

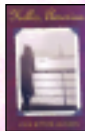
Only the most extraordinary books qualify for VOYA's highest ratings of 5Q for literary quality and 5P for teen appeal (See *Book Review Code* explanation on page 138). We began compiling the Perfect Tens list in 2001, when we discovered that approximately 1 percent of all titles reviewed comprise these lists. The past year saw a slight reduction in the number of Perfect Tens despite our having published a record 1,183 reviews during 2005, an increase of nearly 20 percent. The following ten books represent the quintessential young adult books in our reviewers' eyes. There are no Printz books here, but there are three Best Books for Young Adults and one Coretta Scott King Award-winning title. One adult-marketed book with grand appeal for bright teens is included as well as one illustrated version of the work of a classic author. Although we visualize the Perfect Tens as the "Harry Potters" among YA books—all previous Harry Potter books received 5Q 5P ratings—the long-awaited **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (VOYA October 2005) did not make this year's list with a 4Q 5P. The Perfect Tens again reflect the diversity of books reviewed by VOYA and the diversity of opinion among our valued reviewers.—Editors.

Bailey, Jacqui. **Sex, Puberty and All That Stuff: A Guide to Growing Up.** Barron's, 2004. 112p. \$12.95 Trade pb. 0-7641-2992-9. Glossary. Index. Illus. Further Reading. VOYA February 2005. 5Q 5P M J S



Bailey tells female teens that "[Y]our body is your own . . . and no one has the right to make you do anything with it or to it that you don't want to do," creating a book that many adults could have used when they were teens.

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. **Hello, America.** Simon & Schuster, 2005. 240p. \$16.95. 0-689-86755-7. VOYA April 2005. 5Q 5P M J



This third volume of Bitton-Jackson's personal Holocaust survival story paints an accurate but gentle portrait of an immigrant family with a profound understanding of the obstacles to freedom.

Bray, Libba. **Rebel Angels.** Delacorte, 2005. 560p. \$16.95. 0-385-73029-2. PLB \$18.99. 0-385-90257-3. VOYA August 2005. 5Q 5P M J S



In an exceptional novel that moves at breakneck speed, Gemma Doyle worries about the hold that laudanum has on her father and the heavy hand of her brother, Tom, as she and her friends continue their story that is part history lesson, part gothic fantasy, and part feminist manifesto.

Hautman, Pete. **Invisible.** Simon & Schuster, 2005. 160p. \$15.95. 0-689-86800-6. VOYA August 2005. 5Q 5P M J S



Hautman forces readers to take responsibility for interrupting the cycle of violence through this novel that careens toward unbearable tragedy as Doug slides inevitably toward a mental breakdown.

Lester, Julius. **Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue.** Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2005. 192p. \$15.99. 0-7868-0490-4. VOYA June 2005. 5Q 5P M J



Lester details the largest slave auction in American history, known as "The Weeping Time," through a cast of characters, some fictional and others not, including plantation owners, slaves, abolitionists, and children who grew up both in slave-owner and slave families.

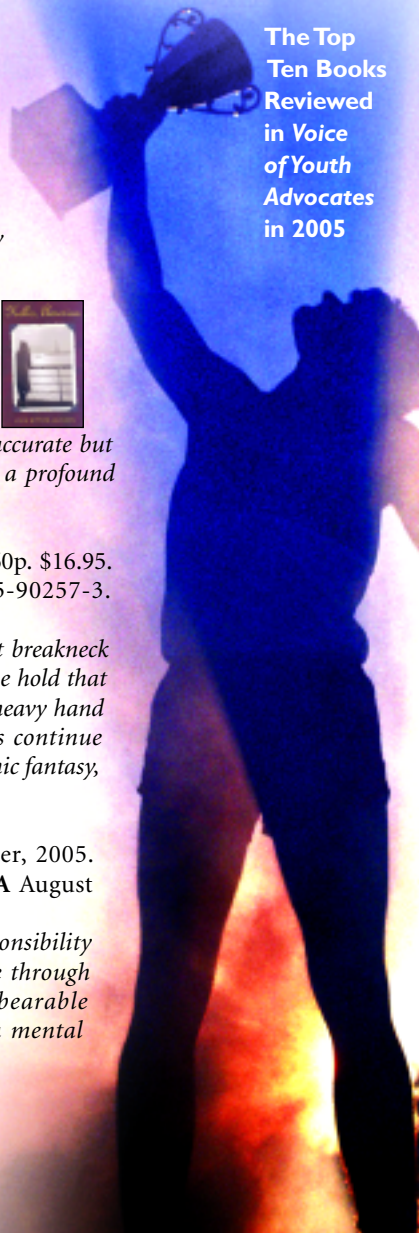
Morton-Shaw, Christine. **The Riddles of Epsilon.** Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, 2005. 373p. \$16.99. 0-06-072819-1. PLB \$17.89. 0-06-072820-5. VOYA June 2005. 5Q 5P M J S



Although the plot contains familiar fantasy elements, this novel rises above cliché, shining through well-developed and intriguing characters, a tangible atmosphere, and heart-stopping pacing as Jess races against time to find clues and discover the item sought by beings both good and vile.

THE PERFECT TENS

The Top Ten Books Reviewed in Voice of Youth Advocates in 2005

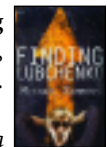


Poe, Edgar Allan. **Tales of Horror.** Illus. by Michael McCurdy. Knopf, 2005. 89p. \$15.95. 0-375-83305-6. PLB \$17.99. 0-375-93305-0. Illus. VOYA December 2005. 5Q 5P J S



McCurdy's black-and-white illustrations provide a dramatic context for six of Poe's psychological and sometimes supernatural thrillers, acquainting or reintroducing readers to the master of the horror story.

Simmons, Michael. **Finding Lubchenko.** Razorbill/Penguin, 2005. 288p. \$16.99. 1-59514-021-2. VOYA June 2005. 5Q 5P J S



A lovable anti-hero tells his story in a sarcastic, insightful voice as he combats biological terrorism, saves his father from a murder frame-up, and lands his seemingly impossible love interest in this teenage detective/spy mystery.

Stewart, Jon, with *The Daily Show* Staff. **The Daily Show with Jon Stewart Presents America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy**



Inaction. Warner, 2004. 221p. \$24.95. 0-446-53268-1. Illus. Photos. Maps. Charts. VOYA April 2005. 5Q 5P S A/YA

With tongue firmly implanted in cheek, Stewart and cronies from *The Daily Show* satirize American history books in exactly the irreverent manner appreciated by bright, politically savvy teens everywhere—just don't go looking for the book in Wal Mart.

Wolfson, Jill. **What I Call Life.** Henry Holt, 2005. 270p. \$16.95. 0-8050-7669-7. VOYA December 2005. 5Q 5P M J



A grand-slam homerun, Wolfson's first novel depicts wonderfully kooky characters with fast pacing and witty dialogue that realistically portray the emotional growth in severely damaged children, keeping readers laughing and crying throughout. ■