

2020 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.

With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo, published by Harper Teen, 2019.

Emoni, a teen mother, student and aspiring chef, struggles with the challenges of finishing high school and following her dreams.

Realistic Fiction

Internment by Samira Ahmed, published by Little, Brown and Company, 2019.

Seventeen-year-old Layla and her parents are taken from their home and forced to live in an internment camp with other Muslim American citizens. Layla uses her voice to fight for their rights and freedom.

Realistic Fiction

Shout by Lauri Halse Anderson, published by Viking Books for Young Readers, 2019.

Anderson's memoir in verse stunningly weaves the story of her life and her experiences with sexual abuse.

Memoir, Novel in verse

Angel Thieves by Kathi Appelt, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019.

Unique characters, complex plot, and beautiful language make this book a stunner.

Adventure, Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction

Little White Lies by Jennifer Lynn Barnes, published by Freeform, 2018.

Eighteen-year-old Sawyer, a tomboy who loves fixing cars, doesn't know what to expect when her Grandmother, whom she has never met, shows up and offers her a six-figure contract to attend debutante season. Sawyer may finally find out who her father is, but at what price.

Mystery/Suspense, Realistic Fiction

Serious Moonlight by Jenn Bennett, published by Simon Pulse, 2019.

Birdie and Daniel's first meeting ended awkwardly, and Birdie hopes not to see Daniel again. Unfortunately, Daniel is a co-worker at Birdie's new job.

Mystery/Suspense, Romance

Lovely War by Julie Berry, published by Viking Childrens Books, 2019.

Narrated by the Greek gods of love, war, music, and death, *Lovely War* chronicles the epic romance of two sets of star-crossed lovers as they experience the horrors of World War I.

Historical Fiction, Romance, Fantasy

Girl Made of Stars by Ashley Herring Blake, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.

Mara struggles with her friend's accusation that Mara's twin brother raped her. Believing either person means not believing someone she cares about. This event brings up something Mara has been suppressing for three years.

Realistic Fiction

This Book is Not Yet Rated by Peter Bognanni, published by Dial Books, 2019.

Ethan brings together his friends to save the movie theater he manages, and in the process, he grieves for his father and the loss of his best friend (but he just might find her again).

Realistic Fiction

Invisible Heroes of World War II: Extraordinary Wartime Stories of Ordinary People by Jerry Borrowman, published by Shadow Mountain, 2019

Ten rarely told, true stories of diverse groups of people who fought with the Allies during World War II.

Non-fiction

Sky Without Stars by Jessica Brody and Joanne Rendell, published by Simon Pulse, 2019.

A revolution is brewing. A street rat, an officer with a kind heart but an overbearing grandfather, and a girl who has been living underground and may be the key to it all, come together on a distant planet to fight for their future.

Science Fiction, Classic Retellings

The Gilded Wolves by Roshani Chokshi, published by Wednesday Books, 2019.

Set in 1890s Paris, this historical fantasy follows French-Algerian Severin and a diverse group of misfits as they attempt high-stakes heists, discover secret societies within secret societies, and get a fascinating glimpse into the endless possibilities in a world where religion and magic are one and the same.

Fantasy, Historical Fiction

Screenshot by Donna Cooner, published by Point, 2018.

Popular Skye's best friend films an embarrassing video of her and posts it online. Although her friend quickly deletes it, Skye soon finds herself being blackmailed by someone threatening to release the video. How will she handle trying to keep her perfect reputation?

Mystery/Suspense, Realistic Fiction

Stronger, Faster and More Beautiful by Arwen Elys Dayton, published by Delacorte Press, 2018.

Six short stories delve deep into what it means to be human, even in a future where humans genetically modify themselves to be perfect.

Dystopia, Science Fiction

Throw by Ruben Degollado, published by Slant, 2019.

Throw is a throwback to the simpler yet hopeful times of the 1980s. A Mexican-American version of *The Outsiders* told in beautiful realistic prose. A tragic love story that will move you, haunt you, and complete you.

