



# VOYA's PERFECT TENS 2015

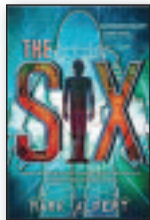
With over 1,000 reviews in VOYA in print in 2015, our reviewers awarded only 40 titles (four percent) the Perfect Ten: A 5Q for quality (hard to imagine it better written) and a 5P for popularity (every young adult who reads was dying to read it yesterday). VOYA's reviewers considered these titles to be the best of the best in 2015. Excerpts from their reviews tell us why.

Adrian, Susan. **Tunnel Vision**. St. Martin's/Macmillan, 2015. 320p. \$18.99. 978-1-250-04792-2. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P J S



"**Tunnel Vision** is a high-impact, fast-paced spy novel that explores the ever-present governmental conflict of questionable acts justifying the greater good. . . . The story line may be too complex for reluctant readers; however, more advanced readers will find the intricate plot engaging and intriguing. . . . The well-written, unpredictable plot, coupled with strong male and female characters, make this novel a must-have for teachers and librarians."

Alpert, Mark. **The Six**. Sourcebooks, 2015. 368p. \$16.99. 978-1-4926-1529-3. VOYA June 2015. 5Q 5P M J S



"Philosophical issues about the nature of existence arise in the course of vividly described action that will keep the attention of readers who enjoy science fiction or dystopias. Do not just read **The Six**; make your friends read it, too."

Banash, Jennifer. **Silent Alarm**. Putnam/Penguin, 2015. 336p. \$17.99. 978-0-399-25789-6. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P J S



". . . a realistic tale of crippling pain that considers the subtleties of perspectives surrounding such a tragedy. . . . **Silent Alarm** is not an easy book to read, mostly because Banash's faithfulness to her premise is exacting, unrelenting, and devoid of candy-coating that might otherwise trivialize a realistic treatment. Her depiction of Alys—so important to carry the reader through—is heroic and ultimately hopeful, without being overblown. The end result is a comprehensive, truthful, and uncompromising book—an important addition to any library serving teens."

Bardugo, Leigh. **Six of Crows**. Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2015. 480p. \$18.99. 978-1-62779-212-7. VOYA August 2015. 5Q 5P S



"Great characters with complex backstories, dynamic relationships that show growth, and plenty of action to keep the pace lively are set into a landscape that offers a variety of occupations and social strata. . . . Definitely the start of a new series, the last page should come with a

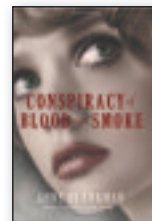
countdown to the publishing date of the next book. This is an easy choice for teens who enjoyed *The Grisha Trilogy*, *The Diviners*, or any of the *Shadowhunter* books.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. **The Fixer**. Bloomsbury, 2015. 384p. \$17.99. 978-1-61963-594-4. VOYA August 2015. 5Q 5P S NA



"Barnes delivers a fast-paced thriller that is destined to become a hit with older teens and may easily be made into a series (or a film). . . . This book is riveting. . . . Teens will enjoy the story as the 2016 elections draw near. . . . This is recommended for all public and high school libraries."

Blankman, Anne. **Conspiracy of Blood and Smoke**. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2015. 416p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-227884-5. VOYA April 2015. 5Q 5P J S



"This thrilling sequel to **Prisoner of Night and Fog** (HarperCollins, 2014) will leave the reader breathless with each unpredictable plot twist. Blankman's extensive research shines through the vivid historical details that transport the reader to pre-WWII Germany. . . . This novel will appeal to the high school reader as it combines history, suspense, violence, and romance. It is highly

recommended for school and public libraries."

Brooks, Jen. **In a World Just Right**. Simon & Schuster, 2015. 432p. \$17.99. 978-1-4814-1660-3. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P J S



"Jonathan is the best kind of main character any story could want; he is sympathetic, flawed, and is as surprised as the reader by how events unfold. . . . Feelings of isolation and dreaming of a more ideal life will feel familiar to just about any reader, no matter what their background, but it is Jonathan's method of escaping his everyday struggles that teens will envy. . . . Every piece of the puzzle that is this book slides into the exact right spot, forming a picture-perfect work of fiction."

