**2014 Louisiana Teen Readers’ Choice (LTRC)**

**Nominated Title List, Annotated**

1. **Anna Dressed in Blood** by Kendare Blake. 320 pgs.

For three years, seventeen-year-old Cas Lowood has carried on his father's work of dispatching the murderous dead armed with his father's mysterious and deadly athame. He has traveled with his kitchen-witch mother and their spirit-sniffing cat. Together they follow legends and local lore, trying to keep up with the murderous dead—keeping pesky things like the future and friends at bay. Everything changes when he meets a local ghost called Anna Dressed in Blood. She is unlike any ghost he has faced before, a girl entangled in curses and rage. She still wears the dress she wore on the day of her brutal murder in 1958: once white, it is now stained red and dripping with blood. Since her death, Anna has killed any and every person who has dared to step into the deserted Victorian she used to call home. But she, for whatever reason, spares Cas's life. (horror, ghost story, first in a series, starred reviews, language, sequel is *Girl of Nightmares*) IL: **UG** - BL: **4.6** - AR Pts: **12.0**

Hardcover. Tor Teen. 2011. 9780765328656. $17.99.

Paperback. Tor Teen. 2012. 9780765328670. $9.99.

EBook available.

1. **The Berlin Boxing Club** by Robert Sharenow. 416 pgs.

Karl Stern is a teenager and nonobservant Jew in Germany in the 1930s. As the Nazi party rises to power, some people care less and less how little Karl sees himself as Jewish. They only see him as part of the group they blame for the world’s problems. When a friend of the family, heavyweight boxing champion Max Schmeling, offers to train Karl at the Berlin Boxing Club, Karl sees a chance to reinvent himself and takes him up on it. (WWII historical fiction, boxing, Jews, Nazi Germany, 2012 Booklist Best Fiction for Young Adults, 2012 Sydney Taylor Book Award)

IL: **MG+** - BL: **5.7** – AR Pts: **13.0**

Hardcover. HarperTeen. 2011. 9780061579684. $17.99.

Paperback. HarperTeen. 2012. 9780061579707. $9.99.

EBook available.

1. **Daughter of Smoke and Bone** by Laini Taylor. 418 pgs.

Karou, a seventeen-year-old art student in Prague, fills her sketchbooks with monsters, speaks several languages, and has bright blue hair (naturally). Raised by a family of chimaerae (the monsters she draws), she has had an unconventional, supernatural upbringing. She works for Brimstone collecting human and animal teeth from all over the world. Through a series of events, she meets Akiva, gets drawn into a 1,000 year war, and tries to figure out who (and what) she really is. This is a romantic and action-filled fantasy. (supernatural adventure, five starred reviews, sequel is *Days of Blood & Starlight*, Amazon’s Top 20 Books of the Year, 2011 Kirkus Best Books for Teens, 2011 Publishers Weekly Best Books of the Year)

IL: **UG** - BL: **5.8** - AR Pts: **16.0**

 **Hardcover. Little, Brown. 2011.** 9780316134026. $18.99.

**Paperback. Little, Brown. 2012.** 9780316133999. $6.99.

 **Compact Disc. Hachette Audio. 2011.** 9781611132977. $26.99.

1. **Divergent** by Veronica Roth. 496 pgs.

In a future dystopian Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life. Each faction is dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue: Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). This choice is made more complicated when she discovers powerful secrets and truths about her identity, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all. She also learns her secret might help her save those she loves…or it might destroy her. (dystopian adventure, sequel is *Insurgent*, being adapted into a movie, voted the "Favorite Book of 2011" in the Goodreads Choice Awards, Publishers Weekly Best Children's Books, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year)

IL: **UG** - BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **16.0**

Hardcover. Katherine Tegen Books. 2011. 9780062024022. $17.99.

Paperback. Katherine Tegen Books. 2012. 9780062024039. $9.99.

Audio file available.

EBook available.

1. **Everybody Sees the Ants** by A.S. King. 288 pgs.

When he was 7, Lucky Linderman’s grandmother asked him to bring his grandfather home. Every night since, Lucky goes on missions to rescue his grandfather from a POW camp in Laos where he’s been since the Vietnam War. During the day, Lucky battles his own problems with bullies and his parents. After another incident with a boy that bullies him, Lucky’s mother takes him to visit his aunt and uncle, where he meets people who show him that he can’t hide from reality, but he can change it. This is an uplifting coming of age story that manages to keep a sense of humor throughout. (SLJ and VOYA Starred Reviews, humorous, bullies, some language) IL: **UG** - BL: **4.2** - AR Pts: **9.0**

 Hardcover. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 2011. 9780316129282. $17.99.

