



Enjoy a Slice of Life

Read a Realistic Fiction Book

Bennett, Cherie. *Life in the Fat Lane*. Sixteen-year-old Lara, winner of beauty pageants and Homecoming Queen, is distressed and bewildered when she starts gaining weight and becomes a fat girl.

Blume, Judy. *Deenie*. A thirteen-year-old girl seemingly destined for a modeling career finds she has a deformation of the spine called scoliosis.

Blume, Judy. *Tiger Eyes*. After Davey's father is killed in a hold-up, she and her mother and younger brother visit relatives in New Mexico. Here Davey is befriended by a young man who helps her find the strength to carry on and conquer her fears.

Brashares, Anne. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. During their first summer apart, four teenage girls, best friends since earliest childhood, stay in touch through a shared pair of secondhand jeans that magically adapts to each of their figures and affects their attitudes to their different summer experiences.

Brooks, Bruce. *The Moves Make the Man*. An explosive friendship produces fast action on and off the basketball court.

Byars, Betsy. *The Pinballs*. Three lonely foster children learn to care about themselves and about each other.

Conly, Jane. *Crazy Lady*. As he tries to come to terms with his mother's death, Vernon finds solace in his growing relationship with the neighborhood outcasts, an alcoholic and her retarded son.

Cormier, Robert. *The Rag and Bone Shop*. Twelve-year-old Jason is accused of a brutal murder and must face an interrogator determined to get a confession at any cost.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk*. 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.

Danziger, Paula. *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit*. Marcy Lewis organizes a protest against the suspension of a favorite teacher and gets herself suspended as a result.

Draper, Sharon. *Forged By Fire*. Teenage Gerald, who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father, faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved.

Fine, Anne. *Flour Babies*. When his class of underachievers is assigned to spend three torturous weeks taking care of their own "babies" in the form of bags of flour, Simon makes amazing discoveries about himself while coming to terms with his long-absent father.

Gantos, Jack. *Joey Pigza Loses Control*. Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.

Giles, Gail. *Dead Girls Don't Write Letters*. Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died out of town in a fire months earlier.

Fleischman, Paul. *Seek*. Assigned to write his autobiography, a high school senior instead records the people, sounds, and songs of his childhood, and finds himself on a search to find the father he has never met.

Haddix, Margaret. *Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey*. In the journal she is keeping for English class, sixteen-year-old Tish chronicles the changes in her life when her abusive father returns home after a two-year absence.

Hesser, Terry. *Kissing Doorknobs*. Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life and affect her relationships with her family and friends.

Hinton, S.E. *That Was Then, This is Now*. Sixteen-year-old Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *My Louisiana Sky*. Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern, but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. When "the fattest boy in the world" rolls into Antler, Tex., in a trailer, 13-year-old Toby's perspective can't help but change.

Hunt, Irene. *The Lottery Rose*. A young boy victimized by child abuse overcomes his mistrust of the world.

Konigsburg, E.L. *Silent to the Bone*. When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.

Lipsyte, Robert. *The Contender*. After a successful start in a boxing career, a Harlem high school dropout decides that competing in the ring isn't enough of life and resolves to aim for different goals.

Lowry, Lois. *A Summer to Die*. Thirteen-year-old Meg relates the story of her older sister's death from leukemia.

McDonald, Joyce. *Swallowing Stones*. Dual perspectives reveal the aftermath of seventeen-year-old Michael MacKenzie's birthday celebration during which he discharges an antique Winchester rifle and unknowingly kills the father of high school classmate Jenna Ward.

Mikaelsen, Ben. *Petey*. In 1922 Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot and institutionalized; sixty years later, still in the institution, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life.

Mikaelsen, Ben. *Touching Spirit Bear*. Cole Matthews is a teenager who has always been in trouble, and has had so many "last chances" that he figures he knows how to work the juvenile justice system. When he severely beats another boy, however, his probation officer suggests that he try something called "Circle Justice."

Myers, Walter Dean. *Hoops*. A young man with a talent for basketball hopes that his game will be his ticket out of the ghetto.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*. "Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Naylor, Phyllis. *Alice Books*. This series expresses every girl's hopes and fears about growing up in an imperfect world.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. Story of a special friendship between a boy and girl.

Paulsen, Gary. *Harris and Me*. Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an eleven-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin Harris and is given an introduction to a whole new world.

Paulsen, Gary. *The Tent*. Although dismayed and embarrassed when his father takes him on the road to get rich preaching the word of God, fourteen-year-old Steven finds himself caught up in the money and the things it can buy.

Peck, Richard. *A Year Down Yonder*. Fifteen-year-old Mary Alice leaves Chicago to live with her good-hearted eccentric grandmother in a rural Midwestern town.

Rennison, Louise. *Angus, Thongs and Full-Fronta Snogging*. Journal of fourteen year old Georgia records the her misadventures of adolescence as she tries to win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

Rodowsky, Colby. *Remembering Mog*. After graduating from a private high school in Baltimore, Annie comes to terms with the loss of her sister who had been murdered two years earlier.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. Stanley Yelnats is sent to a juvenile detention center where he is put to work digging big holes.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Loser*. Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*. Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out--under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes--for Leo and for the entire school.

Tolan, Stephanie. *The Great Skinner Strike*. Fourteen-year-old Jenny Skinner's mother goes on strike for better working conditions, and as a result polarizes much of their community. Jenny, her three younger siblings, and her father come to some surprising conclusions.

Voigt, Cynthia. *Homecoming*. Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

Wittlinger, Ellen. *Razzle*. When his retired parents buy a group of tourist cabins on Cape Cod, fifteen-year-old Kenyon Baker's days are filled with repair work until he becomes friends with an eccentric girl and makes her the subject of a series of photographs.

Wittlinger, Ellen. *The Long Night of Leo and Bree*. On the anniversary of his sister's murder, Leo, tormented by his mother's insane accusations and his own waking nightmares, kidnaps a wealthy girl intending to kill her, but instead their long night together helps them both face their futures.

Zindel, Paul. *My Darling, My Hamburger*. Four high school seniors struggle with the responsibilities of growing up, particularly the problems of an intimate relationship.

Zindel, Paul. *The Pigman*. Two lonely high school students meet Mr. Pignat, an old man who lives in his dreams and makes daily visits to the baboons at the zoo.

You will find these books and many others in your school library.
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