Realistic Fiction

500 Words or Less by Juleah Del Rosario, published by Simon Pulse, 2018.

Nic, a senior in high school, has decided to deal with her problems by writing her fellow students' college admission essays.

Novel in verse, Realistic Fiction

Stepsister by Jennifer Donnelly, published by Scholastic Press, 2019.

This is the story of what happens to Isabella and Octavia, the ugly stepsisters, after Ella gets married to the prince.

Fantasy

We Are Lost and Found by Helene Dunbar, published by Sourcebooks Fire, 2019.

Coming out and coming of age story of Michael who lives in NYC during the AIDS crisis.

Realistic Fiction

Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc by David Elliot, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2019.

Joan of Arc's final hours were spent bound to a stake waiting for the fire beneath her to be lit and the flames to overtake her. How did she get to this place? What was she thinking while she waited?

Historical Fiction, Novel in verse

Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel by Val Emmich, published by Poppy/Little, Brown and Company, 2018.

Evan gets caught up in being a hero, because everyone thinks before Connor killed himself, Evan was his only friend.

How long can Evan handle keeping his secret?

Realistic Fiction

We Hunt the Flame by Hafsa Faizal, published by Farrar Straus Giroux, 2019.

In the disguise of the Hunter, Zafira begins a journey to find a lost artifact that can restore magic to her land. Nasir, the Prince of Death, has been ordered to also find the artifact--and then kill the Hunter. Their quest will bring them together in a magical Arabia full of mystery, enemies, friendships, and secrets.

Fantasy

This Moment is Your Life by Mariam Gates, published by Dial Books, 2018.

A guide to mindfulness for teens, which focuses on yoga, breathing, meditation, and everyday practices. Illustrations included.

Non-fiction

Fresh Ink edited by Giles, Lamar, published by Crown, 2018.

Thirteen amazing YA authors contribute to this inspiring, diverse collection that represents a wide variety of voices, including "Eraser Tattoo" by Jason Reynolds and "Super Human" by Nicola Yoon.

Story Collection/Anthology

How to Make Friends with the Dark by Kathleen Glasgow, published by Delacorte Press, 2019.

Tiger's world is turned upside down in the blink of an eye. Now she is a ward of the state, unless she can find a relative to be her guardian. Is there anyone out there for Tiger?

Realistic Fiction

Game Changer by Tom Greenwald, published by Amulet Books, 2019.

Incoming freshman football player Teddy is seriously injured during training camp. Told through snippets of conversation that he hears while in a coma and social media posts from other students at his school, we learn that the injury may not be the accident everyone thought it was at first.

Novel in verse, Realistic Fiction

My Plain Jane by Cynthia Hand, Brodi Ashton, & Jodi Meadows, published by HarperTeen, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2018.

Charlotte finds out her friend Jane can see and talk to ghosts. They meet Mr. Blackwood and embark on a ghost hunting mystery adventure with a comic twist.

Adventure, Historical Fiction, Mystery/Suspense, Romance

Heretics Anonymous by Katie Henry, published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2018.

Michael is new at St. Clare's high school. He finds himself joining a group of quirky misfits, making waves as they try to make a difference.

Realistic Fiction

Brave Face by Shaun David Hutchinson, published by Simon Pulse, 2019.

A courageous and honest memoir! Shaun takes readers through the journey of what brought him to the edge and what has encouraged him to get better.

Memoir

The Past and Other Things that Should Stay Buried by Shaun David Hutchinson, published by Simon Pulse, 2019.

Dino and July were best friends and then they were not. Then July died! While working at his family's funeral home, Dino is shocked when July sits up. While they try to figure out how this could happen, they get a chance to reconcile.

Realistic Fiction, Science Fiction

Let Me Hear a Rhyme by Tiffany D. Jackson; with lyrics by Malik "Malik-16" Sharif, published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2019.

It's 1998 in Brooklyn, and hip-hop is king. Steph had a promising career in music, but he's been shot and killed. While his friends and sister mourn his death, they also try to promote his music and solve the mystery of who killed him.

Realistic Fiction

Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson, published by Katherine Tegen Books, 2018.

