

Teen Book Recommendations

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Hey everyone! Here are a couple really amazing books for teens to check out. As always, you can find these books online to buy or download, and I really hope you check them out.

"The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas

First, is "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas. This award-winning, ground-breaking story was also made into a critically acclaimed film. The protagonist is Starr, a 16-year-old black girl from a poor neighborhood who attends a predominately white private school. As she tries to navigate between the two worlds, whatever balance she has managed to find is thrown into drastic upheaval after she witnesses the traumatic, controversial, and tragic loss of a friend.

"The Hate U Give" carries themes of race relations, social injustice, and activism. The first-person narration is raw, real, and eye-opening. It presents the reader an opportunity to examine their own perspectives about each complex situation Starr experiences. In addition to its ability to be thought provoking on a social level, "The Hate U Give" also illustrates the importance of the choices we make and how our voice and our actions — even our lack of action — can have a significant impact.

"It's Kind of a Funny Story" by Ned Vizzini

Next is "It's Kind of a Funny Story" by Ned Vizzini. This book, which inspired the 2010 movie, is the story of Craig Gilner, a 15-year-old from a middle-class family. Through a lot of hard work, Craig gains admission to a prestigious high school in Brooklyn. However, the overwhelming stress of the school, as well as struggling to find where he fits in, soon results in serious effects on his health and wellness. After initial attempts to fix the problems fail, Craig discovers a new talent that gives him a new direction, passion, and renewed energy for life.

"While "It's Kind of a Funny Story" addresses the pressures of success, influence, and peer pressure, it highlights the importance of mental health and wellness, discovering who you are, and self-acceptance. Considering the academic and social pressure that teens face today, this not only is a good read, but a potentially relatable and valuable one.