

# Skinny Books – Under 250 Pages

## **Speak**

by Laurie Halse Anderson (YA Anderson)  
A traumatic event in the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year of high school. (Grades 8+)

## **Go Ask Alice**

by Anonymous (YA Anonymous)  
A novel in diary form of a fifteen-year-old girl's journey from a secure middle class family to the nightmare world of drug addiction, hustlers, and dealers. (Grades 8+)

## **The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin**

by Josh Berk (YA Berk)  
When Will Halpin transfers from his all-deaf school into a mainstream Pennsylvania high school, he faces discrimination and bullying, but still manages to solve a mystery surrounding the death of a popular football player in his class. (Grades 8+)

## **The Second Trial**

by Rosemarie Boll (YA Boll)  
When his father's sentencing for domestic abuse isn't enough to protect them, Danny and his family are put into protective custody. (Grades 8+)

## **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas**

by John Boyne (YA Boyne)  
Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence. (Grades 6-10)

## **Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist**

by Rachel Cohn (YA Cohn)  
High school student Nick O'Leary, member of a rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart. (Grades 10+)

## **Notes From the Blender**

by Trish Cook (YA Cook)  
Two teenagers—a heavy-metal-music-loving boy who is still mourning the death of his mother years earlier, and a beautiful, popular girl whose parents divorced because her father is gay—try to negotiate the complications of family and peer relationships as they get to know each other after learning that their father and mother are marrying each other. (Grades 8+)

## **The Face on the Milk Carton**

by Caroline Cooney (YA Cooney)  
A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity. (Grades 6-8)

## **Red Kayak**

by Priscilla Cummings (YA Cummings)  
Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends, J.T. and Digger, become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong. (Grades 5-9)

## **Crossing Stones**

by Helen Frost (YA Frost)  
In their own voices, four young people, Muriel, Frank, Emma, and Ollie, tell of their experiences during the first World War, as the boys enlist and are sent overseas, Emma finishes school, and Muriel fights for peace and women's suffrage. (Grades 6-10)

## **Looks**

by Madeleine George (YA George)  
Two high school girls, one an anorexic poet and the other an obese loner, form an unlikely friendship. (Grades 7-10)

## **Something Like Hope**

by Shawn Goodman (YA Goodman)  
Shavonne, a fierce, desperate seventeen-year-old in juvenile lockup, wants to turn her life around before her eighteenth birthday, but corrupt guards, out-of-control girls, and shadows from her past make her task seem impossible. (Grades 8+)

## **Among the Hidden**

by Margaret Peterson Haddix (YA Haddix)  
A government decree allows each family only two children. For Luke, a third child, this has meant a lifetime of hiding. But could a stray glimpse of a child hiding in the house across the way lead to freedom? (Grades 5-8)

## **The Outsiders**

by S.E. Hinton (YA Hinton)  
Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society in which they find themselves "outsiders." (Grades 6+)

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## **Lessons From a Dead Girl**

by Johanna Knowles (YA Knowles)

After her former friend Leah dies in an automobile accident, Laine remembers their troubled friendship, dating back to elementary school when Leah convinced Laine to “practice” in the closet with her, and Leah controlled her every thought. (Grades 8+)

## **Stoner & Spaz [Has a Sequel]**

by Ronald Koertge (YA Koertge)

A troubled youth with cerebral palsy struggles toward self-acceptance with the help of a drug-addicted young woman. (Grades 8+)

## **Angry Young Man**

by Chris Lynch (YA Lynch)

Eighteen-year-old Robert tries to help his half-brother Xan, a seventeen-year-old misfit, to make better choices as he becomes increasingly attracted to a variety of protesters, anarchists, and the like. (Grades 9+)

## **What Can(t) Wait**

by Ashley Hope Perez (YA Perez)

Marooned in a broken-down Houston neighborhood—and in a Mexican immigrant family where making ends meet matters much more than making it to college—smart, talented Marissa seeks comfort elsewhere when her home life becomes unbearable. (Grades 9+)

## **Surface Tension: A Novel in Four Summers**

by Brent Runyon (YA Runyon)

During the summer vacations of his thirteenth through his sixteenth year at the family’s lake cottage, Luke realizes that although some things stay the same over the years that many more change. (Grades 9+)

## **Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick**

by Joe Schreiber (YA Schreiber)

Perry’s parents insist that he take Gobi, their quiet, Lithuanian exchange student, to senior prom but after an incident at the dance he learns that Gobi is actually a trained assassin who needs him as a henchman, behind the wheel of his father’s precious Jaguar, on a mission in Manhattan. (Grades 8+)

## **When You Reach Me**

by Rebecca Stead (YA Stead)

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, “The \$20,000 Pyramid,” a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. (Grades 5-8)

## **Of Mice and Men**

by John Steinbeck (YA Steinbeck)

The tragic story of two itinerant ranch hands on the run—one is the lifelong companion to the other, a developmentally disabled man. (Grades 6-9)

## **Can’t Get There From Here**

by Todd Strasser (YA Strasser)

Tired of being hungry, cold, and dirty from living on the streets of New York City with a tribe of other homeless teenagers who are dying, one by one, a girl named Maybe ponders her future and longs for someone to care about her. (Grades 7+)

## **Nothing**

by Janne Teller (YA Teller)

When thirteen-year-old Pierre Anthon leaves school to sit in a plum tree and train for becoming part of nothing, his seventh grade classmates set out on a desperate quest for the meaning of life. (Grades 7+)

## **Broken Soup**

by Jenny Valentine (YA Valentine)

A photographic negative and two surprising new friends become the catalyst for healing as fifteen-year-old Rowan struggles to keep her family and her life together after her brother’s death. (Grades 9+)

## **Where Things Come Back**

by John Corey Whaley (YA Whaley)

Seventeen-year-old Cullen’s summer in Lily, Arkansas, is marked by his cousin’s death by overdose, an alleged spotting of a woodpecker thought to be extinct, failed romances, and his brother’s sudden disappearance. (Grades 8+)

## **Once Was Lost**

by Sara Zarr (YA Zarr)

As the tragedy of a missing girl unfolds in her small town, fifteen-year-old Samara, who feels emotionally abandoned by her parents, begins to question her faith. (Grades 6-10)