

*The Imaginative Use of*  
BOOKS IN FAMILY LIFE

HONEY

*for a*

CHILD'S  
HEART

GLADYS HUNT

*with Mark Hunt*

Updated  
&  
Expanded

ANNOTATED LIST OF BOOKS FOR AGES 0-12

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

ZONDERVAN BOOKS

*Honey for a Child's Heart*

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CHAPTER 12

# A CHILD'S FIRST BOOKS;

## Ages 0–3

### Board Books

**Molly Bang, *Ten, Nine, Eight*** CH

Counts down things in a baby's room.

**Margaret Wise Brown, *Big Red Barn***, il. Felicia Bond

*Goodnight Moon*, il. Clement Hurd ✧

A forever favorite bedtime book.

*The Runaway Bunny*, il. Clement Hurd

Cuddly assurance of love.

**Eric Carle, *Do You Want to Be My Friend?***

*Have You Seen My Cat?*

*The Very Busy Spider*

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* ✧

He eats a hole right through the book!

👤 All of Carle's books have a winsome charm.

**Sarah Davis, *My First Trucks***

**Tomie dePaola, *Tomie's Little Mother Goose***

A wonderful first introduction to Mother Goose.

**Mem Fox, *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes***

A celebration of babies around the world, all with ten little fingers and ten little toes.

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BG/HB	Boston Globe/ Horn Book award
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NH	Newbery Honor
NM	Newbery Medal
✧	Recommended title to start with by author

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***Time for Bed***, il. Jane Dyer

A favorite sleepy-time story.

**John Graham, *I Love You, Mouse***, il. Tomie dePaola

A sweet book about caring for whoever you love.

**Kevin Henkes, *Kitten's First Full Moon*** CM

Adventures follow when kitten thinks the full moon is a saucer of milk.

**Eric Hill, *Where's Spot?***

**Nina Laden, *Peek-a Who?***

Who will you find hiding?

**Iona Archibald Opie, *Humpty Dumpty and Other Rhymes***, il. Rosemary Wells

Another delightful Mother Goose book.

**Al Perkins, *Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb***, il. Eric Gurney

A rhythm book little children love.

**Chris Raschka, *A Ball for Daisy*** CM

A book without words that tells the story of losing a ball and gaining a friend.

**Peggy Rathmann, *Good Night, Gorilla***

**Feodor Rojankovsky, *The Great Big Wild Animal Book***

A silly, silly book for sleepy children. Get this from the library or purchase a used edition.

**Dr. Seuss, *Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You? Dr. Seuss's Book of Wonderful Noises***

**Jerry Smath, *Wheels on the Bus***, il. Jerry Smath

A popular children's song is brought to life.

**Brian Wildsmith, *ABC***

*Animal Colors*

*Animal Seasons*

**Vera B. Williams, *More More More, Said the Baby*** CH

### ***Mother Goose***

Choose one for your permanent library from the many in print with a variety of illustrators. Four bestsellers are:

***Sylvia Long's Mother Goose***

***The Real Mother Goose***, il. Blanche Fisher Wright

Still a bestseller after more than one hundred years of publication!

***Mother Goose: The Original Volland Edition***, il. Frederick Richardson

First published in 1915. Available in an e-book edition.

***Willy Pogány's Mother Goose***

Edited by Willy Pogány and published in 1928 with more than 140 art deco-style illustrations.

***Book of Nursery and Mother Goose Rhymes*** by Marguerite de Angeli



## **Toddler Picture Books**

**Graeme Base, *Animalia***

**Marc Brown, *Hand Rhymes***

Put your hands up and prepare to wiggle through fourteen games of hand movements.

**Matthew Cordell, *Wolf in the Snow* CM BG/HB**

This mostly wordless book tells the story of a girl who reunites a lost wolf pup to the wolf pack, and they help her family rescue her from the storm. Wonderful, dramatic pictures tell the story, leaving space to talk about each spread.

**Lois Ehlert, *Color Farm***

Fascinating use of colors and cutouts to learn animals and shapes.

***Color Zoo* CH ✧**

***Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z***

***Market Day***

Ehlert's ingredients from different cultures make going to market delicious.

***Nuts to You!***

**Denise Fleming, *The Everything Book***

***In the Small, Small Pond* CH ✧**

Who lives in the pond? Fleming's unique art form gives movement to images and words.

***In the Tall, Tall Grass***

***Time to Sleep***

***Where Once There Was a Wood***

**Mem Fox, *Ducks Away!***

A counting book that culminates in the mother duck taking action to rescue her ducklings.

**Stephen T. Johnson, *Alphabet City***

***City by Numbers***

**Ann Jonas, *Color Dance***

**Tan Koide, *May We Sleep Here Tonight?* il. Yasuko Koide**

This title goes in and out of print. It is a classic bedtime story available from libraries or used book vendors.

**Ethan Long, *In, Over and On the Farm***

***Up, Tall and High* ✧**

**Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, il. Lois Ehlert**

**Sam McBratney, *Guess How Much I Love You*, il. Anita Jeram**

A soothing tale of love that Little Nutbrown Hare thinks can be measured.

**Shirley Neitzel, *The Bag I'm Taking to Grandma's*, il. Nancy Winslow Parker**

***The Dress I'll Wear to the Party* ✧**

It's dress-up time and every kid enjoys it.

***The Jacket I Wear in the Snow***

**Janet Morgan Stoeke, *A Hat for Minerva Louise***

An odd chicken (who loves snow) hunts for the perfect hat to wear.

***Minerva Louise* (series) ✧**

This title, and others in the Minerva Louise series, are getting harder to find.

They are still available in used editions, and some titles are sold in e-book formats.

***Minerva Louise at School***

**Nancy Tafuri, *Have You Seen My Duckling?* CM ✧**

Each page has a hidden duckling to discover.

***I Love You, Little One***

A bedtime assurance of being loved.

***Silly Little Goose***

She keeps building her nest in another animal's domain.

**Ellen Stoll Walsh, *Mouse Magic*, il. Diane D'Andrade**

It's as if the colors are dancing on the paper as mouse finds out what happens when you mix colors.

**Sue Williams, *I Went Walking*, il. Julie Vivas ✧**

A stroll through the farm, seeing all the animals "looking at me." Vivas is the beloved artist from Australia whose whimsical brush is refreshing.

***Let's Go Visiting***



CHAPTER 13

# PICTURE BOOK CLASSICS:

*Ages 4–8*

Margaret Wise Brown, *The Color Kittens*, il. Alice and Martin Provensen

A child's first book about colors.

*The Important Book*, il. Leonard Weisgard

What is important about rain? That it is wet.

*Little Fur Family*, il. Garth Williams ✧

A new edition of a classic book of rhymes about furry friends.

*The Little Scarecrow Boy*, il. David Diaz

*Mouse of My Heart: A Treasury of Sense and Nonsense*, il. Loretta Krupinski

*The Train to Timbuctoo*, il. Art Seiden

*Two Little Trains*, il. Leo and Diane Dillon

*Wait Till the Moon Is Full*, il. Garth Williams

Virginia Lee Burton, *Katy and the Big Snow*

A snowplow determines to save a small town in a blizzard.

*The Little House* CM

Story of a house in the country and the changes the years bring as the city moves closer.

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✧	Recommended title to start with by author

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***Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*** ✧

A race against time as Mike and his steam shovel dig a cellar. A long-loved book.

**Marjorie Flack, *Angus and the Cat*** ✧

Angus is a Scottish terrier who has some merry adventures with a cat.

***Ask Mr. Bear***

None of the animals can think of a suitable gift for a little boy's mother, so he asks Mr. Bear, who whispers a secret on the very last page!

**And Kurt Wiese, *The Story about Ping***

A little Chinese duck and his adventures on the Yangtze River.

**Don Freeman, *Corduroy*** ✧

A teddy bear lives in a toy store and jumps off the shelf to go on a nighttime adventure to find a lost button.

***Dandelion***

"Come as you are," the invitation read. But Dandelion decided to make himself over, and finds out it is best to be who you are.

***Norman the Doorman***

Norman, a doormouse, is the hero in a Horatio Alger story of bravery and cleverness.

***A Pocket for Corduroy***

**Paul Galdone, *The Gingerbread Boy***

***Henny Penny*** ✧

One of many delightful and memorable old stories.

***The Little Red Hen***

***The Three Billy Goats Gruff***

***The Three Little Pigs***

Children have been enjoying Galdone's rendition for generations.

**Hardie Gramatky, *Little Toot***

An old favorite. A mischievous little tugboat becomes a hero.

**Ezra Jack Keats, *Goggles!***

***A Letter to Amy***

Peter worries about inviting a girl to his birthday party.

***Peter's Chair***

A gentle story about jealousy over a new family addition.

***The Snowy Day*** CM ✧

A story of Peter's great fun in a snowy world. *The Snowy Day*, a 1963 Caldecott winner, is the first full-color book to feature a Black hero, as do all of Ezra Jack Keats's subsequent books.

👤 Since Keats's death, publishers have hired illustrators to extend his work by creating new titles about Peter and Willie in Keats's name. Look for the original Keats books!

***Whistle for Willie***

A boy longs to whistle so he can call his dog.



**Robert Kraus, *Herman the Helper***

***Milton the Early Riser***

***Whose Mouse Are You?*** il. Jose Aruego ✧

Catchy rhymes bursting with joyful ingenuity.

**Ruth Krauss, *A Hole Is to Dig: A First Book of First Definitions***, il. Maurice Sendak ✧

A collection of active definitions for preschoolers, such as “Hands are to hold” and “Dogs are for kissing people.” Our family loves this book, which, sadly, is now harder to find. Look for it at used bookstores.

***I’ll Be You and You Be Me***, il. Maurice Sendak

A series of stories, poems, and kid-speak.

***Open House for Butterflies***, il. Maurice Sendak

More definitions.

👤 Publishers are reissuing many of the favorite Krauss/Sendak golden oldies.

**Lois Lenski, *The Little Train***

***The Little Fire Engine***

Wonderful books now back in print.

**Mercer Mayer, *A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog***

Part of a series for preschoolers.

***Just Me and My Dad*** ✧

***Just Me and My Little Brother***

Well-loved Little Critter books to warm the heart.

***There’s a Nightmare in My Closet***

***There’s an Alligator Under My Bed***

A humorous series to dispel fear.

***There’s Something in My Attic***

**Robert McCloskey, *Blueberries for Sal*** CH

Sal eats more blueberries than she picks.

***Make Way for Ducklings*** CM ✧

What happens when Mother Duck brings up her family in the city of Boston.

***One Morning in Maine*** CH

Sal learns to accept her loss when her loose tooth falls out while she’s clamming.

***Time of Wonder***

The joys of sailing on the sea.

**Beatrix Potter, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit***

Plus twenty-two other volumes of miniature, beautifully illustrated books with characters like Jemima Puddle-Duck, Jeremy Fisher, Squirrel Nutkin, Benjamin Bunny, and others you should meet.

**H. A. Rey, *Curious George*** (series)

This small monkey has been finding trouble for over fifty years. Children identify with his curiosity.

**Richard Scarry, *Richard Scarry's Best Word Book Ever* ✧**

***The Early Bird***

👤 All of Scarry's books are full of detailed pictures toddlers love. There is so much to notice! Many are board books.

**Maurice Sendak, *Nutshell Library***

This series of four titles is full of fun and learning, and just the right size and flavor for little people. Sadly, the set of four tiny books in a slipcase is no longer available, used and at a high price. The books are sold separately and listed below. These are well worth getting for your child's library.

***Alligators All Around: An Alphabet Book***

***Chicken Soup with Rice: A Book of Months***

***One Was Johnny: A Counting Book***

***Pierre: A Cautionary Tale in Five Chapters and a Prologue***

***Where the Wild Things Are* CM ✧**

Rebellious Max runs away from home to cavort with the wild things.

**Uri Shulevitz, *Dawn***

A boy and his grandfather experience dawn on a camping trip.

***The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship* CM**

A story retold by Arthur Ransome.

***Rain Rain Rivers***

Lyrical celebration of the rain's effect on the world.

***Snow* CH ✧**

Waiting for it to snow can be hard!

***The Treasure* CH**

A gentle reminder of what treasures are.

**Alvin Tresselt, *Hide and Seek Fog*, il. Roger Duvoisin CH**

***The Mitten*, il. Yaroslava**

An old Ukrainian folktale.

***White Snow, Bright Snow* CM ✧**

Puts into words and pictures the marvel of a snowfall.

**Janice Udry, *Let's Be Enemies***, il. Maurice Sendak

*The Moon Jumpers*, il. Maurice Sendak

*A Tree Is Nice*, il. Marc Simont CM ✧

Simple, but elegant—the delights of a tree.

*What Mary Jo Shared*

**Brian Wildsmith, *Amazing World of Words***

*The Apple Bird*

*Birds* ✧

A stare of owls. A fall of woodcocks. Learning about birds. Unfortunately, it is only available at this time from used book dealers and libraries, but too good to miss.

*The Bremen Town Band*

Donkey, dog, rooster, and cat set off to become musicians.

*Can You Do This?*

*Carousel*

This title is hard to get at the time of writing this book, but it seems a new edition may be in the works. Until then, get it from the library.

*Exodus*

*Joseph*

👤 Dozens of his brightly illustrated books are constantly being reissued.

**Charlotte Zolotow, *Do You Know What I'll Do?*** il. Javaka Steptoe

A 1958 classic with new illustrations featuring African American characters.

No longer readily available at a reasonable price. Get from the library or look for a new printing to be released.

*I Like to Be Little*, il. Erik Blegvad

A little girl explains why to her mother.

*Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present*

*Over and Over*

*The Quarreling Book*

*This Quiet Lady*

*The Seashore Book*

*Sleepy Book*, il. Stefano Vitale

Just right for reading at bedtime.

*The Storm Book* CH

*When the Wind Stops*, il. Stefano Vitale

Where does the sun go when the day ends? Where does the wind go?

*William's Doll*, il. William Pène du Bois ✧

William wants a doll so he can practice being a father.

👤 Charlotte Zolotow is a legend in children's books.



CHAPTER 14

# MORE FAVORITE PICTURE BOOKS:

## *Discovering the World and Myself*

**Kwame Alexander, *The Undeclared*, il. Kadir Nelson**

CM CSK

The exuberant art and verse of this book celebrate the lives of those who persevere through tribulation to become heroes. Written as a celebration of Black life in the United States, it highlights the trauma, faith, passion, and grit of the many individuals mentioned. Back matter provides additional material and context for those wishing to better understand the individuals the book introduces. The message of this triumphant book sets goals and builds understanding for all readers.

**Mary Brigid Barrett, *Sing to the Stars*, il. Sandra Speidel**

A young violinist is surprised twice in this story when he learns that music is best experienced when shared with others. Available as a used book or through libraries.

**Jonathan Bean, *Building Our House***

A true story of a family building their new house in the country.

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BG/HB Boston Globe/  
Horn Book award  
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CSK Coretta Scott  
King award  
NH Newbery Honor  
NM Newbery Medal  
◆ Recommended  
title to start with  
by author

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**Marie Bradby, *More Than Anything Else*, il. Chris K. Soentpiet**

Told in his own voice, nine-year-old Booker T. Washington longs to learn to read.

**Rebecca Caudill, *The Best-Loved Doll***

The prize is given for the oldest, best-dressed doll, but Betsy wins with her patched-up best-loved doll.

***A Pocketful of Cricket* CH ✧**

A pet cricket goes to school in a boy's pocket.

**Bryan Collier, *Uptown* CSK**

What a view of Harlem! It dazzles from cover to cover.

**Barbara Cooney, *Chanticleer and the Fox* CM**

Geoffrey Chaucer's "Nun's Priest's Tale" adapted by the illustrator.

***Island Boy* BG/HB**

The lovely story of a boy's life and his attachment to his island home.

***Miss Rumphius* ✧**

Miss Rumphius leaves a legacy of beauty by sowing bushels of lupines in her travels.

**Niki Daly, *Jamela's Dress***

Jamela gets carried away with the beauty of her mother's dress fabric as it dries on the line and wears it herself.

***Not So Fast Songolo* ✧**

"Not so fast, Songolo," Grandmother says as they travel home after buying Malusi a pair of much-admired red sneakers.

***Papa Lucky's Shadow***

👤 All of these stories have a South African setting.

**Jacqueline Davies, *The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon*,**

il. Melissa Sweet

Story of John Audubon and his study of birds in America.

**Tomie dePaola, *The Art Lesson***

Autobiographical account of a boy named Tommy who wants to be an artist.

***Fin M'Coul: The Giant of Knockmany Hill***

When Cucullin, the strongest giant in Ireland, seeks to fight Fin, Oonagh has a plan to save her husband.

***Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs***

Two delightful stories about helping aging family members.

***Now One Foot, Now the Other***

***Strega Nona* CH ✧**

Big Anthony gets into trouble attempting to make Strega Nona's pasta recipe.

**Mem Fox, *Time for Bed***

**Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge**, il. Julie Vivas ✧

Heartwarming story of a small boy who lives next to an “old people’s home.”  
What is a memory, anyhow? Vivas is an award-winning artist not to be missed.

**Wombat Divine**, il. Kerry Argent

**Patricia Lee Gauch, *Christina Katerina and the Box***, il. Doris Burn ✧

A young girl with good imagination turns a big box into many things.

**Presenting Tanya, the Ugly Duckling**, il. Satomi Ichikawa

An emerging ballerina, Tanya believes she is like the ugly duckling. How will she ever get the dance steps right? Delicate pastel drawings by Ichikawa.

**Donna Green, *My Little Artist***

Artistic heritage passed from grandmother to granddaughter. Green’s use of light is captivating.

**Chris Hadfield and Kate Fillion, *The Darkest Dark***, il. The Fan Brothers

The true story of astronaut Chris Hadfield and his overcoming his childhood fear of the dark.

**Amy Hest, *The Friday Nights of Nana***, il. Claire A. Nivola

The celebration of the Sabbath in a Jewish home.

**When Jessie Came Across the Sea**, il. P. J. Lynch ✧

A beautifully illustrated book about Jessie’s life as an immigrant and her adjustment to New York City at the peak of European immigration. We take so many things for granted.

**Deborah Hopkinson, *A Band of Angels***, il. Raúl Colón ✧

Inspired by the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University, this book sings out hope and freedom.

***Birdie’s Lighthouse***

**Ordinary, Extraordinary Jane Austen**, il. Qin Leng

This charming account of Jane Austen’s childhood provides an excellent introduction to her books.

***Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt***

**Gloria Houston, *My Great-Aunt Arizona***, il. Susan Condie Lamb ✧

A bright pioneer girl’s struggle to become a teacher. Her goal: every pupil to see all the faraway places in the world someday.

***The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree***, il. Barbara Cooney

Set in Appalachia, with drawings from award-winning artist Barbara Cooney, a story of tradition, struggle, song, and surprise.

**Jan Karon, *Miss Fannie’s Hat***, il. Toni Goffe

A story based on the author’s wonderful hat-loving grandmother.

**Kevin Lewis, *Chugga-Chugga Choo-Choo***

***The Lot at the End of My Block***, il. Reg Cartwright ✧

A delightful story of a small city boy watching a construction crew build an apartment dwelling where another boy will live and become his friend.

**Paul Owen Lewis, *Davy's Dream: A Young Boy's Adventure with Wild Orca Whales***

Not to be missed! Lewis is a great “teller,” and if you close your eyes, you may see “the wolves of the sea.” Boys will want this one “again, please.”

**Kevin Noble Maillard, *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*, il. Juana Martinez-Neal CH**

A celebration of this Native American food, along with an explanation of its ties to history.

**David McPhail, *Edward and the Pirates***

While reading about lost pirate treasures, Edward finds himself surrounded by sailors who want him to read aloud to them in hopes of discovering the treasure.

***Mole Music* ✧**

Mole takes up the violin but never plays for an audience. Or does he?

***The Puddle***

***Sisters***

McPhail's imaginative drawings pull children into the story.

