

Perfect TENS

2016



With over 1,100 reviews in **VOYA** in print in 2016, our reviewers awarded only thirty-three titles (three percent) the Perfect Ten—a **5Q** for quality (hard to imagine it better written) and a **5P** for popularity (every young adult who reads was dying to read it yesterday). After careful consideration, and with extensive knowledge of YA titles, **VOYA**'s reviewers considered these titles to be the best of the best in 2016. Excerpts from their reviews tell us why. Give these titles a second look for your reading list and collections.

33 PERFECT TENS

Avery, Lara. **The Memory Book**. Poppy/Little, Brown, 2016. 368p. \$17.99. 978-0-316-28374-8. **VOYA** August 2016. **5Q 5P J S**

"Avery brings an emotional honesty to Sammie's narrative. . . . Teens will be inspired by Avery's heart-rending story about a special and intelligent young woman coping with a devastating disease—a story buoyed by the strong love of family flowing through Sammie's narrative and by an exquisite love story in which Sammie experiences happiness with Coop."

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. **The Long Game: A Fixer Novel**. Bloomsbury, 2016. 368p. \$17.99. 978-1-61963-596-8. **VOYA** June 2016. **5Q 5P J S**

"Barnes is a master at orchestrating clues as well as surprises, and her heroine has a very satisfying knack for flattening both student



and adult bullies in this sequel to **The Fixer** (Bloomsbury, 2015/**VOYA** August 2015). . . . The melodrama is movie-ready."

Blake, Ashley Herring. **Suffer Love**. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. 352p. \$17.99. 978-0-544-59632-0. **VOYA** June 2016. **5Q 5P J S**

"Blake's debut novel is an absolute must-read realistic fiction that readers of Rainbow Rowell, John Green, and Sara Zarr will devour. Hadley and Sam are incredibly flawed and realistic characters whose raw emotion is so beautifully portrayed throughout the story that the reader easily gets lost in it. . . . Blake's examination of what all forms of true love can look like is one that will resonate with all readers. Blake is an author to watch, and this book is sure to fly off the shelf."



Calame, Don. **Dan vs. Nature**. Candlewick, 2016. 384p. \$17.99. 978-0-7636-7071-9. **VOYA** April 2016. **5Q 5P J S**

"Calame's **Dan vs. Nature** is sophomore humor at its best. Tear-inducing guffaws abound on nearly every page. Both Dan and Charlie's characters are beautifully fleshed out and perfectly complementary. Calame's writing makes the reader a participant in their shenanigans by page five. The appearance of fellow camper Penelope, who is Charlie's match in intelligence and acerbity, if not nerdiness, proves that sophomore humor need not be at the expense of half the human race."



Cameron, Sharon. **The Forgetting**. Scholastic, 2016. 416p. \$18.99. 978-0-545-94521-9. **VOYA** October 2016. **5Q 5P M J S**

"This novel begins as just another dystopian

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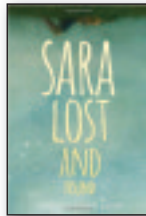
novel, but transforms into an amazing science fiction adventure. . . . Cameron explores the human mind in this novel that questions what people would do to preserve or change their lives. . . . Are humans just the sum total of their memories or are they more? . . . Nadia and Gray will either save or doom the city with their actions to find out about the Forgetting.”

Castleman, Virginia. **Sara Lost and Found.**

Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, 2016. 320p. \$16.99.

978-1-4814-3871-1. VOYA April 2016. 5Q 5P M

“Castleman knows the foster care system well . . . She wrote this story to draw attention to the flawed foster care system and to give a voice to foster and adopted kids. Sara’s story will tug at heart strings; readers will cheer for her to succeed, for she is a heroine in the style of **The Great Gilly Hopkins** (HarperCollins, 2004). This book is a must for middle school readers.”



Dawe, Ted. **Into the River.** Polis Books, 2016. 304p. \$17.99. 978-1-

943818-19-8. VOYA June 2016. 5Q 5P S NA

“Dawe combines today’s too-common, horrific, headline news with native legend and wisdom to produce a tough and plausible culture-clash, coming-of-age story. Seeming to give up name, culture, and family, Te Arepa proves to be brave enough to claim freedom regardless of price. This is a crossover, hard-hitting read appropriate for life-experienced and older teens, as well as adults.”