Freshman Stevie is on a mission. She is intent on solving the decades-old kidnapping that happened at her school. When one of her new classmates dies, Stevie is drawn into a dangerous investigation.

Mystery/Suspense

A Curse so Dark and Lonely by Brigid Kemmerer, published by Bloomsbury, 2019.

While she is trying to help someone, Harper is suddenly taken from the streets of Washington D.C. to Emberfall where a doomed prince lives, hoping Harper is the one to finally break the curse of his kingdom.

Fantasy, Classic Retellings

Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram, published by Dial Books, 2018.

Darius is an average American sophomore, but he's not very popular and dealing with questions like "What do you have to be sad about" make his battle with depression a little more difficult. A trip to Iran to visit his mother's family teaches him more about life and what he's made of than he ever thought he'd learn.

Realistic Fiction

The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee, published by G.P. Putnam and Sons for Young Readers, 2019.

Jo Kuan is an Asian American girl living in the South in 1890. To survive Jo works two jobs, maid and an anonymous newspaper columnist. As a columnist Jo is able to talk about poverty, race and gender.

Historical Fiction

American Royals by Katharine McGee, published by Random House, 2019.

What if America had a royal court? Future queen of America, Beatrice tries to follow her destiny and her heart.

Adventure, Romance

Heroine by Mindy McGinnis, published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2019.

After a traumatic car crash, star softball player Mickey develops an addiction to painkillers and her life spirals dangerously out of control.

Realistic Fiction

Blanca & Roja by Anna-Marie McLemore, published by Feiwel & Friends, 2018.

Blanca and Roja are del Cisne girls, this means, one of the sisters is destined to be turned into a swan. This will test the resolve of two sisters sworn to protect each other.

Fantasy

Two Can Keep a Secret by Karen McManus, published by Delacorte Press, 2019.

When twins Ellery and Ezra arrive in Echo Ridge, they find the dead body of a high school teacher on the road. That shocking welcome is only the beginning. They soon discover their new home is steeped in secrets, disappearing girls, and murder.

Mystery/Suspense

#MurderTrending by Gretchen McNeil, Gretchen, published by Freeform Books, 2018.

In the not-so-distant future, the U.S. Criminal Justice system has been outsourced to a company who creates a reality show where sanctioned killers hunt down convicted criminals. Dee is sent to Alcatraz 2.0 after being wrongly convicted of killing her step sister. Will she survive?

Adventure, Mystery/Suspense

Circe by Madeline Miller, published by Little, Brown and Company, 2018.

Shunned by her family, Circe discovers the gift of witchcraft and herbology. When Zeus banishes her to a desert island, she hones her craft and crosses paths with some of the most famous figures in Greek mythology.

Fantasy

Grand Theft Horse by Greg Neri, published by Lee & Low, 2018.

Animal and horse lovers will root for Gail Ruffu as she fights for justice and to save "her" horse.

Biography, Non-fiction

Unbroken: 13 Stories Starring Disabled Teens edited by Marieke Nijkamp, published by Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018.

Written by disabled creators, these eclectic stories feature teens who happen to experience various disabilities but refuse to let themselves be defined by those disabilities.

Story Collection/Anthology

Mike by Andrew Norriss, published by Scholastic Inc., 2019.

Floyd is on his way to becoming a tennis champion. But when Mike, an imaginary person, shows up, Floyd has to think about what he wants instead of just what his parents expect him to do.

Realistic Fiction

Neanderthal Opens the Door to the Universe by Preston Norton, published by Hyperion, 2018.

Cliff a.k.a. Neanderthal is just trying to survive high school and, despite his size, not draw any unnecessary attention. Why would he agree to help the football player who gave him his cruel nickname complete a mission from God?

Realistic Fiction

Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree by Adaobi Nwaubani, published by Katherine Tegen Books, 2018.

She is a dutiful daughter who works hard and dreams of going to university. When militants invade her town, kidnapping her and other girls, she refuses to give up hope for a chance to escape.

Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction

Anger is a Gift by Mark Oshiro, published by Tor Teen, a Tom Doherty Associates Book, 2018.