***Those Can-Do Pigs***

McPhail's versatile porkers show up in several books.

**Lauren Mills, *The Rag Coat***

Minna wants to go to school like other kids her age, but she is poor and has no coat. When the “Quilting Mothers” make her one, she finds that school is more than she expected.

**Margaree King Mitchell, *Granddaddy's Gift*, il. Larry Johnson ✧**

The characteristics of courage, determination, and studiousness are displayed in this story of freedom for a young African American grandchild.

***Uncle Jed's Barbershop*, il. James Ransome CSK**

A lifelong dream achieved at the age of seventy-nine! Brightly stroked by artist Ransome.

**Oge Mora, *Saturday* BG/HB**

A discovery of the joy of relationships, even when all our plans go awry.

***Thank You, Omu!* ✧**

Generosity wins the day in this moving story highlighted by its torn paper art illustrations.

**Lloyd Moss, *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin*, il. Marjorie Priceman**

Whimsical drawings, counting, and rhyme introduce ten musical instruments and finally the whole orchestra.

**Evaline Ness, *Sam, Bangs & Moonshine* CM ✧**

Samantha learns that fantasy can have real consequences when she unwittingly jeopardizes the life of her friend Thomas and her cat Bangs.

***Tom Tit Tot: An English Folk Tale* CH**

A small, magical creature offers to help with a young woman's impossible sewing project, much like his distant cousin Rumpelstiltskin.

**Jenni Overend, *Welcome with Love*, il. Julie Vivas**

Child number four is about to be born. The whole family is ready as is the midwife and Auntie Meg. Vivas's work is full of wonder and awe. Please be advised that the whole birth process is painted in these pages.

**Bao Phi, *A Different Pond*, il. Thi Bui CH**

Graphic novelist Thi Bui and poet Bao Phi provide a powerful glimpse into the relationship of a father and son, touching on differences of age, place, and culture.

**Brian Pinkney, *Max Found Two Sticks***

A delightful look at how music begins. Max finds scrub buckets, hat boxes, and empty soda bottles to tap on with his two sticks, and finally creates a marching band.

**Patricia Polacco, *Chicken Sunday* ✧**

Two girls raise money to buy Miss Eula an Easter bonnet to thank her for the wonderful Sunday chicken dinners.

***Just Plain Fancy***

Naomi and Ruth, two Amish girls, find an unusual egg and place it under a hen, only to find a pretty fancy bird hatching from their efforts.

***Pink and Say***

A powerful story about two fifteen-year-old Union soldiers in the Civil War, one Black, one white.

***Rechenka's Eggs***

A delightful story of an old Babushka and a wounded goose.

***Thank You, Mr. Falker***

Polacco dedicated this book to her fifth-grade teacher, who helped her overcome reading difficulties.

👤 Many of Polacco's heartwarming stories reflect her Russian background and come from her own life.

***Thunder Cake***

A little girl overcomes her fear of thunder with the help of her grandmother.

**Cynthia Rylant, *The Relatives Came* CH ✧**

When the relatives arrived they hugged from the kitchen to the front room. All summer they ate, tended garden, and played banjos. When they left the house, it was too quiet. But they knew they would be together again next summer.

***When I Was Young in the Mountains*, il. Diane Goode CH**

Nostalgic journey through another time and place of strong family ties.

**Allen Say, *Grandfather's Journey* CM ✧**

A poignant story of Say's grandfather who loved two countries, Japan and the United States.



*Tea with Milk*

*Tree of Cranes*

**Pegi Deitz Shea, *The Whispering Cloth*, il. Anita Riggio, stitched by You Yang**

Set in a refugee camp, a Hmong girl learns how to make the pa'ndau ("flowery cloth") from her grandmother. Her first cloth may make enough to give them a future. What is it worth?

**William Steig, *The Amazing Bone* CH**

*Amos and Boris*

*Brave Irene*

*Dominic*

*Doctor De Soto* (series) NH BG/HB

*Pete's a Pizza* ✧

Steig's commentary on raising children.

👤 All of Steig's books have a clever twist that makes you think and smile over the ridiculous.

***Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* CM**

A lion frightens Sylvester on his way home after he finds a magic pebble, and he makes a wish that brings unexpected results.

***Yellow and Pink***

Two marionettes discuss their origin: pink believes someone made them; yellow thinks they happened by accident. Pink wins. A subtle discussion about our origins.

***Zeke Pippin***

**Sarah Stewart, *The Gardener*, il. David Small CH ✧**

A little girl changes life in the city with her gardening skills.

***The Journey*, il. David Small**

The diary of an Amish girl whose visit to Chicago reminds her of what is true everywhere.

***The Library*, il. David Small**

Elizabeth Brown is a book lover and fills her house to the ceiling with books.

**Laurie Ann Thompson, *Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah*, il. Sean Qualls**

True story of a boy from Ghana whose determination and vision allowed him to overcome being born with a deformed leg.

**Gilles Tibo, *The Cowboy Kid*, il. Tom Kapas**

Every boy's dream come true, yet even more than a "ride 'em cowboy" story.

**Brinton Turkle, *Deep in the Forest* ✧**

A retelling of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears."

***Do Not Open***

Following a storm, Miss Moody and her cat find a bottle washed ashore with a warning, "Do Not Open."

***Thy Friend, Obadiah***

A little Quaker boy on Nantucket becomes a friend of a seagull he helps.

**Ann Turner, *In the Heart***, il. Salley Mavor

In this striking book, the author asks, what is the heart of a kitchen, a town, or an afternoon?

 Mavor has a style all her own, incorporating materials and fabric.

***Through Moon and Stars and Night Skies***, il. James Graham Hale ✧

Very tender story of an adopted child's trip across the sea to meet his new parents.

**Chris Van Allsburg, *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi*** CH BG/HB

While babysitting the neighbor's dog, a boy stumbles upon a magic garden.

***Jumanji*** CM

A brother and sister discover a magic board game that wreaks havoc in the house.

***The Polar Express*** CM ✧

Late one Christmas Eve, a boy boards a mysterious train bound for the North Pole.

***The Stranger***

***The Wreck of the Zephyr***

**Jean Van Leeuwen, *Across the Wide Dark Sea***

***Emma Bean***, il. Juan Wijngaard ✧

"Once there was a rabbit who had a girl . . ." Van Leeuwen is a versatile writer of over thirty children's books.

***The Tickle Stories***

***"Wait for Me!" Said Maggie McGee***

**Leatie Weiss, *My Teacher Sleeps in School***, il. Ellen Weiss

The children are suspicious! Teacher is there when they arrive and stays after they leave.

**David Wiesner, *Hurricane***

***June 29, 1999***

***Sector 7*** CH

A field trip to the Empire State Building turns into a cloudy adventure.

***The Three Pigs***

***Tuesday*** CM ✧

At dusk on Tuesday, frogs take to the air and enjoy the neighborhood till dawn.

Wiesner is a brilliant artist whose imagination is thrilling.

**Taro Yashima, *Crow Boy*** CH ✧

Chibi, a shy boy, is shunned by his classmates until he is discovered by his teacher, who helps the class accept someone who is different.

***Umbrella***

Momo waits eagerly for a rainy day so she can use her new red boots and umbrella.

## **Cuddly Books for Bedtime or Any Time**

**Cecil Frances Alexander, *All Things Bright and Beautiful***, il. Bruce Whatley

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BG/HB Boston Globe/  
Horn Book award

**Jim Aylesworth, *The Bad Dream***, il. Judith Friedman ✧  
This one will come in handy for those bad-dream fears.

CM Caldecott Medal

CH Caldecott Honor

CSK Coretta Scott  
King award

***Jim Aylesworth's Book of Bedtime Stories***, various illustrators

Four delightfully soothing stories that will bring comfort through the night.

NH Newbery Honor

NM Newbery Medal

✧ Recommended

**Helen E. Buckley, *Grandfather and I, Grandmother and I***, il. Jan Ormerod ✧

Two loving African American families and close-up looks at a child's relationship with grandparents.

✧ title to start with  
by author

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**Miriam Cohen, *Best Friends***

***See You Tomorrow, Charles***

***So What?***

***Will I Have a Friend?*** il. Lillian Hoban ✧

Jim is anxious about entering school and needs assurance.

**Marla Frazee, *Hush, Little Baby: A Folk Song with Pictures***

Wonderfully illustrated story in the Appalachian time period of the lullaby's birth.

**Elizabeth Starr Hill, *Evan's Corner***, il. Sandra Speidel

Even in a small apartment a child needs a place of his own.

**Nancy Jewell, *Sailor Song***, il. Stefano Vitale


A mother sings her son a lullaby about his father's return from the sea.

**Robert Munsch, *Love You Forever***, il. Sheila McGraw ✧

Read the world over, expressing a family's unending love.

***Thomas' Snowsuit***, il. Michael Martchenko

**Peter Spier, *The Book of Jonah***

 Peter Spier's books are alive with imagination. Ageless! A number of his titles are also available in e-book format.

***Noah's Ark*** CM ✧

***People***

***Peter Spier's Christmas***

Not in print at this time. Look for used editions or borrow from the library.

***Peter Spier's Circus***

***The Star-Spangled Banner***

**Eileen Spinelli, *Night Shift Daddy***

A book loved by families where the daddy works a night shift. Not readily available, so check it out from the library or purchase a used copy.

***Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch***, il. Paul Yalowitz ✧

Reclusive Mr. Hatch receives an anonymous Valentine that changes his life and neighborhood. Note the artist's use of color, page after page.

***Sophie's Masterpiece***, il. Jane Dyer

A spider that is always being shooed away looks for her niche. Who will let her create?

**Naoko Stoop, *All Creatures Great and Small***

Affirms the wonder of the world and the God who made it, with text from the poem "All Things Bright and Beautiful."

**Tasha Tudor, *1 Is One*** CH

Sights and fun of a small-town fair and a goat race with Tudor's wonderful pictures.

***A Is for Annabelle: A Doll's Alphabet***

***Corgiville Fair*** ✧

***First Prayers***

**Bernard Waber, *Ira Sleeps Over*** ✧

Invited to sleep over at a friend's home, Ira wonders if he should take his teddy bear.

***Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile***

A series about a pet crocodile.

**Vera B. Williams, *A Chair for My Mother*** ✧

A story of a child's sacrifice for a hard-working mother.

And Jennifer Williams, ***Stringbean's Trip to the Shining Sea***

Stringbean and his brother send postcards back home on their trip to the Pacific Ocean, making this story a gentle geography lesson.

## **Stories about Animals**

**Jon Agee, *Milo's Hat Trick***

Milo is a magician in need of a new trick—quick. He snags a bear for his act.

**John Burningham, *John Patrick Norman McHennessy: The Boy Who Was Always Late***

***Mr. Gumpy's Outing*** ✧

A series of books about Mr. Gumpy, the children, and farm animals.

**Jean de Brunhoff, *Bonjour, Babar!***

Six stories in a new gift edition, full of adventure and fantasy, bring back these wonderful elephant stories from a French author who died in 1937.

**Russell Hoban, *A Baby Sister for Frances***, il. Lillian Hoban  
***Bedtime for Frances***, il. Garth Williams ✧

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***Bread and Jam for Frances***, il. Lillian Hoban

A series about lovable badger Frances, full of tricks and good lessons. These classics from a British author will be part of your child's life forever.

**Holly Hobbie, *A Present for Toot*** (series)

Meet a friendship of opposites at work. Share in the adventures of homebody Puddle and world traveler Toot. Hobbie's series is pensive, yet humorous.

***Toot & Puddle*** ✧

***You Are My Sunshine***

**Leo Lionni, *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse***

The story of a friendship between a real mouse and a wind-up mouse.

***Fish Is Fish***

A minnow wants to follow a tadpole out of the pond to become a frog.

***Frederick*** ✧

Foolish Frederick doesn't gather for winter like other mice, but reads poetry to them during a long winter. Frederick has many other adventures.

***Inch by Inch*** CH

Winsome inchworm proves his ability to measure anything under the sun.

***Swimmy*** CH

The heroic deeds of a little black fish with beautiful seascape drawings.

**James Marshall, *George and Martha*** (series)

These two friendly hippos are back in print. Your kids will love them.

**Bill Martin Jr., *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*** il. Eric Carle

A colorful rhyming book in which each animal sees the next one and introduces it in response to the question, "What do you see?"

**Lindsay Mattick, *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear***, il. Sophie Blackall

When asked by her son to tell a story about a bear, the mother tells a captivating story about a bear that turns out to be true. The imaginative writing makes this book, which is a must for all lovers of *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

**Patricia C. McKissack, *Flossie and the Fox***, il. Rachel Isadora ✧

Small Flossie outwits a wily fox determined to steal her eggs.

***The Honest-to-Goodness Truth***, il. Giselle Potter

Libby Louise learns the difference between the right and wrong way to tell the truth—the hard way.

***Ma Dear's Aprons***, il. Floyd Cooper

David Earl can tell the days of the week by the aprons Ma Dear wears.

**Peggy Rathmann, *10 Minutes till Bedtime***

As Dad counts down till bedtime, the hamster parade begins. Don't miss the tour.

**Officer Buckle and Gloria** CM ✧

What better way to learn safety tip #101: Always stay with your buddy? Officer Buckle and dog Gloria will teach you how.

**Cynthia Rylant, *The Great Gracie Chase: Stop That Dog!*** il. Mark Teague ✧

Gracie, a good and contented dog, starts barking when the painters come and she is put outside. That begins the adventure.

***In November***, il. Jill Kastner

"In November the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell." A mood book with superb illustrations.

***Thimbleberry Stories***, il. Maggie Kneen

Four short stories about the life of Nigel Chipmunk.

**Marc Simont, *The Stray Dog*** CH

A stray dog, a picnic in the country, a return to find the stray dog they have already named Willy. Your kids will love it!

**Chris Van Dusen, *The Circus Ship***

When a circus ship sinks and the animals swim to shore, they descend upon the town and win the hearts of the townspeople.

**Lynd Ward, *The Biggest Bear*** CM ✧

Johnny wanted a bearskin on his barn, so he goes looking for the biggest bear.

***The Silver Pony***

A classic wordless book about a lonely farm boy. Not currently in print but used copies are available.

**Stories That Make Us Laugh**

**Tedd Arnold, *Hi! Fly Guy*** (series)

Explores the adventures of a boy named Buzz and his pet fly named Fly Guy. Humorous art matches the silly stories.

***No Jumping on the Bed!***

***Parts*** ✧

Comical! What's a five-year-old to think when his hair, skin, and teeth come out?

***The Signmaker's Assistant***

Little Norman turns the town upside down while his boss is away.

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✧ Recommended title to start with by author

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**Judi Barrett, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs***, il. Ron Barrett

How bizarre to have your meals pouring down from the sky three times a day.

***Pickles to Pittsburgh***, a sequel

**Ludwig Bemelmans, *Madeline*** CM

Inimitable Madeline's adventures are largely French and the series is hilarious reading. This story has delighted generations of readers.

**Roger Duvoisin, *Petunia***

The story of a silly goose who thought possession of a book made her wise.

**Ian Falconer, *Olivia* CH**

Olivia rocks! She's one hilarious six-year-old pig. Look out, Broadway.

***Olivia Saves the Circus* ✧**

Olivia is Queen of the Trampoline until her porcine self is caught in the safety net.

**Jules Feiffer, *Bark*, George ✧**

Hilarious story about a dog whose bark, well, isn't one. What a discovery at the vet's!

***I Lost My Bear***

The search for a lost bear is overwhelmed by everything else that is found!

***Meanwhile . . .***

**Kevin Henkes, *Chester's Way***

***Chrysanthemum***

***Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* ✧**

Hilarious antics of Lilly and her classy new purse.

**Owen CH**

Young mouse is about to attend school but won't go without his blanket.

Mom's creative solution saves the day.

***Sheila Rae, the Brave***

***SHHHH***

What happens when a toddler wakes up before everyone else in the family?

**Hilary Knight, *Where's Wallace?***

An orangutan escapes from the zoo; maybe you can find him.

**Helen Lester, *Tacky and the Emperor*, il. Lynn Munsinger**

Tacky is an exuberant penguin living with peers Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect, who consider him an "odd bird, but a nice bird to have around."

***Tacky in Trouble***

***Tacky the Penguin* ✧**

***Three Cheers for Tacky***

**David Macaulay, *Why the Chicken Crossed the Road***

This book answers the question, "Do you have a really funny book?"

**Susan Meddaugh, *Martha Speaks* ✧**

Martha, the dog, learns to talk by swallowing alphabet soup.

***Martha Walks the Dog***

Martha tries to rehabilitate antisocial canines. Actually, Martha has a series of stories about her giftedness.

**Bill Peet, *Buford the Little Bighorn* ✧**

***The Caboose Who Got Loose***

***Kermit the Hermit***

Whatever you find by Bill Peet will set your children laughing.

**Lisa Westberg Peters, *Cold Little Duck, Duck, Duck*, il. Sam Williams**

When a duck returns to a frozen pond too early in the season, a friendly bear tells her to go “back, back, back.” But duck “thinks, thinks, thinks” of spring. Invites letter-word recognition.

**Marjorie Priceman, *Emeline at the Circus***

Emeline’s antics prove to be the best of the show, much to her teacher’s horror.

**Dr. Seuss, *The Cat in the Hat* ✧**

***Green Eggs and Ham***

***Horton Hatches the Egg***

The list of Dr. Seuss’s wacky books could go on and on—all are fun ways to try out language and rhymes.

**David Shannon, *A Bad Case of Stripes***

***David Goes to School***

***No, David!***

Shannon has taken the “no” word seriously with his unique brand of art.

**Marjorie Weinman Sharmat, *Nate the Great* (series), il. Marc Simont**

Nate solves his cases with evidence, logic, and problem solving.

**James Stevenson, *Don’t Make Me Laugh***

Mr. Frimdimpny, a gloomy, bossy alligator, lays down the rules for this book:

“Don’t Laugh!” “Don’t Smile!”

**Tomi Ungerer, *The Beast of Monsieur Racine***

***Crictor* ✧**

A hilarious story of a boa constrictor who is the pet of an elderly French school mistress.

**Nancy Willard, *The High Rise Glorious Skittle Skat Roarious Sky Pie Angel Food Cake*,**

**il. Richard Jesse Watson ✧**

***The Nightgown of the Sullen Moon*, il. David McPhail**

**N. D. Wilson, *Hello Ninja*, il. Forrest Dickison**

An action-packed telling in rhyme of a young ninja’s day.

**Gene Zion, *Harry the Dirty Dog* (series), il. Margaret Bloy Graham**

This dog and laughter go together.

## ***Noticing the World Around Us***

**Molly Bang, *Goose***

A baby goose adopted by woodchucks at birth has the feeling she doesn’t belong.

**Janell Cannon, *Crickwing***

***Stellaluna* ✧**

Delightful, educational, and witty story of a fruit bat. Well-crafted prose and stunning art.

***Trupp***

***Verdi***



Likely to make anyone a snake lover! Verdi struggles to prevent his inevitable lifestyle.

**Estelle Condra, *See the Ocean***, il. Linda Crockett-Blassingame

On the yearly trip over the mountains to the sea, Nellie's brothers compete to be first to see the ocean. One year, from the middle of the backseat, Nellie joins in with a striking view of the sea.

**Pam Conrad, *The Rooster's Gift***, il. Eric Beddows

Does the Rooster really bring the morning? Small Hen and Rooster discover what gifts really are. Beddows's art is like the dawn itself. Not in print at this time so look for used versions.

**Lisa Campbell Ernst, *Stella Louella's Runaway Book***

**Marie Hall Ets, *Gilberto and the Wind*** ✧

A little boy learns where the wind goes and what it does.

*Just Me*

*Play with Me*

Look for used editions of this title.

**May Garelick, *Look at the Moon***

*What Makes a Bird a Bird?* il. Leonard Weisgard

*Where Does the Butterfly Go When It Rains?* il. Nicholas Wilton ✧

Every animal has a place to hide when it rains, but what about butterflies? Garelick's books are a good introduction to seeing the world. Sadly, they are not readily available. Look for them from used book resellers.

