

# **Have You Read These Books?**

## ***The Top 10 Young Adult Books of 2010***

### **Book Selections and Annotations**

**by Ryan P. Donovan**

- (1) [The Vast Fields of Ordinary](#) by Nick Burd
- (2) [Countdown](#) by Deborah Wiles
- (3) [You](#) by Charles Benoit
- (4) [Will Grayson, Will Grayson](#) by John Green & David Levithan
- (5) [Witch & Wizard](#) by James Patterson
- (6) [Sprout](#) by Dale Peck
- (7) [Murder Afloat](#) by Jane Leslie Conly
- (8) [Firestorm!](#) by Joan Hiatt Harlow
- (9) [The Seven Rays](#) by Jessica Bendinger
- (10) [The Last Full Measure](#) by Ann Rinaldi

(1) **The Vast Fields of Ordinary** by Nick Burd

**ISBN:** 0803733402

Dade just graduated high school. Introspective and withdrawn, he makes very few friends and pretty much keeps to himself. Let's not even talk about how messed up his parents are. Dade's been hooking up with a popular boy named Pablo but it's complicated; neither of the boys are out and Pablo has a girlfriend. By chance, Dade meets a girl that likes girls who slowly begins to change his way of thinking. Dade begins to accept who he is. Eventually he meets Alex Kincaid, a mysterious stranger that Dade can't ignore. When the boys begin an epic love affair, it challenges Dade's already tenuous relationship with his parents and especially with an unstable Pablo.

(2) **Countdown** by Deborah Wiles

**ISBN:** 0545106052

Franny is an 11-year girl who's worried she might die. It's the summer of 1962. John F. Kennedy is President. Kennedy is worried about the island nation of Cuba building missile silos aimed at the United States. With this historical event as a backdrop, our young protagonist has even bigger problems. Her older sister has left her for college and made some new, politically minded friends. Franny is more worried about a major fight with her best friend and her gigantic crush on the boy who lives down the road. Her uncle, a World War II veteran, is taking the missile crises particularly hard; Franny worries he might eventually go off the deep end. Thoughtful and fun, this first in a series of book is one you won't be able to put down.

(3) **You** by Charles Benoit

**ISBN:** 0061947040

Kyle Chase isn't a bad kid. He isn't really a good kid, either. He just is; he goes to school and hangs out with his friends. All that changes when he meets Zach, the articulate and outgoing "new kid" with a fondness for suit jackets. When Zach rescues him from a jock beating, Kyle begins to slowly accept him as a friend. As this new kid becomes more and more erratic, Kyle fears something bad will happen. When it finally does, will it already be too late? This engaging story serves as a cautionary tale that for a life of inaction there can be really serious, potentially fatal, consequences.

(4) **Will Grayson, Will Grayson** by John Green & David Levithan **ISBN:** 0525421580

This is the story of two very different boys with the same name. The first Will Grayson is straight; a reluctant sidekick to his fabulous best friend "Tiny" Cooper. Tiny is a very large and very popular gay football player. When he starts interfering in Grayson's love life, specifically with the girl he likes named Jane, the two childhood friends eventually stop speaking. The second Will Grayson, a quiet and withdrawn boy from a Chicago suburb, never really opens up to anyone. His only solace is his computer and the cute boy who talks to him nearly every day. As he makes plans to finally meet the boy of his dreams, he is rocked by a shocking betrayal... and happens to fatefully meet the other Will Grayson, and Tiny, in the middle of one fateful night.

(5) **Witch & Wizard** by James Patterson **ISBN:** 0316038342

Imagine waking up to find the army arresting your entire family. This is how the story of Whitford "Whit" and Wisteria "Wisty" Allgood begins. This brother and sister duo are taken away from their parents and thrown in a horrible jail after being accused of using magic. The thing is, Whit and Wisty don't know anything about that. Whit's girlfriend Celia, now a ghost from somewhere called the "Shadowland," manages to rescue them. The pair then join up with a revolution of rebelling children. They dedicate themselves to fighting the evil rule of the fanatical New Order with their amazing new magical powers.

(6) **Sprout** by Dale Peck **ISBN:** 1599901609

After Daniel's mother died, he and his dad ended up in Kansas... and Daniel could not have thought up a more miserable existence. Rebellious, he dyes his hair green. This earns him the nickname "Sprout." Unable to really connect with anyone in the small Kansas town, Sprout eventually catches the attention of Ms Miller, his cocktail-loving English teacher who believes in his writing. As Sprout begins writing the story of his life, which includes a bossy girl and a hot jock he occasionally hooks up with, he also begins to open himself up to the possibility of something great. Maybe even a new love.

(7) **Murder Afloat** by Jane Leslie

**ISBN:** 1423104161

Taken away from everything he's ever known and loved, young Benjamin Orville is shanghaied into the life of an oyster fisherman against his will. He yearns for his easy life in Baltimore once he learns just how hard his new life is on the high seas. Then, something happens. Ben learns that he not only likes his new vocation, he's actually good at it. As he settles into his new role aboard the rickety fishing ship the *Ella Dawn*, he also makes an enemy of her captain. Ben wonders if he can ever go back to his carefree family life again.

(8) **Firestorm!** by Joan Hiatt Harlow

**ISBN:** 1416984852

Play with friendship and you'll end up getting burned. This is the dangerous game that Poppy, a skilled twelve year old pickpocket plays after she meets Justin Butterworth. Justin reluctantly lets the young street girl into his life by introducing her to his family. This includes his adorable new pet, a little goat named Ticktock. When the pair gets caught up in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, the shaky friendship between Poppy and Justin is put to the test.

(9) **The Seven Rays** by Jessica Bendinger

**ISBN:** 1416938400

Beth was just a normal girl. That is, she was normal until she received a golden lettered envelope in the mail one day. She starts getting "headaches" that allow her to see emotions. As she begins to discover just how different she is, the stakes are raised when she realizes that someone is after her. It's a good thing the boy she has a crush on decided to come along for the ride.

(10) **The Last Full Measure** by Ann Rinaldi

**ISBN:** 0547389809

The rebels are coming! This is the reality that young Tacy Stryker can't ignore in early July 1863. Taking place during the early days of United States' Civil War, Tacy finds herself in the middle of murderous combat. As the Confederates slowly take over her hometown of Gettysburg, the growing distance between Tacy and her older crippled brother David only increases.

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