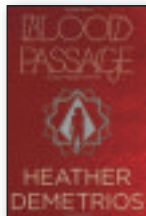
Demetrios, Heather. **Blood Passage: Dark**

Caravan Cycle, Book 2. Balzer + Bray/

HarperCollins, 2016. 512p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-

231859-6. VOYA June 2016. 5Q 5P J S

“In this sequel to **Exquisite Captive** (HarperCollins, 2014/VOYA December 2014), Demetrios creates a world of passion and danger in a seldom written about paranormal area. These are not typical Disney genies. These jinn are more like the ones of the original **The Arabian Nights**. Brilliantly flawed characters lead the reader on an emotional and dangerous journey through mystical, magical realms that hide secrets from all.”



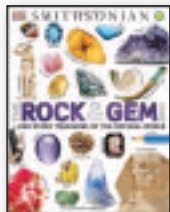
DK, Eds. **The Rock and Gem Book and Other Treasures of the**

Natural World. DK, 2016. 192p. \$22.99. 978-1-

4654-5070-8. Index. Photos. VOYA June 2016.

5Q 5P M J S NA R

“The Smithsonian mineral book has a variety of uses—as a gift book, homeschooling tool, reference source, science project initiator, and waiting-room coffee table book. Each



two-page spread lures the curious into more areas of study, . . . The perfect book for the rock hound, public or school library browser, or the at-risk student who shuns science, this compendium speaks to the eyes.”

Elston, Ashley. **This Is Our Story.** Hyperion,

2016. 320p. \$17.99. 978-1-4847-3089-8. VOYA

December 2016. 5Q 5P J S NA R

“This riveting legal thriller immediately engages readers with this opening line, ‘[A] ten-point buck and a dead body make the same sound when they hit the forest floor’ from one of the River Point Boys. . . . Intrigue and suspense, drugs and partying, social media, budding romance, mounting clues, and characters who embody good and bad—some evil—make this incredibly crafted



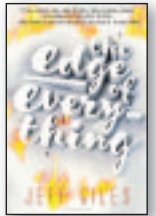
novel impossible to set aside. It is a stellar summer reading or book discussion group choice. Librarians should shelve multiple copies, as this novel will circulate among all readers.”

Giles, Jeff. **The Edge of Everything.** Bloomsbury,

2017. 368p. \$18.99. 978-1-61963-753-5. VOYA

December 2016. 5Q 5P J S R

“Giles’s gripping tale pulls readers through a fast-paced thriller . . . With strong characters and suspenseful scenes strung one after another, readers enter an amazing work of speculative fiction that pits good against evil, man against man, and man against nature. . . . In this wholly engrossing page-turner, Giles convinces readers to view X as a ‘good guy’ who hails from an isolated section of hell, only entering the surface world to collect souls assigned to him. It is suitable for any readers who are aficionados of contemporary fiction, mystery, adventure, suspense, romance, or tales wherein determining right from wrong is difficult. Shelve multiple copies and gift this book; readers will thank you.”



Glasgow, Kathleen. **Girl in Pieces.** Delacorte/Penguin Random

House, 2016. 416p. \$18.99. 978-1-101-93471-5.

VOYA August 2016. 5Q 5P S

“Glasgow draws each of these characters deftly with sparse details and vivid language. . . . teens with the courage to crack the cover will find themselves driven to see Charlie’s story through. They will better understand a world that often makes no sense to outsiders. Glasgow’s debut



novel is a dark read, but the engaging writing will win an audience for her next one.”

Grove, S.E. **The Crimson Skew: The Mapmaker’s**

Trilogy, Book 3. Viking/Penguin Random

House, 2016. 448p. \$17.99. 978-0-670-78504-9.

