

2019 TAYSHAS Reading List

Annotated List



Titles in **bold** indicate a **TAYSHAS Top Ten** selection. **Top Ten** books are selected from those that received a unanimous vote in the committee's initial voting process.

A Land of Permanent Goodbyes by Atia Abawi, published by Philomel Books, 2018.

Tareq, his father, and his younger sister leave their bombed-out home to stay with family in another town in Syria and then have to flee Syria completely. It's too dangerous to stay in their war-torn homeland but their travel to safety and freedom could be just as dangerous.

The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo, published by Harper Teen, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2018.

Xiomara begins to question the faith that her strict, religious Mami is forcing on her. Through her poetry, she begins to express her emotions and finds a mighty voice.

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi, published by Henry Holt and Company, 2018.

When Zelig was a young girl, her mother was killed in the Raid to rid Orisha of magic. Now, Zelig has a chance to bring magic back. Will she succeed or will her feelings for an enemy get in the way?

Love Hate & Other Filters by Samira Ahmed, published by Soho Teen, 2018.

Maya Aziz dreams of attending film school in New York City. Her parents want her to stay closer to home and to find a nice Muslim boy to marry. Just when her dream seems to be coming true, a terrorist attack changes everything.

Fatal Throne: The Wives of Henry VIII Tell All by M. T. Anderson, Jennifer Donnelly, Candace Fleming, Stephanie Hemphill, Deborah Hopkinson, Linda Sue Park, and Lisa Ann Sandell; published by Schwartz & Wade Books, 2018.

Well-known YA authors examine the fatal throne of England's Henry VIII in this unique work of historical fiction. Get inside the minds of his wives and find out why Henry chooses to let each one live or die!

We Are All That's Left by Carrie Arcos, published by Philomel Books, 2018.

Dual timelines follow a mom, a survivor of the 1990's Bosnian War, and her daughter, a survivor of a present day terrorist bombing in the USA. With her mother in a coma, Zara struggles with her memories, her mom, and PTSD.

Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World by Penelope Bagieu, published by First Second, 2018.

Short illustrated biographies about inspiring women that will make readers feel empowered and want to know more about these women's lives.

The Special Ones by Em Bailey, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017.

Esther and three others are revered as The Special Ones who live under His protection and are not allowed to leave the remote farmhouse. If they don't follow the rules, they are punished. Esther is deeply troubled about her captivity and has to figure out who to trust in order to escape.

A Psalm for Lost Girls by Katie Bayerl, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2017.

Callie doesn't believe that her sister Tess was a saint, even though many others, including their mother, do believe it. When Callie decides to uncover the truth about Tess, she gets drawn into a kidnapping investigation.

Starry Eyes by Jenn Bennett, published by Simon Pulse, 2018.

Since last year's Homecoming dance, best friends turned best enemies Zorie and Lennon have made an art of avoiding each other. To make matters worse, their families are a modern version of the Montagues and Capulets. What happens Zorie and Lennon get lost in the wilderness and have to work together to survive?

Far from the Tree by Robin Benway, published by Harper Teen, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2017.

After Grace gives her baby up for adoption, she feels an emptiness in her heart. Her newly discovered siblings help ease her pain as they each share their own secrets.

Starfish by Akemi Dawn Bowman, published by Simon Pulse, 2017.

Kiko, a half-Japanese, eighteen-year-old artist, is ready to be on her own and leave her narcissistic mother behind. When she doesn't get into her dream art school, she agrees to join an old friend on a life-changing tour of art schools

Speak: The Graphic Novel by Laurie Halse Anderson and illustrated by Emily Carroll, published by Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018.

Can art speak? Shout? Help you be heard? Melinda's heartbreaking, yet ultimately empowering, freshman year at Merryweather High, portrays her journey from silence to healing. #MeToo

A Heart in a Body in the World by Deb Caletti, published by Simon Pulse, 2018.

