Books for Boys & Other Children Who Would Rather Make Forts All Day

An ongoing list of literature & related resources for parents & teachers
It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it. – Oscar Wilde
Recommended Reading List

By Andrew Pudewa

Poetry
Pudewa, Andrew, ed. *Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization* available at IEW.com/LDP-D

Bennett, William J., ed. *The Book of Virtues—A Treasury of Great Moral Stories*

Bennett, William J., ed. *The Moral Compass—Stories for a Life’s Journey*

Berquist, Laura M. *The Harp and Laurel Wreath*

Blishen, Edward, ed. *Oxford Book of Poetry for Children*

Bloom, Harold, ed. *Stories and Poems for Extremely Intelligent Children of All Ages*

Carman, Bliss, ed. *The Oxford Book of American Verse*

Copeland, Lewis and Lawrence W. Lamm, eds. *The World’s Great Speeches*

The Editorial Board of the University Society, eds. *The Home University Bookshelf Vol. V Famous Stories and Verse*

Felleman, Hazel, ed. *The Best-Loved Poems of the American People*

Ferris, Helen, ed. *Favorite Poems Old and New*

Hohn, Max T., ed. *Stories in Verse*

Lear, Edward *A Book of Nonsense; A Treasury of the World’s Best-Loved Poems*

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Compiled by Maria Gerber

Books that intelligent, quick-thinking children enjoy reading are relevant to them:

- Identification with a virtuous, charismatic protagonist
- Interest in adventure, risk, conflict, battles, danger
- Fascination & at the same time revulsion: disgusting foods, slimy bugs, poisonous creatures
- Spatial reasoning: architecture, maps, clues, math
- Physical humor, unpredictable actions, absurdity, exaggeration
- Inspirational heroes who overcome animals, monsters, villains, nature
- A game with both potential gain and loss
- Weaponry, tools, and machines

Most of the books listed on the next few pages are considered classics; they have endured
for various—some considerable—lengths of time. Morally sound, relevant books facilitate children’s virtuous character development; the Good and Great Books help young readers to understand themselves and other persons’ needs, so that they are more likely to make their forts on solid rock, not sand.

**Grades Preschool–2**

Andersen, Hans Christian  ‘The Ugly Duckling,’’The Emperor’s New Clothes,’’ ‘‘The Steadfast Tin Soldier’’

Bendick, Jeanne  *Archimedes and the Door of Science*

Bishop & Wiese  *The Five Chinese Brothers*

Burton, Virginia Lee  *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*

Carle, Eric  *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

Flack, Marjorie  *Angus and the Ducks*

Gag, Wanda  *Millions of Cats*

Galdone, Paul  *The Elves and the Shoemaker, retold*

Grahame, Kenneth  *The Wind in the Willows*

Grimm Brothers  numerous fairy tales

Guthrie, Woody  *This Land Is Your Land*

Harris, Joel Chandler  *Favorite Uncle Remus*

Joosse, Barbara M.  *Mama, Do You Love Me?*

Keats, Ezra Jack  *The Snowy Day*

Kipling, Rudyard  *Rikki Tikki Tavi*

Lang, Andrew  *The Blue Fairy Book; The Red Fairy Book, etc.*

Leaf, Munro  *The Story of Ferdinand*

Lear, Edward  *A Book of Nonsense*

Lester, Julius  *John Henry; Sam & the Tigers*

Martin, Bill  *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*

Milne, A.A.  *Winnie the Pooh Series*

Moses, Will  *Johnny Appleseed: the Story of a Legend*

Numeroff, Laura Joffe  *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*

Piper, Watty  *The Little Engine that Could*

Rey, Hans A.  *Curious George Series*

Sendak, Maurice  *Where the Wild Things Are*

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman  *Nate the Great Series*

