

**Forged By Fire**  
**By Sharon M. Draper**  
Call number: F Dra

Gerald Nickelby, a basketball player from Tears of a Tiger, tells his story from age three when he is left alone by his mother and gets caught in a fire he starts with a cigarette lighter. As a teen, he then has to protect his little sister from their drug-addicted mother and abusive father. His courage and ability to fight adversity are realistic and admirable.

**What Jamie Saw**  
**By Carolyn Coman**  
Call number: F Com

Having fled to a family friend's hillside trailer after his mother's boyfriend tried to throw his baby sister against a wall, 9-year-old Jamie finds himself living an existence full of uncertainty and fear.

**Touching Snow**  
**By M. Sindy Felin**  
Call number: F Fel

After her stepfather is arrested for child abuse, thirteen-year-old Karina's home life improves but while the severity of her older sister's injuries and the urging of her younger sister, their uncle, and a friend tempt her to testify against him, her mother and other well-meaning adults persuade her to claim responsibility.

**Stoner and Spaz**  
**By Ronald Koertge**  
Call number: F Koe

A troubled youth with cerebral palsy struggles toward self-acceptance with the help of a drug-addicted young woman.

# Teen Drama

**Abuse**

**Alcohol / Drugs**

**HIV / AIDS**

**Teen Pregnancy**

**\* For Mature Readers**

**Available in  
Sylvester Library**

**A Child Called "It" : One Child's Courage to Survive**  
**By David Pelzer**  
Call number: 362.7 Pel

Dave Pelzer survived one of the most severe cases of child abuse in California history. He was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother. This compelling story will awaken you to the truth about child abuse. It is his true story.  
**Sequels: The Lost Boy; A Man Named Dave: The Story of Triumph and Forgiveness; The Privilege of Youth**

**Annie's Baby: The Diary of Anonymous, a Pregnant Teenager**  
**Edited by Beatrice Sparks, Ph.D.**  
Call number: 362.8 Ann

When fourteen-year-old Annie discovers that she is pregnant by her boyfriend, she is devastated. She feels very alone and has no one to talk to, so she pours her heart out every day to her diary, confiding her feelings of panic, self-doubt, and the desperate hope that someday she can turn her life around. When she decides to keep her baby, she finds that caring for it turns out to be more than she can bear.

**First Part Last**  
**By Angela Johnson**  
Call number: F Joh

At 16, Bobby's scared to be raising his baby, Feather. He's totally devoted to caring for her even as she keeps him up all night, and even though he knows his college plans are on hold. In short chapters alternating between "now" and "then," he talks about the baby that now fills his life, and he remembers the pregnancy of his beloved girlfriend, Nia.

**Lock and Key**  
**By Sarah Dessen**  
Call number: F Des

When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with her sister Cora, whom she has not seen for ten years. She learns about Cora's new life, what makes a family, how to allow people to help her when she needs it, and that she has something to offer to others as well.

**Go Ask Alice**  
**Anonymous**  
Call number: F Ano

This book is based on the diary of a fifteen-year-old drug addict. It chronicles her struggle to escape the pull of the drug world, and ultimately her losing battle with it.

**Treacherous Love: The Diary of an Anonymous Teenager**  
**Edited by Beatrice Sparks, Ph.D.**  
Call number: F Tre

Fourteen-year-old Jennie's life has turned upside down. Her father has walked out, her anguished mother seeks solace in pills, and her best friend practically abandons her to be with her boyfriend. Then Jennie meets Mr. Johnson, who singles her out for special attention. She fantasizes about him being her boyfriend, but then the fantasy becomes too real. This book chronicles a case of sexual abuse by a teacher.

**Hershey Herself**  
**By Cecilia Galante**  
Call number: F Gal

Twelve-year-old Hershey tries to cope after she and her mother and baby sister flee to a women's shelter to escape the abuse of her mother's boyfriend, as she worries about competing in the town talent show with her best friend, wonders who is taking care of her cat, and rides the bus with a sworn enemy.

**Shattering Glass**  
**By Gail Giles**  
Call number: F Gil

"Simon Glass was easy to hate...I guess, really we each hated him for a different reason, but we didn't realize it until the day we killed him." Unravel the startling mystery of what happens when a group of popular high school guys decide to turn a dweeb into the "class favorite."

**Teen Angel**  
**Gloria Velasquez**  
Call number: F Vel

When fifteen-year-old Celia Chavez becomes pregnant, she receives help from her friends, family, and a psychiatrist who recently had a miscarriage.

Students: If you have concerns about any of the topics addressed in these books, there are adults who will listen. All you have to do is ask.

**It Happened to Nancy**  
**Edited by Beatrice Sparks, Ph.D.**  
Call number: 362.1 Ith

Fourteen-year-old Nancy, and asthmatic, meets 18-year-old Collin, a gentle, caring young man who appears to be the man of her dreams—until he rapes her, leaving her HIV-infected. In spite of her rapid decline in health, Nancy leads a full, poignantly happy life because of the loving support of friends and family.

**Bruises**  
**By Anke de Vries**  
Call number: F Vri

When Judith's mother is unhappy, she beats Judith. She has learned to accept the beatings, and has learned to hide the bruises from teachers and classmates. Unfortunately, she has also learned to blame herself for the abuse. When Judith becomes friends with Michael, she learns that his family also has secrets which have caused his own emotional bruises. Together, they find strength to heal.

