

VOYA's Perfect Tens 2014

With more than 1,082 reviews in VOYA in print in 2014, our reviewers awarded only thirty-eight titles (3.5 percent) the Perfect Ten: A 5Q for quality (hard to imagine it better written) and a 5P for popularity (every young adult who reads was dying to read it yesterday). VOYA's reviewers considered these titles to be the best of the best in 2014. Excerpts from their reviews tell us why.

Alender, Katie. **Famous Last Words**. Point/Scholastic, 2014. 320p. \$18.99. 978-0-545-63997-2. VOYA October 2014. 5Q 5P M J S



"It is hard to believe how much the author is able to accomplish in a relatively short number of pages. . . . Hollywood-style gossip and film appreciation, both past and present, strengthen the sense of place. Complex personal relationships . . . make the whole story relatable. Teens will keep

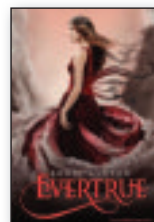
the lights on all night to finish reading."

Alexander, Kwame. **The Crossover**. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. 420p. \$16.99. 978-0-544-10771-7. VOYA August 2014. 5Q 5P M J S



"While the story is compelling enough, what makes this verse novel excel is the poetry itself. . . . This book will appeal to both fans of basketball and fans of poetry. Teachers will love using this book for teaching language usage and vocabulary. . . . This quick read is highly recommended."

Ashton, Brodi. **Evertrue: An Everneath Novel**. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2014. 368p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-207119-4. VOYA February 2014. 5Q 5P M J S



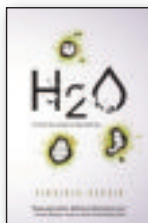
"This fast-paced conclusion to the series rewards fans with a not-so-fairytale ending. . . . Nikki and Jack devote themselves to eradicating the century-long 'feeds,' even knowing that it may cost both of them their lives and Will joins the fight willingly. This is a well-written, satisfying conclusion to this innovative series."

Auxier, Jonathan. **The Night Gardener**. Amulet/Abrams, 2014. 368p. \$16.95. 978-1-4197-1144-2. VOYA April 2014. 5Q 5P M J



"Auxier's novel is more than a simple ghost story, as the characters can only defeat the evil through heart-wrenching personal sacrifices. This novel is recommended for middle school and public libraries."

Bergin, Virginia. **H2O**. Sourcebooks, 2014. 336p. \$16.99. 978-1-4926-0654-3. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P M J S



"All of the elements of the hero's journey are here, told from the viewpoint of a teen. . . . The portraits of the dead are compelling. . . . Ruby's quest to find her biological dad is quite poignant, and the conclusion leaves readers hopeful . . . all in all this is a great, high-interest read for contemporary teens."

Bertrand, Cara. **Lost in Thought: First Book of the Sentientia**. Luminis, 2014. 288p. \$19.95. 978-1-935462-93-4. VOYA June 2014. 5Q 5P J S

"Fans of paranormal romance, as well as readers who enjoy

stories that delve into 'what-if,' will certainly enjoy this first installment from Bertrand."

Bick, Ilsa J. **White Space: Book One of the Dark Passages**. Egmont, 2014. 560p. \$18.99. 978-1-60684-419-9. VOYA August 2014. 5Q 5P J S



"The characters are well written, the descriptions of the horrors they witness are blood curling, and the end is a shocker. . . . A fascinating, intricate story with multiple threads running through it. It is a combination of mystery, science fiction, and horror—an exciting page-turner. Readers will devour it and want the next book immediately."



Brimmer, Larry Dane. **Strike! The Farm Workers' Fight for Their Rights**. Boyd's Mills, 2014. 172p. \$16.95. 978-1-59078-997-1. Index. Photos. Time Line. Further Reading. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P J S



". . . a very appealing and attractive book. . . .

The text is lively and includes many direct quotes. There is a time line, an index, and a complete list of books, websites, and places to visit for more information. This is a great book for Common Core nonfiction needs."

Burgess, Melvin. **The Hit**. Chicken House/Scholastic, 2014. 304p. \$17.99. 978-0-545-55699-6. VOYA February 2014. 5Q 5P S



"Burgess hits a homerun. . . . He confronts the deep and shadowy issues lurking in the minds of disillusioned teens in a setting that will garner wide appeal. . . . The action is fast-paced, the drama realistic, and the message unmistakable. When your world crumbles, you can take the easy

way out or latch onto and fight for things that really matter."

Carey, M. R. **The Girl with All the Gifts**. Orbit, 2014. 416p. \$25. 978-0-316-27815-7. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P A/YA



"Carey has created a perfect adult/young adult crossover . . . superbly written . . . perfectly suitable for older teens already familiar with this subgenre. Public libraries should be prepared for this to fly off both adult and young adult shelves."