Slobodkina, Esphyr  *Caps for Sale*

Viorst, Judith  *Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*

**Resources for Parents & Teachers**

Berquist, Laura  *The Harp and Laurel Wreath*

Gatto, John  *Weapons of Mass Instruction*

Kalpakgian, Mitchell  *The Mysteries of Life in Children’s Literature*


Project Gutenberg  free downloadable e-books [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)

Pudewa, Andrew  *Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization* available at [IEW.com/LDP-D](http://IEW.com/LDP-D)
Pudewa, Andrew  *Teaching Boys & Other Children Who Would Rather Make Forts All Day*

_DVD_ available at [IEW.com/TB-D](http://IEW.com/TB-D)

Van DeMille, Oliver  *A Thomas Jefferson Education*

**Level A grades 3–5**

Bennett, William J., ed.  *The Book of Virtues—A Treasury of Great Moral Stories*

Brandt, Keith  *Daniel Boone: Frontier Adventures*

Catling, Patrick Skene  *The Chocolate Touch*

Cooney, Barbara, adaptor  *Chanticleer and the Fox*

Cousins, Margaret  *The Story of Thomas Alva Edison*

Dalgliesh, Alice  *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain*

D’Aulaire, Edgar Parin & Ingri  *Book of Greek Myths; Christopher Columbus; Leif the Lucky; George Washington*

Dickens, Charles  *A Christmas Carol*

Dixon, Franklin W.  *The Hardy Boys Series*

Gauch, Patricia Lee  *Aaron and the Green Mountain Boys*

Greene, Carol  *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Musical Genius*

Hawthorne, Nathaniel  *Tanglewood Tales aka The Wonder Book*

Holling, H.C.  *Paddle-to-the-Sea; Tree in the Trail*

Hurwitz, Johanna  *The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein*

Irving, Washington  *Rip van Winkle*

Kroll, Steven  *Lewis & Clark: Explorers of the American West*

Lawson, Robert  *Ben and Me*

Lewis, C.S.  *The Chronicles of Narnia Series*

McCloskey, Robert  *Homer Price*

Monsell, Helen Albee  *Robert E. Lee: Young Confederates*

Nesbit, Edith  *Five Children and It*

Reit, Seymour  *Guns for General Washington*

Rockwell, Thomas  *How to Eat Fried Worms*

Roddy, Lee  *Robert E. Lee*

Seuss, Dr.  *Five Hundred Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*

Stanley, Diane  *Leonardo da Vinci*

Stevenson, Robert Louis  *Kidnapped*

Twain, Mark  *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*

White, E.B.  *Stuart Little*

Wyss, Johann David  *Swiss Family Robinson*

Yates, Elizabeth  *Amos Fortune, Free Man*

**Resources for Parents & Elementary Teachers**

Berquist, Laura  *The Harp and Laurel Wreath*

Gatto, John  *Weapons of Mass Instruction*

Kalpakgian, Mitchell  *The Mysteries of Life in Children’s Literature*

Level B grades 6–8
Armstrong, Jennifer  Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance
Armstrong, William  Sounder
Bennett, William  The Book of Virtues
Burroughs, Edgar Rice  Tarzan Series
Colum, Padraic  The Children’s Homer: The Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy
Forbes, Esther  Johnny Tremain
Freedman, Russell  Lincoln: A Photobiography
Holling, H.C.  Minn of the Mississippi
Kieth, Harold  Rifles for Watie
Latham, Jean  Carry On, Mr. Bowditch
London, Jack  The Call of the Wild; White Fang
MacCauley, David  Castle; City, Pyramid; The Way Things Work
McSwigan, Marie  Snow Treasure
Perry, Armstrong  Call It Courage
Pyle, Howard  The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood; The Story of King Arthur & His Knights
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan  The Yearling
Reilly, Robert T.  Red Hugh, Prince of Donegal
Serraillier, Ian  Escape from Warsaw
Speare, Elizabeth  The Bronze Bow
Stanley, Diane  Michelangelo
Steinbeck, John  The Red Pony
Tolkien, J.R.R.  The Hobbit
Twain, Mark  The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Verne, Jules  The Mysterious Island; 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
Whitesel, Cheryl Aylward  Blue Fingers: a Ninja’s Tale
Wojciechowska, Maia  Shadow of a Bull

