

Contemporary Fiction and Coming of Age:

- **All the bright places – Jennifer Niven** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



Theodore Finch is fascinated by death, and he constantly thinks of ways he might die. But each time, something good, no matter how small, stops him. Violet Markey lives for the future, counting the days until graduation, when she can escape her Indiana town and her aching grief in the wake of her sister's recent death. When Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, it's unclear who saves whom. And when they pair up on a project to discover the "natural wonders" of their state, both Finch and Violet make more important discoveries.

- **Thirteen Reasons Why – Jay Asher** (*Available on Audible*) (*TV Series*)



Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker, his classmate and crush, who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah's voice explains that there are 13 reasons she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out why.

- **'Hello Gorgeous' series by Taylor Morris**

Now that she's had her thirteenth birthday, Mickey's finally old enough to work at her mother's super glam hair salon-Hello, Gorgeous! And true to the old cliché about people confiding in their hair stylists, Mickey starts getting an earful right off the bat. Customers love talking to her because she's so empathetic, but what happens when she starts getting overly involved.

- **Eleanor and Park – Rainbow Powell** (*Available on Audible*)



Eleanor is the new girl in town, and she's never felt more alone. All mismatched clothes, mad red hair and chaotic home life, she couldn't stick out more if she tried. Then she takes the seat on the bus next to Park. Quiet, careful and - in Eleanor's eyes - impossibly cool, Park's worked out that flying under the radar is the best way to get by. Slowly, steadily, through late-night conversations and an ever-growing stack of mix tapes, Eleanor and Park fall in love. They fall in love the way you do the first time, when you're 16, and you have nothing and everything to lose.

- **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time - Mark Haddon** (*Available on Audible*) (*Adapted into a Play*)



A murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's, a form of autism. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns, and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

- **The Life of Pi – Yann Martel** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a 16 year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orangutan - and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for an extraordinary adventure.

- **The Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



Observant "wallflower" Charlie charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.

- **Paper Towns – John Green** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



When Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night - dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge - he follows her. Margo's always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she's always planned solo. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q...until day breaks and she has vanished. Always an enigma, Margo has now become a mystery. But there are clues. And they're for Q.

- **Looking for Alaska – John Green** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words - and tired of his safe life at home. He leaves for boarding school to seek what the dying poet François Rabelais called the "Great Perhaps". Much awaits Miles at Culver

Creek, including Alaska Young, who will pull Miles into her labyrinth and catapult him into the Great Perhaps.

- **The Fault in Our Stars – John Green** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



Hazel Grace, a young woman with terminal cancer joins a Cancer Kid Support Group, she meets Augustus Waters, a handsome teenager also suffering from a cancer that will eventually kill him, and the two fall in love. A funny, poignant and beautiful tale about love, living and dying, which has taken the reading and film-going worlds by storm.

- **The Bridge to Terabithia – Katherine Paterson** (*Adapted as a film*)



Bridge to Terabithia is an unforgettable story of friendship and loss. Jess Aarons wants to be the fastest boy in the class, but when a girl named Leslie Burke moves into the neighbouring farm his life changes forever. Leslie who invents Terabithia, the secret country on an island across the creek where he can escape his troublesome family. The only way to reach Terabithia is by rope-swing where Jess and Leslie become King and Queen, defeating giants, sharing stories and dreams, and plotting against their enemies. They are invincible - until tragedy strikes.

- **Bruiser – Neil Shulsterman** (*Available on Audible*)



When Brontë starts dating Brewster "Bruiser" Rawlins – the guy voted "Most Likely to Get the Death Penalty" her twin brother, Tennyson, isn't surprised. But then strange things begin to occur. Tennyson and Brontë's scrapes heal unnaturally fast, and cuts disappear before their eyes. What at first seems like their good fortune turns out to be more than they bargained for...much more.

- **Wonder – R. J. Palacio** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

- **Date Me, Bryson Keller – Kevin van Whye** (*Available on Audible*)



Everyone at Fairvale Academy knows about the dare Bryson Keller has accepted - each week he has to date the first person who asks him out.

He just never specified it could only be girls. When closeted Kai challenges straight Bryson to secretly date him, it should be a recipe for heartbreak. But as the two boys open up to each other, they find themselves getting closer. With his heart on the line, Kai must grapple with his growing feelings for a boy who can never be his...right?

