Librarians and staff from across The New York Public Library system have compiled a list of the best books of 2021 for teens, including fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels. Explore the list—and more for readers of all ages: nypl.org/bestbooks

**FICTION**

- **Bad Witch Burning**
  Jessica Lewis

- **Beasts of Prey**
  Ayana Gray

- **Chlorine Sky: A Novel**
  Mahogany L. Browne

- **The City Beautiful**
  Aden Polydoros

- **The Cost of Knowing**
  Brittney Morris

- **Dagger Hill**
  Devon Taylor

- **Darling**
  K. Ancrum

- **Dustborn**
  Erin Bowman

- **Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry**
  Joya Goffney

- **Firekeeper’s Daughter**
  Angeline Boulley

- **The Girls I’ve Been**
  Tess Sharpe

- **House of Hollow**
  Krystal Sutherland

- **How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love with the Universe**
  Raquel Vasquez Gilliland

- **Hurricane Summer**
  Asha Bromfield

- **If I Tell You the Truth**
  Jasmin Kaur

- **Iron Widow**
  Xiran Jay Zhao

- **Last Night at the Telegraph Club**
  Malinda Lo

- **Love Is a Revolution**
  Renée Watson

- **The Mary Shelley Club**
  Goldy Moldavsky

- **Perfectly Parvin**
  Olivia Abtahi

- **A Snake Falls to Earth**
  Darcie Little Badger

- **Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet**
  Laekan Zea Kemp

- **Spin Me Right Round**
  David Valdes

- **Sway with Me**
  Syed M. Masood

- **This Is Not the Jess Show**
  Anna Carey

- **This Poison Heart**
  Kalynn Bayron

- **The Valley and the Flood**
  Rebecca Mahoney

- **The Witch King**
  H.E. Edgmon

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

- **Boys Run the Riot, Vol. 1**
  Keito Gaku

- **Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms**
  Crystal Frasier, art by Val Wise

- **Clockwork Curandera, Volume 1: The Witch Owl Parliament**
  David Bowles & Raúl the Third

- **The Crossroads at Midnight**
  Abby Howard

nypl.org/bestbooks
The Dire Days of Willowweep Manor
Shaenon K. Garrity, illustrated by Christopher Baldwin

The Hazards of Love, Book 1: Bright World
Stan Stanley

Himawari House
Harmony Becker

Mao, Vol. 1
Rumiko Takahashi

My Love Mix-Up! Vol. 1
Wataru Hinekure, art by Aruko

Nubia: Real One
L.L. McKinney, illustrated by Robyn Smith

Yasmeen
Saif A. Ahmed, illustrated by Fabiana Mascolo

NONFICTION

Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre
Brandy Colbert

Can't Stop Won't Stop: A Hip-Hop History (Young Adult Edition)
Jeff Chang & Dave “Davey D” Cook

Determined to Stay: Palestinian Youth Fight for Their Village
Jody Sokolower

Disability Visibility: 17 First-Person Stories for Today (Adapted for Young Adults)
Alice Wong

A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome
Ariel Henley

From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement
Paula Yoo

Let's Talk About It: The Teen’s Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human
Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan

Punching Bag
Rex Ogle

Queer as All Get Out: 10 People Who’ve Inspired Me
Shelby Criswell

Revolution in Our Time: The Black Panther Party’s Promise to the People
Kekla Magoon

Singled Out: The True Story of Glenn Burke
Andrew Maraniss

About Best Books
Every year our librarians and staff select noteworthy new books for readers of all ages. These lists have always sought to reflect the diversity of New York City’s readership. Special thanks to our Best Books committees, the members of which have read thousands of books to bring readers these recommendations. Learn more: nypl.org/bestbooks

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