Castaldo, Nancy F. **Sniffer Dogs: How Dogs (and Their Noses) Save the World**. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. 160p. \$16.99. 978-0-544-08893-1. Index. Photos. Glossary. VOYA June 2014. 5Q 5P M



"The text presents horrendous situations without stressing gore and death. A glossary of twenty-five terms explains dispersal of particles in a scent cone and the value of an eco dog to conservation."

Charbonneau, Joelle. **Independent Study: The Testing, Book 2**. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. 320p. \$17.99. 978-0-547-95920-7. VOYA April 2014. 5Q 5P M J S



"Filled with intrigue and suspense, this is a stellar second book in a promising dystopian

VOYA booklists are reproducible without permission for library, classroom, and workshop use. Reprinting in any medium for sale by a commercial or nonprofit entity or posting on the Internet requires written permission from the publisher.

series [*The Testing*] . . . This novel surpasses expectations and leaves other comparative novels behind as it forges new paths to a futuristic, alternate world filled with corruption and conspiracy. The tension and conflict will have readers at the edge of their seats as the imagery and complexities of the characters and plot design are exposed.”

Combs, Sarah. **Breakfast Served Anytime**. Candlewick, 2014. 272p. \$16.99. 978-0-7636-6791-7. **VOYA** April 2014. **5Q 5P J S**



“This debut novel is a gem. It captures and holds the sweet essence of those fiercely intense relationships that often blossom during the enforced intimacy of sharing rooms and assignments. It handles literature, friendship, heartbreak, and joy with equal tenderness.

The pages are strewn with tantalizing truisms, making it a fascinating springboard for group discussion . . . will become a favorite among many teen readers. This novel has earned a spot in every school and public library.”

Garcia, Kami. **Unbreakable: The Legion, Book 1**. Little, Brown, 2013. 320p. \$18. 978-0-316-21017-1. **VOYA** February 2014. **5Q 5P J S**



“Edge-of-your-seat paranormal activity keeps this book moving at an astronomical rate. Readers will get caught up in the moment and just keep reading. Garcia brings a fresh new take to the supernatural and the world of secret societies.

Kennedy is the perfect flawed heroine, never knowing if she is the missing piece to the puzzle or the undoing of those around her.”

Grant, Michael. **BZRK Apocalypse**. Egmont, 2014. 400p. \$18.99. 978-1-60684-408-3. **VOYA** August 2014. **5Q 5P J S**



“This may be the last of the series, but it is definitely not the least. . . . This book is a bad choice for the squeamish but a great choice for readers with a strong stomach, an interest in the future of biomedical technology and the essential ethical debate, or anyone willing to embark on an unnerving, frighteningly plausible thrill ride all around the globe.”

Gravel Road. Saddleback, 2014. \$9.95 Trade pb.

Oatman, Linda High. **Otherwise**. 148p. 978-1-62250-891-4.

_____. **Teeny Little Grief Machines**. 242p. 978-1-62250-883-9. **VOYA** October 2014. **5Q 5P S**



“As an artist, Lexi McLeen only paints in different shades of blue, reflecting her mounting depression. . . . Will Lexi beat the odds and survive, or will she succumb to her suicidal thoughts? Oatman examines very real-life problems through her powerful poetry. Lexi’s issues with self-worth reflect the importance of a strong family structure.”

Hattermer, Kate. **The Vigilante Poets of Selwyn Academy**. Knopf/Random House, 2014. 336p. \$16.99. 978-0-385-75378-4. **VOYA** April 2014. **5Q 5P M J S**



“This brilliantly paced novel is a fresh look at life as an artistic teen. It delves into the reality of reality TV and demonstrates that not all is as it seems. These teens cope well with the situation and find creative ways to deal with the problems at hand. Breaking and entering is included in this hilarious story of friendship and poetry.”

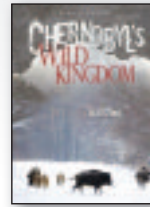
Ireland, Justina. **Promise of Shadows**. Simon & Schuster, 2014. 384p. \$17.99. 978-1-442-44464-5. **VOYA** April 2014. **5Q 5P J S**

“The juxtaposition of the Underworld and the Elysian Fields

with ‘the mortal realm’ of modern-day Virginia is captivating. Ireland also does a masterful job with throwaway comments that reveal the diversity in her characters with regard to race, sexuality, and of course, immortality without being heavy handed. . . contains a healthy dose of action, a strong thread of humor, and just a touch of romance.”



Johnson, Rebecca L. **Chernobyl’s Wild Kingdom: Life in the**



Dead Zone. Twenty-First Century/Lerner, 2014. 88p. PLB \$34.60. 978-1-4677-1154-8. Glossary. Index. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading. **VOYA** February 2015. **5Q 5P M J S**

“This slim volume packs in loads of information. . . . Science writer Johnson asks and answers all the questions her readers will have, delving into similar effects of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear explosion

in Japan. The result is an informative, unsettling reference that captures the fallibility of humanity and the resilience of life.”

