

## Tearjerkers



<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<i>The Plague Dogs</i>	Richard Adams	<b>FIC ADA</b>
<p>Snitter and Rowf have not had good lives. Both dogs have spent the majority of their lives at the cold and very professional Animal Research Center in England. The dogs manage to escape one day, but they might be carriers of the Bubonic plague and a danger to society.</p>		
<i>Claiming Georgia Tate</i>	Gigi Amateau	<b>YA FIC AMA</b>
<p>12-year-old Georgia Tate Jamison has always lived with her grandparents. She was told that her mother is dead, and she only sees her father occasionally. One summer, Georgia's grandparents agree to let her go visit her father, but Georgia is hurt and confused when her father turns out to be sexually abusive.</p>		
<i>The Dollmaker</i>	Harriette Simpson Arnow	<b>FIC ARN</b>
<p>Gertie Nevells is a strong and amazing woman who helps her family to survive poverty during World War II. Gertie's family has to move from Alabama to Detroit so her husband can work in a war factory, and Gertie is the glue that holds the family together. Gertie is a humble character who sacrifices many of her own dreams for the sake of her family.</p>		
<i>The Sweet Hereafter</i>	Russell Banks	<b>FIC BAN</b>
<p>A school bus has recently crashed killing fourteen children in a small town in New York, and everyone seems to blame someone else for the accident. This story is told from four different viewpoints: the bus driver, a widowed father who saw the crash, a shrewd lawyer, and a fourteen-year-old girl who is now paralyzed as a result of the crash.</p>		
<i>A Shine of Rainbows</i>	Lillian Beckwith	<b>FIC BEC</b>
<p>Mairi and Sandy are childless, and finally, at Mairi's insistence, Sandy agrees to adopt a child. They find Thomas, a shy, stuttering orphan from England. Sandy is less than thrilled about the decision when he meets Thomas, but a tragedy causes Thomas and Sandy to seek comfort in each other.</p>		
<i>Hope Was Here</i>	Joan Bauer	<b>YA BAU</b>
<p>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 both find themselves in the middle of a political war because the head of the diner is running for Mayor in a town that has a very corrupt government. And, in the midst of all the political trauma, both Hope and her aunt are experiencing the budding of new romance.</p>		
<i>Hanging on to Max</i>	Margaret Bechard	<b>YA BEC</b>
<p>When Sam's girlfriend decided to give up their son, Max, for adoption against Sam's wishes, he decided to raise Max on his own. Only a senior in high school, he transferred to a new school that offered on-site daycare, but now he is struggling with desires to go to college and the challenge of raising his new son.</p>		

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<i>Zink</i>	Cherie Bennett	<b>J BEN</b>
10-year-old Becky already knows that she is dying from leukemia; it is just a matter of when. This book flips back and forth between the story of Becky's struggles, and the legend of Zink, a zebra in Africa who has spots instead of stripes. Eventually the two worlds merge as Becky's mind plays back and forth between fantasy and reality.		
<i>Lucas</i>	Kevin Brooks	<b>YA BRO</b>
From the moment that 15-year-old Caitlin saw the mysterious boy, Lucas, she knew that he would change her life. The people of the small English island distrusted Lucas, but Caitlin could see that Lucas had a lot more going on inside his head than people realized. When Caitlin finds herself in some compromising situations, Lucas is there to save her.		
<i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i>	Stephen Chbosky	<b>YA FIC CHB</b>
Charlie begins his freshman year with no friends. He didn't have trouble making friends in the past, but when his best friend committed suicide the summer before, he distanced himself from everyone. Now, he is observing life from the outskirts and seeing a lot more than he ever saw before. Life is full of tragedy, but in order for Charlie to become a whole person, he has to face up to his most embarrassing secret of all.		
<i>Notes from a Liar and Her Dog</i>	Gennifer Choldenko	<b>J CHO</b>
Antonia knows she is a liar, and she doesn't seem to care. She also knows that there are probably only two people in the world who like her: her best friend and a teacher from school. Antonia's teacher, Carol, takes her under her wing and helps her get a job at the zoo. But Antonia can't seem to overcome her need to lie, and she does something to put her job in jeopardy. Will she lose Carol's support forever?		
<i>Walk Two Moons</i>	Sharon Creech	<b>YA CRE</b>
13-year-old Sal Hiddle's mother has disappeared to Idaho, so Sal takes a road trip across the country to find her mother. On the way, Sal tells her grandparents the story of her friend, Phoebe, whose mother also abandoned her family.		
<i>Whale Talk</i>	Chris Crutcher	<b>YA CRU</b>
TJ's got everything going for him- he's smart, good-looking, and very athletic. The only problem is that this adopted, bi-racial high school senior despises the jocks that make up the teams in organized sports. He refuses to play on any of his high school sports teams, until his English teacher asks him to personally recruit students for a swim team. This is TJ's big opportunity to give all of the regular kids at school a chance.		
<i>A Knight in Shining Armor</i>	Jude Deveraux	<b>FIC DEV</b>
Dougless Montgomery was abandoned by her lover and his daughter in the English countryside by the tomb of the legendary Earl, Nicholas Stafford. Suddenly, the deceased Nicholas appears to Dougless and begs for her assistance to discover his killer. The adventure here begins, but romance soon develops between the ancient Earl and the damsel in distress.		

