

Gordon, Suzanne. **Off Balance: The Real World of Ballet.** Pantheon, 1983. \$15.95. Behind the glittering facade of ballet lies a darker world of pain, rivalry, and exploitation.

Hayden, Torey L. **Murphy's Boy.** Putnam, 1983. \$13.95; \$3.50, Avon (paper). Will therapist Torey Hayden be able to help fifteen-year-old Kevin, who is autistic and whose life has been filled with abuse and violence?

Janezko, Paul, ed. **Poetspeak: In Their Work, about Their Work.** Bradbury (dist. by Macmillan), 1983. \$11.95. Sixty-two living North American poets select and comment on their works for a teenage audience.

Kerr, M. E. **Me Me Me Me Me: Not a Novel.** Harper/Zolotow, 1983. \$9.89. A series of autobiographical anecdotes from Kerr's youth as related to their use in her novels.

Krementz, Jill. **How It Feels to Be Adopted.** Knopf, 1982. \$10.95. Kids from eight to sixteen share their feelings about being adopted.

Liang Heng and Shapiro, Judith. **Son of the Revolution.** Knopf, 1983. \$15. Liang Heng recounts his growing up during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, which fractured his family and swept him through many changes before he once again became a student.

McGuire, Paula. **It Won't Happen to Me: Teenagers Talk about Pregnancy.** Delacorte, 1983. \$14.95; \$6.95, Dell/Delta (paper). Interviews with fifteen young women who have faced unwanted pregnancies.

Madaras, Lynda, and Madaras, Area. **What's Happening to My Body? A Growing Up Guide for Mothers and Daughters.** Newmarket, 1983. \$14.95. A well-illustrated guide discusses body image, body changes, menstruation, puberty in boys, sexuality. Emphasizes the importance of liking and knowing one's own body.

Mason, Robert C. **Chickenhawk.** Viking, 1983. \$17.75. The devastating account of American helicopter pilot Robert Mason in Vietnam, who recalls his U.S. military training, the horror of Vietnam combat, and the pain of coming home.

Nicholls, Peter, ed. **The Science in Science Fiction.** Knopf, 1983. \$25; \$14.95 (paper). Presents the scientific basis for many of the "what ifs?" raised in science fiction—from Jules Verne's submarines to extraterrestrials.

Page, Tim. **Nam.** Knopf, 1983. \$25; \$14.95 (paper). UPI photographer Tim Page utilizes the photo essay to demonstrate the reality and the horror found on the front lines of the Vietnam conflict.

Pollack, Dale. **Skywalking: The Life and Times of George Lucas.** Harmony/Crown, 1983. \$14.95. All about the man who created such spectacular movies as *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Reese, Lyn, ed. **I'm on My Way Running: Women Speak on Coming of Age.** Avon, 1983. \$4.95 (paper). Young women come of age in autobiography, poetry, fiction, and anthropological accounts from around the world.

Richards, Arlene Kramer, and Willis, Irene. **Under 18 and Pregnant: What to Do If You or Someone You Know Is.** Lothrop, 1983. \$9.55; \$7.50 (paper). Information for teens on all aspects of pregnancy, including single parenting, adoption, abortion, marriage, and infant care.

Severin, Tim. **The Sindbad Voyage.** Putnam, 1983. \$17.95. In a hand-sewn boat, Severin follows the trading routes, attributed to Sindbad, to China by way of the Indian Ocean.

Steinem, Gloria. **Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions.** Holt, 1983. \$14.95. The founder and editor of *MS* magazine writes about her life and work and discusses politics, pornography, and literature from a feminist point of view.

Thomas, Lewis. **The Youngest Science: Notes of a Medicine Watcher.** Viking, 1983. \$14.75; \$6.95, Bantam (paper). These autobiographical musings by the author of *Lives of a Cell* appeal because of their "celebration and a warning about the nature of man and the future of life on our planet."

Trull, Patti. **On with My Life.** Putnam, 1983. \$9.95. A courageous young cancer victim at fifteen, Patti Trull loses her leg despite numerous treatments and surgery but finds hope as an occupational therapist for other young victims.

