

Quick Reads: Short Books for Teens In a Hurry

Sometimes you just need a quick read - a short book that you can pick up and polish off fast. All at less than 200 pages, grab one of these skinny books and get reading!

Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick by Joe Schreiber (YA FIC SCH)

Perry's parents insist that he take Gobi, their quiet, Lithuanian exchange student, to senior prom but after an incident at the dance he learns that Gobi is actually a trained assassin who needs him as a henchman, behind the wheel of his father's precious Jaguar, on a mission in Manhattan.

Bound by Donna Jo Napoli (YA FIC NAP)

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well.

Burger Wuss by M.T. Anderson (YA FIC AND)

Hoping to lose his loser image, Anthony plans revenge on a bully which results in a war between two competing fast food restaurants, Burger Queen and O'Dermott's.

Certain October by Angela Johnson (YA FIC JOH)

When Scotty feels responsible for a terrible accident, she cannot tell what is a dream and what is real, her friends have a hard time getting through to her, and her family is preoccupied with their own trauma.

The Chronicles of Vladimir Todd: Eighth Grade Bites by Heather Brewer (YA FIC BRE)

For thirteen years, Vlad, aided by his aunt and best friend, has kept secret that he is half-vampire, but when his missing teacher is replaced by a sinister substitute, he learns that there is more to being a vampire, and to his parents' deaths, than he could have guessed.

Code Orange by Caroline B. Cooney

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.

Darius & Twig by Walter Dean Myers (YA FIC MYE)

Darius: a super smart writer. Twig: an outstanding middle-distance runner. Darius & Twig: best friends. They need to navigate their Harlem world: the gangs, the bullies, an absent dad, an abusive uncle, the sleazy side of sports, and the uncertainty of a writer's prospects.

Dead is the New Black by Marlene Perez (YA FIC PER)

While dealing with her first boyfriend and suddenly being pressed into service as a substitute cheerleader, seventeen-year-old Daisy Giordano, daughter and sister of psychics but herself a "normal," attempts to help her mother discover who is behind a series of bizarre attacks on teenage girls in their little town of Nightshade, California.

Full Tilt by Neal Shusterman (YA FIC SHU)

When sixteen-year-old Blake goes to a mysterious, by-invitation-only carnival he somehow knows that it could save his comatose brother, but soon learns that much more is at stake if he fails to meet the challenge presented there by the beautiful Cassandra.

A Girl Named Digit by Annabel Monaghan (YA FIC MON)

After identifying a terrorist plot, a brilliant seventeen-year-old girl from Santa Monica, California, gets involved with the young FBI agent who is trying to ensure her safety.

Remembering Raquel by Vivian Vande Velde (YA FIC VAN)

Various people recall aspects of the life of Raquel Falcone, an unpopular, overweight freshman at Quail Run High School, including classmates, her parents, and the driver who struck and killed her as she was walking home from an animated film festival.

Somebody Please Tell Me Who I Am by Harry Mazer (YA FIC MAZ)

Wounded in Iraq while his Army unit is on convoy and treated for many months for traumatic brain injury, the first person Ben remembers from his earlier life is his autistic brother.

Spacer and Rat by Margaret Bechard (YA FIC BEC)

Jack's predictable existence on Freedom space station is transformed when Kit, the Earthie rat, enters his life and enlists him and a sensitive robot in an effort to outwit the Company.

Take Me To The River by Will Hobbs (YA FIC HOB)

When North Carolina fourteen-year-old Dylan Sands joins his fifteen-year-old cousin Rio in running the Rio Grande River, they face a tropical storm and a fugitive kidnapper.

The Truth About Truman by Dori Hillestad Butler (YA FIC BUT)

Tired of being told what to write by the school newspaper's advisor, Zibby and her friend Amr start an underground newspaper online where everyone is free to post anything, but things spiral out of control when a cyberbully starts using the site to harass one popular girl.

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman (YA FIC FLE)

While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he causes, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement.

Year of the Beasts by Cecil Castellucci (YA FIC CAS)

In chapters alternating between prose and graphic novel format, Tessa tries to be happy when her crush, Charlie, falls for her younger sister, Lulu, and it becomes easier after she begins a secret relationship with Jasper, a social outcast who lives next door to Tessa's best friend.

Zom-B by Darren Shan (YA FIC SHA)

B wonders about a zombie outbreak in Ireland and finds himself struggling for survival while forging precarious alliances in the serpentine corridors of his high school.

Please remember that not every book is the perfect fit for every teen. If you have questions about any of these titles, or need other suggestions, feel free to contact any of the South Kingstown Public Library branches. We're glad to help.

This list created for the South Kingstown Public Library by Brandi Kenyon. Updated 02/14.