YA Novels about Issues in Adolescent Lives & Development (Grades 4-12)

RELATIONSHIPS

**Family Relationships**

Creech, Sarah - *Walk Two Moons*
Weeks, Sarah - *So Be It* (mentally-disabled mother)
Alexander, Kwame – *The Crossover* (twins’ relationship)
Paterson, Katherine - *The Great Gilly Hopkins* (foster child)
Paterson, Katherine – *Park’s Quest*
Paterson, Katherine - *Preacher’s Boy*
Johnson, Angela – *The First Part Last* (teen boy raising baby)
Picoult, Jodi – My Sister’s Keeper (emancipation; donor for sister)
Ryan, Pam Munoz - *Becoming Naomi Leon*
Sarah Crossan - *Apple and Rain* (abandonment)
Alexander, Kawame – *Booked* (parent separation)
Testa, Maria – *Becoming Joe DiMaggio* (incarcerated father; raised by grandfather)
Holt, K.A. – *House Arrest* (brother with severe medical issues)
Lord, Cynthias – *Rules* (autism; disabilities; Peer Relationships)

**Peer Relationships**

Grimes, Nikki - *Masquerade*
Zevin, Gabrielle – *Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac*
Peters, Julie Anne – *Define Normal*
Crutcher, Chris – *Whale Talk*
Crutcher, Chris - *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrne*
Howe, James – *Addie on the Inside*
Howe, James – *The Misfits*
Woodson, Jacqueline - *After Tupac and D. Foster*
Woodson, Jacqueline – *The House You Pass on the Way*
Sonnenblick, Jordan – *Notes from a Midnight Driver*
Oates, Joyce Carol – *Big Mouth & Ugly Girl*
Wiviott, Meg – *Paper Hearts*
Woodson, Jacqueline - *I Hadn’t Meant to Tell You This*
Chbosky, Stephen - *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (and surviving abuse)
Alire Saenz, Benjamin – *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (also LGBT)

SOCIETY & MORAL DILEMMAS

Myers, Walter Dean – *Monster*
Myers, Walter Dean – *Autobiography of My Dead Brother*
Myers, Walter Dean – *Scorpions*
Myers, Walter Dean – *Shooter*
Myers, Walter Dean – *Hoops*
Hinton, S.E. – *The Outsiders*
Neri, G. - *Yummy, Tales of Southside Shorty*
Woodson, Jacqueline - *Hush*
Paterson, Katherine - *Bread and Roses, Too*
Flinn, Alex - *Fade to Black*
Williams, Michael – *Diamond Boy*
Flake, Sharon G. – *Money Hungry*
Anderson, Laurie Halse – *Twisted*
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OVECOMING OBSTACLES
McCormick, Patricia – *Sold* (sex trafficking)
Draper, Sharon – *Out of My Mind* (CP)
Hunt, Lynda Mullaly – *Fish in a Tree* (dyslexia)
Bell, Cece – *El Deafo* (hearing loss)
Truesdale, Terry - *Stuck in Neutral* and *Cruise Control* (severe CP)
Venkatraman, Padma – *A Time to Dance* (amputation)
Stewart, Elizabeth - *Blue Gold* (Congo conflict, Chinese factory, peer pressure)
Abeel, Samantha – *My Thirteenth Winter* (dyscalculia)
Myers, Walter Dean - *Bad Boy* (street life)
Yousafzai. Malala and Patricia McCormick - *I am Malala* (amputation)
Taylor, Blake E.S. - *ADHD and Me: What I Learned from Lighting Fires at the Dinner Table* (ADHD)
Rhodes-Courter, Ashley – *Three Little Words: A Memoir* (homelessness)
Voight, Cynthia – *Izzy Willy-Nilly* (amputation)
Hamilton, Bethany – *Soul Surfer* (amputation)
Wheatley, Sharon – ‘Til the Fat Girl Sings: From an Overweight Nobody to a Broadway Somebody* (homelessness)
Murphy, Julie - *Dumplin’* (body image)
Ellis, Deborah – *No Ordinary Day* (poverty/leprosy)
Ellis, Deborah – *I Am a Taxi* (incarcerated parents, cocaine slavery)
Connor, Leslie - *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook* (incarcerated parent)
Burg, Anne E. – *Serafina’s Promise* (poverty)
Jacobson, Jennifer Richard – *Paper Things* (homelessness)
Ayarbe, Heidi – *Compromised* (foster system, homelessness, Family and Peer Relationships)
Olson, Gretchen – *Call Me Hope* (verbal-abuse)
Walters, Eric – *Sketches* (homelessness, sexual abuse)
Gemeinhart, Dan - *The Honest Truth* (reoccurring cancer)
Reichardt, Marisa - *Underwater* (school shooting, mental illness, parent with PTSD)
Friend, Natasha – *Perfect* (anorexia)
Anderson, Laurie Halse – *Wintergirls* (anorexia and peer death)
Gottlieb, Lori – *Stick Figure: A Diary of My Former Self* (anorexia)
Runyon, Brent – *The Burn Journals* (attempted suicide)
Stork, Francisco X. – *The Memory of Light* (attempted suicide, mental illness)
Stone, Tamara Ireland - *Every Last Word* (OCD)
Anderson, Laurie Halse – *The Impossible Knife of Memory* (father’s PTSD)
Warga, Jasmine – *My Heart and Other Black Holes* (suicide; family relationships)
Toten, Teresa - *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B* (OCD)
Sones, Sonya – *Stop Pretending: What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy* (mental illness)
Sones, Sonya – *Saving Red* (mental illness, homelessness)

