

# Sports

## Teen Fiction Suggested Reading List

All titles located in YA Fiction or YA Paperbacks by the author's last name.



### **Tangerine** by Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight. (Grades 7 & up)



### **Skullcrack** by Ben Bo

Jonah, a troubled boy who escapes from his dreary life with an alcoholic father by surfing on the coast of Ireland, discovers that he has a twin sister with whom he has an unusual mental link. (Grades 7 & up)



### **Shift** by Jennifer Bradbury

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened. (Grades 8 & up)



### **Swim the Fly** by Don Calame

In addition to the pact he makes with his best friends to see a naked girl by the end of summer, Matt Gratton sets himself the goal of impressing the star of the swim team, Kelly West, by swimming the one hundred-yard butterfly. (Grades 9 & up)



### **The Girl Who Threw Butterflies** by Mick Cochrane

Eighth-grader Molly's ability to throw a knuckleball earns her a spot on the baseball team, which not only helps her feel connected to her recently deceased father, who loved baseball, but also helps in other aspects of her life. (Grades 7 & up)



### **Born in Sin** by Evelyn Coleman

Despite serious obstacles and setbacks, fourteen-year-old Keisha pursues her dream of becoming an Olympic swimmer and medical doctor. (Grades 8 & up)



### **Crackback** by John Coy

In the high stakes world of high school football, Miles Manning discovers that the hits he takes on the field don't compare to the tribulations he faces in growing up. (Grades 8 & up)



### **Whale Talk** by Chris Crutcher

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students. (Grades 8 & up)



### **No Cream Puffs** by Karen Day

In 1980, when twelve-year-old Madison, who loves to play baseball, decides to play in her town's baseball league, she never envisions the uproar it causes when she becomes the first girl to join. (Grades 7 & up)



### **Burning City** by Ariel Dorfman

Sixteen-year-old Heller Highland, who is living with his grandparents while his parents are away, burns rubber across Manhattan delivering bad news by bicycle, and as a summer heat wave melts the city, he is struck by first love. (Grades 9 & up)



### **Offsides** by Erik Dस्कilsen

Tom Gray, a Mohawk Indian and star soccer player, moves to a new high school and refuses to play for the Warriors with their insulting mascot. (Grades 7 & up)



### **Mixed-Up Doubles** by Elena Yates Eulo

With the help of an unlikely new friend, ninth grader Hank tries to adjust to his parents' recent divorce and works toward his dream of being a successful tennis player. (Grades 7 & up)



### **68 Knots: A Novel** by Michael Robert Evan

When a group of teenagers arrives for a summer leadership program on board a sailing ship, the teens do not expect the counselors to bail out and the leader of the program to commit suicide, leaving them in command without money or supplies, needing to figure out how to survive on their own. (Grades 9 & up)



### **Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery** by John Feinstein

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game. (Grades 7 & up)



### **Ice Claw** by David Gilman

High in the French Pyrenees, Max's race to win an extreme sports challenge becomes a race to survive when he is accused of causing the death of a mysterious Basque monk who has predicted a cataclysmic ecological disaster. (Grades 7 & up)


**Open Ice** by Pat Hughes

Hockey has been Nick's life since he was 5 years old, so when a massive concussion benches him--possibly for good--everything seems to fall apart, including his schoolwork, his family relationships, his friendships, and his love life. (Grades 9 & up)


**Jet Set** by Carrie Karasyov

Lucy Peterson has always been devoted to academics and tennis, but when her tennis ability wins her a scholarship to an elite Swiss boarding school, distractions abound and her hardest task is telling friend from foe. (Grades 8 & up)


**Home of the Braves** by David Klass

Determined to have a great senior year, Joe Brickman, the captain of the soccer team, finds himself going up against new student Antonio Silva, a Brazilian soccer star known as the Phenom, whose arrival at Lawndale High School is the catalyst for violence. (Grades 9 & up)