VOYA August 2016. 5Q 5P M J

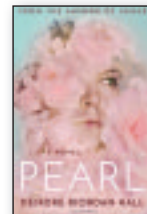
“**The Crimson Skew** is the third and final book in *The Mapmaker’s Trilogy*, a fantasy series unlike any other. . . . Grove has created a wonderfully unique series with multiple layers for students and teachers to explore. On the surface, this is an entertaining fantasy and adventure story for teens. Deeper, there are themes of xenophobia and racism and how people’s actions have an effect on the world on a fundamental level. **The Crimson Skew** and the entire trilogy are great fun to read, as well as perfect choices for book groups and class reading.”



Hall, Deirdre Riordan. **Pearl.** Skyscape, 2016. 352p. \$9.99 Trade pb.

978-1-5039-4858-7. VOYA April 2016. 5Q 5P S

“Top-notch writing, excellent characterization, and a plot that illustrates but never preaches puts **Pearl** at the top of the stack. . . . Each of the characters is carefully drawn as multi-dimensional and deeply flawed . . . Heartbreaking, gritty, and absolutely unforgettable, **Pearl** belongs in every teen library. It is a first-rate choice for teen book discussions.”



Hesse, Monica. **Girl in the Blue Coat.** Little,

Brown, 2016. 320p. \$17.99. 978-0-316-26060-2.

VOYA February 2016. 5Q 5P M J S

“This fast-paced story is alternately touching, heart-pounding and wrenching—but always gripping. . . . The writing shows meticulous research and allows readers a fascinating look at life in occupied Europe during WWII, but remains a heartrending, moving story. Teens will relish the chance to become acquainted with this brave, flawed heroine and breathlessly tag along on her courageous journey. This



author's debut historical fiction shows great promise and will leave readers eager for more."

Hoffmeister, Peter Brown. **This Is the Part Where You Laugh.** Knopf/Penguin Random House, 2016. 336p. \$17.99. 978-0-553-53810-6. **VOYA** June 2016. **5Q 5P S**



"For readers who enjoy stories filled with drama and chest-clutching moments, **This Is the Part Where You Laugh** will fit the bill. It is a powerful story about suffering and dealing with difficult issues. Hoffmeister has done a wonderful job of

allowing the reader to 'get into' the head of a young man whose world seems to be crashing down around him."

Kephart, Beth. **This Is the Story of You.** Chronicle, 2016. 264p. \$17.99. 978-1-4521-4284-5. **VOYA** April 2016. **5Q 5P M J S**



"Her words read like poetry, creating strong images. Many of the sentences can be interpreted on two levels. For example, in the discussion of how sand is formed, Jasper Lee says, 'the heavier the wave, the more powerful the crystal,' which can be interpreted as an analogy for life. There is advice here for everyone: 'first rule when you feel afraid is to act.' This book is a quick read, but the memories will linger with readers."

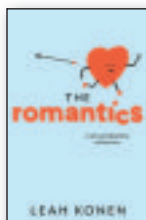
Keyser, Amber J., Ed. **The V-Word: True Stories about First-Time Sex.** Simon Pulse, 2016. 208p. \$10.99 Trade pb. 978-1-58270-521-7. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading. **VOYA** February 2016. **5Q 5P J S NA**



"The book serves young women as a kind of rite of passage with a bevy of older sisters telling it like it is, sharing experiences that are rarely talked about.

Given the array of experiences (from a wedding night to a casual encounter) and identifications (hetero, lesbian, bi, and trans) some readers may have difficulties with some of the frankness, diversity, and language. The trade-off, however, is well worth it. The variety emphasizes how individual it is and how important it is for each young woman to make an informed and conscious choice for herself."

Konen, Leah. **The Romantics.** Amulet/Abrams, 2016. 336p. \$18.95. 978-1-4197-2193-9. **VOYA** December 2016. **5Q 5P J S**



"What is not to love about a story that is told by, well, Love? This amazing rom-com reminiscent of a John Hughes film . . . is fresh and an amazingly funny look at romance when it is least expected, and Love is one of the best book narrators of all time. This one is not to be missed."

