

I've Got a Crush on You

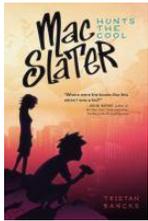
Reading recommendations for young love.

Fiction



The Battle of Darcy Lane, Tara Altebrando, J F ALT Lonestar

For 12-year-old Julia Richards, life seems to be full of a lot of waiting: waiting for the cicadas to emerge, waiting with her best friend Taylor for the summer to get interesting, even waiting for her parents to let her move into the much cooler room down the hall. But perhaps the waiting might be over after new girl Alyssa and her plushy pink chair arrive across the street on Darcy Lane. However, when Alyssa challenges Julia for Taylor's friendship and her crush starts hanging out with Alyssa and Taylor without her, she starts to feel a bit lost.



Mac Slater Hunts the Cool, J F BAN

Mac, an Australian youth, has one week to prove that he can be a "coolhunter," identifying emerging trends and posting images on a website, but he is competing against a classmate on whom he has a crush and dealing with resistance from his best friend and his own confusion over what "cool" means.



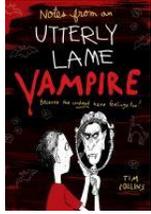
Rules for Secret Keeping, Lauren Barnholdt, J F BAR Humor

Thirteen-year-old Samantha faces some stiff competition when a new friend is interested in the same boy Samantha has a crush on, and another girl starts an internet version of her business of passing secrets, unread, from one classmate to another.



The Summer Before Boys, Nora Raleigh Baskin, J F BAS

Twelve-year-old best friends and relatives, Julia and Eliza, are happy to spend the summer together. But when they meet a neighborhood boy, their close relationship begins to change.



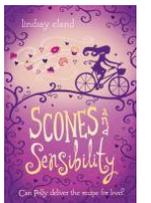
Notes From a Totally Lame Vampire, Tim Collins, J F COL Humor

In many ways, Nigel is your average teenage boy next door. He spends most of his time worrying about getting a girlfriend, fitting in, and dealing with acne. But things are even more complicated for him since he is also a vampire. Then Nigel falls head over heels for the new girl in school...



Flirt Club, Cathleen Daly, J F DAL

Through notes and journal entries, best friends and self-proclaimed "drama geeks" Cisco (Izzy) and the Bean (Annie) write of the trials of middle school, as well as their efforts to attract boys by forming a Flirt Club



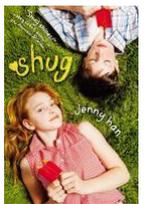
Scones and Sensibility, Lindsay Eland, J F ELA

Seek tirelessly and you shall not find a contemporary heroine of middle-grade literature as refined and romantic as Miss Polly Madassa. Still swooning over the romantic conclusions of *Pride & Prejudice* and *Anne of Green Gables*, twelve-year-old Polly decides her purpose in life: helping along lonely hearts in search of love.



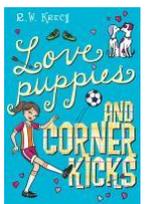
Sweet Treats & Secret Crushes, Lisa Greenwald, J F GRE

When a blizzard threatens to ruin Valentine's Day, three seventh-grade friends make and distribute fortune cookies to their lonely neighbors—and confront the secrets they've been keeping from one another.



Shug, Jenny Han, J F HAN

Annemarie Wilcox, or Shug as her family calls her, is beginning to think there's nothing worse than being twelve. She's too tall, too freckled, and way too flat-chested. Shug is sure that there's not one good or amazing thing about her. And now she has to start junior high, where the friends she counts most dear aren't acting so dear anymore -- especially Mark...



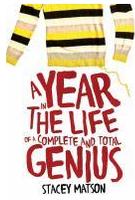
Love Puppies and Corner Kicks, Bob Krech, J F KRE

Thirteen-year-old Andrea is devastated when her parents announce that the family is moving to Scotland for a year-long teacher exchange program, but as she makes new friends, joins a soccer team, and her stutter improves, life does not seem so bad.



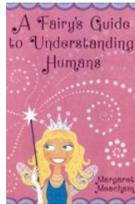
Ever, Gail Carson Levine, J F LEV SciFi/Fantasy

Fourteen-year-old Kezi and Olus, Akkan god of the winds, fall in love and together try to change her fate--to be sacrificed to a Hyte god because of a rash promise her father made--through a series of quests that might make her immortal.



