Lincoln City Libraries children’s librarians have put together a list of 100 novels for kids age 9-12. Most also make great read-alouds for younger children. You’ll find classics and newer award-winning books. You’ll find traditional novels and graphic novels. Many of these are available as audiobooks. In this Top 100 Novels for Youth list, 2020 Edition, we focused on improving diversity allowing kids to see themselves and their friends in books more clearly.

Little Women - Alcott, Louisa May
The Crossover - Alexander, Kwame
Mr. Popper's Penguins - Atwater, Richard
Tuck Everlasting - Babbitt, Natalie
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz - Baum, Frank L.
Lucky Broken Girl - Behar, Ruth
El Deafo - Bell, Cece
The Penderwicks - Birdsall, Jeanne
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing - Blume, Judy
They Call Me Güero - Bowles, David
Skeleton Man - Bruchac, Joseph
Charlie Hernandez & the League of Shadows - Calejo, Ryan
Hurricane Child - Callender, Kacen
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland - Carroll, Lewis
The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora - Cartaya, Pablo
Gaby, Lost and Found - Cervantes, Angela
Pashmina - Chanani, Nidhi
See You in the Cosmos - Cheng, Jack
Aru Shah and the End of Time - Chokshi, Roshani
Romana Quimby, Age 8- Cleary, Beverly
Frindle - Clements, Andrew
Finding Langston – Lesa Cline-Ransome
Sadako and the 1000 Paper Cranes - Coerr, Eleanor
New Kid - Craft, Jerry
Bud, Not Buddy - Curtis, Christopher Paul
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - Dahl, Roald
Because of Winn Dixie - DiCamillo, Kate
Morning Girl - Dorris, Michael
Blended - Draper, Sharon M.
City of Ember - DuPrau, Jeanne
Dragons in a Bag - Elliott, Zetta
The Birchbark House - Erdrich, Louise
Harriet the Spy - Fitzhugh, Louise
Inkheart - Funke, Cornelia
The Graveyard Book - Gaiman, Neil
My Side of the Mountain - George, Jean Craighead
Old Yeller - Gipson, Fred
The VanderBeekers of 141st St - Glaser, Karina Yan
The Red Umbrella - Gonzalez, Christina Diaz
The Wind in the Willows - Grahame, Kenneth
The Night Diary - Hiranandani, Veri
Out of the Dust - Hesse, Karen
The Case of Windy Lake - Hutchinson, Michael
Bunnicula - Howe, James
The Parker Inheritance - Johnson, Varian
Hello Universe - Kelley, Erin Entrada
Kira-Kira - Kadohata, Cynthia
Amina's Voice - Khan, Hena
Worth – LaFaye, A.
Pie in the Sky - Lai, Remy
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler - Konigsburg, E.L.
Inside Out and Back Again - Lai, Thanhha
Song for a Whale - Lynne, Kelly
A Wrinkle in Time - L'Engle, Madeline
Ella Enchanted - Levine, Gail Carson
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - Lewis, C.S.
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon - Lin, Grace
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson - Lord, Bette
The Giver - Lowry, Lois
Sarah, Plain and Tall - MacLachlan, Patricia
The Season of Styx Malone - Magoon, Kekla
Merci Suárez Changes Gears - Medina, Meg
A Dash of Trouble - Meriano, Anna
Winnie the Pooh - Milne, A.A.
Anne of Green Gables - Montgomery, L.M.
The Borrowers - Norton, Mary
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH - O'Brien, Robert
Spirit Hunters - Oh, Ellen
Bridge to Terabithia - Paterson, Katherine
Hatchet - Paulsen, Gary
A Long Way from Chicago - Peck, Richard
The First Rule of Punk - Pérez, Celia C.
The Golden Compass - Pullman, Philip
The Westing Game - Raskin, Ellen
Where the Red Fern Grows - Rawls, Wilson
The House that Lou Built - Respicio, Mae
As Brave As You - Reynolds, Jason
Ghost Boys - Rhodes, Jewell Parker
The Gauntlet - Riazi, Karuna
Esperanza Rising - Ryan, Pam Muños
The Moon Within - Salazar, Aida
Betty Before X - Shabaaz, Ilyasah & Watson, Renee
The Egypt Game - Snyder, Zilpha Keatley
The Witch of Blackbird Pond - Speare, Elizabeth George
Maniac Magee - Spinelli, Jerry
When You Reach Me - Stead, Rebecca
The Mysterious Benedict Society - Stewart, Trenton Lee
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry - Taylor, Mildred
All-Of-A-Kind Family - Taylor, Sydney
How I Became a Ghost - Tingle, Tim
The Hobbit - Tolkien, J.R.R.
The Thief - Turner, Megan Whalen
Save Me a Seat - Varadarajan, Gita & Weeks, Sarah
Stargazing - Wang, Jen
Charlotte's Web - White, E.B.
One Crazy Summer - Williams-Garcia, Rita
The Sweetest Sound - Winston, Sherri
Saint Louis Armstrong Beach - Woods, Brenda
Brown Girl Dreaming - Woodson, Jacqueline
Front Desk - Yang, Kelly