YA Contemporary



Stories on this list cover current events, struggles, joys, and lived experiences in many forms.





All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir (Y Tahir)

A family extending from Pakistan to California deals with generation of young love, regrets, and forgiveness.



Be Not Far From Me by Mindy McGinnis (Y McGinnis)

Lost in the Great Smoky Mountains, rising high school senior Ashley Hawkins must fight for survival without any tools, growing in awareness that the world is not tame, and neither are people.



Between Perfect and Real by Ray Stoeve (Y Stoeve)

After being cast as Romeo in the school play, Dean realizes he wants everyone to see him as he really is, a boy, and not just on the stage, despite the risk of losing everything.



Dress Coded by Carrie Firestone (Y Firesto)

An eighth-grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.



How Moon Fuentes Fell in Love with the Universe

by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland (Y Vasquez)

When her twin sister reaches social media stardom, Moon Fuentez accepts her fate to be nothing more than her sister's camerawoman. Then Moon takes a summer job as the "merch girl" on a tour bus full of beautiful influencers and her fate begins to shift in the best way possible.



How to Be Remy Cameron by Julian Winters (Y Winters)

Everyone on campus knows Remy Cameron: he's the out and proud, super likable guy who friends, faculty, and fellow students alike admire for his cheerful confidence. Under pressure to write an A+essay defining who he is and who he wants to be, Remy embarks on an emotional journey toward reconciling the outward labels people attach to him with the real Remy Cameron within.



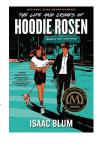
I Guess I Live Here Now by Claire Ahn (Y Ahn)

Sent from New York City to Seoul to be with her father, Melody discovers the alluring aspect of living in Korea with the help of her newfound friends but soon learns that her shiny new life comes with a high price.



K-Pop Confidential by Stephan Lee (Y Lee)

For most of her life, Candace has been playing the role of the quiet Korean girl. She doesn't see how a girl like her could possibly become one of those K-pop goddesses she sees on YouTube. Even though she can sing. Like, really sing.



The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen by Isaac Blum (Y Blum)

Hoodie Rosen's life isn't that bad. Sure, his entire Orthodox Jewish community has just picked up and moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregeron. The people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in at once, but that's not Hoodie's problem. That is, until he meets and falls for Anna Marie Diaz O'Leary.



Like Home by Louisa Onomé (Y Onomé)

Chinelo is all about her neighborhood Ginger East, but when her friend Kate's parent's store is vandalized and the vandal still at large, Nelo and her beloved Ginger East are shaken to their core.



Lulu and Milagro's Search for Clarity by Angela Velez (Y Velez)

Overachiever Lulu has straight As, perfect attendance, and a solid 10-year plan. Middle sister Milagro wants nothing to do with college or a nerdy class field trip. On a journey from Baltimore all the way to San Francisco, Lulu and Milagro will become begrudging partners as they unpack weighty family expectations and maybe even discover the true meaning of sisterhood.



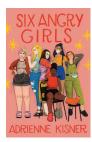
Not Here to be Liked by Michelle Quach (Y Quach)

After losing the editor-in-chief job of the student newspaper to inexperienced newcomer Len, Eliza inadvertently starts a feminist movement in her school, but amid growing tensions within the school, she begins developing feelings for Len.



Off the Record by Camryn Garrett (Y Garrett)

A teen journalist uncovers the #metoo scandal of the decade: a bigshot Hollywood director is taking advantage of cast members.



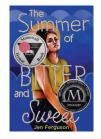
Six Angry Girls by Adrienne Kisner (Y Kisner)

An advice columnist unexpectedly helps Raina find new purpose in a pair of knitting needles and a politically active local yarn store. This leads to an unlikely meeting in the girls' bathroom, where Raina inspires Millie to start a rival team. The two join together and recruit four other angry girls to not only take on Mock Trial, but to smash the patriarchy in the process.



The Spaces Between Us by Stacia Tolman (Y Tolman)

Outcasts and best friends Serena Velasco and Melody Grimshaw strive together to survive senior year and break away from their rural factory town.



The Summer of Bitter and Sweet by Jenny Furguson (Y Furguso)

Lou has had enough confusion in front of her this summer. She'll be working in her family's ice-cream shack with her former best friend, King, who is back in their Canadian prairie town after disappearing three years ago. But when she gets a letter from her biological father, Lou immediately knows that she cannot meet him.



This is my America by Kim Johnson (Y Johnson)

While writing letters to Innocence X, a justice-seeking project, asking them to help her father, an innocent black man on death row, teenaged Tracy takes on another case when her brother is accused of killing his white girlfriend.



With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo (Y Acevedo)

Teen mother Emoni Santiago struggles with the challenges of finishing high school and her dream working as a chef.



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