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i>	Kate DiCamillo	<b>YA FIC DIC</b>
Edward Tulane is a conceited toy rabbit who is doted upon by his owner, Abilene. Abilene takes Edward with her on a voyage one day, and some mean boys throw Edward into the sea. And so begins Edward's journey where he is passed from person to person. The worse Edward's outward appearance becomes, the bigger his heart grows.		
<i>The Year of Magical Thinking</i>	Joan Didion	<b>813.54 DID</b>
After the death of her husband of forty years, Didion writes the memoirs of her grief. She tells about the seemingly insane aspects of grief and loss (still expecting him to come home at night; refusing to come to grips with the truths of aging). The content of this book is very mature, but teens might find it quite interesting.		
<i>Fried Green Tomatoes</i>	Fannie Flagg	<b>FIC FLA</b>
Two stories in different time periods occur simultaneously in this classic novel. Elderly Mrs. Threadgoode helps overweight, middle-aged Evelyn overcome her insecurities in the 1980's by telling her about two women in the 1930's. Idgie and Ruth are two unlikely friends drawn together by tragedy. Mrs. Threadgoode's and Evelyn's is a story of empowerment and friendship; Idgie's and Ruth's story is one of friendship, strength, and adventure.		
<i>America: A Novel</i>	E.R. Frank	<b>YA FRA</b>
When an orphan boy named America is five-years-old, the welfare state decides to send him for a visit to his drug addicted mother. America disappears for eleven years after the visit, and is only rediscovered when he is hospitalized for attempting suicide. The only way that America can get his life back is to revisit the painful experiences of his past.		
<i>The Snow Goose</i>	Paul Gallico	<b>FIC GAL</b>
Rhayader is a hunchbacked recluse who lives in a lighthouse. One day, a young girl comes to Rhayader with an injured snow goose begging for his help. Together, they restore the snow goose's health, and when war breaks out in their country, Rhayader seems to have magical protection when he is on the water.		
<i>Old Yeller</i>	Fred Gipson	<b>J GIP</b>
This is a classic tale of frontier America. Thirteen-year-old Travis finds an ugly stray dog, which he dislikes at first. Travis, however, eventually learns to love the endearing dog, and he names it Old Yeller. The two become inseparable, but all is not well on the frontier...		
<i>Marley and Me</i>	John Grogan	<b>636.752 GRO</b>
This is the true account of the lives of John and Jenny and their dog, Marley. Marley is an extremely hyper lab with a knack for getting into trouble. On several occasions, John and Jenny almost get rid of Marley because he is so naughty, but they find that they have grown quite attached to their pet.		
<i>Invisible</i>	Pete Hautman	<b>YA FIC HAU</b>
Doug and Andy are both juniors at the local high school, but they couldn't be more different. Doug is a self-proclaimed loser who is obsessed with his model trains; Andy is a popular football player. But, somehow the two are best friends. A dark and tragic secret connects the two, a secret that they can't tell anyone.		

