

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-bleak 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.

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.

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**

When to use:



Librarians: Need a list of historical fiction books for a 6th grade class?

Readers: Do you need a book that is over 200 pages for your 7th grade class assignment?

Parents: Looking for a good fantasy book to engage your tween reader — but one that is not too disturbing?