



## Young Adult Realistic Fiction Book List:

*Realistic Fiction seems like real life, with characters dealing with real life problems. The plot often takes place in the present time. The situations are true or could be, but the main characters are fictional.*

**Tiger Eyes** – Judy Blume – Resettled in the "Bomb City" with her mother and brother, Davey Wexler recovers from the shock of her father's death during a holdup of his 7-Eleven store in Atlantic City. 217 pages  
YA F Blume

**The Goats** – Brock Cole – Stripped and marooned on a small island by their fellow campers, a boy and a girl form an uneasy bond that grows into a deep friendship they decide to run away and disappear without a trace. 184 pages  
YA F Cole

**When Zachary Beaver Came to Town** - Kimberly Holt – During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world. 227 pages  
YA F Holt

**Silent to the Bone** – E.L. Konigsburg – When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened. 261 pages  
YA F Konigsburg

**Autumn Street** – Louis Lowry – When her father goes to fight in World War II, Elizabeth goes with her mother and sister to her grandfather's house where she learns to face up to the always puzzling and often cruel realities of the adult world. 188 pages  
YA F Lowry

**A Summer to Die** –Lois Lowry – Thirteen-year-old Meg envy's her sister's beauty and popularity. Her feelings don't make it any easier for her to cope with Molly's strange illness and eventual death. 154 pages  
YA F Lowry

**Somewhere In the Darkness** – Walter Myers – A teenage boy accompanies his father, who has recently escaped from prison, on a trip that turns out to be an, often painful, time of discovery for them both. 168 pages  
YA F Myers

**Web of Lies** – Beverley Naidoo – What does it mean to be loyal? Mathew and Mugo, two boys—one white, one black—share an uneasy friendship in Kenya in the 1950s. 224 pages  
YA F Naidoo

**Burn My Heart** – Beverley Naidoo – When her parents' divorce, a sixth grader struggles to understand that sometimes people are unable to live together. 169 pages  
YA F Naidoo

**Sang Spell** – Phyllis Naylor – When his mother is killed in an automobile accident, high-schooler Josh decides to hitchhike across country, and finds himself trapped in a mysterious village somewhere in the Appalachian Mountains, among a group of people who call themselves Melungeons. 212 pages  
YA F Naylor

**Sentries** – Gary Paulson – Nuclear disaster and human vulnerability interweaves the lives of four young people. 168 pages  
YA F Paulson

**Wringer** – Jerry Spinelli – As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it. 228 pages  
YA F Spinelli

**Star Girl** – Jerry Spinelli – In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. 186 pages  
YA F Spinelli

**Seventeen Against the Dealer** – Cynthia Voigt– Dacey struggles to make a go of a boatbuilding business while facing family concerns, romantic problems, and the uncertainties of a drifter who offers to help her in her work. 339 pages  
YA F Voigt

**A Solitary Blue** – Cynthia Voigt – Jeff's mother, who deserted the family years before, reenters his life and widens the gap between Jeff and his father, a gap that only truth, love, and friendship can heal. 250 pages  
YA F Voigt

**When She Hollars** – Cynthia Voigt – Tish, a teenager who has been enduring abuse from her adoptive stepfather since she was a small child, finally decides she must do something to stop him. 117 pages  
YA F Voigt

**Thirteen Reasons Why** – Jay Asher – When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death. 304 pages  
YA F Asher

**Walk Two Moons** – Sharon Creech – After her mother leaves home suddenly; thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left. 280 pages  
YA F Creech

**Speak** – Laurie Hass Anderson – A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. 197 pages  
YA F Anderson

**Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie** – David Lubar– While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer. 297 pages  
YA F Lubar

**Skullduggery** – Pete Hautman – During a field trip in the local woods, Roni and Brian find the local archaeology professor, Andrew Dart, knocked unconscious in a cave, which leads them to investigate a land development scheme. 186 pages  
YA F Hautman

**Bridge to Terabithia** – Katherine Paterson – The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. 128 pages  
JF Paterson

**Great Gilly Hopkins** – Katherine Paterson – An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly. 148 pages  
JF Paterson

**Jacob I have Loved** – Katherine Paterson – Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity. 216 pages  
JF Paterson

**The Foxman** – Katherine Paterson – A town boy sent to live on a remote wilderness farm forms a friendship with an elderly, disfigured man who teaches him many things. 119 pages  
JF Paulson

**Maniac Magee** – Jerry Spinelli – After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. 184 pages  
JF Spinelli

**Belle Prater's Boy** – Ruth White – When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives. 196 pages  
JF White

**The Friends** – Kazumi Yumoto – Curious about death, three sixth-grade boys decide to spy on an old man waiting for him to die, but they end up becoming his friends. 175 pages  
JF Yumoto

**The Great Airport Mystery** – Franklin W. Dixon – Valuable electronic parts containing platinum are being stolen from shipments made by Stanwide Mining Equipment Company's cargo planes, and Frank and Joe Hardy are called upon to assist their world-renowned detective father in solving the case. 169 pages  
JF Dixon

**The Vanishing Thieves** – Franklin W. Dixon – The Hardy boys accompany a Canadian teenager to Los Angeles to help locate a missing rare coin, but soon become involved in an even larger case. 179 pages  
JF Dixon

**Souder** – William Howard Armstrong – Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read and through his relationship with his devoted dog Souder. 116 pages  
JF Armstrong

**The Whipping Boy** – Sid Fleischman – A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. 90 pages  
JF Fleischman

**Harriet, the Spy** – Louise Fitzhugh – Eleven-year-old Harriet keeps notes on her classmates and neighbors in a secret notebook, but when some of the students read the notebook, they seek revenge. 300 pages  
JF Fitzhugh

**Shiloh** – Phyllis Reynolds Naylor – When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. 144 pages  
JF Naylor

**There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom** – Louis Sachar – An unmanageable, but lovable, eleven-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is a sort of misfit too. 195 pages  
JF Sachar

**The Westing Game** – Ellen Raskin – The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance. 182 pages  
JF Raskin

**The Best School Year Ever** – Barbara Robinson – The six horrible Herdmans, the worst children in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year. 117 pages  
JF Robinson

**The Haunting of Hillside School** – Kristiana Gregory – Cousins Jeff, David, and Claire investigate the possible haunting of their schoolhouse. 130 pages  
JF Gregory

**Moccasin Trail** – Eloise Jarvis McGraw – A pioneer boy, brought up by Crow Indians, is reunited with his family and attempts to orient himself in the white man's culture. 247 pages  
JF McGraw