Resources for Parents & Middle School Teachers
Berquist, Laura  The Harp and Laurel Wreath
Gatto, John  Weapons of Mass Instruction
Kalpakgian, Mitchell  The Mysteries of Life in Children’s Literature
Project Gutenberg free downloadable e-books  www.gutenberg.org
Pudewa, Andrew  *Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization* available at IEW.com/LDP-D
Pudewa, Andrew  *Teaching Boys & Other Children Who Would Rather Make Forts All Day DVD* available at IEW.com/TB-D
Van DeMille, Oliver  *A Thomas Jefferson Education*

**Level C** grades 9–12
Bello, Hilaire  *Joan of Arc; How the Reformation Happened*
Bullfinch  *Mythology*
Cather, Willa  *Death Comes for the Archbishop; Shadows on the Rock*
Colum, Padraic  *Jason and the Golden Fleece*
Connell, Richard  “The Most Dangerous Game”
Dickens, Charles  *Oliver Twist; David Copperfield*
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan  *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*
Dumas, Alexandre  *The Count of Monte Cristo; The Man in the Iron Mask*
Eliot, T.S.  *Murder in the Cathedral*
Farrow, John  *Damian the Leper*
Frank, Anne  *The Diary of a Young Girl*
Harte, Bret  “The Luck of Roaring Camp”
Kalpakjian, Mitchell  *The Mysteries of Life in Children’s Literature*
Lee, Harper  *To Kill a Mockingbird*
Lewis, C.S.  *Space Trilogy: Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, That Hideous Strength; Mere Christianity: The Four Loves; The Screwtape Letters*
London, Jack  *The Sea Wolf; “To Build a Fire”*
Lorenz, Konrad  *King Solomon’s Ring*
Melville, Herman  *Billy Budd, Sailor*
O.Henry  “The Gift of the Magi;” “The Ransom of Red Chief”
Orwell, George  *Animal Farm; 1984*
Poe, Edgar Allen  “The Telltale Heart;” other short stories
Roper, William  *The Life of Sir Thomas More*
Schaefer, Jack  *Shane*
Shaara, Michael  *Killer Angels*
Shakespeare  *Taming of the Shrew; Merchant of Venice; Macbeth; Julius Caesar*
Shelley, Mary  *Frankenstein*
Sienkiewicz, Henryk  *Quo Vadis?*
Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr  *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*
Steinbeck, John  *The Grapes of Wrath; The Pearl*
Stevenson, Robert Louis  *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
Sutcliff, Rosemary  *Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad; The Wanderings of Odysseus: The Story of the Odyssey*
Tolkien, J.R.R.  *Lord of the Rings Trilogy*
Twain, Mark  *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; Pudd’nhead Wilson*
Verne, Jules  *Journey to the Center of the Earth*
Washington, Booker T.  *Up from Slavery*
Waugh, Evelyn  *Edmund Campion*
Wells, H.G.  *The Invisible Man; The Time Machine; The War of the Worlds*
Resources for Parents & High School Teachers
Berquist, Laura  The Harp and Laurel Wreath
Gatto, John  Weapons of Mass Instruction
Parker, ed. Thomas K.  The American Short Story
Project Gutenberg free downloadable e-books  www.gutenberg.org
Pudewa, Andrew  Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization
Van DeMille, Oliver  A Thomas Jefferson Education

Reading Lists Excerpted from Teaching the Classics, by Adam and Missy Andrews, available at  IEW.com/TTC-D

Here are some of the books we love. This list is by no means exhaustive, of course. We are firmly convinced, in fact, that there is no such thing as an exhaustive list of good books! You will find great pleasure, if you haven’t already, in building a reading list of your own, and to that end we redirect your attention to the booklist resources listed.... If you are new to book gathering and would benefit from knowing where to start, here are some suggestions.

