

# TEEN HQ : CONTEMPORARY

*Contemporary/Realistic fiction* is a genre consisting of stories that could actually occur to people in a believable setting. These stories resemble real life, and fictional characters within these stories reach similarly to real people. Stories that are classified as contemporary or realistic fiction have plots that highlight social or personal events or issues that mirror real life.



## [Gem & Dixie](#)

By Sara Zarr

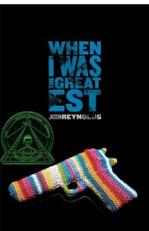
Forging a relationship with the sister who cares for her when their dysfunctional parents cannot, Gem organizes a short trip to avoid their father when he returns unexpectedly.



## [All the Bright Places](#)

By Jennifer Niven

When Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school--both teetering on the edge--it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship.



## [When I Was the Greatest](#)

By Jason Reynolds

Ali lives in a Brooklyn neighborhood known for guns and drugs, but he and his sister, Jazz, and their neighbors, Needles and Noodles, stay out of trouble until they go to the wrong party.



## [None of the Above](#)

By I.W. Gregorio

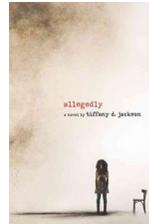
Kristen discovers that she is intersex and possesses male chromosomes, a diagnosis that is leaked to the whole school, throwing Kristin's entire identity into question.



## [The Hate U Give](#)

By Aditi Khorana

After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her.



## [Allegedly](#)

By Tiffany Jackson

When Mary, a teenager living in a group home, becomes pregnant, authorities take another look at the crime for which Mary was convicted when she was nine years old.



## [Dumplin'](#)

By Julie Murphy

Willowdean wants to prove to everyone in her small town that she is more than just a fat girl, so, Will and some other misfits prepare to compete in the beauty pageant her mother runs.



## [The Impossible Knife of Memory](#)

By Laini Taylor

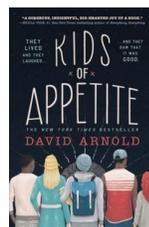
Hayley Kincaid and her father move back to their hometown to try a "normal" life, but the horrors he saw in the war threaten to destroy their lives.



## [The Last Time We Say Goodbye](#)

By Cynthia Hand

After her younger brother, Tyler, commits suicide, Lex struggles to work through her grief in the face of a family that has fallen apart, the sudden distance between her and her friends, and memories of Tyler that still feel all too real.



## [Kids of Appetite](#)

By David Arnold

Teens Victor Benucci and Madeline Falco sit in separate police interrogation rooms telling about the misfits who brought them together and their journey sparked by a message in an urn.

## MORE REALISTIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Looking for Alaska](#) by John Green  
[Highly Illogical Behavior](#) by John Corey Whaley  
[Ask the Passengers](#) by A.S. King

[Infinite in Between](#) by Carolyn Mackler  
[Bang](#) by Barry Lyga  
[The Serpent King](#) by Jeff Zentner  
[Starfish](#) by Akemi Dawn Bowman  
[We Are Okay](#) by Nina LaCour

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# CONTEMPORARY : Romance

Teens in *Contemporary Romance* are doing their best to find, and keep, love in the here and now.



## [Everything, Everything](#)

By [Nicola Yoon](#)

In modern day New York, magic is all but extinct. The remaining few who have an affinity for magic live in the shadows, hiding who they are from the Brink, a dark energy barrier that confines them to the island.



## [Once and For All](#)

By [Sarah Dessen](#)

Cynical about happy endings, Louna, the daughter of a wedding planner, initially holds Ambrose at arm's length, but Ambrose has finally found someone to save him from his serial dating ways, and he's not about to be discouraged.



## [What Light](#)

By [Jay Asher](#)

When Sierra falls for Caleb, a boy who made a terrible mistake years before, she is determined to help him find forgiveness, despite the disapproval and suspicions they meet.



## [Eleanor & Park](#)

By [Rainbow Rowell](#)

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

### **MORE ROMANCE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

[The Perks of Being a Wallflower](#) by Stephen Chbosky

[Emmy & Oliver](#) by Robin Benway

[Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe](#) by Benjamin Alire Saenz

[Between Us and the Moon](#) by Rebecca Maizel

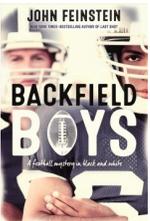
[Amy & Roger's Epic Detour](#) by Morgan Matson

[By Your Side](#) by Kasie West

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# CONTEMPORARY : Sports

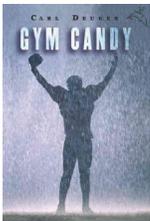
Teens in *Contemporary Sports* are growing and learning through organized sporting activities.



## [Backfield Boys](#)

By [John Feinstein](#)

When best friends Tom and Jason leave New York City for an elite, sports-focused boarding school in Virginia to play football, they find some coaches and teammates to be steeped in racism.



## [Gym Candy](#)

By [Carl Deuker](#)

Football is the only thing that has ever really mattered to Mick Johnson, who works hard for a spot on the varsity team his freshman year, then tries to hold onto his edge by using steroids, despite the consequences to his health and social life.



## [Next](#)

By [Kevin Waltman](#)

Indiana basketball prodigy Derrick Bowen is impatient to start his freshman year, but his coach favors a senior for a guard spot.



## [Boy 21](#)

By [Matthew Quick](#)

Finley is the only white player on his high school's varsity basketball team. His coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred there from an elite private school in California.

### **MORE SPORTS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

[Two Roads From Here](#) by Teddy Steinkellner

[Interference](#) by Kay Honeyman

[Jerkbait](#) by Mia Siegert

[Payback Time](#) by Carl Deuker

[Change-Up](#) by John Feinstein

[Curveball](#) by Jordan Sonnenblick

[Pointe, Claw](#) by Amber Keyser

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