



Diary of a Witness by Catherine Ryan Hyde

One day, something's going to snap. . . .

Ernie doesn't have a lot of friends at school. Just Will. They have stuff in common—like fishing, and they have common enemies: the school jocks, who make bullying into a sport. For the most part, Ernie and Will take life in stride, until Will has one very bad day. Now Ernie finds himself a witness—to loss, to humiliation, and to Will's anger. Ernie doesn't want to believe his best friend is changing, but he can't

deny the truth. Soon he has a choice: join or die.

Dirty Little Secrets by C.J. Omololu

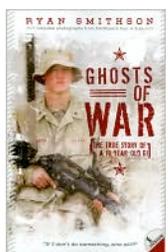
Everyone has a secret. But Lucy's is one she's been hiding for years—that her mom's out-of-control hoarding has turned their lives into a world of garbage and shame. She's kept her home life hidden from her best friend and her crush, knowing they'd be disgusted by the truth. So, when her mom dies suddenly, Lucy hesitates to call 911 because revealing their way of life would be unbearable—and she

begins her plan to set her life right.



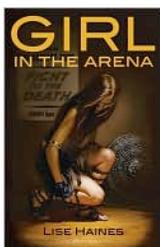
Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year-Old GI by Ryan Smithson

Ryan Smithson joined the Army Reserve when he was just out of high school. At age nineteen he was deployed to Iraq. His year in combat changed his life. This is his story. It will change the way you feel about what it means to be an American.



Girl in the Arena by Lise Haines

As a modern gladiator's daughter, Lyn lives by the rules of the Gladiator Sports Association. But rules can turn against you. When Lyn's father dies in the ring, his opponent captures Lyn's dowry bracelet—and her hand in marriage. To win her freedom, Lyn does what no girl has done before: she enters the arena to fight her father's murderer—even as she falls in love with him.



Gray Baby: A Novel by Scott Loring Sanders

At six, Clifton watched as two white police officers beat his black father to death. Ten years later Clifton's life has been shaped by that horrible event. He's a social outcast, his mother is an alcoholic, and his only connection with a living thing is to the dog next door. A project at school finally helps him find a friend. Then the kidnapping of a young girl brings back his old demons. How can he go to the police after what they did to his father?



Hate List by Jennifer Brown

Five months ago, Valerie Leftman's boyfriend, Nick, opened fire on their school cafeteria. Shot trying to stop him, Valerie saved the life of a classmate, but was implicated in the shootings because of the list she helped create—a list of people and things she and Nick hated. Now, after a summer of seclusion, Val must come to grips with the tragedy that took place and her role in it, in order to make amends and move on with her life.

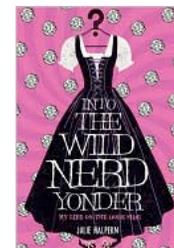


Hold Still by Nina LaCour

In the wake of her best friend Ingrid's suicide, Caitlin is left alone, struggling to find hope and answers. When she finds the journal Ingrid left behind, she begins a journey of understanding that leads to new friendships and first love. Nina LaCour brings the changing seasons of Caitlin's first year without Ingrid to life with emotion, honesty, and captivating writing.

Into the Wild Nerd Yonder by Julie Halpern

When high school sophomore Jessie's long-term best friend transforms herself into a punk and goes after Jessie's would-be boyfriend, Jessie decides to visit "the wild nerd yonder" and seek true friends among Dungeons and Dragons fans.



King of the Screwups: A Novel by K.L. Going

Liam Geller is Mr. Popularity. Everybody loves him. He excels at sports, knows what clothes to wear & ends up with the most beautiful girls in school. But he's got an uncanny ability to screw up in the very ways that tick off his father the most. When Liam is kicked out of the house, his uncle takes him in. What could a teenage chick magnet possibly have in common with his glam rocker, DJ uncle who lives in a trailer in upstate New York? More than you'd think.



Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld

The year is 1914, and war is imminent, upon the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife. But aside from that, all is different in this alternate continuum. The Germans and their allies, known as "Clankers," have perfected super-mechanized craft of war. The British, or "Darwinists," rely on bioengineering: aerial whales, souped-up tiger draft beasts, and so forth.



Muchacho by LouAnne Johnson

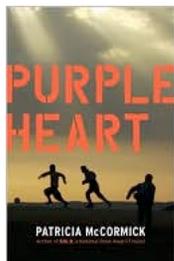
Eddie Corazon is angry. He's also very smart. But he's working pretty hard at being a juvenile delinquent. He blows off school, even though he's a secret reader. He hangs with his cousins, who will always back him up—when they aren't in jail. Then along comes Lupe, who makes his blood race. She sees something in Eddie he doesn't see in himself. A heart, and a mind, and something more: a poet. But in Eddie's world, it's a thin line between tragedy and glory.



Once a Witch by Carolyn MacCullough

Tamsin Greene comes from a long line of witches, and she was supposed to be one of the most Talented among them. But Tamsin's magic never showed up. Now seventeen, Tamsin attends boarding school in Manhattan. When a handsome young professor mistakes her for her very talented sister, Tamsin agrees to find a lost family heirloom for him. The search—and the stranger—will prove to be more sinister than they first appeared, ultimately sending Tamsin on a treasure hunt through time, unlocking the secret of her true identity, unearthing family sins, and unleashing a vengeful power that may destroy them all.



