

ADVENTURE /// SURVIVAL

Bacigalupi, Paolo

Ship Breaker (and sequel)

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.

Burroughs, Edgar Rice

Tarzan of the Apes; Return of Tarzan

An English boy raised by a community of apes in the jungles of Africa encounters other human beings for the first time.

Butcher, A. J.

Spy High Mission One (and sequels)

1st book in the Spy High series. As students at a special high school that trains them to be secret agents, six teenagers struggle to complete the training exercises as a team before being sent out into the field to sink or swim.

Clemens, Samuel

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

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.

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.

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.

Harmon, Michael

Skate

Facing a disintegrating home life and trouble at school, teenager Ian McDermott runs away with his younger brother to Washington State in search of safety, justice, and their long-absent father.

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

The Big Wander

As he searches for his uncle through the rugged Southwest canyon country, Clay becomes involved with a group of Navajo Indians who are trying to save some of the last wild mustangs.

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.

Holmes, Kathryn

The Distance between Lost and Found

Sophomore Hallie Calhoun, her former friend Jonah, and new friend Rachel leave a church youth group hike in the Great Smoky Mountains and become lost for five days. As they struggle to survive, Hallie finally speaks about the incident that made her a social pariah and Jonah admits why it hurt him so much.

Horowitz, Anthony

Stormbreaker (and sequels)

1st book in the Alex Rider series. After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

Kephart, Beth

This Is the Story of You

Seventeen-year-old Mira lives in a small island beach town off the coast of New Jersey year-round. When a devastating superstorm strikes, she faces the storm's wrath and the destruction it leaves behind alone.

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.

Khoury, Jessica

Kalahari

Deep in the Kalahari Desert, a Corpus lab protects a dangerous secret. But what happens when that secret takes on a life of its own? When an educational safari goes wrong, five teens find themselves stranded in the Kalahari Desert without a guide.

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.

Kjelgaard, Jim

Big Red

A boy and an Irish setter wander over wilderness trails, hunt together, and fight for their lives against a killer bear.

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.

Mallory, Alex

Wild

Cade grew up among the trees and caves of Daniel Boone National Forest. Dara grew up in the Kentucky town of Makwa. When a camping trip Dara takes with her boyfriend, Josh, turns terrifying, the world of the forest and the world of modern-day Kentucky are thrust together. Cade is forced out of the wilderness and must contend with the media circus forming around him. Retelling of Edgar Rice Burroughs's Tarzan of the Apes.

Marsden, John

Tomorrow, When the War Began (and sequels)

1st book in the Tomorrow series. Seven Australian teenagers return from a camping trip in the bush to discover that their country has been invaded, and they must hide to stay alive.

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.

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.

Mikaelsen, Ben

Touching Spirit Bear

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on Native American Circle Justice. He is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where he struggles to survive after he destroys vital supplies in a fit of anger.

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.

Paulsen, Gary

Canyons

Finding a skull on a camping trip in the canyons outside El Paso, Texas, Brennan becomes involved with the fate of a young Apache Indian who lived in the late 1800s.

Paulsen, Gary

Hatchet (and sequels)

1st book in the Brian series. 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)

1st book in the Life As We Knew It series. 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.

Pratchett, Terry

Nation

After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives. Fantasy.

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.

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 (and sequel)

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.

Schreifer, Eliot

Endangered

Sophie is not happy to be back in the Congo for the summer, but when she rescues an abused baby bonobo she becomes more involved in her mother's sanctuary--and when fighting breaks out and the sanctuary is attacked, it is up to Sophie to rescue the apes and somehow survive in the jungle.

Schreiber, Joe

Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick

Perry's parents insist that he take Gobi, their quiet, Lithuanian exchange student, to senior prom. After an incident at the dance, he learns that Gobi is actually a trained assassin who needs him as a henchman, behind the wheel of his father's precious Jaguar, on a mission in Manhattan.

Smelcer, John

The Trap

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, while the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive when he is caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.

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

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 sequel)

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.

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.

Thompson, Julian

The Grounding of Group 6

Arriving at what they believe is an exclusive school, five sixteen-year olds are unaware that they have been sent there to be exterminated and that their teacher is a murderer for hire.

Thoms, Gigi

Noble Pocket

Orphan Noble Pocket knows Professor Fairweather keeps some dangerous secrets, secrets so valuable that others would do anything to get them. When the professor disappears, it's up to Noble to piece together the clues that will lead to the professor's biggest secret of all.

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.

Weaver, Will

Memory Boy (and sequel)

Sixteen-year-old Miles and his family must flee their Minneapolis home and begin a new life in the wilderness after a chain of cataclysmic volcanic explosions creates dangerous conditions in their city.

Wesselhoeft, Conrad

Dirt Bikes, Drones, and Other Ways to Fly

Arlo Santiago is a lover of all things extreme—from racing his dirtbike through the New Mexican landscape to competing for the highest score on the video game Drone Pilot. However, it may all be just a cover for dealing with the darkness in his life: his mother's sudden death, his father drinking problem, and his sister 's Huntington's disease. Arlo's life takes a sudden turn when he is recruited by the U.S. Air Force to fly a real military drone in an effort to catch the leader of a terrorist group.

White, Andrea

No Child's Game: Reality TV 2083

In a future where the government plies the public with nonstop reality television to provide distraction from the rampant poverty, and higher education is won or lost on a dice toss, Historical Survivor is the most popular program on the tube. Teens Andrew, Polly, Robert, Billy, and Grace have been chosen from a pool of thousands to reenact Robert F. Scott's fatal 1910-13 expedition to the South Pole in Antarctic Historical Survivor. Like Scott, they will face hidden crevasses, mechanical failure, and frostbite. But while Scott's calamities occurred naturally, the Secretary of Entertainment has made sure the teens' perils are written into the script.

White, Robb

Deathwatch

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

Whyman, Matt

Iccore (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. detention camp in the Arctic Circle for questioning.

Williams, Scott B.

The Darkness After

When massive solar flares send an intense electromagnetic pulse to Earth, every electrical device is fried instantly. The modern world that sixteen-year-old Mitch Henley has always known comes crashing down. Anarchy, looting, and chaos explode all around him. Stranded in New Orleans, Mitch escapes into the Mississippi backwoods he knows so well, hoping to stay alive using the survival and hunting skills he learned from his game-warden father.

Willocks, Tim

Doglands

Furgal, a half-greyhound puppy, escapes a cruel dogtrack owner and sets out in the hope of finding his father and the fabled Doglands, later returning to try to free his mother, sisters, and the other abused dogs.

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

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

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.

Wyss, Johann

Swiss Family Robinson

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