Cart, Michael, Ed. **Taking Aim: Power and Pain, Teens and Guns**. HarperTeen, 2015. 368p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-232735-2. VOYA October 2015. 5Q 5P J S R



"Sixteen acclaimed young adult authors examine gun culture and politics in this provocative collection of short stories. The stories vary widely in tone, subject, and character development. The short, compelling stories are perfect for reluctant readers or for teachers looking for powerful, thought-provoking narratives to engage students in an important aspect of their modern world."

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Danticat, Edwidge. **Untwine**. Scholastic, 2015. 320p. \$16.99. 978-0-545-42303-8. **VOYA** August 2015. **5Q 5P J S**

"The novel throbs with the vibrant life the twins have experienced, loving beauty of all kinds, supported by a warm family, flavored with their Haitian roots. . . . Danticat has poignantly captured the joy of everyday life sharpened by awareness of its transience."



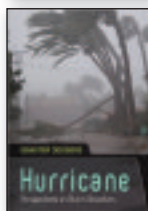
Dessen, Sarah. **Saint Anything**. Viking/Penguin, 2015. 432p. \$19.99. 978-0-451-47470-4. **VOYA** April 2015. **5Q 5P M J S**

"In typical Dessen fashion, there are setbacks and stumbling blocks, but the ending is hopeful. Have several copies; there will be a high demand, as there always is for her novels."



*Disaster Dossiers*. Heinemann, 2014. 56p. PLB \$33.50. Index. Glossary. Photos. Timelines. Maps. **VOYA** April 2015. **5Q 5P M**

Langley, Andrew. **Hurricane: Perspectives on Storm Disasters**. 978-1-4846-0181-5.



Rooney, Anne. **Earthquake: Perspectives on Earthquake Disasters**. 978-1-4846-0180-8.



Woolf, Alex. **Meteor: Perspectives on Asteroid Strikes**. 978-1-4846-0182-2.

"A superbly conceived and executed series, Heinemann's introduction to disasters prepares readers for global news, as well as threats to home and self. This series is an excellent, sensibly priced choice for homeschooling, classrooms, and public libraries."

Doller, Trish. **The Devil You Know**. Bloomsbury, 2015. 256p. \$17.99. 978-1-61963-416-9. **VOYA** June 2015. **5Q 5P S**



"The writing is compelling and gripping as readers sit on the edge of their seats hoping Cadie will emerge safely. The trip is a metaphor for the transition from adolescence to adulthood in many ways. The sexual awakening of the protagonist is well written, though perhaps more appropriate for older teens (and many adults), and would translate well into a successful film. . . . This is

a highly recommended purchase for medium to large public library collections."

Harmon, Michael. **Stick**. Knopf/Random House, 2015. 240p. PLB \$20.99. 978-0-385-75437-8. **VOYA** October 2015. **5Q 5P M J S R**

"Many topics are covered in this fast-paced novel, and it draws sports-minded readers into a story that teaches about loyalty, betrayal, and the real courage high school students sometimes never see among their peers. . . . Many examples and metaphors are provided as food for thought for young people in this page-turner of a story. This is highly recommended for school and public libraries."



Holt, Kimberly Willis. **Dear Hank Williams**. Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2015. 224p. \$16.99. 978-0-8050-8022-3. **VOYA** April 2015. **5Q 5P M**

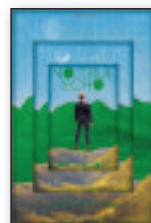


"One of the most compelling layers of this story is how Holt lays bare the facades we sometimes create for others and ourselves when the truth is too painful, and unfortunately, Tate's young life has had more than its fair share of heartache. . . . With tidbits of history woven throughout and the rich cast of characters, especially an

endearing protagonist, **Dear Hank Williams** is a novel that sings from the heart."

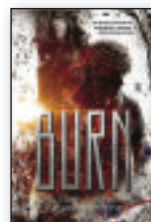
Jones, Gareth P. **No True Echo**. Amulet/Abrams, 2015. 288p. \$16.95. 978-1-4197-0784-1. **VOYA** August 2015. **5Q 5P M J S**

"Funny and endearing, Eddie and his best friend, Angus, anchor readers in a complex plot involving repeating time loops and scientific overreach. Award-winning British author Gareth has a gem in **No True Echo**."



