

Have You Read These Books?

The Top 10 Young Adult Books of 2011

Book Selections and Annotations
by Ryan P. Donovan

- (1) **Angry Young Man** by Chris Lynch
- (2) **Trapped** by Michael Northrop
- (3) **The Accidental Genius of Weasel High** by Rick Detorie
- (4) **The Doomsday Box** by Herbie Brennan
- (5) **Dark Eden** by Patrick Carman
- (6) **Past Continuous** by K. Ryer Breese
- (7) **Invasion** by Jon S. Lewis
- (8) **Crossing Lines** by Mark Volponi
- (9) **A Scary Scene in a Scary Movie** by Matt Blackstone
- (10) **Brooklyn Burning** by Steve Brezenoff

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(1) **Angry Young Man** by Chris Lynch

ISBN-10: 0689847904

Have you ever been so mad at the world you're afraid you just might burst? That's what life is like for Xan, a guy who seems to not be that great at much of anything. When Xan struggles, he tends to get really mad. This worries his older brother Robert, who has a great girlfriend, is getting a great college education, and holds a great position on the local soccer team, seemingly to mock Xan by default. But Xan starts acting deceptively withdrawn, putting on odd amber sunglasses and hanging out with all the wrong people. Not helping matters is their struggling mother, whose inability to pay the bills has yielded intermittent visits from a smarmy bill collector. Robert wants Xan to figure out his own life, but what if his little brother makes wrong and possibly deadly choices? Robert must decide to act and save Xan before it's too late.

(2) **Trapped** by Michael Northrop

ISBN-10: 0545210127

When you live in a small town that gets snow in the winter like most tropical jungles get rain, you get used to it. So when the snow starts falling one afternoon, Scotty and his friends Pete and Jason think it's no big deal. They stay after school to work on a go cart, but they soon learn- along with a few other stragglers who haven't left yet- the horrifying fact that they can't leave school now even if they wanted to. The snow has gotten too bad. As Scotty struggles to hold the group together, everyone realizes just how much trouble they are in when the heating system goes dead. Will one of them be next?

(3) **Accidental Genius of Weasel High** by Rick Detorie

ISBN-10: 1606841491

Larkin Pace is at that age. He's not a child anymore, but he's not quite a teenager yet, either. He has a hopeless crush on his best friend Brooke who seems completely oblivious to his affections. What's worse, she starts to pay attention to Dalton Cooke, Larkin's nemesis from school. Larkin's English teacher has him begin writing a written blog for class, where Larkin dispels both his antagonistic relationship with his older sister and his encyclopedic knowledge of movie facts and trivia. With clever illustrations throughout, this is for all the kids who have grown out of their love for "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

(4) **The Doomsday Box** by Herbie Brennan

ISBN-10: 0061756504

Four British teenagers, all part of a top secret government science team, travel to upstate New York to investigate a mysteriously abandoned military base. While using technology to project their forms into a missile silo, they uncover an object that contains a virulent plague capable of killing most of the people on Earth. After the box is inadvertently opened, the teens rush into a time bending adventure into the past. Now in 1960's Moscow, they attempt to confront the man, an American posing as a Soviet double agent, who will one day become their enemy... and try to convince him not to be.

(5) **Dark Eden** by Patrick Carman

ISBN-10: 0062009702

We're all afraid of something. But for the seven kids who are sent to Fort Eden, what terrifies them can't be cured by conventional psychotherapy. With most of the group in the hands of the ghoulish Rainsford, Will Besting escapes before he reaches the base. He then watches with fascination as Rainsford apparently cures each patient, but begins to notice side effects that don't seem to be subsiding. Is this magical "cure" too good to be true?

(6) **Past Continuous** by K. Ryer Breese

ISBN-10: 0312547722

Ade Patience has a pretty sweet life. He has an amazingly beautiful girlfriend named Vauxhall, an overly religious but pretty awesome mother, and a lesbian best friend named Veronica. So why does something feel so... off? Why is he hanging with the Pandora crew, a pair of chaos-worshipping juvenile delinquents who may go off the deep end? When Ade takes things too far, he decides to erase his dark past with the help of a weird dude named The Glove. But will changing things make it all worse?

(7) **Invasion (A C.H.A.O.S. Novel)** by Jon S. Lewis

ISBN-10: 1595547533

Colt McAlister is just a laid back blonde-haired California surfer boy. So why do squiggly sea monsters try to eat him alive while he's surfing? Why is his new teacher a Bigfoot-inspired drill sergeant? And most importantly, why did his parents have to die in an "accident" that turns out to be no accident at all? As Colt transitions to life in Arizona, making new friends in Dani and Oz, he is also recruited by the Central Headquarters Against the Occult and Supernatural. Now fighting against aliens bent on world domination through mind-control, Colt struggles to learn the real truth behind his parents' death.

(8) **Crossing Lines** by Mark Volponi

ISBN-10: 0670012149

Alan is the new kid in school. Like all kids who start after the year has begun, he's pegged right away as someone who doesn't quite fit in. But Alan really is... *different* from the other boys. As in he likes to only hang out with girls and wear makeup. When Adonis meets Alan, he thinks he's a freak. But when his sister and girlfriend become Alan's most outspoken defenders, Adonis really starts to get to know him. He straddles the edges between being one of the guys on the football team who is going to "do something" about Alan and doing what he knows to be right. What will Adonis decide?

(9) **A Scary Scene in a Scary Movie** by Matt Blackstone ISBN-10: 0374364214

Rene Fowler is an odd 14-year old boy. He constantly counts things out, smells his hand, and occasionally wears a Batman-inspired cape when he gets freaked out. This means he gets the brunt of some bullying, and while his teacher Mr. Head attempts to help him, he's also got an entire unruly class to deal with. When popular student "Gio" Giovanni takes young Rene under his wing, he starts to feel like maybe he can make it through the day. Then one day Rene's father comes back into his life. And Rene's dad just doesn't "get" him. Trying to help, Gio plans an impromptu adventure to New York City for both of them to get away from their troubles, but the trip puts too much pressure on Rene to be "normal." That's something Rene can never be.

(10) **Brooklyn Burning** by Steve Brezenoff

ISBN-10: 0761375260

Running away from home can be tough, but when you are on the streets of Greenpoint with some of the best friends ever, Kid somehow makes it through. Life might be rough, but when Scout rolls into town and sets up shop underneath Fish's bar, Kid is immediately smitten. They play music together and start to fall in love. But the cops keep showing up to ask Kid about that fire last summer, the big warehouse one where Kid's ex Felix died. Kid still misses him a lot, and can't deal with the questions the cops- or Scout- keep asking him. When his parents get involved, it stirs up all the old trouble from home. Will Scout stick around or bail? Told with complete gender neutrality, readers have the choice to read either Kid or Scout as a boy or as a girl.