

Impacting Young Adult Trends

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Young Adult (YA) fiction contains a wide range styles, genres, and can be targeted at a large variety of individuals with different reading levels. Some consider the YA age range to be 12-18, while others tend to stretch the range into a person's mid 20's. Some subjects such as sexual identity, may be geared towards the older members of the YA age category.

YA trends are ever evolving just as the seasons. In recent years we have seen several different trends, some of the most popular trends have been vampires, witches and other supernatural tales, and dystopian fiction (the 'what if's' with hopeful outcomes). But what affects the different YA trends?

Between 2002 and 2012, the number of titles published more than doubled. During 2012, over 10,000 books were published, versus 2002 where 4,700 books were published (V. Peterson, 2018). The majority of YA fiction is written by adults, although the readers of YA fiction are not simply limited to young adults. Many adults above the typical YA age indulge themselves in reading YA fiction.

Many trends ebb and flow, however, some genres or topics such as coming of age novels, fiction featuring drugs, and the exploration and discovery of identity, continue to be popular. However, there are also those trends which are more fleeting or have longer down periods, such as supernatural fiction featuring things like vampires, witches, and so on. Another revolving fiction that comes back now and again is dystopian fiction or fiction which is meant to warn readers of what could be on the horizon.

Recently, YA fiction has been adapted to screens, with popular shows like *The Vampire Diaries*, or will be featured in upcoming adaptations such as *Artemis fowl*, *Five Feet Apart*, and *Stargirl* (K. Jensen, 2018). At this time, it does not seem like these adaptations are going to end, as many YA book to screen adaptations are popular (Peterson, 2018).

Even though a great deal of books is being published every year, there are many who cannot help but wonder if reading is going downhill. Especially since we live in such a digital world, with so many other forms of digital entertainment such as video games and smartphones. Thankfully, the increase in digital content has not diminished the hunger for books, rather, with

the rise of social media and other platforms in which authors can interact with their fans, it has encouraged fans to both connect and read (Peterson, 2018).

It is hard not to wonder how current events and news affects trends. Recently, there has been a popular movement called #metoo. This movement was made popular in 2017 by Alyssa Milano. The goal of the movement is to protest sexual harassment and sexual assault. Milano has since encouraged both male and female victims to tweet #metoo to show that others too have endured horrible experiences, as well as to show the scope of how large and widespread sexual assault and harassment has become. Some people who have endured such horrible experiences have sometimes turned to books which feature a protagonist going through similar problems or problems of similar weight. Sometimes just knowing that an experience is shared is helpful.

There are many factors which can impact the reading trends of YA and, while we can make assumptions as to what trends will be coming next, we can really only wait and see what interests the worlds YA's.

References

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