

# VOYA's Perfect Tens 2008

Ten titles reviewed during 2008 earned the prestigious Perfect Ten rating—a 5Q for literary quality and a 5P for teen appeal (see the *Book Review Code* explanation on page 131)—translating to almost 1 percent of the 1,120 titles reviewed. Of those books, 116 earned a quality rating of 5Q; 40 received a 5P rating for popularity amongst teen readers. Ten titles shared both ratings to become the “perfect ten” books from 2008.

VOYA's unique award is the only one that weighs literary quality and teen appeal equally, resulting in Perfect Ten titles that rarely receive credit anywhere but between our pages. This year, like last, is no exception, with none of these winning titles appearing on the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults list or in YALSA's Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers. Interestingly enough, it is worth noting that eight out of the ten titles are in the SF/fantasy genres. We still think the list is just plain magical!—Editors.

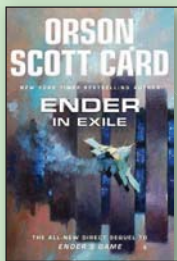
Barry, Dave, and Ridley Pearson. **Peter and the Secret of Rundoon**. Hyperion/DBG, 2007. 463p. \$18.99. 978-0-7868-3788-5. VOYA February 2008. 5Q 5P M J

*The final installment of the Starcatcher series finds Peter attacked by savage warriors and captured by an evil king as he learns shocking information about the Others' leader, his parents, and his true identity in this thoroughly satisfying and fast-paced adventure about friendship and growing up.*



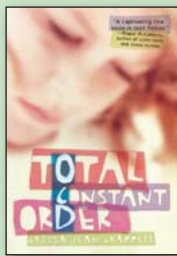
Card, Orson Scott. **Ender in Exile**. Tor, 2008. 373p. \$25.95. 978-0-7653-0496-4. VOYA December 2008. 5Q 5P M J S

*An expansion of the last chapter of Ender's Game, this philosophical novel takes another look at life after the war for Ender, including the repercussions he must face in being seen as both a hero and a murderer of children and his struggle for answers about human nature.*



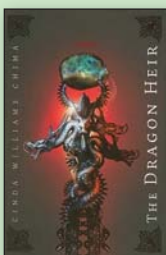
Chappell, Crissa-Jean. **Total Constant Order**. HarperTeen, 2007. 288p. \$16.99. 978-0-06-088605-9. \$17.89. 978-0-06-088606-6. VOYA April 2008. 5Q 5P S

*Fin finds solace from the world in the numbers that constantly pound rhythms in her head, but even after seeing a doctor, it is a mysterious graffiti artist who may be the salvation she needs to find herself in a fog of medication, angst, and confusion.*



Chima, Cinda Williams. **The Dragon Heir**. Hyperion/DBG, 2008. 512p. \$17.99. 978-1-4231-1070-5. VOYA October 2008. 5Q 5P M J S

*The final installment in this series continues the battle between the two magical guilds for control over the Dragonheart stone, offering complex characters and backstory that give this book an even greater richness than the first two.*



Clement-Moore, Rosemary. **Hell Week: Maggie Quinn: Girl vs. Evil**. Delacorte, 2008. 368p. \$16.99. 978-0-385-73414-1. PLB \$19.99. 978-0-385-90429-2. VOYA February 2008. VOYA August 2008. 5Q 5P S

*Psychic Maggie has started college and taken on an investigative assignment for the school paper in which she poses as a pledge*

*of SAXi sorority, but Maggie soon discovers something strange is going on in the SAXi house and she will stop at nothing to uncover the truth in this series' second installment.*

Gaiman, Neil. **Coraline**. Adapted and illus. by P. Craig Russell. Harper Collins, 2008. 192p. \$18.99. 978-0-06-082543-0. PLB \$19.89. 978-0-06-082544-7. VOYA June 2008. 5Q 5P M J

*This graphic novel adaptation of Gaiman's bestseller retells the story of the magical and dangerous parallel world young Coraline discovers, which she soon finds out is not as it appears as she faces evil and tries to save her family with the help of a talking cat.*



Green, Simon R. **The Unnatural Inquirer**. Ace Books, 2008. 246p. \$21.95. 978-0-441-01558-0. 7.99 pb. 978-0-441-01667-9. VOYA June 2008. 5Q 5P S A/YA

*This gritty detective story and SF comedy continues the adventures of PI John Taylor as he finds himself in the supernatural underworld, the Nightside, tracking down an apparent recording of the Afterlife alongside a beautiful tabloid reporter.*



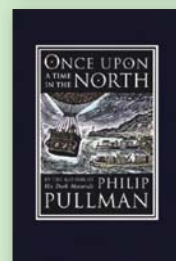
Pierce, Tamora. **Melting Stones**. Scholastic, 2008. 320p. \$17.99. 978-0-545-05264-1. VOYA December 2008. 5Q 5P M J

*Street-urchin-turned-stone-mage Evvy accompanies a mission to the troubled Starns island where she uncovers the cause of its problems and must do everything in her power to save the day in this audiobook-turned-print novel that continues the Circle of Magic series.*



Pullman, Philip. **Once Upon a Time in the North**. Knopf, 2008. 112p. \$12.99. 978-0-375-84510-9. VOYA April 2008. 5Q 5P M J

*In this exciting tale, a prequel to The Golden Compass, Texan balloonist Lee Scoresby and his daemon Hester first meet armored bear Iorek Byrnison when they stumble upon injustice at the hands of a crooked politician and a powerful mining business.*



Wright, Bil. **When the Black Girl Sings**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. 272p. \$16.99. 978-1-4169-3995-5. VOYA February 2008. 5Q 5P M J S

*The only African American in her exclusive all-girls' school and an adopted child of white parents, Lahni struggles to find her identity until her mother takes her to an interracial church where she learns it is okay to “use her own voice” both in singing and in life.* ■



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