A Year in the Life of a Complete and Total Genius, Stacey Matson J F MAT

Seventh-grader Arthur Bean, soon-to-be a rich and famous author, has set two goals for himself: to win the school writing contest and to win the heart of his secret crush, Kennedy, but his life has had some major twists and turns lately, and the recent loss of his mother definitely complicates things.



A Fairy's Guide to Understanding Humans, Margaret Meacham, J F MEA SciFi/Fantasy

Gretta, who is making strides in her fairy godmother training, tries to help Morgan fit in at her new school as research for a book about her interactions with humans, but her own boyfriend problems get in the way.



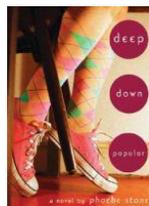
A Pearl Among Princes, Coleen Murtagh Paratore, J F PAR SciFi/Fantasy

As her sixteenth birthday approaches, Gracepearl feels her deceased mother guiding her toward a decision between life on a remote, agrarian island with her childhood love, or somewhere far away with a young man in training to be a prince.



The Boy Who Owned the School, Gary Paulsen, J F PAU

Jacob Freisten, often in a fog, tries to ease through high school unnoticed; but a beautiful classmate takes notice of him and his life begins to change.



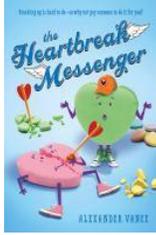
Deep Down Popular, Pheobe Stone, J F STO

In a small Virginia town, sixth-grader Jessie Lou Ferguson has a crush on the hugely popular Conrad Parker Smith, and when he suddenly develops a medical problem and the teacher asks Jessie Lou to help him, they become friends, to her surprise.



Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love, Lauren Tarchis, J F TAR

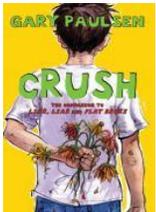
Seventh-grader Emma-Jean Lazarus uses her logical, scientific mind to navigate the mysteries of the upcoming Spring Fling, her friend Colleen's secret admirer, and other love-related dilemmas.



The Heartbreak Messenger, Alexander P. Vance, J F VAN

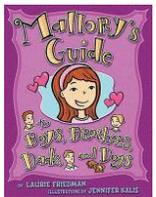
Quentin is the Heartbreak Messenger--someone who, for a fee, will deliver a breakup message to the soon-to-be ex. His business is surprisingly successful, but as he interacts with his clients, message recipients, and his best friend Abigail, he wonders if his own heart can remain intact.

Books from a Series



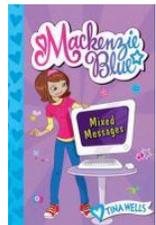
Crush: The Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Love, Gary Paulsen, J SER LIA

Afraid to actually ask Tina Zabinski for a date, eighth-grader Kevin spends most of his time theorizing about love and romance and observing and analyzing male/female interaction.



Mallory's Guide to Boys, Brothers, Dads, and Dogs, Laurie Friedman, J SER MAL

Ten-year-old Mallory's crush on J.T., a boy in her older brother's class, gets her in trouble with her teacher, her family, and her friends but no matter what she does, J.T. does not seem interested in her.



Mackenzie Blue: Mixed Messages, Tina Wells, J SER MAC

Mackenzie and her friends create a new online social networking site which creates some unforeseen problems, as she is also trying to figure out if she has a crush on one of her best friends, how to deal with the jealousy of one of her bandmates and her fears over her mother's pregnancy.



Mackenzie Blue: The Secret Crush, Tina Wells, J SER MAC

The continuing adventures of seventh-grader Mackenzie Blue as she tries to juggle her time and attention between a developing crush, the school musical, her family, and her friends.



Goddess Girls: Aphrodite the Beauty, Joan Holub & Suzanne Williams, J SER GOD

After giving Athena a makeover Aphrodite becomes jealous of her friend, but she focuses on figuring out how to help a mortal win a race against Atalanta, which will result in either their marriage or his death.



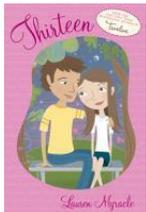
Goddess Girls: Persephone the Daring, Joan Holub, J SER GOD

Orpheus is a mortal rock god, and the girls at Mount Olympus Academy are wild about him! But Hades and the other MOA boys aren't charmed. Orpheus was devastated when he lost Eurydice to the Underworld, so he asks Persephone to help get her back. Persephone pushes Hades to return Eurydice to the living world. But restoring Orpheus's one true love might jeopardize Persephone's own chances with her biggest crush...



