

PAPER TOWNS READ-ALIKES

If you liked *Paper Towns* by John Green, then check out these popular books.



Alsaid, Adi. *Let's Get Lost.*

Leila, 17, traveling from Louisiana to Alaska to see the Northern Lights, meets four teens along the way and deeply impacts each of their lives. Hudson, a small-town mechanic with medical school aspirations, fixes her car, falls in love with her, and finds himself rethinking his dreams. Hitchhiker Bree, on the run from a family calamity, accepts a ride from Leila, drags her into several ill-thought-out (and illegal) escapades, and finally realizes it's time to return to the sister she left behind. Elliot, staggering drunk after a bad night at prom, is practically run over by Leila, who then helps him win the girl he loves with a series of over-the-top antics. Sonia, still reeling from the untimely death of the love of her life, enlists the teen's aid in returning a pair of missing wedding rings.

Droller, Trish. *The Devil You Know.*

It's been all work and no play for Arcadia since her mother's death, and the 18-year-old, tired of looking after her father and little brother, feels dead-ended in her small Florida town. On her way to a campfire party at a local park, she sees a handsome stranger and impulsively invites him along. Soon Matt is kissing Cadie's friend Lindsey, but that's okay, since Cadie later meets Matt's cousin Noah, to whom she is head-spinningly attracted, despite indicators of his troubled past. The girls agree to accompany the boys on the next leg of their road trip, and though Lindsey later backs out with a quick text message, Cadie is still onboard. However, the fun- and passion-filled romp that she hoped for gradually turns into a deadly nightmare, and Cadie soon realizes that it will take all of her smarts and courage to get out alive.

Konigsberg, Bill. *The Porcupine of Truth.*

When his mother forces him to leave NYC to spend the summer with his dying father, an alcoholic whom he hasn't seen in 14 years, 17-year-old loner Carson Smith feels displaced, to say the least. On his first day in Billings, MT, he meets Aisha Stinson, a smart and gorgeous African American girl who has been homeless since coming out as a lesbian to her father. Though romance is disappointingly out of the question, Carson finds himself inextricably drawn to Aisha. He invites her to stay with his family, and while cleaning up the basement, the teens discover evidence that Carson's grandfather, whose long-ago disappearance ushered in three generations of woe, just might be traceable. The two set out on a road trip that takes them all the way to San Francisco, where they finally find the truth.

Lake, Nick. *There Will Be Lies.*

Shelby Jane Cooper counts down eight days' worth of events culminating with the incident that will "erase [her] from the world." Shelby's closely regimented life with her overprotective mother in Scottsdale, AZ, is shattered when the teen is hit by a car. The injuries aren't life-threatening, but Mom suddenly transforms into a different person, hustling a hobbling Shelby from hospital to a rented car and setting off on an out-of-the-blue outing to the Grand Canyon. As they travel through the magnificent southwestern landscape, the trip begins to feel more on-the-run than meandering fun, and Shelby is faced with the startling truth that everything about her life just might be a lie. Meanwhile, a mysterious and magnetic boy keeps turning up and leading her to a place called the Dreaming, where she is no longer deaf, interacts with talking animals, and discovers that she is fated to save the world.

McVoy, Terra Elan. *Drive Me Crazy.*

Lana's Grandpa Howe and Cassie's Grandma Tess have just gotten married, and the newlyweds invite the two middle schoolers along on their eight-day honeymoon, tooling through the California countryside. Sincere and somewhat geeky Lana is genuinely excited about the trip and looks forward to forging a lifelong friendship with her new cousin. The more sophisticated Cassie, however, would prefer to remain home and solidify her social standing with the uber-popular Kendra. Though there are fun moments, both girls also wrestle with issues they keep carefully hidden away. As the miles roll away, tensions in the backseat build, misunderstandings abound, and conflicts erupt.

Rabb, Margo. *Kissing in America.*

Much to the consternation of her feminist mom, 16-year-old Eva is obsessed with romance novels (she's read 118 to date) and maintains a steadfast belief "in great love" (despite the never-been-kissed reality of life at her "nerd-heavy" Bronx, NY, school). Then, seemingly miraculously, the handsome boy she's been crushing on for forever finally notices her. They share a passion for literature, as well as the emotional fallout from the loss of a family member. Just as things are heating up, Will is forced to move to his father's home in Los Angeles. Determined to go cross-country and get her man, Eva convinces her brilliant best friend Annie Kimm to enter the two of them in a teen academic game show that films in L.A. and then talks her overprotective but emotionally distant mother into allowing them to travel there by bus.

Smith, Andrew. *100 Sideways Miles.*

This singular 17-year-old suffers from epileptic seizures, measures time in terms of distance traveled (by the Earth in orbit—approximately 20 miles per second), and wonders if he's a real boy or a fictional character created by his father (the author of a best-selling and controversial sci-fi novel featuring a protagonist who shares a striking resemblance to Finn along with his name). Luckily, his best friend, the attractive, tobacco-chewing, teacher-torturing Cade Hernandez, is around to keep Finn's feet firmly grounded in their small town in California. Then Finn meets Julia Bishop, falls for her head over heels, and must say goodbye when she moves back to Chicago. Devastated, he leaves on a planned road trip with Cade to visit a college in Oklahoma, but unexpected events along the way inspire Finn to take his fate into his own hands and begin to chart his own course.

Telgmeier, Raina. *Sisters.*

In her engaging graphic novel memoir, Raina Telgemeier re-creates the ups and downs of a classic family car trip as well as the wonders and woes of being sisters. Fourteen-year-old Raina, younger sister Amara, little brother Will, and their mother pile into their aged baby-blue van for the drive from California to Colorado for a family reunion. Well-placed flashbacks provide the skinny on the intricacies of the sisters' often-squabbling relationship as well as the story behind why Raina refuses to ride shotgun (it involves a rogue pet snake). The trip is filled with plenty of arguing and snarky attitude, but unexpected occurrences provide impetus for the girls to find common ground and ultimately appreciate the importance of family.

Williams, Carol Lynch. *Signed, Skye Harper.*

It's the summer of 1972, and though Winston hasn't seen her mother since the aspiring performer fled New Smyrna Beach, FL, for Hollywood 11 years ago, the 15-year-old doesn't much miss her. She has her brusque but loving grandmother to raise her; income from busing tables at Leon's Seafood Restaurant, where Nanny works; and her secret dream of training to become a swimmer equal to her idol, Mark Spitz. Everything is hunky-dory until they receive a desperate-sounding letter signed by Skye Harper, Momma's self-chosen stage name, asking, "Come git me, /Please." In the blink of an eye, Nanny turns up with an RV "borrowed" from Leon, loads up the family (including dog Thelma and rooster Denny), and sets off to Las Vegas to retrieve her daughter. The trip gets even more interesting when they discover a stowaway hidden in the camper. Not only is the sweet-talking, guitar-strumming, genuinely endearing Steve the son of Leon, but he also happens to be the boy of Winston's dreams. As their destination grows closer, Winston wonders if she will be able to open her heart to her absentee mother and share Nanny, who has suddenly turned from tough-as-nails to vulnerable.

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