**Donald Hall, *The Farm Summer 1942***, il. Barry Moser

A delicious look at rural life in a seemingly simpler world.

*Ox-Cart Man*, il. Barbara Cooney CM ✧

A gentle story of a farmer's trip to market.

**Karen Hesse, *Come On, Rain!*** il. Jon J. Muth

After weeks without a summer rain, celebrate the joys of dancing in the rain in your bathing suit on a hot summer day.

**Mick Inkpen, *Kipper's Birthday***

*Kipper's Snowy Day*

*Kipper's Toybox*

*Penguin Small* ✧

Meet a penguin afraid of the water and find out how he makes it to the South Pole. Enjoy Inkpen's fanciful art. You can find these titles at your library or used book dealer.

**D. B. Johnson, *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg*** BG/HB

Come take a thirty-mile walk; or would you rather take the train? A playful introduction to the life of Thoreau.

**Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, *The Bear That Heard Crying*, il. Ted Rand ✧**

In the woods of New Hampshire, a three-year-old girl is lost. Based on true events in 1783, Kinsey-Warnock makes vivid the long four-day search.

👤 Although they are not currently in print, Kinsey-Warnock's books are available through used bookstores.

***A Farm of Her Own*, il. Kathleen Kolb**

***The Fiddler of the Northern Lights*, il. Leslie W. Bowman**

Grandpa's story about the Northern Lights with Bowman's star-skating illustrations.

***On a Starry Night*, il. David McPhail**

**David Kirk, *Miss Spider's Tea Party***

Counting, poetry, bugs, colors, and lots of emoting—it's all here. Kirk has created a character whose desire is to make friends. Kirk has a series about Miss Spider.

**Jacqueline Briggs Martin, *Snowflake Bentley*, il. Mary Azarian CM**

Bentley discovered, through study and photography, that each snowflake is a unique creation.

**John Rocco, *Blackout***

Something magical happens when the power goes out.

**Joanne Ryder, *Dancers in the Garden*, il. Judith Lopez**

***My Father's Hands*, il. Mark Graham**

***The Waterfall's Gift*, il. Richard Jesse Watson ✧**

Grandpa always said, "The old north woods hides treasure in its deepest places." With absorbing illustrations and childhood awe of nature, the author masterfully weaves grief and renewal together for one young girl.

**Scott Russell Sanders, *Aurora Means Dawn*, il. Jill Kastner**

***Meeting Trees*, il. Robert Hynes**

Come play a game in the woods with a carpenter and his son. Hynes's art tingles the senses.

**Jan Thornhill, *Before and After***

Marvelous pictures and timescapes of nature changing by the moment, day, or season. A *National Geographic* book.

**Martin Waddell, *The Big Big Sea*, il. Jennifer Eachus ✧**

The sea is magical in the moonlight as a little girl and her mother splash in the moon path in the water.

***Good Job, Little Bear***

***You and Me, Little Bear***

**Jane Yolen, *All Those Secrets of the World*, il. Leslie Baker**

***Letting Swift River Go***

***Off We Go!***

***Owl Moon*, il. John Schoenherr CM ✧**

Shadows in the woods are very black. When you go owling you have to be brave, even when you are with your father.

## **Legends and Tales from Other Times and Places**

**Verna Aardema, *The Lonely Lioness and the Ostrich Chicks***

A Masai fable.

***Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*, il. Leo and Diane Dillon CM ✧**

A retelling of an African tale with unusual illustrations.

**Jan Brett, *Annie and the Wild Animals***

***Berlioz the Bear***

***Gingerbread Baby***

***The Hat***

***The Mitten* ✧**

Brett's use of borders to peek ahead is intriguing. She retells an old Ukrainian tale.

***The Night Before Christmas***

***The Twelve Days of Christmas***

**Marcia Brown, *Dick Whittington and His Cat* CH ✧**

The well-loved tale of the London waif whose cat's prowess as a ratter results in his becoming the Lord Mayor of London.

***Once a Mouse* CM**

A story of a tiger who refused to believe he was once a mouse.

***Stone Soup* CH**

An old tale about the lessons three soldiers taught the villagers.

**Jeff Brumbeau, *The Quiltmaker's Gift*, il. Gail de Marcken**

A splendid tale of a greedy king too rich to receive a quilt from the quiltmaker. How will he get what he wants?

**Thornton W. Burgess, *The Mother West Wind Collection, Volume 1*, il. George Kerr**

***The Mother West Wind Collection, Volume 2*, il. Harrison Cady**

Published as eight books in 1910, the series was reformatted and published in 2009 in a two-volume collection that contains all the original books. This delightful storybook has timeless tales in chapter form to delight four-to eight-year-olds. Good to read aloud.

**Brock Cole, *Buttons* BG/HB**

A delectable tale that teaches a lesson, illustrated with Cole's lively pen drawings. All ages.

**Phoebe Gilman, *Something from Nothing***

A traditional Jewish tale of a boy's blanket creatively changed by Grandpa's tailoring skills until finally Joseph has his own idea of transformation.

**Margaret Hodges, *Saint George and the Dragon*, il. Trina Schart Hyman CM**

**Ellen Howard, *The Log Cabin Quilt*, il. Ronald Himler**

A frontier story with clever children who use scraps of material to chink the new log cabin and keep warm.

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**Charles Kingsley, *The Water-Babies***, il. Charles Kingsley; new edition, il. Jessie Willcox Smith

Since it was first published in 1863, this story of Tom, a chimney sweep, has been a juvenile classic.

**Julius Lester, *Black Cowboy, Wild Horses***

**John Henry** CH

***Uncle Remus: The Complete Tales*** (retelling), il. Jerry Pinkney ✧


Stories of Brer Rabbit and friends, these were originally written over a hundred years ago by Joel Chandler Harris.

**Grace Lin, *A Big Mooncake for Little Star***

A whimsical fable explaining the phases of the moon.

**Will Moses, *Rip Van Winkle***

A retelling of Washington Irving's story illustrated with primitive paintings in the style of Grandma Moses by one of her offspring.

 Will Moses has a number of books that retell classic stories with his rich illustrations.

**John Steptoe, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale*** BG/HB CH

A Cinderella-like tale about two sisters and a young king searching for a bride.

### ***Picture Books for Adults Who Haven't Completely Grown Up***

**Eileen Christelow, *The Five-Dog Night***

**Lisa Campbell Ernst, *Goldilocks Returns***

**Leo and Diane Dillon, *To Every Thing There Is a Season***

**Donald Hall, *I Am the Dog, I Am the Cat***, il. Barry Moser

**Barry Moser, *The Three Little Pigs***

**Jill Murphy, *Five Minutes' Peace***

**Dr. Seuss, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!***

**Judith St. George, *So You Want to Be President?*** il. David Small CM

**Jeanne and William Steig, *A Handful of Beans: Six Fairy Tales***

**William Steig, *Made for Each Other***

**Ernest Thayer, *Casey at the Bat***, il. Christopher Bing CH

There are many versions of this story. It may be a bit of a challenge, but get the one illustrated by Christopher Bing.

**Priscilla Turner, *The War between the Vowels and the Consonants***, il. Whitney Turner

**Chris Van Allsburg, *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick***

**Judith Viorst, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day***,  
il. Ray Cruz



CHAPTER 15

# FIRST BOOKS, FOR BEGINNING READERS

**David Adler, *Young Cam Jansen* (series), il. Susanna**

*Natti* LEVEL 2

Cam Jansen solves mysteries in this series of books.

**Avi, *Abigail Takes the Wheel*, il. Don Bolognese**

Abigail takes the helm when the captain of the ship can no longer do so.

***Finding Providence*, il. James Watling LEVEL 2 ✧**

The true story of Roger Williams and the settlement in Providence told with verve.

**Norman Bridwell, *Clifford Makes a Friend* LEVEL 1**

***Clifford the Big Red Dog* LEVEL 1 ✧**

Children read about the dog they may have met in board books.

**Pat Brisson, *Bertie's Picture Day***

***Hot Fudge Hero*, il. Diana Cain Bluthenthal LEVEL 1 ✧**

***Little Sister, Big Sister***

**Betsy Byars, *Ant Plays Bear***

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by author

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**The Golly Sisters** (series), il. Sue Truesdell LEVEL 2 ✧

A series about the Golly sisters for young readers with Byars's hilarious characters and happenings.

**Little Horse**, il. David McPhail

**My Brother, Ant**, il. Marc Simont

**Eleanor Coerr, Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express**, il. Don Bolognese

**Chang's Paper Pony**, il. Deborah Kogan Ray LEVEL 2

Chang and Grandpa work in the California Gold Rush (1850s), but Chang longs for a pony and finds a way to get one.

**Phil Roxbee Cox, Big Pig on a Dig**

**Ted in a Red Bed** LEVEL 1

A bear shops for a bed, falls asleep, and wonders how his bed got home.

**Tomie dePaola, Mother Goose Favorites**, il. Watty Piper LEVEL 1

**P. D. Eastman, Are You My Mother?** LEVEL 1 ✧

A confused bird tries to find his identity.

**The Best Nest**

**Big Dog . . . Little Dog**

**Flap Your Wings**

**Go, Dog. Go!**

Eastman's books feature simple story lines with enough fun and repeated words to keep a child going.

**Rita Golden Gelman, More Spaghetti, I Say!** LEVEL 2

Humorous rhymes.

**Karen Hesse, Sable**, il. Marcia Sewall LEVEL 2

Tate tries to keep her dog Sable from wandering. A wonderful dog story.

**Amy Hest, Pajama Party** LEVEL 2

Three girls plan their own sleepover.

**Syd Hoff, Danny and the Dinosaur** LEVEL 1 ✧

**Sammy the Seal**

Charmers. Capturing a word like *dinosaur* is quite an achievement.

**Nancy Smiler Levinson, Snowshoe Thompson**, il. Joan Sandin LEVEL 2

Postman Thompson designs a pair of skis so he can get over the Sierra Nevada Mountains to deliver mail to Danny's family.

**Jean Little, Emma's Magic Winter**, il. Jennifer Plecas LEVEL 2 ✧

Emma is too shy to speak above a whisper whenever it is her turn to read aloud in class until a new girl moves in next door and the magic of friendship begins.

**Emma's Yucky Brother**, a sequel

**Star Livingstone, Harley**, il. Molly Bang LEVEL 2

Harley, the llama, is a failure as a pack animal, but finds his true role shepherding sheep.

**Arnold Lobel, Days with Frog and Toad** LEVEL 2

*Frog and Toad All Year* LEVEL 2

*Frog and Toad Are Friends* LEVEL 2 CH ✧

*Frog and Toad Together* NH LEVEL 2

*Owl at Home* LEVEL 2

**Mercer Mayer, *Little Critter's Read-It-Yourself Storybook*** LEVEL 2

Six easy-to-read stories.

**David McPhail, *A Bug, A Bear, and a Boy*** LEVEL 1

*The Day the Sheep Showed Up* LEVEL 2 ✧

The farm animals don't know what a sheep is!

**Paul Meisel, *See Me Dig*** LEVEL 1

An early reader story filled with action and adventure.

**Elsa Holmelund Minarik, *A Kiss for Little Bear***

*Father Bear Comes Home*

*Little Bear*, il. Maurice Sendak LEVEL 1 ✧

*Little Bear's Friend*

*Little Bear's Visit*

**Mary Pope Osborne, *The Magic Tree House* (series)** LEVEL 2

Jack and Annie have many magical adventures in this series that has turned reluctant learners into readers.

**Peggy Parish, *Amelia Bedelia and the Surprise Shower*** LEVEL 2

A series that has kept children in giggles for years.

*Come Back, Amelia Bedelia*, il. Wallace Tripp LEVEL 2

*Thank You, Amelia Bedelia*, il. Barbara Siebel Thomas LEVEL 2 ✧

Literal-minded Amelia prepares for a fussy aunt's visit by airing the vegetables and separating the eggs. Beginning readers love the wordplay.

**Cynthia Rylant, *Annie and Snowball* (series), il. Suçie Stevenson** LEVEL 1

A beginning reader series telling stories of Annie and her pet bunny Snowball.

**Henry and Mudge** (series), il. Suçie Stevenson

A beginning reader series telling stories of Henry and his pet dog Mudge.

**The High-Rise Private Eyes** (series), il. G. Brian Karas LEVEL 2

Bunny Brown is the brains of the duo; Jack Jones is the snoop, and together they crack cases wide open in this series. The illustrations help the reader look for clues.

**Mr. Putter and Tabby** (series), il. Arthur Howard LEVEL 1 ✧

A series of humorous, delightful books children love with Mr. Putter and his aging tabby cat.

**Louis Sachar, *Marvin Redpost* (series), il. Neal Hughes** LEVEL 2

Funny, easy-to-read books about a boy who is convinced he is someone else.

**Joan Sandin, *The Long Way to a New Land*** LEVEL 2

*The Long Way Westward*

Two books about a Swedish family's journey to a new home in Minnesota.

**Richard Scarry, *Richard Scarry's Best Read-It-Yourself Book Ever* LEVEL 1**

Twelve stories for new readers.

**George Shea, *First Flight: The Story of Tom Tate and the Wright Brothers*, il. Don Bolognese LEVEL 2**

**Erica Silverman, *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa* (series), il. Betsy Lewin LEVEL 1**

The adventures of Kate and her talking horse, Cocoa, with tales that will delight young readers.

**Jerry Spinelli, *Tooter Pepperday*, il. Donna Nelson LEVEL 2**

Tooter doesn't want to move to the farm, but along the way she begins to see life differently.

**Ann Turner, *Dust for Dinner*, il. Robert Barrett LEVEL 2**

An Oklahoma family is displaced during the drought and dust storms.

**Jean Van Leeuwen, *Tales of Amanda Pig*, il. Ann Schweninger LEVEL 2 ✧  
*Tales of Oliver Pig***

**Gloria Whelan, *Hannah* LEVEL 2**

In 1887, the new teacher changes blind Hannah's life.

***Next Spring an Oriole* LEVEL 2 ✧**

***Night of the Full Moon* LEVEL 2**

***Shadow of the Wolf* LEVEL 2**

Three stories of the pioneer adventures of ten-year-old Libby Mitchell and her family, who move by wagon from Virginia to settle on the Michigan frontier in the 1840s. Libby is mistakenly kidnapped, and her friendship with Fawn, a young Potawatomi girl, changes her. Great chapter books.

***Silver***

The story of an Alaskan girl's husky puppy.

***Welcome to Starvation Lake* (series)**

**Mo Willems, *Waiting Is Not Easy! (An Elephant and Piggie Book)* LEVEL 1**

Early readers love this series of zany tales about the adventures of best friends Gerald and Piggie. Fun pictures, easy vocabulary, and keen observations about life. Check out the entire Elephant and Piggie series and also the Pigeon Book series.

**Harriet Ziefert, *The Cow in the House*, il. Emily Bolam LEVEL 1**

What laughable confusion in one house!





CHAPTER 16

# CLASSIC CHILDREN'S NOVELS: *Ages 9–12*

**Louisa May Alcott, *Jo's Boys***

*Little Men*

*Little Women* ✧

The well-loved story of family love, tragedy, and romance in the lives of the four March sisters. Wait until your child is twelve to read this.

**Richard and Florence Atwater, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*** NH

House painter Mr. Popper's pet penguin becomes so lonely that Mr. Popper borrows a penguin from the zoo. It's enough to make you laugh!

**Carol Ryrie Brink, *Caddie Woodlawn*, il. Trina Schart Hyman** NM

Caddie, an impulsive, independent, redheaded tomboy, finds adventure as she runs with her brothers in pioneer Wisconsin in the 1860s. Her mother, determined to turn her into a "lady," changes her mind when the settlers are faced with warring Native Americans. Caddie does what others are afraid to do—she goes off into the woods to talk with them! Full of humor and fun, this book has impressed both boys and girls since 1936.

**Frances Hodgson Burnett, *Little Lord Fauntleroy***

The tale of an American child who turns out to be an English nobleman. Sentimental and compellingly readable.

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BG/HB Boston Globe/Horn Book award  
CM Caldecott Medal  
CH Caldecott Honor  
CSK Coretta Scott King award  
NH Newbery Honor  
NM Newbery Medal  
✧ Recommended title to start with by author

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### ***A Little Princess***

Young Sara Crewe is sent from India by her father to live in a London boarding school, headed by the mean and imposing Miss Minchin. When her father's death leaves her destitute, she works as a servant to earn her keep. She is finally rescued by "magic" and united with a dear friend of her father's.

### ***The Secret Garden*, il. Tasha Tudor ✧**

Mary Lennox changes the life of her cousin, Colin, and everyone in his joyless Victorian household with her creativity and work in the secret garden.

A longtime favorite.

### ***Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire, Abraham Lincoln* CM ✧**

Beautifully written and illustrated life of Lincoln from his boyhood through his presidency.

👤 The d'Aulaires' biographies are worth looking for.

### ***Benjamin Franklin***

### ***Columbus***

### ***George Washington***

### ***Alice Dalgliesh, The Bears on Hemlock Mountain*, il. Helen Sewell NH ✧**

Are there bears on Hemlock Mountain? A page-turner about a boy who found out.

### ***The Courage of Sarah Noble* NH**

Sarah goes to the wilds of Connecticut with her father and must remember her mother's words, "Keep your courage, Sarah!"

### ***James Daugherty, Daniel Boone* NM**

A biography of every boy's hero, the king of the wild frontier. Hard to find in bookstores, you will find it in many libraries.

### ***Marguerite de Angeli, The Door in the Wall* NM ✧**

A terrible illness leaves young Robin, a nobleman's son, crippled and abandoned, but Robin finds his destiny altered by his friendship with Brother Luke, a monk, who teaches him positive ways to endure what life may bring.

### ***Thee, Hannah!***

An eight-year-old Quaker girl who longs for bright colors and lacy trim finds her plain gray bonnet gives courage for a runaway slave to ask for help.

### ***Meindert DeJong, The Wheel on the School*, il. Maurice Sendak NM**

Schoolchildren in a Dutch village use their ingenuity to bring the storks back to their island. Full of delight and insight.

### ***William Pène du Bois, The Twenty-One Balloons* NM**

When Professor William Waterman Sherman was found adrift in the Atlantic clinging to the debris of his twenty-one balloons, all America was rocked with curiosity. Twelve and up.

### ***Elizabeth Enright, The Melendy Quartet* (series) ✧**

A series of four wonderful stories of the lively Melendy family, who invent the

ISAAC—Independent Saturday Alternative Adventure Club. Favorites for well over fifty years. Titles in the series are *The Saturdays*, *The Four-Story Mistake*, *Then There Were Five*, and *Spiderweb for Two: A Melendy Maze*.

***Thimble Summer*** NM

Ten-year-old Garnet Linden finds a thimble in the creek bottom and things begin to happen!

**Eleanor Estes, *Ginger Pye*** NM

Ginger Pye, the smartest dog in the world, disappears on Thanksgiving Day, abducted by a stranger in a yellow hat, or so the children say.

***The Hundred Dresses*** NH

An immigrant child tells her class that she has one hundred fancy dresses at home, even though she wears the same faded blue dress every day.

***The Moffats* (series), il. Louis Slobodkin** NH ✧

Four children and Mama—and their friends—have days packed full of fun and lively adventures despite a limited income. Longtime favorites.

**Rachel Field, *Calico Bush*** NH

Maggie Ledoux, an indentured servant at age thirteen, travels to the New World from France with the Sargent family and proves her resilience and strength through the harsh winter of 1743 in northern Maine.

***Hitty, Her First Hundred Years*** NM ✧

A quaint story of a New England doll and her experiences. For readers beyond the doll age. A new edition by Rosemary Wells diminishes what makes Hitty unique. Look for the original and compare it yourself.

**Dorothy Canfield Fisher, *Understood Betsy***

A new edition of an old favorite written in 1916. Neurotic, sickly Elizabeth Ann grows healthy and happy when she is sent to a Vermont farm to live with no-nonsense relatives, the “dreaded Putneys,” and learns to have fun.