**Out of the Pocket** by Bill Konigsberg

As Bobby Framingham finally acknowledges to himself that he is gay, events spin out of control as his sexual orientation is revealed in his high school newspaper and in the local press, and he learns that his father has cancer. (Grades 9 & up)


**Pop** by Gordon Korman

Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water. (Grades 7 & up)


**Cutting Loose** by Michael Lewin

A girl, who dresses like a boy in order to play professional baseball during the late nineteenth century, tracks the murderer of her best friend to London where she encounters the killer of her father. (Grades 8 & up)


**Contender** by Robert Lipsyte

Feeling the pressures of Harlem life and its drug problems, police, and street fights, a seventeen-year-old high school drop-out turns to boxing. (Grades 9 & up)


**Inexcusable** by Chris Lynch

High school senior and football player Keir sets out to enjoy himself on graduation night, but when he attempts to comfort a friend whose date has left her stranded, things go terribly wrong. (Grades 9 & up)


**The Big Game of Everything** by Chris Lynch

Jock and his eccentric family spend the summer working at Grampus's golf complex, where they end up learning the rules of "The Big Game of Everything." (Grades 7 & up)


**Dairy Queen** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, 16 year old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. (Grades 7 & up)


**Slam!** by Walter Dean Myers

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently. (Grades 8 & up)


**Keeper** by Mal Peet

In an interview with a young journalist, World Cup hero, El Gato, describes his youth in the Brazilian rain forest and the events, experiences, and people that helped make him a great goalkeeper and renowned soccer star. (Grades 8 & up)


**My Thirteenth Season** by Kristi Roberts

Already downhearted due to the loss of her mother and her father's overwhelming grief, 13 year old Fran decides to give up her dream of becoming the first female in professional baseball after a coach attacks her just for being a girl. (Grades 7 & up)


**Peak** by Roland Smith

Fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest. (Grades 7 & up)


**Going For the Record** by Julie Swanson

Seventeen-year-old Leah's chance to make the national soccer team does not seem so important when she learns that her father has cancer and may only have months to live. (Grades 7 & up)



**Knights of the Hill Country** by *Tim Tharp*

In his senior year, high school star linebacker Hampton Green finally begins to think for himself and discovers that he might be interested in more than just football. (*Grades 8 & up*)



**Pretty Tough** by *Liz Tigelaar*

Two feuding sisters from Malibu, California, take their rivalry to the soccer field when both girls make the high school team. (*Grades 7 & up*)



**7 Days at the Hot Corner** by *Terry Trueman*

Varsity baseball player Scott Latimer struggles with his own prejudices and those of others when his best friend reveals that he is gay. (*Grades 7 & up*)



**One Good Punch** by *Rich Wallace*

Eighteen-year-old Michael Kerrigan, writer of obituaries for the Scranton Observer and captain of the track team, is ready for the most important season of his life--until the police find four joints in his school locker, and he is faced with a choice that could change everything. (*Grades 9 & up*)



**Breathless** by *Jessica Warman*

At boarding school, Katie tries to focus on swimming and becoming popular instead of on the painful memories of her institutionalized schizophrenic older brother. (*Grades 8 & up*)



**Hard Ball: A Billy Baggs Novel** by *Will Weaver*

A fourteen-year-old Minnesota farm boy has to figure out how to get along with the arch-rival in his love life and on the baseball diamond, and both boys must learn how to deal with the unfair expectations of their fathers. (*Grades 7 & up*)



**Food, Girls, and Other Things I Can't Have** by *Allen Zadoff*

Fifteen-year-old Andrew Zansky, the second fattest student at his high school, joins the varsity football team to get the attention of a new girl on whom he has a crush. (*Grades 8 & up*)



**Holding at Third** by *Linda Zinnen*

When thirteen-year-old Matt's older brother Tom moves to a different hospital to receive a "treatment of last resort" for his cancer, Matt tries to adjust to a new home and school, a new baseball team, and his feelings about his brother. (*Grades 8 & up*)

