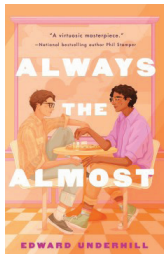


Be Inspired: Creative Tales for Teens



This list features books about teens who have creative interests such as music, art, cooking, fashion, and more!



Always the Almost by Edward Underhill (Y Underhi)

Miles Jacobson's New Year resolutions include winning back his ex-boyfriend and winning the Midwest's biggest classical piano competition, but when a new, proudly queer boy moves to town, Miles reconsiders who he was and who he is now.



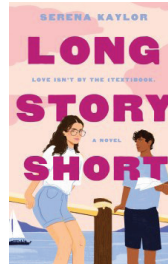
Happily Ever Afters by Elise Bryant (Y Bryant)

Tessa Johnson has never felt like the protagonist in her own life. She's rarely seen herself reflected in the pages of the romance novels she loves. When Tessa is accepted into the creative writing program of a prestigious art school, she's excited to finally let her stories shine.



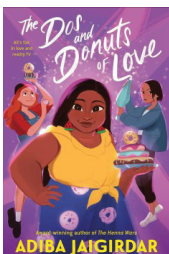
Bitter by Akwaeke Emezi (Y Emezi)

After a childhood in foster care, Bitter is thrilled to have been chosen to attend Eucalyptus, a special school where she can focus on her painting surrounded by other creative teens. But outside this haven, the streets are filled with protests against the deep injustices that grip the city of Lucille.



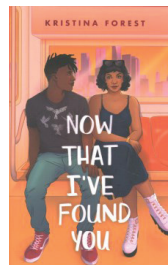
Long Story Short by Serena Kaylor (Y Kaylor)

Beatrice is a statistical genius who has dreamed her whole life of discovering new mathematical challenges at a school like Oxford University. But making friends is a problem she hasn't been able to solve, so her parents are worried about sending her halfway across the world. The compromise: the Connecticut Shakespearean Summer Academy.



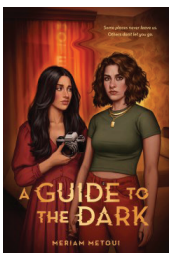
The Dos and Donuts of Love by Adiba Jaigirdar (Y Jaigird)

Shireen Malik is still reeling from the breakup with her ex-girlfriend, Chris, when she receives news that she's been accepted as a contestant on a new televised baking competition show. Winning will not only mean prize money, but it will also bring some much-needed attention to You Drive Me Glazy, her parents' beloved donut shop.



Now That I've Found You by Kristina Forest (Y Forest)

Evie Jones is poised to be Hollywood's next big star. That is, until a close friend's betrayal leads to her being blacklisted. Fortunately, Evie knows just the thing to save her floundering career: a public appearance with America's most beloved actress—her grandma Gigi, aka THE Evelyn Conaway. The only problem? Gigi is a recluse who's been out of the limelight for almost 20 years.



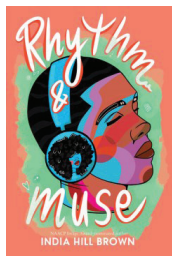
A Guide to the Dark by Meriam Metoui (Y Metoui)

Stranded at the Wildwood Motel while on their spring break road trip, Mira and Layla discover eight people died in their room and set out to find the connection between the deaths and the unexplainable things that keep happening inside Room 9.



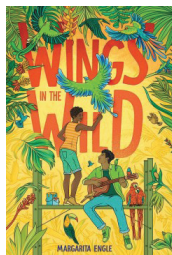
Phoebe's Diary by Phoebe Wahl (Y Wahl)

Drawing on her own diaries, Phoebe Wahl presents the illustrated journal of a teenage girl careening through the turmoil and ecstasy of adolescence amid school plays, art projects, favorite bands, blossoming friendships, and new love.



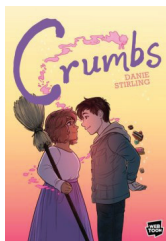
Rhythm & Muse
by India Hill Brown (Y Brown)

Crushing on transfer student Delia, Darren, the host of the “Dillie D in the Place to Be” podcast, must make a decision when his anonymous submission for her theme song contest becomes the frontrunner.



Wings in the Wild
by Margarita Engle (Y Engle)

When a hurricane exposes Soleida’s family’s secret sculpture garden, the Cuban government arrests her artist parents, forcing her to escape alone to Central America where she meets Dariel, a Cuban American boy, and together, they work to protect the environment and bring attention to the imprisoned artists in Cuba.



Crumbs
by Danie Stirling (GN Stirlin Crumbs)

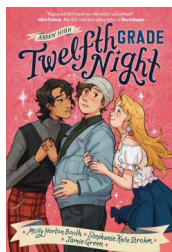
In a very special town, there’s an even more unusual bakery with a selection of baked treats handcrafted to help your dreams come true. For Ray, the order is always the same: a hot tea with a delicious side of romance. When Ray meets Laurie, she gets a real taste of love for the first time.



The Greatest Thing
by Sarah Winifred Searle
(GN Searle Greatest Thing)

It’s the first day of sophomore year, and Winifred must navigate high school on her own. But she isn’t alone for long. In art class, she meets two offbeat students, Oscar and April. The three bond through clandestine sleepovers, thrift store shopping, and zine publishing.

GRAPHIC NOVELS



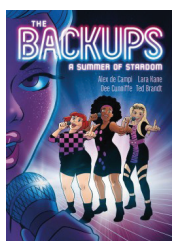
Arden High. Book 1, Twelfth Grade Night by Molly Booth
(GN Arden High v. 1)

Vi came to Arden High for a fresh start. And though doing it without her twin feels like being split in half, Vi finds her stride when she stumbles into poet-slash-influencer, Orsino. Soon, Vi gets roped into helping plan the school’s Twelfth Grade Night dance, and she can’t stop dreaming about slow dancing with Orsino.



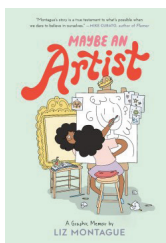
Malcolm Kid and the Perfect Song
by Austin Paramore (GN Paramor Malcolm Kid And The Perfect Song)

What does the perfect song sound like? Normally, Malcolm Kid wouldn’t give this type of question the time of day. But that all changes when he stumbles across the LK-2000—a strange keyboard cursed with the soul of an old jazz musician. Malcolm soon learns that the only way to free this musician’s soul is by performing the perfect song.



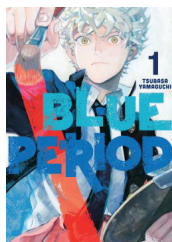
The Backups: A Summer of Stardom
by Alex de Campi (GN Decampi Backups Summer Of Stardom)

Spending an entire summer on tour as a backup singer for pop star Nika Nitro? That’s the dream, right? Especially for three misfit performing arts students with hopes of making it in the music world. But being 20 feet from fame isn’t easy.



Maybe an Artist
by Elizabeth Montague
(GN 741.5092 Montague Mon)

A heartfelt and funny graphic novel memoir by one of the first Black female cartoonists to be published in *The New Yorker* at the age of 22.



Blue Period Vol. 1
by Tsubasa Yamaguchi
(MANGA Blueper v. 1 Yamaguc)

Yatora is the perfect high school student. It’s an effortless performance, and, ultimately a dull one. But he wanders into the art room one day, and a lone painting captures his eye, awakening him to a kind of beauty he never knew.



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