

2007 GIFT IDEAS FOR TEENS

Ideas compiled by librarians at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

STAND-ALONE BOOKS

- The Alchemyst : The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* by Michael Scott
While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins Sophie and Josh suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.
- Evil Genius* by Catherine Jinks
Cadel Piggott is a 14-year-old genius studying for his World Domination degree with criminal mastermind Dr. Phineas Darkkon. But at heart he's a lonely kid. When he falls for the mysterious and brilliant Kay-Lee, he begins to wonder if it is too late to stop Dr. Darkkon from carrying out his evil plot.
- Fablehaven* by Brandon Mull
Kendra and her brother, Seth, have no idea that their grandfather is the current caretaker of Fablehaven. Inside the gated woods, ancient laws keep relative order among magical creatures. However, when the rules get broken, powerful forces of evil are unleashed, and Kendra and her brother face the greatest challenge of their lives. To save their family, Fablehaven, and perhaps even the world, Kendra and Seth must find the courage to do what they fear most. First in a series.
- Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen
Annabel Greene seemingly had everything: cool friends, close family, good grades, and a part-time modeling career in town. But it all came crashing down, and Annabel has spent the summer in shaky, self-imposed exile. She finds herself dreading the new school term and facing, well, everyone again. The last thing she wants to do is revisit old friendships while the losses are painful, the secrets behind the rifts are almost unbearable. Her solid family seems fragile, too.
- London Calling* by Edward Bloor
When an old radio transports Martin back in time to London during the Blitz, the seventh-grader makes startling discoveries that fuel twin quests: one to expose the unflattering truth behind two World War II heroes casting long shadows in his life, and the other to answer a young Londoner's eerie pleas for help.
- Love, Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
In this sequel to *Stargirl*, Stargirl and her family have moved to Pennsylvania, leaving her boyfriend, Leo, behind in Arizona. "Can you lose your favorite person without losing yourself?" she writes in one of the many letters to him that comprise an epistolary companion to Spinelli's first story of the eccentric, large-hearted, happy-to-a-fault teenager.
- The Luxe* by Anna Godbersen
This debut novel follows five compelling teens in 1899 Manhattan, where appearance matters over everything and breaking the social code means running the risk of being ostracized forever. From star-crossed lovers and backstabbing best friends to a bad girl doing things bad girls do and a good girl doing things bad girls do, this trip to the age of innocence is anything but.
- Memoirs of A Teenage Amnesiac* by Gabrielle Zevin
This novel about identity is deceptively tucked within a soap-opera plot. After high-school junior Naomi conks her head, she can't remember anything since sixth grade. She is by turns mystified and startled by evidence of her present life, from the birth-control pills in her bedside table to her parents' astonishing, rancorous split. The new novel from the author of *Elsewhere*.
- The Secret Life of Sparrow Delaney* by Suzanne Harper
As the seventh daughter of a psychic, great things are expected of Sparrow, but she wants none of it, going so far as to begin her freshman year at a new high school. Nor has she mentioned to her family that she has been talking to spirit guides and seeing ghosts since she was five. But her plan to be different unravels when a teenage ghost appears and insists on Sparrow's help.
- Skullduggery Pleasant* by Derek Landy
Twelve-year-old Stephanie Edgley inherits her uncle Gordon's estate and is promptly attacked on her first solo visit there. A mysterious skeleton-detective comes to her rescue, explaining that he thinks Gordon was murdered and that she may be next.
- Wicked Lovely* by Melissa Marr
Seventeen-year-old Aislinn, who has the rare ability to see faeries, is drawn against her will into a centuries-old battle between the Summer King and the Winter Queen, and the survival of her life, her love, and summer all hang in the balance. (Contains mature themes; best for older teens.)