Annabelle goes off the grid with a snap decision to run from Seattle to Washington DC as a way to deal with PTSD from a traumatic event. However, everything she runs into reminds her of the horror of "the Taker." With the help of family and friends, new and old, she is determined to complete the grueling journey.

Not If I Save You First by Ally Carter, published by Scholastic Press, 2018.

Logan, the son of the president, and Maddie, the daughter of a Secret Service agent, narrowly escaped a kidnapping attempt when they were ten. Maddie's dad moves her to Alaska. Eight years later, Maddie and Logan are reunited and have to rebuild their friendship while trying to stay alive.

To Kill a Kingdom by Alexandra Christo, published by Feiwel and Friends, 2018.

Princess Lira is a lethal siren. Her evil mother the Sea Queen punishes her for an accident: she has to deliver Prince Elian's heart. All Prince Elian wants to do is be a pirate and kill the siren who killed his best friend.

The Last Namsara by Kristen Ciccarelli, published by Harper Teen, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2017.

Asha, the daughter of the Dragon King, uses the ancient stories to lure dragons to their death. She finally has the chance to kill the Ancient One as revenge for the attack she suffered as a child. But first, she has to figure out who is really her enemy.

The Belles by Dhonielle Clayton, published by Freeform Books, 2018.

The Belles of Orleans have the power to make people beautiful. Camellia Beauregard wants to be the queen's favorite Belle. Once the favorite is selected, Camellia learns the court harbors some dangerous secrets.

The Love Letters of Abelard and Lily by Laura Creedle, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017.

Lily has ADHD and Abelard has Asperger's. They both find relating to people a little difficult. They bond over an old book called *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise* and realize that even though they are different, they still can be happy.

An Uninterrupted View of the Sky by Melanie Crowder, published by Philomel Books, 2017.

Bolivia, 1999. Francisco, seventeen, can't wait to graduate and start a business. After his father is imprisoned and his mother abandons the family, Francisco and his sister are forced to move into the prison.

Losers Bracket by Chris Crutcher, published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublisher, 2018. Annie navigates between her foster family and her biological family after her little brother disappears.

Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now by Dana L. Davis, published by Harlequin Teen, 2018.

When Tiffany's mother dies, she is sent to live with a father she has never met. She tries to adjust to her new life with a step-mother and step-sisters and a father who is very strict and challenges everything that makes Tiffany feel like herself.

#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale, published by Annick Press, 2017.

#NotYourPrincess is a stunning literary and artistic work. Combining memoir, poetry, prose, collage, and photos, this book explores the identity of modern indigenous women while shattering the Pocahontas stereotype.

The Unlikelies by Carrie Firestone, published by Little, Brown and Company, 2017.

Sadie and her friends decide to spread positivity and in turn learn more about themselves and each other.

American Road Trip by Patrick Flores-Scott, published by Christy Ottaviano Books, Henry Holt and Co., 2018.

Three siblings take to the road to find themselves after the oldest brother comes home from war with PTSD.

Caraval by Stephanie Garber, published by Flatiron Books, 2017.

Scarlet finally receives an invitation to Caraval, a weekend of magic in a mysterious land. Soon after they arrive, her sister Tella goes missing, and Scarlet is drawn into a dangerous game.

The Way You Make Me Feel by Maureen Goo, published by Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018.

After being caught in a prank, Clara is sentenced to work in her father's food truck alongside her enemy. Can the girls learn to work together and even enjoy a summer full of friendship, summer loves, and family?

Invictus by Ryan Graudin, published by Little, Brown and Company, 2017.

Farway McCarthy's mom was a time traveler who gave birth to him outside of time. All he has ever wanted to do is explore history through time travel. On one of his tests, he meets a girl who leads him on adventures that make him realize time is not as fixed as it seems.

She Rides Shotgun by Jordan Harper, published by Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2017.

