Gentle Reads that Won't Make You Blush

The Alchemyst
Michael Scott

While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

Dark Life
Kat Falls

When fifteen-year-old Ty, who has always lived on the ocean floor, joins Topside girl Gemma in the frontier's underworld to seek and stop outlaws who threaten his home, they learn that the government may pose an even greater threat.

Death Sworn
Leah Cypess

When a young sorceress is exiled to teach magic to a clan of assassins, she will find that secrets can be even deadlier than swords.

Destination Unknown
Amy Clipston

Tired of the constant pressure to be perfect, high school senior Whitney Richards quits the cheerleading squad and begins to spend more time with her tutor, a quiet, mysterious boy named Taylor. Will Whitney be able to find her identity--and God's plan for her life--before she throws everything away?

Drama
Raina Telgemeier

Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of Moon over Mississippi as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.

Dreamer, Wisher, Liar
Charise Mericle Harper

Ashley's summer is filled with babysitting, letters to her best friend at camp, and a wish jar filled with secret revelations that help her understand her mother in a whole new way.

Far Far Away
Tom McNeal

When Jeremy Johnson Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate, Ginger Boltinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown.
**Firstborn**  
Lorie Ann Grover  

Tiadone has been forced to live her entire life as a female accepted as male in her community in order to survive as a firstborn child. But when she needs to pass the rites of manhood, she finds the Creator may have use for her feminine traits after all.

**Gracefully Grayson**  
Ami Polonsky  

Grayson, a transgender twelve-year-old, learns to accept her true identity and share it with the world.

**Hana's Suitcase**  
Karen Levine  

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.

**The Journal of Curious Letters**  
James Dashner  

Thirteen-year-old Atticus "Tick" Higginbottom begins receiving mysterious letters from around the world signed only "M.G.," and the clues contained therein lead him on a journey to the perilous 13th Reality and a confrontation with evil Mistress Jane.

**Keturah and Lord Death**  
Martine Leavitt  

When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love.

**Michael Vey: the Prisoner of Cell 25**  
Richard Paul. Evans  

Michael Vey, a fourteen-year-old with Tourette's syndrome who possesses special electric powers, discovers that a cheerleader named Taylor also has special powers. With the help of Michael's friend, Ostin, the three of them set out to discover how Michael and Taylor ended up this way, but their investigation brings them to the attention of a powerful group who wants to control the electric children.

**Prisoner of Night and Fog**  
Anne Blankman  

In 1930s Munich, the favorite niece of rising political leader Adolph Hitler is torn between duty and love after meeting a fearless and handsome young Jewish reporter.
The Rithmatist
Brandon Sanderson

As Wild Chalklings threaten the American Isles and Rithmatists are humanity’s only defense, Joel can only watch as Rithmatist students learn the magical art that he would do anything to practice.

The Running Dream
Wendelin Van Draanen

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

Season of Wonder
Lisa Tawn Bergren

The year is 2095. Gifted teens known as Remnants have been chosen and trained to act as humanity’s last hope to rectify the horrors that are now part of everyday life. But the Sons of Sheol are determined to stop them.

The Selection
Kiera Cass

Sixteen-year-old America Singer is living in the caste-divided nation of Illea, which formed after the war that destroyed the United States. America is chosen to compete in the Selection—a contest to see which girl can win the heart of Illea’s prince—but all she really wants is a chance for a future with her secret love, Aspen, who is a caste below her.

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie
David Lubar

While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hone his skills as a writer.

Splintered
A.G. Howard

A descendant of the inspiration for Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, sixteen-year-old Alyssa Gardner fears she is mentally ill like her mother until she finds that Wonderland is real and, if she passes a series of tests to fix Alice’s mistakes, she may save her family from their curse.

Starbird Murphy and the World Outside
Karen Finneyfrock

Starbird has spent the first sixteen years of her life on a commune in the woods of Washington State. When she gets her calling to become a waitress at the farm’s satellite restaurant in Seattle, it means leaving behind the only place she’s ever known and entering the World Outside.
The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight
Jennifer E. Smith

Hadley and Oliver fall in love on the flight from New York to London, but after a cinematic kiss they lose track of each other at the airport until fate brings them back together on a very momentous day.

