

The Legend Unfolds- Top Picks in YA High Fantasy

By Lynn Hart

Abstract: *There are many high fantasy stories for young adults to choose from. Several popular novels are showcased in this entry, including a few from Canada.*

Here are some popular high fantasy books that are sure to spark teens' passion for reading.

Prevailing themes in these novels include the fight between good and evil, restoring justice to lands in turmoil, and discovering one's true destiny. Be sure to check out these titles!

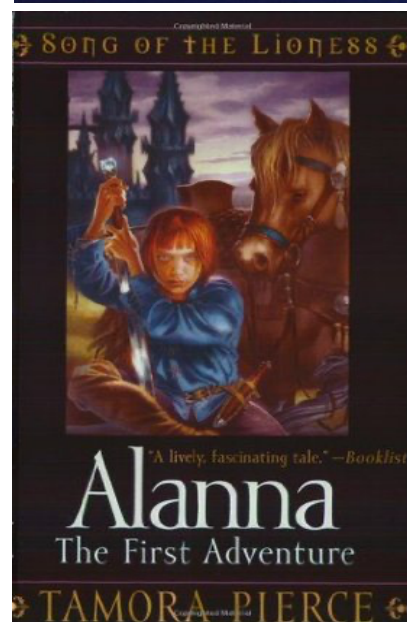
Eragon (The Inheritance Cycle #1)
by Christopher Paolini (2003)

Eragon is an ordinary farm boy, until one day a dragon hatches from a mysterious stone he finds in the woods. Through a telepathic bond with the dragon- Saphira, Eragon becomes the first Dragon Rider since the evil King Galbatorix, who sets out to capture Saphira. It is up to Eragon and Saphira to conquer Galbatorix and his army and restore humanity to the land of Alagësia.



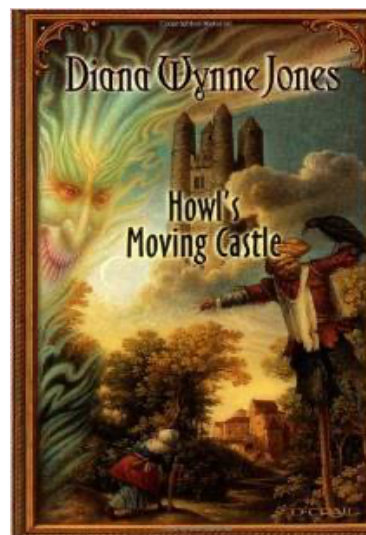
Allana: The First Adventure (Song of the Lioness) by
Tamora Pierce (2005)

Alanna of Trebond always wished to become a knight. There's just one small problem- only boys can become knights and she's a girl. But Alanna has a plan to make things work; she takes place of her twin brother Thom, who wants to become a sorcerer, disguises herself as a boy named Alan of Trebond. Thus starts her journey on the long road to knighthood, where she must learn to tell good apart from evil as she masters the sword, magic, and her spirit.



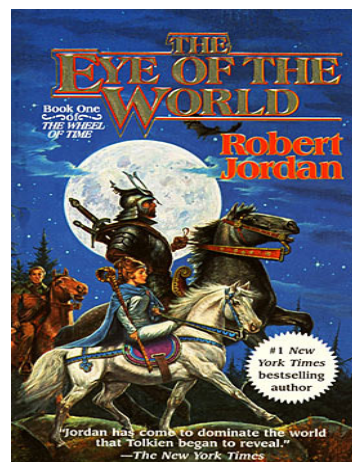
***Howl's Moving Castle (Howl's Moving Castle #1)* by Diana Wynne Jones (2001)**

Sophie has always been a victim of misfortune. One day, she accidentally angers the Witch of the Waste, who casts a curse and turns her into an old lady. In order to break the spell, Sophie must visit the fantastical Wizard Howl's moving castle and join an otherworldly crew who will help her track down the Witch. This novel is the original source behind the famous Studio Ghibli film of the same name!



