

Potok, Chaim

My Name is Asher Lev

Records the anguish and triumphs of a young painter as he emerges into the great world of art and rejects all else.

Richter, Conrad

The Light in the Forest

True Son had been born into a frontier family, but all he could remember, all that he loved, was Native American. Now, at fifteen, he was ordered to go back to the white man, whom he had learned to hate. Where did he belong--and where could he go?

Salinger, J.D.

Catcher in the Rye

Since his debut in 1951 as The Catcher in the Rye, Holden Caulfield has been synonymous with "cynical adolescent." Holden narrates the story of a couple of days in his sixteen-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school, in a slang that sounds edgy even today and keeps this novel on banned book lists.

Shteyngart, Gary

The Russian Debutante's Handbook

In a novel about being an outsider in America and what it means to be an American, Vladimir, a young Russian-American immigrant, pursues his dreams of success, wealth, and a girlfriend, as his quest takes him deep into uncharted territory.

Stevenson, Robert Louis

The Black Arrow : a tale of the two roses

In fifteenth-century England, when his father's murderer is revealed to be his guardian, seventeen-year-old Richard Shelton joins the fellowship of the Black Arrow in avenging the death, rescuing the woman he loves, and participating in the struggle between the Yorks and Lancasters in the War of the Roses.

Toole, John

A Confederacy of Dunces

A fat New Orleans misanthrope who constantly rebukes society, Ignatius Reilly, gets a job at his mother's urging but ends up leading a worker's revolt

Tropper, Jonathan

Everything Changes

As his wedding day approaches, Zachary King begins to wonder if his entire life might be a big mistake, doubts that are only enhanced by the arrival of Norm, Zack's freewheeling, overbearing father, after a twenty-year absence.

Van Camp, Richard

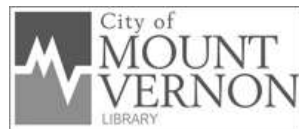
The Lesser Blessed

Sixteen-year-old Larry Sole loves Iron Maiden, the North, and a girl known as the town tramp. He copes with a painful past and an uncertain future in this edgy, sometimes funny contemporary coming-of-age novel set in the Dogrib Nation of the Northwest Territories.

Winton, Tim

Breath

Falling under the spell of an enigmatic extreme-sport surfer, a thrill-seeking pair of western Australian adolescents is initiated into a world of high-stakes adventures and dangerous boundary testing.



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Books for Cool Dudes



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*Young men coming of age and making
their way in the world*

Books having to do with young men coming of age and making their way in the world.

Adiga, Aravind
Selection Day

Two brothers growing up in a Mumbai slum are raised by an obsessive father to become cricket stars only to have their relationship, future and senses of self threatened by unexpected dynamics that shape their coming-of-age.

Benjamin, Chloe
The Immortalists

A thought-provoking, sweeping family saga set in New York City's Lower East Side, 1969. Four siblings sneak out to visit a psychic who reveals to each, separately, the exact date of his or her death. The book goes on to recount five decades of experience shaped by the siblings' attempts to control fate.

Burgess, Anthony
A Clockwork Orange

Presents Burgess' satire of the present inhumanity of man to man through a futuristic culture where teenagers rule with violence.

Cobb, Thomas
Shavetail

Fleeing a shameful past, seventeen year old Ned joins the U.S. Army in 1871.

Ellis, Bret
Less Than Zero

Clay, a freshman at an Eastern college, returns home to Los Angeles for Christmas break, but feels totally disconnected and aimless there, and discovers a seamy world of drugs and prostitution.

Fergus, Jim

The Wild Girl : the notebooks of Ned Giles, 1932 : a novel

Heading west to join the search for the kidnapped son of a wealthy Mexican landowner, Ned meets a troubled Apache girl, imprisoned in a Mexican jail, whose fate forces him to make a choice that will change his life.

Grey, Zane

Open Range : a western story

The story of a youth growing quickly to manhood, and achieving his ambition of becoming a top ranch hand.

Groom, Winston

Forrest Gump

In the 1960s, Forrest Gump, a pleasant and obedient son with low intelligence, joins the army, returns from Vietnam famous for his heroics and makes millions on a Louisiana shrimp boat while steadfastly loving a girl from his childhood.

Irving, John

A Prayer for Owen Meany : a novel

Owen Meany hits a foul ball while playing baseball in the summer of 1953 that kills his best friend's mother, an accident that Owen is sure is the result of divine intervention.

Kunkel, Benjamin

Indecision : a novel

Dwight B. Wilmerding is only twenty-eight, but he's having a midlife crisis. Of course, living a dissolute, dorm like existence in a tiny apartment and working in tech support at the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer are not especially conducive to wisdom. And a few sessions of psychoanalysis conducted by his sister have distinctly failed to help with his biggest problem: a chronic inability to make up his mind.

Lahiri, Jhumpa

The Namesake

A portrait of the immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India through their arrival in Massachusetts in the late 1960s and their difficult melding into an American way of life.

Louis, Eduard

The End of Eddy

A U.S. release of an acclaimed coming-of-age story from Europe traces how a young gay man in a violent French factory village navigates his orientation and intellectually precocious nature while enduring pressure to become a strong man in accordance with local beliefs.

The Magic Mountain

Mann, Thomas

A sanatorium in the Swiss Alps reflects the societal ills of pre-twentieth-century Europe, and a young marine engineer rises from his life of anonymity to become a pivotal character in a story about how a human's environment affects self identity.

Mitchell, David

Black Swan Green

A meditative novel of a young boy on the cusp of adulthood follows a single year in the life of thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor as he grows up in what is for him the sleepest village in Worcestershire, England, in 1982.

Ondaatje, Michael

The Cat's Table

In the early 1950s, an eleven-year-old boy in Colombo boards a ship bound for England. Looking back from adulthood, the narrator relates a tale about the magical, often forbidden, discoveries of childhood and a lifelong journey that begins unexpectedly with a sea voyage.