

## Express Yourself: Musical Arts

### Chapter 7 Resources

#### Books

Novels about Music

Cheshire, Simon. *Plastic Fantastic*. Delacorte Press, 2006. 152 p. (978-0385732130). Gr. 7–10. When 15-year-old Dominic, pop music fan, and Lisa Voyd, singer and icon with the band Plastic, are stuck together in an elevator, the encounter results in drastic changes of attitude for both of them.

Cohn, Rachel. *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist*. Knopf, 2007. 183 p. (978-0375835315). Gr. 10–12. High school student Nick O'Leary, member of a rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart.

Cohn, Rachel. *Pop Princess*. Simon & Schuster, 2005. 311 p. (978-1416902638). Gr. 8–12. Yearning to escape the small Massachusetts town where her family retreated after her sister's death, Wonder Blake gets her chance when her sister's manager offers Wonder a record contract on her 16th birthday.

Cook, Trish. *So Lyrical*. New American Library, 2005. 248 p. (978-0451215086). Gr. 7–10. The life of Winnetka, Illinois, high schooler Trace revolves around her young, music-loving mother, an unknown father, a voluptuous best friend who may be going off the deep end, and the rich, gorgeous lead singer in a band.

Denman, K. L. *Battle of the Bands*. Orca Book Publishers, 2006. 97 p. (978-1551435404). Gr. 9–12. Jay and his group, the Lunar Ticks, prepare for a battle of the bands competition to win time in a recording studio.

Dessen, Sarah. *This Lullaby*. Viking, 2004. 345 p. (978-0670035304). Gr. 8–12. Raised by a mother who has had five husbands, 18-year-old Remy believes in short-term, no-commitment relationships until she meets Dexter, a rock band musician.

Frank, Lucy. *Lucky Stars*. Atheneum, 2006. 295 p. (978-0689859335). Gr. 6–8. Music entwines Kira, a 13-year-old singer who hates that her father makes her perform for money on New York City subway platforms; Eugene, the class clown; and Jake, who longs to sing and to approach Kira, but feels held back by his stuttering.

Going, K. L. *Fat Kid Rules the World*. Puffin, 2004. 92 p. (978-0142402085). Gr. 9–12. Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly 300 pounds, gets a new perspective on life when a homeless teenager who is a genius on guitar wants Troy to be the drummer in his rock band.

Henry, Chad. *Dogbreath Victorious*. Holiday House, 1999. 188 p. (978-0823414581). Gr. 7–12. Dogbreath, Tim's alternative Seattle grunge rock band, enters a major battle of the bands contest, but is beaten by The Angry Housewives, a new group fronted by Tim's mother.

Hughes, Mark Peter. *Lemonade Mouth*. Delacorte Press, 2007. 338 p. (978-0385733922). Gr. 6–8. A disparate group of high school students thrown together in detention form a band to play at a school talent show and end up competing with a wildly popular local rock band.

Korman, Gordon. *Born to Rock*. Disney Press, 2008. 261 p. (978-0786809219,

pap.). Gr. 7–12. When Leo Caraway, president of the Young Republicans Club, gets his scholarship to Harvard taken away, he turns to his real father, a lead singer in a punk rock band whom Leo has just recently learned is his father, in hopes that dad will pay for his tuition, but Leo's summer job as the band's roadie teaches him a lot about his dad, his friends, and himself.

Krovatin, Chris. ***Heavy Metal and You***. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2006. 186 p. (978-0439743990, pap.). Gr. 10–12. High schooler Sam begins losing himself when he falls for a preppy girl who wants him to give up getting wasted with his best friends and even his passion for heavy metal music in order to become a better person.

Llewellyn, Sam. ***The Return of Death Eric***. Walker & Co., 2006. 239 p. (978-0802789518). Gr. 6–8. When the band manager disappears and the family is left with no money, the children of Death Eric's lead singer must overcome their embarrassment of his music and convince him to get back on the road in order to save them from financial ruin.

Manning, Sarra. ***Guitar Girl***. Puffin, 2005. 40 p. (978-0142403181, pap.). Gr. 9–12. As her band, The Hormones, becomes an international sensation, 17-year-old Molly begins to question the high cost of fame.

Nelson, Blake. ***Rock Star Superstar***. Puffin, 2006. 56 p. (978-0142405741, pap.). Gr. 9–12. When Pete, a talented bass player, moves from playing in the high school jazz band to playing in a popular rock group, he finds the experience exhilarating even as his new fame jeopardizes his relationship with his girlfriend Margaret.

Nields, Nerissa. ***Plastic Angel***. Orchard Books, 2005. 256 p. (978-0439709132). Gr. 6–9. Thirteen-year-old Randi, an aspiring singer-songwriter, spends the summer forming a band called Plastic Angel with her friend Gellie, and together they also make some decisions about the kind of people they want to be.

Portman, Frank. ***King Dork***. Delacorte Press, 2008. 344 p. (978-0385732918). Gr. 10–12. After stumbling upon one of his father's old books, hints and clues are revealed to a secret past that may lead to answers regarding his father's life and mysterious death.

Tanner, Mike. ***Resurrection Blues***. Firefly Books, 2005. 246 p. (978-1550378979). Gr. 10–12. Excited about the opportunity to go on tour with his band, much like his great-uncle Ray did, 18-year-old Flynn Robinson uproots his entire world, drops out of school, and ends his relationship with Julianne to pursue his dreams of rock-n-roll.

Watts, Leander. ***Beautiful City of the Dead***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. 254 p. (978-0618594436). Gr. 7–12. After joining a heavy metal band, high school student Zee learns that she is a god of water and is called upon to fight sinister forces that want her powers for their own.

Westerfeld, Scott. ***The Last Days***. Penguin, 2007. 289 p. (978-1595141286, pap.). Gr. 9–12. When New York City is plagued by a bizarre epidemic and strange events, Pearl, Moz, and Zahler combine their talents with a vampire lead singer and a drummer who can foresee the coming darkness in hopes of staving off the apocalypse.

Yolen, Jane. ***Troll Bridge: A Rock 'n' Roll Fairy Tale***. Tor Books, 2007. 240 p. (978-0765314260). Gr. 6–8. Sixteen-year-old harpist prodigy Moira is transported to a strange and mystical wilderness, where she finds herself in the middle of a deadly struggle between a magical fox and a monstrous troll.

**Web sites**

*Billboard*, [www.billboard.com](http://www.billboard.com). Billboard.com is the Web site of Billboard magazine, the world's premier music publication.

*Pandora*, [www.pandora.com](http://www.pandora.com). Pandora offers both free (advertising supported) and paid subscriptions where you can listen to streaming music. You choose the type of music you want to listen to.

*Seeqpod*, [www.seeqpod.com](http://www.seeqpod.com). Seeqpod is a playable search engine for music—also video and audio clips, images, podcasts, and more. Search for songs and add them to a playlist.