Moss struggles with severe anxiety and self-doubt. When two of his friends are hurt by cops at school, he helps organize a protest. When the protest turns tragic, Moss has to face a difficult choice.

Realistic Fiction

Seafire by Natalie Parker, published by Razorbill, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2018.

A burning secret sets Caledonia, the captain of an all-female ship, on a mission of revenge against a savage warlord.

Fantasy, Adventure

Neverworld Wake by Marisha Pessl, published by Delacorte Press, 2018.

One year after her boyfriend's death and leaving her friends behind, Beatrice is invited to join them at Wincroft estate. She goes in hopes of finding answers but is forced to make some life or death decisions.

Mystery/Suspense, Science Fiction

The Field Guide to the North American Teenager by Ben Phillipe, published by Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2019.

Norris, a black French Canadian, is forced to move to Austin. He knows from watching American sitcoms and movies what it will be like, or so he thinks. He finds out life is much different than he thought.

Realistic Fiction

Opposite of Always by Justin A. Reynolds, published by Katherine Tegen, 2019.

Jacks falls in love with Kate and then loses her. A twist of fate allows him to time travel. Will the choices he makes save Kate, or will they alter the course of his life in a different way?

Realistic Fiction, Romance

Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay, published by Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2019.

Do you still want the truth even when it's hard to hear? Jay travels to the Philippines, the place of his birth, after he learns his cousin was murdered, drugs are rumored to be involved, and the family won't discuss it.

Realistic Fiction

Pumpkinheads by Rainbow Rowell and Faith Erin Hicks, published by First Second, 2019.

Deja is determined to get her friend Josiah to finally meet his crush on their last day of work at the Pumpkin Patch.

Adventure awaits!

Graphic Novel

Birthday by Meredith Russo, published by Flatiron Books, 2019.

Morgan and Eric were born on the same day, in the same hospital. Their families spend every birthday together. Told over multiple years, Morgan and Eric learn how to accept their true selves.

Realistic Fiction

Four Dead Queens by Astrid Scholte, published by Putnam, 2019.

A talented pickpocket trying to make more of herself is thrust into a riveting whodunit as she and her former-target-turned-partner try to prevent the murder of the four queens that rule their nation.

Fantasy, Mystery/Suspense

Dry by Neal Shusterman, published by Simon & Shuster BFYR, 2018.

Californians were warned about water usage. Suddenly there is a tap-out: there is no water in California. None! Suburbs turn into war zones. Alyssa just wants to survive and find her parents.

Adventure, Dystopia, Realistic Fiction

The Last to Let Go by Amber Smith, published by Margaret KL McElderry Books, 2018.

Brooke's life is about to change, but not how she is expecting. Walking home from her last day of school (at a place she never did fit in), her day dreams of her new school are interrupted by ambulances and police cars rushing to her home. Did Brooke's mom act out of rage or in self-defense? What is going to happen now?

Realistic Fiction

Field Notes on Love by Jennifer E. Smith, published by Delacorte Press, 2019.

Hugo and Mae, two strangers, become friends and then more than friends on a grand cross-country adventure. As they travel by train, they find each other, and they find themselves on this amazing journey.

Romance

Four Three Two One by Courtney Stevens, published by HarperTeen, an Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2018.

The only four survivors of a bus bomb have to learn about themselves and realize living is different than surviving. They have to overcome survivors' guilt and open up to each other to get through their journey.

Realistic Fiction

Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice (Adapted for Young Adults) by Bryan Stevenson, published by Delacorte Press, 2018.

Stevenson gives a vivid account of his work with the criminal justice system and describes the disturbing racial and socioeconomic inequalities in our prisons, especially the large number of poor and black prisoners without any legal representation on death row in the U.S.

Non-fiction

Sadie by Courtney Summers, published by Wednesday Books, 2018.

Radio personality West McCray decides to do a *Serial*-type podcast on Sadie, a missing girl who is trying to find out who murdered her sister. Told in alternating chapters between the podcast and Sadie's story, this mystery will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Mystery/Suspense, Realistic Fiction

Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me by Mariko Tamaki, published by First Second, 2019.

