

# Florida Teens Read (FTR) 2024-2025 Book List



Note: This program is designed to entice teens to read. In order to engage their interest and to provide a spur to critical thinking, the book selections include those that involve sensitive issues. The content of some of the titles may be more mature than younger students may have previously encountered. Please recognize that this is a voluntary reading program. Not every book selected will suit every student. In a democratic society, a variety of ideas must find voice. As readers, teens have the choice to read the more mature titles or to close the book.



**Slater, Dashka. *Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives it Changed.* Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2023.**

When a teenage boy creates a private Instagram account to post racist and sexist memes, he assumes people will get it. He isn't racist or sexist, he's just using "edgy" humor to make his friends laugh. But, when the Instagram goes public and the town learns about what he'd done, no one thinks it was a joke. Students directly attacked on Instagram are hurt, along with many others, and the school decides someone needs to be held accountable. What follows is a town-wide reckoning on racism in a mostly white population, the question of what constitutes hurt, who gets to decide punishment, and should there be forgiveness.



**Sylvester, Natalia. *Breathe and Count Back from Ten.* HarperCollins Publishers, 2022.**

An audition to become a mermaid in Mermaid Cove could be the answer to Peruvian-American Verónica's quest for the perfect summer employment and the fulfillment of her life-long dream. With her hip dysplasia, the only place she feels comfortable is in the water, but will the job be the breaking point in her relationship with her parents? Concerned about the family's resident status, seventeen-year-old Verónica's parents control her every move. As Vero balances her desires against those of her parents, she learns more about her disability, her relationship with her sister and her new friend, Alex. Vero's journey tackles the difficulties of physical movement and the ability to make her own decisions about her body while exploring sexism, cultural awareness, friendship and new love.



**Stone, Nic. *Chaos Theory.* Crown Books for Young Readers, 2023.**

Shelbi is brilliant, kind, and battling bipolar disorder. She's lucky to have a great support system between her parents and doctors, but she has no friends after the incident at her last school. Andy is spiraling. He is coping with his grief by drinking, which is only worsened by issues at home. Andy and Shelbi had never officially met, but one chance encounter at a party changed that. They bond over their shared lows and struggles, and it's not long until they realize they could be something more. But it seems like despite their best efforts, the universe is pulling them apart.



**Cole, Olivia A. *Dear Medusa.* Labyrinth Road (Random House Children's Books), 2023.**

Sexism. Privilege. Fear. Racism. Each of these are addressed through the story of a strong female protagonist dealing with the trauma of being sexually abused by a teacher, her peers creating rumors and giving her a nasty reputation, and "wolves" disguised as good men. Medusa was a beautiful woman who was abused and disgraced by the gods, but we remember her as a monster who turned men to stone. Long before then and up through now, girls have been victimized: their bodies have been used, weaponized, and portrayed without consent. Yet somehow society finds a way to blame them instead of the wolves. This powerful novel in verse calls out many of the challenges teenage girls face today. It is heart wrenching, but powerful and bolstered by truth.



**Painter, Lynn. *The Do-Over.* Simon & Schuster Books, 2022.**

Emilie Hornby has the perfect Valentine's Day planned out with her boyfriend, Josh, but absolutely everything goes wrong. She rear-ends a guy from school, catches her boyfriend cheating on her, finds out there is a problem with the scholarship she had been counting on and her dad wants to move. She can't take it anymore and calls her grandma to pick her up, but when she wakes up the next day, she realizes she's not at grandma's house and it's Valentine's Day all over again. How can she break this cycle of reliving the same bad day over and over again, and can she pick up the pieces and move on when February 15th finally comes?



**Lloyd-Jones, Emily. *The Drowned Woods.* Little, Brown and Company, 2022.**

What if you had an amazing superpower, but you were forced to use it for evil instead of good? Mererid (Mer) was taken from her family and forced to use her water diving power to find wells that were then poisoned, killing thousands. When she finds out the truth about how her power is being used, she runs away, trying to escape the horrifying past. When a familiar face turns up and promises her a way to get vengeance and stop the prince from harming others, Mer decides to rise to the challenge. Armed with a knife, a crew of questionable comrades and a possibly magical corgi, she returns to the city to set things right. Full of adventure, magic and mystery, this book will keep you guessing at every turn.



**Reilly, K. J. *Four for the Road*. Atheneum, 2022.**

Asher lost his mom in a drunk driving accident, and he wants revenge. He has kept tabs on the deadly driver, and secretly follows his daughter on social media. In fact, they've grown quite close. *Four for the Road* follows Asher through his intense grief, and across the country, as he and three unexpected friends he makes in his (multiple) bereavement groups pack up their secrets and road trip to Tennessee, where the unaware daughter of his mother's killer wants to take Asher to prom. You experience all the emotion, turmoil, humor, forgiveness, and revelations from Asher's first-person perspective. It will leave you with all the feels and a reminder of what it means to be a human.