McCarthy, Cori. **You Were Here.** Sourcebooks, 2016. 400p. \$17.99. 978-1-4926-1704-4. **VOYA** February 2016. **5Q 5P S**



"McCarthy writes about how violence shapes our lives in the form of death, abuse, and romantic drama. The story is told from multiple perspectives and forms including prose, graffiti art, and graphic novel pages. A beautiful coming-of-age story, this book will leave readers thinking

about it long after they close it."

McGinnis, Mindy. **The Female of the Species.** Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins, 2016. 352p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-232089-6. **VOYA** October 2016. **5Q 5P J S**

"This book does not start quietly, softly, or humorously—its grasp holds the reader firmly and unflinchingly and does not

let go even after the book ends. . . . Each word has been specifically chosen, each character superbly and humanly sculpted, the plot line masterfully completed. To say more would be to dilute the experience. McGinnis plays with the readers and they are at her mercy."

Major Nations in a Global World: Tradition, Culture, and Daily Life. Mason Crest, 2015. 64p. \$23.95. Index. Glossary. Further Reading. Photos. Illus. **VOYA** June 2016. **5Q 5P M J S**



Centore, Michael. **Japan.** 978-1-4222-3347-4.

_____ **India.** 978-1-4222-3345-0.

Perritano, John. **Australia.** 978-1-4222-3340-5.

"Centore and Perritano break vocabulary-rich diction into relatively brief sentences. . . . Excellent color photography combine with sepia-toned images that float beneath text—another instance of adding substance without overwhelming the reader. A worthy purchase for middle grades, low-ability upper grades, and even precocious fifth graders, *Major Nations in a Global World* offers rich content in an accessible and functional format."

Melton, H. Keith. **Ultimate Spy: Inside the Secret World of Espionage.** DK, 2015. 224p. \$25. 978-1-4654-3600-9. **VOYA** August 2016. **5Q 5P M J S**



"**Ultimate Spy** holds all the information of a history textbook but reads like a collection of magazine articles, pulling readers into the time period by providing scoops on some of the most influential people in history. With a large enough catalogue of pictures to make any museum director drool, Melton's book takes readers on a visual, as well as intellectual, tour of espionage. **Ultimate Spy** sheds a new light on the shadows of history."

Miller, Brandon Marie. **Women of Colonial America: 13 Stories of Courage and Survival in the New World.** Chicago Review Press, 2016. 256p. \$19.95. 978-1-55652-487-5. Index. Illus. Biblio. **VOYA** June 2016. **5Q 5P M**



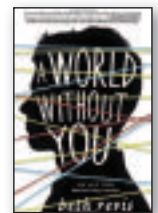
"In addition to notes and a bibliography of print and electronic sources, Miller appends primary and secondary indexing of such details as Williamsburg, Quakers, Pequot, enslaved children, Puritans, and indentured workers. This collection of varied female biographies belongs in middle school and public libraries, as well as the shelves of children's historians and home-schoolers."

Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. **Certain Dark Things.** Thomas Dunne/Macmillan, 2016. 336p. \$25.99. 978-1-250-09908-2. **VOYA** October 2016. **5Q 5P S NA**



"The novel has many mature themes, much violence, and strong language, but it all helps create a wonderful urban world filled with danger and suspense. Fans of visceral, grungy urban fantasy settings and supernatural elements will be engrossed. This excellent book is a must-have purchase for all libraries, especially where horror and urban fantasy fiction is hot. This novel will provide crossover appeal to both older teens and new adults."

Revis, Beth. **A World without You.** Razorbill/Penguin Random House, 2016. 384p. \$17.99. 978-1-59514-715-8. **VOYA** August 2016. **5Q 5P J S**



"The voices of both narrators are impossible to ignore as the lines between flawed visions and reality blur in a powerful revelation of the

delusional and paranoid mind. Revis's account of grief, loss, first love, and anguish, presented through a lens of mental illness, is a must-read."

