

ADVENTURE /// SURVIVAL

Bacigalupi, Paolo

Ship Breaker (and sequels)

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

Bodeen, S. A.

The Raft

Robbie's last-minute flight to the Midway Atoll proves to be a nightmare when the plane goes down in shark-infested waters, but the real terror begins when the co-pilot Max pulls her onto the raft.

Braun, Melinda

Stranded

A year after the death of her sister, Emma ventures with a hiking group into the dangerous woods of the Boundary Waters. After a freak windstorm kills their guide, the group must endure the wrath of Mother Nature--and each other--if they hope to make it out of the woods alive.

Braun, Melinda

Avalanche

After an avalanche hits, a group of skiers in the Rocky Mountains must survive Mother Nature and a life-threatening injury to one of their members in order to make it out of the mountains and find help.

Buford, Candace

Good As Gold

Casey goes from being the queen bee of her prep school to an outcast after her father loses his job. As a result, she may not be able to leave for the Ivy Leagues in the fall. She joins a group of new friends who are the exact opposite of her usual crowd to search for treasure rumored to be buried in her town. They create a plan to find the treasure and save Casey's family and her future. What they find is much more complicated than just a pile of gold.

Carter, Ally

Not if I Save You First

After six years of no word from her best friend, Logan, he shows up on the doorstep of the remote Alaskan cabin Maddie and her father live in with an assailant in pursuit. City boy Logan doesn't know how to respond to survivalist Maddie, and they quickly discover that even remote Alaska is not far enough to run away from the Russian threat.

Clemens, Samuel (Mark Twain)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Huckleberry Finn, an abused outcast, rafts with Jim, a runaway slave, down the Mississippi River where they have a variety of experiences.

Clemens, Samuel (Mark Twain)

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

The adventures and pranks of a mischievous boy growing up in a 19th-century Mississippi River town.

Colfer, Eoin

Airman

In the late nineteenth century, when Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee Prison by way of a flying machine that he must design, build, and, hardest of all, trust to carry him to safety.

Craze, Galaxy

The Last Princess

Tired of the royal family's relative comfort while they suffer in the wake of worldwide catastrophes in 2090, rebels kill the British king and abduct two of his children. Princess Eliza escapes, disguises herself, and joins the rebels to seek revenge and the safe return of her siblings.

Crichton, Michael

Congo

Armed with the latest gifts of advanced technology, a California scientist, a ruthless corporation agent, and a mercenary hunter face the dangers of the Congo jungle in search of the diamonds of the lost city of Zinj.

Crowder, Melanie

Jumper

Accepted into the Forest Service's class of smokejumpers, nineteen-year-old wildland firefighter Blair Scott takes unnecessary risks to prove herself and struggles to cope when everything rages wildly out of control.

Ducie, Joe

The Rig

Fifteen-year-old Will Drake has made a career of breaking out of high-security prisons. His talents have landed him at the Rig, a specialist juvenile holding facility in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. No one can escape from the Rig. No one except Drake.

Engel, Amy

The Book of Ivy

In an apocalyptic future where girls from the losing faction are forcibly married to boys of the winning faction, sixteen-year-old Ivy is tasked to kill her fiancé Bishop—but when she finally meets him, he is not the monster she has been led to believe.

Eldridge, Jim

Jungle Force

When former Special Forces officer Mitch is offered a dangerous undercover mission, he must trust his five new teammates as they rescue a West African freedom fighter.

Friesen, Jonathan

Rush

A pariah in his town and home because of the results of his risk-taking behavior, eighteen-year-old Jake seeks adrenaline rushes to clear his dark thoughts. When Salome, the girl he loves, gets caught up in taking chances, too, the consequences are devastating.

Funke, Cornelia

The Thief Lord

Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with and the protection of Venice's "Thief Lord."

George, Jean Craighead

My Side of the Mountain (and sequel)

A boy's experiences living by himself in a remote area of the Catskill Mountains.

Gilman, David

The Devil's Breath (and sequels)

When his father goes missing and he is almost killed at his boarding school in England, Max travels to the wilderness of Namibia to try to find him. In Namibia, he learns about his father's work to stop Shaka Chang and his evil plot for ecological destruction.

Golding, William

Lord of the Flies

The classic study of human nature depicting the degeneration of a group of schoolboys marooned on a desert island.

Greci, Paul

The Wild Lands

When their family makes the fateful decision not to evacuate when a collapsing U.S. government abandons an Alaska ravaged by earthquakes and wildfires, Travis, his younger sister, and their friends are forced to trek hundreds of miles south over life-threatening terrain in search of what remains of civilization.

Halpern, Jake

Nightfall

On a distant island where day and night exist on fourteen-year cycles and the islanders migrate south each sunset, three teens get left behind and must find a way off the island before the Night finds them.

