

Humour: Books for Teens

Humorous Young Adult books show the absurdity of romance, the ridiculousness of families, the way brilliant plans can go wrong and people who take themselves seriously doing the silliest things.

For romantic humour, try **Thwonk** by Joan Bauer (male perspective) or the **Mates, Dates...** books by Cathy Hopkins (female perspective). If you're looking for stuff about weird or dysfunctional families, try Stephanie Tolan's **Surviving the Applewhites** or Gordon Korman's **Son of the Mob**.

For possibly the only funny book in the world about growing huge vegetables, get **Squashed** by Joan Bauer. For books of situational humour beginning with "How," read Cameron Dokey's **How NOT to Spend Your Senior Year** or Todd Strasser's **How I Spent My Last Night on Earth**. Want to feel like you're peeking inside someone's journal? Try humorous diaries such as Meg Cabot's **Princess Diaries** and Louise Rennison's **Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging**.

For more diaries, try the Young Adult Dear Diary booklist.

Allen, M.E.

[Bish Bash Bosh](#)

Watch as one teenager attempts to pump up his self-confidence and sex appeal. He'll get some "bish bash bosh" or die trying (2003). Also published as "Gotta Get Some Bish Bash Bosh."

Bauer, Joan

[Squashed](#)

Sixteen-year-old Ellie Morgan is determined to win the blue ribbon at the Rock River Pumpkin Weigh-In, but coaxing her potentially prize-winning pumpkin, Max, to gain another two hundred pounds proves no easy task (1992).

Bauer, Joan

[Thwonk](#)

A cupid doll comes to life and offers romantic assistance to A.J., a teenage photographer who is suffering from unrequited love (1995).

Cabot, Meg

[The Princess Diaries](#)

While trying to lead a normal life in New York City, 14-year-old Mia learns that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne (2000). Mia's trials continue with [Princess in the Spotlight](#), [Princess in Love](#) and [Princess in Waiting](#).

Clark, Catherine

[Truth or Dairy](#)

When her boyfriend suddenly dumps her because he is going away to college, high school senior Courtney Von Dragen Smith is determined to stay single for her final year in order to concentrate on school, friends and her cool job at the local vegetarian cafe, Truth or Dairy (2000).

Conford, Ellen

[I Love You, I Hate You, Get Lost](#)

Conford's seven humorous stories reflect the ups and downs of teenage love and life.

Davidson, Gina Treasure: The Trials of a Teenage Terror and Her Mom

Thirteen-year-old Treasure has a problem: the 'perfect' mother who acts as chauffeur, party-leader, and confidante. These short episodes about the turbulent mother/daughter relationship are guaranteed to bring laughter to all readers (1993).

Dokey, Cameron How NOT to Spend Your Senior Year

Because she and her father are in a witness-protection program, Jo O'Connor has moved, again. She's done it so often that she has a flawless system: blend in. Unfortunately, on her first day as a senior at Beacon High in Seattle she breaks her own rule, with dire consequences (2004).

Hall, Lynn Murder in a Pig's Eye

Convinced that the owner of a neighbouring farm has killed his sharp-tongued wife, 16-year-old Bodie searches for her body, until his detective work reaches a chaotic and humorous climax (1990).

Hayes, Daniel Eye of the Beholder

Down with chicken pox, but up for some fun, Tyler and Lymie mastermind a hoax in which they create bogus sculptures that their town believes are the genuine last works of a famed artist. But when the art world starts buzzing, the joke just may backfire.

Hopkins, Cathy Mates, Dates, and Cosmic Kisses

Focusing on a trio of high-school friends, each book in the Mates, Dates, and... series is told from a different character's point of view. Cosmic Kisses is Izzy's story, and she describes her first painful obsession over a boy. Luckily, her concerned pals are waiting when she comes to her senses and moves on (2001).

Inflatable Bras is narrated by Lucy, who, at 14, feels flat-chested and immature in comparison to Izzy and Nesta, her gorgeous best friends (2002). Other titles in the series end with: ...Designer Divas, ...Mad Mistakes, ...Sleepover Secrets, and ...Sole Survivors.

Korman, Gordon Son of the Mob

After Vince Luca falls for a girl named Kendra, he learns that their families don't move in the same social circles—or legal circles, for that matter. His dad belongs to the mafia, while hers is the FBI agent trying to put him away (2002). Followed by Son of the Mob 2: Hollywood Hustle.

If you like Korman's sense of humour, try Losing Joe's Place. When Jason and his friends sub-let his brother's apartment, they come up against the crabby landlord, Jason's brother's freaky friend and the police.

