

Classical Literature Reading List

Kindergarten Through Second Grade

Fables, Folk Tales and Fairy Tales

Aesop. *Aesop's Fables*
Andersen, Hans Christian. *Hans Andersen: His Classic Fairy Tales*
Brown, Marcia. *Stone Soup*
Garner, Alan. *Alan Garner's Fairytales of Gold*
Grimm, Brothers. *Many Furs*
Grimm, The Brothers. *Fairy Tales*
Lang, Andrew. *The Red Fairy Book*

Fantasies

Alexander, Lloyd. *Coll and His White Pig*
Alexander, Lloyd. *The Truthful Harp*
Bach, Alice. *The Smartes Bear and His Brother Oliver*
Barklem, Jill. *The Big Book of Brambly Hedge*
Barrett, Judi. *Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing*
Berenstain, Stan and Jan. *The Berenstain Bears Go to School*
Brook, L. Leslie. *Johnny Crow's Garden*
Brown, Margaret Wise. *The Little Fur Family*
Bulla, Clyde Robert. *Dandelion Hill*
Burgess, Thornton, W. *Old Mother West Wind*
Carle, Eric. *The Rooster Who Set Out to See the World*
Clymer, Eleanor. *Leave Horatio Alone*
Cole, Brock. *The King at the Door*
Dalgliesh, Alice. *The Little Wooden Farmer*
De Brunhoff, Jean. *The Story of Babar*
Delton, Judy. *Penny-Wise—Fun Foolish*
Erickson, Russell E. *A Toad for Tuesday*
Ets, Marie Hall. *In the Forest*
Ets, Marie Hall. *Play with Me*
Flack, Marjorie and Kurt Wiese. *The Story About Ping*
Gag, Wanda. *Millions of Cats*
Galdone, Paul. *The Little Red Hen*
Godden, Rumer. *The Fairy Doll*
Godden, Rumer. *A Kindle of Kittens*
Goodall, John S. *Creepy Castle*
Goodall, John S. *The Midnight Adventures of Kelly, Dot, and Esmeralda*
Grahame, Kenneth. *The Twenty-Elephant Restaurant*
Johnston, Tony. *Night Noises and Other Mole and Troll Stories*
Keats, Ezra Jack. *Jennie's Hat*
Kipling, Rudyard. *Just-So Stories*
Kraus, Robert. *Leo the Late Bloomer*
Kuskin, Karla. *James and the Rain*
Lionni, Leo. *The Biggest House in the World*

Fantasies (K-2)

Lionni, Leo. *Inch by Inch*
Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad Are Friends*
Lobel, Arnold. *Mouse Soup*
MacDonald, Betty. *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*
McCloskey, Robert. *Make Way for Ducklings*
Milne, A. A. *Winnie the Pooh ;The House at Pooh Corner*
Minarik, Else Holmelund. *Little Bear's Friend*
Oakley, Graham. *The Church Mouse*
Peet, Bill. *The Luckiest One of All*
Piper, Watty. *The Little Engine That Could*
Potter, Beatrix. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*
Smith, Jim. *The Frog Band and the Onion Seller*
Steig, William. *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*
Tomlinson, Jill. *Hilda the Hen Who Wouldn't Give Up*
Wahl, Jan. *The Pleasant Fieldmouse Strorybook*
White, E. B. *Charlotte's Web*
Williams, Margery. *The Velveteen Rabbit*
Wondriska, William. *Mr. Brown and Mr. Gray*
Zion, Gene. *Harry the Dirty Dog*

Realistic Modern Stories

Ainsworth, Ruth. *The Ruth Ainsworth Book*
Bemelmans, Ludwig. *Madeline*
Beskow, Elso. *Pelle's New Suit*
Blades, Ann. *Mary of Mile 18*
Borten, Helen. *Do You Know What I Know?*
Carle, Eric. *Pancakes, Pancakes*
Carlson, Natalie Savage. *The Happy Orpheline*
De Paola, Tomie. *Now One Foot*
Gordon, Shirley. *The Boy Who Wanted a Family*
Gundersheimer, Karen. *Happy Winter*
Hoban, Russell. *A Birthday for Frances*
Keller, Beverly. *The Beetle Bush*
Keller, Beverly. *Fiona's Flea*
Keller, Beverly. *Pimm's Place*
Lasky, Kathryn. *My Island Grandma*
McClowskey, Robert. *Time of Wonder*
McGinley, Phyllis. *The Most Wonderful Doll in the World*
Miles, Miska. *Aaron's Door*
Sayler, Mary H. *Why Are You Home, Dad?*
Scott, Ann Herbert. *On Mother's Lap*

Spier, Peter. *Crash! Bang! Boom!*
Spier, Peter. *Peter Spier's Christmas*
Spier, Peter. *Peter Spier's Rain*
Waybill, Marjorie. *Chinese Eyes*
Welber, Robert. *Frog, Frog, Frog*
Yashima, Taro. *Crow Boy*

Preschool and Kindergarten

Bemelmans, Ludwig. **MADLINE**. 1939. Caldecott Honor Book

Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an appendicitis attack.

