

Personalized Reading Suggestions for *Teen Reader*



Appeal Factors:

I selected authors and books based upon the following subject interests and appeal factors:

- ✓ **Favorite Books/Authors:** *Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt; *The Boy Who Carried Bricks* by Alton Carter; *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green
- ✓ **Genres:** Realistic Fiction, Autobiographies and memoirs; Biographies; Love stories
- ✓ **Tone:** serious, haunting, emotionally intense, hopeful, moving, bittersweet
- ✓ **Writing style:** spare, compelling, banter filled
- ✓ **Focus:** emotionally intense or serious fiction and non-fiction

Authors you might like:

Angela Johnson

In her realistic fiction books for youth of all ages, award-winning author Angela Johnson's simple sentence structure and poetic descriptions mix with beautiful and hard-hitting plot lines on subjects like what makes a family that hook the reader from the first page, yet unfold at a slow and enjoyable pace. Johnson's books, usually about African-American characters, feature universal themes, told in a realistic and heartfelt manner. Start with: [The First Part Last](#) (Teens); [Songs of Faith](#) (Older Kids).

When I read Orbiting Jupiter, I was reminded a lot of this author's book [The First Part Last](#) (via Mobius). I think you will find a lot you like about her writing. This is technically listed as part of a series, the books read like standalones and are only loosely tied together. You might also like [Bird](#).

Jacqueline Woodson

Award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson writes sensitively about racism, class, friendship, and family. Her compelling, well-drawn protagonists, usually black, deal with life no matter what it brings, figuring themselves out with integrity and purpose. Whether she's writing for youth or adults, in verse or in prose, Woodson's simple, graceful style keeps readers coming back for more. Start with: [Another Brooklyn](#) (Adults); [Miracle's Boys](#) (Teens); [Brown Girl Dreaming](#) (Older Kids); [Each Kindness](#) (Younger Kids).

[Brown Girl Dreaming](#) is the title I think you will enjoy the most from this author that writes both fiction and non-fiction for a variety of ages.

Jason Reynolds

Authentic characterization drives the work of award-winning author Jason Reynolds. Focusing mainly on African-American teens and kids in realistic urban settings, he crafts characters whose words, actions, and emotions ring true. Reynolds doesn't shy away from portraying painful and deeply moving situations, but presents them in an honest, accessible style that will appeal to all kinds of young readers. Start with [Long Way Down](#) (Teens); [Ghost](#) (Older Kids).


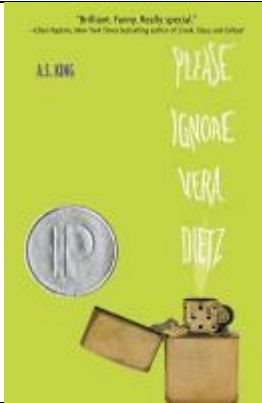

He writes about serious characters and subject matters that emotionally intense and moving.

Ellen Hopkins


The genre of novel-in-verse has risen to a new level of popularity with readers who relate to Ellen Hopkins' intense stories. Drug abuse, incest and life on the streets are all subjects explored in a sensitive and non-exploitative manner. Older teens who don't identify as readers pass Hopkins' books on to a friend after devouring page after page of gritty verse specifically because her realistic fiction books are extremely difficult to digest without a friend willing to discuss the unexpected plot twists. Start with: [Crank](#).

Controversial for a time, Hopkins writes authentic, issue oriented novels in verse that are emotionally intense and serious in subject and tone.

