Great Books for 11th Graders

Akron-Summit County Public Library

Acevedo, Elizabeth. With the Fire on High, 2019. TEEN

Teen mother Emoni Santiago's life has been about making tough decisions. The one place she can let all that go is in the kitchen. Even though she dreams of working as a chef after she graduates, Emoni knows that it's impossible. Yet once Emoni starts cooking, her only choice is to let her talent break free.

Bennett, Jenn. Starry Eyes, 2018. TEEN

In this romantic dramedy from the author of Alex, Approximately, a teen girl's way-too-ordinary life is driven off the beaten path when she's abandoned in the wilderness with her worst adversary--the boy who broke her heart.

Deonn, Tracy. Legendborn, 2020. TEEN

To discover the truth behind her mother's mysterious death, a teen girl enrolls in an early college program on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and infiltrates a magical secret society claiming to be the descendants of King Arthur and his knights.

Forest, Kristina. Now That I've Found You, 2020. TEEN

Following in the footsteps of her famous grandma, Evie is poised to be Hollywood's next big star. When a close friend's betrayal leaves her blacklisted, Evie tries to make a public appearance with her grandma, only to discover that Gigi has vanished.

Fowley-Doyle, Moira. All the Bad Apples, 2019. TEEN

Deena starts receiving letters from her older sister Mandy, whom everyone thinks is dead, claiming that their family's blighted history is actually a curse and leading Deena on a cross-country hunt to find her sister and heal their family's rotten past--or rip it apart forever.

Goo, Maurene. Somewhere Only We Know, 2019. TEEN

Told from two viewpoints, teens Lucky, a very famous K-pop star, and Jack, a part-time paparazzi who is trying to find himself, fall for each other against the odds through the course of one stolen day.

Jackson, Holly. A Good Girl's Guide to Murder, 2020. TEEN

As her senior capstone project, Pippa Fitz-Amobi is determined to find the real killer in a closed, local murder case, but not everyone wants her meddling in the past.

Jackson, Tiffany D. Let Me Hear a Rhyme, 2019. TEEN

Brooklyn, 1998. When their best friend Steph is killed, Quadir and Jarrell don't want his tracks to lie forgotten. With the help of Steph's younger sister, Jasmine, they come up with a plan to promote Steph's music under a new rap name: The Architect.

Johnston, E. K. Exit, Pursued by a Bear, 2016. TEEN

At cheerleading camp, Hermione is drugged and raped, but she is not sure whether it was one of her teammates or a boy on another team--and in the aftermath she has to deal with the rumors in her small Ontario town and the need to remember what happened so that the guilty boy can be brought to justice.

Lee, Jenny. Anna K: A Love Story, 2020. TEEN

While seventeen-year-old Anna K seems above the typical problems of her Manhattan friends and siblings, finding love with a notorious playboy changes everything. This modern Anna Karenina retelling will appeal to fans of Gossip Girl and Crazy Rich Asians.

Leno, Katrina. Horrid, 2020. TEEN

Following her father's sudden death, Jane North-Robinson and her mother are forced to move to the old North house in Maine, where Jane uncovers her family's disturbing secrets.

Ngan, Natasha. Girls of Paper and Fire, 2018. TEEN

When Lei, seventeen, is stolen from her home to become one of nine Paper Girls, the Demon King's concubines, she proves to be more fire than paper.

Pau Preto, Nicki. Crown of Feathers, 2019. TEEN

Veronyka is a war orphan who dreams of becoming a Phoenix Rider from the stories of old. After a shocking betrayal from her controlling sister, Veronyka strikes out alone to find the Riders--even if that means disguising herself as a boy to join their ranks.

Philippe, Ben. The Field Guide to the North American Teenager, 2019. TEEN

A hilarious contemporary novel about Norris, a rather cynical Black French Canadian teen who moves to Austin, Texas for his junior year and views his fellow students as clichés from "a bad 90s teen movie."

Stamper, Vesper. What the Night Sings, 2018. TEEN

Liberated from Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in 1945, sixteen-year-old Gerta tries to make a new life for herself, aided by Lev, a fellow survivor, and Michah, who helps Jews reach Palestine.

Tamaki, Mariko and Rosemary Valero-O'Connell. Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me, 2019. TEENGN

Laura Dean, the most popular girl in high school, was Frederica Riley's dream girl: charming, confident, and SO cute. There's just one problem: Laura Dean is maybe not the greatest girlfriend.