

LOWER ELEMENTARY BOOK LIST

(Please keep this list as long as your child is in the Lower Elementary.)

First Reading List

This is a short list of good books for children who are learning to read to themselves, typically around the time they enter the Elementary Level. While encouraging your children to read to themselves a little each day, continue to read to them, in addition, for at least 30 minutes. During this early reading stage, your children are sounding out words and drawing on their memory of phonograms and puzzle words. Our goal now is to help them decode sentences while looking for meaning. It is important, therefore, that the lines of chosen books have meaning, as opposed to “simple” readers. Around age 6, children delight in using their imagination, so the world of literary fantasy is opened up to them.

TITLE	AUTHOR
“I Can Read” books, Levels 1, 2, 3	Various Authors
“I Can Read” books, Level 4 (Abigail Takes the Wheel; Prairie School)	Avi & other authors
Step Into Reading books, Levels 3, 4, 5 (Baseball’s Best; Space; Ancient Egypt)	Various Authors
Billy and Blaze (series)	Anderson, C.W.
Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis	Asim, Jabari
Milly-Molly-Mandy Stories (series)	Brisley, Joyce Lankester
Biscuit (series)	Capucilli, Alyssa & Schories, Pat
The Empty Pot	Demi
Mercy Watson (series)	DiCamillo, Kate
Corduroy	Freeman, Don
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky	Jeffers, Susan [illustrator]
Henry Works (bio of Henry David Thoreau)	Johnson, D.B.

Riding on a Caravan: A Silk Road Adventure	Krebs, Laurie
The Story of Ferdinand	Leaf, Munro
Frog and Toad (series)	Lobel, Arnold
Mouse Tales	Lobel, Arnold
Hiawatha	Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth [illus. Susan Jeffers]
I Am Neil Armstrong, -Amelia Earhart, -Anne Frank, -Sacagawea, -I.M. Pei, -Walt Disney	Meltzer, Brad
Nelson Mandela	Nelson, Kadir
Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai	Nivola, Claire A.
Amelia Bedelia (series)	Parish, Peggy
Henry and Mudge (series)	Rylant, Cynthia
Mr. Putter and Tabby (series)	Rylant, Cynthia
The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto	Standiford, Natalie
“On My Own History” series	Various Authors
Little People, Big Dreams series (Nelson Mandela, Pablo Picasso, Florence Nightingale)	Vegara, Maria Isabel Sanchez
My First Little House Books series (Winter on the Farm; A Farmer Boy Birthday)	Wilder, Laura Ingalls [Adapted]
Harry the Dirty Dog (series)	Zion, Gene

The following books are out of print (OP), so if you’d like to find them, check your local library.

TITLE	AUTHOR
Sam the Minuteman (OP)	Benchley, Nathaniel

Small Wolf (OP)	Benchley, Nathaniel
Sarah and the Dragon (OP)	Coville, Bruce
The Race of the Birkebeiners (OP)	Lunge-Larsen, Lise
Gus and Grandpa (series) (OP)	Mills, Claudia
“If You Lived at the Time of the -” (series) -American Revolution, -Civil War (OP)	Moore, Kay

Second Reading List

This list is for Elementary children in the 6-9 class who are beginning to read chapter books independently. At this stage, the more your child reads, the more capable he or she becomes.

TITLE	AUTHOR
Mr. Popper’s Penguins	Atwater, Richard & Florence
Merry Animal Tales	Bigham, Madge A.
The Mother West Wind Collection (series)	Burgess, Thornton W.
The Mouse and the Motorcycle	Cleary, Beverly
Henry Huggins (series)	Cleary, Beverly
Ramona (series)	Cleary, Beverly
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes	Coerr, Eleanor
Granny Torrelli Makes Soup	Creech, Sharon
Walk Two Moons	Creech, Sharon
Bud, not Buddy	Curtis, Christopher Paul
Fantastic Mr. Fox	Dahl, Roald
Pocahontas	D’Aulaire, Ingri & Edgar Parin

