

Realistic Fiction

General definition:

Books with plots, characters, and settings that might be found in real life



***Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline Cooney-** A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity. Lexile: 660

***Holes* by Louis Sachar-** As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself. Lexile: 660

***Girls in Pants: The Third Summer of the Sisterhood* by Ann Brashares-** The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants graduates from high school and spends their last summer before college learning about life and themselves. Sequel to *The Second Summer of the Sisterhood*. Lexile: 670

***Runner* by Carl Deuker-** Living with his alcoholic father on a broken-down sailboat on Puget Sound has been hard on seventeen-year-old Chance Taylor, but when his love of running leads to a high-paying job, he quickly learns that the money is not worth the risk. Lexile: 670

***Finding Grace* by Alyssa Brugman-** Undecided about her future after graduating from high school, an Australian girl takes a job caring for a brain-damaged woman. Lexile: 730

***Girl, 15, Charming But Insane* by Sue Limb-** Fifteen-year-old Jess, living with her mum, separated from her father in Cornwall, and with a best friend who seems to do everything perfectly, finds her own assets through humor. Lexile: 740

***Godless* by Pete Hautman-** When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own. Lexile: 740

***I Was a Non-blonde Cheerleader* by Kieran Scott-** As a brunette on the all-blond cheerleading squad at her new Florida high school, sophomore Annisa Gobrowski tries to fit in with her popular teammates without losing the friendship of Bethany, the only other non-blond at the school. Lexile: 750

***Each Little Bird That Sings* by Deborah Wiles-** Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the funeral parlor in their small southern town, but even so the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events that begins on the first day of Easter vacation with the sudden death of her beloved great-uncle Edisto. Lexile: 760

***Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman-** While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he caused, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement. Lexile: 760

***Saving Francesca* by Melina Marchetta-** Sixteen-year-old Francesca could use her outspoken mother's help with the problems of being one of a handful of girls at a parochial school that has just turned co-ed, but her mother has suddenly become severely depressed. Lexile: 770

***13 Little Blue Envelopes* by Maureen Johnson-** When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life. Lexile: 770

***Pepperland* by Mark Delaney-** Struggling to come to terms with the death of her mother in the late 1970s, sixteen-year-old Beatles fan Star Cochran hopes to find closure by delivering to John Lennon a letter her mother wrote to him in 1964 but never sent. Lexile: 780

***Joey Pigza Loses Control* by Jack Gantos-** Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship. Sequel to: *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. Lexile: 800

***Roughnecks* by Thomas Cochran-** Travis Cody prepares for the final game of his high school football career, a rematch with his school's chief rival. Lexile: 800

***Swallowing Stones* by Joyce McDonald-** Dual perspectives reveal the aftermath of seventeen-year-old Michael MacKenzie's birthday celebration during which he discharges an antique Winchester rifle and unknowingly kills the father of high school classmate Jenna Ward. Lexile: 820

***The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech-** Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the *Wanderer*, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England. Lexile: 830

***The Truth About Forever* by Sarah Dessen-** The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief. Lexile: 840

***My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult-** Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate. Lexile: 840

***The View From Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg-** Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. Lexile: 870

***Nailed* by Patrick Jones-** An outcast in a school full of jocks, sixteen-year-old Bret struggles to keep his individuality through his interest in drama and music, while trying to reconnect with his father. Lexile: 920

***Looking for Alaska: A Novel* by John Green-** Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. Lexile: 930

***Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick-** When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family. Lexile: 940

***Ironman* by Chris Crutcher-** While training for a triathlon, seventeen-year-old Bo attends an anger management group at school which leads him to examine his relationship with his father. Lexile: 980

***Princess in Pink* by Meg Cabot-** In a series of humorous diary entries, high school freshman (and Genovian Princess) Mia tries to get her reluctant boyfriend to take her to the prom. Lexile: 1010