The Language of Thorns
by Leigh Bardugo
In six short stories travel to a world of dark bargains struck by moonlight, of haunted towns and hungry woods, of talking beasts and gingerbread golems, where a young mermaid’s voice can summon deadly storms and where a river might do a lovestruck boy’s bidding but only for a terrible price.

The Speaker
by Traci Chee
Sefia and Archer’s adventure continues as Archer searches for a way to combat his nightmares of his time with the impressors and Sefia becomes more and more consumed by her study of the Book.

Once and For All
by Sarah Dessen
Gaining considerable experience while working for her cynical mother’s successful wedding-planner business throughout her high school years, Louna holds her own wary beliefs about love before charming playboy Ambrose joins the company and dares her to date.

The Marrow Thieves
by Cherie Dimaline
In a futuristic world ravaged by global warming, people have lost the ability to dream, and the dreamlessness has led to widespread madness. The only people still able to dream are North America’s Indigenous people, and it is their marrow that holds the cure for the rest of the world.

Turtles All the Way Down
by John Green
Aza Holmes, a high school student with obsessive-compulsive disorder, becomes focused on searching for a fugitive billionaire.

Warcross
by Marie Lu
A teen hacker and competitive bounty hunter who tracks down rule breakers of a wildly popular alternate-reality game accidentally glitches herself into a championship tournament, where she becomes an overnight sensation before being recruited as a spy for the game’s billionaire developer.

They Both Die at the End
by Adam Silvera
Receiving word from Death-Cast that they are about to die, Mateo and Rufus meet for the first time via an End Day friendship app that facilitates their meeting and a final grand adventure that triggers unexpected changes.

The Hate U Give
by Angie Thomas
Caught between her poor neighborhood and her fancy prep school, sixteen-year-old Starr Carter becomes the focus of intimidation and more after witnessing the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend, Khalil, by a police officer.
YALSA Top Ten for 2017

The Passion of Dolssa
by Julie Berry
Rescuing a mystic healer who is being pursued by a rogue monk in 13th-century Provence, a scrappy matchmaker is challenged to protect the entire village against the monk’s crusade to burn heretics.

The Reader
by Traci Chee
Fleeing into the wilderness after her father’s brutal murder, Sefia learns how to hunt, track and steal in order to survive before embarking on a quest to rescue the beloved aunt who is her mentor, an effort that is shaped by a magnificent book that is unheard of in her otherwise illiterate society.

The Lie Tree
by Frances Hardinge
Concealing her curious nature behind the façade of a dull and respectable young lady, Faith acquires secrets gleaned from her inability to resist mysteries.

The Female of the Species
by Mindy McGinnis
Living a life in the shadows after violently retaliating against the killer who walked free after murdering her sister, Alex unexpectedly befriends guilt-ridden athlete Jack and defiant preacher’s kid Peekay, who must navigate Alex’s darker nature throughout their senior year.

Burn Baby Burn
by Meg Medina
Enduring the infamous New York summer of 1977 in the wake of arson fires, a massive blackout and the Son of Sam serial killings, 17-year-old Nora Lopez navigates the additional stresses of her family’s limited finances, her father’s absence and her brother’s growing violence.

The Sun is Also a Star
by Nicola Yoon
A scientifically minded girl who avoids relationships to help keep her family from being deported and a dutiful student who endeavors to live up to his parents’ high expectations unexpectedly fall in love and must determine which path they will choose in order to be together.

The Serpent King
by Jeff Zentner
The son of a Pentecostal preacher faces his personal demons as he and his two outcast friends try to make it through their senior year of high school in rural Forrestville, Tennessee.

Buzzworthy for 2017

The Lines We Cross
by Randa Abdel-Fattah
This story finds basketball enthusiast Michael attending anti-immigration rallies with his parents until a friendship with a Muslim refugee newcomer from Afghanistan compels him to question his family’s politics.

Tool of War
by Paolo Bacigalupi
In a future beset with rising seas, corporate government, and constant civil war, a bioengineered half-man/half-beast super-soldier who calls himself Tool breaks his conditioning to overcome his genetically enhanced sense of loyalty to the corporation that created him.