Bourgeois, Paulette. **FRANKLIN IN THE DARK**. 1986

A turtle, afraid of small dark places and therefore of crawling into its shell, asks a number of animals for advice, only to find out that each has a fear of its own.

Brown, Marcia. **STONE SOUP: AN OLD TALE**. 1947. Caldecott Honor Book.

When three hungry soldiers come to a town where all the food has been hidden, they set out to make soup of water and stones, and the whole town enjoys the feast.

Burton, Virginia Lee. **MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL**. 1939.

When Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel, Mary Ann, lose their jobs to the gasoline, electric, and diesel motor shovels, they go to a little country town where they find that one new job leads to another.

Carle, Eric. **THE GROUCHY LADYBUG**. 1977.

A grouchy ladybug looking for a fight challenges everyone she meets regardless of size or strength.

Carle, Eric. **THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR**. 1970.

A hungry little caterpillar eats his way through a large and varied quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep.

Flack, Marjorie. **THE STORY ABOUT PING**. Illustrated by Kurt Wiese. 1933.

A little duck finds adventure on the Yangtze River when he is too late to board his master's houseboat one evening.

Gag, Wanda. **MILLIONS OF CATS**. 1928. Newbery Honor Book

A hill has "millions and billions and trillions of cats" who eat each other up until there is only one cat left.

Gramatky, Hardie. **LITTLE TOOT**. 1939

Little Toot visits the beautiful palaces of Venice, travels its secluded waterways, and learns a skill that helps him save the city from thieving pirates.

Hoff, Syd. **SAMMY, THE SEAL.** 1959.

After discovering what it is like outside the zoo, Sammy decides there is no place like home.

Keats, Ezra Jack. **THE SNOWY DAY.** 1962. Caldecott Medal.

The adventures of a little boy occur in the city on a very snowy day.

Krauss, Ruth. **THE CARROT SEED.** Illustrated by Crockett Johnson. 1945.

Simple text and pictures show how the faith of a small boy who planted a carrot seed was rewarded.

Martin, Bill. **BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE?** Illustrated by Eric Carle. 1967.

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a mother looking at them.

McCloskey, Robert. **BLUEBERRIES FOR SAL.** 1948. Caldecott Honor Book.

Little Sal and Little Bear both lose their mothers while eating blueberries and almost end up with each other's mother.

Minarik, Else Holmelund. **LITTLE BEAR.** Illustrated by Maurice Sendak. 1957.

Four stories center about Mother Bear and her Little Bear, who not only takes a trip to the moon but has a birthday party as well.

Pfister, Marcus. **THE RAINBOW FISH.** 1992

The most beautiful fish in the entire ocean discovers the real value of personal beauty and friendship.

Potter, Beatrix. **THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT.** 1903.

Peter almost gets caught when he disobeys his mother by going into Mr. McGregor's garden.

Sendak, Maurice. **WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE.** 1963. Caldecott Medal.

A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things, where he becomes their king.

Seuss, Dr., **HORTON HATCHES THE EGG.** 1960.

Bored with hatching an egg, a lazy bird persuades Horton the elephant to do their job.

Preschool and Kindergarten

Spier, Peter. **NOAH'S ARK**. 1977. Caldecott Medal

This familiar story is retold in pictures to illustrate how a pair of every creature climbed on board Noah's ark and thereby survived the Flood.

White, E. B. **CHARLOTTE'S WEB**. Illustrated by Garth Williams. 1952. Newbery Honor Book.

Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend Charlotte decides to help him.

Zion, Gene. **HARRY THE DIRTY DOG**. Illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham. 1956.

When a white dog with black spots runs away from home, he gets so dirty that his family doesn't recognize him as a black dog with white spots.