Henry, April

Playing with Fire

When a fire engulfs an Oregon forest, a group of trapped hikers must find another way out.

Henry, April

Run, Hide, Fight Back

Told from multiple viewpoints, holiday shoppers struggle to survive as three masked shooters open fire in a crowded mall. Five teens who are trapped in a store form a plan to stop them.

Hilton, James

Lost Horizon

Following a plane crash in the Himalayan mountains, a lost group of Englishmen and Americans stumble upon the dream-like, utopian world of Shangri-La, where life is eternal and civilization refined.

Hobbs, Will

Downriver (and sequel)

Fifteen-year-old Jessie and the other rebellious teenage members of a wilderness survival school team abandon their adult leader, hijack his boats, and try to run the dangerous white water at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Hobbs, Will

Far North

After the destruction of their floatplane, two teenage boys struggle for survival in the wilderness along the South Nahanni River.

Hobbs, Will

The Maze

Rick, a fourteen-year-old foster child, escapes from a juvenile detention facility near Las Vegas and travels to Canyonlands National Park in Utah where he meets a bird biologist working on a project to reintroduce condors to the wild.

Hoyle, McCall

Meet the Sky

With nothing but pain in her past, all Sophie wants is to plan for the future—keep the family business running, get accepted to veterinary school, and protect her mom and sister from another disaster. But when a hurricane forms off the coast of North Carolina's Outer Banks and heads right toward their island, Sophie realizes nature is one thing she can't control.

Key, Watt

Terror at Bottle Creek

Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama. He's been teaching his son everything he knows. When a deadly Gulf Coast hurricane makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put his all skills--and bravery--to the test.

King, Stephen

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon

When a nine-year-old girl becomes lost on a hike on the Appalachian Trail, she relies on her courage and faith as she imagines her hero, baseball pitcher Tom Gordon, is with her.

Klavan, Andrew

If We Survive

When revolutionaries seize control of a country in Central America where sixteen-year-old Will is serving at a mission, he and the other volunteers find themselves in a desperate race to escape the violence and return home.

Lewis, Richard

The Killing Sea

In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Sumatra, two teenagers, American Sarah and Acehnese Ruslan, meet and continue together their arduous climb inland, where Ruslan hopes to find his father and Sarah seeks a doctor for her brother.

London, Jack

The Call of the Wild

The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard and part Scotch Shepherd, that was kidnapped and shipped off to Alaska to work on the Klondike Gold Rush.

London, Jack

White Fang

A wolf cub learns he must fight famine, the elements, and man to survive.

Marshall, Kate Alice

I Am Still Alive

Jess hasn't seen her father in years, so she doesn't know what to expect when she lands at the remote Alaska airport where he's supposed to pick her up. She's surprised by an even further journey into the back country of Canada where her father lives off the grid in a cabin he built by himself. Her new situation is tough, and the debilitating injuries and chronic pain she sustained during the car crash that killed her mother make it even worse. But when her father is murdered by men from his past who burn his cabin to the ground, Jess has to rely on the meager skills she learned in their brief time together to survive a winter in the wilderness.

Martel, Yann

Life of Pi

Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for America. When the ship sinks, he escapes on a lifeboat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.

McAdam, Tash

Sink or Swim

Shy trans teen Bass reluctantly skips school and goes on a boat trip with his adventurous girlfriend, Rosie. When a sudden storm smashes their boat on the rocky shore of a deserted island, Bass and Rosie struggle to make it to safety. Bruised and battling hypothermia, the pair have to work together to survive. Rosie, an experienced climber, decides to scale a steep cliff to find help, but she falls and injures herself badly. Now Bass has to find the strength and courage to swim for help before it's too late.

McCarthy, Cormac

The Road

In a novel set in an indefinite, futuristic, post-apocalyptic world, a father and his young son make their way through the ruins of a devastated American landscape, struggling to survive and to preserve the last remnants of their own humanity.

McCaughrean, Geraldine

Where the World Ends

In the summer of 1727, Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stac to harvest birds for food--but no boat returns to get them. Has the world ended?

McCombs, Victoria

Oathbound

Emme has spent her life avoiding anything to do with pirates, but the fates are cruel, and now a hidden sickness leads her to partner with pirates for the one thing that can cure her--rumored to be on an island none are certain exists. The captain's obligations are tinged with betrayal, his secrets darker than the deep, and just as lethal.

Miller-Schroeder, Patricia Sisters of the Wolf

The climate is changing, game is disappearing, and two peoples of the Ice Age compete for survival in a savage world. Keena, from a powerful band of Neanderthals, and Shinoni, daughter of a Cro-Magnon shaman, are torn from their families by Haken, a ruthless hunter. The girls dislike each other but soon discover they need each other to survive. Together they escape but are pursued by Haken across an Ice-Age landscape rumbling with advancing glaciers and teeming with mighty predators. As Shinoni and Keena work to overcome disaster at every turn, they are joined by Tewa, a powerful she-wolf, who becomes their guardian and spirit guide. Can their growing friendship overcome cultural, racial, and even species differences? Will they ever be able to find their families? Only the spirits know.