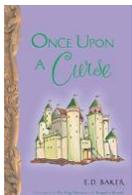
From Willa, With Love: From the Life of Willa Havisham, Coleen Murtagh Paratore, J SER WED

When her best friend Mariel and boyfriend JFK spend the summer away from Cape Cod, sophomore-to-be Willa, who works part-time in her family's inn, is unprepared for new romance and other surprises.



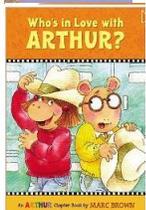
Thirteen, Lauren Myracle, J SER ELE

Winnie's thirteenth year brings many joys and challenges as she negotiates her relationship with her first boyfriend and realizes that change is inevitable in her friends, family, and even herself.



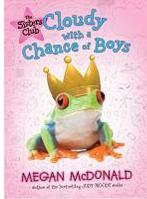
Once Upon a Curse, E.D. Baker, J SER TAL

Esmeralda, who is both a princess and a powerful witch, must travel back in time to end a family curse or risk losing her true love, Prince Eadric, forever.



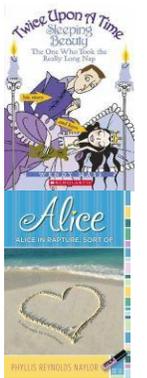
Who's In Love With Arthur?, Marc Brown, J SER ART

Arthur and Francine are a square-dancing duo in gym class. When Muffy tries to switch partners (she's saddled with Binky Barnes!), Francine refuses to trade. Francine complains that Francine doesn't want to share Arthur. Binky puts two and two together and spreads the word-Arthur and Francine are in love! Is it true?!



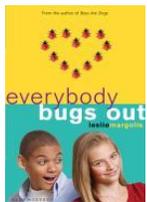
Cloudy with a Chance of Boys, Megan McDonald, J SER SIS

While older sister Alex is trying to orchestrate a perfect first kiss with her heartthrob and younger sister Joey prefers frogs to boys, Stevie Reel wonders if she is ready for a boyfriend while being pursued by a new boy in her class.



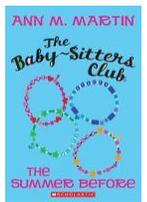
Sleeping Beauty: The One Who Took a Really Long Nap, Wendy Mass, J SER TWI

The girl's been sleeping for a hundred years. The boy's got issues of his own. There are two sides to every story...



Alice in Rapture, Sort Of. Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, J SER ALI

The summer before she enters the seventh grade becomes the summer of Alice's first boyfriend, and she discovers that love is about the most mixed-up thing that can possibly happen to you, especially since she has no mother to go to for advice.



Annabelle Unleashed: Everybody Bugs Out, Leslie Margolis, J SER ANN

Sixth-grader Annabelle realizes that she has a crush on Oliver, with whom she is doing a science fair project, just before the Valentine's Day dance--and just before her friend Claire announces her crush on him

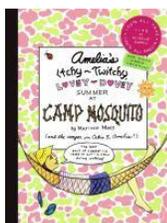


The Baby-Sitter's Club: The Summer Before, Ann Martin, J SER BAB

During the summer before their seventh-grade year, Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, and Stacey tackle difficulties, including family problems, crushes, moving, and making new friends

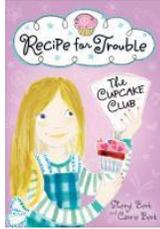
Captain Awesome Get's Crushed, Stan Kirby, J SER CAP

It's February in Sunnyview, and Valentine's Day is fast approaching. When Captain Awesome and Nacho Cheese Man start to receive valentines in their cubbies, they know they must step up the watch for all things evil. But Captain Awesome gets distracted when Sally (aka Supersonic Sal) starts to receive valentines of her very own.



Amelia's Itchy-Twitchy, Lovey-Dovey, Summer at Camp Mosquito, Marissa Moss, J SER AME

Despite the hard mattresses, biting bugs, and exhausting hikes, Amelia finally begins to enjoy her time at sleepaway camp with the help of her new friends, but when she gets her first serious crush on a boy named Luke, Amelia is stunned to find out that Carly likes him too and so must find a way to win his heart without losing her newest best friend.



