

Terse Verse:

Novels written in verse, blog and journal formats

MS=middle school HS=high school



Crank

Ellen Hopkins

YA Hopk CD YA Hopk

Kristina is a high school junior who goes to visit her father, a known drug dealer, and begins to experiment with crystal meth. This free verse novel portrays her downward spiral into addiction. Read more about Kristina's struggle with drugs in the sequels *Glass* and *Fallout*. HS



The Firefly Letters: a Suffragette's Journey to Cuba

Margarita Engle

YA 811.6 Engl

Based on the real-life letters of Fredrika Bremer, a Swedish suffragette, Engle's poems portray the suffering of women—both the enslaved and the privileged—in 1851 Cuba. MS/HS

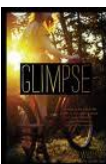


Get Well Soon

Julie Halpern

YA Halp

After being admitted to a mental hospital and on the advice of her therapist, Anna begins keeping a diary, detailing not only her progress but also her new friendships and a budding crush. HS



Glimpse

Carol Lynch Williams

YA Will

Two sisters, only a year apart, are keepers of some pretty big secrets. When Liz ends up in the hospital because of a suicide attempt, it's up to Hope to uncover the truths about her family. HS



Heart on my Sleeve

Ellen Wittlinger

YA Witt

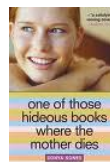
High school senior Chloe meets Julian during a weekend tour of Cartwright College. During that spring and summer they develop a long-distance relationship consisting entirely of letters, emails, and IMs. Are their written communications enough to sustain their relationship until the two are enrolled at college together? HS



I Can't Keep My Own Secrets: Six-Word Memoirs by Teens Famous & Obscure: from SMITH Magazine

YA 808.0669 I

This collection, written entirely by teens, contains over 600 powerful and inspiring poems, each just six words long. A companion to the successful *Not Quite What I was Planning* from SMITH magazine. MS/HS

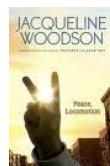


One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies

Sonya Sones

YA Sone

This free-verse novel depicts 15-year-old Ruby's new life after her mother passes away and she's sent to live with the father she's never known, a popular Hollywood actor. HS

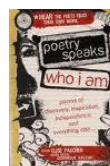


Peace, Locomotion

Jacqueline Woodson

YA Wood CD J Wood Play YA Wood

Twelve-year-old Locomotion is finally starting to feel comfortable in his foster home. He decides to write letters to his sister, nine-year-old Lili, who's in a separate foster home, to keep her updated on his life. MS



Poetry Speaks Who I Am

Elise Paschen, ed.

YA 811.008 Poet

This collection of both new and traditional poetry celebrates independence and individualism, and includes an audio CD of almost 50 of the poems, most read by the authors themselves. MS/HS



Love, Stargirl

Jerry Spinelli
YA Spin CD YA Spin

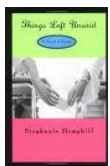
Stargirl has moved from Arizona to Pennsylvania, and spends a year adjusting to her new surroundings by writing “the world’s longest letter” to her ex-boyfriend, Leo. MS/HS



Monster

Walter Dean Myers
YA Myer CD YA Myer

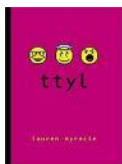
Sixteen-year-old Steve takes readers inside the courtroom (through his own screenplays) and inside his thoughts and feelings (through his journal) during his trial as an accomplice to murder. HS



Things Left Unsaid: A Novel in Poems

Stephanie Hemphill
YA Hemp

In this free-verse novel, Sarah, tired of always being the good girl, develops a friendship with bad-girl Robin and begins to let go of her pristine image. It’s Sarah, however, who has to try to pull Robin back when she gets too close to the edge. MS/HS



TTYL, TTFN, or L8TR, G8TR

Lauren Myracle
YA Myra

Written entirely in instant message conversations, this trilogy follows BFFs Maddie (madmaddie), Angela (SnowAngel), and Zoe (zoegirl) through the highs and lows of high school. HS



The Year of Secret Assignments

Jaclyn Moriarty
YA Mori

Cassie, Lydia, and Emily, sophomores at all-girls Ashbury High, use their diaries, letters and even court transcripts to describe their required year-long pen pal project with Brookfield High, the rival all-boys school. HS



The Year of Goodbyes: a True Story of Friendship, Family and Farewells

Debbie Levy
YA 811.6 Levy

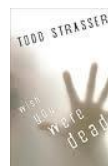
Levy uses her mother’s ‘poesiaalbum’ (poetry album) to recreate her relatives’ last year in 1938 Nazi Germany. Levy adds her own verse poems to her mother’s poems, journal entries, and drawings, written when she was twelve. MS



You Don't Even Know Me: Stories and Poems About Boys

Sharon Flake
YA Flak

Readers are taken inside the minds of teenage boys with this collection of poems and short stories that describe relationships with peers and parents, living life in an inner-city, their greatest fears, and more. MS/HS



Wish You Were Dead

Todd Strasser
YA Stra CD YA Stra

Anonymous ‘Str-S-d’ blogs that popular Lucy should die, and the next day she vanishes. Madison, the last person to have seen Lucy, must discover what happened before Str-S-D posts more wish lists of students who should disappear on the blog. HS

Researched and compiled by C. Aldellizzi 11/2010



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