Van Devanter, Lynda, and Morgan, Christopher. **Home before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam.** Beaufort, 1983. \$16.95; \$3.95, Warner (paper). Lt. Lynda Van Devanter recounts her experiences as an army surgical nurse in Vietnam and the stress after coming home.

Wilcox, Fred A. **Waiting for an Army to Die: The Tragedy of Agent Orange.** Random, 1983. \$15.95; \$7.95 (paper). Based on interviews with Vietnam veterans and on government documents, this comprehensive look at the effects of the defoliant Agent Orange also points to the callous disregard for its victims.

Many of the books are available in braille, talking books, or large type. Consult your Regional Library for the Blind.

This list presents books published during the past year which are recommended for reading by young adults. Selection, done by the Best Books for Young Adults Committee of the Young Adult Services Division of the American Library Association, is based primarily on each book's proven or potential appeal and worth to young adult readers. Titles chosen must also meet the following standards: fiction must have believable characters and dialogue and plausible plot development; nonfiction must have a readable text and an appealing format. Although the list attempts to represent a variety of reading tastes and levels, no effort has been made to balance it according to subject or area of interest.

Best Books for Young Adults Committee members of 1983 were: chair, Nancy Rolnick, Croton Free Library (Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.); Deborah Kay Ashby, Tucson Public Library (Tucson, Ariz.); Antoinette Clohessy, Denver Public Library (Denver, Colo.); Carolyn Rowe Hale, Free Library of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, Pa.); Anna Harkins, (Bethel Park, Pa.); Lucy Marx, Louisville Free Public Library (Louisville, Ky.); Elizabeth Parker, Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore, Md.); Janet Polachek, Stark County District Library (Massillon, Ohio); Mike Printz, Topeka West High School (Topeka, Kans.); Sallie H. Roberts, College of Education, Ohio University (Athens, Ohio); Hazel Rochman, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools (Chicago, Ill.); Claudia Semper, Brookline High School Library (Brookline, Mass.); Mary M. Stanton, Huntington Park Library (Huntington Park, Calif.); Roger Sutton, Chicago Public Library (Chicago, Ill.); Linda Waddle, Cedar Falls High School (Cedar Falls, Iowa); Sally Estes, Books for Young Adults reviewer, *Booklist*, consultant.

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FICTION

Adler, C.S. The Shell Lady's Daughter. Coward, 1983. \$10.95. Kelly, living in Florida with her disapproving grandmother and senile grandfather because of her mother's nervous breakdown, must decide whether her mother's needs or her own struggle for independence comes first.

Arrick, Fran. God's Radar. Bradbury (dist. by Macmillan), 1983. \$10.95. Roxie and her family, newcomers in a small town in Georgia, are seduced into joining a fundamentalist church by religious neighbors, and Roxie must make decisions, some of them against the tide.

Bell, Clare. Ratha's Creature. Atheneum, 1983. \$11.95. Ratha, born into a society of intelligent prehistoric felines, is banished from the Clan, rescued by an Unnamed male cat, and helps the Clan when she learns to tame fire.

Bouille, Pierre. The Whale of the Victoria Cross. Vanguard, 1983. \$12.95. A blue whale, saved from killer orcas by a British destroyer bound for the Falkland Islands, becomes a friend and hero to the entire fleet.

Chambers, Aidan. Dance on My Grave. Harper/Zolotow, 1982. \$12.89. Hal, the romantic, and Barry, the cad, are lovers. When Barry is killed in a motorcycle accident, Hal attempts to come to grips with his loss but cannot.

Cormier, Robert. The Bumblebee Flies Anyway. Pantheon, 1983. \$10.95. In an experimental hospital for the terminally ill, his memory shattered by mind-altering drugs, sixteen-year-old Barney is told that he is the control and should not get involved with the dying; but he cannot stop himself from reaching out to others as he slowly discovers the truth about himself.

