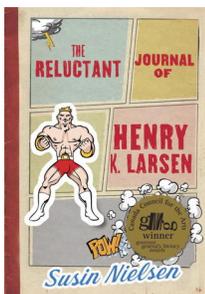
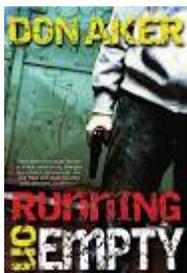




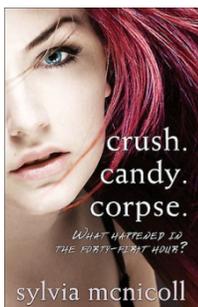
BEST BETS 2012



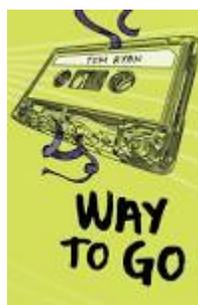
Fiction Reading for Young Adults



The OLA's Canadian Materials Committee, under the umbrella of the OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee, picks this annual list.



Books are selected on the basis of their literary merit as well as their appeal for young adults. Illustrations are also considered in the case of graphic novels.



Aker, Don. *Running on Empty.*

Harper Collins.

Ethan has been saving for a car, a Mustang Cobra SVT, but after an accident his plans are about to change. His father insists he pay for the damages himself with the money he has saved. However, Ethan turns to gambling to earn extra money. Filled with well developed characters and themes of family, addiction, and life lessons, Aker's book is sure to stay with you afterwards.

Bennett, Holly. *Redwing.*

Orca Book Publishers

A story of medieval plague, family loss and survival as Rowan, a travelling minstrel ekes out a living on the family's caravan. His growing friendship with fellow musician, Samik, renamed Aydin, from Tarzine Lands, is tested when he experiences second sight and Aydin has visions of Rowan's dead sister Ettie. This tension filled story about the edges of trust and the collision of individual friends' needs will engage from beginning to end.

Egan, Catherine. *Shade & Sorceress.*

Coteau Books.

Eliza is shocked to find out that she is supposed to be a great sorceress, especially when training doesn't reveal any magic. But none of that matters when she learns that her father has been kidnapped by an evil sorceress and only Eliza can rescue him.

Hartman, Rachel. *Seraphina.*

Random House.

When Seraphina becomes a musician at court, it becomes harder to hide her secret. In a land where intelligent dragons have an uneasy peace with humans, a girl who straddles both worlds has a hard time finding a place in either.

Knutsson, Catherine. *Shadows Cast by Stars.*

Atheneum Books.

A dystopian tale of a future where First Nations people are invaluable for their plague antibody filled blood. Can Métis Cassandra Mecredi and her people find protection and safety from the Government on their island with both metaphysical and geographic barriers? Will she rise to become the instrument and voice of the spirit world of her aboriginal heritage?

Mac, Carrie. *The Opposite of Tidy.* **Razorbill.**

Junie's mom is a hoarder who has been getting worse since Junie's father left home for "that woman", the one who was supposed to help Junie's mom get better. When Wade, the hot new guy at school, drives Junie home and Junie sees her Mom fighting with her Dad in front of her house, she gets herself embroiled in a web of lies that threatens her relationship with her best friend Tabitha. Can Junie face the truth?

McClintock, Norah. *Guilty*. Orca Book Publishers.

Finn has seen brutality before: he found the body of his mother at home years earlier, and he is forced to confront it again when shouts bring him to his driveway where he witnesses his stepmother being shot, and his father shooting the gunman. By chance he meets Lila, the daughter of the gunman, at the police station and the two characters develop an uneasy relationship. Told from the perspectives of both Finn and Lila, two teens in search of answers about their parents, the mystery quickly unfolds.

McNicoll, Sylvia. *Crush. Candy. Corpse*.

James Lorimer & Company Ltd., Publishers.

Sunny dreads her volunteer placement, working with Alzheimer's patients in a nursing home. In time, she develops a bond with some of the elderly residents and even a "crush" on one patient's grandson, Cole. But when Cole's grandmother dies mysteriously while in the care of Sunny, she's accused of manslaughter. What really happened? A gripping tale of suspense for young adults.

Nielsen, Susin. *The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen*. Tundra.

Henry must keep a journal as part of his therapy to deal with his grief over "It". Gradually what "It" is revealed in this incredible book about bullying and its aftermath that will make you both laugh and cry.

Ryan, Tom. *Way to Go*. Orca Book Publishers.

Instead of hanging out with his friends Danny is going to be spending the summer working at a restaurant after a run in with the police. Even though Danny isn't excited about it his summer job becomes the catalyst for learning more his relationships, and himself.

Yee, Y.S. *The Agency 3: Traitor in the Tunnel*. Candlewick.

Mary Quinn is on another assignment for the Agency at Buckingham Palace. The case seems to involve petty theft, but Mary discovers more intrigue and scandal in the palace. Complicating matters further Mary has uncovered more about her past, her employers, and James Easton. Readers will be wondering if Mary can find all of the answers in time.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Coyote, Ivan E. *One in Every Crowd*. Arsenault.

Juby, Susan. *Bright's Light*. Harper Collins.

McClintock, Norah. *I, Witness (graphic novel)*. Illustrated by Mike Deas. Orca Book Publishers.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Such Wicked Intent*. Harper Collins.

Shipley, Jocelyn. *How to Tend a Grave*. Great Plains.

NOTABLE NON FICTION (We do not review non fiction but came across this book which we felt deserved a mention).

Butts, Ed. *Bodyguards: From Gladiators to the Secret Service*. Illustrated by Scott Plumbe. Annick.

OLA'S CANADIAN MATERIALS COMMITTEE

We are a long standing committee with a strong voice in promoting Canadian literature for children and young adults. Our goal is to highlight excellence in literature for children and young adults for the OLA membership and others with an interest.

The OLA's annual Best Bets lists evolved from a list put out by the Canadian Material's Committee of the Children's Services Guild. This Canadian Materials Committee is now under the wing of the OPLA Children and Youth Committee.

The OLA's Canadian Materials Committee selects books on the basis of their literary/artistic merit as well as their appeal for children and young adults. Text and illustrations are of equal importance in picture books and information books. We publish two lists each year, one listing top material for children and the other listing top material for young adults (teens).

The Committee thanks S & B Books, a division of Whitehots Inc. www.sbbooks.com, for their ongoing support with providing a place to meet and copies of books to review.

Meetings are held a minimum of four times a year at S & B Books, a division of Whitehots Inc. (3086 Universal Dr., Mississauga). Members discuss and evaluate recent publications by Canadian authors and illustrators. The books evaluated are suitable for children and young adults from birth to nineteen years old. From these discussions, the Committee produces "Best Bets" lists, annual annotated lists of recommended titles. These lists are released each year at the OLA Super Conference and can also be found on the OPLA website on the Children and Youth Services Committee page at http://www.accessola.org/OLAWEB/OPLA/Children_and_Youth_Services_Committee/OLAWEB/OPLA/Best_Bets.aspx

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