**Esther Forbes, *America’s Paul Revere*, il. Lynd Ward**

Story about a well-known hero with background to the Revolutionary War.

***Johnny Tremain*, il. Nathan Hale** NM ✧

This 2018 edition of the work includes a graphic introduction by well-known graphic artist Nathan Hale. The book tells the story of a young silversmith’s apprentice who chronicles the beginning of the Revolution in the American colonies.

**Elizabeth Goudge, *The Blue Hills***

Everyone bound for the Blue Hills for a picnic celebrating Hugh Anthony’s birthday gets lost on the way and experiences life-changing adventures. Not easily found in bookstores but still available in many libraries.

***The Little White Horse*** ✧

Orphan Maria Merryweather (isn’t that a great name?) arrives at Moonacre Manor with her governess to live with an elderly cousin. All sorts of

unexplained things happen and, delving into them, Maria proceeds to change the life of almost everyone in this magical place. A lovely fairy tale—one of my favorites. All of Goudge's books cling to the heart.

**Elizabeth Janet Gray, *Adam of the Road* NM**

Adam, age eleven, has grown up traveling through the open roads of thirteenth-century England with his wandering minstrel father. When his father disappears, Adam is left alone. While searching for his father, Adam meets some endearing (and not so endearing) people and learns how others live.

**Lucretia P. Hale, *The Complete Peterkin Papers***

For well over a hundred years children and parents have chuckled over the amusing incidents in the life of the zany Peterkin family, who manage to complicate even the simplest thing. First published in 1880!

**Jesse Jackson, *Call Me Charley***

One of the first books to call all readers to attention about a boy and his Black identity. A low-key but poignant look at the racial problem. If you want to purchase this you will probably need to find a used copy.

**Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Book* ✧**

Exciting episodes with jungle animals, written with powerful imaginative appeal.

***Just So Stories***

Children's animal stories, the only book Kipling illustrated, giving amusing answers to questions such as why the leopard has spots and where the elephant got his trunk.

***The Second Jungle Book***

**Joseph Krumgold, . . . *And Now Miguel* NM**

Miguel wants to join the men who shepherd the sheep in the higher pastures. A tender story about working together and taking responsibility, but also accepting who you are with grace.

***Onion John* NM ✧**

Onion John is a simple immigrant vegetable peddler largely ignored, but twelve-year-old Andy makes the choice to become his friend in spite of social pressure.

**Charles and Mary Lamb, *Tales from Shakespeare***

A wonderful way to meet Shakespeare. Easy-to-read condensations of the plots, written in good story form.

**Andrew Lang, *The Blue Fairy Book***

***The Green Fairy Book***

***The Red Fairy Book* ✧**

***The Yellow Fairy Book***

For those who like fairy tales.

**Sidney Lanier, *The Boy's King Arthur*, il. N. C. Wyeth**

A well-told classic tale. Editions with N. C. Wyeth's illustrations are collector's items.

**Robert Lawson, *Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by His Good Mouse Amos***

***Mr. Revere and I***

An account of certain episodes in Revere's career as told by his horse.

***Rabbit Hill* NM ✧**

Animal-loving new people move into a run-down house on the hill and good things begin to happen for all the animals.

**Munro Leaf, *The Story of Ferdinand*, il. Robert Lawson**

A delightful story of a bull who favored smelling flowers, until the day he went wild from a bee sting just as the men arrived to look for a bull to face the toreador. Read the original.

**Lois Lenski, *Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison* NM**

Based on the true story of a girl abducted by the Seneca tribe.

***Strawberry Girl* NM ✧**

Birdie Boyer is a Florida Cracker whose family raises strawberries in a story full of enterprise and fun and real life.

**Maud Hart Lovelace, *Betsy-Tacy* (series), il. Lois Lenski.**

The story of two young girls, inseparable friends—so close they are regarded as one—and their growing up in a small Minnesota town years ago.

**Betty MacDonald, *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* (series), il. Hilary Knight**

A remarkable old lady lives in an upside-down house and children love her because she smells of cookies and was once married to a pirate. She also has solutions to almost any problem.

**Robert McCloskey, *Homer Price***

Homer hits a home run for every reader. The story is funny, inventive, and a wonderful read-aloud book for the family, with the added joy of McCloskey's drawings.

**John O'Brien, *Silver Chief: Dog of the North*, il. Kurt Wiese**

Classic story of a magnificent dog, part husky and part wolf. Not currently in book stores but available in libraries.

**Philippa Pearce, *Tom's Midnight Garden***

Tom hears the clock strike thirteen one night while staying at his aunt and uncle's apartment. Sleepless and lonely, he goes downstairs to investigate and opens the door, not on the little concrete yard he expects, but on a wonderful garden that takes him back in time. Written in 1958 in England where it was awarded the Carnegie Medal for excellence, this timeless story will probably be reaching out to children in 2102 on both sides of the Atlantic.

**Gene Stratton-Porter, *Freckles***

Freckles, an abandoned, armless boy, shows his worth in protecting the

valuable timbers of the Limberlost forest and proves that his inner spirit overcomes all other handicaps.

***A Girl of the Limberlost*** ✧

Young Elnora Comstock and her difficult mother live deep in the swamplands. Elnora resourcefully and endearingly wades her way through the struggles of poverty, determined to go to high school and overcome her family history.

**Howard Pyle, *Otto of the Silver Hand***

***Some Merry Adventures of Robin Hood***

***The Story of King Arthur and His Knights***

***The Story of Sir Launcelot and His Companions*** ✧

Pyle is a delightful storyteller and a splendid artist who greatly influenced Andrew Wyeth. These stories are sure to please boys.

**Arthur Ransome, *Swallows and Amazons*** (series)

The first in a well-loved, irresistible series. Four English children camp on an island and find a world of imagination and unexpected events. Look for *Swallowdale*, *Peter Duck*, *Winter Holiday*, *Coot Club*, *Pigeon Post*, and others.

**Glen Rounds, *The Blind Colt*** ✧

Born blind, a mustang colt learns to “see” with his ears and nose.

***Ol’ Paul, the Mighty Logger***

Tall tales about Paul Bunyan.

**Felix Salten, *Bambi: A Life in the Woods***

A 1926 classic book, to be read to children ten or older. This tender story takes you deep into the forest to know the animals and the precarious life they lead. It is a somber story of wisdom and reality—much more than a Disney cartoon.

**Ruth Sawyer, *Roller Skates*** NM

Freed from her customary restraints when her parents go abroad, a little girl takes readers with her as she explores New York City on roller skates in 1890.

**George Selden, *The Cricket in Times Square*, il. Garth Williams** NH ✧

A cricket from Connecticut spends the summer in a New York subway station helped by three friends—a boy, a cat, and a fast-talking Broadway mouse.

***Harry Kitten and Tucker Mouse***

***Tucker’s Countryside***

**Kate Seredy, *The Good Master*** NH ✧

An unforgettable story of a Hungarian tomboy who is sent to live on her uncle’s ranch. A marvelous bit of writing from the 1930s.

***The Singing Tree*** NH

A warm, clear picture of life in pre-World War I Hungary. A continuation of *The Good Master*, the farm of the first book becomes a refuge for the needy. Kate Seredy’s books sing with poetic language and vivid descriptions and stay in the heart year after year. Read them now; read them when you are fifty.

***The White Stag*** NM

This story is a vivid portrayal of life on the steppes when the hordes invade. Read this with *The Trumpeter of Krakow* (Eric Kelly) for a well-balanced picture of history.

**Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty***

Moving story of perhaps the most famous horse of all. Don't substitute simplified versions for small children.

**Monica Shannon, *Dobry*** NM

Beautifully written story of family life in the mountains of Bulgaria, a story to help you see and feel and love. You will want it to go on forever.

**Armstrong Sperry, *Call It Courage*** NM

A memorable story of a Polynesian boy who faces his fears and a raging sea with courage. A story for boys.

**Johanna Spyri, *Heidi***

An unforgettable story about a girl, her grandfather, and a boy named Peter, set in the Swiss mountains. Don't choose a simplified edition.

**Sydney Taylor, *All-of-a-Kind Family*** (series)

Ella, Henny, Sara, Charlotte, and Gertie are five lovable Jewish girls growing up in New York in the early 1900s—an all-of-a-kind family who have immigrated from Czechoslovakia. Then baby Charles is born, and the fun begins.

**James Thurber, *Many Moons*** CM ✧

A princess wants the moon, and the king orders one person after another to bring it to her. One succeeds.

***The 13 Clocks***

The story of a wicked prince who lives in a cold, cold castle with the Princess Saralinda where the hands of all the clocks are set at ten to five, frozen. Suitors find it hard to win the hand of Saralinda, who has the only warm hand in the castle.

**E. B. White, *Charlotte's Web***, il. Garth Williams ✧

A profound, tender story of a pig and a spider. A classic story of friendship.

***Stuart Little***

Story of the exploits of a brave and debonair mouse.

***The Trumpet of the Swan***

Louis, a voiceless trumpeter swan, learns to play a trumpet and finds fame, fortune, and fatherhood.

**Kate Douglas Wiggin, *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm***

Irrepressible Rebecca Rowena Randall wins over prim Aunt Miranda, the whole town, and thousands of readers since this book was first published in 1903.

An old favorite too good to miss.

**Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House in the Big Woods***, il. Garth Williams ✧

First of a series of stories about the Ingalls family, full of warmth and the

adventure of pioneer days. A must-read.

***Little House on the Prairie***

***Farmer Boy***

***On the Banks of Plum Creek***

***By the Shores of Silver Lake***

***The Long Winter***

***Little Town on the Prairie***

***These Happy Golden Years***

***The First Four Years***

All nine are available in paperback in a slipcase. *Let the Hurricane Roar* by Rose Wilder Lane (Laura's only daughter) is a reprint of a fifty-year-old book available for those who love the Little House books.

**Johann D. Wyss, *The Swiss Family Robinson***

After a shipwreck at sea, the Swiss family find refuge on an island, where they create a new home and way of life. Through difficulties and adventures, their discoveries and ingenuity are inspiring. Read in its original form, this book has a spiritual substance that makes it a splendid and timeless read-aloud for a family. Better still, listen to it read aloud on an audiobook.





CHAPTER 17

MORE GREAT  
BOOKS FOR  
INTERMEDIATE  
READERS;

*Ages 9–12*

**Karen Ackerman, *Song and Dance Man*, il. Stephen Gammell** CM

Give Grandpa a copy of this book to read with his eight- or nine-year-old grandchild!

**Lloyd Alexander, *The Gawgon and the Boy*** ✧

Gawgon (Old Gorgon) is the name given to Aunt Annie who says, “Give me that boy,” determined to give David a tutor like none you’ve ever met. Aunt Annie takes David on unbelievable adventures and fun. This delightful story is a departure from Alexander’s tales of heroism in fantasy lands.

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BG/HB	Boston Globe/Horn Book award
CM	Caldecott Medal
CH	Caldecott Honor
CSK	Coretta Scott King award
NH	Newbery Honor
NM	Newbery Medal
✧	Recommended title to start with by author

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### ***The Iron Ring***

Young Tamar, ruler of the small Indian kingdom of Sundari, collects an amusing entourage (his ancient teacher, a cow-tender, a mischievous king of the monkeys, a grumpy eagle) as he returns to Jaya's distant land to make good his debt. Along the way he rescues others, does battle with enemies, and discovers something about the meaning of life. An exciting, agreeable adventure.

### **John Bibee, *The Mystery of the Homeless Treasure* (series)**

The detectives are thrown into their first case when they discover a golden teacup stolen thirty years earlier. The first of eight fast-paced mysteries in boxed sets called The Home School Detectives.

### **Fanny Britt, *Jane, the Fox, and Me*, il. Isobelle Arsenault**

When H el ene is ostracized by her former friend, she finds her true value through a fictional character, a fox, and ultimately, a friend. A powerful graphic novel that addresses bullying and self-worth.

### **Eve Bunting, *The Memory String*, il. Ted Rand**

The buttons on the memory string that Laura cherishes most belonged to her mother. The most precious of all is one from the nightgown she was wearing when she died three years before. A broken memory string provides an opportunity for Laura to relate with new understanding to a new stepmother.

### **John Bunyan, *Dangerous Journey*, ed. Oliver Hunkin, il. Alan Parry**

This elaborately illustrated adaptation of *The Pilgrim's Progress* is a good way to introduce children to Bunyan's depiction of the Christian journey. Meet memorable characters like Great-heart, Hopeful, and the Giant of Despair. See what happens in Doubting Castle and at the Slough of Despond.

### **Betsy Byars, *Bingo Brown* (series)**

#### ***The Disappearing Acts* (series)**

Herculeah Jones, crime-solver, stars in this series of mystery stories.

#### ***Me Tarzan* ✧**

Dorothy beats out rival Dwayne for the role of Tarzan in the class play, but discovers her already-stunning yell becomes a genuine primal scream that brings in animals from everywhere, including a nearby circus.

#### ***The Not-Just-Anybody Family***

The first in a series of funny tales about the unforgettable Blossom family.

### **Ann Cameron, *The Stories Huey Tells*, il. Roberta Smith**

Seven-year-old Huey takes center stage in telling warmhearted and winsome tales about his family. Like his tagalong dog, Spunky, Huey displays lots of spirit that makes fun reading.

### **Rebecca Caudill, *Did You Carry the Flag Today, Charley?***

No one ever expected to see Charley carry the flag because it is an honor given to the most helpful person.

**Beverly Cleary, *Dear Mr. Henshaw***, il. Paul O. Zelinsky NM

Sixth-grader Leigh Botts has written letters to Mr. Henshaw since second grade.

Now Mr. Henshaw turns and asks the boy questions he struggles to answer.

***Ellen Tebbits***

About a fourth grader whose life is made miserable by long underwear.

***Henry Huggins*** (series) ✧

Enjoy the hilarious adventures of Henry, his dog Ribsy, and their friends.

***Otis Spofford***

Otis stirs up a little excitement at school. Brimful of humor.

***Ramona's World***, last in the series of Ramona books

Ramona is the most rambunctious eight-year-old you'll ever meet, and she causes her family much frustration. This lovable, energetic little girl will delight readers of all ages with her wit and unusual insights into life.

**Andrew Clements, *Frindle***, il. Brian Selznick ✧

Nick Allen knows how to liven things up at school. He invents a new word for "pen" which begins a hilarious war of words in Mrs. Granger's fifth-grade class.

***The School Story***, il. Brian Selznick

Aspiring author Natalie decides at age twelve to write a novel, and her friend Zoe, full of plans and chutzpah, sets about to get it published. Both Clements books are fun family read-alouds.

**Barbara Cohen, *The Carp in the Bathtub***, il. Joan Halpern

Leah and her brother try to rescue the carp Momma is keeping in the bathtub to make gefilte fish for Passover.

***Thank You, Jackie Robinson***, il. Richard Cuffari ✧

An obsession with the Brooklyn Dodgers cements the friendship of a fatherless boy and an older man. A bittersweet tale of love and loss.

**Christopher Paul Curtis, *Bud, Not Buddy*** NM CSK ✧

A wonderful story about the durability of the human spirit and the goodness that surrounds desperate little Bud Caldwell, a runaway from institutional care in the 1930s, who tries to find his father after his mother dies. Humorous, enduring.

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*** NH CSK

Ten-year-old Kenny Watson narrates what happens on the family trip from Michigan to Alabama to take his mischief-prone brother Byron to spend the summer with his grandmother. Racism and the Civil Rights Movement rumble in the background of this story, filled with both humor and serious issues.

**John D. Fitzgerald, *The Great Brain*** (series), il. Mercer Mayer


A wonderfully funny story about Tom and his Great Brain, told by his younger brother J. D. The setting is the turn of the twentieth century in Mormon Utah. Your children will want to read them all.

**Louise Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy***

Harriet is not your typical, lovable heroine. In fact, she is an opinionated, nosy brat. Intelligent and curious, Harriet likes to spy on people and write about them in her secret notebook—until she becomes a lonely outcast when others see what she has written. This book has been around a long time and still intrigues kids. Parents sometimes think Harriet a bit brash.

**Sid Fleischman, *The Whipping Boy*, il. Peter Sis NM**

The adventures of a spoiled young prince and the “whipping boy” who had been brought to the palace to take all the prince’s punishments for him. When they escape together, the prince learns about loyalty and courage from his new friend.

 Fleischman wrote over forty books, and they are worth exploring.

**Doris Gates, *Blue Willow* NM**

The tender story of a daughter of migrant farm workers who wishes for a permanent home and keeps a blue willow plate to remind her of a former way of life.

**Jean Craighead George, *Julie of the Wolves* NM**

Miyax, a young Eskimo girl, gets lost without compass or food. Slowly a pack of Arctic wolves begin to care for her and she learns to live with them.

***My Side of the Mountain* ✧**

A contemporary Robinson Crusoe—a small boy learns to survive and live with nature in the Catskills.

***Water Sky***

Nothing in young Lincoln’s past prepares him for whaling camp on the Arctic waters off Barrow, where he meets young Eskimos and finds more than the uncle he is looking for. George’s books have an environmental emphasis.

**William Goldman, *The Princess Bride: S. Morgenstern’s Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure***

The most beautiful girl marries the handsomest man and he turns out not to be the man of her dreams. This is fantasy with hilarious reality. The movie caught the basic story line, but the book sets out to prove that life isn’t fair.

**Kevin Henkes, *Sun and Spoon***

Spoon Gilmore takes the deck of solitaire cards as a keepsake to remember his grandmother after her death. Later, his grandfather shares his own sentimental attachment to those same cards. As he talks Spoon begins to see what made his grandparents’ relationship so special.

**Russell Hoban, *How Tom Beat Captain Najork and His Hired Sportsmen*, il. Quentin Blake**

This book begins with a giggle and ends with a giggle, but in between it is the story of Tom, a tiny boy with a flair for fooling around, whose formidable Aunt Fidget decides to put a stop to it.

***The Mouse and His Child*, il. David Small ✧**

A serious book which addresses some of the sadder parts of life, but also deals with the transforming power of love. A highly praised book that past readers

are glad to see reissued. Eleven and up.

**Holling Clancy Holling, *Minn of the Mississippi* NH**

Minn, a three-legged snapping turtle, travels from the headwaters to the mouth of the Mississippi River.

***Paddle-to-the-Sea* CH ✧**

A modern classic of a little carved Indian-in-a-canoe that floats through the Great Lakes and on to the sea with the help of many people along the way. Holling is a master at weaving history, geography, and other enlightening details, both with words and pictures, into a thoroughly engaging tale.

***Pagoo***

The life story of a hermit crab. Holling's books appeal to a wide age range (fathers would enjoy!) and are great additions to a library.

**Polly Horvath, *The Trolls***

Aunt Sally comes to babysit at the last minute so the parents can take a trip, and brings family history to the Anderson children. She tells hilarious story after story, but one that is not so funny teaches the children to value their family.

**Dick King-Smith, *Mysterious Miss Slade*, il. Ann Kronheimer**

When Patsy and Jim Reader move into an English cottage, they befriend reclusive Miss Slade, who lives with a malodorous menagerie of animals, thinking she needs help. Miss Slade proves to be the wealthy Honorable Margaretta Slade who only needs some friendship to draw her out of her more deleterious idiosyncrasies. With King-Smith's brisk sense of humor, readers will have fun.

**E. L. Konigsburg, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* NM ✧**

Two children run away to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and find a mysterious sculpture, artist unknown. They set about to search through the files of Mrs. B. Frankweiler to discover the truth.

***The View from Saturday* NM**

Four students on the sixth-grade quiz team call themselves "The Souls" (one of the closest friendships in history!). As they win more and more competitions, they also teach their handicapped coach about love and friendship.

**Jane Kurtz, *I'm Sorry, Almira Ann*, il. Susan Havice**

A story about the friendship of two girls moving westward on an Oregon wagon train.