Stories for Young Children
Aardema, Verna  Why Mosquitos Buzz in People’s Ears
Ackerman, Karen  Song and Dance Man
Azarian, Mary  Snowflake Bentley
Bemelmans, Ludwig  Madeline
Brett, Jan  The Mitten
Brown, Marcia  Stone Soup
Brown, Margaret Wise  Goodnight Moon; The Little Fir Family; The Runaway Bunny
Cohen, Barbara and Trina Schart Hyman  The Canterbury Tales, retold
Cooney, Barbara  Miss Rumphius
Dr. Seuss  Horton Hears a Who
Duvoisin, Roger  Petunia
Eastman, Philip D.  Are You My Mother?
Falconer, Ian  Olivia
Fox, Mem  Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge
Freeman, Don  Dandelion
Gramatky, Hardie  Little Toot
Hall, Donald and Barbara Cooney  The Ox-Cart Man
Hoban, Russell and Lillian  A Bargain for Frances; Bedtime for Frances; Bread and Jam for Frances
Hoberman, Mary Ann  A House is a House for me
Hyman, Trina Schart  Saint George and the Dragon
Krauss, Ruth  The Carrot Seed
Lionni, Leo  The Biggest House in the World
MacLachlan, Patricia  All the Places to Love
McCloskey, Robert  Blueberries for Sal; Make Way for Ducklings
Ness, Evaline  Sam, Bangs, and Moonshine
Pfister, Marcus  The Rainbow Fish
Polacco, Patricia  Thunder Cake
Potter, Beatrix  The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Priceman, Marjorie  How to Make an Apple and See the World
Rylant, Cynthia  Henry and Mudge
Steig, William  Amos and Boris; Brave Irene
Steward, Sarah and David Small  The Gardener
Tiller, Ruth  Cinnamon, Mint & Mothballs: A Visit to Grandmother’s House
Turkle, Brinton  Thy Friend, Obadiah
Van Allsburg, Chris  The Polar Express
Waber, Bernard  You Look Ridiculous Said the Rhinoceros to the Hippopotamus
Ward, Lynd  The Biggest Bear
Yolen, Jane  All Those Secrets of The World; Owl Moon
Ziefert, Harriet  A New Coat for Anna
Zolotow, Charlotte  Big Sister and Little Sister; Something is Going to Happen

Juvenile Fiction
Alcott, Louisa May  Little Women
Alexander, Lloyd  The Book of Three
Atwater, Richard and Florence  Mr. Popper’s Penguins
Babbitt, Natalie  Tuck Everlasting
Banks, Lynne Reid  The Indian in the Cupboard
Bibee, John  The Magic Bicycle
Brink, Carol Ryrie  Caddie Woodlawn
Burgess, Alan  The Small Woman
Burnett, Frances Hodgson  The Secret Garden
Burnford, Sheila  The Incredible Story
Cleary, Beverly  Henry and Ribsy
Dahl, Roald  Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
De Angeli, Marguerite  A Door in the Wall
Edmonds, Walter  The Matchlock Gun
Estes, Eleanor  The Moffats
Field, Rachel  Calico Bush
Fitzgerald, John D.  The Great Brain
Fritz, Jean  The Cabin Faced West
Gannett, Ruth S.  My Father’s Dragon
Gates, Doris  Blue Willow
George, Jean Craighead  My Side of the Mountain
Gilbreth, Frank and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey  Cheaper by the Dozen
Gilpin, Fred  Old Yeller
Gray, Elizabeth Janet  Adam of the Road
Henry, Marguerite  Misty of Chincoteague
Hunt, Irene  Across Five Aprils
Juster, Norton  The Phantom Tollbooth
Keene, Carolyn  Nancy Drew Series
Kipling, Rudyard  The Jungle Book

