

## Reading YA: 18 Literary Novels You'll Love

If the term “literary” frightens you, you’re not alone. It’s something of a buzz word, and a confusing one at that. Literary YA, though, is a little different to literary adult fiction--generally speaking, it’s more accessible, and a great place to get started if you’re curious about lit fic, especially if you love language. These novels run the gamut from fantasy through contemporary, some light, some dark, some in between, each with a strong focus on character. Some are closer to middle grade, but all will appeal YA lovers.

\*mature content

1. BOOK OF A THOUSAND DAYS, Shannon Hale
2. STARDUST, Neil Gaiman
3. THIS IS WHAT I DID, Ann Dee Ellis\*
4. SPEAK, Laurie Halse Anderson
5. THE UNDERNEATH, Kathi Appelt
6. THE STAR OF KAZAN, Eva Ibbotson
7. A THOUSAND NEVER EVERS, Shana Burg
8. A CONSPIRACY OF KINGS, Megan Whalen Turner
9. NORTH OF BEAUTIFUL, Justina Chen Headley
10. A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA (series), Ursula K. LeGuin
11. WHEN YOU REACH ME, Rebecca Stead
12. STARGIRL, Jerry Spinelli
13. THE ADORATION OF JENNA FOX, Mary E. Pearson
14. THE BOOK THIEF, Marcus Zusak
15. THE GIVER, Lois Lowry
16. JELLICOE ROAD, Melina Marchetta
17. CRANK, Ellen Hopkins
18. PUSH, (Precious), Sapphire \*