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<i>Good-bye, Mr. Chips</i>	James Hilton	<b>FIC HIL</b>
Arthur Chips is a teacher at a boarding school in England. When he was a young teacher, he was ambitious and dissatisfied with his position. As he grew older, however, he came to cherish every student that walked through his school. Arthur's tale is one of great loss- loss of his wife, loss of students... His hard but sweet character will melt any reader.		
<i>The First Part Last</i>	Angela Johnson	<b>YA JOH</b>
Bobby knows that he and his girlfriend, Mia, should have used birth control, but it's too late now. When an accident causes Mia severe brain damage, Bobby steps up and takes his daughter, Feather, home with him. This is Bobby's and Feather's story of love and sacrifice.		
<i>To Dance with the White Dog</i>	Terry Kay	<b>FIC KAY</b>
Sam Peek had been married to his wife for fifty-seven years before she passed away. Now, he is living with his children, who are extremely worried about him because he talks a lot about the white dog that he sees. His family believes that he is hallucinating, but soon others start to catch glimpses of the mystical white dog.		
<i>Flowers for Algernon</i>	Daniel Keyes	<b>FIC KEY</b>
Charlie Gordon loves education and longs to be intelligent, but his IQ is below average, and he is a slow learner. When Charlie hears about a new kind of brain surgery that is being tested, he decides to become a test subject. The results are shocking, and Charlie has to live his adult life swinging back and forth between two extremes.		
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee	<b>FIC PBK LEE</b>
This classic novel spans a time period of three years and follows Scout from eight to eleven years old. Scout and her brother live in Alabama and are obsessed with <i>Dracula</i> . They believe their neighbor is a bogeyman. Reality hits hard, however, when an African American man in her town is accused of raping a white woman. This book touches on a lot of serious topics- racism, justice, growing up, but it is diluted because it is all told through the eyes of an innocent child.		
<i>Day of Tears</i>	Julius Lester	<b>YA FIC LES</b>
Based on the biggest slave auction in history, this fictional book is intense and heartbreaking. The Butler household has gambled away the family fortune, and the one way that they can free themselves from the debt is to sell their slaves.		
<i>Where the Heart Is</i>	Billie Letts	<b>FIC LET</b>
Seventeen-year-old Novalee Nation is overweight, pregnant, and, just recently, alone. Her boyfriend dumped her in Oklahoma while they were traveling to a new state to start a new life. Now, Novalee has to make a way for herself with no money, home, or friends.		
<i>The Shrine at Altamira</i>	John L'Heureux	<b>FIC LHE</b>
Maria was attracted to Russell because his blond hair and blue eyes were different, and it didn't hurt that he was her ticket out of the San Jose ghettos either. After they were married, Maria gave birth to John. Maria loved and doted upon John, but Russell quickly became jealous of her shift in attention, and his jealousy led him to do something so irrational and horrifying, it will send a chill down your spine!		

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<i>A Summer to Die</i>	Lois Lowry	<b>YA LOW</b>
<p>Thirteen-year-old Meg has recently moved to an old farmhouse so her father can finish his book. Meg is extremely jealous of her beautiful and popular older sister, Molly. But, when Molly develops a strange fatal illness, she deals with her guilt and sorrow by turning to the older neighbors and to her love of photography.</p>		
<i>Chinese Cinderella</i>	Adeline Yen Mah	<b>305.48 MAH</b>
<p>This is the autobiography of Yen Mah, and it truly is a "Cinderella story." After her mother's death, Yen Mah is raised by her cruel stepmother and neglected by her busy father. She pours herself into books, and her father finally notices Yen Mah when she wins a writing contest in high school. Yen Mah is a strong true character that readers will find themselves drawn to.</p>		
<i>Christy</i>	Catherine Marshall	<b>FIB PBK MAR</b>
<p>Nineteen-year-old Christy is strong-willed and defiant, and she just accepted a teaching position at a mission in small town Cutter Gap, Kentucky. Christy finds herself in a tiny classroom with sixty-seven students and no books. Between feudal wars, romances, and Christy's strong desire to actually make scholars out of her students, this book will have readers enthralled from beginning to end.</p>		
<i>Beauty</i>	Robin McKinley	<b>YA MCK</b>
<p>This story is essentially the same as the original <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>- a young beauty falls in love with an ugly beast, and her love transforms him. McKinley elaborates on the original story, however, and manages to give the characters more depth.</p>		
<i>The Good Mother</i>	Sue Miller	<b>FIC MIL</b>
<p>Anna Dunlap is recently divorced and starting a new life with her three-year-old daughter, Molly. Anna meets Leo, an artist with little care for conventions in society, and the two fall in love. Anna experiences a sexual awakening with Leo, and she invites him to live with Molly and her. When Molly's father finds out about Anna's and Leo's relationship, he sues for custody of his daughter.</p>		
<i>Beloved</i>	Toni Morrison	<b>FIC MOR</b>
<p>At the end of the civil war, a former slave named Sethe has recurring nightmares and visions about the daughter that she murdered in defiance. When Sethe's attempt to escape slavery with her daughter was thwarted, she murdered her baby to save her from the life of imprisonment.</p>		
<i>Song of the Magdalene</i>	Donna Jo Napoli	<b>YA NAP</b>
<p>This is the story of the biblical character, Mary Magdalene. Napoli tells an elaborate story of Magdalene's difficult and tragic past- a rape victim, a deceased lover, and a murdered child. The story ends where the Bible begins with Mary.</p>		
<i>Portrait of Jennie</i>	Robert Nathan	<b>FIC NAT</b>
<p>Eben Adams is a young, struggling artist in New York. His artwork had been unsuccessful until the day that he first saw Jennie. Eben paints a picture of Jennie in Central Park, and sells it very quickly. Periodically throughout Eben's life, he runs into the mysterious Jennie and paints pictures of her.</p>		

