



Sports Stories

Young Adult Recommendations



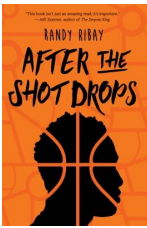
Stupid Fast (*Felton Reinstein Trilogy, Book 1*) YA HERBACH

Herbach, Geoff.

Just before his sixteenth birthday, Felton Reinstein has a sudden growth spurt that turns him from a small, jumpy, picked-on boy with the nickname of "Squirrel Nut" to a powerful athlete, leading to new friends, his first love, and the courage to confront his family's past and current problems.

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After the Shot Drops

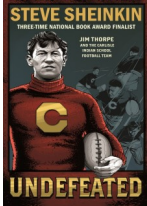
YA RIBAY

Ribay, Randy

Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. Nasir can't help but wonder why the neighborhood is falling over itself to help Bunny when Wallace is in trouble. When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision--maybe a dangerous one.

Told from alternating perspectives, *After the Shot Drops* is a heart-pounding story about the responsibilities of great talent and the importance of compassion.

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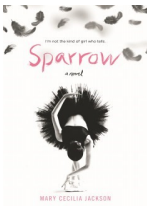
Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team

YA 796.332 SHE

Sheinkin, Steve

When superstar athlete Jim Thorpe and football legend Pop Warner met in 1904 at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, they forged one of the winningest teams in American football history. Called "the team that invented football," they took on the best opponents of their day, defeating much more privileged schools such as Harvard and the Army in a series of breathtakingly close calls, genius plays, and bone-crushing hard work. But this is not just an underdog story. It's an unflinching look at the persecution of Native Americans and its intersection with the beginning of one of the most beloved—and exploitative—pastimes in America, expertly told by nonfiction powerhouse Steve Sheinkin.

[Overdrive audiobook](#)



Sparrow: A Novel

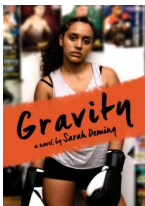
YA JACKSON

Jackson, Mary Cecilia

Though Savannah Rose is a gifted ballerina, her real talent is keeping secrets. Schooled in silence by her long-dead mother, Savannah has always believed that her lifelong creed, "I'm not the kind of girl who tells" will make her just like everyone else, normal, happy, safe. But in the aftermath of a brutal assault by her seemingly perfect boyfriend Tristan, Savannah must finally find the courage to confront the ghosts of her past, or lose herself forever.

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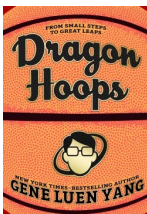
Gravity

YA DEMING

Deming, Sarah,

Sixteen-year-old Gravity Delgado has been breaking records and competitors since she started boxing with a legendary coach at age twelve, and now will reach the Olympics if her home life and romance do not distract her.

[Overdrive audiobook](#)



Dragon Hoops

YA GN YANG

Yang, Gene Luen

Gene understands stories - comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him "Stick" and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons's lives, but his own life as well.

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NP 3/2020



The Crossover

Alexander, Kwame

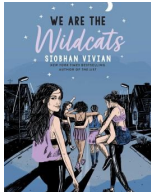
Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

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[Overdrive Graphic Novel version](#)

YA ALEXANDE



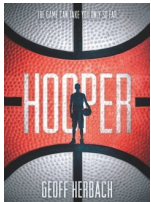
We Are The Wildcats

Vivian, Siobhan

After enduring a week of punishing try-outs and making the cut for the girl's varsity field hockey team, new players must participate in a night of questionable bonding traditions and loyalty tests, orchestrated by the most senior girls on the squad and performed with the implicit permission of their seemingly all-American young male coach.

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YA VIVIAN



Hooper

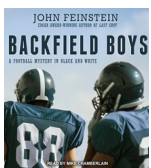
Herbach, Geoff

For Adam Reed, basketball is a passport. Adam's basketball skills have taken him from an orphanage in Poland to a loving adoptive mother in Minnesota. When he's tapped to play on a select AAU team along with some of the best players in the state, it just confirms that basketball is his ticket to the good life: to new friendships, to the girl of his dreams, to a better future.

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YA HERBACH



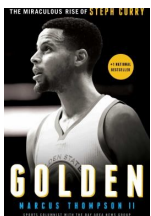
Backfield Boys

Feinstein, John

When best friends Tom and Jason leave New York City for an elite, sports-focused boarding school in Virginia to play football, they find some coaches and teammates to be steeped in racism.

[Hoopla audiobook](#)

YA FEINSTEI



Golden : The Miraculous Rise of Steph Curry

Thompson, Marcus, II

A longtime Warriors insider traces the inspirational story of the NBA star shooter to offer insight into his personal life and achievements as both an athletic leader and role model for kids. A first book.