Lynch, Chris Extreme Elvin

Struggling with a weight problem, 14-year-old Elvin attempts to adjust to high school life, earn acceptance from his peers and understand girls (1999).

Manes, Stephen The Obnoxious Jerks

High school sophomore Frank Wess joins The Obnoxious Jerks, a group of misfits dedicated to exposing stupidity at all levels (1988).

McCants, William Anything Can Happen in High School (And It Usually Does)

Fifteen-year-old T.J. Durant is heartbroken when his summer love, Janet, dumps him for the senior student-body president. In hopes of recapturing her affections, T.J. starts a school service club for outsiders called the Radical Wave. The group is successful beyond his wildest dreams, but his new girlfriend, Janet's jealous boyfriend and renewed attention from Janet greatly complicate his life (1993).

Nodelman, Perry Behaving Bradley

A side-splitting view of high school law and order is revealed when Brad, recruited by his friends to gather student input for the pro-posed Code of Conduct, encounters the loathing, bullying, wrath and hypocrisy of teachers, administrators and classmates alike (1998).

Okimoto, Jean Davies To JayKae: Life Stinx

Someone very important to Jason has died, his best friend has moved to California, his father is about to remarry, and his real mom is treating him like a contagious disease. So when he meets a wonderful girl in an on-line chatroom, Jason is thrilled ... before he messes it up by pretending to be his stepbrother Josh, a star athlete and a total babe magnet (1999).

Peck, Richard Bel-Air Bambi and the Mall Rats

Three cool siblings from Los Angeles move with their parents to Hickory Fork, a small town terrorized by a high school gang (1993).

Powell, Randy Three Clams and an Oyster

While looking for a fourth player for their flag football team, three high school juniors are forced to examine their long friendship, their individual flaws and their inability to try new experiences (2002).

Pratchett, Terry The Wee Free Men

Armed with a frying pan and assisted by some blue fairies with attitude, witch-in-training Tiffany Aching defends her home from the creatures of Fairyland (2004).

Rennison, Louise Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging

A 14-year-old British girl tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighbourhood animals and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie (2001). Georgia's misadventures continue in On the Bright Side, I'm Now the Girlfriend of a Sex God, Knocked out by My Nunga-Nungas, Dancing in My Nuddypants and Away Laughing on a Fast Camel.

Sheldon, Dyan Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen

In her first year at a suburban New Jersey high school, Mary Elizabeth Cep, who now calls herself "Lola," sets her sights on the lead in the annual drama production. Her ambitious approach, however, creates friction with the most popular girl in school (1999).

Strasser, Todd How I Spent My Last Night on Earth

When a rumour appears on the Internet that a giant asteroid is about to destroy Earth, Legs Hanover scrambles to meet the elusive Andros Bliss, the boy of her dreams (1998).

Tolan, Stephanie S. Surviving the Applewhites

Rumour has it, Jack Semple burned down his old school and got kicked out of every school in his home state. Only one place will take him now, and that's a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists. The only one who doesn't fit the Applewhite mold is E.D., a smart, sensible girl who immediately clashes with the unruly Jake (2002).

Townsend, Sue Adrian Mole: The Lost Years

Located in the Adult Fiction section, these are the latest diaries of the hilarious Adrian Mole, whose private musings represent the reflections of a misunderstood and muddled soul. The series, which begin with The Adrian Mole Diaries, have become a true cult classic (1994).

A note on finding books ...

Young Adult fiction is filed from A to Z under the first three letters of the author's LAST NAME. To find Paul Zindel's Night of the Bat, you would need to look for the letters ZIN, near the end of the Fiction area.

All fiction books (and a few non-fiction books) that are less than a year old go in the New Books area, which is marked by a sign. At the Poirier Branch, graphic novels are below the new books. At the City Centre Branch, the graphic novels are underneath the teen magazines, just to the left of the new books.

Collections of short stories—themed around a certain topic (ghost stories, for example) or by a particular author—are filed just after the Z authors.

If a Young Adult book you want ISN'T ON THE SHELF, try looking on the paperback racks in the Young Adult area. Most of the paperbacks are filed under the first letter of the author's LAST NAME. For Robert Cormier books, you would look for C. Signs on top of the paperback racks tell you which author letters are in each spinner.

Books on the paperback racks DO NOT APPEAR in the online library catalogue. In other words, you cannot find them on the computer. So even if the computer says a book is out, you might find a copy on the paperback racks.

Note that the paperback racks include special categories, such as series books (Sweet Valley High, Dragonlance, Cirque Du Freak), mysteries, science fiction and classics by authors such as Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. Look for the headings above each spinner to make sure you're looking in the right place.

If you have any trouble finding a book, please consult a librarian at the Information Desk. They are happy to help you.