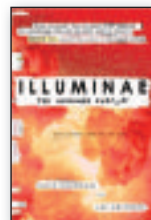
Jury, Walter, and Sarah Fine. **Burn**. Putnam/Penguin, 2015. 352p. \$17.99. 978-0-399-16068-4. **VOYA** June 2015. **5Q 5P J S**

"The highly anticipated sequel to **Scan** (Putnam, 2014/**VOYA** April 2014) does not disappoint. The plot is flawless. . . . The attention to detail and action will draw readers in, especially those who like intrigue and mystery with science fiction mixed in. . . . Highly recommend reading the first book before this sequel as some of the worldbuilding and backstory are helpful to understand the overarching story plot and character relationships. . . . This is recommended for fans of action-based thrillers as well as science fiction fans."



Kaufman, Amie, and Jay Kristoff. **Illuminae: The Illuminae Files\_01**. Knopf/Random House, 2015. 608p. PLB \$21.99. 978-0-553-49912-4. **VOYA** August 2015. **5Q 5P S NA R**

"An exciting rollercoaster ride. . . . The dialogue is whip-smart, sarcastic, and filled with black humor, and the device of telling the story through documents, emails, files, interviews, and medical reports is highly creative. . . . Recommend this to fans of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Star Trek, 2001: A Space Odyssey*, and *Battlestar Galactica*. . . . This title will fly off the shelf once word of mouth starts, and it would be a great book club selection."



Laybourne, Emmy. **Sweet**. Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, 2015. 288p. \$17.99. 978-1-250-05519-4. **VOYA** April 2015. **5Q 5P M J S**



"Laurel's wonderfully quirky voice and humorously self-deprecating humor engages from the outset. . . . Laybourne's thought-provoking premise makes the work useful as an adjunct to classes addressing health, weight, nutrition, greed, ethics, or addiction. The book is recommended as required summer reading before grades eight and above to engage students and start the year strong."

Leahy, Stephen. **Your Water Footprint**. Firefly, 2015. 144p. \$35. 978-1-77085-499-4. Photos. Illus. Sources. **VOYA** December 2015. **5Q 5P M J S**

". . . the skillfully depicted infographics and mind-boggling facts make **Your Water Footprint** a must-buy for middle and high school libraries. . . . Common Core Standards are most definitely met in this text, making it a sound book to be used in the classroom, as well as for recreational reading. The sources and references show that Leahy did his research when writing this book and also provide further reading for students who are looking for ways to reduce their water footprint."



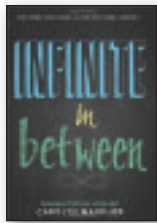
Loftin, Nikki. **Wish Girl**. Razorbill/Penguin, 2015. 256p. \$16.99. 978-1-59514-686-1. **VOYA** February 2015. **5Q 5P M J**

"This thoughtful entry into realistic fiction for young teens explores family dysfunction and discord, the depression and emotional



issues that plague young people trying to find their way, the importance of mentors, the unfortunate effects of bullying, and last but not least, cancer's impact on children and their families. The story brilliantly captures how individual family members tend to ignore one another in a chaotic family system."

Mackler, Carolyn. **Infinite in Between**. HarperTeen, 2015. 480p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-173107-5. VOYA October 2015. 5Q 5P J S



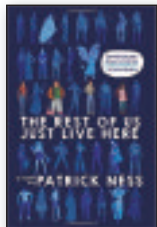
"Chapters named for one of the five characters interweave with generous swaths of white in between. They provide a stylistic embodiment of the theme laid out in the title and spelled out in Mackler's one-page conclusion. The characters outshine the structure, not only the five principals, but the minor characters as well. Their insight, humor, and idiosyncrasies ring true. Teen readers will love them or love to hate them, but definitely will not find them boring."

Nelson, Jandy. **I'll Give You the Sun**. Dial/Penguin, 2014. 384p. \$17.99. 978-0-8037-3496-8. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P J S



"An intricate and absorbing work of art emerges from the details of the interlaced sections. Few novels about twins capture so well the rewards and challenges of Noah and Jude growing into Noah and Jude, or the way in which people who have loved us remain in our minds after their deaths."

Ness, Patrick. **The Rest of Us Just Live Here**. HarperTeen, 2015. 336p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-240316-2. VOYA December 2015. 5Q 5P S



"This latest novel from the award-winning and ever-popular Ness will be in high demand. . . . Ness's deft treatment of the anxiety and excitement of senior year and the diverse cast of characters, including a prominent gay character, ensure that this novel will have wide appeal. Clever and laugh-out-loud funny, the supernatural side notes add tension and humor

to the story. This is highly recommended for libraries serving young adults."