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<i>Black Water</i>	Joyce Carol Oates	<b>FIC OAT</b>
26-year-old Kelly met the senator at a Fourth of July party. She normally would not be the type of person to leave with a strange man, but Sally was seduced by the Senator's power and charm. When the car crashes into a lake, and the senator kicks his way free, Kelly is trapped alone inside the vehicle left to die.		
<i>The Things They Carried</i>	Tim O'Brien	<b>FIC OBR</b>
This stunning account of life in the Vietnam War will shock readers because of its morbid simplicity. The book is a collection of small stories that creates one cohesive whole. The soldiers in the story are obsessed with the things that they carry with them because the items are pieces to their past- a life that made sense.		
<i>Nightjohn</i>	Gary Paulsen	<b>YA PAU</b>
Sarny is a twelve-year-old slave girl with a strong mind and a lot of heart. When a new and interesting slave is brought to work at her household, Sarny becomes friends with him. Nightjohn teaches Sarny to read, but she doesn't realize that learning to read is a crime for a slave.		
<i>A Day No Pigs Would Die</i>	Robert Newton Peck	<b>YA PEC</b>
Robert lives on a pig farm in Vermont. His father is a stern man with little time for frivolous whims. Robert takes a small pig as his pet and names it Pinky, but when the pig fails to produce a litter, there is only one other use for "Pinky."		
<i>My Sister's Keeper</i>	Jodi Picoult	<b>FIC PIC</b>
Anna Fitzgerald was conceived when her sister developed a rare form of leukemia and needed someone to donate blood and bone marrow. Anna has been keeping her sister alive through blood and bone donations her whole life. However, when her parents tell her that she has to give up a kidney, Anna goes to a lawyer to sue her family for forcing her to give away pieces of her own body.		
<i>The Dark-Angel</i>	Meredith Ann Pierce	<b>YA PIE</b>
Young Ariel is kidnapped by the Darkangel to weave clothing for his thirteen corpse brides. In order to become a true Vampyre, however, the beautiful Darkangel must find a fourteenth bride. Ariel is torn between fear of the horrific Darkangel and attraction to his beautiful form and mystery.		
<i>Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood</i>	Benjamin Alire Saaenz	<b>YA FIC SAE</b>
Sammy is a Hispanic American growing up in the Hollywood Barrios in the 1960's. He is mourning the loss of his first love, Juliana. But, when the Vietnam War begins, and there are some serious social and political issues to deal with at school and at home, Sammy has to overcome his suffering for Juliana in order to survive.		
<i>Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy</i>	Gary Schmidt	<b>J SCH</b>
In 1812, Turner Buckminster moved from Boston to a small town in Maine and felt horribly out of place until he befriended Lizzie Bright. Lizzie Bright was an African-American teen who lived in a community founded by former slaves. Turner tries to stand up for Lizzie and her family when the elders drive them off their land.		
<i>Love Story</i>	Erich Segal	<b>FIC PBK SEG</b>
Jenny and Oliver are an unlikely match. She is an artsy harpsichord player, and he is a highly intelligent Harvard graduate. When the two meet and marry, Oliver's father is furious about the match. But, when Jenny discovers that she has leukemia, all prejudice must be cast aside in order to deal with the tragedy.		

