Young adult fiction (YA) is a category of fiction written for readers from 12 to 18 years of age. While the genre is targeted to teenagers, approximately half of YA readers are adults. The subject matter and genres of YA correlate with the age and experience of the protagonist. The genres available in YA are

Using Young Adult Literature as the Cornerstone of Literacy: Pairing Young Adult Novels with the Classics

English classes are still relying on novels taught consistently since the eighties if not earlier. Though our students have changed drastically since that time, our teaching methods and texts have not. And now, only 20% of students are reading what is assigned to them. It's time to shift our curriculum to something more current and to find the book students will want to read. That solution is young adult literature. Thematically, there is nothing the classics teach that young adult literature cannot match, and students will be more likely to relate to their world using these novels in place of the classics. In this thesis, I suggest young adult novels to read full class in place of the most common novels taught in English classrooms, and provide corresponding activities. Excerpts from the classics would still be used for historical and cultural knowledge, but the bulk of the reading could come from YAL.
expansive and include most of those found in adult fiction. Common themes related to YA include: friendship, first love, relationships, and identity. Stories that focus on the specific challenges Young adults experience this moral development of characters as they read other literature as well. They see the growth that takes place with Adam and Miriam in Miriam's Well (Lois Ruby), with Tia and Brian in All That Glitters (Jean Ferris), with Mark and Randy in Between a Rock and a Hard Place (Alden Carter), with Jimmy in Somewhere in the Darkness (Walter Dean Myers), with Freddie in The Original Freddie Ackerman (Hadley Irwin), with Bert in If Rock and Roll Were a Machine (Terry Davis), with Marie in I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This (Jacqueline Woodson) and with Carla in The Drowning of S... And perhaps the best reason for using young adult novels is that they keep young people reading.