O'Reilly, Bill. **Hitler's Last Days: The Death of the Nazi Regime and the World's Most Notorious Dictator**. Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2015. 320p. \$19.99. 978-1-62779-396-4. Photos. VOYA October 2015. 5Q 5P J



"O'Reilly gives balanced credit to the Allies and the Soviets for ending the war. . . . Concentration camp coverage is factual without being grisly. The inclusion of Hitler's will, a chronology, and primary and secondary indexing encourages readers to value historical research. This book is highly recommended for junior high and public libraries."

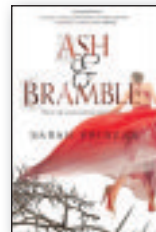
Pearson, Mary E. **The Heart of Betrayal: The Remnant Chronicles, Book 2**. Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2015. 480p. \$18.99. 978-0-8050-9924-9. VOYA June 2015. 5Q 5P J S



"Thanks to HBO's hit adaptation of George R. R. Martin's *Game of Thrones* series, librarians have been getting a lot of requests for similar literature with less graphic sexual content. Pearson's series, rife with intricate plotting and complex characters, ably satisfies this need. Do not be surprised if it commands a strong adult readership along with popularity among teens.

With action, worldbuilding, and romance all done to perfection, this series has it all."

Prineas, Sarah. **Ash & Bramble**. HarperTeen, 2015. 464p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-233794-8. VOYA October 2015. 5Q 5P S



"Teens who love fractured fairy tales and fantasy will enjoy the new perspective on some of their favorite childhood stories. Readers will fall in love with Pin and Shoe and their complicated relationship. **Ash & Bramble** is a book written for anyone who wants to decide for themselves what path their life should take."

Ritter, William. **Beastly Bones: A Jackaby Novel, Book 2**. Algonquin, 2015. 304p. \$17.95. 978-1-61620-354-2. VOYA June 2015. 5Q 5P M J S



"The action proceeds at the usual breakneck speed, with misdirection and red herrings galore, and humor, both obvious and sly. . . . Recommend this to readers who enjoy *Doctor Who*, *Supernatural*, *Grimm*, *Dresden Files*, *Harry Potter*, and, of course, *Sherlock Holmes* stories, and who are ready to stay up into the wee hours reading."

Ruby, Laura. **Bone Gap**. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2015. 368p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-231760-5. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P S



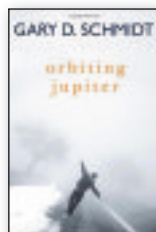
"Through understanding the importance of trust, Ruby defines the essence of love. As with any love story, there are romantic scenes, but they are tastefully done. Ruby uses profanity sparingly in order to make her dialogue realistic. The real magic in **Bone Gap** is the discovery of love, an idea many stories misrepresent but **Bone Gap** explores with the utmost honesty and truth."

Sachar, Louis. **Fuzzy Mud**. Delacorte/Random House, 2015. 192p. \$16.99. 978-0-385-74378-5. VOYA August 2015. 5Q 5P M



"This wonderfully told story provides a realistic look at bullying, but also examines what constitutes courage and offers a warning about the dangers of moving ahead too quickly while even promising scientific discoveries. . . . Readers will be taken along for a most entertaining ride and many will finish the book in one sitting—one simply *has* to find out what happens next. Middle school readers will devour this delightful book just as they did with **Holes**."

Schmidt, Gary D. **Orbiting Jupiter**. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. 192p. \$17.99. 978-0-544-46222-9. VOYA December 2015. 5Q 5P M



"Fans of Schmidt's **The Wednesday Wars** (Clarion, 2007/VOYA June 2007) and **Okay for Now** (Clarion, 2011/VOYA June 2011) will fall in love with this book. . . . This book explores untraditional family structures. . . . Readers will want to protect Joseph from the town that does not believe in him, allowing him the chance he needs to finally find happiness."

Sheinkin, Steve. **Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War**. Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2015. 384p. \$19.99. 978-1-59643-952-8. Index. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. VOYA August 2015. 5Q 5P M J S



"This is a detailed but fast-paced and fascinating narrative. . . . There is comedy in the woeful failures of the White House

‘plumbers,’ whose Keystone-Cops-like attempt to break into the office of Ellsberg’s psychiatrist was a mere prelude to Watergate and prison terms. The past is clear. The present is another matter.”

