity, and the girls become rivals when they end up competing for the lead role in their school's play.		
<i>I Capture the Castle</i>	Dodie Smith	FIC SMI
Seventeen-year-old Cassandra Mortmain lives with her family in a crumbling old castle that her father obtained before the family became poverty-stricken. With barely enough money to buy food and certainly not enough money to buy such luxuries as paper, Cassandra's dream of becoming a writer seems to be a lost cause.		
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	Mildred Taylor	YA TAY
Cassie Logan and her brothers are too young to fully comprehend racism. As an African American family growing up in the 1930's, however, they learn quickly that they are judged by the color of their skin. A white mob is emerging in their hometown, and they have to choose their battles carefully without compromising their freedom.		
<i>Fruit Basket Vol. 1</i>	Natsuki Takaya	YA GRAPHIC NOVELS FRUITS 1
This graphic novel tells of the adventures of an orphaned teenager named Tohru Honda. The Sohma family offers to take Tohru in, but she must promise to keep their family secret- when any member of the Sohma family is hugged by someone of the opposite sex, they immediately turn into one of the signs of the Zodiac.		
<i>Surviving the Applewhites</i>	Stephanie Tolan	J TOL
Jake is a juvenile delinquent who is sent to live with the Applewhites as his last chance- if he messes this up, he will get thrown in jail. The Applewhites are supposed to "home school" Jake, but really their farm is a place for creative freedom and self-discipline.		
<i>Flipped</i>	Wendelin Van Draanen	J VAN
This story "flips" back and forth between the viewpoints of Juli and Bryce. It starts when they are seven and Juli has a crush on Bryce but Bryce hates girls. Eventually, however, it "flips" and Bryce likes Juli, but she finds him immature.		
<i>Runaways: Pride and Joy, Vol. 1</i>	Brian K. Vaughan	YA GRAPHIC NOVEL RUNAWAY 1
By eavesdropping on their parents' "cocktail party", six friends discover that their parents are not normal humans; rather, they are super-powered villains. Horrified, the friends run away and discover that they have powers of their own. The result is an intense battle between children and adults.		

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Never Trust a Dead Man

Vivian Vande Velde

YA VAN

17-year-old Selwyn is wrongly convicted of murder, and his punishment is to be entombed with the man that he is believed to have killed. An old witch finds Selwyn in the cave with the dead man and decides to help him. His only chance of survival is to summon the spirit of the dead man to discover who the real killer is.

Uglies

Scott Westerfeld

YA FIC WES

Fifteen-year-old Tally lives in a society where everyone is given an extreme makeover when they turn sixteen. The “pretties” only job after that is to have fun. Tally can’t wait to get her makeover, but when her best friend, Shay, runs away to a colony of rebels who choose to always remain “ugly”, Tally starts to rethink her society’s values.

Belle Prater’s Boy

Ruth White

J FIC WHI

When Woodrow’s mother mysteriously disappears, he is sent to live with his affluent grandparents, who live next door to his young cousin, Gypsy. Gypsy is anxious to learn the secret behind Woodrow’s mother’s disappearance, but she soon discovers that Woodrow is reluctant to tell any truths about his mother, only tall tales.

Compiled by Beth Blood 2006

Marshall District Library

<http://www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org>