

OUTSIDERS /// NONCONFORMISTS /// REBELS

Abdel-Fattah, Randa **Does My Head Look Big in This?**

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style.

Alexie, Sherman **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**

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.

Anderson, Laurie Halse **Speak**

A traumatic event in the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year of high school.

Andreu, Maria E. **The Secret Side of Empty**

As her friends make plans for life after high school, M.T. struggles to envision her future as an undocumented immigrant and becomes determined to make a life for herself in the only place she has ever known as home.

Avi **Nothing but the Truth**

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Banks, Piper **Geek High**

At this school, everyone's a geek. And Miranda Bloom still can't fit in . . . Miranda is a math genius with divorced parents, an evil stepmother, and no boyfriend in sight. She can't even fit in with the other geeks at the Nottingham Independent School for high-IQ students because they actually have useful talents. Miranda, on the other hand, is known as "The Human Calculator" which doesn't amount to much when people have, you know, their own calculators. Then Miranda gets stuck planning the school's Snowflake Gala. As she struggles to find a date and drum up some school spirit at Nottingham—aka "Geek High," she finds that who you are means more than where you fit in.

Blount, Patty **Send**

Incarcerated five years ago for sending a photo of a classmate in character underwear to all of his friends--resulting in the boy's suicide--18-year-old Kenny has since been on the move with his family, seeking anonymity. Starting his senior year at a new school with an assumed name, Dan, he immediately gets himself in trouble when he stops a bully from beating up perennial victim Brandon.

Calonita, Jen **Belles (and sequel)**

Fifteen-year-old Isabelle loves her impoverished North Carolina beach community, but when her grandmother must enter a nursing home, Izzie is placed with distant relatives she never knew--a state senator and his preppy wife and children.

Colasanti, Susane **Keep Holding On**

Bullied at school and neglected by her self-absorbed, single mother at home, high school junior Noelle finally realizes she must do something to change her life after a classmate commits suicide.

Cormier, Robert **The Chocolate War (and sequel)**

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

Crutcher, Chris **Whale Talk**

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Dessen, Sarah **Just Listen**

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen whose honesty and passion for music helps her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

Flinn, Alexandra **Breaking Point**

Fifteen-year-old Paul enters an exclusive private school and falls under the spell of a charismatic boy who may be using him.

Friesen, Jonathan

Jerk, California

Plagued by Tourette's syndrome and a stepfather who despises him, Sam meets an old man in his small Midwest town who sends him on a road trip designed to help him discover the truth about his life.

Friesen, Jonathan

Rush

A pariah in his town and home because 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.

Fukui, Isamu

Truancy (and sequels)

In the City, where an iron-fisted Mayor's goal is perfect control through education, fifteen-year-old Tack is torn between a growing sympathy for the Truancy, an underground movement determined to bring down the system at any cost, and the desire to avenge a death caused by a Truant.

Haddon, Mark

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Hartinger, Brent

Geography Club

A group of gay and lesbian teenagers finds mutual support when they form the "Geography Club" at their high school.

Hautman, Pete

Blank Confession

A new and enigmatic student named Shayne appears at high school one day, befriends the smallest boy in the school, and takes on a notorious drug dealer before turning himself in to the police for killing someone.

Hinton, S. E.

The Outsiders

Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society in which they find themselves "outsiders."

Hrdlitschka, Shelley

Sister Wife

Living in the isolated rural community of Unity, fifteen-year-old Celeste struggles to fit in while she is assigned to marry an older man with five other wives and watches as other teens leave the community to survive in the outside world.

Johnson, J. J.

This Girl Is Different

Having always been home schooled by her counter-culture mother, Evie has decided to spend her senior year at the local public high school, an experience that challenges her preconceptions about friendship, boundaries, and power.

Klass, David

You Don't Know Me

Fourteen-year-old John creates alternative realities in his mind as he tries to deal with his mother's abusive boyfriend, his crush on a beautiful, but shallow classmate, and other problems at school.

Lynch, Chris

Iceman

Fourteen-year-old Eric, a ruthless hockey player prone to violence on the ice, tries to reconcile his own needs with those of his parents.

Mancusi, Marianne

Gamer Girl

Struggling to fit in after her parents' divorce sends her from Boston to her grandmother's house in the country, sixteen-year-old Maddy forms a manga club at school and falls in love through an online fantasy game.

Mitchell, Todd

The Secret to Lying

In his old high school, James, 15, was unremarkable--"the guy no one noticed." When he's offered a scholarship to a public boarding school for intellectually gifted students, he accepts. He is done being a dull, boring nobody and sees ASMA (American Science and Mathematics Academy) as a chance to reinvent himself. How hard could it be to impress a bunch of overachieving nerds and geeks? With purple spiked hair, grunge clothes, and a few little lies, James has most of them convinced he's a street-fighting punk. Despite his new guise, James realizes he must confront the demons that give him nightmares and induce him to cut himself.

Moriarty, Jaclyn

The Murder of Bindy MacKenzie

Class brain Bindy Mackenzie has alienated her entire high school. When she realizes someone is trying to kill her, she has to make friends in order to get help.

Picoult, Jodi

Nineteen Minutes

In Sterling, New Hampshire, 17-year-old high school student Peter Houghton has endured years of verbal and physical abuse at the hands of classmates. His best friend, Josie Cormier, succumbed to peer pressure and now hangs out with the popular crowd that often instigates the harassment. One final incident of bullying sends Peter over the edge and leads him to commit an act of violence that forever changes the lives of Sterling's residents.

Plum-Ucci, Carol

The Body of Christopher Creed (and sequel)

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

Shusterman, Neal

Bruiser

Inexplicable events start to occur when sixteen-year-old twins Tennyson and Bronte befriend a troubled and misunderstood outcast, aptly nicknamed Bruiser, and his little brother, Cody.

Spinelli, Jerry

Stargirl

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Strasser, Todd

Boot Camp

Abducted by transporters in the middle of the night, 15-year-old 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.

Strasser, Todd

Give a Boy a Gun

Events leading up to a night of terror at a high school dance are told from the point of view of various people involved.

Swarthout, Glendon

Bless the Beasts & Children

Six teenagers, from affluent but unloving homes, share a cabin at an Arizona riding camp. Their sadistic counselor takes them to a bison reserve where hunters slaughter the animals mercilessly. Led by Teft and Cotton, the boys undertake to save the remaining buffalo in a defiant act of mercy.

Tahmaseb, Charity

The Geek Girl's Guide to Cheerleading

When Bethany—self-proclaimed geek girl—makes the varsity cheerleading squad, she realizes that there's one thing worse than blending in with the lockers. Getting noticed. She always felt comfortable as part of the nerd herd, but being a member of the most scrutinized group in her school is weighing her down like a ton of textbooks. One thing's for sure. It's going to take more than brains for this girl genius to cheer her way to the top of the pyramid.

Vaught, Susan

Going Underground

Interest in a new girl and pressure from his parole officer cause seventeen-year-old Del, a gravedigger, to recall and face the sexting incident three years earlier that transformed him from a straight-A student-athlete into a social outcast and felon.

Weaver, Will

Defect

After spending most of his life in Minnesota foster homes hiding a bizarre physical abnormality, fifteen-year-old David is offered a chance at normalcy, but he must decide if giving up what makes him special is the right thing to do.