Crutcher, Chris. Running Loose. Greenwillow, 1983. \$9.50. Louie takes a stand against his coach and playing dirty football, falls in love, and loses his girlfriend in a fatal accident—all in his senior year.

Ferry, Charles. Raspberry One. Houghton, 1983. \$10.95. Two young men, both of whom fall in love before shipping out to the Pacific to fight the Japanese, return home changed and scarred by their war experiences.

Gaan, Margaret. Little Sister. Dodd, 1983. \$13.95. Little Sister, third generation Chinese American, visits Singapore at the beginning of a revolution and learns about her family, whose saga is narrated by family members.

Gaines, Ernest J. A Gathering of Old Men. Knopf, 1983. \$13.95. When a white man is killed by a black in Louisiana, more than a dozen aging black men and one young white woman each confront the sheriff to swear guilt, each with a long-standing motive.

Geras, Adèle. Voyage. Atheneum, 1983. \$10.95. A group of young Jewish immigrants share love, friendship, hope, and fears during their two-week voyage in steerage to America, the land of freedom.

Greenberg, Joanne. The Far Side of Victory. Holt, 1983. \$14.95. Paroled after being sentenced for "driving under the influence," Eric Gordon meets Helen, the woman whose husband and children his car had killed.

Hamilton, Virginia. The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl. Harper/Zolotow, 1983. \$11.89. The god-child Pretty Pearl meets the doomed hero John Henry when she joins a hidden community of blacks who live closely in touch with a Cherokee band deep in the forests of Georgia during Reconstruction times.

Heidish, Marcy. The Secret Annie Oakley. NAL, 1983. \$14.95. Told in flashback, this is a novelization of Annie Oakley's cruel and abused childhood.

Holman, Felice. The Wild Children. Scribner, 1983. \$11.95. Overlooked in the arrest of his family, Eric runs with the outlawed homeless and desperate wild children trying to survive in the bleak aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Hughes, Monica. Hunter in the Dark. Atheneum, 1983. \$9.95. In this rites-of-passage novel Mike, a fifteen-year-old leukemia patient, comes to terms with his illness during a solitary camping trip.

Korschunow, Irina. A Night in Distant Motion. Godine, 1983. \$10.95. Regine questions her loyalty to the Nazi party after she meets Jan, a Polish prisoner considered "sub-human," and only then begins to notice the injustice and horror, the muted rebellion and fear of the people around her.

Lasky, Kathryn. Beyond the Divide. Macmillan, 1983. \$11.95. Meribah runs away to join her father on a trek to California—and ends up surviving alone in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Lee, Tanith. Red as Blood; or, Tales from the Sisters Grimm. DAW/NAL, 1983. \$2.50 (paper). Bizarre and chilling new twists to old fairy tales by a master fantasy writer.

Mazer, Norma Fox. Someone to Love. Delacorte (dist. by Doubleday), 1983. \$13.95. When Nina and Mitch fall in love, it seems only natural for them to live together until Nina finishes college.

Newton, Suzanne. I Will Call It Georgie's Blues. Viking, 1983. \$12.95. Neil has a secret escape in music from the dark tensions beneath his family's smooth public facade—but the strain pushes his little brother Georgie over the edge of sanity.

Paulsen, Gary. Dancing Carl. Bradbury (dist. by Macmillan), 1983. \$9.95. Carl came to McKinley, Minnesota, in the winter, drunk and maybe crazy, but he soon held the attention of the entire town with his power and strange dance.

Santiago, Danny. Famous All over Town. Simon & Schuster, 1983. \$14.95. Chato, a young Mexican-American growing up in a Los Angeles barrio, has an IQ of 135 but gets bad grades in school because his first loyalty is to his family and gang.

Sargent, Pamela. Earthseed. Harper, 1983. \$10.89; \$6.95 (paper). Ship has created and raised a generation of Earth children as it carries them through space toward a new planet where they must survive alone without Ship's care.

Singer, Marilyn. The Course of True Love Never Did Run Smooth. Harper, 1983. \$10.89. While acting the role of love-sick Helena in a high-school production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Becky is infatuated with the handsome lead, until she discovers that she loves her longtime friend Nemi, who is funny, smart, vulnerable, and sexy.