Morel, Alex Survive

A troubled girl is stranded in an arctic winter terrain after a plane crash and must fight for survival with the only other survivor.

Nijkamp, Marieke At the End of Everything

The Hope Juvenile Treatment Center is ironically named: no one has hope for these delinquent teenagers. When the guards don't show up one day, the teens are shocked to learn a catastrophic pandemic has occurred outside their walls. Their new-found freedom is now a fight for survival-- and there is no one watching out for them. As supplies dwindle, the group has to decide whom among them they can trust-- and if they even want to survive in a world that has never wanted them.

Panitch, Amanda Gone Dark

When a terrorist attack cuts electricity across North America, Zara and her would-be boyfriend Gabe set out to find Gabe's sister--her best friend Estella--relying on skills Zara learned from her survivalist father.

Paulsen, Gary Hatchet (and sequels)

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness where he must learn to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth Life As We Knew It (and sequels)

Sixteen-year-old Miranda describes through journal entries her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Prasad, Chandra Damselfly

Indian-American teenager Samantha Mishra, her best friend Mel Sharpe, and the other members of the Drake Rosemont Academy fencing team are on their way to Tokyo when their plane crashes on a jungle-choked island. While they hope for rescue, the teens will need to use all their ingenuity to survive the jungle, the old man who is stalking them--and each other.

Ramey, Stacie The Secrets We Bury

Rather than be placed in a special school for psychologically-challenged students, Dylan, six months from turning eighteen, sets out on the Appalachian Trail, where he makes surprising connections with other hikers.

Rawls, Wilson Where the Red Fern Grows

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

Reichardt, Marisa Aftershocks

When a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hits California, Ruby is trapped in a laundromat with Charlie, a boy she met only moments before. She can't see anything beyond the rubble that she's trapped beneath, but she's sure someone will come save them soon. As the hours and days tick by, Ruby and Charlie struggle to stay hopeful-- and stay alive. Ruby has only Charlie's voice and her memories to find the hope to keep holding on.

Rode, Rebecca Tides of Mutiny

A sixteen-year-old girl hiding as a cabin boy on a ship must fight for her place in a world that executes female sailors, all while falling for a mysterious stowaway who could destroy everything.

Rodman, Sean Infiltration

Bex breaks into locked and abandoned buildings just because he can, but when a new friend's behavior becomes more and more risky, he has to do the right thing.

Sachar, Louis Holes

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune (which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative), Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Schafer, Steve

The Border

After the slaughter of their families in Northern Mexico, teens Pato, Arbo, Marcos, and Gladys narrowly escape into the Sonoran Desert, pursued by the La Frontera gang.

Smith, Mark

The Road to Winter

*Living alone after a virus killed his family and community, Finn has his solitude shattered when a girl named Rose shows up looking for her missing sister, and the two try **to** find her and survive poor decisions, the wild, and a ruthless gang.*

Smith, Roland

Beneath (and sequel)

Pat O'Toole has always idolized his older brother, Coop, right up until the day Coop ran away from their home just outside Washington, D.C. -- now a year later he has received a package containing a digital voice recorder and a cryptic message from his brother which will lead Pat on a strange and dangerous journey to the mysterious Community living beneath the streets of New York.

Smith, Roland

Peak (and sequels)

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Stevenson, Robert Louis

Kidnapped

A seventeen-year-old orphan is kidnapped by his villainous uncle but later escapes and becomes involved in the struggle of the Scottish Highlanders against English rule.

Stevenson, Robert Louis

Treasure Island

While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as great danger. The young boy accompanies Long John Silver and his band of pirates in search of the buried treasure.

Stone, Danika

Switchback

Vale loves to hike but kind of hates her classmates. Ash is okay with his classmates but kind of hates the outdoors. Needless to say, they are both fairly certain that the overnight nature hike with their PE class is going to be a hellish experience. But when they get separated from the group during a storm, they have worse things to worry about than bullies and blisters. Lost in the Canadian wilderness with limited supplies, caught in dangerous weather conditions, and surrounded by deadly wildlife, it's going to take every bit of strength, skill, and luck they can muster to survive.

Strasser, Todd

Boot Camp

Abducted by transporters in the middle of the night, Garrett finds himself handcuffed in the back of a car trying to make sense of why he is being sent to a facility for troubled teens. Convinced that he does not belong in Lake Harmony, he has difficulty conforming to the camp's standards. As a result, he is subjected to continuous physical and mental abuse.