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<i>Family Blessings</i>	LaVyrle Spencer	<b>FIC SPE</b>
Lee Reston has already had to face the tragedy of her husband's death, but now she discovers that her son has just been killed in a motorcycle accident. Try as she may to be strong, Lee needs someone to talk to about her losses, and she finds a very comforting listener in her deceased son's former best friend, Chris Lallek. It begins as merely friendship, but the relationship soon develops into something much more.		
<i>Sophie's Choice</i>	William Styron	<b>FIC STY</b>
Nathan is a liar and a Jewish World War II survivor. Sophie is a Polish Catholic who also spent a great deal of World War II in concentration camps. The two are now lovers, but the trauma from their pasts still consumes their lives, and the result is numerous lovers' quarrels. These quarrels are recorded by Stingo, a writer who lives below them in their apartment building.		
<i>The Kitchen God's Wife</i>	Amy Tan	<b>FIC TAN</b>
Winnie believes that she is dying, and so her friend convinces her that it is time to tell her daughter, Pearl, the truth about her past. In a collection of heart-wrenching anecdotes, Winnie reveals the truth about her traumatic childhood growing up in China during a war.		
<i>Saint Maybe</i>	Anne Tyler	<b>FIC TYL</b>
Danny married Lucy after he had only known her for two weeks. Danny's younger brother, Ian, discovered soon after that Lucy was cheating on Danny. He knew that he had to tell his brother about Lucy's affair, but he had no idea that the result would be so disastrous!		
<i>The Bridges of Madison County</i>	Robert James Waller	<b>FIC WAL</b>
Robert Kincaid is sent on an assignment by National Geographic to photograph covered bridges in Iowa. On his assignment, he meets Francesca Johnson. It is love at first sight, but Francesca already has a family with two children.		
<i>Montana, 1948</i>	Larry Watson	<b>FIC WAT</b>
In the summer when he is twelve, David's entire life changes quite dramatically. He is forced to leave his childhood and began to think as an adult in order to understand the horrible events that are occurring around him. David's uncle Frank is a physician and war hero, but Frank has been accused of raping numerous women and murdering David's family's housekeeper.		
<i>So B. It</i>	Sarah Weeks	<b>YA FIC WEE</b>
Heidi is being raised by her mentally handicapped mother and her neighbor, who has severe social phobia. Heidi has no idea how she and her mother ended up at her neighbor's doorstep years ago, but when she finds some old pictures in her mother's belongings that give clues to her past, Heidi decides to take a cross-country bus trip to learn about her origins.		
<i>Beauty</i>	Susan Wilson	<b>FIC WIL</b>
After the death of her father, Alix Miller decides to finish the artistic project that he has begun. She travels to New Hampshire to paint the portrait of novelist Leland Crompton, but Crompton is infected with a rare genetic disease that has caused severe deformity to his face. Alix can overlook the deformity and see Leland's inner beauty, but he can he accept his inner beauty himself?		

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<i>Hard Love</i>	Ellen Wittlinger	<b>YA WIT</b>
<p>With his parents recently divorced, John has convinced himself that he is immune to all feelings. This, however, proves to be untrue when John starts writing issues of his zine, <i>Bananafish</i>. John develops a friendship with Marisol, the author of his favorite zine, <i>Escape Velocity</i>. John's feelings toward Marisol are slowly growing toward the romantic, but his infatuation is not reciprocated because Marisol is a lesbian.</p>		
<i>If You Come Softly</i>	Jacqueline Woods	<b>YA WOO</b>
<p>Miah and Ellie both come from similar, broken families. Struggling to just deal with life, the two meet and fall in love. For them, their love is perfect, but the rest of the world leers at them because Miah is black and Ellie is white. Even Ellie's lesbian older sister tells her that she should be careful dating a different race.</p>		
<i>Briar Rose</i>	Jane Yolen	<b>YA YOL</b>
<p>Rebecca Berlin has grown up hearing wonderfully spun tales of romance and valor from her Grandma Gemma. Gemma claims to have been Briar Rose, better known as Sleeping Beauty, in her youth, and on her death bed she tells Rebecca that she is leaving her the castle. Determined to uncover the truth about her grandmother, Rebecca travels to Poland, Gemma's homeland, and discovers her grandmother's place in the Holocaust.</p>		
<i>Elsewhere</i>	Gabrielle Zevin	<b>YA FIC ZEV</b>
<p>15-year-old Liz Hall's life on earth is abruptly ended when she is hit by a taxi cab. She awakes to find herself in a new world that looks very much like the one she left. Elsewhere, however, does have some differences from earth, but the most striking of them is the fact that people's lives age backwards instead of forward here. Instead of turning sixteen next year, Liz will turn fourteen.</p>		
<i>The Pigman</i>	Paul Zindel	<b>YA ZIN</b>
<p>The Pigman is an old man who pretends his wife isn't dead and whose best friend is a monkey at the zoo. John and Lorraine both come from unhappy homes, and they make fun of the Pigman behind his back. In a strange turn of events, they all become friends, but tragedy is foreshadowed throughout when John and Lorraine betray the Pigman's trust.</p>		
<i>The Book Thief</i>	Markus Zusak	<b>YA FIC ZUS</b>
<p>Liesel is a young German orphan growing up during World War II. She is sent to live in a foster home in a working class neighborhood shortly after she steals her first book. Liesel, though a thief, is a remarkable girl with a passion for reading and an uncanny ability to make unusual friends.</p>		

*Compiled by Beth Blood 2006*

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