

British Fiction and Biographies for Teens

The following books either take place in England or were written by English authors. All of the authors listed have written more books than can be noted here. The books have been arranged by the genre that best fits, however many could also be placed in another genre.

Action and Adventure

Higson, Charlie (English) Young James Bond series: SilverFin. 2005

This prequel to the adventures of James Bond, 007, introduces the young James when he's just started boarding school in England and is about to become involved in his first adventure.

Horowitz, Anthony (English) Alex Rider series: Stormbreaker. 2000

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, 14 year old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

McCaughrean, Geraldine (English) The White Darkness. 2007

Traveling from England to Antarctica with the man she thinks of as her uncle for what she believes to be a vacation, 14 year old Symone discovers that he is obsessed with seeking Symme's Hole, an opening that supposedly leads into the center of a hollow Earth.

Muchamore, Robert (English) CHERUB series: The Recruit. 2005

James is recruited into CHERUB, a secret division of MI5 which consists of teenage spies. He successfully completes his training and goes on his first mission.

Rosoff, Meg (American living in London) How I Live Now. 2004

Set in the 21st century. To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, 15 year old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon a world war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land. This book also has romance and fantasy elements.

Contemporary/Realistic

Hooper, Mary (English) Amy. 2004

Lonely after being dumped by her two best friends, Amy hopes for a romance with Zed, whom she met in an Internet chat room, but the day they spend together in his seaside village near London is frightening rather than romantic.

Fantasy

Almond, David (English) Kit's Wilderness. 2000

13 year old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal mining town of Stoneygate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.

Bray, Libba (American) A Great and Terrible Beauty. 2003

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, 16 year old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

Cooper, Susan (English) The Dark Is Rising series: Over Sea, Under Stone. 1965

Humphreys, Chris (English) - Runestone Saga series: The Fetch. 2006

After exploring a sea chest full of runes and a journal belonging to his deceased grandfather, 15 year old Sky summons the old man's ghost, who teaches him how to travel through time and space.

Jones, Diana Wynne (English) House of Many Ways. 2008

When Charmain is asked to housesit for Great Uncle William, the Royal Wizard of Norland, she is ecstatic to get away from her parents, but finds that his house is much more than it seems.

Kerr, P.B. (Scottish) - The Akhenaten Adventure. (first book of Children of the Lamp series) 2004

When twelve-year-old twins Philippa and John discover that they are descended from a long line of djinn, their mother sends them away to their Uncle Nimrod, who takes them to Cairo where he starts to teach them about their extraordinary powers.

Pratchett, Terry (English) Discworld series. As of 2008 there are 36 Discworld novels. The Discworld books are comic novels that satirize various cultural and scientific issues.

Pullman, Philip (British) His Dark Materials trilogy: The Golden Compass. 1996
Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Reeve, Philip (British) Here Lies Arthur. 2008
When her village is attacked and burned, Gwyna seeks protection from the bard Myrddin, who uses Gwyna in his plan to transform young Arthur into the heroic King Arthur.

Stroud, Jonathan (English) Bartimaeus Trilogy: The Amulet of Samarkand. 2003
Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace.

Tolkien, J.R.R. (English) The Lord of the Rings. 1954

Historical Fiction

Almond, David (English) The Fire-Eaters. 2003
In 1962 England, despite observing his father's illness and the suffering of the fire-eating Mr. McNulty, as well as enduring abuse at school and the stress of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Bobby Burns and his family and friends still find reasons to rejoice in their lives and to have hope for the future.

Crossley-Holland, Kevin (English) Crossing to Paradise. 2008
15 year old Gatty, an illiterate field-girl who sings beautifully, is selected for a pilgrimage; she travels from her home on an English estate to London, Venice, and eventually Jerusalem, and experiences great changes in her circumstances and in herself.

Gardner, Sally (English) The Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution. 2008
In the late 18th century, Sido, the 12 year old daughter of a self-indulgent marquis, and Yann, a 14 year old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.

