

T4 by Ann Clare LeZotte J FIC LEZOTTE

When the Nazi party takes control of Germany, thirteen-year-old Paula, who is deaf, finds her world-as-she-knows-it turned upside down, as she is taken into hiding to protect her from the new law nicknamed T4.

Things Left Unsaid by Stephanie Hemphill YP FIC HEMPHILL After a lifetime of conforming to the image of what her parents and high school friends want her to be, Sarah must come to terms with her own identity when her destructive best friend tries to commit suicide.

Trash by Sharron Darrow YP FIC DARROW Graffiti artists Sissy Lexie and younger brother Boy try to maintain a sense of family while living in a series of foster homes and staying with their older sister, until a tragic accident forces Sissy to make decisions about her future.

True Believer by Virginia Euwer Wolff YP FIC WOLFF Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it--an occasion to rise to.

The Weight of the Sky by Lisa Ann Sandell YP FIC SANDELL A sixteen-year-old girl travels to Israel to spend the summer on a kibbutz and discovers who she is and what she wants out of life.

What My Mother Doesn't Know by Sonya Sones YP FIC SONES Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.

Who Killed Mr. Chippendale? by Mel Glenn YP FIC GLENN Free verse poems describe the reactions of students, colleagues, and others when a high school teacher is shot to death as the school day begins.

The Wolf by Steven Herrick YP FIC HERRICK Sixteen-year-old Lucy, living in the shadow of her violent father, experiences a night of tenderness, danger, and revelation as she and Jake, her fifteen-year-old neighbor, search for a legendary wolf in the Australian outback.

Your Own, Sylvia by Stephanie Hemphill B PLATH The author interprets the people, events, influences and art that made up the brief life of Sylvia Plath.

Free verse is a form of poetry that does not have a set meter and is unrhymed. This gives total freedom to the poet to express themselves in whatever way they choose. This has often led writers to use free verse to write an entire novel.

Free verse novels are written about almost every subject and theme. The one thing that connects them is the use of poetry to tell a story. This is a small collection of some of our best Young Adult novels written in free verse covering many different genres and themes.



Chapter and Verse

A selection of Young Adult novels in free Verse.



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***Aleutian Sparrow* by Karen Hesse YP FIC HESSE**

In June of 1942, seven months after attacking Pearl Harbor, the Japanese navy invaded Alaska's Aleutian Islands. This is Vera's story, but it is woven from the same fabric as the stories of displaced peoples throughout history.

***All the Broken Pieces* by Ann Burg YP FIC BURG**

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

***Beanball* by Gene Fahler YP FIC FAHLER**

Relates, from diverse points of view, events surrounding the critical injury of popular and talented high school athlete Luke "Wizard" Wallace, when he is hit in the face by a fastball.

***Becoming Billie Holiday* by Carole Boston**

Weatherford YP FIC WEATHERF Jazz vocalist Billie Holiday looks back on her early years in this fictional memoir written in verse.

***The Braid* by Helen Frost YP FIC FROST** Two Scottish sisters, living on the western island of Barra in the 1850s, relate their experiences after their family is forcibly evicted and separated.

***The Brimstone Journals* by Ron Koertge YP FIC**

KOERTGE In a series of short interconnected poems, students at a high school nicknamed Brimstone reveal the violence existing and growing in their lives.

***Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes YP FIC**

GRIMES While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

***Chasing Brooklyn* by Lisa Schroeder YP FIC**

SCHROEDE Brooklyn and Nico work to help each other recover from the deaths of Brooklyn's boyfriend--Nico's brother Lucca--and their friend Gabe and rediscover their passion for life, and a newly blossoming passion for one another.

***CrashBoomLove* by Juan Felipe Herrera YP FIC**

HERRERA After his father leaves home, sixteen-year-old Cesar Garcia lives with his mother and struggles through the painful experiences of growing up as a Mexican American high school student.

***Escaping Tornado Season* by Julie Williams YP FIC**

WILLIAMS Poems describe how thirteen-year-old Allie, living with her grandparents in a small Minnesota town in the 1960s, struggles to cope with her father's recent death, being abandoned by her mother, and trying to fit in at school.

***Far from You* by Lisa Schroeder YP FIC**

SCHROEDE A novel-in-verse about sixteen-year-old Ali's reluctant road trip with her stepmother and new baby sister, and the terror that ensues after they end up lost in the snow-covered woods.

***The Geography of Girlhood* by Kirstin Smith YP FIC**

SMITH Written in verse, the novel follows a girl from ages 14 to 18, exploring first crushes, first dances, first kisses, and the many other dangers of growing up.

***God Went to Beauty School* by Cynthia Rylant YP**

FIC RYLANT A novel in poems that reveal God's discovery of the wonders and pains in the world He has created.

***Hugging the Rock* by Susan Taylor Brown YP FIC**

BROWN Through a series of poems, Rachel expresses her feelings about her parents' divorce, living without her mother, and her changing attitude towards her father.

***Identical* by Ellen Hopkins YP FIC HOPKINS**

Sixteen-year-old identical twin daughters of a district court judge and a candidate for the United States House of Representatives, Kaeleigh and Raeanne Gardella desperately struggle with secrets that have already torn them and their family apart.

***Keesha's House* by Helen Frost YP FIC FROST**

Seven teens facing such problems as pregnancy, closeted homosexuality, and abuse each describe in poetic forms what caused them to leave home and where they found home again.

***Kissing Annabel* by Steven Herrick YP FIC HER-**

RICK Sixteen-year-old Jack woos beautiful Annabel, and, through their relationship, he copes with his mother's death.

***On Pointe* by Lorie Ann Grover YP FIC GROVER**

Clare and her grandfather must deal with changes in their lives when Clare's summer growth spurt threatens to end her dream of becoming a ballet dancer and her grandfather suffers a stroke.

***Ringside1925: Views from the Scope's Trial* by Jen**

Bryant YP FIC BRYANT Visitors, spectators, and residents of Dayton, Tennessee, in 1925 describe, in a series of free-verse poems, the Scopes "monkey trial" and its effects on that small town and its citizens.

***Shakespeare Bats Cleanup* by Ron Koertge YP FIC**

KOERTGE When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love, and loss.

***Shark Girl* by Kelly Bingham YP FIC BINGHAM**

After a shark attack causes the amputation of her right arm, fifteen-year-old Jane, an aspiring artist, struggles to come to terms with her loss and the changes it imposes on her day-to-day life and her plans for the future.

***Sister Slam and the Poetic Motormouth Road Trip* by**

Linda Oatman High YP FIC HIGH In this novel told in slam verse, best friends and aspiring poets Laura and Twig embark on a road trip after graduating from high school, from Pennsylvania to New York City, to compete at slam poetry events.

***Split Image* by Mel Glenn YP FIC GLENN**

A series of poems reflect the thoughts and feelings of various people--students, the librarian, parents, the principal, and others--about the seemingly perfect Laura Li and her life inside and out of Tower High School.

***The Surrender Tree* by Margarita Engle 811.54**

ENGLE Rosa, a nurse who turns hidden caves into hospitals for those who know how to find her, and who does her best to help everyone, with no regard to race or nationality.