Skurzynski, Gloria. The Tempering. Clarion/Ticknor & Fields, 1983. \$10.95. Karl faces a decision to stay in school or go to work in a Pennsylvania steel mill, in the early twentieth century.

Slepian, Jan. The Night of the Bozos. Dutton, 1983. \$10.95. George, a teenaged electronic musician, and his young uncle see their lives change when they meet a strange carnival girl and the Bozo, the clown who dares passersby to knock him into a tub of water.

Smith, Robert Kimmel. Jane's House. Morrow, 1982. \$13.95; \$3.95, Pocket Bks. (paper). When Paul Klein remarries after his wife Jane's sudden death, Hilary, sixteen, and Bobby, ten, reluctantly accept bright, independent, businesswoman Ruth.

Smith, Rukshana. Sumitra's Story. Coward, 1983. \$9.95. As Sumitra grows up in her East Indian family, newly emigrated to England, she is torn between her traditional home, loving but repressive, and the English society, which offers freedom as well as prejudice.

Speare, Elizabeth George. The Sign of the Beaver. Houghton, 1983. \$8.95. A proud, resourceful American Indian boy deigns to help Matt survive the raw Maine wilderness winter when he is left alone to guard the newly built cabin.

Sutcliff, Rosemary. The Road to Camlann: The Death of King Arthur. Dutton, 1982. \$11.50. King Arthur strives to preserve the Round Table as Mordred plots against him and as gossip over Lancelot and Guinivere intensifies.

Tevis, Walter. The Queen's Gambit. Random, 1983. \$13.95. In the orphanage where she lived Beth learned the game of chess, beginning an obsession that took her all the way to the top.

Ure, Jean. See You Thursday. Delacorte, 1983. \$12.95. Marianne, a sixteen-year-old British schoolgirl, helps her family's boarder, Abe, a twenty-four-year-old blind music teacher, achieve independence as their friendship grows into love.

Voigt, Cynthia. A Solitary Blue. Atheneum, 1983. \$10.95. Jeff Green's mother left home when he was only seven, and when she shows up in his life again Jeff learns some hard lessons about love and caring.

Von Canon, Claudia. The Inheritance. Houghton, 1983. \$10.95. A young medical student faces the horrors of the Inquisition in sixteenth-century Spain.

Wiley, Margaret. The Bigger Book of Lydia. Harper, 1983. \$11.89. Lydia Bitte is small and unhappy and her rock-musician boyfriend calls her Littlebit. She acquires a new perspective when she meets Michelle, who has anorexia.

NONFICTION

Asimov, Isaac, and others, eds. Creations: The Quest for Origins in Story and Science. Crown, 1983. \$16.95. Speculations on the creation of the universe and its parts in fiction, scientific observation, and religious belief.

Briggs, Raymond. When the Wind Blows. Schocken, 1982. \$10.95. In this grim, cartoon-style satire an elderly British couple innocently—and futilely—try to prepare for nuclear attack by following government directives.

Faber, Doris. Love and Rivalry: Three Exceptional Pairs of Sisters. Viking, 1983. \$13.95. A narrative examination of the relationships between Emily Dickinson, Charlotte Cushman, and Harriet Beecher Stowe and their respective sisters.

Fretz, Sada. Going Vegetarian: A Guide for Teen-agers. Morrow, 1983. \$11. This complete guide includes the reasons why people become vegetarians and how to plan a healthy, meatless diet, along with wonderful recipes.

Golden, Frederic. The Trembling Earth: Probing and Predicting Quakes. Scribner, 1983. \$13.95. A clear and concise statement of present knowledge concerning earthquakes—brief enough to be exciting but complete enough to cover the facts.

Goldman, Peter, and Fuller, Tony. Charlie Company: What Vietnam Did to Us. Morrow, 1983. \$15.95; \$3.95, Ballantine (paper). Men who served in Vietnam talk with poignancy, pain, and bitterness about their experiences.