***Jakarta Missing* ✧**

Twelve-year-old Dakar has trouble adjusting to her family's move from Kenya to North Dakota, especially since they leave her beautiful sister Jakarta behind in boarding school. Eventually trouble forces Jakarta to return home. Almost everything in Cottonwood, North Dakota requires bravery for girls who have grown up in Africa, who learn that life is both terrifying and wonderful.

A good story to help children who have never moved to appreciate cultural change. Eleven and up. Print versions are hard to find but it is available in an inexpensive e-book version.

**Astrid Lindgren, *Pippi Longstocking* (series)**

Pippi lives alone except for her monkey, her horse, and her fortune in gold pieces, but she creates a sensation wherever her hilarious adventures take her.

Just right stories for fourth graders.

**Patricia MacLachlan, *Baby***

Two troubled families are healed when their paths join and a year-old baby is left on Larkin's porch. A story that lingers in the heart.

***The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt***

A story that sparkles with humor, elegant prose, and superb storytelling.

Eleven-year-old Minna Pratt is brimful of wishes and impatience with her family and her "vibrato."

***Journey***

***Sarah, Plain and Tall* (series) NM ✧**

Anna and Caleb's widowed father corresponds with a mail-order bride from Maine and invites her to come for a visit. She replies, "I will come by train. I will wear a yellow bonnet. I am plain and tall." Continued in *Skylark*, *Caleb's Story*, and more.

**Walt Morey, *Canyon Winter***

Peter survives a private plane crash and learns to survive from the rough and unforgiving Omar Pickett. A story reminiscent of Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet*.

Available in e-book format.

***Death Walk* ✧**

Joel Rogers fights for his life alone and injured in the Alaskan wilderness until he is rescued by a mysterious trapper. Limited availability as a used book, so best to look for this in the library.

***Gentle Ben***

The lonely son of a salmon fisherman befriends an Alaskan brown bear that has been mistreated. Available as a used book.

***Gloomy Gus***

A bear cub and a lonely boy in Alaska whose father says the pet bear must go. Available in e-book format.

***Kävik the Wolf Dog***

**Ursula Nordstrom, *The Secret Language*, il. Mary Chalmers**

Boarding school turned out even worse than Victoria North, age eight, expected, until her quirky classmate Martha Sherman took her under her wing and into a magical world of secret language.

**Scott O'Dell, *Black Star, Bright Dawn***

Bright Dawn is an Eskimo girl who is rescued by her favorite dog on an incredibly difficult sled-dog race of nearly 1,200 miles. A fine novel.

***Island of the Blue Dolphins*** NM ✧

A haunting story, based on fact, of a girl who is forced to spend eighteen years alone on an island off the coast of California where she must rely on her own skills. *Zia* is a sequel.

***The Road to Damietta***

***The Serpent Never Sleeps***

O'Dell is a marvelous writer whose strong characters model good things for readers.

***Sing Down the Moon*** NH

A first-person narrative of a fourteen-year-old Navajo girl on the long walk when her tribe was forced out of Arizona and sent to New Mexico.

**Katherine Paterson, *Bridge to Terabithia*** NM

***Celia and the Sweet, Sweet Water***, il. Vladimir Vagin

This book is hard to find in bookstores. Look for it in libraries.

***The Great Gilly Hopkins*** NH

***The King's Equal*** ✧

This book is available as a picture book or as a chapter book. Raphael cannot be crowned king until he marries someone who is his equal, an unlikely situation since Raphael already thinks he is the best. Many questions pour out of its pages, which are discussed at greater length previously in chapter 4.

***The Wide-Awake Princess***, il. Vladimir Vagin

**Robert Newton Peck, *A Day No Pigs Would Die***

A poignant story taken from Peck's childhood, his relationship to his father, and his coming to terms with his father's work. A story of life and death, this is a book to talk about together. Followed by its sequel, *A Part of the Sky*.

**Patricia Polacco, *January's Sparrow***

A telling of historical events surrounding the flight of the Crosswhite family from slavery to freedom. Strong family relationships and friendship with the townfolk of Marshall, Michigan lead to a satisfying ending.

**Barbara Robinson, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***

An annual favorite in which the rowdy Herdman family takes over the church Christmas pageant.

***My Brother Louis Measures Worms*** ✧

One of ten interconnected stories about the Lawsons, an ordinary family with just a few hilarious eccentricities.

**Gary D. Schmidt & Elizabeth Stickney, *A Long Road on a Short Day***, il. Eugene Yelchin

A father and son set out in a winter storm to trade for a cow to provide milk for the family.

**Alfred Slote, *Finding Buck Henry***

Jason, an eleven-year-old Little League player, makes a startling connection while he is looking up his heroes in a baseball card shop. Is Buck Henry, the famous pitcher of the Negro League, the school custodian whose name is Mack Henry?

**Lane Smith, *Grandpa Green***

A story of family history, legacy, and love told through Grandpa Green's topiary.

**Jerry Spinelli, *Crash***

A budding football star learns some valuable things about life when a new neighbor moves in next door. A touching book about life, death, and the way we treat others.

***Maniac Magee* NM ✧**

Young Jeffrey Magee loses his parents early in life and heads off on his own. Soon he discovers a small town where he adopts various families and teaches some surprising lessons about racism.

***Stargirl***

Stargirl (otherwise known as Susan) marches to a different drummer, which alternately draws people to her or makes them shun her. Leo tries to persuade her to conform, but it doesn't work. Spinelli paints Stargirl larger than life to offer a winsome commentary on conformity.

**Patricia St. John, *The Runaway***

***The Secret at Pheasant Cottage***

***Star of Light***

Hamid lives in a mountain village in Morocco. He saves his little blind sister from being sold as a beggar. All ages.

***The Tanglewoods' Secret***

***Treasures of the Snow***

A skiing accident teaches a class of Swiss children about caring for each other.

***Where the River Begins* ✧**

A contemporary story about a boy named Francis, who comes from a troubled family. He gets involved with a street gang, and in desperation goes to live with a farm family who had earlier befriended him.

 All of St. John's books have a fine spiritual tone.

**Joni Eareckson Tada, *Darcy and Friends* (series)**

Darcy is a sixth grader in a bright purple wheelchair, facing junior high school and the challenges of her handicap. Written by a woman who was paralyzed as a teen in a diving accident.

**Theodore Taylor, *The Cay* ✧**

Shipwrecked on a deserted island (a cay), a young boy and an old man named Timothy must learn to survive the elements and each other.

***Timothy of the Cay*, a prequel to *The Cay***



**Jane Yolen, Robert J. Harris, *Queen's Own Fool***

In 1559 thirteen-year-old Nicola Ambruzzi, a member of a ragtag troupe of entertainers in the French court, impresses the young Queen Mary with her wit and honesty. She takes the girl under her protection as “the Queen’s own fool,” commanding her to speak the truth boldly in an atmosphere of schemes and fawning lies.



CHAPTER 18

# STORIES FOR ANIMAL LOVERS:

*Ages 9–12*

**William H. Armstrong, *Sounder*** NM

The heart-wrenching story of a boy and his great coon dog, Sounder.

**Michael Bond, *A Bear Called Paddington*, il. Peggy Fortnum**

A series about a bear, traveling from Peru, who is found in the London train station. Paddington lives on the edge of disaster and emerges triumphant.

**Sheila Burnford, *The Incredible Journey***

Journey of a Siamese cat, an English bull terrier, and a Labrador retriever. It's been made into a movie, but don't let that keep you from reading it aloud.

**Kate DiCamillo, *Because of Winn-Dixie***

India Opal Buloni (called Opal) thinks life is "sweetness and sadness all mixed up together." When she finds a ragged stray dog in the supermarket, she adopts him and names him after the store, Winn-Dixie. His friendly manner wins over her father, and the dog begins to help Opal overcome her problems in making friends in a new place. A sweet, funny story.

**Walter Farley, *The Black Stallion*** (series)

This story of a wild Arabian stallion and the boy who trained him still pleases readers. Many other books follow in the series.

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BG/HB	Boston Globe/Horn Book award
CM	Caldecott Medal
CH	Caldecott Honor
CSK	Coretta Scott King award
NH	Newbery Honor
NM	Newbery Medal
◇	Recommended title to start with by author

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### **John Reynolds Gardiner, *Stone Fox***

Little Willy is out to save Grandfather's farm by entering his beloved dog, Searchlight, in a dogsled race against the legendary "Stone Fox" and his five experienced sled dogs. A touching story about the value of persistence.

### **Fred Gipson, *Old Yeller***

When a big, mud-splattered yellow dog shows up at Travis's house, he thinks the dog is an awful coward, but when a bear attacks Travis's younger brother, "Old Yeller" saves his life. His tender friendship with this dog ends with one of the hardest things Travis will ever need to do.

### **Marguerite Henry, *Born to Trot***

#### ***King of the Wind: The Story of the Godolphin Arabian*, il. Wesley Dennis NM ✧**

The unforgettable story of Agba, the stable boy and the golden-red stallion born in the Sultan of Morocco's stable with a white spot on his heel, a symbol of speed.

#### ***Misty of Chincoteague* NH**

#### ***Sea Star***

#### ***Stormy, Misty's Foal***

Henry is considered by many to be the best writer of horse stories.

### **Will James, *Smoky the Cowhorse* NM**

Written in cowboy vernacular, this is a powerful book. If children are going to weep over animal stories, here is one worth their tears.

### **Dick King-Smith, *Babe, the Gallant Pig***

#### ***Lady Lollipop***

#### ***The School Mouse* ✧**

Mice generally don't read, but Flora, who lives in a school cupboard, wants to learn the same things the human children learn. She learns enough reading to save her family's life when exterminators set out tantalizing (but clearly labeled) rodent poison around the school.

#### ***Spider Sparrow***

#### ***The Water Horse***

King-Smith's animal stories are great family read-alouds.

### **James A. Kjelgaard, *Big Red* ✧**

From the moment he sees the beautiful champion Irish Setter, Danny knows this is the dog for him. Together they face dangers in the harsh Wintapi wilderness and have their courage tested by the undisputed king of the wilderness—the bear.

#### ***Irish Red: Son of Big Red***

#### ***Outlaw Red***

#### ***Snow Dog***

#### ***Stormy***

 Kjelgaard and his dog stories are hard to beat.

**Eric Knight, *Lassie Come-Home***

Get the original classic dog story written in 1938. It's the best!

**Jack London, *The Call of the Wild***

Buck, stolen from his comfortable home in California, must learn the hardships of being a sled dog in the Yukon. In this hostile environment he becomes a truly heroic dog.

**Farley Mowat, *Owls in the Family***

Memories of growing up in northern Saskatchewan, Canada, with lots of family pets—including two comical owls. A hilarious boyhood tale.

**Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, *Saving Shiloh* (series) NM ✧**

Marty Preston rescues a mistreated beagle, but faces complex ethical problems. Should he return the beagle to its owner for more cruel treatment? He decides to hide it, which involves lying and stealing food from the table. The story and its three sequels handles his love affair with this dog and solving his dilemma. Other titles in the series include *Shiloh Season* and *A Shiloh Christmas*.

**Sterling North, *Rascal* NH**

An autobiographical account of the beauty of nature as experienced by an eleven-year-old and his sometimes-comical pet raccoon.

**Mary O'Hara, *The Catch Colt***

***My Friend Flicka* ✧**

Having Flicka for his own helps a dreamy and lonely boy grow up to meet his father's expectations. An emotional book, it's a story that Americans, young and old, have taken to their hearts.

***Thunderhead***

**Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, *The Yearling*, il. N. C. Wyeth, Pulitzer Prize**

Living in the scrublands of Florida with his family, Jody Baxter finds a beautiful fawn, makes him a pet, and names him Flag. What follows is a year of hard decisions and courage. Written for adults, but appropriated by children. Look for the edition with Wyeth's superb illustrations if you can find it.

**Wilson Rawls, *Where the Red Fern Grows***

Billy wants a pair of coonhounds more than anything, but has no money. How Billy gets the dogs and what they mean to him is the theme of this story. A wonderful, teary-eyed book to talk about with someone else.

**John Steinbeck, *The Red Pony***

When his pony dies, John discovers the meaning of life.

**Amy Timberlake, *Skunk and Badger*, il. Jon Klassen**

This whimsical tale, reminiscent of *The Wind in the Willows*, explores the unlikely friendship of skunk and badger that results in an understanding of friendship and forgiveness. This will likely become a classic for children and adults.

**Robbyn Smith van Frankenhuyzen, *Adopted by an Owl: The True Story of Jackson the Owl*, il. Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen**

A fine, true story of Jackson the owl, with spectacular illustrations!



CHAPTER 19

# HISTORICAL NOVELS:

*Ages 9–12*

**Katherine Applegate, *Home of the Brave***

Sudanese refugee Kek, having just arrived in Minneapolis from Africa, shares his thoughts and experiences in a new culture while seeking to find his way in life. A moving story told in free verse format that is most appropriate for advanced readers.

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CSK	Coretta Scott King award
NH	Newbery Honor
NM	Newbery Medal
✧	Recommended title to start with by author

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**Jennifer Armstrong, *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance***

The harrowing survival story of English explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and the ill-fated *Endurance*. As Shackleton and twenty-seven sailors attempted to cross the frozen Antarctic continent, they faced being trapped in an ice pack, losing their ship, surviving winter, and being attacked by sea lions. The story, told by a young stowaway on the *Endurance*, is a compelling adventure, well told. Eleven and up.

**Mary Jane Auch, *Frozen Summer***

*Journey to Nowhere* ✧

*The Road to Home*

In this trilogy, Remembrance Nye (Mem), motherless and thirteen, assumes the care of her younger brother and sister as her father becomes increasingly

irresponsible, essentially abandoning them when he goes to work on the Erie Canal. Mem resolves to continue on with her siblings to find relatives in Connecticut, a journey on which she is alternately cheated and helped. Set in 1817, the stories are a historical slice of life.

**Patricia Beatty, *Be Ever Hopeful, Hannalee***

Hannalee has been sent to work in a mill in Indiana during the Civil War and now tries to return to find her family in war-torn Georgia. In the sequel, the family returns to devastated Atlanta in the summer of 1865.

***Turn Homeward, Hannalee* ✧**

**Joan W. Blos, *Brothers of the Heart***

In the 1830s Shem, a fourteen-year-old crippled boy, leaves his wilderness home after a series of misunderstandings and is eventually helped by an old Native American woman.

***A Gathering of Days* NM ✧**

A fictional journal of Catherine, a young New England girl, in about 1830. The help she offers a runaway slave brings her some growing-up grief.

**Rhoda Blumberg, *Commodore Perry in the Land of the Shogun* NH ✧**

Historical fiction about Matthew Perry's adventurous expedition to open Japan to American trade, a task complicated by cultural differences that make understanding and trust difficult.

***Shipwrecked!***

The true tale of Manjiro who, after being shipwrecked in 1841 off the coast of his native Japan, was rescued by an American whaling ship. He was subsequently educated in New England and returned home to become an honored samurai. Both books are good ways to acquaint young readers with cross-cultural understanding.

**Robert Burleigh, *Black Whiteness: Admiral Byrd Alone in the Antarctic*, il. Walter Lyon Krudop**

A retelling of Admiral Richard Byrd's successful one-man Antarctic encampment, a story of his determination and courage. A great adventure story for boys.

**Joan Dash, *The World at Her Fingertips: The Story of Helen Keller***

A wonderfully told story of a determined, obstinate woman who was extraordinarily dependent, despite her drive for independence. Inspiring.

**Walter D. Edmonds, *The Matchlock Gun* NM**

In 1756, New York was a British colony with French-Indian uprisings a constant threat to Edward and his family. When his father is called away, Edward is left to protect his mother and little Trudy. Based on a true story.

**Russell Freedman, *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* NH**

***Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence***

The night of the Boston Tea Party, a fourteen-year-old sneaks aboard the ships in the harbor. Freedman is a master at taking crucial moments in American

history and reproducing them with powerful tensions and grace.

***The Life and Death of Crazy Horse***

***Out of Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille***, il. Kate Kiesler ✧

Over 170 years ago a blind fifteen-year-old French boy developed a system of raised paper punches that would enable a blind person to read.

***The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane***

**Jean Fritz, *George Washington's Breakfast*** ✧

***Shh! We're Writing the Constitution***

***What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?***

***Where Was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?***

***Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?***

Looking at titles like these (and many more), you already know that Fritz will teach your children history in the most palatable way.

**James Cross Giblin, *The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin***, il. Michael Dooling ✧

Did you know Ben Franklin's son remained loyal to England during the War of Independence? Born in Boston to a family of seventeen children, apprenticed to his brother, a printer—Ben could be called a world statesman, inventor, politician, but by his own choice, his gravestone reads simply B. Franklin, Printer.

***Charles A. Lindbergh: A Human Hero***

***Fireworks, Picnics, and Flags***, il. Ursula Arndt

A wonderful family book about the origins of Independence Day and symbols, from the flag to the story behind America's most famous patriotic bald eagle to Uncle Sam.

***George Washington: A Picture Book Biography***

***Thomas Jefferson: A Picture Book Biography***

**Sheila Gordon, *Waiting for the Rain: A Novel of South Africa***

The story of two boys—one white, the other Black—and their close friendship in the tensions of apartheid.

**Nathan Hale, *Treaties, Trenches, Mud, and Blood***

At times a bit zany, this graphic novel brings a broad understanding of the events of World War I with visual images that help unravel a complicated history. Part of the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series. Other titles from the series address different time periods.

**John Hendrix, *The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler***

A biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in graphic novel format that explains the events that shaped Bonhoeffer's life and decisions. This book has more words than most graphic novels.

**Anne Holm, *I Am David* (originally published as *North to Freedom*)**

A boy who has grown up in a concentration camp makes his way across Europe alone, hoping to find his mother at the end of the journey. A wonderful story.

**Gloria Houston, *Bright Freedom's Song: A Story of the Underground Railroad***

Bright Freedom Cameron finds out where her name comes from as she learns the history of indentured white people and becomes involved in her family's part in rescuing runaway slaves about the time of the Civil War. Informative and inspiring. A good family read-aloud. Compare this book with Mary Stolz's *Cezanne Pinto* and Roni Schotter's *F Is for Freedom*.

**Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, *When Stars Are Scattered*, il. Iman Geddy and Victoria Jamieson**

This warm and engaging graphic novel recounts the true story of Omar Mohamed, a young Somalian who flees the war in his home country and ends up in a refugee camp. It recounts his resilient journey to manhood, years of boredom, setbacks, and injustices until, through perseverance and good fortune, his hope is realized. An excellent introduction to the realities faced by millions in the world today.

**Judith Kerr, *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit***

Story of a Jewish German refugee family who escaped to Switzerland to avoid Nazi persecution. Ennobling because it shows that people can live happy lives, even amid insecurity and deprivation, if they have the support of a loving family.

**Thanhà Lai, *Inside Out and Back Again* NM**

Written in free verse, this book tells the moving story of a young girl fleeing the fall of Saigon and her experience of building a new home and life in America. Although this is a fictional story, it is based on the experience of the author.

**Jean Lee Latham, *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch* NM**

Fictionalized biography about Nat Bowditch who in the late 1700s was sold to a ship chandler as an indentured servant for nine years.

**Milton Meltzer, *Mary McLeod Bethune: Voice of Black Hope*, il. Stephen Marchesi**

The first of her family to be born free of slavery, Mary Bethune opens a school for five Black girls in 1904 and goes on to become an influential civil rights leader.

**Joan Lowery Nixon, *A Family Apart* (The Orphan Train Adventures series)**

A series of books about the Kelly children, whose penniless mother must send them west on an orphan train in 1860.

**Scott O'Dell, *The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day* ✧**

Set in the time of Tyndale's translation of the Bible into English, Tom Barton and his Uncle Jack, a smuggler, are caught up in Tyndale's problems.

***The King's Fifth***

The hero is a young Spanish mapmaker traveling with the conquistadors in southwest America looking for gold.

