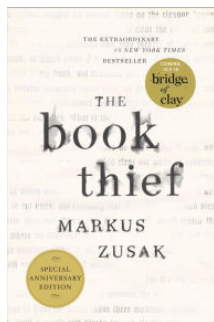
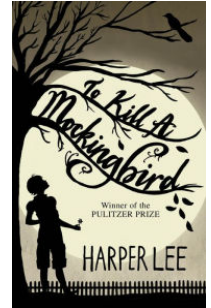


Books to Share with your Teen About Choices and Transitions

Biologically and psychologically, young adulthood is fundamentally a period of maturation and change. To highlight this important and sometimes difficult transition, we have put together a list of books from prize winning authors who have inspired us with stories that remind us how some people not only manage to adapt, but excel in the face of life's difficulties.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Lawyer Atticus Finch defends the real mockingbird, a black man charged with the rape of a white woman. Through the eyes of Atticus's children, Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with rich humor and unanswering honesty the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930's. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, *To Kill A Mockingbird* takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos.

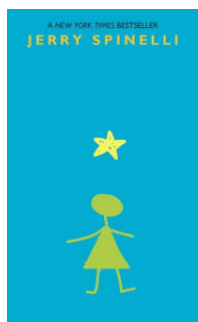
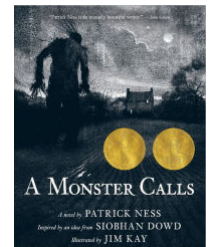


The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist – books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and to share her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids, as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

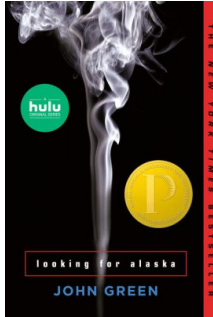
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

A Carnegie Medal–winning masterwork, Patrick Ness has spun a haunting and darkly funny novel of mischief, loss, and monsters both real and imagined. The monster in Conor's backyard is not the one he's been expecting — the one from the nightmare he's had every night since his mother started her treatments. This monster is ancient. And wild. And it wants something from Conor. Something terrible and dangerous. It wants the truth.



Stargirl by Leo Borlock

In a celebration of nonconformity, Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the fleeting, cruel nature of popularity—and the thrill and inspiration of first love. When Stargirl arrives at Mica High, she captures Leo's heart with just one smile and sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal.

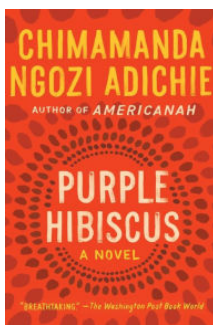
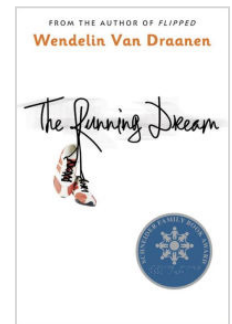


Looking for Alaska by John Green

Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award, *Looking for Alaska* brilliantly chronicles the indelible impact one life can have on another. Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words—and tired of his safe life at home. He leaves for boarding school to seek what the dying poet François Rabelais called “The Great Perhaps.” Much awaits Miles at Culver Creek, including Alaska Young, who will pull Miles into her labyrinth and catapult him into the Great Perhaps.

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

This is an inspirational, powerful and healing story about a young girl who learns to dream bigger than ever before. Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She’s not comforted by the news that she’ll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she’s both in the spotlight and invisible – people don’t know what to say and act like she’s not there. Jessica’s embarrassed to realize that she’s done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she’s missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her.



Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

This is an exquisite novel about the emotional turmoil of adolescence, the powerful bonds of family, and the bright promise of freedom. Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Nigeria – they live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. But their home life is strict, silent and suffocating. As the country begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili and Jaja are sent to their aunt, where they discover a life beyond the confines of their father’s authority. When they return home, tensions within the family escalate, and Kambili must find the strength to keep her loved ones together.

Hush by Jacqueline Woodson

A National Book Award Finalist, Jacqueline Woodson weaves a fascinating portrait of a thoughtful young girl's coming of age in a world turned upside down. Evie Thomas is not who she used to be. Once she had a best friend, a happy home and a loving grandmother living nearby. Once her name was Toswiah. Now, everything is different. Her family has been forced to move to a new place and change their identities. But that's not all that has changed. Her once lively father has become depressed and quiet. Her mother leaves teaching behind and clings to a new-found religion. Her only sister is making secret plans to leave. And Evie, struggling to find her way in a new city where kids aren't friendly and the terrain is as unfamiliar as her name, wonders who she is.