Polly, her bear, and her dad go on the run after being targeted by an Aryan prison gang.

Royals by Rachel Hawkins, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2018.

Royals is a romantic romp through an imagined monarchy of Scotland. American teenager Daisy's sister is engaged to the Prince of Scotland. Her life turns upside down when the paparazzi decide Daisy is their next big story.

When Life Gives You Demons by Jennifer Honeybourn, published by Swoon Reads, 2018.

Seventeen-year-old Shelby Black is secretly training with her uncle to be a demon hunter. She can't tell her best friend or her (secret) crush about her double life. Through a quick turn of events, Shelby realizes she is not the only one with a secret to keep.

Dread Nation by Justina Ireland, published by Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2018. The Civil War is over, but it has brought the undead in its wake. As Jane nears the end of her training to fight the "shamblers," she is kidnapped and taken to a remote wilderness run by the evil sheriff and his father.

Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson, published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2017.

No one notices Claudia's best friend Monday is missing, except for her. Claudia refuses to accept this and tries to put together the clues that will lead to Monday and answers to her disappearance.

Mary's Monster: Love, Madness, and How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein by Lita Judge, published by Roaring Brook Press, 2018.

A beautifully illustrated biography of Mary Shelly and how she created her most famous story, *Frankenstein*.

Dare Mighty Things by Heather Kaczynski, published by Harper Teen, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2017.

Seventeen-year-old Cassie has always dreamed of traveling to space. Now she has that chance, to secure her spot on a new classified mission.

Tradition by Brendan Kiely, published by Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2018.

James and Jules join forces to combat the dangerous sexism that has been allowed to continue at their elite boarding school. Together, they hope to bring awareness to some traditions that need to be stopped.

Dear Rachel Maddow by Adrienne Kisner, published by Feiwel and Friends, 2018.

Brynn Harper wants to drop out of high school. Life is just too much: breaking up with her girlfriend, her brother's death, plus her hideous stepfather. How to cope? Write poignant and humorous emails to Rachel Maddow. Unsent, of course. Or not?

Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, published by Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2018.

Honest, moving graphic memoir. A love letter to grandparents and teachers. Krosoczka life story encourages kids to stick with their dream.

Cadaver & Queen by Alisa Kwitney, published by Harlequin Teen, 2018.

Steampunk meets Frankenstein American Elizabeth "Lizzie" Lavenza enrolls in England's Ingold Academy of Medicine and Bio-Mechanical Science. A certain bio-mechanical, Victor Frankenstein, just might capture her heart, but will she pay with her life?

Autoboyography by Christina Lauren, published by Simon & Schuster, 2017.

After moving from California to Provo, Utah, Tanner hides his bisexual identity. His new LDS friends have Tanner searching to understand his own sexuality. His love for an LDS boy, Sebastian, sends them both on an introspective pilgrimage into sexuality, faith and the price some teens pay for sharing their true self.

Mercy Rule by Tom Leveen, published by Sky Pony Press, 2018.

Nobody realized the impact one picture could have on so many lives. This story of a mass shooting is told in alternating points of view, leading to an extreme conclusion.

Ginny Moon by Benjamin Ludwig, published by Park Row Books, 2017.

Teenager Ginny has finally found her “forever home.” Yet, she can’t stop plotting to escape and save her baby doll. How far will Ginny go to save her baby doll? What is so important about her baby doll?

Bang by Barry Lyga, published by Little, Brown and Company, 2017.

When Sebastian was four, he accidentally killed his baby sister. At fourteen, it still haunts him and he is waiting for the right time to kill himself. He bonds with Aneesa over a YouTube cooking channel and begins to feel some hope for the future.

I Am Still Alive by Kate Alice Marshall, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2018.

After a car crash kills her mother and leaves her with a painful limp, Jess is sent to the Canadian wilderness to live with her survivalist father. Not long after she arrives, some secret from his past returns, and he is murdered and the house burned. She only knows she is alive today. Will she still be alive tomorrow?