Seventeen-year-old Freddy finds herself in an on-again, off-again relationship with charismatic Laura Dean. She knows she needs to break things off so she can get on with her life, but can she?

Realistic Fiction, Romance

Secrets of the Casa Rosada by Alex Temblador, published by Arte Publico, 2018.

Being the granddaughter of a well-known healer whom she has only just met, Martha is thrown into a world and a life that is foreign to her. As she assimilates into her new home and her new school, she discovers things about herself and her family that she never knew.

Realistic Fiction

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas, published by Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Bri wants to use her rapping skills to get out of the hood. Her father, who was also a rapper, was killed, and now his agent wants her to take his place. She soon finds out that popularity comes at a price.

Realistic Fiction

Pan's Labyrinth: The Labyrinth of the Faun by Guillermo del Toro and Cornelia Funke and illustrated by Allen Williams, published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins, 2019.

Ofelia and her pregnant mother have traveled to Spain to live with an evil military captain, Ofelia's new stepfather. While there, Ofelia discovers the Faun in the labyrinth who tells her that she is actually a princess reincarnated and to return to her underground kingdom, she must complete three tasks before the next full moon.

Dark Fantasy

The Cold is in Her Bones by Peterbelle van Arsdale, published by Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2019.

Milla has lived a very secluded, protected life until Iris comes to live near them and tells her of the demon that terrorizes the village. Milla soon realizes that secrets need to be revealed.

Fantasy, Horror, Realistic Fiction

Dear America: The Story of an Undocumented Citizen (Young Readers' Edition) by Jose Antonio Vargas, published by Harper, an Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2019.

Jose Vargas has a story that is more common than many people know. He was brought to the U.S. from the Philippines as a young child and never applied for citizenship after overstaying his visa. His struggle to continue to live and work as an undocumented citizen in modern America is eye opening.

Memoir

Ink Knows No Borders: Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience edited by Patrice Vecchione and Alyssa Raymond, published by Seven Stories Press, 2019.

Coming to a new country can be challenging, exciting and terrifying all at once, especially if the place you are going doesn't necessarily want you there. This collection of poems examines the act of immigrating from multiple points of view.

Poetry, Story Collection/Anthology

Kiss Number 8 by Colleen A.F. Venable, published by First Second, 2019.

Amanda has two best friends, loves spending time with her dad, goes to Catholic School and has a pretty good life. Her world collapses when she suspects her dad is having an affair. Learning the truth turns her world upside down.

Realistic Fiction, Graphic Novel

Listen to Your Heart by Kasie West, published by Point, 2019.

Quiet Kate is chosen to be an on-air co-host of an advice podcast. When a boy calls in, she is sure he is talking about liking her best friend. Is she right? How can Kate keep him anonymous, but still help his love life?

Romance

Slayer by Kiersten White, published by Simon Pulse, 2019.

Nina and her twin sister have grown up in a world of vampires and demons, and they despise Slayers. Suddenly magic is gone and Nina discovers she is the newest and last Slayer.

Adventure, Fantasy

Girls with Sharp Sticks by Suzanne Young, published by Simon Pulse, 2019.

Innovations Academy doesn't seem so bad for an all-girls school. The professors are only slightly sexist, and though the punishments sometimes seem harsh, they will make the girls better, right? Just don't ask any questions and take your medicine, and everything will be okay...or will it?

Distopia, Science Fiction

Rayne and Delilah's Midnite Matinee by Jeff Zentner, published by Crown, 2019.

Josie and Delilah have poured their hearts and many years into hosting *Midnite Matinee*, a show where they celebrate their love for old horror movies. Now with their senior year quickly coming to a close, they need to think about what the future holds.

Realistic Fiction

The Seven Torments of Amy and Craig by Don Zolidis, published by Disney-Hyperion, 2018.

Amy is way out of Craig's league. She's beautiful, smart, and a social butterfly, while Craig's social life doesn't extend far beyond the Dungeons & Dragons game in his basement. Their relationship is everything Craig wants...until Amy dumps him. Seven times!

Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction