**Social Issues/Substance Abuse**

*Speak* - Laurie Halse Anderson

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda’s freshman year in high school.

*Wintergirls* - Laurie Halse Anderson

Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend’s death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.

*Finding Katie: The Diary of Anonymous, a Teenager in Foster Care* – Anon

Katie begins to find her own strength and courage after she ends up in foster care, away from her angry, abusive father.

*Go Ask Alice* – Anon

A fifteen-year-old drug user chronicles her daily struggle to escape the pull of the drug world.

*Jay’s Journal* - Anon

The story of Jay, a sixteen-year-old boy, describing his descent into drugs, Satanism, and suicide.

*Thousand Words* - Jennifer Brown

Talked into sending a nude picture of herself to her boyfriend while she was drunk, Ashleigh became the center of a sexting scandal and is now in court-ordered community service, where she finds an unlikely ally, Mack.

*Happyface* – Stephen Emond

After going through traumatic times, a troubled, socially awkward teenager moves to a new school where he tries to reinvent himself.

*Jerk California* – Jonathan Friesen

Plagued by Tourette's syndrome and a stepfather who despises him, Sam meets an old man in his small Minnesota town who sends him on a road trip designed to help him discover the truth about his life.

*Rush* –Jonathan Friesen

A pariah in his town and home for the results of his risk-taking behavior, eighteen-year-old Jake seeks adrenaline rushes to clear his dark thoughts, but when Salome, the girl he loves, gets caught up in taking chances, too, the consequences are devastating.

*Butter* - Erin Jade Lange

Unable to control his binge eating, a morbidly obese teenager nicknamed Butter decides to make a live webcast of his last meal as he attempts to eat himself to death.

*The Body of Christopher Creed* – Carol Plum-Ucci

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

*Lucky* - Alice Sebold

The author tells the story of her violent rape at the age of eighteen, her accidental sighting of her attacker six months later, the resulting trial and conviction of the man, and the trauma she suffered for years afterwards.

*The Boy from the Basement* – Susan Shaw

Charlie, a twelve-year-old boy who has been confined to his basement by his abusive, psychotic father, is accidently locked out after sneaking outside one night, and ends up in the hospital where he gets the attention he needs and a new start in life.

*Exposed* – Susan Vaught

Chan Shealy, a sixteen-year-old baton twirler and straight-A student, becomes involved with an internet predator, despite strict parental rules and her own beliefs that she knows how to keep herself safe online.

*The Glass Castle* - Jeannette Walls

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.