Blood Water Paint by Joy McCullough, published by Dutton Books, 2018.

This powerful novel, written in verse, tells the story of Artemisia Gentilesch, a Renaissance painter from the 1600s. In a society where only men mattered, she suffers horrendously but refuses to hide or give up her art. She uses her suffering to inspire her iconic paintings.

Camp Valor by Scott McEwen, published by St. Martin's Griffin, 2018.

Secret government conspiracies surround a much confused Wyatt, newly recruited to a teenage assassin academy. What will Camp Valor reveal about the government, and more importantly, Wyatt himself? A must-read spy thriller!

What I Leave Behind by Alison McGhee, published by Atheneum, 2018.

After his dad commits suicide, Will turns to walking the streets of Los Angeles to cope with his loss. Told in 100-word chapters, Will attends school and work, then tries to replicate his dad's cornbread recipe. After each failed attempt, Will walks. How long will it take him to walk off his grief?

A Blade So Black by L. L. McKinney, published by Imprint, 2018.

After grieving her father's death, Alice is able to see Nightmares. Addison Hatta from Wonderland becomes her mentor to train her to fight the Nightmares and focus her Muchness.

When Dimple Met Rishi by Sandhya Menon, published by Simon Pulse, 2017.

What's an American girl to do when her parents arrange a marriage? Rebel, of course! Dimple's parents are determined to transform her into a traditional Indian woman and believe the match to Rishi is just what Dimple needs. Dimple has other plans.

The Stars at Oktober Bend by Glenda Millard, published by Candlewick Press, 2018.

So broken she cannot speak, Alice writes poetry and leaves it pinned to places. Manny, also broken, finds it and is changed by it. When evil revisits, will they take their revenge as the world melts into chaos?

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng, published by Penguin Press, 2017.

When Pearl and her mom rent a house in Shaker Heights, they cannot imagine how their lives will become entangled with their landlords the Richardsons and their four children.

Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners by Naomi Shihab Nye, published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2018.

Can you hear the voices? Will you listen? Ninety-five poems/short essays written to honor the voices of humans, both famous and not, contain unusual and profound observations.

There There by Tommy Orange, published by Alfred A. Knopf, 2018.

The story of Twelve Native Americans of all ages who travel or return to Oakland, California, for the Big Oakland Powwow. Each has their own reasons for attending this year's powwow, where they find the expected celebration and some unexpected danger.

The Astonishing Color of After by Emily X. R. Pan, published by Little, Brown and Company, 2018.

Leigh is trying to find the answer to why her mother committed suicide and also relieve the guilt she feels from kissing her best friend instead of being home on that fateful day. Her search for answers leads her to Taiwan and the grandparents she has never met.

Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam by Elizabeth Partridge, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2018.

The complexity of the Vietnam War is revealed through eight distinct interviews, details of key figures and events, and over 100 pictures.

This Story Is a Lie by Tom Pollock, published by Soho Teen, 2018.

Peter does not know what is happening or who to trust, so he relies on his incredible math skills to calm him and to help him find his missing twin sister and the person who stabbed his mother.

I Have the Right To: A High School Survivor's Story of Sexual Assault, Justice, and Hope by Chessy Prout with Jenn Abelson, published by Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2018.

Chessy Prout's memoir tells her story of sexual assault at a prestigious boarding school by a senior when she was a freshman and the bullying and ostracism she endured as a result. She begins to heal as she fights for justice and becomes a voice for other survivors.

A Short History of the Girl Next Door by Jared Reck, published by Alfred A. Knopf, 2017.

Neighbors Matt and Tabby have been best friends since childhood. He secretly wants to be more than friends. When she starts dating a popular senior, Matt feels his life couldn't get any worse and then it does.

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds, published by Atheneum, 2017.

