**SD Teen Choice List 2019-20**

**Middle School**

**Auma’s Long Run** by Eucabeth Odhiambo
When AIDS devastates thirteen-year-old Auma’s village in Kenya during the 1980s, Auma must choose between staying to help her family and working toward a track scholarship that will take her away from home.

**Braced** by Alyson Gerber
Twelve-year-old Rachel Brooks is thrilled to have earned a spot on her middle school soccer team as a forward. To top it off, her crush, Tate, seems to like her back. Everything is falling into place for a perfect year—until she learns her scoliosis is getting worse and she has to wear a back brace 23 hours each day. The brace changes the way her clothes fit and makes everyone treat her differently. Even the way she plays soccer has changed. Now Rachel must fight to keep her spot on the team while struggling with her perception of herself.

**Cells at Work** by Akane Shimizu
Red Blood Cell just wants to make her deliveries of oxygen around the body, but strep throat, hay fever, influenza, and an army of other illnesses keep getting in her way—fortunately, she has friends in the white blood cells, the T cells, and the cute little platelets that also roam her highways of blood veins.

**Chasing Helicity** by Ginger Zee
Helicity has always been fascinated by the weather and the escape it provides from school, her father’s strict discipline, and her brother’s imminent college departure. When her town is destroyed by a tornado, Helicity and her family struggle to deal with rebuilding their lives while she befriends a stormchaser who invites Helicity to join her team.

**City of Ghosts** by Victoria Schwab
Ever since she drowned and survived, Cass has walked the line between the world of the living and the dead, with the ability to pull back the Veil that separates them. Her best friend is now a ghost—and the strangest thing is that her parents have landed a TV gig on a show about the world’s most haunted places. Edinburgh, Scotland, is the first of the show’s locations, and it is also the first place Cass meets someone else who has her same ability. Good thing—Edinburgh is a city of ghosts, and some are dangerous.

**Ghost Boys** by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Seventh-grader Jerome is mistakenly shot by a white police officer, and as a ghost, observes the turmoil in his community as a result of his death. He then meets the ghost of Emmett Till, who helps Jerome understand how systemic racism led to his death, but also understand how far the effects of his death really go by introducing him to the grieving daughter of the police officer who struggles with her father’s actions.
**LifeL1k3 by Jay Kristoff**
When Eve learns she can destroy machines with her mind, she becomes a target for a group of puritanical fanatics, and with her new android best friend Ezekiel, faces cyborg assassins.

---

**Not if I Save You First by Ally Carter**
Maddie, the daughter of a Secret Service agent, is best friends with Logan, the son of the president, and she thought they would be best friends forever. However, when her dad is compelled to move her out into the Alaskan wilderness, twenty miles from the nearest phone, six years go by, and Maddie hears no word from Logan at all. Then, one day, Logan shows up—and Maddie decides she wants to kill him with her bedazzled ax. Then, out of nowhere, an assailant shows up and knocks Maddie over a cliff and takes Logan. Now Maddie has to save Logan if she wants to be the one to kill him instead of this newcomer.

---

**Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang**
Prince Sebastian has a secret—he loves to wear women’s dresses and go out at night in Paris. His best friend and dressmaker, Frances is his secret weapon, but while she keeps Sebastian's secret, she puts off pursuing her own dreams. Includes a glimpse inside the author’s process with images of the script and sketches.

---

**Undefeated by Steve Sheinkin**
Features the underdog story of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School football team which under the leadership of coach Pop Warner and player Jim Thorpe became known as “the team that invented football.” Highlights the systematic governmental persecution by the government and the players determination and grit, on and off the field, that led them to defeat more privileged schools like Army and Harvard.

---

**Wild Bird by Wendelin Van Draanen**
Fourteen-year-old Wren Clemmens is a girl who has hit rock bottom. Desperate to turn her life around, her parents send her to a wilderness survival camp for 8 weeks. Wren's bitterness and anger do nothing to help her when she first arrives in the desert. Survival means accepting the consequences of her actions and admitting that she is responsible for her current situation.

---

**Witch Boy by Molly Ostertag**
In a forest settlement, girls are taught to be witches and boys to be shapeshifters. To the consternation of his family, Aster, however, hangs around the girls who are learning their spellcraft. When two village boys disappear, Aster's magical abilities might just save the day.