



Life's What You Make It

Realistic Fiction Grades 6-8

- Bauer, Joan **Close to Famous** (2011)
Foster and her mother escape from her mother's abusive boyfriend and end up in a West Virginia town where they use their strengths to build a new life with the help of the friends they make there.
- Bloor, Edward **Tangerine** (1997)
12 year old Paul fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.
- Butler, Dorothy Hilstead **The Truth About Truman School** (2008)
Two friends start an online newspaper where everyone is free to post anything, but things spiral out of control when a cyberbully uses the site to harrass a popular girl.
- Bryant, Jennifer **Pieces of Georgia** (2006)
In journal entries to her mother, a gifted artist who died suddenly, 13 year old Georgia McCoy reveals how her life changes after she receives an anonymous gift membership to a nearby art museum.
- Cabot, Meg **Teen Idol** (2004)
As a columnist for the school paper, Jenny is good at giving advice to others, but when movie star Luke Striker pays a visit to research a role, he creates such havoc that not even Jenny is sure she can fix it.
- Choldenko, Gennifer **If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period** (2007)
Two seventh-graders at an elite private school, describe how race, wealth, weight, and other issues shape their relationships as they and other misfits stand up to a mean classmate.
- Cummings, Priscilla **Red Kayak** (2004)
Living near the water, 13 year old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.
- Curtis, Christopher P. **Bucking the Sarge** (2004)
Deeply involved in his manipulative mother's shady business dealings, Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, and dreams of going to college one day.
- Ellis, Deborah **The Breadwinner** (2000)
Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, 11 year old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.
- Eulberg, Elizabeth **Take a Bow** (2012)
Four students at a performing arts high school in New York City, feel the pressure to perform well as they prepare for their final recital.
- Feinstein, John **Cover Up** (2007)
Two teenagers learn that every player on a professional football team has failed their drug test and the owner has covered up the results, and now they must find a way to prove it.
- Dowell, Frances O'Roarke **Ten Miles Past Normal** (2011)
Because living with "modern-hippy" parents on a goat farm means Janie cannot have a normal school life, she joins Jam Band, makes friends with Monster, and spends time with former civil rights workers.
- Green, Tim **Football Genius** (2007)
Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

Han, Jenny	Shug (2006) A 12 year old girl learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South.
Hautman, Pete	Skullduggery (2007) When two teens find a local professor unconscious in a cave, it leads them to investigate a land development scheme.
Hobbs, Will	Go Big or Go Home (2008) 14 year old Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his bedroom.
Hartinger, Brent	Project Sweet Life (2009) When their fathers insist that they get summer jobs, three friends spend their summer fooling their parents into thinking that they are working, which proves to be harder than having a real job.
Jocelyn, Marthe	How It Happened in Peach Hill (2007) When Annie and her "psychic" mother arrive in Peach Hill, each finds a reason for wanting to stay, but to reach their goals they will have to do some serious lying and Annie will have to stand up for herself.
Key, Watt	Alabama Moon (2006) Moon, taken from the only place he has ever lived, is sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love, and humanity.
Konigsburg, E.L.	Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place (2004) 12 year old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.
Kantor, Melissa	The Darlings Are Forever (2011) Best friends Jane, Victoria, and Natalya, who call themselves the Darlings, find their relationship tested when they start their freshman year at three very different high schools.
Mass, Wendy	Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life (2006) Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life.
McNicoll, Sylvia	Last Chance for Paris (2008) Instead of spending the summer with her mother in Paris, Zanna is stuck in Alberta with her glaciologist father and twin brother, but her outlook changes when she finds a wolf puppy.
Murdock, Catherine	Dairy Queen (2006) After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, D.J. decides to go out for the sport, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.
Sachar, Louis	Small Steps (2006) After being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying to keep his life on track, but when his old pal shows up with a plan to make money scalping tickets, he reluctantly goes along. Sequel to Holes.
Schmidt, Gary	Wednesday Wars (2007) Holling Hoodhood just started seventh grade with Mrs. Baker, and he knows she is out to get him. Why else would she make him read Shakespeare outside of class?
Smith, Roland	Peak (2007) A 14 year old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the peak of Mt. Everest.
Sones, Sonya	What My Mother Doesn't Know (2001) Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.
Van Draanen, W.	Flipped (2001) In alternating chapters, two teens describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.