Here is a list of Young Adult novels that we believe every adult should read. While most of their protagonists are teens going on adventures, solving mysteries, or just plain coming of age, each could also be beneficial to adult readers.

Most of these novels are shelved in the Young Adult area, but there are a few that are classified as adult fiction in our catalog. Those classified as “adult” are older novels. Young Adult literature is a relatively new thing, and we believe if there was such a thing years ago, then that’s where they would have been shelved.

1. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian – Sherman Alexie
2. Go Ask Alice - Anonymous
3. Speak – Laurie Halse Anderson
5. Feed – M.T. Anderson
7. Shipbreaker – Paolo Bacigalupi
8. Am I Blue – Marion Dane Bauer
10. Tithe – Holly Black
11. Dangerous Angels – Francesca Lia Block
12. Forever – Judy Blume
15. Going Bovine – Libba Bray
16. Hate List – Jennifer Brown
17. Ender’s Game – Orson Scott Card
18. Re-Gifters – Mike Carey
19. The Girl of Fire and Thorns – Rae Carson
20. Graceling – Kristen Cashore
21. The Plain Janes – Cecil Castellucci
22. The Perks of Being a Wallflower – Stephen Chbosky
23. Gingerbread – Rachel Cohn
24. The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins
25. The Chocolate War – Robert Cormier
26. Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes – Chris Crutcher
27. Just Listen – Sarah Dessen
28. Little Brother – Cory Doctorow
29. A Northern Light – Jennifer Donnelly
30. Copper Sun – Sharon S. Draper
31. The House of the Scorpion – Nancy Farmer
32. Incarceron – Catherine Fisher
33. Breathing Lessons – Alex Flinn
34. A Separate Piece – John Fowles
35. Annie on My Mind – Nancy Garden
36. Fat Kid Rules the World – K. L. Going
37. Lord of the Flies – William Golding
38. Looking for Alaska – John Green
39. Mr. Death’s Blue Eyed Girls – Mary Downing Hahn
40. The Outsiders – S.E. Hinton
41. Crank – Ellen Hopkins
42. The First Part Last – Angela Johnson
43. Flowers for Algernon – Daniel Keyes
44. Please Ignore Vera Dietz – A.S. King
45. Butter – Erin Jade Lange
46. Keturah and Lord Death – Martine Leavitt
47. To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
49. The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks – E. Lockhart
50. The Giver – Lois Lowry
51. The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things – Carolyn Mackler
52. The Missing Girl – Norma Fox Mazer
53. Fallen Angels – Walter Dean Myers
54. Monster – Walter Dean Myers
55. Sabriel – Garth Nix
56. Animal Farm – George Orwell
57. A Day No Pigs Would Die – Richard Peck
58. The Body of Christopher Creed – Carol Plum-Ucci
59. The Wee Free Men – Terry Pratchett
60. Eleanor and Park – Rainbow Rowell
61. Holes – Louis Sachar
62. Catcher in the Rye – J. D. Salinger
63. Unwind – Neal Shusterman
64. Bone – Jeff Smith
65. Flygirl – Sherri L. Smith
66. One of Those Hideous Books Where The Mother Dies – Sonya Sones
67. Stargirl – Jerry Spinelli
68. Marcelo in the Real World – Francisco X. Stork
69. The Tale of One Bad Rat – Bryan Talbot
70. Smile – Raina Telgemeier
71. The Barcode Tattoo – Suzanne Weyn
72. American Born Chinese – Gene Luen Yang
73. The Pigman – Paul Zindel
74. The Book Thief – Markus Zusak
75. Zombies vs. Unicorns – NONFICTION [j813.08 Bla] – Holly Black and Justine Larbalestier

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