***Sarah Bishop***

Based on an actual historical event, Sarah takes refuge in a cave after her



father and brother are killed in the Revolutionary War. A good read-aloud.

***Streams to the River, River to the Sea: A Novel of Sacagawea***

O'Dell tells the story as though it were written by Sacagawea, skillfully recreating the exploration of Lewis and Clark.

**Gary D. Schmidt, *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* NH**

A powerful coming of age story set in early twentieth century Maine. Built around a little-known historical event, the story develops memorable characters and the courage to act for what one believes—sometimes at great cost.

**Vesper Stamper, *What the Night Sings***

Fifteen-year-old Gerta Rausch does not realize that she is Jewish until the day she was picked up by the Nazis and taken to a concentration camp. This powerful story, told with sparing detail, uncovers the horror of concentration camps and the struggle to hold onto one's humanity and dreams once freed. A moving, sometimes stark novel for the advanced reader.

**Dorothy Sterling, *Freedom Train***

Story of Harriet Tubman, the courageous escaped slave who devoted her life to helping others escape.

**Rosemary Sutcliff, *Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad*, il. Alan Lee  
*Sword Song* ✧**

A young Viking warrior, Bjarni Sigurdson, is barely sixteen when he is banished from his settlement on the west coast of Scotland for accidentally killing a man. He sets out to make a life for himself as a swordsman, finds a hero in a Viking seafarer, and proves himself in five years of adventures. A fine book about difficult choices that lead to maturity.

***The Wanderings of Odysseus: The Story of the Odyssey*, il. Alan Lee  
*Warrior Scarlet***

In Bronze Age Britain young Drem, who has a withered arm, must overcome his disability to prove his manhood and become a warrior.

 Rosemary Sutcliff breathes life into history. Look for her other titles.

**Elizabeth Van Steenwyk, *A Traitor among Us***

In the fall of 1944 in Nazi-occupied Holland, thirteen-year-old Pieter knows there is a traitor in the village. Who is it?

**Gloria Whelan, *Angel on the Square* ✧**

Katya Ivanova, daughter of the lady-in-waiting in the Tsar's palace, lives an aristocratic life in St. Petersburg in 1914 as the flame of the Russian Revolution ignites.

***Farewell to the Island***

***Once on This Island***

***Return to the Island***

A series of three stories about life on Mackinac Island during the War of 1812, when the British take over the island from the Americans.



CHAPTER 20

# FANTASY NOVELS:

*Ages 9–12*

**Jonathan Auxier, *The Night Gardener* ✧**

The tale of two orphaned Irish siblings who find work as servants at a crumbling Victorian manor house. But things are not what they seem and they must figure out the strange behavior of the family they serve, the mysterious night gardener, and the ancient curse that binds all.

More than a ghost story, it is a tale of human greed and the power of storytelling.

***Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster***

A historical novel with a strong fantasy element that confronts the horror of orphan chimney sweeps in Victorian England and the power of friendship and memory of loved ones.

**Lynne Reid Banks, *I, Houdini***

The amazing story of an escape-artist hamster.

***The Indian in the Cupboard* ✧**

With a twist of a key in the cupboard, Omri turns small plastic figures into vigorous life and adventure.

Captivating battles take place; the quirks in the characters complicate predicaments.

***The Return of the Indian*, a sequel**

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BG/HB Boston Globe/  
Horn Book award  
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CH Caldecott Honor  
CSK Coretta Scott  
King award  
NH Newbery Honor  
NM Newbery Medal  
✧ Recommended  
title to start with  
by author

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**James Barrie, *Peter Pan***

Familiar story of a boy who doesn't want to grow up. There are many editions available. Read it as it was originally written if you want to meet Barrie's Peter Pan.

**L. Frank Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz***

Made popular by a movie, this book, written in 1900, gives a different experience from the film. Meet Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, Toto, and the rest.

**John Bibee, *The Magic Bicycle* (series) ✧**

The first of eight books in The Spirit Flyer series. The ordinary town of Centerville is the setting for some extraordinary events. When several children discover that Spirit Flyer bicycles possess strange and magical powers, they are thrust into a conflict with Goliath Industries—with the fate of the town in balance. Allegorical adventure.

*The Toy Campaign*

*The Only Game in Town*

**L. M. Boston, *The Children of Green Knowe* (series) ✧**

*An Enemy at Green Knowe*

*The River at Green Knowe*

*The Stones of Green Knowe*

*A Stranger at Green Knowe*

*Treasure of Green Knowe*

English fantasy, beautifully written and completely absorbing. A lonely child is sent to live with his great-grandmother at the family's ancient manor house, Green Knowe.

**Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass***

An absolutely ageless classic of fanciful nonsense and satire. A must for every child—and adult. I like the edition illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, though this edition is becoming hard to find.

**John Christopher, *The City of Gold and Lead***

*The Pool of Fire*

*When the Tripods Came*

*The White Mountains* ✧

A compelling science fiction series about Tripods, huge three-legged machines that descend to earth and take control of people.

**Carlo Collodi, *The Adventures of Pinocchio***

The story of a carver and his boy. An old favorite that needs to be read in the original version.

**Susan Cooper, *The Dark Is Rising Sequence* (series) NH**

This five-book series crosses wide expanses of time from modern time to medieval, and is a story of courage and discovery in the confrontation of good and evil.

**Ian Fleming, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, il. John Burningham**

The story of a magical racing car that flies, floats, and has a real talent for getting the Pott family in and out of trouble. Written by the same man who wrote the James Bond novels.

**Kenneth Grahame, *The Reluctant Dragon***

Tale of a dragon who prefers poetry to battle.

***The Wind in the Willows*, il. Ernest Shepard ✧**

A wonderful, unforgettable tale of beloved Mole, Rat, Badger, and Toad in their classic adventures. Often read too young. Ageless.

**Brian Jacques, *Redwall* (series) ✧**

Many teens (and younger) have bookshelves lined with the twenty-two Redwall series books. These inspiring stories of heroism, bravery, and integrity involve an abbey called Redwall where a colony of brave mice live. Subsequent volumes have battles and mysteries and adventures enough to grab a wide age range of readers. I like them and so do my middle school friends. Look for *Mossflower*, *Mattimeo*, *Mariel of Redwall*, and others.

***Castaways of the Flying Dutchman* (series)**

The legend of the never-ending voyage of a fatal ship begins the story. Neb, a young boy serving as cook's helper, and his dog Denmark are washed safely ashore, are blessed by an angel, and begin an eternal journey to accomplish good works wherever they go.

**Norton Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, il. Jules Feiffer**

"It leaps, soars, and abounds with the right notes all over the place," writes Maurice Sendak in the preface of the thirty-fifth anniversary edition of this witty novel. A bored boy finds a phantom tollbooth in his room and his adventures begin. It's a must that your children visit the town of Doldrums and climb the Mountain of Ignorance and meet the two princesses named Rhyme and Reason and all the other fantastical places in this story. There are multiple editions available, but Jules Feiffer is hard to beat as an illustrator.

**Madeleine L'Engle, *An Acceptable Time***

***Many Waters***

***A Swiftly Tilting Planet***

***A Wind in the Door***

***A Wrinkle in Time* (series) NM ✧**

The first in the interplanetary suspense and adventure fantasy series The Wrinkle in Time Quintet. In the first book, three young people go on a dangerous quest to free their father from captivity in another world. Conflict between good and evil is explicit in the stories.

**C. S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia* (series)**

Lewis believed any book worth reading at ten should be worth reading at fifty, and he wrote that kind—ageless. The series includes *The Lion, the Witch*

*and the Wardrobe; Prince Caspian; The Voyage of the Dawn Treader; The Silver Chair; The Horse and His Boy; The Magician's Nephew; and The Last Battle.* Every child ought to hear these read aloud over and over, and then to read them again and again, since adults enjoy them as much as children. The deeper meaning is significant.

**Grace Lin, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (series) NH**

Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She discovers the answer when she sacrifices her opportunity for a friend.

**George MacDonald, *At the Back of the North Wind* ✧**

Classic fantasy with deeper meanings to think about. Diamond has a special friendship with the North Wind, who shows him the world as she sees it.

***The Light Princess***

The princess has no gravity and thus cannot participate in life in her world.

***The Princess and Curdie*, sequel to *The Princess and the Goblin***

***The Princess and the Goblin***

A princess and a miner's son outwit the evil mountain goblins.

**Joanna Ruth Meyer, *Echo North***

An enchanting tale intertwined with references to folklore and fairy tales that reveal the power of stories and love. Older readers.

**A. A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*, il. E. H. Shepard**

***The House at Pooh Corner***

This lovable bear and his friends—Piglet, Tigger, Owl, Roo, Kanga, and Eeyore—are certain to delight every Christopher Robin, regardless of age. Readers will recognize people they know in the characters.

**Edith Nesbit, *Five Children and It* (series) ✧**

Digging in the sand, the children discover a long-missing sand fairy, and the discovery both enlivens and confuses their lives. Written in 1902, this is still a winner.

***The Phoenix and the Carpet***

***The Story of the Amulet***

***The Story of the Treasure Seekers***

**Mary Norton, *The Borrowers* (series), il. Beth and Joe Krush CM**

Tiny people, no taller than a pencil, live in old houses and borrow what they need from whoever lives there. Favorites with readers for many years.

**J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (series)**

Harry Potter, in a captivating and imaginative series, has taken young readers by storm. Rowling creates a parallel world to Muggles (ordinary humans) in a school for wizards to which Harry Potter is sent. Together with his friends Ron and Hermione, Harry explores the secret of the sorcerer's stone, fights against evil forces, learns the consequences of choices, and generally has enough adventures to make up seven magical books. Children ages eight and older

are eager readers of books 1-3. Harry Potter is eleven when the story begins, but with each book he is a year older and the plot becomes darker and more complicated. Books 4-7 may be best for readers twelve and older. Parents could profitably read these books with their kids.

**James Rumford, *Beowulf: A Hero's Tale Retold***

This epic poem, originally dating from the sixth century and written in Old English, is told in a graphic novel format. The poem was a favorite of C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, inspiring their writing.

**Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince***

This wise, enchanting tale chronicles the events following the author's plane crash in the Sahara Desert. There he meets an extraordinary small person who tells a remarkable story about the planet he came from and his quest for what is really important in life. This book has been translated into more languages than any other book, except the Bible. Age twelve and up.

**Pamela Travers, *Mary Poppins* (series)**

Mary Poppins blew in with the east wind to be nurse for the Banks children. Do read the original version of these! The film version is delightful, but it does not have Pamela Travers's Mary Poppins.

**John White, *The Archives of Anthropos* (series)**

In these stories, written in the tradition of the Narnia books, three children enter another land in another time. In an exciting, imaginative story line, the children get involved in the massive struggle between the forces of good and evil.



CHAPTER 21

# YOUNG ADULT NOVELS:

*Ages 12–14*

**Joan Aiken, *Black Hearts in Battersea*** ✧

In a great English estate surrounded by hungry wolves, two girls are mistakenly left in the care of a wicked governess. Stories of adventure, romance, and melodrama. Incredible characters are encountered in these Gothic thrillers.

*Bridle the Wind*

*Go Saddle the Sea*

*Nightbirds on Nantucket*

*The Stolen Lake*

*The Teeth of the Gale*

*The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*

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BG/HB	Boston Globe/Horn Book award
CM	Caldecott Medal
CH	Caldecott Honor
CSK	Coretta Scott King award
NH	Newbery Honor
NM	Newbery Medal
✧	Recommended title to start with by author

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**Lloyd Alexander, *The Chronicles of Prydain* (series)** ✧

Excellent fantasy, well written, and based on Welsh legend. Includes *The Book of Three*, *The Black Cauldron*, *The Castle of Llyr*, *Taran Wanderer*, and *The High King*.

*The Westmark Trilogy*

This trilogy consists of *Westmark*, *The Kestrel*, and *The Beggar Queen*.

*The Illyrian Adventure*

*Gypsy Rizka*

**Mabel Esther Allan, *A Lovely Tomorrow***

Frue Allendale, a teen growing up in London, is suddenly robbed of her home, parents, and future acting career when a rocket hits her city home on New Year's Eve 1944. She is packed away with her great-aunt far out in the country, and then enrolled in a boarding school where conditions are less than luxurious. Despite these difficulties, Frue eventually finds friendship, love, and even romance in her country home.

**Avi, *Nothing but the Truth: A Documentary Novel***

The struggles of freshman Philip Malloy and his antipathy towards his teacher let readers look and learn some practical lessons about being a growing person.

***The Secret School***

When Mr. Jordan, head of the school board, refuses to hire a replacement teacher for the small one-room rural school in Colorado, resourceful fourteen-year-old Ida Bidson takes over the school as her only chance to graduate and go on to high school.

***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* ✧**

In 1832, resourceful thirteen-year-old Charlotte is the only female on a sailing vessel bound from England to Rhode Island, and is drawn into the adventure and almost-mutiny on the ship. It's a ripping good tale in spite of many questions about how likely it is that a girl could get away with this.

**Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting***

A girl of ten is befriended by a family that has drunk at a spring that gives them eternal life—and eternal life proves to be a burden. This may seem too juvenile for this classification but the book requires more thoughtful analysis than a younger person would give it. Adults enjoy this story. A good book for discussion.

**Margot Benary-Isbert, *A Time to Love***

A young German girl and her Great Dane are sent away to a private boarding school during World War II. At Heilingwald she develops her love for music, meets her first love, and learns some valuable lessons about life and its heartaches.

**Daniel James Brown, *The Boys in the Boat***

The remarkable story of nine working-class boys and their quest for Olympic gold at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. But the deeper story is one of overcoming, persistence, and value of deep relationships that shaped the character of these individuals. I recommend the original adult version over the Young Reader edition.

**Beverly Butler, *Light a Single Candle***

At fourteen, Cathy Wheeler loses her sight and is plunged into a world of changes and new experiences. She and her guide dog, Trudy, are enrolled in Burton Academy for the Blind. Learning Braille, acquiring new independence, and making valuable friends all help Cathy before she accepts the challenge of going back to public high school.

**Betsy Byars, *The Summer of the Swans* NM**

A tender story of fourteen-year-old Sara and how her life changes when



her younger, mentally challenged brother disappears. A wonderful story for families with disabled children.

**Sharon Creech, *Bloomability***

A young American girl whose job-hopping father moves frequently from state to state is taken in by her uncle and aunt for a year (“kidnapped,” as she puts it) to attend their international boarding school in the Swiss Alps. There she learns about skiing, different cultures, and making lifelong friends.

**Karen Cushman, *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* ✧**

California Morning’s widowed mother uproots the family from their comfortable Massachusetts environs to settle in a rough mining camp in the Sierras, California. Her adventurous mother expects she will get over it, but California Morning writes histrionic letters to her grandparents, such as, “I am bodaciously sorrow-burdened and wretched!” This story energizes and puts flesh on the drama of the Gold Rush years and is packed with more history than many textbooks.

***The Midwife’s Apprentice* NM**

A young girl not knowing what she wants in life, nor having a name, finds both in this story set in medieval England.

**Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe***

One of the most widely published books in history, this is the profound story of Crusoe becoming a different man through his experiences on an island. A must-read classic good for reading aloud or listening in audiobook format. There are numerous print and audio versions. Be sure to choose an original and unabridged edition.

**Kate DiCamillo, *Beverly, Right Here* ✧**

Beverly has run away from home, but this time is different. She is leaving. Despite her determination to make it on her own without depending on anyone, she finds herself building connections with people around her that give her a perspective needed to put her life back together. One of three books, each picking up on the life of a different friend: Beverly, Louisiana, and Raymie. Each book is filled with unusual characters and decisions about relationships and independence.

***Louisiana’s Way Home***

***Raymie Nightingale***

**Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield***

An autobiographical novel told in the first-person voice of David Copperfield. David encounters many characters as he matures and finds his true purpose.

***Oliver Twist* ✧**

Born in a workhouse, Oliver travels to London and meets many memorable characters. The book exposes the horror of child labor, domestic violence, and the place of street children before resolving in a satisfying conclusion.

### ***A Tale of Two Cities***

Historical novel set in the period leading up to the French Revolution. Deals with themes of transformation and sacrifice.

👤 All of these novels by Dickens are great for reading aloud or listening as an audiobook.

### **Lloyd C. Douglas, *The Robe***

The story of the Roman soldier who wins Jesus's robe from a roll of the dice at the foot of the cross. An engrossing tale of love, suspense, political intrigue, and redemption vividly set in ancient Rome.

### **Paula Fox, *One-Eyed Cat* NH**

Ned receives a gun for his eleventh birthday but is forbidden by his parents to use it. He disobeys and believes that he shot out the eye of a wild cat and must handle his guilt.

👤 Paula Fox's books have reflective themes woven into the adventure.

### ***Slave Dancer* NM ✨**

Young Jesse suffers capture and indenture on a slave ship. There his job is to play his pipe so that the slaves will dance to get exercise and thus remain healthy until sold.

### ***The Village by the Sea***

Emma, visiting her uncle and aunt at a Long Island beach, spends most of her time with a new friend, constructing a village on the beach. Her aunt spoils her creation, but Emma learns a way to forgive her.

### **Patricia Reilly Giff, *Lily's Crossing* NH ✨**

Lily Mollahan's life is changing drastically during World War II. Her father is overseas, her best friend moves to a wartime factory town, and she meets a Hungarian refugee named Albert. Soon Lily and Albert are sharing their wishes, fears, and dreams, but they each also tell a lie, and Lily realizes that hers may cost Albert his life. It takes courage to fix our mistakes.

### ***Nory Ryan's Song***

The heartbreaking tale of an Irish family during the Great Potato Famine in Ireland and one girl's determination to survive. The first book in a series of three.

### **Virginia Hamilton, *Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave***

Within months Anthony Burns is captured in the North after running away from his master. A true story, this incident and the trial surrounding it became a turning point in the northern antislavery movement.

### ***Bluish***

Dreenie doesn't know what to make of sickly Natalie in her wheelchair because her skin appears blue.

### ***House of Dies Drear***

### **M. C. Higgins, *the Great* NM ✨**

M. C. Higgins dreams of a better life for his family in the Cumberland Mountains.

Though his dreams seem unlikely to come true, the intensity of their family bonds sustain him through the grim tragedy of seeing strip miners spoil the beauty of their surroundings. Written with grace and insight.

***The Mystery of Drear House***

Absorbing tales of suspense and drama ensue when the Small family senses there is something strange about this Civil War house that used to be a stop for the underground railway and find it to be the home of a once-famous abolitionist.

***Zeely***

Geeder's summer at her uncle's farm is special because of a very tall, composed woman who looks like a Watutsi queen.

**Karen Hesse, *Out of the Dust* NM ✧**

Poetic prose to break your heart—this is a story for grown-ups, too. Billie Jo records in her diary what happened during the terrible drought and dust storms of the early 1930s in the panhandle of Texas. “Without sod the water vanished, the soil turned to dust. Until the wind took it, lifting it up and carrying it away . . . Sorrow climbed up our front steps, big as Texas, and we didn't even see it coming.” Fourteen and up.

***Stowaway***

Nicholas Young, an eleven-year-old stowaway aboard Captain James Cook's ship *Endeavor* in the year 1768, records his adventures in his journal—one terrific yarn for readers to enjoy.

***Witness***

Using free verse, eleven voices relate the Ku Klux Klan's surprising infiltration into a small Vermont town, which especially affects an African American family and a Jewish girl. Part mystery and part social commentary, with lots to discuss.

**Jennifer Holm, *Boston Jane: An Adventure* (series)**

Boston-born Jane Peck, sixteen, ventures to the Northwest to wed her childhood idol, William Baldt, and encounters more than she planned on.

First of three books in the Boston Jane series.

***Our Only May Amelia* NH ✧**

A headstrong young girl lives with her Finnish family in a remote settlement on the coast of Oregon and copes with being the only girl in a family of seven brothers. Through many adventures, she proves herself capable of almost anything. Based on the life of the author's grandmother.

