

the perfect tens

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In our never-ending quest to define and identify the best work in young adult literature, **VOYA** offers the cream of the crop from our 2006 reviews. These outstanding titles earned the highest ratings of 5Q for literary quality and 5P for teen appeal (See *Book Review Code* explanation on page 137). There were 1,223 books reviewed in **VOYA** in 2006. Of them, 136 earned a quality rating of 5Q; 40 earned 5P for appeal or popularity with teen readers. Only 11 titles brought those highest ratings together into the perfect-ten combination—just one more than last year despite a 4 percent increase in the number of books reviewed.

Because no other award or “best” list weighs literary quality and teen appeal equally, Perfect Tens titles rarely receive recognition anywhere but here in **VOYA**. This year, it’s worth noting that Giles’s **What Happened to Cass McBride?** and Werlin’s **The Rules of Survival** also appear on *both* Best Books for Young Adults and Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, the 2007 booklists from the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). Their appearance on all three lists highlights their achievement at the intersection of quality and readability. These Perfect Tens include three adult-marketed titles amid an eclectic blend of fiction, fantasy, and nonfiction that will serve the diverse reading interests of today’s teens just as they reflect the varied opinions of our highly skilled and valued reviewers.—Editors.

Acampora, Paul. **Defining Dulcie**. Dial, 2006. 176p. \$16.99. 978-0-8037-3046-5. **VOYA** April 2006. **5Q 5P MJS**

This debut novel portrays the resiliency of sixteen-year-old Dulcie when her mother makes the radical decision to relocate to California after her father dies; Dulcie drives her father’s ’68 Chevy pickup back home to New England.



Barry, Dave, and Ridley Peterson. **Peter and the Shadow Thieves**. Hyperion/DBG, 2006. 464p. \$18.99. 978-0-7868-3787-8. **VOYA** August 2006. **5Q 5P M J**

This sequel to Peter and the Starcatchers (Hyperion, 2004/VOYA December 2004) adds more suspense to the magic as Peter and friends and starstuff attempt to foil the efforts of the dastardly Lord Ombra.

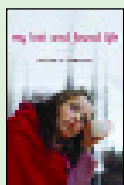


Baskin, Julia, et al. **The Notebook Girls**. Warner, 2006. 352p. \$22.95. 978-0-446-57862-2. **VOYA** June 2006. **5Q 5P J S A/YA**

This unusual but realistic novel is a handwritten diary shared among several senior girls at Stuyvesant High School in New York City, who record the daily ups and downs of gossip, dating, fighting, sex, experiments with drugs and alcohol, and struggles with spirituality—complete with doodles, spelling errors, and photos.

Bowsher, Melodie. **My Lost and Found Life**. Bloomsbury, 2006. 350p. \$16.95. 978-1-58234-736-3. **VOYA** October 2006. **5Q 5P M J S**

When pampered Ashley’s bookkeeper mother vanishes under shady circumstances, Ashley is forced to grow from entitled brat to a responsible member of society; along the way, she becomes a complex and admirable woman.



Chima, Cinda Williams. **The Warrior Heir**. Hyperion/DBG, 2006.

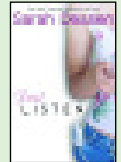


426p. \$16.99. 978-0-7868-3916-2. \$8.99 Trade pb. 978-0-7868-3917-9. **VOYA** February 2006. **5Q 5P MJS**
In a nearly flawless debut novel with constant twists and turns, sixteen-year-old Jack suddenly discovers enhanced powers, only to be used by wizards in waging their own battles.

Dessen, Sarah. **Just Listen**. Viking, 2006. 384p. \$17.99.

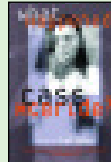
978-0-670-06105-1. **VOYA** April 2006. **5Q 5P JS**

Through smooth prose and achingly real characters, Dessen creates the perfect story of an imperfect life, weaving music with family dynamics as Annabel is forced to come to grips with her past and her present to find her true self.



Giles, Gail. **What Happened to Cass McBride?** Little, Brown, 2006. 212p. \$16.99. 978-0-316-01703-9. **VOYA** December 2006. **5Q 5P S**

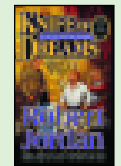
Through alternating viewpoints of Cass, Kyle, and the detective working the case of the girl’s unexplained disappearance, readers will chill to the torture that Kyle inflicts on Cass in this unrelenting psychological thriller.



Jordan, Robert. **Knife of Dreams**. Tor, 2006. 784p.

\$29.95. 978-0-312-87307-3. \$7.99 pb. 978-0-812-57756-3. **VOYA** February 2006. **5Q 5P S A/YA**

Weaving the multiple threads of The Wheel of Time fantasy series together into the beginning of the end, Jordan propels readers through an increasingly unstable reality, leaving them begging for the next installment.



Rosen, Jared, and David Rippe. **The Flip: Turn Your World**

Around! Hampton Roads, 2006. 247p. \$23.95. 978-1-57174-474-6. Index. **VOYA** December 2006. **5Q 5P M J S A/YA**

Without preaching, Rosen and Rippe present an impassioned plea for turning an Upside-Down world of stress, war, pollution, crime, and violence into a Right-Side-Up world of calm, nurturing, health, and lightheartedness.

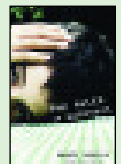
They Teach That in College? A Resource Guide to More Than 75 Interesting College Majors and Programs. Andrew Morkes,

Ed. College and Career Press, 2006. 310p. \$19.95 Trade pb. 978-0-9745251-1-2. **VOYA** August 2006. **5Q 5P M J S**

With “ripped from the headlines” immediacy for students who are not interested in run-of-the-mill professions, this invaluable resource profiles careers that fill a job market demand and pay well; are offered as majors by no more than 25 percent of the nation’s colleges; and are fun.

Werlin, Nancy. **The Rules of Survival**. Dial, 2006. 272p. \$16.99.

978-0-8037-3001-4. **VOYA** October 2006. **5Q 5P S**
In one of this talented author’s most deliciously harrowing works, Matthew and his sisters live under the daily uncertainty of their mother’s manic behavior and often physically violent wrath.



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