



Related Reading for Participating Teens



The Great Stories Club Related Reading List was compiled by YALSA's Outreach to Young Adults with Special Needs Committee.

Baca, Jimmy Santiago. *A Place to Stand: The Making of a Poet*. Grove Pr., 2002. \$13 (0-8021-3908-6). The writer of the movie *Blood In/Blood Out: Bound by Honor*, Jimmy chronicles his years growing up in orphanages, juvenile halls, and prisons, teaching himself to read and write at the age of twenty-one while in solitary confinement.

Buckhanon, Kalisha. *Upstate*. St. Martin's Pr., 2005. \$11.95 (0-3123-3269-6). Natasha and Antonio, young lovers, communicate via letters for nine years during his incarceration for murdering his father.

Desetta, Al, ed. *The Heart Knows Something Different: Teenage Voices from the Foster Care System*. Persea Books, 1996. \$14.95 (0-8925-5218-2). Fifty-seven teens write about their lives and the issues they faced growing up in the foster care system.

Draper, Sharon. *Romiette and Julio*. Simon Pulse, 2001. \$5.99 (0-6898-4209-0). Sixteen-year-olds Julio and Romiette fall in love and face their parents' prejudice and harassment from the local gang.

Ewing, Lynne. *Party Girl*. Laurel Leaf, 1999. \$5.50 (0-3758-0210-X). Kata's best friend Ana is shot in a drive-by shooting, leaving Kata to cope with her desire for revenge and hope for a way out of the gang lifestyle.

Flake, Sharon. *Who Am I without Him? Short Stories about Girls and the Boys in Their Lives*. Hyperion Books for

Children: Jump at the Sun, 2004. \$5.99 (0-7868-1504-3). Ten short stories focus on sometimes difficult male-female relationships as experienced by African American teen girls.

Flinn, Alex. *Breathing Underwater*. HarperTempest, 2002. \$7.99 (0-0644-7257-4). After Nick's girlfriend, Caitlin, has a restraining order issued against him, he is forced to come to grips with his anger and low self-esteem.

Frank, E. R. *America*. Simon Pulse, 2003. \$7.99 (0-6898-5772-1). A young man named America gets "lost" in the social welfare system and, after a series of foster homes, hospitals, and suicide attempts, he meets a caring psychiatrist who refuses to give up on him.

Klass, David. *You Don't Know Me*. HarperTempest, 2001. \$6.99 (0-0644-7378-3). John, a fourteen-year-old boy from a small town, defends himself against an abusive home life, an outcast school life, and being a social misfit by living outside of himself.

Mikaelsen, Ben. *Touching Spirit Bear*. HarperCollins, 2002. \$5.99 (0-3808-0560-X). After angry Cole attacks another boy, he agrees to a Circle Justice sentence of banishment to a remote island, where he encounters a mystical spirit bear.

Myers, Walter Dean. *The Beast*. Scholastic, 2005. \$7.99. (0-4393-6842-1). Seventeen-year-old Spoon wants to marry his

girlfriend, Gabi, but doesn't know what to do when he finds out that she is using "the beast": heroin.

Philbrick, Rodman. *The Last Book in the Universe*. Blue Sky Pr., an Imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2002. \$5.99 (0-4390-8759-7). In this futuristic urban dystopia, an epileptic gang member, together with an old man and an orphan, travels over hostile turf to visit his sister before she dies. A chance meeting with one of the genetically improved members of the ruling class causes major changes in society.

Trueman, Terry. *Cruise Control*. HarperTempest, 2005. \$6.99. (0-0644-7377-5). Seeming to have it all, at the top of his senior class, and a three-letter sports star, Paul's intense anger at his absent father and developmentally disabled younger brother threatens to derail his future. *Cruise Control* is the companion book to Terry Trueman's *Stuck in Neutral*.

Williams, Lori Aurelia. *When Kambia Elaine Flew in from Neptune*. Simon Pulse, 2002. \$8 (0-6898-4593-6). When Shayla befriends the new girl next door who tells great stories about lizard people and memory beetles, she doesn't realize the desperate and dangerous situation Kambia Elaine is in or how to help her.

