from the teen services department

hot picks

check out for teens these hot new titles for teens!







By Vanessa Le (YA F Le)

369 pages 2024 Fantasy

Nhika is a heartsooth, or bloodcarver to the people of Theumas. She has the power to read and manipulate the body and blood by touching a person. Nhika has the power to heal, or just as easily, kill others. She has a rare gift that is sought after. Nhika is caught and sold off to the highest bidder, who wants her to heal the only witness to her father's death. Will she earn acceptance by helping them? Or will she be forced to forever hide her gift? (Grades 6 & up)



TETHERED TO OTHER STARS

By Elisa Stone Leahy (YA F Leah)

313 pages 2023 Realistic Fiction

Wendy and her Salvadoran-Guatemalan family have just moved to a new neighborhood, and she will be attending a middle school that is especially for gifted students. Her top priority is participating in the science fair by building a prize-winning telescope. But things start to get complicated as racial tensions rise in the community and at school. Wendy must decide if she will stand up for what is right, or if she will take the safe path and not "make waves". Tethered to Other Stars tackles bullying, academic pressure, and social issues in an empathetic and compassionate manner. (Grades 6 & up)



PIZZA FACE

By Rex Ogle (YA F Four Eyes)

213 pages 2024 Graphic Novel

Ahhh, puberty. The time in everyone's life when they feel like no one else is going through what they are. The beginning of seventh grade presents some challenges for Rex: his face is breaking out, his voice is changing, but he's still shorter than most of the boys at his school. He also has to navigate changing friendships and deal with hurt feelings and misunderstood comments. As he goes through the year, he learns what and who are important to him, and somehow makes it through the awkwardness, eventually realizing that he is not the only one who feels this way. (Grades 6 & up)



SIX TRUTHS AND A LIE

By Ream Shukairy (YA F Shuk)

392 pages 2024 Realistic Fiction

This book follows the experiences of six Muslim teens after being wrongly accused of terrorism following a deadly explosion at a Fourth of July event. The teens come from different surrounding Los Angeles schools and have stories and dreams that are threatened to be shattered as they are exposed to the realities of America's criminal justice system. Told in their separate voices, each teen must trust or turn their backs on each other to prove their innocence. (Grades 9 & up)



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST AND OTHER PLAYS

By Oscar Wilde (822.8 Wild)

257 pages 2003 Classic Fiction

The main play, The Importance of Being Earnest, is a light-hearted critique on society and people's tendency to deceive others to either get what they want, or preserve some truth. The play follows two characters who constantly bicker with each other and shows their efforts to find love. Despite being published at the end of the 19th century, many of the themes are still relevant today such as outward appearance, managing relationships, and integrity. It's a relatively short read, and is very pleasant. Review written by TAB member Daniel P. (Grades 8 & up)