

***Ghosts of War: The Story of a 19-Year-Old GI* by Ryan Smithson**

Instead of going to college and in response to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, seventeen year old Ryan joins the Army Reserve. When he is nineteen he is called to serve in Iraq. In his own words he tells of his year in Iraq and of the months immediately following his safe return home. This is a powerful and well written memoir.



***Going Too Far* by Jennifer Echols**

Meg relishes her role as bad girl. John is a dedicated cop. When he finds her on his bridge, her punishment is a week-long, ride-along with a cop, him, instead of Spring Break at the beach. She has a reason to push the limits. He has a reason to be fascinated with that bridge. As they discover themselves and a mutual attraction, will they push each other too far?



***Hate List* by Jennifer Brown**

Told in four distinct parts, *Hate List* chronicles the life of Valerie after her boyfriend, Nick, opens fire in the school cafeteria and commons area during the spring of their junior year. His targets were people on their “hate list”; a list of people who, in one form or another, bullied Nick and Valerie. Valerie must come to terms with the aftermath after she decides to reenter school in the fall as a senior. How will her peers react to her? How will she deal with the sights, sounds and memories? How will she deal with her parents who no longer trust her?

***If I Stay* by Gayle Forman**

On a snowy day, Mia and her family go on a drive that ends in heartache. After she loses both of her parents and her little brother in a car accident that has left her in a coma, seventeen year old Mia must make a choice between staying and learning to live with their loss, or following them into death. In a series of flashbacks she revisits some of the best times of her life and the history she shares with her family and her boyfriend, Adam.

***The Juvie Three* by Gordon Korman**

Mr. Healy is a former juvenile delinquent; he knows what it's like. He hatches a plan to save three young criminals from rotting in jail. That's how Gecko, Terence, and Arjay suddenly spring from their juvenile detention centers to an experimental halfway house in New York, with Mr. Healy as their mentor. Their second chance explodes when Mr. Healy falls three stories during a fight. A head injury leaves him with no memory, of his identity or of his boys. What now for the “Juvie Three”?

***The Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness**

In the all male world in which Todd has grown up, there are surprising number of secrets, considering the fact that all male's thoughts are audible. When he discovers a girl in the swamp, the two of them, along with Todd's talking dog, are forced to flee the thought noise of Pretistown and the sinister men whose desire for power compels them to cut a path of terror in the New World.

***Last Night I Sang to the Monster* by Benjamin Saenz**

Eighteen-year-old Zach does not consider himself an alcoholic, after all, he just drinks to have fun with his friends. But after his latest blackout, Zach wakes up in rehab. He



doesn't remember anything about the events that led to his involuntary commitment and doesn't think he really belongs in treatment. However, as Zach begins counseling he starts to face the truth about himself, his family and his drinking.

***Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow**

Marcus and his friends skip school to participate in a city wide scavenger hunt when a terrorist attack takes place. They are caught in the wrong place at the wrong time and are detained by Homeland Security. Once they are released, Marcus discovers that San Francisco is in a police state where everyone is treated like a potential terrorist. What does Marcus decide? He decides he must take down Home Land Security himself.

***Marcelo in the Real World* by Francisco Stork**

As Marcelo approaches his Senior year, his father gives him an ultimatum: work in the mail room at his law firm for the summer, or leave the sheltered world of his private school for students with special needs to attend public high school next year. Marcello's Asperger's syndrome makes learning to navigate the “real world” a challenge at first, but by the end, he finds he has a friend and the clarity and courage to make the right choices in a very complex situation.



***Maze Runner* by James Dashner**

Thomas wakes in the middle of a maze with no memory of his life or how he came to be in this unusual prison. He finds the maze full of teenage boys like him. No one has any memories and they all want to escape no matter what the cost.

***My Most Excellent Year* by Steve Kluger**

Three clever friends, that you'd love to have, navigate the process of growing up with grace and wit. It's hard to imagine how Mary Poppins figures into a story about moving on, falling in love, speaking your mind, and coming out, but she does and the result is delightful.

***North of Beautiful* by Justina Chen Headley**

Terra Cooper, daughter of an eccentric cartographer father, tries to find her way in life. She has a boyfriend, is doing well in school and has perfect hair. But in her eyes, she has one major imperfection: a large port-wine stain birthmark on her right cheek. She wants to escape by going to a college out East. However, her father has other plans for her at a nearby college. Her life is further complicated after she meets Jake and goes on a trip to visit her brother in Shanghai. Terra learns the value of true beauty, friendship and family.

