

Book Awards for Vampire Fiction



There do not appear to be any awards specifically for young adult vampire fiction, so if you are looking to find award winners you have to be resource full. Usually, the books are grouped in with horror fiction awards, or you could try searching through the various teens' choice awards offered by individual libraries.

Given the nature of many vampire books to fall in the adult cross-over category, suitable for late teens, below are some of the notable awards for Horror fiction, which may contain vampires:

- ❖ **The Bram Stoker Awards** (<http://www.horror.org/stokers.htm>)
Awarded annually, Stokers are given to categories for: novel, first novel, long fiction, short fiction, fiction collection, anthology, non-fiction, poetry collection, lifetime achievement and the Richard Laymon's President Award
- ❖ **Children of the Night Award**
(<http://www.thedraculasociety.org.uk/childrenofthenight.html>)
Sponsored by The Dracula Society, awards are given out each year for the best novel, short story and biography.

With the popularity of vampire fiction holding steady, and as it is recognized more as being a legitimate genre, more books are bound to be recognized by awards. Here are some of the major YA award sites to keep in mind when looking for future winners:

- ❖ **Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (BCCB) Blue Ribbon Awards**
(<http://bccb.lis.illinois.edu/blue08.html>)
- ❖ **ALA's YALSA Awards** (including the Printz, Alex, Best Books and Teen's Top Ten)
(<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklistsbook.cfm>)
- ❖ **CLA's Young Adult Canadian Book Award**
(http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Young_Adult_Canadian_Book_Award)
- ❖ **International Reading Associations' Children's and Young Adult's Book Awards**
(http://www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/childrens_ira.aspx)

Love *Twilight*, or hate it...the books in the series have won awards. Here are some of them:

- ALA's Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults
- ALA's Top Ten Books for Reluctant Readers
- *Amazon.com's* Best Books of the Decade...So Far
- *New York Times* Editor's Choice
- *Publisher's Weekly* Best Book of the Year
- *School Library Journal's* Best Books

Teen Choice Awards:

- Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award (2008)
- Black-Eyed Susan Book Awards (2007/2008)
- Garden State Book Award (2008)
- Gateway Readers Award (2008)
- Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers (2007/2008)
- Grand Canyon Reader Award (2008)
- Iowa High School Book Award (2007/2008)
- Kentucky Bluegrass Award (2007)
- Rhode Island Teen Book Award (2007)

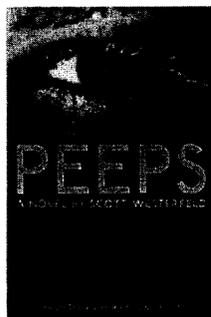
Apart from the *Twilight* series, it's difficult to find young adult vampire fiction that has won an award. However, here are a few:



A. M. Jenkins, *Night Road*, 2008

Jenkins wrote the Printz Honor book *Repossessed*. She also received the PEN/Phyllis Naylor Working Writer Fellowship for *Night Road*, which tells the story of Cole and Gordon, humans that subsist on blood alone. It has received the following award:

- ALA Best Book for Young Adults, 2009



Scott Westerfeld, *Peeps*, 2005

Westerfeld has won numerous Honor Awards, such as the New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age selection, 2004 and Australia's Aurealis Award for Best YA Novel, 2004. *Peeps*, tells the story of Cal, who becomes infected by a parasite that gives him the characteristics of a vampire. It has received the following awards:

- BCCB Blue Ribbon Fiction Book Award, 2005
- ALA Best Book For Young Adults, 2006

In *Twilight*, is the Quileute legend about "the Cold Ones" real?

No, there are no "Cold Ones" in Quileute mythology. Meyer has stated that she invented the legend herself. However, other aspects are based on true Quileute legends, namely that the Quileute tribe has descended from wolves who were changed into men.

Source: <http://www.native-languages.org/quileute-legends.htm>

Books That Have Been Banned or Challenged



Books that feature vampires, even for young adults, often deal with subject matters such as sexual attraction, lust, immortality, violence, power and the evil side of human nature. So, it's not entirely surprising to see parents or adults get concerned about what teens are reading.



Thankfully, though, the outright banning of books is rare. This goes for novels of any genre. However, a great many are challenged and called into question. The librarian must then acknowledge the challenge and respond in a way that satisfies both the complainant and protects everyone's freedom to read. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer on how to accomplish this and it must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

One of the best ways to be prepared for challenges is to be informed, by reading the books and keeping an eye on the news.

Listed are some instances of challenged vampire books for young adults:

Breaking Dawn (March 19, 2009)

The final book in *The Twilight Saga* series went missing from a Utah junior high school library. The books were received, but never appeared on the shelves. It is alleged that the school decided to not make the book available after receiving a complaint from a parent, upset about the sexual content. After much deliberation among school districts, the book was added to the collection. (http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_11944849)

Dangerous Girls (2006)

R. L. Stine's novel about twin girls and their encounters with a vampire named Renz, was **banned** by some Texas schools for profanity, violence and not being age-appropriate.
(<http://www.aclutx.org/files/2006%20Banned%20Books%20Report.pdf>)

***In the Forests of the Night* (Pre-2005)**

Amelia Atwater-Rhodes' novel about a 300 year old vampire girl who goes back in time to when she was transformed, has been **challenged** for being age-inappropriate.

***Little Vampire Does Kung Fu!* 2005 & 2006**

This graphic novel by Joann Sfar is **challenged** in Oklahoma schools in 2005, and **banned** in Texas schools in 2006, because of its allegedly violent content.
(<http://www.oklibs.org/ifc/2004.pdf>)
(<http://www.aclutx.org/files/2006%20Banned%20Books%20Report.pdf>)

***Twilight*, September 30, 2008**

Banned from the Capistrano Unified School District in California. The reason stated is that it contains material inappropriate for middle-school students. The ban lasts for four days before the books are returned to the shelves, with no explanation given.
(<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/books-school-series-2175239-district-library>)



Key Words for Vampire Searching

Bloodsucker(s)	Kindred
Vamp(s)	Vampir/vampyr
Vampire	Vampiric/vampyric
Vampyre	Vampress/vampiress
Undead	Vampirism/vampyrism