

WHAT'S New

POLL

43 percent of people 55+ say that the word

NERVOUS

best describes how they feel about being a caregiver, now or in the future.

Source: Harris Interactive for Amedisys Inc.

Trends

50 Going on 15

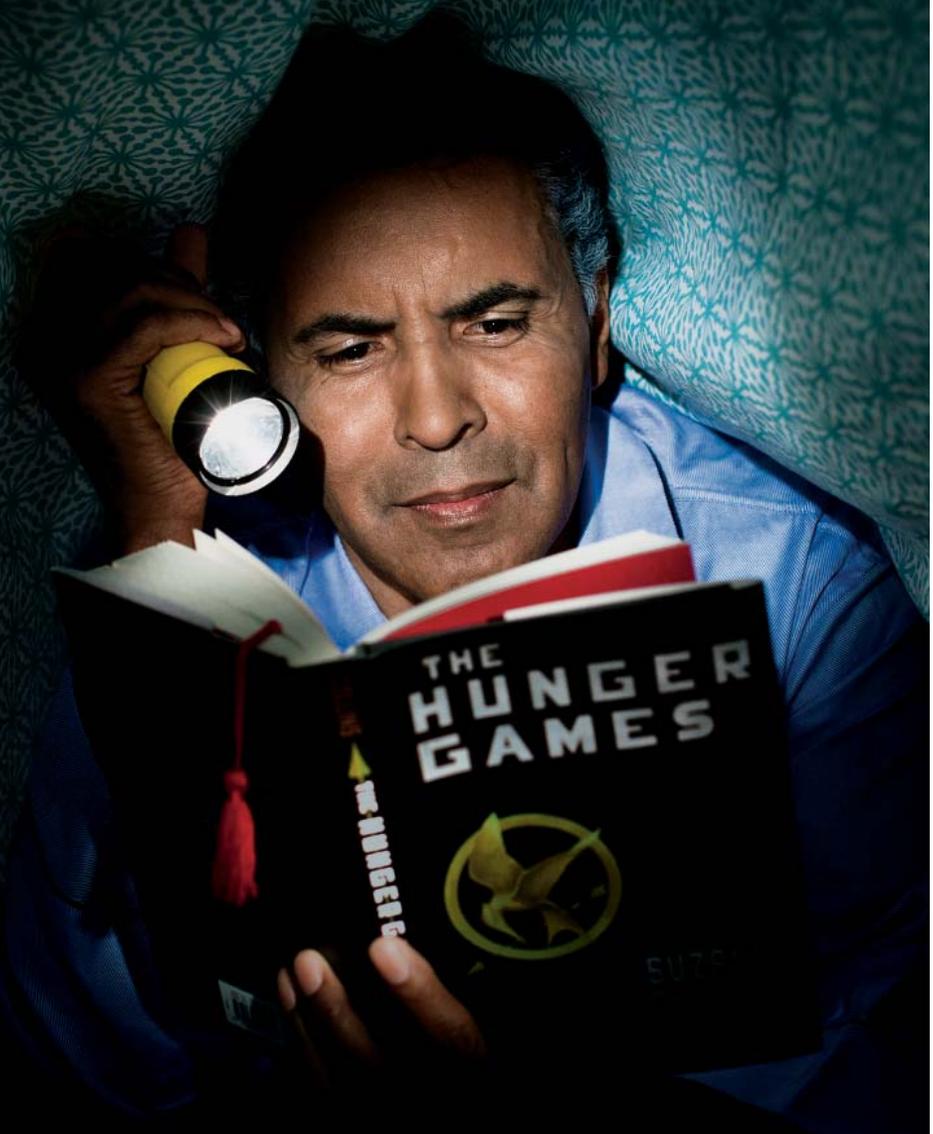
Why the best new fiction for adults is written for teens

BY TRACEY NEITHERCOTT
PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSE RIESER

● Hungry for a deep, dark, addictively absorbing novel? Read *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. The gripping story—a postapocalyptic tale about a teenage girl who fights to survive lethal games televised for sport—has spent more than three years on *The New York Times* best-seller list, and the movie adaptation opens March 23.

The catch: It's teen lit.

But don't worry—the genre isn't just for the young. “The boundary of these books being read only



POLL TYPOGRAPHY BY STEVE SANFORD

by teenagers just isn't there anymore," says David Levithan, a young-adult author and editorial director of Scholastic Press. "Adults are really enjoying the books." They're also driving up revenues. Sales of books for children, teens, and young adults rose by 12 percent from 2008 through 2010. (Sales of adult fiction, meanwhile, rose only 3.5 percent.)

Teen lit is so hot that best-selling adult authors like James Patterson, John Grisham, and Candace Bushnell recently released their own young-adult titles. "This is the best genre for escapism," says Becky Anderson, co-owner of Anderson's Bookshops in Illinois. Budding romances, elaborate settings, well-planned plots—

"I realized I liked the young-adult books I was reading better than most adult ones," reveals retired English teacher Sharon Corbitt, 67, of Covina, California.

So which books should be on your list? Try our new picks (at left) and talk to—who else?—teens. Then visit blogs such as TheStorySiren.com and StackedBooks.org to find even more titles. If you still worry this genre is too juvenile—don't. Levithan has gotten fan mail from readers ages 17 to 70. "A good book is a good book," he says, "whatever the category." ■

TEEN LIT YOU'LL LOVE

PARTIALS

by Dan Wells

A teen medic-in-training tries to save what's left of the human race during a battle with the Partial, engineered humanoids.

THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

by John Green

Green weaves a tale of life, death, and uncertainty through the story of a girl in remission from cancer.

FRACTURE

by Megan Miranda

A teen girl is revived after nearly drowning, only to find she can sense death.

Trends



Rent Out Your Stuff

● You know that pressure washer and punch bowl gathering dust in your garage? Now you can make money off of them. Recently launched websites like SnapGoods.com and Rentalic.com let you rent everything from your power tools to your Prius to local borrowers. You set the fee—say, \$5 a day for a blender, \$10 a day for a lawnmower—borrowers pick up your item, and websites frequently take a cut, typically between 5 and 10 percent. Borrowing is smart, too: Renée Linde, 52, of Sausalito, California, recently posted a Mini Cooper rental request on Zaarly.com. Within two minutes someone agreed to her \$50-a-day offer: "It was just so effortless," she says. Score! —Melody Warnick

Ah, youth! Sometimes We Don't Miss It!



The Reality of Reality TV

More proof that shows like *Jersey Shore* are junk: Tween and teen girls who regularly view reality TV accept and expect a higher level of drama, aggression, and bullying in their own lives, a recent survey by the Girl Scout Research Institute finds. And they tend to measure their worth by their physical appearance. The news isn't all bad—reality viewers have more leadership aspirations—but here's hoping today's girls get more into cookies than Snooki. —Leslie Quander Wooldridge