

The purpose of the Thumbs Up! Award is to recognize and promote an outstanding contribution to teen literature that has both literary quality and teen appeal for those 13 to 18 years of age. The award includes a statewide teen vote of 10 books. These 10 books were narrowed by professional librarians from across the state.

**Teens**

Read all of these books (or as many as you want) and select the ONE that you feel is the best book. Vote now by accessing the [online voting ballot](#) and make your selection. Be sure to vote by May 31, 2015.

**Librarians**

It's now time for the teen vote! Please distribute this list to teens and encourage them to read and then vote for their favorite book. Voting will be open until May 31, 2015. Access the online voting ballot [here](#).

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***Grasshopper Jungle* by Andrew Smith**

Austin is about as mixed up as you can get, being in love with both his girlfriend and his best friend, and not knowing what to do. In the meantime, Austin and Robby bring about the end of humanity by releasing an army of unstoppable, six-foot tall praying mantises on their small town in Iowa.

***Through the Woods* by Emily Carroll**

Five creepy stories about eerie things that go on in the woods. Done in a graphic novel format, the stories are short but leave you wondering what just happened!

***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander**

Josh Bell is a 12-year-old basketball phenomenon who plays on his middle school basketball team with his twin brother, JB. Their dad is a former Pro player who had to retire early and has taught Josh everything he knows. This story, told in verse from Josh's perspective, deals with life on and off the court as Josh is forced to confront the hardships of growing up.

***Noggin* by John Corey Whaley**

Travis has been dead for 5 years when his cryogenically frozen head is reattached to a body that is not his own. During this time, his old life and the world around him has certainly changed, from his family to his girlfriend, nothing is quite the same. Travis has to reconcile the new him with the old him in order to become the Travis he once wanted to be.

***I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson**

Told from two points of view over two time periods, this story focuses on Jude and Norah, twins who are incredibly close but a tragic event shatters their bond and each of them reacts in different ways. Noah's story focuses on the years leading up to the event, while Jude takes the years following after. As each tells their own story, the full story unfolds.

***She is Not Invisible* by Marcus Sedgwick**

Laureth steals her mother's credit card and takes her 7 year old brother on a trip to New York City. Why? To search for their father, a writer who is obsessed with coincidence, whose notebook that never leaves his possession is found by someone there. On top of all this, Laureth is blind and has to navigate using only her sense and what her little brother can see.

***The Shadow Hero* by Gene Luen Yang**

The Green Turtle was the first Asian-American super hero during the Golden Age of American comics. Today, we learn the exciting origin of where The Green Turtle came from, how he became a super hero with very little powers, and how perseverance will get you farther than super powers every time!

***I Have a Bad Feeling About This* by Jeff Strand**

Henry Lambert is a skinny, completely non-athletic 16-year-old who would much rather stay inside playing video games than do anything that requires interacting with nature. He finds himself with other like-minded individuals at Strongwood's Survival Camp, under the tutelage of Max, former drill instructor. What follows is about as absurd as you can get!

***The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia* by Candace Fleming**

Here is the tumultuous, heartrending, true story of the Romanovs—at once an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and a gripping account of its undoing. Using captivating photos and compelling first person accounts, the story shines light on both the imperial family's extravagant lives and the plight of Russia's poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read.

***Afterworlds* by Scott Westerfeld**

Darcy Patel has put college and everything else on hold to publish her teen novel, *Afterworlds*. Arriving in New York with no apartment or friends she wonders whether she's made the right decision until she falls in with a crowd of other seasoned and fledgling writers who take her under their wings ... but that's just where the story begins.