- **How Beautiful the Ordinary: Twelve Stories of Identity – edited by Michael Cart**

A girl thought to be a boy steals her sister's skirt, while a boy thought to be a girl refuses to wear a cornflower blue dress. One boy's love of a soldier leads to the death of a stranger. The present takes a bittersweet journey into the past when a man revisits the summer school where he had an accidental romance. And a forgotten mother writes a poignant letter to the teenage daughter she hasn't seen for fourteen years. Poised between the past and the future are the stories of now. In nontraditional narratives, short stories, and brief graphics, tales of anticipation and regret, eagerness and confusion present distinctively modern views of love, sexuality, and gender identification. Together, they reflect the vibrant possibilities available for young people learning to love others--and themselves--in today's multifaceted and quickly changing world.

- **The Vast Fields of Ordinary – Nick Burd**

It's Dade's last summer at home, and things are pretty hopeless. He has a crappy job, a boyfriend who treats him like dirt, and his parents' marriage is falling apart. So when he meets and falls in love with the mysterious Alex Kincaid, Dade feels like he's finally experiencing true happiness. But when a tragedy shatters the final days of summer, he realizes he must face his future and learn how to move forward from his past.

- **The Hate U Give – Angie Thomas** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping young-adult novel about one girl's struggle for justice. Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.

- **The Outsiders – S. E. Hinton** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



What defines a family? That is the underlying question in the life of Pony Boy Curtis. When his parents die in a car wreck, he comes to depend on the love, friendship and support of his two older brothers and a gang of friends defined by poverty, bad attitudes and long greasy hair. The gang, called greasers, carry on a long-standing war with a group of rich kids, known as Socs, a fight fueled by ignorance and prejudice. An American coming-of-age classic, a story of friendship and social prejudice among a gang of friends.

- **The Colour Purple – Alice Walker** (*Adapted as a film*) (*Available on Audible*)



Celie has grown up poor in rural Georgia, despised by the society around her and abused by her own family. She strives to protect her sister, Nettie, from a similar fate, and while Nettie escapes to a new life as a missionary in Africa, Celie is left behind without her best friend and confidante, married off to an older suitor, and sentenced to a life alone with a harsh and brutal husband. In an attempt to transcend a life that often seems too much to bear, Celie begins writing letters directly to God. The letters, spanning 20 years, record a journey of self-discovery and empowerment guided by the light of a few strong women.

- **Even If We Break – Marieke Nijkamp** (*Available on Audible*)



A tale of five friends — including Ever, a nonbinary teen, and Finn, a Trans boy — reuniting at a cabin for a game that turns deadly in this mystery. Finn doesn't trust anyone since he was attacked a few months ago. Popular girl Liva saw it happen and did nothing to stop it. Maddy was in an accident that destroyed her sports career. Carter is drowning under the weight of his family's expectations. Ever wants to keep the game going for as long as they can, at all costs.

- **Stay Gold – Tobly McSmith** (*Available on Audible*)



Pony's plan to fly under the radar as a trans teen at his new Texas school is upended when he starts falling for Georgia, a cisgender cheerleader who's also just trying to make it to graduation.

- **Will Grayson, Will Grayson – John Green and David Levithan** (*Available on Audible*)



One cold night, in a most unlikely corner of Chicago, teenager Will Grayson crosses paths with . . . Will Grayson! Two teens with the same name who run in two very different circles suddenly find their lives going

in new and unexpected directions. Culminating in epic turns-of-heart on both of their parts, they team up to produce the most fabulous musical ever to grace the high-school stage.

- **Cloud Busting – Malorie Blackman** (*Available on Audible*)



Despite his Mum's insistence, Sam doesn't want to be friends with Davey, but one day Davey saves Sam's life and a bond is formed between them. This is the story of an extraordinary friendship that changes two boys' lives for ever.

- **Journey to the River Sea – Eva Ibbotson** (*Available on Audible*)



Maia, orphaned at 13, is unhappy to be staying with relatives hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She becomes friends with an English boy who lives with the locals. They are forced to flee upriver, pursued by an assortment of eccentric characters.

- **Inside out and back again - Thanhha Lai** (*Available on Youtube*)



Being forced to move to the United States because the Vietnam War had reached their home, The novel is based on Kim Hà's first year in the United States, as a ten year-old girl who speaks no English.

- **Firegirl – Tony Abbott** (*Available on Audible*)



A poignant novel about a boy's friendship with a burn victim, and follows Tom, who slowly develops a tentative friendship with Jessica that changes his life.