

THIN BOOKS

Or

Books under 154 Pages

The Tent by Gary Paulsen (86 skinny p.) Parents can do crazy things. Parents can make you go to church. Parents can give you an allowance. Steven's dad takes him on the road to preach, making more money than a fast food job. Also, try *Sisters/Hermanas* below or the *Monument* by Paulsen.

Sisters/Hermanas by Gary Paulsen (63 p., but it is actually 126 because half is in Spanish. Who has to know?). What do a cheerleader and a prostitute have in common? More than what you're thinking.

Vampire's Beautiful Daughter by S.P. Somtow. (116 p.) This is a strange book, but if that's what you want, go for it. A girl has to decide if she should stay mortal or turn into a vampire on her 16th birthday, only now a guy is involved. Try the longer *Thirsty* by M.T. Anderson and *Blood and Chocolate* by Annete Curtis Klaus, for more vampire choices.

Making Up Megaboy by Virginia Walter (62 p. and half of the pages are pictures ☺.)

Robbie goes into a store and shoots the owner for no reason. Everyone else tries to have a say at why.

Weetzie Bat by Francesca Lia Block (88 p.) If you like the bizarre, then you will have to try all the Weetzie Bat books of a punk California group of friends. Most involve love.

A Fate Totally Worse Than Death (124 p.) by Paul Fleischman. If you hate or love Sweet Valley High or Fear Street, then this parody where someone is out to get the popular kids is perfect. This is almost exactly like the slightly longer *Gorgeous* by Michael Bates.

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman (133 p.) A drunken night at a party leads to the punishment of going to the Four Corners of the country to put up whirligigs. See what fun your actions can bring. Try *Seedfolks* below, too.

Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman (69 p.) Everyone in town adds to the garden in this not so nice neighborhood. It is really better than it sounds. You get to meet a lot of interesting people.

Nerdlandia by Gary Soto (88 p. It is a play, so half the pages are breaks in between the lines) Even nerds fall

in love. Look in the 800's for more plays. Or try *Mind's Eye* by Paul Fleischman.

Crazy Jack by Donna Jo Napoli (134 p.) The real story of the beanstalk and the girlfriend you never met. Try Napoli's other fairy tale books.

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros (134 p., but very short chapters so most are only a ½ page long. This is also an adult book if you need one of those.) Whatever street you live on, you won't want to be on Mango, where Esperanza sees those around her marry in 7th grade, have kids, have no money, or not be able to leave their house or the street. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* is a longer option.

When Nobody's Home: Fifteen Babysitting Tales of Terror by Judith Gorog (95 p.) Don't read this if you baby-sit, and especially don't take it with you. Then read *Back of Beyond* with another babysitting tale below.

Back of Beyond by Sarah Ellis (136 p.) Some more strange stories here.

Kissing Doorknobs by Terry Spencer Hesser who lives in Chicago. (149 p.) Even if you don't kiss doorknobs before leaving the house, or wash your

hands over and over until they bleed, you are sure to have something in common with this not so strange teenager.

Pawns by Willo Davis Roberts (154 p.) A girl comes to the door claiming to be her daughter in law with a baby. Something isn't right. Try **Twisted Summer** by Roberts (156 p.) Much better.

Crush by Ellen Conford (138 p.) If you cringe at the thought of another night at home or get excited for the chance to get dressed up for the one you like, then you can relate to the stories leading up to the Valentine's Day Dance at Cutter's Forge High. Read the longer *Slave Day* by Rob Thomas for more stories about high school.

Jump Ball: A Basketball Season in Poems by Mel Glenn (151 p., but written like poetry, although you'd never know it, so the pages aren't even all filled up.) Maybe your school announcements tell you about the drama club or track meet, but at *Tower High*, they might include memorial service for one of your friends. Then read his *Who Killed Mr. Chippendale, Foreign Exchange, and Class Dismissed*.

Letters from the Inside by John Marsden (146 p., but written in letters, so it reads faster). You answer an ad to write to a stranger, but where are these letters really coming from? Other great Marsden suspense can be found in *Checkers* below or *So Much to Tell You*.

Checkers by John Marsden (122 p.) Find out what this girl did to get in a mental institution.

So Much to Tell You by John Marsden (117 p.) A diary reveals why a girl won't speak.

Blackwater by Eve Bunting (146 p. and not many words to a page, either.) Joins the books (*Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson and *On My Honor* by Marion Dane Bauer, which you may have read when you were younger) about someone who either is or thinks he is responsible for someone's death.

Saying it Out Loud by Joan Abelove (136 p.), author of *Go and Come Back*. A girl book for young women who have any kind of relationship with their mothers.

Child of the May by Theresa Tomlinson (120 p.) Sequel to *The Forestwife*, which is

170 p. So skip the first one and find out the rest of the Robin Hood and Maid Marian story.

Achingly Alice by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. (121 p.) Even if you haven't followed the Alice series, just know it was pretty much like your first 12 years of life, and now it's time for boys.

Odder Than Ever by Bruce Coville (146 p.) Nine horror stories, but no one will know if you skip a story or two. Read his *Oddly Enough* for more.

I'm Not Who You Think I am by Peg Kehret (154 p.) A white car is always around. A woman says "hello." She shows up at school. She says she's someone she's not.

The Freddie Stories by Lynda Barry (123 p.) Okay, so this is cheating a little. It is really a comic book, but it is 123 pages and about a really weird guy. Look in 741.5 in adult and juvenile for more comic book stories.

Blue Star Rapture by James Bennett (134 p.) Basketball. If you like sports try *Painting the Black* by Carl Deuker or *Necessary Roughness* by Marie G. Lee.

The Lost Day by Judith Clarke (154 p.) You hear it in the news, and now a 19-year-old disappears from a nightclub. *For Mike* by Shelley Sykes is another story of a missing friend.

These are the Rules by Paul Many (139 p.) You can't get the girl if you can't drive. Try *Driver's Ed* by Caroline Cooney for a different look at the consequences of driving.

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Find these books under the first three letters of the authors last names on the adult fiction shelves or on the "Teen Books" rack against the wall. *Making Up Megaboy*, *Blackwater*, *Mind's Eye*, *I'm Not Who You Think I am*, *So Much to Tell You*, and *Seedfolks* can be found the same way in youth services. Some of Mel Glenn's books are in the numbers 811 for poetry.