Additional Books for Preschool and Kindergarten

Anno, Mitsumasa, ANNO'S COUNTING BOOK
Barrett, Judith, CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS
Bates, Lucy, LITTLE RABBIT'S LOOSE TOOTH
Bemelmans, Ludwig, MADELINE SERIES
Berenstain, Stan and Jan, BERENSTAIN BEARS SERIES
Bourgeois, Paulette, FRANKLIN SERIES
Bridwell, Norman, CLIFFORD SERIES
Brown, Margaret Wise, GOODNIGHT MOON and RUNAWAY BUNNY
Brunoff, Laurent de, BABAR SERIES
Burton, Virginia Lee, THE LITTLE HOUSE
Carle, Eric, THE VERY BUSY SPIDER, and THE VERY QUIET CRICKET
Dougherty, James, ANDY AND THE LION
Eastman, Philip O., ARE YOU MY MOTHER?
Ehlert, Lois, RED LEAF, YELLOW LEAF
Flack, Marjorie, ASK MR. BEAR and ANGUS THE CAT
Freeman, Don, CORDUROY, A POCKET FOR CORDUROY, and DANDELION
Galdone, Paul, LITTLE RED HEN
Heller, Ruth, CHICKENS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES
Hoban, Lillian, FRANCES SERIES
Hoff, Syd, DANNY AND THE DINOSAUR
Hunt, Angela Elwell, THE TALE OF THREE TREES
Hutchens, Pat, THE DOORBELL RANG and ROSIES WALK
Johnson, Crocket, HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON
Joslin, Sesyle, WHAT DO YOU SAY DEAR?
Keats, Ezra Jack, OVER IN THE MEADOW, PETER'S CHAIR, and A WHISTLE FOR WILLIE
Krauss, Ruth, LEO THE LATE BLOOMER
Leaf, Munro, STORY OF FERDINAND
Lionni, Leo, INCH BY INCH, FREDERICK, and SWIMMY
Lobel, Arnold, FROG AND TOAD SERIES
Marshall, James, GEORGE AND MARTHA
Martin, Bill, CHICKA CHICKA BOOM BOOM
McCloskey, Robert, MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS and ONE MORNING IN MAINE
Milne, A. A., WINNIE THE POOH SERIES
Numeroff, Laura, IF YOU GIVE A MOOSE A MUFFIN and IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE
Payne, Emmy, KATY NO-POCKET
Piper, Watty, THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD
Rey, Hans Augusto, CURIOUS GEORGE SERIES
Seuss, Dr., CAT IN THE HAT and GREEN EGGS IN HAM
Steig, William, SYLVESTER AND THE MAGIC PEBBLE
Waber, Bernard, IRA SLEEPS OVER and LYLE, LYLE CROCODILE
Williams, Vera, THE VELVETEEN RABBIT
Zolotow, Charlotte, THE SLEEPY BOOK

First and Second Grades

Aardema, Verna. *WHY MOSQUITOES BUZZ IN PEOPLE'S EARS: A WEST AFRICAN TALE*. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. 1975. Caldecott Medal.

The story reveals the meaning of the mosquito's buzz.

Allard, Harry. *MISS NELSON IS MISSING!* Illustrated by James Marshall. 1977.

The children in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a substitute.

Bemelmans, Ludwig. *MADLINE*. 1939. Caldecott Honor Book.

Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis.

Bianco, Margery Williams. *THE VELVETEEN RABBIT*. 1922.

By the time the velveteen rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real.

Burton, Virginia Lee. *MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL*. 1939.

When Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel, Mary Ann, lose their jobs to the gasoline, electric, and diesel motor shovels, they go to a little country town where they find that one new job leads to another.

Carle, Eric. *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR*. 1970.

A very hungry little caterpillar eats his way through a large and varied quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep.

Cleary, Beverly. *THE MOUSE AND THE MOTORCYCLE*. Illustrated by Louis Darling. 1965.

A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling.

Dalglish, Alice. *THE COURAGE OF SARAH NOBLE*. Illustrated by Leonard Weisgard. 1954. Newbury Honor Book.

An eight-year-old girl finds courage to go alone with her father to build a home in the Connecticut wilderness and stay with the Indians when her father goes back for the rest of the family.

Dobson, Danae. *WOOF FINDS A FAMILY*. 1989.

When a shaggy mutt saves the life of six-year-old Mark, the Petersons adopt the stray dog.

Freeman, Don. *CORDUROY*. 1968.

A toy bear in a department store wants a number of things, but when a little girl finally buys him, he finds what he always wanted most.

Hall, Donald. *OX-CART MAN*. Illustrated by Barbara Cooney. 1979. Caldecott Medal.

The day-to-day life through the changing seasons of an early 19th-century New England family is described.

Hoff, Syd. *DANNY AND THE DINOSAUR*. 1958.

A little boy is surprised and pleased when one of the dinosaurs from the museum agrees to play with him.

Keats, Ezra Jack. *THE SNOWY DAY*. 1962. Caldecott Medal.

Relates the adventures of a little boy on a very snowy day in the city.

Lobel, Arnold. *FROG AND TOAD ARE FRIENDS*. 1970. Caldecott Honor Book.

Five tales recount the adventures of two best friends, Frog and Toad.

McCloskey, Robert. *MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS*. 1941. Caldecott Medal.

