

Have You Read These Books?

The Top 10 Young Adult Books of 2009

Book Selections and Annotations

by Ryan P. Donovan

- (1) [Sophomore Switch](#) by Abby McDonald
- (2) [The Waking: Dreams of the Dead](#) by Thomas Randall
- (3) [How to Say Goodbye in Robot](#) by Natalie Standiford
- (4) [Viola in Reel Life](#) by Adriana Trigiani
- (5) [Swim the Fly](#) by Don Calame
- (6) [Evil?](#) by Timothy Carter
- (7) [The Monster Variations](#) by Daniel Kraus
- (8) [The Doom Machine](#) by Mark Teague
- (9) [Out of the Blue](#) by S.L. Rottman
- (10) [The Mariposa Club](#) by Rigoberto Gonzalez

Have You Read These Books? The Top 10 Young Adult Books of 2009

(1) [Sophomore Switch](#) by Abby McDonald

ISBN-10: 0763639362

A cute story about two girls with essentially the same problem; they don't really like their life, so they run away to start a new one. Emily is a reserved and organized Oxford student who has just been dumped by her boyfriend. She runs away not just to avoid her broken heart, but also to defy her father's insane expectations. Tasha is a California party girl who, after an indiscretion with a reality TV star in a hot tub, is branded a "slut" by everyone in her life. With her mother not even speaking to her and a blurred out picture of her in every tabloid, Tasha runs away where no one knows her. Due to the fact that the girls enter a semester abroad program at the last minute, they directly switch with each other. When their old problems arise in their new lives, they reach out to each for support; and make a great new friend in the process.

(2) [The Waking: Dreams of the Dead](#) by Thomas Randall ISBN-10: 1599902508

A Japanese teenager leaves her boyfriend's house with a skip in her step... only to be brutally murdered by the mean soccer girls at her school. Why did they kill her? That's what Kara, an American student who starts at the school attempts to uncover as the school year progresses. She makes friends with Sakura, the dead girl's sister, and sees something strange at the memorial shrine built in the girl's honor. When the soccer girls start dying one by one, and no one can really explain how or why, Kara starts realizing that the bizarre and horrific dreams she's having are the same ones haunting the soccer girls. When whatever is killing them finishes, Kara realizes she'll be the last victim.

(3) [How to Say Goodbye in Robot](#) by Natalie Standiford

ISBN-10: 0545107083

Bea is moving to a new town. It's no big deal; she does it all the time, whenever her dad gets tired of his job. When her mother has an emotional breakdown over a dead hamster from down the street, Bea can't share her grief. Her mother accuses her of having no feelings; of being a robot. It's hard to keep talking in robot when Bea meets Jonah, a lonely outsider who seems to share her misanthropic ideals. When she realizes Jonah calls into her favorite late night radio show, the pair become close friends... but is it something more? Jonah's family secrets bring the closer pair together, but his inability to let anyone close to him might force Bea to say goodbye... in robot.

(4) [Viola in Reel Life](#) by Adriana Trigiani

ISBN-10: 0061451029

Viola isn't happy. She's pissed, point of fact. Her parents have up and left her. They've gone off to Iraq to make a documentary. It's what they do. So, do they let her stay by herself in their awesome Brooklyn home? No, they don't. They ship her off to a boarding school in Indiana. Viola hates it before she even starts. Then... a funny thing happens. She meets her roommates. She starts getting involved in a film project at the school. And she keeps seeing a mysterious woman in red. Maybe boarding school isn't so bad after all.

(5) [Swim the Fly](#) by Don Calame

ISBN-10: 076364157X

Every year, swimmer Matt and his two best friends in the world Sean and Coop set a new goal for the summer. This year? They've upped the stakes: They decide to see a real, live girl naked. This leads to some pretty embarrassing situations for the boys as they try to achieve the goal. From dressing up as girls to sneak into a ladies locker room, to trying to sneak a peak at girls trying on bathing suits, to finally a desperate attempt to get a glimpse at the nearest nude beach... will the boys ultimately succeed?

(6) [Evil?](#) by Timothy Carter

ISBN-10: 0738715395

There's nothing wrong with touching yourself, or at least that's what Stu has always thought. But when his little brother catches him doing just that in the shower and tells everyone, he finds the ultraconservative religious town he lives in even *less* tolerant than usual. In fact, they start to go insane with anger towards him pretty much overnight. But Stu knows a demon that is forced to tell him the truth, and eventually tells him that a fallen angel has manipulated everyone he knows into hating his "sin." Can Stu kill an angel?

(7) [The Monster Variations](#) by Daniel Kraus

ISBN-10: 0385737335

A dark coming of age tale about three boys each from very different homes. When one of the boys becomes the victim of a hit and run and loses his arm, the boys fear the big silver truck that may or may not be responsible. When a boy is hit and killed a few weeks later, the small town they reside in goes into lockdown; no one is allowed out after dark. The boys go out anyway, seeking answers. As they begin to drift further and further apart, the truck comes back to claim a final victim... and the shocking identity of the driver is revealed.

(8) [The Doom Machine](#) by Mark Teague

ISBN-10: 0545151422

Jack Creedle just wants something to happen. Every day on his paper route it's the same old boring thing. Even when he helps out in his uncle's garage, it's just not enough to keep him interested. Then, one fateful day, he sees a flying saucer land in the woods. When he and a group of other humans, including his new buddy Isadora Shumway, are kidnapped by the gigantic alien skreeps, the real adventure begins. The skreeps are after a machine that Jack's uncle built. While it looks like an ordinary refrigerator, it may give the skreeps power enough to create devastation all over the universe. Can Jack stop the skreeps before they can activate the dreaded Doom Machine?

(9) [Out of the Blue](#) by S.L. Rottman

ISBN-10: 1561454990

Stuart's mom just got promoted; she's the commander of a North Dakota army base. Stuart is no stranger to living on a base; he's been living on them his whole life. This is the first time, however, that he and his mom are on their own. His brother just went off to college and his dad went to go take care of their grandmother. Well, his parents are really splitting up because all they do is fight all the time. Stuart knows his dad just had to get away from his mom. With nothing to do on the new base, Stuart befriends his younger neighbor. He starts noticing that there's something a little off about his new friend... and his constant injuries lead him to suspect that somebody might be hurting the kid. When his mother gets deployed overseas and leaves him alone, Stuart realizes he should tell someone what's going on... but will he be too late?

(10) [The Mariposa Club](#) by Rigoberto Gonzalez

ISBN-10: 1593501064

It's tough being a latino and a gay teen, but Maui does the best he can. Danger is around every corner; the local Los Calis gangs are not fans of homosexuals. If he didn't have his other gay friends Trini, Isaac, and Liberace he might just go insane. The boys realize there's strength in numbers and decide to form a LGBT alliance at their school. When they unexpectedly lose one of their number, the club fizzles until there's just one boy left trying to get it off the ground. When someone starts a fight with him at school, the club gains newfound support. But will it be enough to start the Mariposa Club?