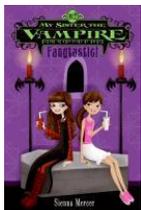
Recipe for Trouble, Sheryl Berk, J SER CUP

To Lexi, a new school year means back to baking with her BFFs in the cupcake club. But the club president, Kylie, is mixing things up by inviting new members. And Lexi is in for a no-so-sweet surprise when she is cast in the school's production of Romeo and Juliet. If only she could be as confident onstage as she is in the kitchen. The icing on the cake: her secret crush is playing Romeo.



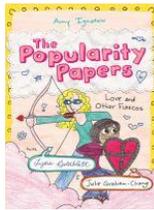
Taking the Cake, Lisa Papademetriou, J SER CON

Hayley and her little sister, Chloe, have just moved into their grandmother's house with their mom, who recently divorced their dad and has just been laid off from her job. Helping out at her grandmother's tea shop, Hayley discovers she has a knack for baking, but her newfound talent seems to have cost her her best friend, Artie. Now Hayley's crushing on someone who might just be Artie's new boyfriend.



Love Bites, Sienna Mercer, J SER MYS

Olivia and Ivy go to Transylvania to meet their Dad's side of the family. The crown prince of Transylvania seems interested in Olivia and Ivy wonders if he is just being friendly or is up to something.



Love & Other Fiascos with Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham Chang, Amy Ignatow, J SER POP

Love is in the air Julie and Roland are an official "couple," which means . . . well, they're not exactly sure what, except that it makes Papa Dad extremely anxious. Meanwhile, Lydia's mom announces that she's marrying Coach Eric (the soccer coach from England), and Lydia and her sister, Melody, are not happy about it.



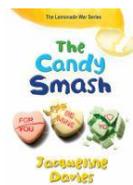
Junie B. Jones Love Handsome Warren, Barbara Park, J SER JUN

Unable to compete with her friends' fancy clothes and running ability, irrepressible six-year-old Junie B. finds her own way to make the new boy at school like her.



Dragon Kiss, E.D. Baker, J SER TAL

Audun is on a quest to find Princess Millie, and to become human in order to win her heart. But The Dragon King has set out a number of tasks Audun must perform before he is permitted try even try to woo Millie.



The Candy Smash, Jacqueline Davies, J SER LEM

Jessie and Evan Treski have waged a lemonade war, sought justice in a class trial, and even unmasked a bell thief. Now they are at opposite ends over the right to keep secrets. Evan believes some things (such as his poetry) are private. Jessie believes scandal makes good news. When anonymously sent candy hearts appear in Class 4-0, self-appointed ace reporter Jessie determines to get the scoop on class crushes.



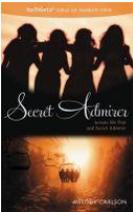
Nice Shot, Cupid!, Kate McMullan, J SER MYT

The story about the handsome Greek god Cupid and how he met Psyche? Just another lie from that myth-o-maniac Zeus! The truth is, when Cupid met Psyche he was a gawky teen god with bad skin and braces. Psyche was so beautiful, Cupid was scared to even approach her. Instead, he and Zeus cooked up a plan to kidnap Psyche. Hades, King of the Underworld, is here to shine some light on what really happened.



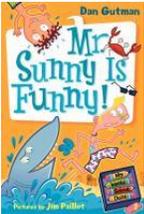
Durinda's Dangers, Lauren Baratz-Logsted, J SER SIS

One month after their parents' disappearance, the third-grade Huit octuplets deal with a malfunctioning refrigerator and try to win the love of the only boy in their class at Valentine's Day, while Dorinda discovers her special power and gift.



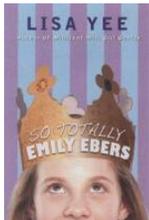
Secret Admirer, Melody Carlson, J SER FAI

Hoping to attract the attention of a special boy before the Valentine's Day dance, Amy instead suffers public humiliation then, with the help of club members Morgan, Carlie, Emily, and Chelsea, she finds a way to show God's love to other lonely people.



Mr. Sunny is Funny!, Dan Gutman, J SER MYW

Second-grade graduate A.J. and his family rent a beach house, but summer vacation is ruined when annoying Andrea shows up and develops a crush on the lifeguard.



