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


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.


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.


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


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.


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


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.


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.


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


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 adventure 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.


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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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 Scheckler, a teen prodigy who became a pro-athlete at the age of thirteen.

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.

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.

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.