

Chillin' in the Garden State:

Books about Teens in NJ

MS=middle school HS=high school



Accomplice

Eireann Corrigan
YA Corr

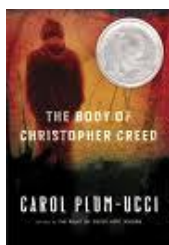
Finn and Chloe have the grades and the extra-curricular activities, but their guidance counselor insists that won't be enough to set the girls apart from other college applicants. So the girls hatch a plan to attract attention and make them stand out—by staging Chloe's disappearance. HS



After Ever After

Jordan Sonnenblick
YA Sonn

Jeffrey and his best friend Tad are cancer survivors who will tell you that remission isn't all fun and games. Eighth grade might be tougher for them than for most other kids—both have suffered severe nerve damage and Jeffrey has an unusually short attention span. On top of all that, Jeffrey still has to deal with standardized testing, his older brother Steve wandering aimlessly around Africa, and Lindsey, his new friend who also happens to be a girl. MS



The Body of Christopher Creed

Carol Plum-Ucci
YA Plum CD YA Plum

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



Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen

Dyan Sheldon
YA Shel

In her first year at a suburban NJ high school, Mary Elizabeth Cep (who now calls herself Lola) sets her sights on the lead in the annual drama production, and finds herself in conflict with the most popular girl in school. The girls' adventures continue in *My Perfect Life*. HS



Dunk

David Lubar
YA Luba CD YA Luba

While hoping to work as the clown in an amusement park dunk tank on the Jersey Shore the summer before his junior year of high school, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, hassles with police, and the girl that got away. MS/HS



Jack: Secret Histories

F. Paul Wilson
YA Wils

In 1983, fourteen-year-old Jack and his friends Weezy and Eddie are exploring the NJ Pine Barrens when they stumble upon a dead body and a strange box that only Jack can open. The trio begins to uncover a series of mysteries that might be related to a secret cult in the area. MS/HS



Some Difference

Siobhan Vivian
YA Vivi

Feeling lost in her suburban NJ life, sixteen-year-old Emily heads into Philadelphia for an art class and spends the summer alternating between from her safe and "normal" home, friends and family to her new and exciting school and classmates, while trying to discover her own individual style. HS



She's So Dead to Us

Kieran Scott
YA Scot

Two years after leaving, Ally and her mother return to Orchard Hill, moving to the poorer side of the ritzy town. Ally faces her former friends and their parents, many of whom were hurt by her father's pyramid scheme, and begins a relationship with the boy who lives in her former house. HS



Sloppy Firsts

Megan McCafferty
YA McCa

When her best friend, Hope, moves away from Pineville, NJ, 16-year-old Jessica Darling is devastated. A fish out of water at school and a stranger at home, Jessica feels more lost that ever now that the only person with whom she could really communicate has gone. Jessica's story continues in *Second Helpings*, *Charmed Thirds*, and *Fourth Comings*. HS



Swallowing Stones

Joyce McDonald
YA McDo

Michael receives an antique rifle for his 17th birthday and can't resist firing one shot into the air. Moments later and a mile away, his classmate Jenna watches in horror as her father falls from the roof of their house and dies as a result of that shot. Michael's decision to keep his guilt secret affects not only him and his best friend but also Jenna and her boyfriend. MS/HS



Tell Us We're Home

Marina Budhos
YA Budh

Jaya, Maria, and Lola, daughters of immigrant housekeepers, develop a

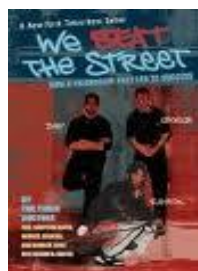
friendship that allows the trio to finally feel more comfortable in the wealthy NJ town they live (and their mothers work) in. That bond is tested, however, when one of the mothers is accused of stealing. MS/HS



Tithe: a Modern Faerie Tale

Holly Black
YA Blac

Back in her hometown in industrial, blue-collar New Jersey, 16-year-old Kaye soon finds herself an unwilling pawn in an ancient power struggle between two rival faerie kingdoms—a struggle that could very well mean her death. HS



We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Helped Us Succeed

Samson Davis, George Jenkins,
and Rameck Hunt
YA 610.922 Davi

As teenagers growing up on the rough streets of Newark, NJ, Samson, George and Rameck create a friendship pact to help each other survive and succeed in high school, college, and even medical school. MS/HS



What Happened to Lani Garver

Carol Plum-Ucci
YA Plum

16-year-old Claire is unable to face her fears about a recurrence of her leukemia, her eating disorder, her need to get in with the popular crowd on Hackett Island, and her mother's alcoholism until the enigmatic Lani Garver helps her get control of her life, at the risk of her own. HS

Compiled by L. Baldwin 2002;
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