

Delve Deeper into *Only The Young*

A film by Elizabeth Mims and Jason Tippet

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Penny Talbert and Rebecca Zinner of Ephrata Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Only the Young*.

Only The Young follows three unconventional Christian teenagers coming of age in a small Southern California town. With sun-drenched visuals, lyrical storytelling and a soul-music soundtrack, *Only the Young* embodies the innocence and candor of its youthful subjects – and of adolescence itself.

ADULT NONFICTION

Haenfler, Ross. *Straight Edge: Clean-Living Youth, Hardcore Punk, and Social Change*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2006.

In this book, Ross Haenfler looks at the straight edge youth subculture that began to take hold in the early 1980s. These self-identified “straight-edge kids” focus on living without drugs, cigarettes, or promiscuous sex in an effort to better themselves and, ultimately, the world around them.

Howard, Jay R. and Streck, John M. *Apostles of Rock: The Splintered World of Contemporary Christian Music*. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1999.

In this title, the authors explore the growing schism between those who believe contemporary Christian music performers are entertainers and those who see them as ministers. This tenuous balance between religion and music shines a light on modern evangelicalism and the religious community’s relationship with popular culture.

Pappalardo, Anthony and Morton, Max G. *Live...Suburbia*. Brooklyn, NY: PowerHouse Books, 2011.

In this unique book, authors Anthony Pappalardo and Max G. Morton compile a number of photos and stories detailing youth subcultures since the 1960s.

Stowe, David W. *No Sympathy for the Devil: Christian Pop Music and the Transformation of American Evangelicalism*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011.

David Stowe examines in-depth the melding of religious and popular culture in his book *No Sympathy for the Devil*. What once would have seemed an oxymoronic combination of nonreligious rock music and conservative Christianity, we can see has since evolved into a new form of art-centered ministry.

Weyland, Jocko. *The Answer is Never: A Skateboarder’s History of the World*. New York: Grove Press, 2002.

This dynamic history of skateboarding chronicles the sport’s birth as a wintertime alternative to surfing in California and takes us into the modern day, where constant innovation and daring athletes have created a dynamic and ever changing fixture around the world.

ADULT FICTION

Himelstein, Abram Shalom and Schweser, Jamie. *Tales of a Punk Rock Nothing*. New Orleans, LA: New Mouth from the Dirty South, 2000.

A story told with journals, letters, and zines, *Tales of a Punk Rock Nothing* depicts the journey of one Jewish kid as he moves from Tennessee to the heart of the Washington D.C. punk scene.

Meno, Joe. *Hairstyles of the Damned*. Chicago: Punk Planet Books, 2004.

Brian Oswald is a 17-year old living in Chicago’s south side. Brian, who is simply trying to fit in with his peers until he graduates high school, finds himself falling in love with his pink haired and punk rock loving best friend, Gretchen.

Sheppard, John L. *Small Town Punk: A Novel*. Brooklyn, NY: Ig Publishing, 2007.

In the early 1980s, 17-year old Buzz Pepper finds himself preparing to enter adulthood in a world that is growing increasingly conservative.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Baldwin, Stephen. *Livin It: Testimonies*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2006.

This title is a result of the successful “Livin It” tour, which brings youth ministry and extreme sports athletes to thousands of Americans every year. The book, which includes vivid action photography, presents the stories of athletes who are passionate about sports and their religion, and who hope to send a positive message to today’s youth.

Davis, James, and Phillips, Skin. *Skateboarding Is Not A Crime: 50 Years of Street Culture*. Buffalo, NY: Firefly Books, 2004.

Skateboarding Is Not A Crime is a historical overview as well as a field guide to skateboarding. Punctuated with action photography of skateboarders in their element, this book makes an excellent primer for anyone interested in this unique subculture.



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Louison, Cole. *The Impossible: Rodney Mullen, Ryan Sheckler, and the Fantastic History of Skateboarding*. Guilford, Connecticut: Lyons Press, 2011.

Cole Louison dives into skateboarding history by recounting the careers of two of skateboarding's most prominent figures; Rodney Mullen, the inventor of modern skateboarding tricks, and Ryan Sheckler, a teen prodigy who became a pro-athlete at the age of thirteen.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. New York: Pocket Books, 1999.

In this critically acclaimed novel we meet Charlie, a sensitive and intelligent high school freshman who seems to prefer the company of books and his own introspection to his peers. With the guidance of a favorite teacher and new friends, Charlie is slowly coaxed out of his cave and begins to have adventures of his own.

Harmon, Michael. *Under the Bridge*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012.

When Tate's younger brother, a smart talented skater named Indy, decides to drop out of school, Tate takes it upon himself to get Indy back on the right track and back in school.

Hornby, Nick. *Slam*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2007.

When 16-year-old Sam's girlfriend tells him that she's pregnant, he panics. He knows that becoming a dad at such a young age would change everything, but he doesn't know what to do. Looking for guidance, he turns to his favorite sports idol, skateboarder Tony Hawk.

Kulpa, Kathryn. *Taking Off: And Other Coming of Age Stories by American Teen Writers*. East Greenwich, R.I.: Merlyn's Pen, 1995.

This collection of stories provides a unique twist to the classic coming of age theme as these were written by teenagers going through the strife and struggle that is all too often in literature only rehashed by adults long after the fact.

Mancusi, Mari. *Sk8er Boy*. New York: Smooch, 2005.

15-year-old Dawn knows exactly how her life will turn out because her parents have told her. She will participate in extracurricular activities, go to college, and date the right guys. However Dawn has a different idea. She wants to befriend different people, like Starr, a punk-rock fiend, get a piercing, and maybe even date a boy with a skateboard.

Peters, Julie Anne. *Define Normal: A Novel*. Boston: Little Brown, 2000.

When they are first assigned to each other for peer counseling, middle school students Antonia, a straight-A student, and Jazz, a girl with piercings and tattoos, don't believe that they have anything to offer each other. However, as they complete the 15 hours of peer counseling, they realize that they have more in common (and much more to offer) than either of them originally thought.