Hooper, Mary (English) Newes from the Dead. 2008
In 1650, while Robert, a young medical student, steels himself to assist with her dissection, twenty-two-year-old housemaid Anne Green recalls her life as she lies in her coffin, presumed dead after being hanged for murdering her child that was, in fact, stillborn.

Peet, Mal (English) Tamar. 2005
In England in 1995, 15 year old Tamar, grief-stricken by the puzzling death of her beloved grandfather, slowly begins to uncover the secrets of his life in the Dutch resistance during the last year of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

Sutcliff, Rosemary (English) The Eagle of the Ninth. 1954
In A.D. 119, a 15 year old centurion ventures among the hostile tribes of Britain beyond Agricola's Wall to recover the eagle standard of the Ninth, a legion which mysteriously disappeared under his father's command.

Turnbull, Ann (English) No Shame, No Fear. 2003
In England in 1662, a time of religious persecution, 15 year old Susanna, a poor country girl and a Quaker, and 17 year old William, a wealthy Anglican, meet and fall in love against all odds.

Horror

Almond, David (English) Clay. 2006
The developing relationship between teenager Davie and a mysterious new boy in town morphs into something darker and more sinister when Davie learns firsthand of the boy's supernatural powers.

Gaiman, Neil (English) Neverwhere. 1996
On his way to dinner with his fiancée, Richard Mayhew helps a mysterious wounded girl lying on the sidewalk. The next day, he discovers his actions have erased him from existence and he is now consigned to the underground world of London Below.

Gaiman, Neil (English) Coraline. 2002

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Mystery

Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir (Scottish) Sherlock Holmes stories.

Haddon, Mark (English) The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time. 2003

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic 15 year old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog.

Pullman, Phillip (English) Sally Lockhart series: The Ruby in the Smoke. 1985

In nineteenth-century London, 16 year old Sally Lockhart, a recent orphan, becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious ruby.

Romance

Klause, Annette Curtis (English) The Silver Kiss. 1990.

Depicts the romantic but perilous love between a lonely girl grieving for her dying mother and a reluctantly immortal vampire who has spent centuries trying to avenge his mother's gruesome death.

Rennison, Louise (English) Confessions of Georgia Nicolson series: Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging. 1999

The humorous journal of a year in the life of a 14 year old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

Science Fiction

Burgess, Anthony (English) A Clockwork Orange. 1962

Christopher, John (English, pseudonym of Samuel Youd) Tripods trilogy: The White Mountains. 1967

13 year old Will Parker and his companions make a perilous journey toward an outpost of freedom where they hope to escape from the ruling Tripods, who capture human beings when they turn 14 and implant them with cranial caps that make them docile, obedient servants.

Clarke, Arthur C. (English): 2001: A Space Odyssey

Reeve, Phillip (English) Hungry City Chronicles series: Mortal Engines. 2001

In the distant future, when cities move about and consume smaller towns, a 15 year old apprentice is pushed out of London by the man he most admires and must seek answers in the perilous Out-Country, aided by one girl and the memory of another.

Wells, H.G. (English): The Invisible Man, The Island of Dr. Moreau, The War of the Worlds.

Young Adult Biographies of English Authors

All-in-All: A Biography of George Eliot, by LouAnn Gaeddert. 1976

A biography of English author Marian Evans, a Victorian writer who adopted a male pen name to preserve her privacy.

C.S. Lewis by Sam Wellman. 1998

Presents the life and times of the author who created the fantasy world of Narnia.

William Shakespeare, by Thomas Thrasher. 1999

Discusses the early life, London years, work, influence, and importance of William Shakespeare.

The Woman Who Created Frankenstein: Portrait of Mary Shelley, by Janet Harris. 1979
A biography of the 19th-century English woman who wrote the first work of science fiction.

Reference Books

British Writers, 22 volumes, (Ref. 820.9)

The Oxford Companion to English Literature, 5th edition, (Ref. 820.3)

Twentieth Century British Literature, 5 volumes, (Ref. 820.9)

Writers for Young Adults, 4 volumes, (Ref. 810.9)

Contains articles on writers whose works are popular with young adults, including both American and English contemporary authors.

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