 Paperback. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 2012. 9780316129275. $9.99.

 EBook available.

1. **The Name of the Star: Shades of London, Book 1** by Maureen Johnson. 384 pgs.

When Rory Deveaux leaves Louisiana to go to boarding school in London, little does she know that she will become involved in a series of present-day Jack the Ripper copycat murders. What’s really scary is that she soon realizes she is the only one who can actually see the ghostly killer. As Rory helps the London “ghost police” solve these crimes, she begins to understand the special powers she possesses. (Jack the Ripper copycat killer mystery, heroine from Louisiana, Edgar Allan Poe Award nominee) IL: **MG+** - BL: **4.9** – AR Pts: **14.0**

 Hardcover. Putnam Juvenile. 2011. 9780399256608. $16.99.

 Paperback. Speak. 2012. 9780142422052. $9.99.

Compact Disc. Brilliance Audio. 2011. 9781441866363. $24.99.

 EBook available.

1. **Shine** by Lauren Myracle. 376 pgs.

When her childhood friend becomes the victim of a brutal crime, Cat begins to unravel the tapestry of lies, drugs and bigotry that carpets her small town. Her investigations lead her close to home, and she must discover not only the identity of Patrick's attacker but also the intensely guarded secrets that hold her community together. Set in an impoverished landscape with few options and even less hope, *Shine* depicts a stark reality, filled with drugs, anger and despair. By the novel's conclusion, Cat must learn how to handle the darkness within herself and her community before she can start to shine. (mystery, gritty realistic fiction, National Book Award nominee, 2012 Booklist Best Fiction for Young Adults, edgy language)

 IL: **UG** – BL: **4.4** – AR Pts. **11.0**

Hardcover. Amulet Books. 2011. 9780810984172. $16.95.

Paperback. Amulet Books. 2012. 9781419701849. $7.95.

Compact Disc. Brilliance Audio. 2012. 9781455879595. $24.99.

EBook available.

1. **Something Like Hope** by Shawn Goodman. 208 pgs.

Seventeen-year-old Shavonne has lived a rough life and been in juvenile detention for years. Now that she is on the cusp of adulthood, the prospect of spending time in a real prison is becoming more likely. She is hurt, angry, and harboring a secret that has the potential to destroy her. Shavonne must face terrible things in order to turn her life around and find hope. (juvenile justice system, gritty realistic fiction, edgy language, think of a girl version of a Walter Dean Myers book, winner of the Delacorte Press Award for a First Young Adult Novel, 2012 Booklist Best Fiction for Young Adults) IL: **UG** – BL: **4.3** – AR Pts. **5.0**,

 Hardcover. Delacorte Books for Young Readers. 2010. 9780385739399. $16.99.

EBook available.

1. **Trapped** by Michael Northrop. 240 pgs.

Seven students are left at a high school, waiting for their rides home when the snow starts. No one was expecting it to turn into a week-long blizzard, but it did, trapping them in the building. The power cuts out. The emergency generator stops working. The pipes freeze. Food, water, power, and time are running out. Who will make it out alive? (realistic fiction, blizzard, kind of like the movie The Breakfast Club, some language) IL: **MG+** - BL: **5.3** – AR Pts. **9.0**

Hardcover. Scholastic. 2011. 9780545210126. $17.99.

Paperback. Scholastic. 2012. 9780545210133. $9.99.

EBook available.

1. **Where Things Come Back** by John Corey Whaley. 240 pgs.

In the summer before Cullen Witter’s senior year, a nominally-depressed birdwatcher named John Barling thinks he spots a bird, the so-called Lazarus Woodpecker, thought to be extinct since the 1940s in Lily, Arkansas, sparking a flurry of press and woodpecker-mania. But as absurd as the town’s carnival atmosphere has become, nothing is more startling than the realization that Cullen’s sensitive, gifted fifteen-year-old brother Gabriel has suddenly and inexplicably disappeared. While Cullen navigates his way through a summer of finding and losing love, holding his fragile family together, and muddling his way into adulthood, a young missionary in Africa, who has lost his faith, is searching for any semblance of meaning wherever he can find it. The two stories have more to do with each other than they first appear. This novel is about a lot more than what Cullen calls, “that damn bird.” It’s about the dream of second chances. (2012 Printz Award winner, 2012 Morris Award winner, Louisiana author)

IL: **UG** – BL: **5.7** – AR Pts: **9.0**

 Hardcover. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 2011. 9781442413337. $16.99.

 Paperback. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 2012. 9781442413344. $8.99.

 EBook available.