Kantor, Melissa. **Maybe One Day**. HarperTeen, 2014. 400p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-227920-0. **VOYA** April 2014. **5Q 5P S**



“Kantor does an impressive job of fleshing out secondary characters with a minimum of description; their actions define them. She also adds flashes of humor, particularly in the dialog between Zoe and Olivia. . . . Altogether, this is a moving story that will stay with the reader long after the last page.”

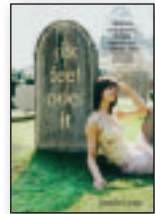
Kelly, Lee. **City of Savages**. Saga/Simon & Schuster, 2015. 416p. \$25.99. 978-1-4814-1030-4. **VOYA** February 2015. **5Q 5P S A/YA**



“Kelly’s prose is gorgeous and brilliant as she seamlessly tells a satisfyingly dark tale through alternating the sisters’ points of view. . . . The surprising plot layers will keep readers invested through every twist and turn until the last page.

Very dark and violent in places, the story is extremely intense but keeps the shining bond of the two sisters in the forefront. This is one of the best and most original dystopian stories available for teens today and an absolute must-have for any library serving teen readers.”

Longo, Jennifer. **Six Feet Over It**. Random House, 2014. 352p. \$17.99. 978-0-449-81871-8. **VOYA** August 2014. **5Q 5P M J S**



“The story covers many aspects of teen life: bullying, ‘mean girls,’ sisterhood, . . . and working a job. . . . Leigh weaves in the literature she reads in school, giving us allusions and metaphors for her own life and the lives of those suffering and struggling in the world. The characters she encounters add unexpected depth and humor to the tale. This is a surprisingly good read, and this reviewer recommends it whole heartedly.”

Lu, Marie. **The Young Elites**. Putnam/Penguin, 2014. 368p. \$18.99. 978-0-399-16783-6. **VOYA** February 2015. **5Q 5P M J S**

“Lu weaves her magic across the page as she unfolds the story of Adelina and the Young Elites. Nothing is as it is expected. This is good-versus-evil right on par with Marvel and the mutant X-men. The dystopian world leaves little hope for those that are different. . . . Adelina’s power scares her family and the Young Elites are worried that she could destroy them all.”

MacColl, Michaela. **Always Emily**. Chronicle, 2014. 282p. \$16.99. 978-1-4521-1174-2. **VOYA** April 2014. **5Q 5P M J S**

“A brief snippet from both Charlotte and Emily’s books sets the foundation for each chapter and is enough to draw the reader to the classic Brontë tales. MacColl includes a very informative

author's note giving information about how much of the tale is told from fictional and factual events and brings the reader to a greater understanding of how the lives of both sisters affected their writing and influenced this novel."

Marchive, Laurane, and Pam McElroy, Eds. **The Green Teen**



Cookbook: Recipes for All Seasons: Written by Teens for Teens. Zest, 2014. 144p. \$14.99 Oversize pb. 978-1-936976-58-4. Photos. Index. Table of Contents. Charts. VOYA October 2014. 5Q 5P M J S

"... a much-needed guide to help teens develop healthy eating habits. The recipes contain common ingredients that most people have in

their homes. There are many quick tips that even experienced cooks can learn from. The directions are written in an entertaining and teen-friendly way. . . . Although the cookbook is only 144 pages, it has enough ideas to make it the basic go-to source for daily dinner inspiration. It is the winner for the Best Sustainable Food Book in the United Kingdom."

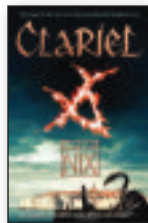
Matson, Lynne. **Nil.** Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2014. 384p. \$17.99. 978-0-8050-9771-9. VOYA August 2014. 5Q 5P J S

"[Matson] populates her teen community with compelling characters who make choices to follow or disregard the rules that govern their survival and escape. . . . Matson's writing is vivid, whether describing Nil's false beauty or teens' desperate attempts to catch fast-moving gates. The deep love between Charley (who maps the island and sequence of gates) and Thad . . . adds depth to a strongly written fantasy."

Nix, Garth. **Clariel: The Abhorsen.**

HarperCollins, 2014. 400p. \$18.99. 978-0-06-156155-9. VOYA October 2014. 5Q 5P J S

"This sojourn includes masterful world-building, lots of action and adventure, and characters that teens will care about, in an unforgettable world with a feudal society supported by a highly organized and complex magical system. Long-term fans will be delighted by this outstanding addition to the *Lost Kingdom* series, while teens new to this world are in for a treat."