So Totally Emily Ebers, Lisa Yee, J SER MIL

In a series of letters to her absent father, twelve-year-old Emily Ebers deals with moving cross-country, her parents' divorce, a new friendship, and her first serious crush.



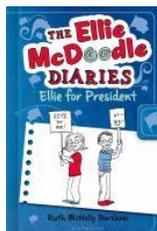
Truth or Dare, P.J. Night, J SER YOU

When Abby Miller confesses her crush on Jake during a game of Truth or Dare and then receives a text message warning her to stay away from him, she starts suspecting that her stalker is a ghost, and not a jealous classmate.



Don't Drink the Punch!, P.J. Night, J SER YOU

A girl's obsessive crush puts partygoers in danger in this delightfully scary story.



The Ellie McDoodle Diaries: Ellie for President, Ruth McNally Barshaw, J SER ELL

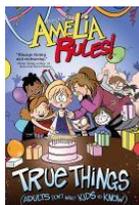
Ellie McDoodle is excited about starting a school newspaper and serving as editor, so when her friends and family convince her to run for class president--against her new crush, Jake--she is disappointed to have to give up the job temporarily, but is soon caught up in making posters and speeches and getting to know Jake better.

Graphic Novels



The Phantom of the Opera, adapted by Joeming Dunn, G GN GRA

A graphic novel based on the Gaston Leroux classic, in which a disfigured musical genius, living under the Paris Opera House, uses music to win the love of a beautiful opera singer.



Amelia Rules: True Things (Adults Don't Want Kids to Know), Jimmy Gownley, J GN AME

Amelia Louise McBride's eleventh birthday party is fabulous, but soon her friends are fighting all the time, she gets a terrible report card, and when she summons the courage to tell a boy how she feels about him, she learns why it is called a "crush."



Chocomimi 4: Sweet & Stylish, Konami Sonoda, J GN CHO

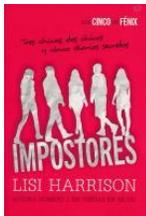
Meet Choco and Mimi, best friends in eighth grade. Choco is serious and reliable while Mimi is silly and spoiled rotten, but they *both* have a flair for fashion! Cute outfits aren't the only thing on Choco's and Mimi's minds. Choco's heart still beats strong for Ando, while Mimi is having trouble deciding which guy she likes best...



Belly Flop!, Stephen McCranie, J GN MAL

A time machine? Mal can build one with his eyes closed and one arm tied behind his back. His secret crush's birthday party? Gulp. A shrinking machine. Invisibility spray. If Mal can think it, he can build it. But there's one thing he can't seem to do: Get Megan to notice him. He gets his chance when he's invited to her birthday party. But destroying her cake and presents wasn't quite what Mal had in mind. Good thing the school's talent show is coming up!

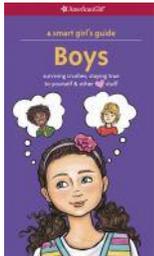
En Español



Impostores, Lisi Harrison, JSPA F HAR

Five high school freshmen--the Phoenix Five--reveal their friendships, crushes, school and family dramas, and big secrets, as told in their unique voices through journal entries.

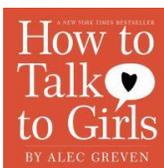
Non-fiction



A Smart Girl's Guide: Boys: Surviving Crushes, Staying True to Yourself & Other Love Stuff, Nancy Holyoke, J 305.23 HOL

This book has it all - now with updated content and illustrations!

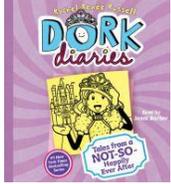
It's an insightful, age-appropriate guide to boys, a top topic for girls today, and provides straight talk on what to do when everyone's wondering "who likes who?" The book explores being friends, going out, breaking up, being yourself, and much more.



How to Talk to Girls, Alec Greven, J 155.432 GRE

The facts of life -- Crushes -- There's a girl for every boy -- How to get a girl's attention -- What to say to girls -- Compliments, flowers and other things -- Success!

Audio Books



Dork Diaries: Tales from a Not-so-happily Ever After, Rachel Renee Russell, J F RUS (Audio)

After a bump on the head in gym class on April Fool's Day, Nikki has a wild dream in which she, her BFFs Chloe and Zoey, her crush Brandon, and mean girl Mackenzie all end up playing the roles of some familiar classic fairy tale characters. Of course, the stories don't go quite as expected-because they each have a very special Dork Diaries spin!