**Kimberly Willis Holt, *My Louisiana Sky***

Ten-year-old Tiger Ann Parker is smart. She gets straight A's and wins all the spelling contests. Her parents are mentally handicapped, and the town wonders where Tiger Ann gets her brains. Tiger loves her parents, but the community and her classmates mostly shun the whole family. Told in a southern voice in a 1950 setting, the story tells us a lot about Tiger Ann.

**Phillip M. Hoose, *We Were There, Too! Young People in U.S. History***

Who were the young people who played an important role in our history? The stories of dozens of teens who made a difference and helped change history. Available in e-book format, used bookstores, and libraries.

**Francisco Jiménez, *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* (series)**

BG/HB

A collection of stories based on the author's experience as a child in a migrant farmworker family. Panchito's dream is to stay in one place, to go to school without interruption, and to return to a place he recognizes. Each of these short stories builds quietly to a surprising ending. It is good to stand in another's shoes. Book one of four in the Francisco series.

**Lynn Joseph, *The Color of My Words***

A small novel about Ana Rose and her family in the Dominican Republic. Twelve-year-old Ana Rose is a poet and writer recording everything she sees, hears, and imagines. Dark shadows come into their lives when an official tells them the government has sold their land. Seeking justice, the villagers band together, and Ana Rose's brother Guarío becomes the spokesperson. An achingly beautiful book that gives new insights.

**Eric P. Kelly, *The Trumpeter of Krakow* NM**

A dramatic tale of fifteenth-century Poland with a courageous young patriot, lots of tense political intrigue, and a mysterious jewel of great value. A wonderful classic written in 1929.

**Rudyard Kipling, *Captains Courageous***

A sea adventure about a spoiled American child who becomes a man while enduring some tough experiences on a voyage across the Atlantic.

**Madeleine L'Engle, *Meet the Austins* (series) ✧**

When Maggy Hamilton, a girl with a difficult past, comes to live with the Austins, their harmonious world is thrown into chaos. Fourteen-year-old Vicky tells this story with humor and shares life lessons about change and acceptance in the context of intimate family life.

***The Moon by Night***

***A Ring of Endless Light* NH**

***Troubling a Star***

**Kathryn Lasky, *True North: A Novel of the Underground Railroad***

Fourteen-year-old Lucy, daughter of a proper upper-class Boston family in 1858, finds Afrika, a young runaway slave, hiding in her grandfather's house. Their lives collide, and Lucy takes the risk of helping Afrika escape to the North. A story of courage and history.

**Gail Carson Levine, *Dave at Night***

It's 1926. Dave's beloved father is dead, and his stepmother doesn't want him. Only the Hebrew Home for Boys (HHB—Hell Hole for Brats) will take Dave. Although he vows he will escape and find a better place, it doesn't prove as

easy as he thought. Dave is no ordinary kid, and he does sneak out regularly and returns from a whole new world he discovers at night. In the end, Dave transforms the HHB.

***Ella Enchanted* (series) NH ✧**

Cursed with the fairy's gift of absolute obedience, feisty Ella's life is in peril because her stepmother and two treacherous stepsisters make her life miserable. This is a most remarkable and delightful version of a modern-day Cinderella. And yes, she falls in love, but it is complicated!

***The Wish* ✧**

Granted one wish by an old lady on the subway, Wilma wishes to be "the most popular kid at Claverford." But, like others who have been offered one wish to come true, she finds a definite downside to the experience. The story examines what it means to be popular and what it means to be true to yourself.

**Hugh Lofting, *The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle* (series) NM**

Wildly impossible and very funny adventures of a doctor who learns animal languages. Look for others in the series. This is a classic for older readers.

**Robin McKinley, *Beauty***

A marvelous telling of *Beauty and the Beast*. A princess named Rosie is known more for her love of reading than for her beauty. Imagine her delight to find that the Beast is a bookworm with a library stocked with not only existing works, but even books not yet written. No wonder Beauty falls for the Beast.

***The Blue Sword*, a prequel to *The Hero and the Crown***

***The Hero and the Crown* NM ✧**

In the mythical kingdom of Damar, the only daughter of the king becomes a daring warrior, facing fire-breathing dragons and evil wizards with courage, succeeding where all others have failed.

***The Outlaws of Sherwood***

***Spindle's End***

A complex retelling of the *Sleeping Beauty* story.

McKinley deals in fairy stories for young adults.

**Jean Merrill, *The Pushcart War***

A satirical story of New York's pushcart peddlers who carry on a guerrilla war with the traffic-clogging trucks. A simple story about a complex subject: war. It shows how our small quarrels are just like the "real thing."

**Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables* (series) ✧**

With her red hair, freckles, and delightful personality, Anne Shirley has found a place in the hearts of many generations of readers. Orphaned as an infant, eleven-year-old Anne finally finds a real home on Prince Edward Island with Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert, and manages to enchant, shock, puzzle, and amuse the local population. It would be hard to find a dearer story.

***Emily of New Moon* (series)**

When Emily Starr's beloved father dies, she is sent to live with her mother's snobbish relatives at New Moon farm. Emily is sure she'll never be happy, but soon learns to deal with her stern Aunt Elizabeth and her cruel classmates. Montgomery based this trilogy on her own life.

**Katherine Paterson, *Come Sing, Jimmy Jo***

*Jacob Have I Loved* NM

*Jip: His Story*

Jip is an orphan in a poorhouse farm in rural 1895 Vermont. At the home, Jip befriends a lunatic locked in a cage and changes the life of both of them. A hard, but beautiful story.

*The Master Puppeteer*

*Park's Quest*

*Preacher's Boy* ✧

In Vermont at the end of the nineteenth century, preacher's son Robbie decides to become an atheist or "whatever is the most fun." The story is in the tradition of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. Robbie says he "ain't got the knack for holiness," but he turns out not to be very good at sinning either. Robbie finds out the importance of choices and beliefs the hard way. This finely tuned novel captures the essence of an adolescent's fundamental questions about God and existence.

*Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom*

Katherine Paterson's fine prose tells a good story. Her books are not always optimistic in outlook but very moving. In response, Paterson would say that is the way life is.

**Gary Paulsen, *Hatchet* (series) NH**

When the plane thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on crashes in the Canadian wilderness, he must learn how to survive. Other books in the series continue Brian's story.

**Richard Peck, *A Long Way from Chicago* NH ✧**

Larger-than-life Grandma Dowdel shocks her Chicago-bred grandchildren with her ungrandmotherly ways as Joey and Mary Alice spend a week with Grandma for seven summers. Each tale about Grandma is rich in humor, verve, and substance. Armed with her twelve-gauge double-barreled shotgun and her own sense of truth and justice, Grandma is full of surprises.

*A Year Down Yonder* NM

The hard-hitting Depression means that Mother and Father have to move into one room and must send their son Joey to his uncle and their daughter Mary Alice to Grandma Dowdel. Mary Alice is less than thrilled about a year spent with such a strange lady and worries about the new school she will attend. Her dread turns into delight in one of the most exciting years of her life. All ages.

### **Ruta Sepetys, *Salt to the Sea***

A tale of four refugees brought together by a desperate attempt to flee to safety. The story is told in alternating first-person accounts in which the characters' fears and secrets slowly come to light. A haunting and tragic tale set in the midst of a real historical event. Recommended for older readers, as the literary devices used will challenge the reader, and the subject matter reflects hard issues in the lives of characters in the midst of wartime. Parents would do well to read along and discuss the themes with their children.

### **Robert Siegel, *The Ice at the End of the World***

#### **The Whalesong Trilogy (series) ✧**

Enter the world of Hruna and his son Hralekana and a pod of humpback whales. Someone said of these books, "It is almost as if *Moby-Dick* were scaled down and rewritten from the viewpoint of the whale." You will never whale watch the same way.

#### ***White Whale***

### **Elizabeth George Speare, *The Bronze Bow* NM ✧**

Daniel has hated the Romans since the death of his parents and wants revenge. He joins a gang of ruffians, journeys back to the city, and meets Jesus of Nazareth. One of the best books you will read!

#### ***Calico Captive***

After a year's stay, a young girl captured by Native Americans in a raid during the French and Indian War must make a choice between her old life and the life she is offered with a man who loves her.

#### ***The Sign of the Beaver* NH**

Matt Hallowell is left on his own in a cabin in the Maine woods. Danger surrounds him at every turn until he encounters a Native American chief and his son.

#### ***The Witch of Blackbird Pond* NM**

This historical novel set in Puritan Connecticut is the story of Kit, who is befriended by an old Quaker woman, Hannah Tupper, known in the village as a witch. When Hannah escapes, the blame shifts to Kit, who must defend herself against superstitious villagers.

### **William O. Steele, *Flaming Arrows***

A Tennessee settlement is trapped by raiding Native Americans and without a good water supply, and someone in the settlement is suspected of being a traitor. Chad learns it is best to "think things through" before accusing someone.

#### ***The Perilous Road* NH ✧**

A Civil War story in which two brothers choose different loyalties. Chris Brabson is outraged when the Yankees raid their store of winter food, their only horse, and other possessions. When his older brother betrays this rage by joining the

Union Army, Chris's Tennessee family feels the impact of the war in new ways.

***Winter Danger***

**Robert Louis Stevenson, *Kidnapped*, il. N. C. Wyeth**

The story of David Balfour, who is betrayed by his uncle following the death of his father. He finds himself kidnapped by Captain Hoseason, who plans to sell him into slavery. The ship is blown off course, and David is able to escape to Scotland, where he fights for his life and a way to return home to collect his rightful inheritance. Look for the color edition with N. C. Wyeth's illustrations if you can find it. Be aware that there is a cheap edition with black and white reproductions of the Wyeth illustrations that are not nearly as good.

***Treasure Island*, il. N. C. Wyeth ✧**

Everyone needs to meet Long John Silver and see the complexities of pirates. Good writing, exciting plots—who could ask for more! Look for the color edition with N. C. Wyeth illustrations if you can find it. Be aware that there is a cheap edition with black-and-white reproductions of the Wyeth illustrations that are not nearly as good.

**Mildred D. Taylor, *The Land*, a prequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***

***Let the Circle Be Unbroken***

***The Road to Memphis***

This book, along with *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and *The Land*, is part of a five-book series. It tells the story of the Logan family in the late 1930s and is powerful reading. Because of the multilayered dimensions of the story, these books should be read and discussed by young adults and their parents. Mildred Taylor writes sensitively and with truthfulness. I can think of no better reading for confronting racial issues. The audiobook versions of these titles are highly recommended, as the narrators make you believe you are hearing the story from the characters themselves.

***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* NM ✧**

**Corrie ten Boom with Elizabeth and John Sherrill, *The Hiding Place***

Corrie's family hid Jews in their house during the Nazi invasion of Holland. When someone betrayed them, the family was sent off to concentration camps. Corrie and her sister Betsy ended up in the same camp. This is a story of deliverance from hatred and the ministry that followed because of growing faith in God.

**Leon Walter Tillage, *Leon's Story*, il. Susan L. Roth BG/HB**

"This small, quiet-looking book packs an emotional wallop that reverberates long after the reader has set the book aside." Those words accompanied the Boston Globe-Horn Book award Tillage received for his oral history of his life as a Black man, the unvarnished truth unencumbered by analysis or blame.

**Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***

***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* ✧**

***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court***



***The Prince and the Pauper***

👤 Classics every young American should know.

**Jules Verne, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea***

***Around the World in Eighty Days* ✧**

***Journey to the Center of the Earth***

**Gloria Whelan, *Forgive the River, Forgive the Sky***

***Friends***

***Goodbye, Vietnam***

Mai and her family trudge through the swamps of the Mekong Delta for a spine-tingling trip to a new life in the United States.

***Miranda's Last Stand* ✧**

After her father's death on Little Big Horn, Miranda and her mother confront their own hatred for Chief Sitting Bull when he joins the Wild West Show and Mama threatens to quit her job.

***A Time to Keep Silent***

***The Wanigan***

***That Wild Berries Should Grow: The Story of a Summer***

The story of a precocious fifth grader's inner transformation when she spends the summer at her grandparent's country cottage and learns to appreciate life in new ways.

**Ruth White, *Belle Prater's Boy* NH**

Gypsy and her cousin Woodrow (Belle Prater's boy) each have a sorrow in their lives: Gypsy must face up to her father's death, and Woodrow must handle his mother's mysterious disappearance. The story, laced with humor and laughter, is a story of goodness as two children try to find themselves in their family's mysterious history.

**T. H. White, *The Once and Future King***

This is actually four books in one (*The Sword in the Stone* is the first), adventures about Arthur par excellence.

***The Sword in the Stone* ✧**

Merlyn takes a curious young boy named Wart and transforms him into King Arthur. A favorite with teens.

**Elizabeth Winthrop, *The Castle in the Attic* (series)**

Thirteen-year-old William doesn't want Mrs. Phillips, his nursemaid and friend, to leave him. He concocts a plan to hold her prisoner so she must stay with his family forever, but then must face the consequences and free her, even if it means going back in time to do so. A story of adventure, castles, dragons, and the fight for good against evil.

**Kathryn Worth, *They Loved to Laugh***

At sixteen Martitia is left all alone when her parents die of typhoid fever in Virginia during the 1800s. A kindly Quaker, Doctor David, takes her into his

home where she is overwhelmed by the boisterous teasing ways of his five big sons. Martitia eventually learns to laugh along with them, and also learns a lesson in love.

For a longer listing of books for teens, see *Honey for a Teen's Heart*.



CHAPTER 22

# POETRY IS FOR PLEASURE

## *Poems for Toddlers*

Baby and toddler books have poetry galore. You will be reciting simple rhymes to them almost every time you open a book. Mother Goose rhymes from many different sources give babies the rhythm of language they need to hear.

## *Poems for Intermediate Readers (Ages 4–12)*

### **John Ciardi, *Doodle Soup* ✧**

One swallow of Doodle Soup sends the reader back for more. “Why Pigs Can’t Write Poems” and “A Lesson in Manners” are among these witty poems.

### ***You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You***

### **Beatrice Schenk de Regniers, *Sing a Song of Popcorn: Every Child’s Book of Poems***

Wonderful poems with illustrations by nine Caldecott Medal artists.

### **Aileen Fisher, *Sing of the Earth and Sky***

Poems about our planet and the wonders beyond.

### **Simon James, *Days Like This: A Collection of Small Poems***

Eighteen poems by a variety of poets, all with exuberant spirit and artwork.

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BG/HB Boston Globe/  
Horn Book award  
CM Caldecott Medal  
CH Caldecott Honor  
CSK Coretta Scott  
King award  
NH Newbery Honor  
NM Newbery Medal  
✧ Recommended  
title to start with  
by author

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**X. J. Kennedy and Dorothy M. Kennedy, *Knock at a Star: A Child's Introduction to Poetry***, il. Karen Lee Baker

*Talking Like the Rain: A Read-to-Me Book of Poems*, il. Jane Dyer ✧

**Nancy Larrick, *When the Dark Comes Dancing: A Bedtime Poetry Book***, il. John Wallner

This book is difficult to find, but is available in many libraries.

**Edward Lear, *The Complete Nonsense Book*** ✧

*The Owl and the Pussycat*, il. James Marshall

A winning team that gives readers reasons to smile.

**Dennis Lee, *Dinosaur Dinner (With a Slice of Alligator Pie)***, il. Debbie Tilley

**David McCord, *Every Time I Climb a Tree***, il. Marc Simont

Wonderful poems and outstanding illustrations. An inviting book.

**A. A. Milne, *Now We Are Six***

Very British and memorable. "Whenever I walk in the London street, I'm ever so careful to watch my feet . . ."

*When We Were Very Young* ✧

**Lilian Moore, *I'm Small and Other Verses***

Helps children explore those hard-to-articulate feelings of being small in a big world.

**Iona and Peter Opie, *The Oxford Nursery Rhyme Book***

**Marilyn Singer, *Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse***, il. Josée Masse

A delightful work of poetry that explores reversible verse. Each brief poem tells a well-known tale and is immediately followed by a poem of the same words in reverse order. The poems provide contrasting insights in the stories and will appeal to all who love exploring the use of words.

**Linda Yeatman, *A Child's Book of Prayers***, il. Tracey Williamson

### **Poems for Ages 9–12**

**Scott Elledge, *Wider Than the Sky: Poems to Grow Up With***

**Douglas Florian, *Winter Eyes***

**Robert Frost, *You Come Too: Favorite Poems for Young Readers***

**Eloise Greenfield, *For the Love of the Game***, il. Jan Spivey Gilchrist

**Henry W. Longfellow, *The Children's Own Longfellow***

**Mary O'Neill, *Hailstones and Halibut Bones***, il. Leonard Weisgard

A wonderful collection of poems about colors: "Brown is the smell of the Sunday roast." Expands and delights the imagination.

**Jack Prelutsky, *The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury***, il. Meilo So ✧

*It's Raining Pigs and Noodles*, il. James Stevenson

*A Pizza the Size of the Sun*, il. James Stevenson (ages 6–12)

**Alison Sage, editor, *The Hutchinson Treasury of Children's Poetry***

Sage editor, multiple poets and illustrators.

**Shel Silverstein, *Falling Up***

*A Light in the Attic*

*Where the Sidewalk Ends* ✧

**James Stevenson, *Just around the Corner***

Twenty-six short poems on everyday topics.

**Richard Wilbur, *The Pig in the Spigot*, il. J. Otto Seibold**

This book is difficult to find.

### **Poems for All Ages**

**Paul Fleischman, *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*, il. Eric Beddows NM**

Marvelous, lyrical, scored for two voices—one taking the left-hand part, the other taking the right-hand part—about the insect world. For all ages.

**Donald Hall, editor, *The Oxford Illustrated Book of American Children's Poems***

A short but superior anthology of poems old and new. All ages.

**Langston Hughes, *The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*, il. Brian Pinkney**

A famous Black poet from the Harlem Renaissance.

**John Knapp II, *A Pillar of Pepper, and Other Bible Rhymes***

An out-of-the-ordinary, relevant, and clever book of rhymes about Bible stories.

Knapp wrote these to help his children remember Bible stories. All ages.

**Jane Kurtz, *River Friendly, River Wild*, il. Neil Brennan**

Free-verse poems about the Red River flood of 1997 that devastated Grand Forks, North Dakota. Pictures and text catapult readers into the experience of loss and the importance of family and friends.

**Nancy Larrick, *Piping Down the Valleys Wild*, il. Ellen Raskin**

A merry mix of verses for all ages.

**Carl Sandburg, *Early Moon*, il. James Daugherty**

*Wind Song*, il. William A. Smith ✧

**Hope Anita Smith, *My Daddy Rules the World***

A stunning collection of poems about fathers combined with bold torn paper art illustrations. A winner!

**Robert Louis Stevenson, *A Child's Garden of Verses*, il. Tasha Tudor**

**Nancy Willard, *Step Lightly: Poems for the Journey*, an anthology**



CHAPTER 23

# NOURISHING YOUR CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL LIFE

## *Well-Known and Well-Loved Bible Storybooks*

**Mary Batchelor, *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories***

This is my favorite Bible storybook. The stories are accurate, brief, and written in excellent prose. It's just right for ages 4-12. A good book to help establish family Bible reading.

**Karyn Henley, *The Beginner's Bible*, il. Dennas Davis.**

Written at second-grade level for kids to read on their own.

**Jesse L. Hurlbut, *Hurlbut's Story of the Bible***

A longtime favorite for older readers.

**Dandi Daley Mackall, *Zacchaeus and Jesus***  
**(Flipside Stories),** il. Lisa Manuzak

A telling of the story of Zacchaeus from Zacchaeus's perspective, and then flip the book to read the same story from Jesus's view. A clever idea that adds to understanding the story.

**Marian M. Schoolland, *Leading Little Ones to God: A Child's Book of Bible Teachings***

This book has been used to teach generations of children. Still in print.

**Kenneth N. Taylor, *My First Bible in Pictures,***  
il. Richard and Frances Hook. Ages 4–8. ✧

***The New Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes***

**Catherine Vos, *The Child's Story Bible***

First published more than eighty years ago and still going. For all ages.

