

Stories with Male Leads for Teens

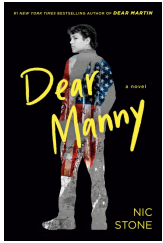
Looking for a Young Adult (YA) story with a male lead? Whether you're after action, sports, or fantasy, this list has a few books worth checking out. For more recommendations, talk to a librarian or visit alamedafree.org



Breath of the dragon

by Shannon Lee

Sixteen-year-old Jun, determined to restore his father's honor despite not being breathmarked, secretly enters in the elite Guardian's Tournament, where he discovers he is fighting for the country's fate. YA FIC LEE



Dear Manny

by Nic Stone

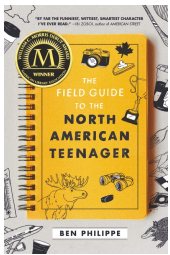
While running for junior class president, Jared falls for his opponent who has a similar platform based on equity and inclusion, and processes his feelings by writing letters to his deceased friend Manny. YA FIC STONE



Blood at the root

by LaDarrion Williams

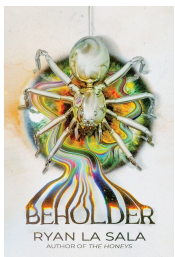
A teenager on the run from his past finds the family he never knew existed and the community he never knew he needed at an HBCU for the young, Black, and magical. YA FIC WILLIAMS



The field guide to the North American teenager

by Ben Philippe

When Norris, a Black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as cliches from "a bad 90s teen movie. YA FIC PHILIPPE



Beholder

by Ryan La Sala

The only survivor of a NYC penthouse party massacre where dead bodies were arranged into disturbingly elegant sculpture, Athan becomes the prime suspect and, desperate to prove his innocence, must confront an ancient evil compelling its victims toward violence, chaos and self-destruction. YA FIC LA SALA



The cost of knowing

by Brittney Morris

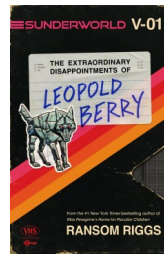
Struggling with constant visions of the future whenever he touches an object or person, Alex Rufus finds his life upended when he has a premonition about the imminent death of his brother. YA FIC MORRIS



The Sunbearer Trials

by Aiden Thomas

Chosen to participate in The Sunbearer Trials, where the loser is sacrificed to refuel the Sun Stones, Teo, the goddess of birds, must compete against more powerful and better trained opponents for fame, glory and his own survival. YA FIC THOMAS



The extraordinary disappointments of Leopold Berry

by Ransom Riggs

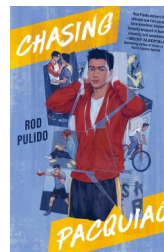
Obsessed with the 1990s kids' fantasy series Sunderworld, Leopold Berry believes the mythology is real and he's destined to be Sunder's chosen one, which turns out to be half right when he must survive LA's magical side that's less disappointing and far stranger than he ever imagined. YA FIC RIGGS



She's gone

by David Bell

Accused of murdering his girlfriend, who disappeared after they were in an accident, Hunter Gifford races against time to clear his name, putting his freedom, family and life at risk, as his former best friend makes a true-crime documentary condemning him. YA FIC BELL



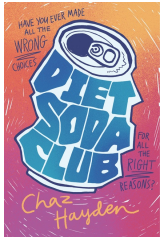
Chasing Pacquiao

by Rod Pulido

When Bobby is unwillingly outed, he turns to boxing, finding a hero in Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, but when Pacquiao publicly denounces homosexuality, Bobby must discover a hero within himself. YA FIC PULIDO

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Diet Soda Club

by Chaz Hayden

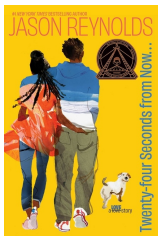
When his mom disappears, Reed must care for his sick sister. To survive, he starts making fake IDs—risking everything if he gets caught. YA FIC HAYDEN



Sky's end

by Marc J. Gregson

Exiled and hunted, Conrad must join the deadly Selection of the Twelve Trades to save his sister from his ruthless uncle—and survive the brutal world of Holmstead. YA FIC GREGSON

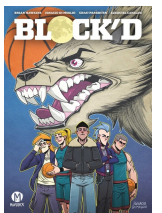


Twenty-four seconds from now... : a LOVE story

by Jason Reynolds

In a series of moments spanning two years, Neon navigates the progression of his relationship with Aria, culminating in a case of the jitters as the two intend to take the next big step in their relationship. YA FIC

REYNOLDS



Block'd

by Brian Hawkins

In a small town, Cam, a high school basketball star with a secret — that he's part of a pack of paranormal shifters — struggles to find his place on the team and the changes happening in his life when his abilities begin to show and he's unable to control them. YA GN BLOCK'D



All the noise at once

by DeAndra Davis

Aiden, an autistic teen, finally makes the football team—but when his brother Brandon is wrongly charged with assault, Aiden must uncover the truth to save Brandon's future and their bond. YA FIC DAVIS



This land is our land : a Blue Beetle story

by Julio Anta

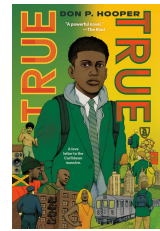
As Jaime uncovers his community's role in the immigration debate, a strange artifact grants him powers—and reveals a greater threat: an alien race known as the Reach. YA GN LAND



This thing of ours

by Frederick Joseph

Ossie Brown's entire future is in jeopardy when a torn ACL ends his promising basketball career. Now Ossie must navigate his new place in the social and academic ecosystems of his affluent, predominantly white school. When a Black teacher encourages him to join her highly regarded writing program, Ossie begins to find a new purpose...Everything changes when some students' viral 'anti-woke' video puts the teacher's job, the writing program, and even Ossie's friends' safety at risk—and Ossie must find his true voice. YA FIC JOSEPH



True

by Don P. Hooper

When Gil, a Black teen from Brooklyn, struggles to fit in at his primarily white Manhattan prep school, he wages a clandestine war against the racist administration, parents, and students, while working with other Black students to ensure their voices are finally heard. YA FIC HOOPER

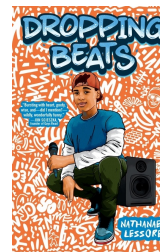


Rez Ball

by Byron Graves

When the varsity basketball team members take him under their wing, Tre Brun, representing his Ojibwe reservation, steps into his late brother's shoes as star player but soon learns he can't mess up—not on the court, not in school and not in love. YA FIC

GRAVES



Dropping beats

by Nathanael Lessore

Thirteen-year-old Growls is an aspiring (awful) rapper who wants to win a rapping contest and land his crush, but after a livestream practice sends Growls viral for the wrong reason, he makes a new friend and prepares for a comeback. YA FIC LESSORE



Shadowed

by Carl Deuker

Nate plays soccer to please his family, but a new friendship with outsider Lucas sparks his passion for basketball. As Nate prepares to take on longtime rivals, he discovers that life—and friendship—means more than just winning the next game. YA FIC DEUKER