Fiction

Bell, William. The Blue Helmet. Doubleday Canada

With his single-parent father working two jobs to support the family, Lee is drawn to the dangerous company of a neighbourhood gang. When his initiation almost results in a criminal charge, he's sent to live with his aunt in Toronto and help out in her café, a defacto drop-in centre for the quirky and lonely. As Lee develops an unlikely but endearing friendship with one eccentric customer, he begins to appreciate his new community. When past trauma shatters their world, Lee and his family find a way to put the pieces back together.

Buffie, Margaret. Out of Focus. Kids Can

Bernie, a budding photographer who delights in capturing her alcoholic mother's worst moments, takes charge relocating the family to a neglected lodge in the wilderness.

Goobie, Beth. Hello Groin. Orca

16 year-old Dylan's display in the school library sparks a censorship controversy. Even more distressing for her is the fact that she is more attracted to her best (female) friend Joc than her loyal boyfriend Cam. Despite her heartache, Dylan keeps her sense of humour intact while she explores new emotions and opportunities. Ultimately, she chooses to follow her heart and trust those she loves with the truth.

Harvey-Fitzhenry, Alyxandra. Waking. Orca

Ever since Beauty’s mother died, she has tried to be invisible, living in a world of nightmarish dreams in order to avoid the questions and gossip that follow her everywhere. Then, an exhilarating new student arrives at school and begins to wake Beauty, bringing her back to life. But she is still haunted by the vision of a mysterious Shadow Lady who inhabits her dreams.

Huser, Glen. Skinnybones and the Wrinkle Queen. Groundwood

Tamara abandons her foster parents, running away with a cantankerous chain smoking nursing home escapee on a cross country trans border operatic road trip.
Korman, Gordon. **Born to Rock.** Scholastic

Once Harvard bound and unabashedly square, Leo suddenly finds himself black-marked at school, minus a scholarship and working as a roadie for a punk band.

McNaughton, Janet. **Raintree Rebellion.** Harper Trophy Canada

In this sequel to *The Secret Under My Skin*, 18 year-old Blake Raintree accompanies her aunt to the battered shell of Queen's Park, where a Justice Council is being formed to restore society after the Technocaust. Blake is both fascinated and challenged by the task facing the Council, and soon gets to know her colleagues, as well as vulnerable people in the community. When Blake has the opportunity to find out the identity of her father, she's forced to confront her darkest fears.

Slade, Arthur. **Megiddo’s Shadow.** Harper Collins

When Edward’s older brother is killed in World War I, he lies about his age and enlists in the army. After proving himself as a horseman, Edward is sent with the British Cavalry to fight the Turks in the deserts of Palestine. There, Edward finds himself caught between his thirst to avenge his brother and his horror at the reality of battle.

Stinson, Kathy. **101 Ways to Dance.** Second Story Press

In this collection of short stories we find again and again the excitement, awkwardness, passion, discomfort, pleasure, and agony of first love and awakening sexuality.

Toten, Teresa. **Me and the Blondes.** Penguin

Sophia, or Sophie as she would prefer, is a Toronto teen with a secret past. Just beginning at a new school, she is determined to fit in despite her over-the-top mother and crazy aunties. This time she is going to get in with the “Blondes”: the most popular, perfect girls at school. At this school, Sophie is going to be popular, or maybe not.

**Fiction Honourable Mentions**

Czernada, Julie **Mythspring** Red Deer
Ellis, Deborah **Jackal in the Garden** Watson-Guptill
Heggum, Lisa **All Sleek and Skimming** Orca
Kropp, Paul **Home Run** Doubleday
MacIntyre, R.P. **Feeding at Nine** Thistledown Press
McClintock, Norah **Last Chance** Scholastic
McFarlane, Sheryl **Smell of Paint** Fitzhenry & Whiteside
Pohl-Weary, Emily **Strange Times at Western High** Annick
Scarsbrook, Richard  **Featherless Biped**  Thistledown Press
Van Diepen, Alison  **Street Pharm**  Simon Pulse
Walters, Eric  **Shattered**  Penguin

**Graphic Novels (honourable mentions)**

Larson, Hope.  **Gray Horses**  Oni Press
Torres, J. and Northcott, Ed.  **Turning Japanese (Degrassi Extra Credit)**  Pocket
Torres, J. and Northcott, Ed.  **Suddenly Last Summer (Degrassi Extra Credit)**  Pocket

**Reluctant Readers (honourable mentions)**

Withers, Pam.  **Vertical Limits**  Walrus
Langston, Laura.  **Exit Point**  Orca
Denman, K.L  **Battle of the Bands**  Orca

**Non-Fiction (honourable mentions)**

St. Stephen's Community House,  **Little Black book for Girlz: a book on healthy sexuality.**  Annick