Strange Sweet Song
Adi Rule

Outside Dunhammond Conservatory, there lies a dark forest. And in the forest, they say, lives a great beast called the Felix. But Sing da Navelli never put much faith in the rumors and myths surrounding the school; music flows in her blood, and she is there to sing for real. This prestigious academy will finally give her the chance to prove her worth--not as the daughter of the world-renowned da Navellis--but as an artist and leading lady in her own right. Yet despite her best efforts, there seems to be something missing from her voice.

This Side of Home
Renée Watson

Twins Nikki and Maya Younger always agreed on most things, but as they head into their senior year they react differently to the gentrification of their Portland, Oregon, neighborhood and the new--white--family that moves in after their best friend and her mother are evicted.

Unearthly
Cynthia Hand

Sixteen-year-old Clara Gardner's purpose as an angel-blood begins to manifest itself, forcing her family to pull up stakes and move to Jackson, Wyoming, where she learns that danger and heartbreak come with her powers. During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Autumn's Kiss
Bella Thorne & Elise Allen

The wish-granting diary Autumn Falls' father left her stops working and high school junior Autumn must figure out her love life on her own until she is given a map that will take her wherever she wants to go, but rather than being a fun opportunity, it leads to life-changing consequences.

Infinite in Between
Carolyn Mackler

Five students who meet in freshman orientation agree to write notes to their future selves and promise to reunite inexactley four years when they are ready to graduate from high school.
The New Guy (and other senior year distractions)
Amy Spalding

Jules McAllister-Morgan has her senior year all planned out: volunteer at the animal shelter; become the editor of the school newspaper; and get into Brown. When former boyband member Alex arrives, he throws Jules into chaos. With her best friend's and her mom’s encouragement to let go of plans and enjoy life, Jules gets swept up in her first romance. Things take a turn when Alex teams up with the school’s news show—rival of Jules' beloved newspaper—which is nothing short of an act of betrayal in her eyes. Now Jules finds herself at the center of a war between print and digital media, as well as with her conflicting feelings towards Alex.

Once Upon a kiss
Robin Palmer

It's 1986 and sixteen-year-old Zoe Brenner's world revolves around Depeche Mode, Judd Nelson, exercise-obsessed parents, and her best friend Jonah. Then one day, in a freak Fun-Dip choking accident, Zoe falls unconscious, and awakes in the year 2016. So much has changed, and Zoe needs Jonah to help her make sense of it all. But in this life, Zoe is the most popular girl in school, and she soon realizes this Zoe doesn't associate with nerds like Jonah. As Zoe juggles new technology, attempts to hide her enthusiasm for poet blouses, and manages to keep her super jock boyfriend at bay, she tries to rekindle her friendship with Jonah and use her popularity for a good cause. Will she ever get back to 1986? And more importantly, does she want to?

See No Color
Shannon Gibney

Alex has always identified herself as a baseball player, the daughter of a winning coach, but when she realizes that is not enough she begins to come to terms with her adoption and her race.

Strange Girl
Christopher Pike

Told from the perspective of a seventeen-year-old boy in love with a mysterious girl who seems to have an unearthly ability to heal, but the ability carries quite a cost.

Two Summers
Aimee Friedman

Two possible futures face Summer: either she will spend the summer in Provence with her father, uncovering family secrets, and exploring the old world, or she will stay in upstate New York, coping with her mother, and dreaming of her long time crush—and which future unfolds will depend on whether or not she answers a phone call.

Unbecoming
Jenny Downham

Life has just become very complicated for seventeen-year-old Katie; her father walked out a year ago, her mother is stressed out, her brother is a "special needs" teenager, and she is caring for the maternal grandmother she has never met, who is suffering from Alzheimer's—and Katie has a secret of her own that she cannot reveal.
**Weird Girl and What's His Name**  
Meagan Brothers

High school geeks Lula and Rory share everything, they have no secrets from each other. Lula knows that Rory is gay and he understands why she worships the mother who walked out on her. Then Lula discovers that Rory has been having an affair with his middle-aged boss. When Lula disappears in the middle of the night, Rory is left alone.

**Wrong About the Guy**  
Claire LaZebnik

In this modern take on Jane Austen's "Emma," privileged Ellie manipulates the love affairs of her friends before discovering how little she really understands about romantic relationships.