NEWEST SEQUELS TO EXISTING SERIES

- Cross My Heart and Hope to Spy* by Ally Carter**
After staking out, obtaining, and then being forced to give up her first boyfriend, Josh, all Cammie Morgan wants is a peaceful semester. But that's easier said than done when you're a CIA legacy and go to the premier school in the world...for spies. Cammie may have a genius IQ, but there are still a lot of things she doesn't know. Like, will her ex-boyfriend even remember she exists? And how much trouble is she really in after what happened last semester? Book 2 in The Gallagher Girls series.
- Eclipse* by Stephenie Meyer**
The author of the "New York Times" bestsellers "Twilight" and "New Moon" delivers the much-anticipated third novel in this engrossing series. As Seattle is ravaged by a string of mysterious killings and a malicious vampire continues her quest for revenge, Bella Swan once again finds herself surrounded by danger. Book 3 in the Twilight series.
- Extras* by Scott Westerfeld**
The world of uglies, pretties, and specials is over. Now, it's all about fame. In the new book in Westerfeld's "New York Times" bestselling Uglies series, everyone's social status is constantly monitored and rated. It's a world where anyone can be a celebrity in an instant. Book 5 in The Uglies series.
- The Icebound Land* by John Flanagan**
The newest installment in the Ranger's Apprentice series features a dual story, switching between the ranger's apprentice, Will, accompanied by princess Evanlyn, and the ranger, Halt, accompanied by Will's friend Horace, a young knight-in-training. After an unsuccessful attempt to escape from the ship where they are captives, Will and Evanlyn are taken to Skandia and put to work as slaves. Meanwhile, Halt and Horace ride to the rescue, or at least toward the rescue, only to be detained by a series of petty thieves and a nefarious knight. Book 4 in the Ranger's Apprentice series.
- Ironside* by Holly Black**
Finding your place in the world is no picnic at the best of times, but pixie changeling Kaye finds it tougher than most. And no wonder: her boyfriend has been crowned king of the Unseelie Court and her best friend suffers from a faery's curse. In this follow-up to Black's previous two books about the urban fey, Kaye and her friends are caught in the middle of a clash between the rival faery courts. *(Contains mature themes; best for older teens.)*
- Seeing Redd* by Frank Beddor**
This second volume in the series continues the story of Alyss Heart, who defeated her Aunt Redd and is now Queen of Wonderland. She struggles to restore the devastated queendom to its former glory with the help of characters from the first book, including Bibwit, Hatter Madigan, and Homburg Molly. As she works to balance her duty with her private times alone with Dodge, Alyss finds that she has more enemies than just her Aunt Redd. Book 2 in The Looking Glass Wars series. *(Contains mature themes; best for older teens.)*
- Snakehead* by Anthony Horowitz**
What goes up must come down, and when we last saw Alex Rider, he was as up as can be—in outer space. When he crash lands off the coast of Australia, the Australian Secret Service recruits him to infiltrate one of the ruthless gangs operating across South East Asia. Known as snakeheads, the gangs smuggle drugs, weapons, and worst of all, people. Alex accepts the assignment, in part for the chance to work with his godfather and learn more about his parents. What he uncovers, however, is a secret that will make this his darkest and most dangerous mission yet. Book 7 in the Alex Rider Series.
- The Sweet Far Thing* by Libba Bray**
As exalted as she is within the realms for her role as High Priestess of the secret society, her 'otherness' marks her as unsuitable for proper Victorian circles. Gemma chafes not only at the physical constraints of a corset but at the myriad restrictions placed on women. Her quest is to break free, but at what cost? Book 3 of the Great and Terrible Beauty Trilogy. *(Contains mature themes; best for older teens.)*
- The Titan's Curse* by Rick Riordan**
In this installment, Riordan continues to enliven ancient mythology with wit, contemporary staging, and teenage heroics. Percy Jackson is now 14, a bit older and wiser, yet still entangled with the Fates. Friends, monsters, dysfunctional gods, and the romantic stirrings of all things natural and mythological are encountered. His good friend, if oft-time rival, Annabeth (daughter of Athena) is missing, as is Artemis, goddess of the hunt. Intricate prophecies and relationships are neatly braided into the adventurous plot. Book 3 in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang**
As alienated kids go, Jin Wang is fairly run-of-the-mill: he eats lunch by himself in a corner of the schoolyard, gets picked on by bullies and jocks and develops a sweat-inducing crush on a pretty classmate. And, oh, yes, his parents are from Taiwan. This much-anticipated, affecting story about growing up different is more than just the story of a Chinese-American childhood; it's a fable for every kid born into a body and a life they wished they could escape. A great intro for someone just getting into graphic novels.
- Artemis Fowl*, adapted by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin**
In 2001, audiences first met and fell in love with a twelve-year-old criminal mastermind named Artemis Fowl. Since then, the series has sold over seven million copies in the United States alone. Now, this phenomenally successful series is being translated into a graphic novel format. Eoin Colfer has teamed up with established comic writer Andrew Donkin to adapt the text. For the first time, rabid fans will be able to see what Foaly's tin hat looks like; discover just how "Beet" Root got his name; and of course, follow their favorite criminal mastermind as he plots and connives in action-packed, full-color panels.
- Fables Vol. 1*, written by Bill Willingham, illustrated by Lan Medina**
This elaborate fantasy series begins as a whodunit, but quickly unfurls into a much larger story about Fabletown, a place where fairy tale legends live alongside regular New Yorkers. Years ago, fables and fairy tales like Jack and the Beanstalk and Cinderella "were a thousand separate kingdoms spread over a hundred magic worlds," until they were invaded and driven into hiding and, eventually, into modern-day Gotham. The start to the excellent and ongoing Fables series.
- Heroes*, by various authors, illustrated by Tim Sale**
The perfect gift for the fanboy (or fangirl) this season is the hardcover graphic novel based on the popular NBC television series, "Heroes." This book collects the online comics and includes an introduction by Masi Oka (Hiro).
- Maus*, by Art Spiegelman**
Told with chilling realism in an unusual comic-book format, this is more than a tale of surviving the Holocaust. Spiegelman relates the effect of those events on the survivors' later years and upon the lives of the following generation. The Nazis, portrayed as cats, gradually introduce increasingly repressive measures, until the Jews, drawn as mice, are systematically hunted and herded toward the Final Solution. A stunning book and a classic graphic novel.
- Persepolis*, written and illustrated by Marjane Satrapi**
Persepolis is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country. *(An animated movie based off of the original French version of the Persepolis books will be released this winter.)*
- Wonder Woman: Love & Murder* by Jodi Picoult**
An unexpected new title by bestselling fiction writer Jodi Picoult is this graphic novel about an American icon. In her disguise as Special Agent Diana Prince of the Department of Metahuman Affairs, the Amazonian is tasked with capturing "Wonder Woman." How will she capture herself?