My Father's Dragon (series)	Gannett, Ruth Stiles
Penny and Peter	Haywood, Carolyn
B is for Betsy	Haywood, Carolyn
Babe: the Gallant Pig	King-Smith, Dick
Henry's Freedom Box	Levine, Ellen
Sarah, Plain and Tall (series)	MacLachlan, Patricia
Magic Treehouse (series)	Osborne, Mary Pope
The Littles (series)	Peterson, John
Peter Rabbit (series)	Potter, Beatrix
Gooseberry Park	Rylant, Cynthia
Thimbleberry Stories (<i>only available from publisher</i>)	Rylant, Cynthia
Encyclopedia Brown (series)	Sobol, Donald J.
American Trailblazers: 50 Remarkable People Who Shaped U.S. History (<i>only available from publisher</i>)	Trusiani, Lisa
The Boxcar Children (series)	Warner, Gertrude C.
Little House in the Big Woods (series)	Wilder, Laura Ingalls
The American Girl series (Meet Kaya; Felicity Learns a Lesson; Meet Molly; Addy's Surprise)	Various Authors
The Story of Jane Goodall, -Lin Manuel Miranda, -Ruby Bridges, -Katherine Johnson, -Marie Curie	Various Authors (A Biography Book for New Readers series)

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TITLE	AUTHOR
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Freddie and His Fire Engine (OP)	Haywood, Carolyn
Lexi's Tail (OP)	Hurwitz, Johanna
Pee-Wee's Tail (OP)	Hurwitz, Johanna
Sophie in the Saddle (OP)	King-Smith, Dick
The Gorilla Who Wanted to Grow Up (OP)	Tomlinson, Jill
The Hen Who Wouldn't Give Up (OP)	Tomlinson, Jill
The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark (OP)	Tomlinson, Jill

Third Reading List

This list is for Elementary children who are ready for longer chapter books with more complex themes and vocabulary. Children ages 6 to 9 should begin to spend 30 to 60 minutes reading at home in the evenings. In addition, children these ages should be read to by a living, breathing, well-educated adult such as yourself (!) for at least 30 minutes every evening. Please see our Read-Aloud List for recommendations.

TITLE	AUTHOR
Tuck Everlasting	Babbitt, Natalie
The Search for Delicious	Babbitt, Natalie
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (series)	Baum, L. Frank
The Penderwicks (series)	Birdsall, Jeanne
A Bear Called Paddington (series)	Bond, Michael
Caddie Woodlawn	Brink, Carol Ryrie
The Wild Robot; The Wild Robot Escapes	Brown, Peter
Dover Children's Thrift Classics	Burgess, Thornton W.
Little Lord Fauntleroy	Burnett, Frances Hodgson

The Little Princess	Burnett, Frances Hodgson
The Secret Garden	Burnett, Frances Hodgson
The Incredible Journey	Burnford, Sheila
The Enormous Egg	Butterworth, Oliver
Pinocchio	Collodi, Carlo
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Dahl, Roald
Danny, the Champion of the World	Dahl, Roald
James and the Giant Peach	Dahl, Roald
The BFG	Dahl, Roald
The Tale of Despereaux	DiCamillo, Kate
Because of Winn-Dixie	DiCamillo, Kate
Timelines of Everything	DK
Little Kids First Big Book of Who (National Geographic)	Esbaum, Jill
Ginger Pie (series)	Estes, Eleanor
The Hundred Dresses	Estes, Eleanor
The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure	Enzensberger, Hans Magnus
The Black Stallion (series)	Farley, Walter
One Crazy Summer	Garcia, Rita Williams
My Side of the Mountain (series)	George, Jean Craighead
Old Yeller	Gipson, Fred