CONFRONTING ADVERSITY
Rawl, Paige – *Positive: A Memoir* (HIV+ bullying)
Palacio, R.J. - *Wonder* (physical difference)
Dean, Carolee – *Forget Me Not* (attempted suicide, bullying)
Langan, Paul – *The Bully*
Reynolds, Jason and Kiely, Brendan – *All American Boys* (racism, police brutality)
Lowery, Lynda – *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March*
Hilton, Marilyn – *Full Cicada Moon* (racism; feminism)
Spinelli, Jerry – *Maniac Magee* (racism)
Muse Daphne, ed – *Prejudice, a Story Collection*
Fogelin, Adrian - *Crossing Jordan* (racism and Peer Relationship)
Woodson, Jacqueline – *If You Come Softly* (interracial relationship, racism; Family Relationships)
Ellis, Deborah and Walters, Eric – *Bifocal* (anti-Muslim racism)

Compiled by Lesley.Roessing@armstrong.edu
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**LBGT Issues**
Peters, Julie Ann – *Luna* (T)
Howe, James – *Totally Joe* (G)
Wittlinger, Ellen – *Parrotfish* (T)
Ness, Patrick, *The Rest of Us Just Live Here*
Hartinger, Brent – *The Geography Club* (G)
Garden, Nancy – *Annie on My Mind* (L)
Gino, Alex - *George* (T)
Cron-Mills, Kirsti - *Beautiful Music for Ugly Children* (T)
Wright, Bill – *Putting Makeup on the Fat Boy* (G)
Polonsky, Ami – *Gracefully Grayson* (T)

**SURVIVING LOSS AND TRAUMA**
Anderson, Laurie Halse - *Speak* (rape; bullying)
Green, John – *The Fault in Our Stars* (cancer)
Erskine, Kathryn - *Mockingbird* (brother’s death)
Sloan, Holly Goldberg – *Counting by 7’s* (parents’ deaths)
Woodson, Jacqueline - *Locomotion* (mother’s death – foster care)
Reynolds, Jason – *The Boy in the Black Suit* (death of mother)
Benjamin, Ali - *The Thing about Jellyfish* (death of friend)
Leaver, Trisha - *The Secrets We Keep* (twin sister’s death)
Niven, Jennifer - *All the Bright Places* (sister’s death; attempted suicide)
Koertge, Ron – *Coaltown Jesus* (brother’s death)
Dooley, Sarah – *Free Verse* (brother/guardian’s death)
Quick, Matt – *Boy21* (parent death)
Blount, Patty - *Some Boys*# (rape; bullying)
Woodson, Jacqueline – *Miracle’s Boys* (mother’s death; Family Relationships)
Bryant, Jen – *Pieces of Georgia* (mother’s death, poverty)

**Surviving Contemporary War & Genocide**
Park, Linda Sue – *A Long Walk to Water* (Sudanese genocide)
Mikaelson, Ben - *Tree Girl* (Guatemalan genocide)
Beah, Ishmael – *Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* * (Sierra Leone civil war)
Chikwanine, Michel and Humphries, Jessica Dee - *Child Soldier: When Boys and Girls Are Used in War*
Nagai, Mariko - *Dust of Eden* (Japanese internment camp)

**CULTURE & THE CONTEMPORARY IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE**
Fleischman, Paul - *Seedfolks*
Alexie, Sherman – *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
Ryan, Pam Munoz - *Esperanza Rising*
Kadohata, Cynthia – *Kira-Kira*
Applegate, Kathryn - *Home of the Brave*
Satrapi, Marjane – *Persepolis*
Crew, Linda – *Children of the River*
Levithan, David – *Every Day*
Paulsen, Gary – *The Crossing* (illegal immigration)
Burg, Ann E. – *All the Broken Pieces* (bullying and Family Relationships)

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IDENTITY & SELF-DISCOVERY

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert - *Dairy Queen*
Spinelli, Jerry - *Stargirl*
Sonnenblick, Jordan – *Zen and the Art of Faking It*
Spinelli, Jerry – *Knots in My Yo-Yo*
Woodson, Jacqueline - *Brown Girl Dreaming* *
The Freedom Writers – *The Freedom Writers' Diaries* *
Woodson, Jacqueline – *The House You Pass on the Way*
LaPena, Matthew – *Mexican White Boy*
Nelson, Marilyn – *American Ace*
Margarita Engle – *Enchanted Air*
Flake, Sharon G. – *The Skin I’m In*
DePrince, Michela – *Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina* *
Holt, K.A. – *Rhyme Schemer*
Crossan, Sarah – *One#*

* memoir

# profanity

Additional title are listed in