

FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

African Mythology

LESTER, Julius. (2006). *Time's Memory*. Farrar Straus Giroux. ISBN 9780374371784.

Ekundayo is a Dogon spirit brought to America from Africa to alleviate suffering and bring peace to slaves before the American Civil War. This is a historical novel that describes the horrors of the roundups of slaves in Africa and their journey to America. It describes plantation life before the American Civil War.

Agnosticism

HAUTMAN, Pete. (2004). *Godless*. Simon & Schuster. ISBN 1416908164.

Jason Brock creates his own religion to worship the water tower with his friends. The church that he creates takes on a life of its own and Jason is unable to keep control of his religion. The ceremony at the top of the water tower threatens to become deadly.

Buddhism

TEZUKA, O. (2003). *Buddha*. Vertical, Inc. ISBN 1932234438.

This is an eight-volume hardcover manga graphic novel. It is the story of Siddhartha Gautama, the prince who became Buddha.

Christianity

CARSON, Melody. (2003). *Finding Alice*. WaterBrook Press. ISBN: 1578567734.

Alice is hearing voices in her head. Is it possible one of them is God's? This book deals with adult-onset schizophrenia and homelessness and tells it in Alice's voice, who compares her life to that of Alice in Wonderland.

TURNBALL, Ann. (2004). *No Shame, No Fear*. Candlewick Press. ISBN 9780763625054.

Susanna, a Quaker, falls in love with the merchant's son against all odds in seventeenth-century England. This historical fiction focuses on the persecution of the Friends of the Truth (Quakers) in England after the passing of the Quaker Act in 1662.

WITTLINGER, Ellen. (2006). *Blind Faith*. Simon & Schuster. ISBN 9781416902737.

15-year-old Liz finds herself crushing on a new neighbour while trying to cope with the death of her grandmother. This story discusses how both Liz and Nathan's families deal with the loss of a loved one. Told from Liz's point of view, the novel sympathetically focuses on different approaches to dealing with grief.

Cults

BARDI, Abby. (2001). *The Book of Fred*. Washington Square Press. ISBN 0743411935.

Mary Fred grew up in a religious compound and has never watched TV or attended school. When she is removed from her home and placed in foster care, she learns how to cope with modern culture.

Greek Mythology

HENESSY, Carolyn. (2007). *Pandora Gets Jealous*. Bloomsbury. ISBN 159990196X.

When Pandora Atheneus Andromache Helena (Pandy, for short) discovers a box containing something so horrifying that exposing it will bring down the wrath of the gods and goddesses on all humankind, she takes it to school. When the box gets opened, and misery and evil descend upon the world, Pandy gets hauled before Zeus and Hera and is given one year in which to collect all the evils she's unleashed.

Hinduism

SATYAL, R. (2009). *Blue Bo*. Kensington. ISBN 9780758231369.

Kiran Sharma loves music and dance. Perplexed at why he does not seem to fit in anywhere, things become clearer when he discovers that he is, in fact, a god!

Islam

ABDEL-FATTAH, Randa. (2005). *Does My Head Look Big in This?* Orchard Books. ISBN 9780439919470.

When Amal chooses to wear the hijab to school her world is turned upside down. Although her Christian and Muslim friends respect her choice, this decision does create challenges for Amal.

KNIGHT, Michael Muhammad. (2009). *The Taqwacores*. Soft Skull Press. ISBN 9781593762292.

This originally self-published book has become an underground hit. This work about an Islamo-punk subculture breakdowns any preconceptions about Muslim youth. The characters combine their faith with sex, drugs and music.

JOLIN, Paula. (2007). *In the Name of God*. Roaring Book Press. ISBN 978-1596432116.

Events in Nadia's life push her towards fanaticism, to the dismay of her moderate Muslim mother. Set in Syria, Nadia is recruited into a radical group and decides to become a suicide bomber. This disturbing novel should make teens question their ideas about faith, love, and views of both Western and Middle Eastern cultures.

Judaism

HOFFMAN, A. (2006). *Incantation*. Little Brown. ISBN 9780316010191.

Estella discovers that she is different than her best friend, Catalina. Although she was brought up as a Catholic, she learns that her family is, in fact, Jewish. Set during the Spanish Inquisition, when her family's Jewish identity is revealed to Catalina, Estella's whole family could be in danger.

LEVITIN, Sonia. (2007). *Strange Relations*. Knopf. ISBN 9780375837517

Marne develops an interest in her Jewish faith after spending the summer with her aunt, Hasidic rabbi uncle and their seven children. This search for identity finds Marne navigating faith, romance, and contemporary culture.

ZENATTI, Valerie. (2008). *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea*. Bloomsbury. ISBN 9781599902005.

An Israeli girl becomes despondent after witnessing a bombing. She writes down her hopes for peace between Israel and Palestine and puts the letter in a bottle. The bottle is found by a Gaza boy, and correspondence between the two leads to friendship.

Native American Mythology

DORRIS, Michael. (1987). *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*. H. Holt. ISBN 0805000453.

Three generations of Native American women are torn because of a family secret. They are all looking for a place to belong.

Wicca

PATTISON, C.R. (2007). *The Law of Three*. Boardwalk/Dundurn Group. ISBN 9781550027334.

Sarah, an outsider in a small Muskoka town, tries to find out the truth about the rumours surrounding Byron Hopper and his family.