Tintera, Amy

The Q

When the president's son, Lennon, is kidnapped and pushed out of an airplane over the Q, a vast quarantine zone, Maisie gives him a seventy-two hour vaccine and together the two teenagers attempt to fight their way through the Q in order to survive.

Verne, Jules

Around the World in Eighty Days

Follows the adventures of English gentleman Phileas Fogg as he tries to win his wager that he can travel around the world in eighty days.

White, Robb

Deathwatch

A hunting trip turns into a test for survival as Ben guides a ruthless businessman into the desert.

Whyman, Matt

Icecore (and sequel)

Carl Hobbes, a 17-year-old British hacker, has penetrated the ultimate network; he's hacked into Fort Knox. Although he hasn't done it for profit ("I did it because I could.... It was the security measures I wanted to beat"), his ingenuity isn't exactly appreciated. The U.S. government essentially kidnaps him and, along with some of the most infamous mercenaries and terrorists in the world, transports him to a U.S. detainment camp in the Arctic Circle for questioning.

Wilson, Jared

Echo Island

When four recent high school graduates return home from a weekend of camping, they expect to go back to life as usual. Instead, the boys discover empty streets, abandoned cars, and utter silence--everyone has disappeared. As the friends attempt to solve the mystery, they stumble upon more questions than answers. Why won't the electronics work? Where did the wind go? What do the notebooks full of gibberish mean? With each new discovery, they learn that nothing was ever quite what it seemed on Echo Island and that a deep secret is drawing them in--if only they would surrender to it. Uncover exactly what happened on Echo Island and what the story of these four friends has to do with God, the meaning of life, and the nature of reality.

Withers, Pam

First Descent

Rex is excited when he is given the opportunity to go kayaking on the El Furiso River in southwest Columbia. When he is there, he and an indigena named Myriam Calambas become caught up in the clash between paramilitaries and guerillas.

Withers, Pam

Mountain Runaways

When a Canadian Rockies avalanche kills their parents, Children's Services threatens to separate the three Gunnarsson kids, Jon, Korka, and Aron. They decide to run away into the mountains and fend for themselves until Jon turns eighteen and becomes their legal guardian. But can they survive all that the backcountry throws at them--hunger, illness and injury, dangerous animals, a shadowy woods dweller, and search teams in pursuit? Above all, can they stop their feisty threesome from unravelling?

Withers, Pam

Mountainboard Maniacs

When a junior-guide training trip promises action on three of the Pacific Northwest's largest mountains, Jake and Peter shrug off the fact that all are sleeping volcanoes that could erupt at any time. Things heat up when at least one of the mountains begins rumbling, and matters get even more complicated by Peter's secret agenda, Jake's inner turmoil, and the arrival of two girls and a nasty senior guide.

Withers, Pam

Peak Survival

Peter, Jake, and Moses, on a snowboarding trip in the backcountry, witness a helicopter crash. As they try to rescue the survivors, they are caught in an avalanche.

Withers, Pam

Raging River

Peter and Jake, friends and rivals, go on a whitewater-rafting trip. After a series of mishaps strands their group, they need all of their skill to get through the rapids and find help.

Withers, Pam

Stowaway

When Owen's parents leave him on his own for a week, the sixteen-year-old gets bored and hatches a crazy idea: sneaking on to the yacht that's visiting the sleepy Pacific Coast island where he lives and stowing away on an adventure! Once on board the vessel, though, Owen quickly finds out this is anything but innocent fun. The ship is packed with teenagers from Central America, and it looks like Owen has stumbled into a people-smuggling operation.

Withers, Pam

Surf Zone

Jake and Peter and their new friend Valerie become stranded on a desert island in British Columbia with only their surfboards after a scuba-diving accident, and they need to find a way home before a huge storm hits.

Withers, Pam

Wake's Edge

Jake and Peter are junior instructors at a noisy wakeboard school that is attempting to share a remote lake with a community of Save-the-Earth Society dropouts (otherwise known as hippies). Jake and Peter love performing their own tricks behind a powerboat driven by the school's founder, a macho young wakeboard fanatic known as "the party animal." When Peter encourages the wild streak in a rebellious hippie girl across the lake, she runs away to hide in a nearby abandoned sawmill, only to discover it's not as abandoned as it looks.

Wynne-Jones, Tim

The Starlight Claim

It's been four months since Nate's pal Dodge disappeared in a terrible boating accident. Nate has been haunted by nightmares ever since, desperate for closure over his friend's demise. Armed with survivalist skills that his father taught him from a young age, Nate travels to his family's secluded camp only to find it already occupied by some nefarious characters: a trio of felons who've escaped from a nearby prison. Trapped by a winter storm and joined by a mysterious ally, Nate is forced to use his smarts and unique skills to make it out alive.

Wyss, Johann

Swiss Family Robinson

A family struggles to survive after being shipwrecked on an island with abundant plant and animal life.