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King award  
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✧ Recommended  
title to start with  
by author

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### **More Books for Christian Understanding**

**Ben Avery, *The Book of God,*** il. Javier Saltares

A comprehensive guide to the history of the Bible in graphic novel format. Filled with facts that will appeal to older readers who wonder how the Bible came to be.

**Nick Butterworth, *Stories Jesus Told,*** il. Mick Inkpen

A series of books that little children love that retell parables and Bible stories, many through the eyes of animals.

**Nancy White Carlstrom, *Does God Know How to Tie Shoes?*** il. Lori McElrath-Eslick ✧

Using the book of Psalms, Carlstrom takes children's questions about God seriously. An encouragement for parents in answering such queries.

***How Does the Wind Walk?***

**Jesse Bear** (series)

Ages 4–8.

**Kathryn Cave, *Henry's Song,*** il. Sue Hendra

When Henry sings for joy, the other animals complain until the Maker of All Things shows them that everyone's voice is needed to make a song. A fun story book about what God expects of us. Ages 4–8.

**Rachel Field, *Prayer for a Child,*** il. E. Jones CM

A classic. Ages 4–12.

**Nikki Grimes, *At Break of Day,*** il. Paul Morin ✧

A vigorous and colorful retelling of the creation story. Ages 4–8.

***Come Sunday***

A funny and reverent book for introducing children to church life.

**Nan Gurley, *Twice Yours: A Parable of God's Gift,*** il. Bill Farnsworth

A gentle story of a grandfather telling his grandson the story of a boat he

once made for himself. When he lost the boat, he bought it back again.

The grandfather applies this to what God has done for us. Ages 4-10.

**Helen Haidle, *God Bless Me*, il. Susan Banta**

*What Did Jesus Say and Do?* Ages 2-5.

**Wendy Anderson Halperin, *Love Is . . .***

A beautiful book based on 1 Corinthians 13. All ages.

**John Hendrix, *Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus***

This graphic novel account of the life of Jesus focuses on his words and their impact on his interactions with people. The exuberant and lively art fill it with energy. The author never loses his focus on conveying the life-changing power of faith in Jesus.

**Liz Curtis Higgs, *Go Away Dark Night*, il. Nancy Munger, ages 2-5**

**Dave and Neta Jackson, *Hero Tales***

Fifteen stories of Christian heroes. Ages 6-10.

**Matt and Lisa Jacobson, *The Amazing Beginning of You* ✧**

A fascinating look at the story of birth, with real-life photos for ages 8-12.

This book is difficult to find.

*How Did God Make Me?*

**Virginia Kröll, *I Wanted to Know All about God*, il. Debra Reid Jenkins**

In simple yet eloquent language, this book explores a child's questions about God. Ages 4-10.

**Tim Ladwig, *Psalm Twenty-Three***

Two glowing African American children experience this psalm in an urban neighborhood. Ages 9-12.

**Carl Laferton, *The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross*, il. Catalina Echeverri**

A simple telling of the story of the Bible from the garden where people were with God, to the entry of sin and God's saying "stay out," to the cross and sin's defeat, and with a picture of the new heavens and earth. This book presents the key themes of the entire Bible in a simple way.

**Elsie Larson, *Bombus the Bumblebee*, il. Elizabeth and David Haidle**

A story of the gifts God gives to bumblebees. Ages 4-8.

**Bijou Le Tord, *God's Little Seeds: A Book of Parables*, ages 4-8**

**Paul Little, *Know What You Believe***

*Know Why You Believe* ✧

Thoughtful answers to some difficult questions. Books for a thinking young person. Young adult.

**Max Lucado, *Tell Me the Secrets***

*Tell Me the Story*, il. Ron DiCianni ✧

*You Are Special*, il. Sergio Martinez, ages 4-8

**David R. Mains and Karen B. Mains, *Tales of the Kingdom* (series) ✧**

The story of Hero, Little Child, and Princess Amanda and their relationship



to the King. A trilogy of highly readable allegories that point to the King and provide many ideas for discussion with the family. Ages 10-12.

***Tales of the Resistance***

***Tales of the Restoration***

**Rick Osborne and K. Christie Bowler, *Who Is Sam Harrington?*** il. Dara Goldman

All over town children are doing nice things because “It’s what Sam Harrington would do!” Ages 4-8.

**Leslie Parrott, *God Made You Nose to Toes*,** il. Valeria Petrone, ages 4-8

**John and Katherine Paterson, *Images of God*,** il. Alexander Koshkin

A collection of thoughtful interpretations of Bible readings, illustrating how God uses everyday images to reveal his message to his people. Striking illustrations. Ages 10 and up.

**Katherine Paterson, *Who Am I?*** il. Stephanie Milanowski

A wonderful book to talk about by an award-winning author. A strong statement on personal worth. Ages 9-12.

**Gary D. Schmidt, *The Blessing of the Lord*,** il. Dennis Nolan

Stories from the Old and New Testament. Ages 8-12.

**Anne Elizabeth Stickney, *The Loving Arms of God*,** il. Helen Cann

Bible stories about how God cares for his people. Ages 6-10.

**Nancy Sweetland, *God’s Quiet Things*,** il. Rick Stevens

A child’s invitation to explore the quiet wonders in God’s creation. Ages 4-8.

**Helen L. Taylor, *Little Pilgrim’s Progress***

Simplified version of the famous Bunyan classic that captures the essence of its spiritual truths without writing “down” to children. Ages 8-12.

**Paul White, *Jungle Doctor’s Fables*** (series)

Like Aesop, missionary doctor Paul White uses animal stories to teach lessons and delight readers. Told with the skill and flavor of a master African storyteller, these books appeal to all ages.

**Brian Wildsmith, *Exodus*** ✧

***Joseph***

With Wildsmith’s marvelous artwork, these stories come alive in new ways. Ages 9-12.



CHAPTER 24

# A BOOK LIST FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

## Stories about Grieving and Loss

I find this the most difficult category for a book list. Death is a terribly hard reality. Little children can scarcely grasp its permanence. No matter what your age, it's a tough subject. In recent years more writers have attempted to grapple with ways to help children facing the loss of people they love. I have included a list of books that deal with loss, creative ways to help children understand and talk about their feelings. It is not enough; we need more books on this subject, but it is a good beginning. In the end, we rely on God's grace to comfort and take us beyond our limited understanding, but I hope some of these books will help.

When I was collecting these books, I couldn't help thinking that Christmas and Easter are the best news in the world in the face of death and suffering! When Joni Eareckson lay on a hospital bed contemplating the news that she was now a quadriplegic at seventeen, following a diving accident, one of her friends appeared in her room after hours, lay on her bed, put her arms around Joni, and simply sang "*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*." Joni said that no other words spoken in sympathy helped her cope with what she was facing as much as the fact of Jesus's death and resurrection. It helps to have a God who knows about suffering.

<b>Mary Bahr, <i>If Nathan Were Here</i>, il. Karen A. Jerome</b>	BG/HB Boston Globe/ Horn Book award
This books gently touches the grieving that comes when a child loses a peer. Ages 5-10.	
<b>Kathleen Bostrom, <i>Papa's Gift</i>, il. Guy Porfirio</b>	CM Caldecott Medal
A beautiful story of the friendship of a grandfather and granddaughter and their adventures together. When Papa dies, little Clara refuses to be comforted, until she remembers what he had told her and sees with new eyes. The wonderful illustrations alone are comforting. All ages.	CH Caldecott Honor CSK Coretta Scott King award NH Newbery Honor NM Newbery Medal ◇ Recommended
<b>Nancy White Carlstrom, <i>Blow Me a Kiss, Miss Lilly</i>, il. Amy Schwartz</b>	title to start with by author
Sara's best friend is Miss Lilly, who is very old. They blow kisses to each other right to the end. Ages 4-10.	
<b>Lucille Clifton, <i>Everett Anderson's Goodbye</i>, il. Ann Grifalconi</b>	
A lovely book. A poetic telling of Everett Anderson's feelings as he copes with grief and accepts his father's death. The book takes you gently through the stages of grieving. All ages.	
<b>Dave Dravecky, <i>Dave Dravecky</i></b>	
A first-class pitcher in the big leagues loses his arm to cancer. From the Today's Heroes series for ages 8-12.	
<b>Mary Joslin, <i>The Goodbye Boat</i>, il. Claire St. Louis Little</b>	
Saying goodbye when someone you love dies is perhaps the hardest thing of all. This book provides a message of hope that sadness will ease and that death is not the end. Ages 5-10.	
<b>Eiko Kadono, <i>Grandpa's Soup</i>, il. Satomi Ichikawa</b>	
Grandpa discovers that sharing with friends is the best cure for loneliness after his sadness over Grandma's death. Ages 5-10.	
<b>Gregg Lewis and Deborah S. Lewis, <i>Today's Heroes: Joni Eareckson Tada</i></b>	
A seventeen-year-old girl faces life as a quadriplegic. Inspiring. Ages 12 and up.	
<b>Larry Libby, <i>Someday Heaven</i>, il. Wayne McLoughlin</b>	
Thoughtful, comforting, Scripture-based answers to common questions children ask about heaven and what happens at death. All ages.	
<b>Katherine Paterson, <i>Bridge to Terabithia</i> NM</b>	
Jess and Leslie, best friends, share a secret kingdom named Terabithia they have created in the woods. When Leslie dies, Jess must face his terrible loss and learn how to go on. Ages 9-12.	
<b>Jane R. Thomas, <i>Saying Good-bye to Grandma</i>, il. Marcia Sewall</b>	
Seven-year-old Susie is curious and fearful about what Grandmother's funeral will be like. A soft, nonthreatening look at death. Ages 7-12.	
<b>Barbara J. Turner, <i>A Little Bit of Rob</i>, il. Marni Backer</b>	

Almost everything reminds the family of their brother Rob. They miss him from the moment they step into the boat on their crabbing expedition. A book about how memories help us in grieving. Ages 5-10.

**Susan Varley, *Badger's Parting Gifts***

All the woodland creatures mourn when old Badger dies. A beautiful book about sharing memories in your loss. All ages.

**Gloria Whelan, *Forgive the River, Forgive the Sky* ✧**

A young girl struggles with loss and forgiveness when her father dies.

***A Time to Keep Silent***

When her mother dies, thirteen-year-old Clair stops talking to get her father's attention. Young adult.

**Charlotte Zolotow, *My Grandson Lew*, il. William Pène du Bois**

You may need to get this quiet and thoughtful book from the library. All ages.

## Christmas Stories

With the secularization of religious holidays, families want to be intentional about emphasizing the real meaning of these celebrations. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* reminds us to do that.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more!"

It is also more than a sweet look at a baby born in a manger. Christmas is the ultimate love story. It is the story of God invading human history in the person of Jesus. What a mind-expanding concept! It may take years for your children to comprehend its significance.

Beautiful books that tell the real meaning of Christmas ought to be part of your decorations at Christmastime. Along with those that tell about the birth of Jesus are others that are sweet stories—good for the heart, but not necessarily about Jesus. You can tell from the annotations which tell The Story and which are about the spirit of love and generosity that characterizes Christmas.

Because we are all children at Christmas, a good Christmas story has an ageless appeal.

**Inos Biffi, *The Way to Bethlehem*, il. Franco Vignazia**

**Gayle Boss, *All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings*, il. David G. Klein**

**Ann Dixon, *Waiting for Noel: An Advent Story*, il. Mark Graham**

Noel's family lights the advent candles to celebrate.

**Margery Facklam, *Only a Star*, il. Nancy Carpenter**

What were the decorations that first Christmas night?

**Ruth Bell Graham, *One Wintry Night*, il. Richard Jesse Watson**

**O. Henry, *The Gift of the Magi*, il. P. J. Lynch**

The rich illustrations of P. J. Lynch make this edition of the classic story of giving worth buying.

**Margaret Hodges, *Silent Night: The Song and Its Story*, il. Tim Ladwig**

Wonderful illustrations.

**E. T. A. Hoffmann, trans. Ralph Manheim, *Nutcracker*, il. Maurice Sendak**

A fresh translation of the original "Nutcracker and the Mouse King" story written by E. T. A. Hoffmann in 1816 with illustrations by Maurice Sendak.

A much richer story than that in the ballet that is loosely based on this tale.

You may need to prepare readers for the differences if you bring them to see *Nutcracker* after reading the original!

**Angela Elwell Hunt, *The Tale of Three Trees*, il. Tim Jonke**

Traditional folktale retold.

**Ezra Jack Keats, *The Little Drummer Boy***

Christmas season, not specifically biblical.

**Astrid Lindgren, *Pippi Longstocking's After-Christmas Party*, il. Michael Chesworth**

Christmas seasonal, not religious.

**Max Lucado, *Alabaster's Song: Christmas through the Eyes of an Angel***

An alabaster angel on the Christmas tree transports a little boy back to the first Christmas; a charming story that teaches that Christmas is more than presents and trees.

***The Crippled Lamb*, il. Liz Bonham ✧**

👤 Lucado always has the right touch for the heart.

**Alan MacDonald, *The Not-So-Wise Man*, il. Andrew Rowland**

Another wise man named Ashtar keeps missing the most important things of all.

**Trinka Hakes Noble, *Apple Tree Christmas***

A gentle story of a girl whose love for an old apple tree changes her Christmas. Seasonal.

**Katherine Paterson, *The Night of His Birth*, il. Lisa Aisato**

A poetic telling of the Christmas story from Mary's perspective.

**Mary Quattlebaum, *The Shine Man*, il. Tim Ladwig**

An allegory. "What you do for the least of these brothers of mine, you do for me."

**Michael J. Rosen, *Elijah's Angel*, il. Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson**

An African American barber befriends a small Jewish boy and they share the meaning of Christmas and Chanukah. Based on a true story.

**Charles M. Schulz, *A Charlie Brown Christmas***

Seasonal, not specifically religious, fun.

**Julie Vivas, *The Nativity***

You have never imagined the Christmas story as Vivas's lively pictures tell it!

**Lori Walburg, *The Legend of the Candy Cane*, il. James Bernardin**

A charming story of a candy storeowner and a small girl who spread the word about the meaning of the candy cane and thus tell the real story of Christmas.

**Walter Wangerin Jr., *Mary's First Christmas*, il. Timothy Ladwig**

Mary retells the story of the first Christmas to the young boy Jesus. Lovely illustrations.

**Gloria Whelan, *The Miracle of Saint Nicholas*, il. Judith Brown**

A touching story of endurance of faith in a Russian village where the church's treasures miraculously appear on Christmas morning after the church has been closed by soldiers for sixty years. A religious story.

**Brian Wildsmith, *A Christmas Story***

Young Rebecca and a little donkey follow Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

**Susan Wojciechowski, *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*, il. P. J. Lynch**

A boy and his mother change the life of an embittered wood-carver when they ask him to make new figures for their crèche.

## **Easter Stories**

Easter is the most important day on the Christian calendar. More than chocolate eggs, children need to encounter the wonder of the risen Christ. It is the validation of Christian faith! As a child matures and reaches new levels of understanding, don't assume they know the reason for the death of Jesus. One middle school student, familiar with the Bible from both home and Sunday school, honestly wrote, "Why did God let those wicked men kill his own Son? It seems so unfair." The answer to that question holds the key to what being a Christian is all about. Help children understand the meaning of his death and that the resurrection of Jesus is so important that we celebrate it every Sunday.

**Melody Carlson, *Benjamin's Box*, il. Jack Stockman**

The story of Benjamin's encounters with Jesus and his experience of sadness when he is crucified and later the joy of his resurrection. Ages 5-10.

**Lloyd C. Douglas, *The Robe***

An Easter classic about the man who gambled for Christ's robe and won. Ages 12 and up. A good family read-aloud book for Easter time.

**Helen Haidle, *He Is Alive***

A picture book for ages 4-8.

*Journey to the Cross*, il. David and Paul Haidle ✧

The complete Easter story for young readers.

**Harold L. Myra, *Easter Bunny, Are You for Real?* il. Jane Kurisu**

An interesting story that takes a child from the Easter bunny to the real meaning of Easter. Ages 4-8.

**Lori Walburg, *The Legend of the Easter Egg*, il. James Bernardin**

How does the tradition of Easter eggs fit in with the story of the resurrection? Ages 5-10.

**Walter Wangerin Jr., *Peter's First Easter*, il. Timothy Ladwig**

Beautifully illustrated, a wonderful look at Easter from Peter's point of view. All ages.

**Brian Wildsmith, *The Easter Story***

Wildsmith's bold strokes tell the story with splendor.

## Thanksgiving Stories

One last category: Increasingly the Thanksgiving holiday is becoming the time when the extended family gathers. More than a day of remembrance, it calls for a spirit of thankfulness to be nurtured. Thanksgiving was not, as is sometimes said in schools, the pilgrims thanking the Native Americans; it was a thanksgiving to God. Our celebration should be more than "turkey day," a day for overeating, with little conversation about the truth of its history or significance in family life. I have listed some Thanksgiving books for your library, for active use each year when this holiday comes around. I was impressed with how many of these stories deal with being thankful in the face of loss.

**Louisa May Alcott, *An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving***

The seven rambunctious Bassett children decide to cook their own Thanksgiving dinner after their parents leave to tend a sick grandmother. Minor catastrophes and understandable chaos add to the charm of this rediscovered family classic. It is sentimental and perfect for the holiday.

**Eve Bunting, *How Many Days to America? A Thanksgiving Story*, il. Beth Peck**

The story of contemporary pilgrims leaving what is familiar with some of the same fears and hardships the early pilgrims faced. Ages 4-8.

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BG/HB	Boston Globe/Horn Book award
CM	Caldecott Medal
CH	Caldecott Honor
CSK	Coretta Scott King award
NH	Newbery Honor
NM	Newbery Medal
✧	Recommended title to start with by author

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**Barbara Cohen, *Molly's Pilgrim*, il. Jennifer Bricking**

A young Jewish immigrant tells her friends the story of Thanksgiving, and they learn that it takes all kinds of pilgrims to make Thanksgiving. Ages 5-10.

**Alice Dalgliesh, *The Thanksgiving Story*, il. Helen Sewell CH**

**James Daugherty, *The Landing of the Pilgrims***

The story told by a Newbery medal author. Ages 9-12.

**Barbara Greenwood, *A Pioneer Story*, il. Heather Collins ✧**

***A Pioneer Thanksgiving: A Story of Harvest Celebrations in 1841***

A weaving together of stories, information, and activities to create a tapestry of pioneer life. Wonderful illustrations, great family book. All ages.

**Helen Haidle, *Thank You, Dear God!* il. Susan Banta**

A board book for little children about things to be thankful for.

**B. G. Hennessy, *One Little, Two Little, Three Little Pilgrims*, il. Lynne Cravath**

A thanksgiving book for two-and three-year-olds.

**Anne Kamma, *If You Were at the First Thanksgiving*, il. Bert Dodson**

The historical details of the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth.

**Verla Kay, *Tattered Sails*, il. Dan Andreasen**

A pilgrim family journeys across the ocean and comes to freedom in America.

**Patricia Lakin, *Fat Chance Thanksgiving*, il. Stacey Schuett**

A lonely girl, newcomer to a housing project, decides to get everyone in the building together for Thanksgiving, getting at the heart of thankfulness.

**Julian Scheer, *A Thanksgiving Turkey*, il. Ronald Himler**

Gorgeous illustrations in a story about a boy and his grandfather, who hope to shoot a wild turkey in the woods, and then deliberately miss the shot.

A wonderfully tender story about youth and old age.

**Gary D. Schmidt, *William Bradford: Plymouth's Faithful Pilgrim***

A biography of the Colony's major character as he tries to be fair to the pilgrims and the Native Americans.

**Margaret Willey, *Thanksgiving with Me*, il. Lloyd Bloom**

A beautifully illustrated celebration story of a little girl who cannot wait for her beloved uncles to arrive for Thanksgiving Day.