Will's brother was shot and killed yesterday, and Will knows he needs to follow "the rules" and get revenge. During his elevator ride down from his apartment, Will encounters people from his past who make him question if maybe "the rules" are wrong.

After the Shot Drops by Randy Ribay, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.

Bunny leaves his local high school to accept a full scholarship to a private school that can get him better exposure for college offers. His ex-best friend is bitter and open to suggestions to level the playing field.

Always Forever Maybe by Anica Mrose Rissi, published by Harper Teen, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2018.

Betts meets Aiden and quickly falls for him. He soon becomes controlling and abusive, but Betts still thinks he is her one and only. After a tragic accident, she realizes she needs to let him go.

Americanized: Rebel Without a Greencard by Sara Saedi, published by Alfred A. Knopf, 2018.

Sara was brought to the US at two years old, her family fleeing war-torn Iran. This memoir draws from her diary of growing up as an Iranian American and learning that she and her family were undocumented immigrants.

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sanchez, published by Alfred A. Knopf, 2017.

Mourning her sister, Julia is caught between devotion to her family and the need to fulfill her dreams and be her true self.

Not Even Bones by Rebecca Schaeffer, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.

Nita dissects and harvests the organs of unnaturals to be sold online. When her mother brings home a live specimen to be sold piece-by-piece, Nita objects--and finds herself fighting for her own life.

The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater, published by Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017.

Two teens riding the bus home from school: Sasha falls asleep; Richard plays with a lighter. Suddenly, Sasha's skirt is on fire and two lives are changed forever.

The Summer of Jordi Perez (And the Best Burger In Los Angeles) by Amy Spalding, published by Sky Pony Press, 2018.

Abby has landed her dream summer internship at a dress store, but this year there are two interns. Abby, who is plus-size fashion blogger doesn't like pictures of herself. When Abby starts to fall in love with Jordi Perez, the other intern, she begins to see herself through Jordi's eyes.

What the Night Sings by Vesper Stamper, published by Alfred A. Knopf, 2018.

Fourteen-year-old Gerta survived the Holocaust, but can she survive now as a displaced person, with no one to help her? Should she listen to the boys?

Disappeared by Francisco X. Stork, published by Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2017.

Sara is trying to find her best friend and other missing girls in Juarez. Her brother Emiliano has been offered a lucrative job opportunity. Their work soon converges as they run for their lives from people who want to silence Sara.

Price of Duty by Todd Strasser, published by Simon & Schuster, 2018.

A brutal story of war and the real costs of battle for soldiers who serve. Follow Jake Liddell as he struggles to make sense of his experiences in war. What will he decide? Is war worth the price of duty?

Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassin by James L. Swanson, published by Scholastic Press, 2018.

As Martin Luther King Jr is striving for peaceful demonstrations and leading the civil rights movement, James Earl Ray shoots and kills King which leads to the largest and most expensive manhunt of the time.

The Cheerleaders by Kara Thomas, published by Delacorte Press, 2018.

There are no more cheerleaders at Sunnybrook High. When Monica finds anonymously written letters in her stepfather's desk along with her sister's old cell phone she sets off to find out what really happened. Secrets and lies never really stay hidden forever, do they?

The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang, published by First Second, 2018.

Prince Sebastian, who secretly likes to wear dresses, hires Frances to be his personal seamstress. Frances helps him feel beautiful. What happens when people discover his secret?

Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover, published by Random House, 2018.

Tara Westover grew up in remote Idaho, assisting her midwife mom and working in her dad's junkyard. At seventeen, with no formal schooling, she embarks on a journey to become educated.

Pride by Ibi Zoboi, published by Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2018

An Afro-Latino modern retelling of *Pride and Prejudice* that deals with gentrification. Zuri finds herself unexpectedly attracted to one of the boys in the wealthy family that just moved into her Brooklyn neighborhood. Between her sisters four sisters, another cute boy, and college applications looming, Zuri must find her place and figure out what she wants.