Sher, Emil. **Young Man with Camera.** Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2015. 240p. \$17.99. 978-0-545-54131-2. VOYA October 2015. 5Q 5P M J



T’s black-and-white photographs are interspersed with text to create pictures of the characters he encounters on a daily basis. Many of his photographs are hanging on the walls in an abandoned building, and when a fire destroys the building, he ends up in police custody, framed by Ryan. T records “his story, which is touching and heartbreaking in its realism. It is a good springboard to discussion work for middle school.”

Shusterman, Neal. **UnDivided: UnWind Dystology.** Simon & Schuster, 2015. 384p. \$18.99. 978-1-4814-0975-9. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P J S



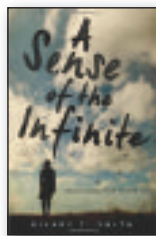
“Teen readers have been waiting for the conclusion to the *UnWind Dystology*. The popularity of this series is warranted: it is smart, it is dark, it is riveting, and the characters are drawn with respect. Schusterman’s series transcends the dystopian fan base. Libraries without books one through three should get them. Those who already have them, start the waiting list now.”

Singleton, Linda Joy. **The Curious Cat Spy Club, Book 1.** Albert Whitman, 2015. 256p. \$14.99. 978-0-8075-1376-7. VOYA April 2015. 5Q 5P M



“Middle school students will relate to the real-life issues in this book: friendship, cliques, problem solving, individuality, and confidence. . . . Each character’s strength complements the other characters’ weaknesses, resulting in a team capable of accomplishing anything. . . . This is a feel-good book with a myriad of unexpected twists, turns, and surprises.”

Smith, Hilary T. **A Sense of the Infinite.** Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins, 2015. 400p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-218471-9. VOYA April 2015. 5Q 5P J S



“Smith’s thoughtful storytelling bypasses cloying melodrama entirely and instantly feels like a classic. The subject matter is never depressing; it is always honest. . . . This is the truth as experienced by high school girls, and every effort should be made to get this book into as many of their hands as possible.”

Stead, Rebecca. **Goodbye Stranger.** Wendy Lamb/Random House, 2015. 304p. \$16.99. 978-0-385-74317-4. VOYA August 2015. 5Q 5P M J



“Though the complex narrative threads may be challenging for some to navigate, this eloquent story of friendship, first love, and identity will resonate powerfully with readers.”

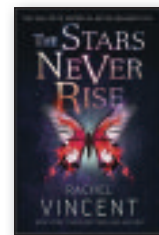
Tromly, Stephanie. **Trouble is a Friend of Mine.** Kathy Dawson/Penguin, 2015. 336p. \$17.99. 978-0-525-42840-4. VOYA August 2015. 5Q 5P J S

“This debut novel sparkles. Absolutely nothing slows down the pace of this outrageous romp. This is one of those rare books

that promises something unique and actually delivers beyond expectation. At least one copy belongs in every young adult collection—maybe even two or three. Once the word gets out, this book will fly off the shelves.”

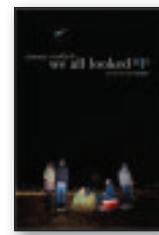


Vincent, Rachel. **The Stars Never Rise.** Delacorte/Random House, 2015. 368p. \$17.99. 978-0-385-74417-1. VOYA June 2015. 5Q 5P



“Older teens who are fans of *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* will love the complexity of the setting and characters and the convoluted story line. Adults who follow Vincent’s work may also enjoy this tale, especially if they attended parochial school in their young adult years.”

Wallach, Tommy. **We All Looked Up.** Simon & Schuster, 2015. 384p. \$17.99. 978-1-4814-1877-5. VOYA February 2015. 5Q 5P S



“Readers . . . will be challenged to question what matters in their own lives. This compelling, well-written narrative, which offers sometimes raw insight into human motivation and behavior, will have readers racing to the final pages and pondering its ideas long after.”

Wynne-Jones, Tim. **The Emperor of Any Place.** Candlewick, 2015. 336p. \$17.99. 978-0-7636-6973-7. VOYA August 2015. 5Q 5P M J S



“It is a gripping account of survival, fear, and hope peopled with the ghosts of children yet to be, ghoulish spirits of the never-to-be-born, and a fierce mythical beast with multiple lives. . . . Teen readers will devour this book. Tension, adventure, mystery, and fantasy combine to make this a page-turner.” ■

