

Tough Stuff for Teens

War

Tough

Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson

When My Name was Keoko
by Linda Sue Park

Tougher

Before We Were Free
by Julia Alvarez

Chains by L. Halse Anderson

The Boy Who Dared
by S. Campbell Bartoletti

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party
by Ying Chang Compestine

Blood Red Horse by K.M. Grant

Cracker by Cynthia Kadohata

Weedflower by C. Kadohata

Purple Heart
by Patricia McCormick

Tree Girl by Ben Mikaelson

Sunrise Over Fallujah
by Walter Dean Myers

Child of Dandelions
by Shenaaz Nanji

Bamboo People
by Mitali Perkins

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith

Toughest

A Long Way Gone
by Ishmael Beah (B Beah)

Bullying

Tough

The Girls by A. Goldman Koss

Freak by Marcella Pixley

Tougher

*The Absolutely True Diary of a
Part Time Indian*
by Sherman Alexie

Twisted by L. Halse Anderson

The Chocolate War
by Robert Cormier

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes
by Chris Crutcher

Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher

Battle of Jericho
by Sharon Draper

Shattering Glass by Gail Giles

Poison Ivy
by Amy Goldman Koss

*The Astonishing Adventures of
Fanboy and Goth Girl*
by Barry Lyga

Hero Type by Barry Lyga

Touching Spirit Bear
by Ben Mikaelson

The Body of Christopher Creed
by Carol Plum-Ucci

Cruise Control
by Terry Trueman

Toughest

Endgame by Nancy Garden

Violence

Tough

Ender's Game
by Orson Scott Card

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

Escape Under the Forever Sky
by Eve Yohalem

Tougher

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Hunger Games by S. Collins

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow

The Christopher Killer
by Alane Ferguson

Bang by Sharon Flake

Breathing Underwater
by Alex Flinn

Right Behind You by Gail Giles

Lord of the Flies by W. Golding

Acceleration by G. McNamee

Autobiography of My Dead Brother
by Walter Dean Myers

Shooter by Walter Dean Myers

Toughest

Hate List by Jennifer Brown

Freaks and Revelations
by Davida Wills Hurwin

The Monstrumologist
by Richard Yancey

I am the Messenger by M. Zusak

Abuse

Tough

Because I am Furniture
by Thalia Chaltas

Touching Snow
by M. Sindy Felin

Tougher

Chinese Cinderella
by Adeline Yen Ma (B MAH)

Where People Like Us Live
by Patricia Cumbie

Lock & Key by Sarah Dessen

Burned by Ellen Hopkins

Lessons from a Dead Girl
by Jo Knowles

My Tiki Girl by J. McMahon

Rage by Julie Ann Peters

Chloe Doe by Suzanne Phillips

Scars by Cheryl Rainfield

The Rules of Survival
by Nancy Werlin

Sweethearts by Sara Zarr

Toughest

A Child Called "It"
by David Pelzer (362.7 PEL)

Tenderness by Robert Cormier

Boy Toy by Barry Lyga

Living Dead Girl
by Elizabeth Scott

Tough Stuff for Teens

Rape

Tough

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

Safe by Susan Shaw

Tougher

Just Listen by Sarah Dessen

Copper Sun by Sharon Draper

After the Moment
by Garrett Freymann-Weyr

Sold by Patricia McCormick

Madapple by Christina Meldrum

Wait for Me by An Na

Impossible by Nancy Werlin

Sandpiper by Ellen Wittlinger

Toughest

The Kite Runner
by Khaled Hosseini

The Lovely Bones
by Alice Sebold

Suicide

Tough

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie
by David Lubar

Fat Kid Rules the World
by K.L. Going

Tougher

The Burn Journals
by Runyon (362.28 RUN)

Hate List by Jennifer Brown

The Perks of Being a Wallflower
by Stephen Chbosky

Tears of a Tiger
by Sharon Draper

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman

Looking for Alaska by J. Green

Get Well Soon by Julie Halpern

What Happened to Cass McBride?
by Gail Giles

Tangled by Carolyn Mackler

Trigger by Susan Vaught

Glimpse
by Carol Lynch Williams

Toughest

Thirteen Reasons Why
by Jay Asher

Impulse by Ellen Hopkins

By the Time You Read This
I'll be Dead
by Julie Ann Peters

Death

Tough

Jane in Bloom by D. Lytton

The Leanin' Dog
by K.A. Nuzum

Antsy Does Time
by Neal Shusterman

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin

Tougher

Freefall by Ariela Anhalt

A Great and Terrible Beauty
by Libba Bray

The Sledding Hill by C. Crutcher

The Truth About Forever
by Sarah Dessen

A Northern Light by J. Donnelly

Ostrich Boys by Keith Gray

Love, Aubrey by S. LaFleur

Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver

Life as We Knew It
by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Cures for a Heartbreak
by Margo Rabb

A Certain Slant of Light
by Laura Whitcomb

Toughest

Deadline by Chris Crutcher

If I Stay by Gail Forman

TOUGH STUFF for teens

Conversation starters

Curiosity quenchers

Empathy builders

Interest sparkers

Tough Stuff for Teens was created for readers in grades 6 and up. Not every subject or book is appropriate for every reader, so consider, read, share and discuss.

Do you have Tough Stuff suggestions? Please email Sharon at scolvin@ocln.org.



Titles in blue are located in the Children's Room.

Titles in green are in Adult Fiction.

Titles in purple are nonfiction.