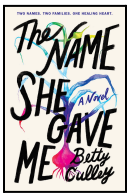
**Young, Suzanne. *In Nightfall*. Delacorte Press, 2023.**

Suzanne Young has put the horror back into creatures of the night in the Pacific Northwest. When Theo and Marco Maggione find themselves banished to Nightfall, Oregon, they bristle under their grandmother's strict house rules, but they quickly realize that being home before dark is an excellent idea and that perhaps their charismatic new friends aren't quite what they seem. As the siblings struggle to reconcile Nonna's rules with their desire to fit in and have fun, they learn about Nightfall's horrific history and their own connections to it.



**Dawson, Delilah S. *Midnight at the Houdini*. Delacorte Press, 2023.**

Anna has a plan, and planning is how she makes sure everything in her life stays just the way she wants it, until she finds out her sister is moving away and her world is turned upside down. The night of her sister's wedding she finds herself trying to escape a mysterious storm that strikes Las Vegas. Her father manages to get her to the Houdini Hotel where she seeks refuge, not knowing that the hotel is under a spell, and if she stays past midnight she will be trapped there forever. She meets Max, who has lived his whole life at the Houdini, and together they try to find a way out before it's too late for her. There's magic, mystery and romance combined to keep you reading until the very last page.



**Culley, Betty. *The Name She Gave Me*. Harper Teen, 2022.**

This novel in verse is a moving tale of an adopted girl named Rynn, 16, who knows little about her past other than her birth mother named her Scheherazade, wanted her raised on a farm, and she was born with a hole in her heart. She cannot access further details about her birth until she turns eighteen. With the help of friends, she discovers clues about her past, including a sister who lives with a foster family two towns away. If she connects with her, will it drive her adoptive family apart? While the literal hole in her heart may have been fixed, an emptiness still exists. This powerful tale explores the wide range of heartbreak and love that exists in families of all forms.



**Brooks, Nick. *Promise Boys*. Henry Holt and Company, 2023.**

*Promise Boys*, a mystery by Nick Brooks, is a story of overcoming adversity. Told from multiple perspectives, the boys of Urban Promise Prep School find themselves wrapped up in a mystery of trying to find out who murdered the principal. Suspects include three students, J.B., Ramon, and Trey, who all have motive, means, and opportunity. They must work together to prove their innocence and find the murderer.



**Howard, Amalie. *Queen Bee*. Joy Revolution, 2023.**

*Queen Bee* is the historical romance of the season, filled with vengeance and wit. Ela, freshly graduated from a harsh girls' school, has concocted a plan to infiltrate and destroy London's elite circle after being ruined by salacious lies and jealousy. Ela has disguised herself as a wealthy heiress with dyed hair, a new name, and a prestigious benefactor, and she is taking the season by storm, all with the goal to take down Poppy, her former best friend turned tormentor. What starts out as a mission for revenge, quickly gets complicated as friendships blossom and an unlikely romance starts sizzling with Lord Keston. This novel shows what colonial life would have been like had conquered countries been granted opportunities for equality. It has all the appeal and draw of *Downton Abbey* with Asian and African influences.



**Stokes, Stacy. *Remember Me Gone*. Viking, 2022.**

People from around the country visit the Memory House in tiny Tumble Tree, Texas so Lucy's father can erase their most painful memories, but when Lucy finally gets her chance to help, she sees more than just a tragic recollection. As the townspeople grow alarmingly ill, and Lucy finds herself drawn to Marco Warman in spite of warnings to avoid him, Lucy begins questioning her own memories. Can she and Marco uncover what's really happening in Tumble Tree, or will they be doomed to forget everything?



**O'Clover, Ellen. *Seven Percent of Ro Devereaux*. Harper Teen, 2023.**

MASH - Mansion, Apartment, Shack, House. Ro and her friends played the old pencil and paper game at sleepovers in middle school, but what if the game could actually predict your future? When Ro learns that human behavior can be predicted with 93% accuracy, she creates an app that will do just that, and it goes viral. Overnight, Ro finds herself working with an app developer, with seemingly endless funding, and Miller, her ex-best friend who now despises her. When MASH predicts a future for Ro and Miller, the app developer swoops in and launches the pair as the perfect MASH success story, but are they? As MASH gains momentum and the app developer demands more, Ro wonders if this is really the success she wants.



**Bayron, Kalynn. *You're Not Supposed to Die Tonight*. Bloomsbury YA, 2023.**

Charity Curtis lands the ultimate summer gig at Camp Mirror Lake, immersing herself as the "final girl" in a chilling horror movie simulation. However, what begins as a thrilling adventure turns sinister as her friends and coworkers begin to vanish, some meeting grisly fates. With the absence of adults, Charity and her dwindling circle of friends embark on a perilous quest to unveil the identity of the assailant and uncover the unsettling truth behind the increasingly lifelike simulation. Drawing inspiration from the infamous Camp Crystal Lake and the iconic film series, *Friday the 13th*, this suspenseful tale is a must-read for horror aficionados. As the boundaries between reality and fantasy blur, Charity and her companions must confront their deepest fears and unravel the dark secrets lurking beneath the surface of Camp Mirror Lake before it's too late. Brace yourself for a pulse-pounding journey into the heart of terror.