**Sickened: The Memoir of a Munchausen's by Proxy Childhood**  
**By Julie Gregory**  
Call number: 921 Gre

In this fierce and lyrical memoir, Julie takes the readers inside her childhood in which she was the victim of a rare form of abuse called Munchausen's by Proxy.

**A Girl's Life Online (previously Katie.com)**  
**By Katherine Tarbox**  
Call number: 364.1 Tar

Thirteen-year-old Katie meets 23-year-old Mark in an online chat-room. She thinks he is her soul mate, until she meets him in person and finds out he is a sexual predator. This is a true story for the internet age.

**Love, Sara**  
**By Mary Beth Lundgren**  
Call number: F Lun

In a series of emails and journal entries Sara, a high school junior with a history of sexual abuse and foster home care, reveals her feelings about herself and two friends who are headed for destruction.

**Dreamland**  
**By Sarah Dessen**  
Call number: F Des

Caitlyn's boyfriend is very attractive, but he is abusive. All around her are strong women who would help, but shame keeps Caitlyn from confiding in any of them. In this riveting novel, Sarah Dessen tries to understand why girls allow themselves to get into abusive relationships and what makes them stay.

**The Three NBs of Julian Drew**  
**By James M. Deem**  
Call number: F Dee

The journals of a troubled fifteen-year-old boy who lives with his father and abusive step-mother and her children after the death of his own mother.

**Breathing Underwater**  
**By Alex Flinn**  
Call number: F Fli

It was only a slap to his girlfriend. Well, maybe more than one. And maybe Nick used his fist at the end when his anger got out of control. Now he's been ordered by the court to attend a family violence class with six other guys who hit their girlfriends and to write a journal explaining how he ended up there.

**Speak**  
**By Laurie Halse Anderson**  
Call number: F And

Melinda busted an end-of-the-year party by calling the cops. Now a freshman, her friends won't talk to her and people she doesn't know hate her. She tries to keep to herself, but even then, she still can't forget the truth about what happened at the party. Eventually, she'll have to tell the truth to keep it from happening to other girls.

**Falling**  
**By Doug Wilhelm**  
Call number: F Wil

Fifteen-year-old Matt's life has been turned upside-down, first when the brother he idolizes turns to drugs, then when a visit to a chat room leads him to a classmate, Katie, who he likes very much but cannot trust with his family secret.

**Tears of a Tiger**  
**By Sharon M. Draper**  
Call number: F Dra

A friend is killed when four basketball players mix drinking and driving in a post-game celebration. The driver, Andy, is unable to forgive himself. The depth of his depression is shown in this book through English class assignments, dialogues, police and newspaper reports and letters.

**White Horse**  
**By Cynthia D. Grant**  
Call number: F Gra

In her writing for a concerned teacher, sixteen-year-old Raina reveals her troubles with a dysfunctional family, life on the streets, drug abuse, and finally, an unplanned pregnancy.

**Cut**  
**By Patricia McCormick**  
Call number: F McC

Callie has been sent to what she calls "Sick Minds" because she cuts herself. There, she lives with other girls who have drug or food problems. She can't bring herself to talk in group or individual therapy or to any of the other residents. Then another cutter is admitted and that changes everything.

**Money Hungry**  
**By Sharon Flake**  
Call number: F Fla

All thirteen-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again. There is also a sequel to this book called Begging For Change.  
**Sequel: Begging for Change**

**Freaky Green Eyes**  
**By Joyce Carol Oates**  
Call number: F Oat

Fifteen-year-old Frankie relates the events of the year leading up to her mother's mysterious disappearance and her own struggle to discover and accept the truth about her parents' relationship.

**Bait**  
**By Alex Sanchez**  
Call number: F San

Diego keeps getting into trouble because of his explosive temper. He finally finds a probation officer who helps him get to the root of his anger so he can stop running from his past.

**Nothing to Lose**  
**By Alex Flinn**  
Call number: F Fli

A year after running away with a traveling carnival to escape his unbearable home life, sixteen-year-old Michael returns to Miami, Florida, to find that his mother is going on trial for the murder of his abusive stepfather.

**When Dad Killed Mom**  
**By Julius Lester**  
Call number: F Les

When Jenna and Jeremy's father shoots and kills their artist mother, they struggle to slowly rebuild a functioning family.

**I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This**  
**By Jacqueline Woodson**  
Call number: F Woo

Twelve-year-old Marie isn't looking for more friends. When Lena, the only white girl in their class, arrives, they are drawn together, because they have both lost their mothers. Soon she learns Lena's terrible secret about what her father is doing to her in private. Should Marie keep the secret or will it help Lena more to tell it herself?

**Almost Lost: The True Story of an Anonymous Teenager's Life on the Streets**  
**Edited by Beatrice Sparks, Ph.D.**  
Call number: 616.85 Ano

Fifteen-year-old Sam comes to his therapist's office unwillingly, angry, depressed, and filled with guilt over his own self-destructive behavior. This is the story of Sam's recovery, told from tapes of his therapy sessions. What made him leave home, how did he survive on the street, and why was he desperate to escape from the brutality of the gang that had become his family?