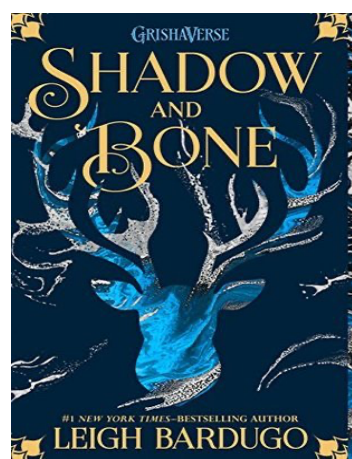
The Eye of the World (The Wheel of Time #1) by Robert Jordan (1990)

There is no end nor beginning to the Wheel of Time. In this first novel of the Wheel of Time series, five protagonists are forced to flee the Two Rivers, which has been pillaged and seized by the Trollocs. It here where the journey starts for the five to uncover the prophecy of the Dragon Reborn and to end the Dark One's forces over all the kingdoms of Andor.

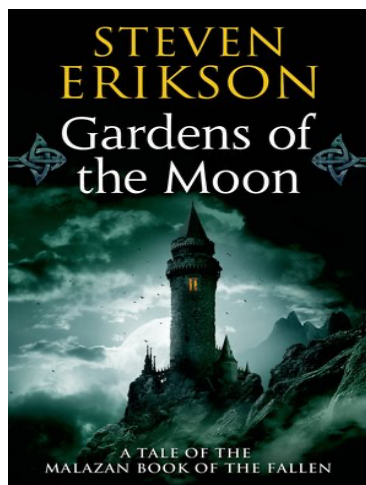


Shadow and Bone (The Shadow and Bone Trilogy #1) by Leigh Bardugo

The looming darkness of the Shadow fold has ravaged the war-torn land of Ravka. Alina Starkov is a refugee with a special power that may release her nation from this dark force. Her first task to hone this magic and train under the royal kingdom as a member of a magic cult called the Grisha. This novel series is inspired by Eastern European culture.

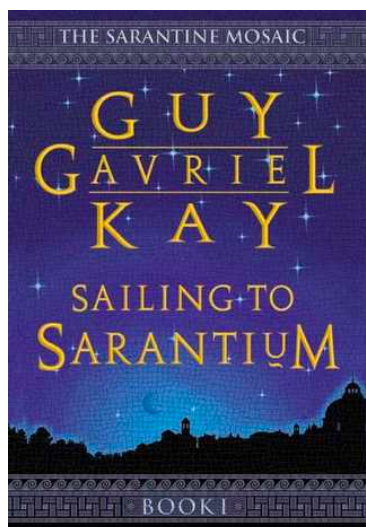


From the Magical Land of O'Canada:



Gardens of the moon: A tale of the Malazan book of the fallen by Steven Erikson (2000)

The Malazan Empire has been ravaged by warfare under the rule of Empress Laseen and now, new turmoil arises between her guild of assassins, the Claw, and the powers of the gods. The surviving members of the Bridgburners and the Second Legion try to escape this mayhem and flee to Darujhistan, the last of the Free Cities of Genabackis. But Laseen's reign of terror will not soon be overcome and she sets forth to seize the Free City. Multiple storylines intertwine as the journeys of countless characters are retold.



Sailing to Sarantium by Guy Gavriel Kay (1998) In this novel, inspired by the 6th century Eastern Roman Empire, expert mosaicist Crispin is given a secret mission from the Queen and is sent to Sarantium to carry it out. Here, he must discover his inner power to survive in this unknown land. Inspired by William Butler Yeats' *Sailing to Byzantium*, this novel explores themes of accepting change and loss.



The Silvered
by Tanya Huff (2012)

War has broken out in the Kingdom of Aydori, which is ruled by werewolves. When five women from the Mage-Pack are kidnapped, it is up to mage Mirian Maylin and Tomas Hagen, the brother of the Pack leader, to find the kidnappers' whereabouts and get their Pack-members back.

Want to check out more books like these?

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