A mallard family make their home near a pond in the Public Garden in Boston.

Murphy, Elspeth Campbell. *THE MYSTERY OF THE CAROUSEL HORSE*. 1988.

Three cousins try to keep an elderly neighbor from being cheated out of an antique wooden carousel horse, learning to understand the biblical commandment, "You shall not covet."

Parish, Peggy. *AMELIA BEDELIA*. 1963.

A literal-minded housekeeper causes a ruckus in the household when she attempts to make sense of some instruction.

Potter, Beatrix. *THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT*. 1903.

Peter almost gets caught when he disobeys his mother by going into Mr. McGregor's garden.

Sendak, Maurice. *WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE*. 1963. Caldecott Medal.

A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things, where he becomes their king.

First and Second Grades

Shaw, Janet Beeler. *MEET KIRSTEN, AN AMERICAN GIRL*. 1986.

Nine-year-old Kirsten and her family experience many hardships as they travel from Sweden to the Minnesota frontier in 1854.

Slobodkina, Esphyr. *CAPS FOR SALE: A TALE OF A PEDDLER, SOME MONKEYS, AND THEIR MONKEY BUSINESS*. 1949.

A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree.

Tresselt, Alvin R. *THE MITTEN: AN OLD UKRAINIAN FOLKTALE*. Illustrated by Yaroslavl. 1964.

A boy's lost mitten provides a refuge for a mélange of forest animals. The animals are portrayed with naturalistic detail, yet their feelings and personalities are conveyed with clarity and humor.

Waber, Bernard. *IRA SLEEPS OVER*. 1972.

A little boy is excited at the prospect of spending the night at his friend's house but worries how he'll get along without his teddy bear.

Warner, Gertrude Chandler. *THE BOXCAR CHILDREN*. 1942.

The four orphaned Alden children take refuge in an old boxcar. Their situation attracts attention, and they are happily reunited with the wealthy grandfather.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS*. Illustrated by Garth Williams. 1932.

Two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier help their mother with the daily chores, enjoy their father's stories and singing, and share special occasions with relatives or neighbors.

Zion, Gene. *HARRY, THE DIRTY DOG*. Illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham. 1956.

When a white dog with black spots runs away from home, he gets so dirty his family doesn't recognize him as a black dog with white spots.

Additional Books for Grades One and Two

Aardema, Verna, BRINGING THE RAIN TO KAPITI PLAIN
Ackerman, Karen, SONG AND DANCE MAN
Anderson, Hans Christian, THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES
Anderson, Clarence W., BILLY AND BLAZE SERIES
Barrett, Judith, CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS
Bishop, Claire Huchet, FIVE CHINESE BROTHERS
Bridwell, Norman, CLIFFORD SERIES
Brown, Marc, ARTHUR SERIES
Brown, Marcia, STONE SOUP
Catling, Patrick, THE CHOCOLATE TOUCH
Clearing, Beverly, RAMONA SERIES
Cooney, Barbara, MISS RUMPHUS
D'Aulaire, Ingri, ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Dahl, Roald, CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
Dalglish, Alice, THE BEARS ON HEMLOCK MOUNTAIN
Davidson, Margaret, HELEN KELLER
Davoll, Barbara, CHRISTOPHER CHURCHMOUSE
Decker, Marjorie, THE CHRISTIAN MOTHER GOOSE
Dennis, Wesley, FLIP
Duvoisin, Roger, PETUNIA SERIES
Eastman, Philip D., ARE YOU MY MOTHER/
Flack, Marjori, THE STORY ABOUT PING
Freeman, Don, DANDELIONS
Gag, Wanda, MILLIONS OF CATS
Gire, Ken, ADVENTURES IN THE BIG THICKET
Gramatky, Hardie, LITTLE TOOT
Hader, Elmer, THE BIG SNOW
Hoban, Russell, FRANCIS SERIES
Hoffman, Mary, AMAZING GRACE
Kraus, Robert, LEO THE LATE BLOOMER
Levine, Nancy S., ALEX SERIES
Lewis, C.S., THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
Lionni, Leo, FREDERICK
Martin, Bill, BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE?
Minarik, Else, LITTLE BEAR SERIES
Noble, Trinkha Hayes, THE DAY JIMMY'S BOA ATE THE WASH
Rey, Hans Augusto, CURIOUS GEORGE
Seldon, George, CRICKET IN TIME SQUARE
Sharmat, Marjorie, NATE THE GREAT
Tripp, Valerie, AMERICAN GIRL SERIES
Ungerer, Tomi, CRICTOR
Viorst, Judith, ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY
Williams, Margery, THE VELVETEEN RABBIT
Yashuma, Taro, CROW BOY