Finding Books for Tweens

Use tween appeal

How do you find books for that group of readers called ‘tweens’ — not kids and not teens? Appeal helps narrow results to find those books that match tween interests, but aren’t too grown up.

In particular, you might want to exclude books that might be too mature by avoiding: Disturbing, Gritty, Gruesome, Haunting, Menacing, Steamy, and Twisted.

You might want to exclude books that might be too young by avoiding these terms: Gross, Noisy, and Silly.

REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES*

Realism without the grit
GN “Realistic Fiction” NOT AP Gritty

Not-so-bright dystopian fiction
GN “Dystopian Fiction” NOT AP Bleak

Tween adventures
GN "Adventure stories" NOT AP Silly

*Limit searches by Teens and Ages 9-12 audience levels.

Search the reviews

Reviews are like a secret weapon! Here’s how you can use them to your advantage.

Search for tween age groups in the RV (review) field, and then eliminate everything meant for younger and older kids.

TRY IT

In the search box, enter: RV “10-14” OR RV “11-14”

Add NOT GN “Early chapter books” NOT “picture books” and click Search

On the left, check the boxes for Teens and Ages 9-12 and click Update Results

Limit further by genre using the limiters on the left

Tailor to their level

Sometimes tweens are told they need a certain length book (“more than 200 pages”), and/or a particular Lexile range.

TRY IT

On the Advanced Search, make a selection from the Lexile Range limiter

Enter a maximum/minimum page count in the Number of Pages limiter

Click Search

About audience levels

NoveList assigns one or more audience levels (Adults, Teens, Ages 9-12, and Ages 0-8) to every book. However, tweens are a special group that fall in both the Ages 9-12 and Teens levels, so they require a little extra care to match them with exactly the right books.