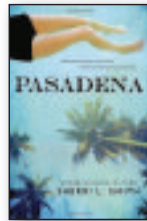
Riggs, Ransom. **Tales of the Peculiar**. Illus. by Andrew Davidson. Dutton/Penguin Random House, 2016. 192p. \$24.99. 978-0-399-53853-7. VOYA December 2016. 5Q 5P M J S



"Riggs delivers on a companion to his *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* series with a collection of fables with a unique spin. . . . Adding to the interwoven tales is Andrew Davidson's artwork introducing each chapter and forming an

exquisite, creatively-drawn, and masterfully-executed addition for fans alongside the vivid voice of Nullings. . . . Readers would be advised to heed the warning Nullings shares: 'enjoy these *Tales*—before a crackling fire on a chilly night, ideally, a snoring grimbear at your feet.'"

Smith, Sherri L. **Pasadena**. Putnam/Penguin Random House, 2016. 240p. \$17.99. 978-1-101-99625-6. VOYA October 2016. 5Q 5P S NA



"Smith's *Pasadena* compares with classic 1940s noir films, such as *The Big Sleep*, *Laura*, and *The Maltese Falcon*. The novel captures the pain of mourning and the desperate search for answers which can never satisfy. Although the ending of *Pasadena* may disappoint some readers hoping for a different answer, the resolution fits the book and characters like a well chosen black dress worn with the Kim family's heirloom pearls."

Stiefvater, Maggie. **The Raven King: The Raven Cycle, Book 4**. Scholastic, 2016. 448p. \$18.99. 978-0-545-42498-1. VOYA June 2016. 5Q 5P J S



"Stiefvater excels at building an intricately layered narrative with twisting, unpredictable turns, and her ability to introduce new, complex characters and storylines while also tying up previous loose ends is remarkable. Stiefvater's exploration

of character-driven themes that young adults experience in their own lives provokes a visceral reading experience that is enhanced by the magic and mythology surrounding the series. Readers who have invested in the series for years will not be disappointed, for the characters they have come to love are tested and found worthy in their sacrifices and redemption."

Stokes, Paula. **Vicarious**. Tor Teen, 2016. 336p. \$17.99. 978-0-7653-8094-4. VOYA August 2016. 5Q 5P S



"Pulse-pounding adventures and high-tech blend masterfully with romance, intrigue, and current issues, making this book completely captivating for any audience. After a mind-blowing revelation for Winter, *Vicarious* sets itself up as a series with a cliffhanger that will leave the reader begging for more."

Thorne, Jenn Marie. **The Inside of Out**. Dial/Penguin Random House, 2016. 432p. \$17.99. 978-0-8037-4058-7. VOYA August 2016. 5Q 5P J S



"*The Inside of Out* deals with the nuanced topic of gay rights skillfully by addressing it from Daisy's perspective, one of privilege. Thorne writes engagingly about complicated relationships, the importance of communication in understanding others' perspectives, and the blindness of privilege.

This book will fly off the shelves to a broad range of teens who will enjoy the humor and drama that Thorne brings to this story."

Young, Suzanne. **The Epidemic**. Simon Pulse, 2016. 384p. \$17.99.



978-1-4814-4470-5. VOYA April 2016. 5Q 5P J S

"*The Epidemic* is the sequel to *The Remedy* (Simon Pulse, 2015/VOYA April 2015), and both novels serve as companion books that lead to the events in Young's popular *Program* duology. Although this new duology can stand on its own, teens who have read *The Program* (Simon Pulse, 2013/VOYA April 2013) and *The*

Treatment (Simon Pulse, 2014/VOYA June 2014) already will finish *The Epidemic* with a deeper understanding of how and why society could wind up like it does. Readers who have not read the *Program* duology yet will be interested enough to continue with Young's unique dystopian world."

Zhang, Amy. **This Is Where the World Ends**.



Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2016. 304p. \$17.99. 978-0-06-238304-4. VOYA April 2016. 5Q 5P J S

"Zhang does a wonderful job of creating characters that, at first, seem shallow and obtuse; but as the story progresses, the characters become more challenging and complex. She creates a plot line that will be believable among teens about secrets that are and are not shared. This will make a great pairing with Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak* (Macmillan, 1999/VOYA December 1999) and raise questions about the similarities and differences between the two." ■

