

OUTSIDERS /// NONCONFORMISTS /// REBELS

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.

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.

Budhos, Marina

We Are All We Have

After her mom is taken by ICE, seventeen-year-old Rania's hopes and dreams for the future are immediately put on hold as she figures out how to take care of her younger brother and survive in a country that seems to be closing around them.

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.

Connis, Dave

Suggested Reading

Clara Evans is a voracious reader and a volunteer at her high school's library. One day she discovers that her school has a "prohibited media" list and is banning books from the library collection, including some of Clara's personal favorites. In retaliation, Clara creates a secret library in her locker to ensure that students still have access to these books. In addition, she encourages her classmates to write notes on the book covers explaining what the books meant to them, to demonstrate how impactful they are and convey why they shouldn't be banned. Clara feels confident in her actions until an unexpected tragedy makes her question her motivations and wonder if books really can be dangerous.

Cooner, Donna

Fake

Maisie Fernandez has just about convinced herself that she does not care about her weight or her looks, or about only having one friend in Fort Collins High School (nerdy Owen Carpenter)—but "Sienna", the internet profile she creates, is beautiful, skinny, and confident. The profile is part of her plan to humiliate the popular kids who bully and make fun of her, but suddenly the deception gets complicated because the actual Sienna, the girl whose photos Maisie has been using, shows up in real life.

Cormier, Robert

The Chocolate War

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.

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.

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.

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."

Hyde, Catherine Ryan **Have You Seen Luis Velez?**

A gangly teenager with a clueless stepdad, an overworked mother, and three indifferent half sisters, Raymond Jaffe is constantly aware of how easy it is to feel alone in the middle of a crowded city—until he meets 92-year-old Millie Gutermann. Millie's blind, and she relies on an aide's help to run errands, but aide Luis hasn't shown up in more than two weeks. Raymond volunteers to help Millie in Luis' absence and check in on her regularly, but he can't let the mystery of the aide's disappearance go unanswered. He embarks on his own missing-person project, crisscrossing the boroughs of New York to find Luis.

Jean, Emiko **Tokyo Ever After (and sequel)**

After learning that her father is the Crown Prince of Japan, Izumi travels to Tokyo, where she discovers that Japanese imperial life--complete with designer clothes, court intrigue, paparazzi scandals, and a forbidden romance with her handsome but stoic bodyguard--is a tough fit for the outspoken and irreverent eighteen-year-old from northern California.

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.

Lange, Erin Jade **The Chaos of Now**

Recruited to join a team in a prestigious hacking competition, Eli soon discovers that his teammates' real purpose is seeking revenge for the bullying that led to their former member's suicide.

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.

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.

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.