

The New York Public Library  
**Best Books  
of 2021**

# TEENS

Librarians and staff from across The New York Public Library system have compiled a list of the best books of 2021 for teens, including fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels. Explore the list—and more for readers of all ages: [nypl.org/bestbooks](https://nypl.org/bestbooks)

## FICTION

**Bad Witch Burning**  
Jessica Lewis

**Beasts of Prey**  
Ayana Gray

**Chlorine Sky: A Novel**  
Mahogany L. Browne

**The City Beautiful**  
Aden Polydoros

**The Cost of Knowing**  
Brittney Morris

**Dagger Hill**  
Devon Taylor

**Darling**  
K. Ancrum

**Dustborn**  
Erin Bowman

**Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry**  
Joya Goffney

**Firekeeper's Daughter**  
Angeline Boulley

**The Girls I've Been**  
Tess Sharpe

**House of Hollow**  
Krystal Sutherland

**How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love with the Universe**  
Raquel Vasquez Gilliland

**Hurricane Summer**  
Asha Bromfield

**If I Tell You the Truth**  
Jasmin Kaur

**Iron Widow**  
Xiran Jay Zhao

**Last Night at the Telegraph Club**  
Malinda Lo

**Love Is a Revolution**  
Renée Watson

**The Mary Shelley Club**  
Goldy Moldavsky

**Perfectly Parvin**  
Olivia Abtahi

**A Snake Falls to Earth**  
Darcie Little Badger

**Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet**  
Laekan Zea Kemp

**Spin Me Right Round**  
David Valdes

**Sway with Me**  
Syed M. Masood

**This Is Not the Jess Show**  
Anna Carey

**This Poison Heart**  
Kalynn Bayron

**The Valley and the Flood**  
Rebecca Mahoney

**The Witch King**  
H.E. Edgmon

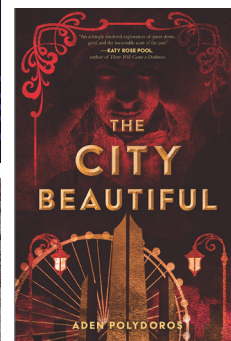
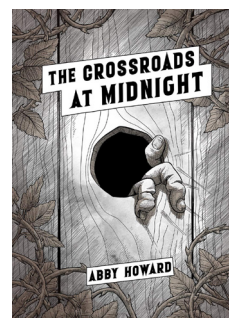
**Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms**  
Crystal Frasier,  
art by Val Wise

**Clockwork Curandera, Volume 1: The Witch Owl Parliament**  
David Bowles &  
Raúl the Third

**The Crossroads at Midnight**  
Abby Howard

## GRAPHIC NOVELS

**Boys Run the Riot, Vol. 1**  
Keito Gaku



**The Dire Days of Willowweep Manor**  
Shaenon K. Garrity,  
illustrated by  
Christopher Baldwin

**The Hazards of Love, Book 1: Bright World**  
Stan Stanley

**Himawari House**  
Harmony Becker

**Mao, Vol. 1**  
Rumiko Takahashi

**My Love Mix-Up! Vol. 1**  
Wataru Hinekure,  
art by Aruko

**Nubia: Real One**  
L.L. McKinney, illustrated  
by Robyn Smith

**Yasmeen**  
Saif A. Ahmed, illustrated  
by Fabiana Mascolo

## NONFICTION

**Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre**  
Brandy Colbert

**Can't Stop Won't Stop: A Hip-Hop History (Young Adult Edition)**  
Jeff Chang &  
Dave "Davey D" Cook

**Determined to Stay: Palestinian Youth Fight for Their Village**  
Jody Sokolower

**Disability Visibility: 17 First-Person Stories for Today (Adapted for Young Adults)**  
Alice Wong

**A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome**  
Ariel Henley

**From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement**  
Paula Yoo

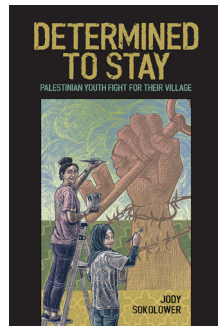
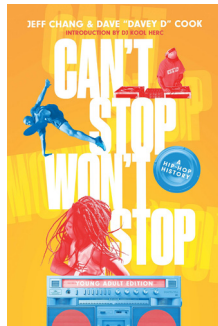
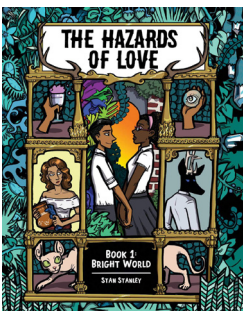
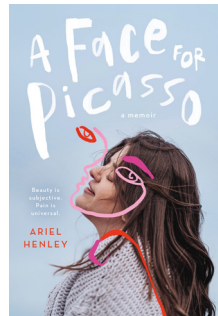
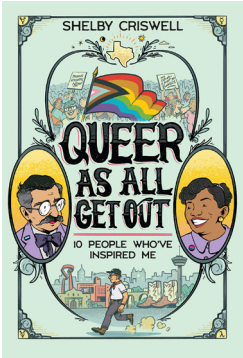
**Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human**  
Erika Moen and  
Matthew Nolan

**Punching Bag**  
Rex Ogle

**Queer as All Get Out: 10 People Who've Inspired Me**  
Shelby Criswell

**Revolution in Our Time: The Black Panther Party's Promise to the People**  
Kekla Magoon

**Singled Out: The True Story of Glenn Burke**  
Andrew Maraniss



### About Best Books

Every year our librarians and staff select noteworthy new books for readers of all ages. These lists have always sought to reflect the diversity of New York City's readership. Special thanks to our Best Books committees, the members of which have read thousands of books to bring readers these recommendations. Learn more: [nypl.org/bestbooks](https://nypl.org/bestbooks)

### About The New York Public Library

Founded in 1895, The New York Public Library is the nation's largest public library system, with neighborhood branches throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, and scholarly research centers. Serving millions of patrons a year both in-person and online, the Library offers free materials, classes, and programs for users of all ages.



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