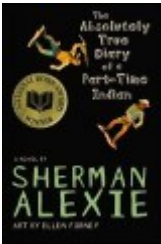


# Welcome to Real Life

## Realistic Fiction for Young Adults



YA Fiction Alexie, S  
[\*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian\*, by Sherman Alexie](#)

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. **Grades 8-12**

YA Fiction Anderson, L  
[\*Speak\*, by Laurie Halse Anderson](#)

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. **Grades 8-12**

YA Fiction Bauer, J  
[\*Hope Was Here\*, by Joan Bauer](#)

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor. **Grades 7-9**

YA Fiction Caletti, D  
[\*The Secret Life of Prince Charming\*, by Deb Caletti](#)

Seventeen-year-old Quinn has heard all her life about how untrustworthy men are, so when she discovers that her charismatic but selfish father, with whom she has recently begun to have a tentative relationship, has stolen from the many women in his life, she decides she must avenge this wrong. **Grades 9-12**



YA Fiction Cohen, J  
[\*Leverage\*, by Joshua C. Cohen](#)

High school sophomore Danny excels at gymnastics but is bullied, like the rest of the gymnasts, by members of the football team, until an emotionally and physically scarred new student joins the football team and forms an unlikely friendship with Danny. **Grades 9-12**

YA Fiction Dessen, S  
[\*What Happened to Goodbye\*, by Sarah Dessen](#)

Following her parents' bitter divorce as she and her father move from town to town, seventeen-year-old Mclean reinvents herself at each school she attends until she is no longer sure she knows who she is or where she belongs. **Grades 7-12**

YA Fiction Friend, N  
[\*Bounce\*, by Natasha Friend](#)

Thirteen-year-old Evyn's world is turned upside-down when her

father, widowed since she was a toddler, suddenly decides to marry a woman with six children, move with Ev and her brother from Maine to Boston, and enroll her in private school. **Grades 6-8**

YA Fiction Hesser, T  
[\*Kissing Doorknobs\*, by Terry Spencer Hesser](#)

Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life and affect her relationships with her family and friends. **Grades 8-10**

YA Fiction Jaramillo, A  
[\*La Linea\*, by Ann Jaramillo](#)

When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both. **Grades 5-8**



YA Fiction Kantor, M  
[\*Maybe One Day\*, by Melissa Kantor](#)

Zoe thought that being cut from her ballet program was the worst thing that could happen, but when her best friend Olivia is diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, Zoe quickly learns that not being able to dance is the least of her problems. **Grades 9-12**

YA Fiction Kirby, J  
[\*Golden\*, by Jessi Kirby](#)

Seventeen-year-old Parker Frost has never taken the road less traveled. Valedictorian and quintessential good girl, she's about to graduate high school without ever having kissed her crush or broken the rules. So when fate drops a clue in her lap--one that might be the key to unraveling a town mystery--she decides to take a chance. **Grades 8-12**

YA Fiction Lockhart, E  
[\*The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks\*, by E. Lockhart](#)

Sophomore Frankie starts dating senior Matthew Livingston, but when he refuses to talk about the all-male secret society that he and his friends belong to, Frankie infiltrates the society in order to enliven their mediocre pranks. **Grades 7-12**

YA Fiction Mass, W  
[\*Mango Shaped Space\*, by Wendy Mass](#)

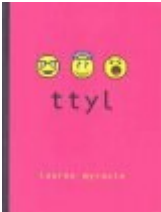
Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing rela-

tionships, and the loss of something important to her. **Grades 5-8**

YA Fiction McNamee, G

[\*Acceleration\*, by Graham McNamee](#)

Stuck working in the Lost and Found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him. **Grades 8-12**



YA Fiction Myracle, L

[\*TTYL\*, by Lauren Myracle](#)

Chronicles, in "instant message" format, the day-to-day experiences, feelings, and plans of three friends, Zoe, Maddie, and Angela, as they begin tenth grade. **Grades 8-10**

YA Fiction Myers, W

[\*Monster\*, by Walter Dean Myers](#)

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. **Grades 7-12**

YA Fiction Quick, M

[\*Boy 21\*, by Matthew Quick](#)

Finley, an unnaturally quiet boy who is the only white player on his high school's varsity basketball team, lives in a dismal Pennsylvania town that is ruled by the Irish mob, and when his coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred there from an elite private school in California, he finds that they have a lot in common in spite of their apparent differences. **Grades 8-12**



YA Fiction Rowell, R

[\*Eleanor & Park\*, by Rainbow Rowell](#)

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. **Grades 9-12**

YA Fiction Shusterman, N

[\*The Schwa Was Here\*, by Neal Shusterman](#)

A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone. The two boys form a partnership, and conduct a series of experiments designed to test the limits of the "Schwa Effect". **Grades 7-10**

YA Fiction Smith, R

[\*Zach's Lie\*, by Roland Smith](#)

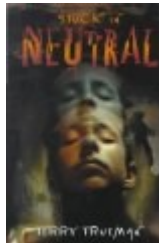
When Jack Osborne is befriended by his school's custodian and a Basque girl, he begins to adjust to his family's sudden move to Elko, Nevada, after entering the Witness Security Program, but the drug cartel against which his father will testify is determined to track them down. **Grades 5-9**

YA Fiction Sonnenblick, J

[\*Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip\*, by Jordan Sonnenblick](#)

After an injury ends former star pitcher Peter Friedman's athlet-

ic dreams, he concentrates on photography which leads him to a girlfriend, new fame as a high school sports photographer, and a deeper relationship with the beloved grandfather who, when he realizes he's becoming senile, gives Pete all of his professional camera gear. **Grades 7-9**



YA Fiction Trueman, T

[\*Stuck in Neutral\*, by Terry Trueman](#)

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him. **Grades 6-10**

YA Fiction Whaley, J

[\*Where Things Come Back\*, by John Corey Whaley](#)

Seventeen-year-old Cullen's summer in Lily, Arkansas, is marked by his cousin's death by overdose, an alleged spotting of a woodpecker thought to be extinct, failed romances, and his younger brother's sudden disappearance. **Grades 8-12**

YA Fiction Wunder, W

[\*The Museum of Intangible Things\*, by Wendy Wunder](#)

Best friends Hannah and Zoe, seventeen, leave their down-and-out New Jersey town and drive west chasing storms, making new friends, and seeking the intangibles--audacity, insouciance, happiness--that their lives have lacked. **Grades 9-12**



YA Fiction Zusak, M

[\*I am the Messenger\*, by Markus Zusak](#)

After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness. **Grades 9-12**

Authors to try:

[Laurie Halse Anderson](#)

[Sarah Dessen](#)

[John Green](#)

[Ellen Hopkins](#)

