Hate Reading? Try These Books.

Not everyone loves to read, we get it. But sometimes you have no choice, so here are some books that will help make reading seem like less of a chore.

**Freak the Mighty** by Rodman Philbrick

Brain meets brute and together they are Freak the Mighty. Great line: “Well, I was a butthead, because like I said, I never had a brain until Freak moved down the street.”

**Son of the Mob** by Gordon Korman

Vince’s dad is a mob boss, and Vince likes an FBI agent’s daughter. Great line: “Tommy has already told me, ‘Dad’s mobbed up.’ But back then I assumed it just meant he had a lot of friends.”

**Darius and Twig** by Walter Dean Myers

Two best friends - a writer and a runner - growing up and apart. Great line: “He had a talent, so winning was possible. And if winning was possible for him, I felt I might cop a break, too.”

**Trapped** by Michael Northrop

Seven kids and a teacher stuck in their school during a blizzard. Great line: “The three of us joined the group, bringing the total to eight. That was the most there would ever be. From here on out, the number would only go down.”

**Evil Librarian** by Michelle Knudsen

Is the new librarian a demon? And more importantly, why is he macking so hard on Cynthia’s bff? Great line: “‘You’re not human,’ he says. ‘Strangely, the job description did not specify that as a requirement.’”

**Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children** by Ransom Riggs

One flip through this book which features creepy and totally real photos and you’ll be hooked. Great line: “Then, a few years later, when I was fifteen, an extraordinary and terrible thing happened, and there was only Before and After.”

**Life with the Walter Boys** by Ali Novak

After her parents are killed in a car accident, Jackie goes to live with her mom’s friend who happens to have eleven very cute sons. Great line: “He was standing at the kitchen counter and eating a bagel in his boxers. Good morning, six-pack!”

**Gym Candy** by Carl Deuker

Freshman football player resorts to using steroids to keep his spot on the varsity team. Great line: “My dad would laugh. ‘A little pressure is good for a boy. Keeps him on his toes.’”

**Lawn Boy** by Gary Paulsen

A successful lawn mowing business leads to investments including sponsoring a prizefighter. Great line: “No vacation. Seven thousand five hundred dollars. No summer fun. Seven thousand five hundred dollars.”

**QB1** by Mike Lupica

Inspired by Eli and Peyton Manning, the tale of a football player stepping out of his older brother’s shadow. Great line: “Around here, people lived out their dreams through their high school football stars.”

**Ten** by Gretchen McNeil

One by one, teens at a house party are being killed. Great line: “Secret house party hosted by the most popular girl in school? People would kill for an invite.”
Graphic Novels:

**Relish** by Lucy Knisley This is Knisley’s memoir of growing up a foodie with a chef mom who made crème brûlée instead of cupcakes for her seventh birthday. Great line: “My parents probably don’t recall how old I was at my baptism, but they remember what I ate that day. Poached salmon in cream.”

**Andre the Giant: Life and Legend** by Box Brown A biography of the pro-wrestler’s life; from his childhood in France when he couldn’t fit on the school bus to his adulthood when he still never fit in anywhere, literally and figuratively. Great line: “Don’t people get it . . . There was never a fork or a knife, even a bed! There was never a situation where he could be comfortable. He was a seven-foot-four giant.” – Hulk Hogan

**Scott Pilgrim vs. the World** series by Bryan Lee O’Malley Scott has it all - rock and roll, video games and two girlfriends, one of which has seven evil exes. Great line: “Scott, you are the salt of the Earth. Oh, I’m sorry, excuse me. I meant *scum* of the Earth.”

**Smile** by Raina Telgemeier From middle school to high school Raina dealt with some dental drama including braces, headgear and surgery, as well as crushes, earthquakes and frenemies. Great line: “If playing Nintendo nonstop makes her forget about her teeth . . . I kinda think we should let her play.”

Audiobooks:

**The Absolutely True Story of a Part-time Indian** by Sherman Alexie (CD) It should be no surprise this author has also worked as a stand-up comedian. It will make you laugh so hard you cry. A teenager from the Reservation starts to attend an outside high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Great line: “Mr. P sometimes forgets to come to school! Yep, we have to send a kid down to the teacher’s housing compound behind the school to wake Mr. P . . .”

**Coraline** by Neil Gaiman (CD) This one will scare the pants off you, and Gaiman himself reads it in his British accent. Great line: “She looked just like Coraline’s mother. Only . . . Only her skin was white as paper. Only she was taller and thinner. Only her fingers were too long, and they never stopped moving, and her dark red fingernails were curved and sharp.”

**Little Brother** by Cory Doctorow (CD) A 17-year-old computer hacker is taken into custody by Homeland Security. What he finds out about the government is even scarier than the terrorist attack that prompted his unlawful arrest. Great line: “Never underestimate the determination of a kid who is time-rich and cash-poor.”

**Matched** by Ally Condie (PLAYAWAY) The Society makes all of Cassia’s choices - what to read, what to watch, who to marry - but two faces flash on the screen during her Matching and leaves doubts. Great line: “Except. The face I saw, the face that was not Xander: I knew him, too.”

**Football Genius** by Tim Green (PLAYAWAY) Troy White is an actual football genius, or maybe a psychic. He can watch a team and predict what they will do next. Read by the author, a former Atlanta Falcon, and a full cast. Great line: “That’s when his mom found out she got the job with the Atlanta Falcons. That’s when their whole world got turned upside down.”

**Scorpio Races** by Maggie Stiefvater (PLAYAWAY) The charming British accents of the male and female narrators bring to life this story of first love surrounding a dangerous and supernatural horse race. Great line: “It is the first day of November and so, today, someone will die.”

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