Finding Books for Tweens

Use tween appeal
How do you find books for that group of readers called ‘tweens’ — not kids and not teens? Appeal helps narrow results to those books that match tween interests, but aren’t too grown up.

In particular, you might want to exclude books that might be too mature by avoiding: Disturbing, Gritty, Gruesome, Haunting, Menacing, Steamy, and Twisted.

You might want to exclude books that might be too young by avoiding these terms: Gross, Noisy, and Silly.

REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES*
- Realism without the grit
  - GN “Realistic Fiction” NOT AP Gritty
- Not-so-bleak dystopian fiction
  - GN “Dystopian Fiction” NOT AP Bleak
- Tween adventures
  - GN "Adventure stories" NOT AP Silly

*Limit searches by Teens and Ages 9-12 audience levels.

Search the reviews
Reviews are like a secret weapon! Here’s how you can use them to your advantage.

Search for tween age groups in the RV (review) field, and then eliminate everything meant for younger and older kids.

TRY IT
In the search box, enter: RV “10-14” OR RV “11-14”
Add NOT GN “Early chapter books” NOT “picture books” and click Search

On the left, check the boxes for Teens and Ages 9-12 and click Update Results

Limit further by genre using the limiters on the left

Tailor to their level
Sometimes tweens are told they need a certain length book (“more than 200 pages”), and/or a particular Lexile range.

TRY IT
On the Advanced Search, make a selection from the Lexile Range limiter
Enter a maximum/minimum page count in the Number of Pages limiter
Click Search

About audience levels
NovelList assigns one or more audience levels (Adults, Teens, Ages 9-12, and Ages 0-8) to every book. However, tweens are a special group that fall in both the Ages 9-12 and Teens levels, so they require a little extra care to match them with exactly the right books.