Titles you might enjoy:

	<p>We Are Okay by Nina LaCour</p> <p>After leaving her life behind to go to college in New York, Marin must face the truth about the tragedy that happened in the final weeks of summer when her friend Mabel comes to visit.</p> <p>Reason: You'll enjoy this book that shares similarities with <i>Orbiting Jupiter</i>. Both have similar writing styles and complex characters. In <i>Okay</i> you get to experience the character's introspective thoughts as they deal with the tragic events instead of experience how others view the tragic character as in <i>Jupiter</i>.</p>
	<p>Please Ignore Vera Dietz by A.S. King</p> <p>When her best friend, whom she secretly loves, betrays her and then dies under mysterious circumstances, high school senior Vera Dietz struggles with secrets that could help clear his name.</p> <p>Reason: Suspenseful and a little dark, <i>Vera</i> is a great choice for a fans of intricately plotted realistic fiction. I think you will enjoy Vera's voice and her struggle with loss, secrecy, family, love and her own demons.</p>
	<p>All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven</p> <p>"Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school--both teetering on the edge--it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the 'natural wonders' of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another"</p> <p>Reason: The characters in this book are modern and tragic as they deal with their separate tragedies and mental illness.</p>

	<p>Born a Crime by Trevor Noah</p> <p>Trevor Noah, host of The Daily Show, shares his remarkable story of growing up in South Africa, with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child like him to exist. In a country where racism barred blacks from social, educational, and economic opportunity, Trevor surmounted staggering obstacles and created a promising future for himself, thanks to his mother's unwavering love and indomitable will.</p> <p>Reason: Finding readalikes for non-fiction can be difficult due to the nature of good non-fiction, especially autobiographies and memoirs, which is uniquely the author's own experience. I suggested a couple that I think you will enjoy due to your interest in Alton Carter, hopeful, compelling and serious, themes, styles and tones.</p>
	<p>Shout by Laurie Halse Anderson</p> <p>A poetic memoir and urgent call-to-action by the award-winning author of <i>Speak</i> blends free-verse reflections with deeply personal stories from her life to rally today's young people to stand up and fight the abuses, censorship and hatred of today's world.</p> <p>Reason: Another autobiographical non-fiction title. This one has a much different subject matter and a different style as it is written in free-verse.</p> <p>See also: Speak – a fiction title written 10 years prior to <i>Shout</i>. It also has a serious overall tone and a writing style you like.</p>
	<p>This Star Won't Go Out by Esther Earl</p> <p>"A memoir told through the journals, letters, and stories of young cancer patient Esther Earl."--.</p> <p>Reason: Read the journal of and other stories about the inspiration behind <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i>.</p>

	<p>Five Feet Apart by Rachael Lippincott</p> <p>Seventeen-year-olds Stella and Will, both suffering from cystic fibrosis, realize the only way to stay alive is to stay apart, but their love for each other is slowly pushing the boundaries of physical and emotional safety.</p> <p>Reason: If you are a fan of <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> I think you'll enjoy this love story about another couple that are living while dying. This has also recently been made into a film.</p>
	<p>House Arrest by K.A. Holt</p> <p>Young Timothy is sentenced to house arrest after impulsively stealing a wallet, and he is forced to keep a journal into which he pours all his thoughts, fears, and frustrations.</p> <p>Reason: Another character driven realistic fiction title where the main character is serious and contemplative about their time and circumstances.</p>

Book news and events

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Resources

In addition the Tulsa City-County Library [Catalog](#) and my own reading lists, I used the following resources to compile your personalized reading suggestions.

The author information and some book annotations of fiction titles are from *NoveList*, a terrific database with author read-alikes, series information, fiction prize-winners and convenient links to the Tulsa City-County Library catalog. You may access *NoveList* from home or any TCCL location with your library card number. Go to the "Explore" section of the website, select "Reader Tools," and click on Novelist.

When selecting books for Your Next Great Read, we rely heavily upon reviews from respected journals, including BookList, Publishers' Weekly, Library Journal, and School Library Journal among others. You may be interested in these publications, too. All are available electronically to TCCL cardholders.

A Final Note

Thank you for using *Your Next Great Read*, a Readers' Advisory service of the Tulsa City-County Library. We were delighted to share our knowledge of the wide range of books available to you. Please give us feedback! You can reach us at (918) 549-7323 or teens@tulsalibrary.org. If you enjoyed the titles on this guide and would like some additional recommendations, you can fill out our [Follow-Up Survey](#) to receive a few more reading suggestions.