***Perfect Chemistry* by Simone Elkeles**

On the surface, Alex Fuentes, a Latino gang member with a bad boy reputation appears to have nothing in common with his assigned lab partner, Brittany Ellis, a wealthy cheerleader. However, this urban romance goes beyond the surface to touch on the commonalities of peer pressure and family conflict to create an unputdownable read.



***Radiant Darkness* by Emily Whitman**

Persephone lives in the most gorgeous place in the world. But her overprotective mother, Demeter, makes this paradise more like a trap than an oasis. Just when Persephone has almost given up hope of escaping the life that's been planned for her, a mysterious

stranger arrives. A stranger who promises something that spurs Persephone to make a daring choice. A choice that could destroy all she's come to love, even the earth itself. In a land where a singing river can make you forget your very name, Persephone is forced to discover who—and what—she really is. This retelling of the Greek myth shows you a different view of the romance between Persephone (daughter of Demeter and Zeus) and Hades (the ruler of the underworld) and the impact that romance had on the earth and all that live on it.

Reality Check by Peter Abrahams

Cody's life is pretty good, until Clea, his girlfriend, is sent across the country to boarding school, because Daddy doesn't approve of Cody, and a torn ACL ends his football career. But when Clea comes up missing, Cody is convinced that she is still alive, and he drops everything to go find her.

Right Behind You by Gail Giles

At nine-years-old, troubled by his mother's death and his dad's continuous confrontations with his aunt, Kip sets another boy on fire. Now, five years later, he is being released back into society, but what if someone finds out what a monster he is:

The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon

In Chicago, 1968, Sam and his brother, "Stick", often accompany their father to civil rights demonstrations. As their father devoutly preaches Dr. King's message of peace, the brothers struggle with their own beliefs and actions when fighting erupts at a demonstration. The brothers both stand up to the injustices they witness, but each in his own way.

Sister Wife by Shelley Hrdlitschka

Nanette longs to become a sister-wife, but her sister, Celeste, is not too fond of the idea, especially not when Jon, a boy her own age, seems to return her affections. But when Jon decides to leave the community, Celeste must decide if she is strong enough to go with him and leave behind everything she has ever known.

Three Little Words by Ashely Rhodes-Courter

Ashley Rhodes-Courter endured nine years and fourteen foster homes, growing up in Florida's foster care system in the '90's. She missed her mom desperately and experienced horrendous placements before finally finding a family that wanted her forever. Fans of *A Child Called It* will find new inspiration in Rhodes-Courter's memoir.

Twenty Boy Summer by Sarah Ockler

Anna and Matt have always been friends, along with Matt's sister Frankie, until Anna's fifteenth birthday. But before they can tell anyone about their newly found relationship, Matt dies. As they approach their first summer without him, Frankie has a plan for hooking up both girls with their first loves. Will Anna ever tell her about Matt?



Eliot Rosewater
Indiana High School Book Award
Annotations for 2011-2012 Nominees



Beastly by Alex Flinn

Narrated by the beast, *Beastly* is a modern re-telling of Beauty and the Beast. Kyle is handsome on the outside, but when he is rude to a girl at his school, he is transformed to be as ugly as he really is on the inside. This is also a love story between an unlikely couple of Manhattan teens, who are transformed by compassion and a little magic.

Far From You by Lisa Schroeder

Still mourning her mother's death, Alice is not happy that her dad is remarried, that a new baby sister has joined the family, and that she has to spend an entire holiday with them away from home, but when Alice, her step-mom, and her half-sister end up stranded in a snow storm, Alice discovers that love allows people in, not shuts them out.

Fat Cat by Robin Brande

Catherine is an overweight American teenager who has decided to perform a science experiment on herself. In order to imitate the lifestyle of early hominines, she will eat an all-natural diet and forgo the use of technology. Although she allows the cooking of meat, she will give up transportation, phones and computers. How will her life and health change with these alterations?

Flygirl by Sherri Smith

Ida Mae Jones has loved flying ever since her father taught her to fly crop dusting planes as a child. As the United States enters World War II, she gets her chance to fly by joining WASP, Women's Airforce Service Pilots. However, in order to join WASP, Ida Mae must use her light coloring to deny her African-American heritage and pass as a white girl. Ida struggles with keeping her true identity secret from her fellow pilots as she pursues her dream to fly.