

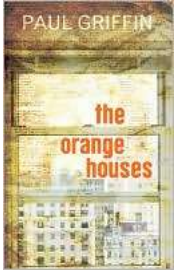
2010 Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults



***Demon's Lexicon* by Sarah Rees Brennan**

Nick and his brother, Alan, have spent their lives on the run from magic. Their father was murdered, and their mother was driven mad by magicians and the demons who give them power. The magicians are hunting the Ryves family for a charm that Nick's mother stole -- a charm that keeps her alive -- and they want it badly enough to kill again. Part of the *Demon's Lexicon Trilogy*.

***The Orange House* by Paul Griffin**



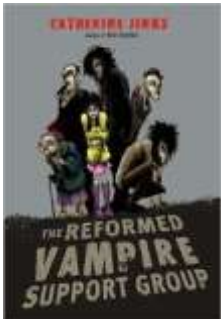
Meet Tamika Sykes—Mik to her friends. She's hearing impaired and copes by reading lips, selling homework answers, and drawing alone in her room. She's a smart, tough girl who never gets close to anyone, until she meets Fatima, a teenage refugee. Both Mik and Fatima unite in their efforts to befriend Jimmi, a homeless vet who is shunned by the rest of the community. When these three outcasts unite, their actions change the lives of those living in the Orange Houses in explosive and unexpected ways.

***The Great Wide Sea* by H. M. Herlong**



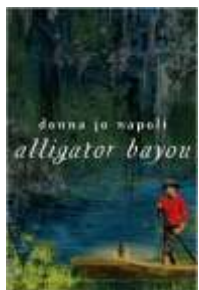
Ben, Dylan, and Gerry are still mourning their mother's death when their dad decides to buy a boat and take them on a year-long sailing trip. Tensions flare between Ben and his father, but they gradually learn to live together in close quarters. But one morning, the boys wake up to discover their father has disappeared—and they are lost. What happened to him? Where are they? In the *Great Wide Sea* M. H. Herlong spins a gripping tale of adventure, survival, and the bonds of brotherhood.

***The Reformed Vampire Support Group* by Catherine Jinks**

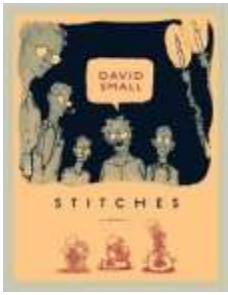


Think vampires are romantic, sexy, and powerful? Think again. Vampires are dead. And unless they want to end up staked, they have to give up fanging people, admit their addiction, join a support group, and reform themselves. Nina Harrison, fanged at fifteen and still living with her mother, hates the Reformed Vampire Support Group meetings every Tuesday night. Even if she does appreciate Dave, who was in a punk band when he was alive, nothing exciting ever happens. That is, until one of the groups members is mysteriously destroyed by a silver bullet. With Nina (determined to prove that vamps aren't useless or weak) and Dave (secretly in love with Nina) at the helm, the misfit vampires soon band together to track down the hunter, save a werewolf, and keep the world safe from the likes of themselves.

***Alligator Bayou* by Donna Jo Napoli**

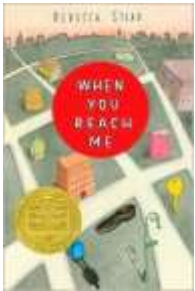


Based on the 1899 lynching of five Italian immigrants, this thought-provoking book draws its power from vivid depictions of late-19th-century Louisiana and little-known historical facts. Settled in small-town Tallulah, 14-year-old Calogero and a handful of other Sicilian immigrants find themselves isolated: by law they are not "white," but white people discourage them from mixing with Negroes. But social pressure doesn't keep Calogero from a budding romance with smart, pretty Patricia, even after he's threatened for romancing a black girl. Napoli sketches out some economic and political roots of racism as the white citizens' resentment of the Sicilians builds. The violent climax will ensure that readers remember the message for a long, long time.



Stitches: A Memoir by David Small

A stitch in time can save nine, but author David Small's unloving parents spared him not a one, as *Stitches*, his graphic memoir of his harrowing childhood, makes clear. Small was a sickly child, and his radiologist father subjected him to repeated X-rays, believing it would cure his sinus problems. When a lump materialized on his neck, his mother complained about the expense and put off surgery for three years. Small emerged from multiple operations at 14 unable to speak, and only learned later that he'd had cancer. Small tells a devastating story about growing up in a silent, angry household with miserable parents. *Graphic Novel*



When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Rebecca Stead's *When You Reach Me*... is a taut novel, every word, every sentence, has meaning and substance. A hybrid of genres, it is a complex mystery, a work of historical fiction, a school story and one of friendship, with a tantalizing theme of time travel running through it. Most of all the novel is a thrilling puzzle. Stead piles up clues on the way to a moment of intense drama, after which it is pretty much impossible to stop reading until the last page. *The New York Times Review of Books*



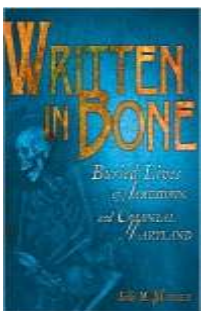
Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco Stork

Marcelo Sandoval hears music no one else can hear--part of the autism-like impairment no doctor has been able to identify--and he's always attended a special school where his differences have been protected. But the summer after his junior year, his father demands that Marcelo work in his law firm's mailroom in order to experience "the real world." There Marcelo meets Jasmine, his beautiful and surprising coworker, and Wendell, the son of another partner in the firm. He learns about competition and jealousy, anger and desire. But it's a picture he finds in a file -- a picture of a girl with half a face -- that truly connects him with the real world: its suffering, its injustice, and what he can do to change it.



Lips Touch: Three Times by Laini Taylor

Three tales of supernatural love, each pivoting on a kiss that is no mere kiss, but an action with profound consequences for the kissers' souls: *Goblin Fruit*: In Victorian times, goblin men had only to offer young girls sumptuous fruits to tempt them to sell their souls. But what does it take to tempt today's savvy girls? *Spicy Little Curses*: A demon and the ambassador to Hell tussle over the soul of a beautiful English girl in India. Matters become complicated when she falls in love and decides to test her curse. *Hatchling*: Six days before Esme's fourteenth birthday, her left eye turns from brown to blue. She little suspects what the change heralds, but her small safe life begins to unravel at once. What does the beautiful, fanged man want with her, and how is her fate connected to a mysterious race of demons?



Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland

by Sally M. Walker

On a hot summer day in 2005, Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution peered into an excavated grave, carefully examining the fragile skeleton that had been buried there for four hundred years "He was about fifteen years old when he died. And he was European," Owsley concluded. But how did he know? Just as forensic scientists use their knowledge of human remains to help solve crimes, they use similar skills to solve the mysteries of the past. Join scientists investigating colonial-era graves in Virginia and Maryland. *Non-Fiction.*