Perkins, Stephanie, Ed. **My True Love Gave to Me: Twelve Holiday Stories.** St. Martin's, 2014. 336p. \$18.99. 978-1-250-05930-7. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P J S



"These stories are well written and speak to the hearts of teens and adults everywhere. . . . No matter what faith a reader may hold, these tales speak to the soul and teach that life is what we make it. Readers just have to realize all gifts are not wrapped in paper and ribbons. Some are lessons

about life. Not everyone has a picture-perfect holiday."

Philpot, Chelsey. **Even in Paradise.** HarperCollins, 2014. 368p. \$17.99. 978-00-6229369-5. VOYA October 2014. 5Q 5P S

"The mystery behind Julia's family and her intense interest in her dead sister keeps the pages quickly turning. . . . Very real issues are expressed nicely through developed characters and a thought-provoking plot sequence. The cover could not be more accurate in describing this story as *The Great Gatsby* meets *Looking for Alaska*."



Shoket, Ann. **Seventeen Ultimate Guide to College: Everything You Need to Know to Walk onto Campus and Own It!** Running Press, 2014. 192p. \$19.95

Oversize pb. 978-0-7624-5193-7. Table of Contents. Photos. Graphs. VOYA October 2014. 5Q 5P S

"The larger size of the pages, color photographs, and variations in the size, fonts, and color of the text render the book most appealing. . . . It is an updated guide for the twenty-first-century



co-ed. Every high school library should buy multiple copies of this book?"

Smith, Andrew. **Grasshopper Jungle.** Dutton/Penguin, 2014. 432p. \$18.99. 978-0-42603-5. VOYA April 2014. 5Q 5P S

"Smith has wrapped big, unresolved questions in a compelling and exciting story told by an unforgettable character. . . . Smith's mix of humor, insight, and story construction—and, most importantly, the remarkably drawn personality of Austin Szerba—should compel readers to look past genre boundaries."

Smith, Jennifer E. **The Geography of You and Me.** Poppy/Little, Brown, 2014. 352p. \$18. 978-0-316-25477-9. VOYA June 2014. 5Q 5P S



"Fans of Smith's previous works . . . and other love stories . . . will like this novel, which is a similar combination of head and heart. The book is perfectly wholesome, without any harsh language or sexual content, so it will be a welcome addition to any library."

Teen Rights and Freedoms. Greenhaven/Gale, 2014. 176p. PLB \$39.95.

Chronology. Further Reading. Photos. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P J S

Haugen, David, and Susan Musser, Eds. **Parenting.** 978-0-7377-7001-8.

Bullying. 978-0-7377-6399-7.

"To date, over thirty volumes are part of the *Teen Rights and Freedoms* series . . . an excellent resource for young adults (and adults) who want to know all sides of an issue. The titles also provide contact information for available organizations, a chronology of important events, and a limited list of publications for further reading."



Van Wagenen, Maya. **Popular: A Memoir.** Dutton/Penguin, 2014. 272p. \$18.99. 978-0-525-42681-3. VOYA June 2014. 5Q 5P M J S

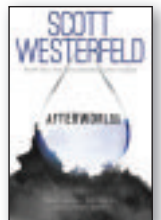
"Interspersed with Maya's writing are excerpts from Betty Cornell's book, highlighting the differences sixty years can make." Maya "finds Betty and persuades her to write a wonderful introduction. While completely appropriate for middle school readers, **Popular** is even more entertaining for adults. Van Wagenen is a uniquely gifted talent with a gem of a first novel."

Venkatraman, Padma. **A Time to Dance.** Penguin, 2014. 320p. \$17.99. 978-0-399-25710-0. VOYA April 2014. 5Q 5P M J S

"The descriptions of contemporary India are beautiful and Venkatraman weaves images so divine that you can see the statues of Shiva, hear the ankle bells in the bharatanatyam dance, and smell the acrid scent of burnt rubber from the accident. Told in verse, this story is magnificently strong as Veda's determination dances off the page and into the reader's heart."

Westerfeld, Scott. **Afterworlds.** Simon Pulse, 2014. 608p. \$19.99. 978-1-4814-2234-5. VOYA October 2014. 5Q 5P S

"This unique novel is a thick book that reads like a thin book because of how fast readers will turn the pages to find out what happens next."



Williams, Michael. **Diamond Boy.** Little, Brown, 2014. 400p. \$18. 978-0-316-32069-6. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P M J S

"This is a compelling novel that . . . will give every civilized reader pause. . . . More than simply a good read . . . a multilayered, teachable novel with a variety of approaches and is highly recommended for middle and high school collections."

Wood, Fiona. **Wildlife.** Poppy/Little, Brown, 2014. 400p. \$18. 978-0-316-24209-7. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P J S

"Fresh, funny, and heartbreaking, the story manages to capture the complexities of two separate coming-of-age stories and wrap them into a cohesive tale of self-reliance and honesty. . . . A worthy addition to teen collections." ■