The Vanderbeekers of 141 st Street (series)	Glaser, Karina Yan
The Wind in the Willows	Grahame, Kenneth
Herstory: 50 Women and Girls Who Shook Up the World	Halligan, Katherine
Misty of Chincoteague (series)	Henry, Marguerite
Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World	Ignatovskiy, Rachel
The Phantom Tollbooth	Juster, Norton
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	Kamkwamba, William
Just So Stories	Kipling, Rudyard
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler	Konigsburg, E.L.
Chronicles of Narnia (series)	Lewis, C.S.
Starry River of the Sky	Lin, Grace
When the Sea Turned to Silver	Lin, Grace
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Lin, Grace
Pippi Longstocking (series)	Lindgren, Astrid
Doctor Dolittle (series)	Lofting, Hugh
Betsy and Tacy (series)	Lovelace, Maud Hart
Homer Price	McCloskey, Robert
Centerburg Tales	McCloskey, Robert
Skylark	MacLachlan, Patricia
Mrs. Piggle Wiggle	MacDonald, Betty

Gentle Ben	Morey, Walt
Shiloh (series)	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
The Story of the Treasure Seekers	Nesbit, Edith
The Railway Children	Nesbit, Edith
Island of the Blue Dolphins	O'Dell, Scott
The Quilt	Paulsen, Gary
Gooseberry Park	Rylant, Cynthia
The Cricket in Times Square	Selden, George
When You Reach Me	Stead, Rebecca
All-of-a-Kind Family (series)	Taylor, Sydney
Creative Minds Biographies series	various authors
Charlotte's Web	White, E.B.
The Trumpet of the Swan	White, E.B.
Stuart Little	White, E.B.
Little House in the Big Woods (series)	Wilder, Laura Ingalls
A Child Through Time: The Book of Children's History	Wilkinson, Phil

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TITLE	AUTHOR
Freddy Goes Camping (Freddy the Pig series) (OP)	Brooks, Walter R.
Along Came a Dog (OP)	DeJong, Meindert

The House of Sixty Fathers (OP)	DeJong, Meindert
Remember the Ladies: A Story about Abigail Adams (OP)	Ferris, Jeri
The Lightning Queen (OP)	Resau, Laura

6-9 Read-Aloud Books

This is when the fun begins! You can now dive into those classics you remember loving as a child, such as *The Secret Garden* or *Old Yeller*. It is important to read a book to your child that is more advanced than his or her current reading level. If necessary, stop occasionally to explain a word or scene. Please see Jim Trelease's book, *The New Read-Aloud Handbook*, on the importance of this part of your child's education for life. We strongly recommend reading to your child *every* night.

TITLE	AUTHOR
Peter Pan	Barrie, J.M.
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	Baum, L. Frank
Little Lord Fauntleroy	Burnett, Frances Hodgson
A Little Princess	Burnett, Frances Hodgson
The Secret Garden	Burnett, Frances Hodgson
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Carroll, Lewis
All Because You Matter	Charles, Tami
I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children	Edelman, Marian Wright
Old Yeller	Gipson, Fred
Wind in the Willows	Graham, Kenneth
King Arthur & His Knights of the Round Table	Green, Roger Lancelyn

The Jungle Book	Kipling, Rudyard
Rikki-Tikki-Tavi	Kipling, Rudyard
The Chronicles of Narnia	Lewis, C.S.
The Invisible Boy	Ludwig, Trudy
The Golden Goblet	McGraw, Eloise Jarvis
The Pushcart War	Merrill, Jean
Anne of Green Gables	Montgomery, Lucy Maud
The Railway Children	Nesbit, Edith
Rascal	North, Sterling
Pollyanna	Porter, Eleanor H.
The Yearling	Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan
The Original Bambi: The Story of a Life in the Forest	Salten, Felix
Black Beauty	Sewell, Anna
Heidi	Spyri, Johanna
Mary Poppins	Travers, P.L.
The Prince and the Pauper	Twain, Mark
Banner in the Sky	Ullman, James Ramsey
Aladdin and Other Tales from the Arabian Nights	Anonymous