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Konigsburg, E.L.  *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*
Lamb, Charles and Mary  *Tales from Shakespeare*
Lawson, Robert  *Rabbit Hill*
Leaf, Munro  *Wee Gillis*
Lenski, Lois  *Strawberry Girl*
Lindgren, Astrid  *Pippi Longstocking*
MacDonald, George  *The Princess and the Goblin*
MacLachlan, Patricia  *Sarah, Plain, and Tall*
Meigs, Cornelia  *Invincible Louisa*
Merrill, Jean  *The Pushcart War*
Montgomery, L.M.  *Anne of Green Gables*
Morey, Walt  *Gentle Ben*
Mowat, Farley  *Owls in the Family*
Neimark, Anne E.  *Touch of Light: The Story of Louis Braille*
Nesbit, Edith  *The Enchanted Castle*
O’Brien, Robert  *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*
O’Dell, Scott  *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
Pyle, Howard  *Otto of the Silver Hand*
Rackham, Arthur and C.S. Evens  *Cinderella*
Rawls, Wilson  *Where the Red Fern Grows*
Robinson, Barbara  *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*
Selden, George  *The Cricket in Times Square*
Sewall, Marcia  *Pilgrims of Plymouth*
Spyri, Johanna  *Heidi*
Sterling, Dorothy  *Freedom Train*
Taylor, Mildred  *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
Warner, Gertrude C.  *The Boxcar Children*
White, E.B.  *Charlotte’s Web; The Trumpet of the Swan*
Wiggin, Kate Douglas  *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*
Wilder, Laura Ingalls  *Little House on the Prairie*

**High School Fiction**
Adams, Richard  *Watership Down*
Austen, Jane  *Pride and Prejudice*
____________,  *Beowulf*
Bradbury, Ray  *The Martian Chronicles*
Bronte, Charlotte  *Jane Eyre*
Cather, Willa  *My Antonia*
Chaucer, Geoffrey  *The Canterbury Tales*
Conrad, Joseph  *The Heart of Darkness*
Cooper, James Fenimore  *The Last of the Mohicans*
Costain, Thomas  *The Silver Chalice*
Crane, Stephen  *The Red Badge of Courage*
D’Orczy, Baroness  *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
Dante,  *The Divine Comedy*
Defoe, Daniel  *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*
Dickens, Charles  *Great Expectations*
Dillard, Annie  *A Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
Dumas, Alexandre  *The Three Musketeers*
Forester, C.S.  *Lieutenant Hornblower*
Hemingway, Ernest  *The Old Man and The Sea*
Henty, G.A.  *The Cat of Bubastis*
Herriot, James  *All Creatures Great and Small*
Heyerdahl, Thor  *Kon-Tiki*
Hilton, James  *Good-bye Mr. Chips*
Hugo, Victor  *Les Miserables*
Irving, Washington  *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*
Jacques, Brian  *Redwall*
Kipling, Rudyard  *Captains Courageous*
Lewis, C.S.  *The Great Divorce; Space Trilogy: Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, That Hideous Strength*
Maclean, Alistair  *The Guns of Navarone*
Marshall, Catherine  *Christy*
Milton, John  *Paradise Lost*
Porter, Gene Stratton  *A Girl of the Limberlost*
Potok, Chaim  *The Chosen*
Pyle, Howard  *Men of Iron*
Reeves, James  *The Exploits of Don Quixote*
Richter, Conrad  *The Light in the Forest*
Shakespeare, William  *The Riverside Shakespeare*
Stevenson, Robert Louis  *Treasure Island*
Ten Boom, Corrie  *The Hiding Place*
Tolkien, J.R.R., trans.  *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
Tolstoy, Leo  *Anna Karenina*
Ullman, James Ramsey  *Banner in the Sky*
Verne, Jules  *Around the World in 80 Days*
Vernon, Louise  *Ink On His Fingers*
Virgil  *The Aeneid*
Wiseman, Cardinal Nicholas Patrick  *Fabiola or The Church of the Catacombs*