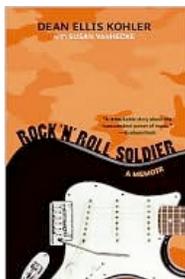


Purple Heart by Patricia McCormick

When Private Matt Duffy wakes up in an army hospital in Iraq, he's honored with a Purple Heart. But he doesn't feel like a hero. Matt can't shake the feeling that he was somehow involved in a young Iraqi boy's death. But because of a head injury he sustained just moments after the boy was shot, Matt can't quite put all the pieces together. In combat there is no black-and-white, and Matt soon discovers that the notion of who is guilty is very complicated indeed.

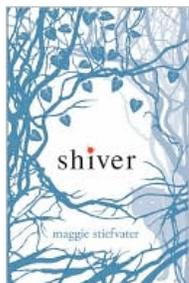
Rock 'N' Roll Soldier by Dean Ellis Kohler & Susan Vanhecke

Dean Kohler is about to make it big—he's finally scored a national record deal! But his dreams are abruptly put on hold by the arrival of his draft notice. Now he's in Qui Nhon, Vietnam, serving as a military policeman. When Captain orders him to form a rock band, ingenuity and perseverance pay off and soon the band is traveling through treacherous jungle terrain to perform for troops in desperate need of an escape—even if it's only for three sets. And for Dean—who lives with death, violence, and the fear that anyone could be a potential spy (even his Vietnamese girlfriend)—the band becomes the one thing that gets him through the day. During one of the most controversial wars in recent American history, this true story is about music and camaraderie in the midst of chaos.



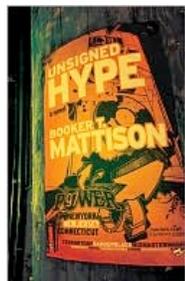
Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater

For years, Grace has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house. One yellow-eyed wolf is a chilling presence she can't seem to live without. Meanwhile, Sam has lived two lives: In winter, the frozen woods, the protection of the pack, and the silent company of a fearless girl. In summer, a few precious months of being human . . . until the cold makes him shift back again. Now, Grace meets a yellow-eyed boy whose familiarity takes her breath away. But as winter nears, Sam must fight to stay human—or risk losing Grace, forever.



Unsigned Hype by Booker T. Mattison

Tory Tyson may only be in high school, but he knows what he wants out of life—a successful music career. And he's not going to learn about that at school. So when school lets out next month, he's not going back. He's finally ready to stop spinning old records at parties and start laying down his own beats—and the Unsigned Hype music contest is the perfect place to launch his career. But will he be able to handle the fame and fortune he seeks?

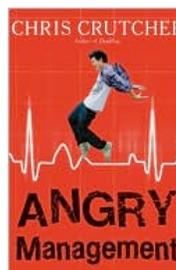


Students:

To be eligible to vote for your favorite book, you must read at least **three** of the nominee titles by 1/31/2012. Voting takes place in early February. For more information about the SC Young Adult Book Awards program, see a library staff member or visit www.scasl.net.

Book covers and summaries courtesy of Barnes & Noble.

2011-2012 South Carolina Young Adult Book Award Nominees

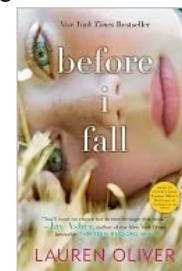


Angry Management by Chris Crutcher

Mr. Nak's Angry Management group is a place for misfits. There's Angus Bethune and Sarah Byrnes, hiding from everyone but each other. Together, they will embark on a trip full of haunting endings and glimmering beginnings. And Montana West, who loves a challenge, especially her dad's attempt to censor the article she wrote for the school paper. And straightlaced Matt Miller, who had never been friends with outspoken Marcus James, until one tragic week brings them closer than Matt could have ever imagined.

Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver

Samantha Kingston has it all: the world's most crush-worthy boyfriend, three amazing best friends, and first pick of everything at Thomas Jefferson High. Friday, February 12, should be just another day in her charmed life. Instead, it turns out to be her last. Then she gets a second chance.



Brutal by Michael Harmon

With her martyr-doctor mother saving lives in South America, Poe Holly suddenly finds herself on the doorstep of the father she never knew, who also happens to be her new high school counselor. She misses LA. But Poe manages to find friends. When pranks turn deadly at the hands of football star Colby Morris, Poe knows she's got to fix the system and take down the hero.

The Chosen One by Carol Lynch Williams

Thirteen-year-old Kyra has grown up in an isolated community and has never questioned her father's 3 wives or her own 20 brothers and sisters. That is, without questioning it much—if you don't count her visits to the Ironton County Mobile Library on Wheels to read forbidden books, or her secret meetings with Joshua, the boy she hopes to choose for herself instead of having a man chosen for her. But when the Prophet decrees that Kyra must marry her sixty-year-old uncle, she must make a desperate choice in the face of violence and her own fears of losing her family forever.



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