

**45 Books Reluctant Readers Love to Read**

**(list constructed by Kelly Gallagher)**

**Coming of Age/Peer Pressure/Relationships**

1.  **The Bluford series, Paul Langan.**

Life in an inner city school.

2.  ***The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak.**

Death narrates this story of a young girl who finds solace in books during the Holocaust.

3.  ***Cut*, Patricia McCormick.**

Callie, a fifteen-year old, is a “cutter” who seeks help for her self-destruction.

4.  ***Dreamland*, Sarah Dessen.**

This book explores the consequences of having an abusive boyfriend.

5.  ***Gossip Girl* series, Cecily Von Ziegesar.**

Life in side a New York City jet set private school.

6.  ***I am the Messenger*, Markus Zusak.**

A botched bank robbery changes a nineteen-year-old’s life.

7. ***It’s Kind of a Funny Story*, Ned Vizzini.**

A teen seeks counseling in a psychiatric hospital.

8. ***Just Listen*, Sarah Dessen.**

An incident at a high school party has far-reaching consequences.

9. ***The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini.**

Two young boys in 1970s Afghanistan take very different paths.

10.  ***Looking for Alaska*, John Green.**

Miles, 16, is an outcast sent to a boarding school.

11. ***My Sister’s Keeper*, Jodi Picoult.**

Examines the difficult choices a family must make when one of the children is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.

12. ***Nineteen Minutes*, Jodi Picoult.**

Another delicate topic: the consequences of a high school shooting.

13. ***The Pact*, Jodie Picoult.**

A teenage suicide has devastating consequences for two families.

14. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky.**

Charlie, a freshman, tries to find his way in a high school.

15. ***Rooftop*, Paul Volponi.**

A shooting becomes a focal point for social justice.

16. ***The Rules of Survival*, Nancy Werlin.**

The story of three siblings struggling to overcome child abuse.

17.  ***Running Out of Time*, Margaret Peterson Haddix.**

Jessica, who thinks it is 1840, is more than surprised to find out it is really 2006.

18. ***Someone Like You*, Sarah Dessen.**

Two best friends lean on each other when a calamity occurs.

19. ***That Summer*, Sarah Dessen**.

A teenage girl deals with her parents’ divorce.

20. ***Thirteen Reasons Why*, Jay Asher.**

 A teenager receives haunting audiotapes after a suicide.

21. ***This Lullaby*, Sarah Dessen.**

A modern-day teen romance.

22. ***Twisted*, Laureie Halse Anderson.**

Tyler, busted for tagging, tries to find his way through his senior year.

23. ***Upstate*, Kalisha Buckhanon.**

Two lovers are separated by a horrendous crime.

**FANTASY/ SCIENCE FICTION/ VAMPIRE**

24.  ***A Certain Slant of Light*, Laura Whitcomb**.

Helen died 130 years ago, but she’s still around.

25. **Cirque du Freak series, Darren Shan**.

There is more to a traveling freak show than meets the eye.

26. ***Elsewhere*, Gabrielle Zebin.**

Liz is getting younger, not older, every day.

27. ***A Great and Terrible Beauty,* Libba Bray.**

The School Library journal calls this novel “an interesting combination of fantasy, light horror, and historical fiction, with a dash of romance thrown in for good measure.”

28. ***House of the Scorpion*, Nancy Farmer.**

In the future, a scientist brings a number of clones to life.

29.  ***Life as We Knew It*, Susan Beth Pfefs,**

A meteor collides with the moon, with disastrous results for Earthlings.

30. ***Rebel Angels*, Libba Bray.**

A sequel to A Great and Terrible Beauty.

31.  **The Twilight Saga series. Stephen Meyer.**

A teenage romance with a vampire twist.

32.  **The Uglies series, Scott Westerfeld.**

Life in a futuristic society where everyone is “ugly.

33.  **Wheel of time series, Robert Jordan.**

The world has been broken by a phenomenal power in this series that is

reminiscent of J.R.R. Tolkien.

34.  ***World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War*, Max Brooks.**

The world is threatened by a zombie invasion.

**MEMOIR AND NONFICTION**

35. ***Girl, Interrupted*, Susanna Kaysen.**

A sixteen-year old is hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital.

36.  ***The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls.**

Another account of growing up in an eccentric, dysfunctional family.

37*.* ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, Ishmael Beah.**

A twelve-year-old’s account of surviving civil war in Sierra Leone.

38. ***Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member*, Sanyika Shakur**.

The personal account of an L.A. gangbanger.

39.  ***Phineas Gage:A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science,* John Fleischman**

The incredible story of a recovery from severe trauma, and what it taught the scientific community.

40.  ***Running with Scissors*, Augusten Burroughs.**

An account of growing up in an eccentric, dysfunctional family.

41. ***U.S. Army Survival Handbook,* Department of the Army.**

How to survive under the most adverse conditions.

**SPORTS**

42. ***Crackback*, John Coy.**

The trials and tribulations of teenage life, woven through the lens of a high school football team.

43. ***Gym Candy*, Carl Deuker.**

Mick Johnson, high school football star, considers using steroids.

**MYSTERY**

44. ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Mark Haddon.**

A poodle, Wellington, has been murdered. Christopher, who is autistic, is on the case.

45. ***The Lovely Bones*, Alice Sebold**.

Susie Salmon recalls her murder from heaven (10th grade curriculum)