[Overdrive e-book](#)

YA B CURRY



#Hockey (*Check, Please! Series, Book 1*)

Ukazu, Ngozi

Eric Bittle may be a former junior figure skating champion, vlogger extraordinaire, and *very* talented amateur pâtissier, but being a freshman on the Samwell University hockey team is a whole new challenge. It is nothing like co-ed club hockey back in Georgia! First of all? There's *checking* (anything that hinders the player with possession of the puck, ranging from a stick check all the way to a physical sweep). And then, there is *Jack*—his very attractive but moody captain.

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YA GN CHECK



Dairy Queen (*Dairy Queen Trilogy, Book 1*)

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

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YA MURDOCK



Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip

Sonnenblick, Jordan

After an injury ends former star pitcher Peter Friedman's athletic dreams, he concentrates on photography which leads him to a girlfriend, new fame as a high school sports photographer, and a deeper relationship with the beloved grandfather who, when he realizes he is becoming senile, gives Pete all of his professional camera gear.

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YA SONNENBL



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NP 3/2020



Swagger
Deuker, Carl

When high school senior Jonas moves to Seattle, he is glad to meet Levi, a nice, soft-spoken guy and fellow basketball player. Suspense builds like a slow drumbeat as readers start to smell a rat in Ryan Hartwell, a charismatic basketball coach and sexual predator. When Levi reluctantly tells Jonas that Hartwell abused him, Jonas has to decide whether he should risk his future career to report the coach.

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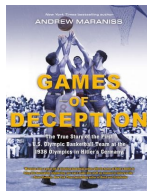
YA DEUKER



Tumbling
Carter, Caela

They sacrificed their childhoods to compete in the two days of the U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Trials. Grace lives and breathes gymnastics-- but can never be perfect enough. Leigh has a gymnastics career, a normal high-school life...and a secret that could ruin everything. Camille wants to please her mom and her boyfriend... but most of all she wants to walk away. Wilhelmina was denied her Olympic dream four years ago, and she won't let anything stop her this time...anything. Monica is terrified: nobody believes in her-- and why should they? Some will be stars. Some will be going home with nothing. And all will have their lives changed forever...

YA CARTER



Games of Deception
Maraniss, Andrew

This is the incredible true story of basketball, from its invention by James Naismith in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891, to the sport's Olympic debut in Berlin and the eclectic mix of people, events and propaganda on both sides of the Atlantic that made it all possible.

YA 796.48 MAR



Broken Beautiful Hearts
Garcia, Kami

Star soccer player Peyton Rios has an offer from her first-choice college-- until she confronts her boyfriend about performance enhancing drugs, and finds herself falling down a flight of stairs. Now her knee—and maybe her dream of going pro—is shattered. With her future on the line, Peyton goes to stay with her uncle in a small Tennessee town to focus on her recovery. When she meet Owen Law she doesn't trust him-- she senses that Owen is hiding something.

YA GARCIA

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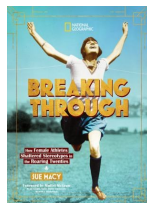


Spinning
Walden, Tillie

A graphic memoir recounts the years Walden spent competitively figure skating, before her developing love of art and first girlfriend causes her to question the insular world of figure skating.

YA GN 741.5 WAL

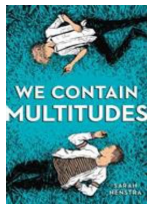
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Breaking Through
Macy, Sue

Macy offers a rare and fascinating glimpse into the journey of women's rights through the lens of women in sports during the pivotal decade of the 1920s. With elegant prose, poignant wit, and fascinating primary sources, Macy explores the many hurdles presented to female athletes as they stormed the field, stepped up to bat, and won the right to compete in sports. Featuring bold and talented heroines, this book documents how the social issues and morals of the decade—from politics to segregation to the media--helped shape the changing narratives around women and alter the course of history entirely. It is a fascinating window into a rich and seldom explored history, and also a topical reminder of the many discussions surrounding femininity and the role of women that continue today.

YA 796.082 MAC



We Contain Multitudes
Henstra, Sarah

As penpals for a high school English assignment, poetry-loving sophomore Jonathan and popular-athlete senior Adam explore their growing relationship through a series of letters. But with homophobia, bullying, and devastating family secrets, Jonathan and Kurl struggle to overcome their conflicts and hold onto their relationship...and each other.

YA HENSTRA



The Game Can't Love You Back
Cozzo, Karole

When a freak accident causes her school to be absorbed into a neighboring district, Eve, an only female star pitcher on the baseball team, navigates her way around new players who are not used to having a woman on the team, including a rival pitcher who is as cute as he is insufferable.

YA COZZO

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