

## Classic Books for Children

- [Because of Winn-Dixie](#) by Kate DiCamillo – A 10 year old girl and her preacher father moves to a new town to start over. She is lonely until she meets Winn-Dixie, a stray dog who helps her overcome her loneliness and absence of her mother. Reading level 3.9 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
  - [The Borrowers](#) by Mary Norton –A series of books about miniature people who live in an old country house by borrowing things from the humans are forced to emigrate from their home under the clock. Reading level 5.3 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
  - [Bridge to Terabithia](#) by Katherine Paterson - A heartwarming but sad story about a ten year old boy carving out a refuge both physically and emotionally away from bullies and the harsh realities of being a kid. It's about friendship and standing up for what is right as much as it's about loss. Reading level 4.6 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>
  - [Charlotte's Web](#) by EB White -- In this endearing story, a little girl and Charlotte, a beautiful grey spider, struggle to save Wilbur the pig from being butchered. Reading level 4.6 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
  - [The Cricket in Times Square](#) by George Selden – Chester the cricket resides in a newsstand in Times Square. He has many adventures, climaxing with the rescue of the newsstand owner from financial disaster. Reading level 4.9 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>
  - [Clementine](#) by Sara Pennypacker – When sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building. Book #1. Reading level 4.5 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
  - [Dear Mr. Henshaw](#) by Beverly Cleary – In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world. Reading level 4.9 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
  - [The Door in the Wall](#) by Marguerite De Angeli – This is a Newberry Medal winner about a crippled boy in fourteenth-century England who proves his courage and earns recognition from the king. Reading level 6.9 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
  - [From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler](#) by EL Konigsburg – Claudia and her brother Jamie run away from home and take up residence in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Reading level 4.7 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
- [Gooney Bird Greene](#) by Lois Lowry – A most unusual new student, who loves to be the center of attention, entertains her teacher and fellow second-graders by telling absolutely true stories about herself, including how she got her name. Reading level 3.9 Interest level 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>
- [Harriet the Spy](#) by Louise Fitzhugh – Harriet's notebook of her feelings about classmates and neighbors is found by her classmates. Reading level 4.5 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>
- [Hatchet](#) by Gary Paulsen – After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. Reading level 5.7 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.
  - [Holes](#) by Louis Sachar – As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert. Reading level 4.6 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
  - [How to Eat Fried Worms](#) by Thomas Rockwell – Billy accepts the challenge to eat fifteen worms in fifteen days when his friend bets fifty dollars that he cannot do it. Reading level 3.5 Interest level 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

- [The Hundred Dresses](#) by Elenor Estes – In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson. Reading level 5.4 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
- [Island of the Blue Dolphins](#) by Scott O’Dell – Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life. Reading level 5.4 Interest level 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
- [The Indian in the Cupboard](#) by Lynne Reid Banks – A young boy discovers that his magic cupboard and key can turn toys into live people and animals. Reading level 4.6 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
- [James and the Giant Peach](#) by Roald Dahl – Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearsome aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach. Reading level 4.8 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>
- [Johnny Tremain](#) by Esther Forbes – This book follows a young apprentice from a tragic accident in a silversmith's shop to his dramatic involvement as a patriot in the days just before the American Revolution. Reading level 5.9 Interest level 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.
- [Julie of the Wolves](#) by Jean Craighead George – Common sense and courage enable a young Eskimo girl to survive when she becomes lost in the Arctic wild. Reading level 5.8 Interest level 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
- [A Series of Unfortunate Events](#) by Lemony Snicket – The collective volume of the thirteen children's books following the unfortunate lives of the [Baudelaire](#) Orphans, as written by [Lemony Snicket](#). Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire come across as extremely unfortunate children having their parents perish in a fire that destroyed their entire home, only to be brought to their third cousin four times removed, the treacherous [Count Olaf](#). Books 1-13 in the series describe the treacheries that the children face through their young lives while trying to prevent Olaf and his many associates’ attempts on getting his hands on the Baudelaire fortune. Reading level 6<sup>th</sup> grade Interest level 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
- [The Little House on the Prairie series](#) by Laura Ingalls Wilder – Laura and her family set out for Kansas in a covered wagon after leaving their little house in Wisconsin. Pa builds a house on the prairies and the family faces a series of threats to their survival. Reading level 5<sup>th</sup> grade Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
- [The Littles](#) by John Peterson – The Littles, tiny people who live within the walls of the Biggses' house, begin to worry when the Biggs go on a three-month vacation leaving a very messy family in charge of the house. Reading level 3.3 Interest level 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>
- [Magic Tree House](#) by Mary Pope Osborne –. Two children, Jack and Annie, find a magic tree house and have adventures all through time and space. Over 50 books are in the series. Reading level 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Interest level 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- [The Mouse and the Motorcycle](#) by Beverly Cleary – A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling. Reading level 5.1 Interest level 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>
- [Mr. Popper’s Penguins](#) by Richard Atwater – Mr. Popper trains his band of penguins to star in a vaudeville tour. The coauthor is Florence Atwater. Reading level 5.6 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.
- [Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh](#) by Robert C. O’Brien –When Timothy, youngest of a family of field mice, becomes ill, his mother, Mrs. Frisby, enlists the aid of the Rats of NIMH to move their home from the path of the farmer's plow. Reading level 5.1 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

- [Number the Stars](#) by Lois Lowry – In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. Reading level 4.5 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
- [Out of My Mind](#) by Sharon Draper – Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. Reading level 4.3 Interest 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>
- [Ramona and Her Father](#) by Beverly Cleary – In this adventure with Beezus and Ramona, Mr. Quimby loses his job, and the entire family learns to cope with hardship. Reading level 5.2 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- [Sarah, Plain and Tall](#) by Patricia MacLachlin – In this loving story of a motherless family, a tall, plain woman comes to stay with them. Reading level 3.4 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.
- [The Secret Garden](#) by Frances Hodgson Burnett – Mary moves to a huge estate to live with her mysterious uncle, his ailing son, the servants--and a secret garden. Reading level 6.3 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.
- [Shiloh](#) by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor – When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner. The owner is a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. Reading level 4.4 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
- [Sideways Stories from Wayside School](#) by Louis Sachar – Humorous episodes take place in the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story. Reading level 3.3 Interest level 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>
- [Stuart Little](#) by E.B. White – After being adopted by a human family, a tiny mouse sets out to win over his resentful new brother and the family feline, while fending off a gang of cats who want him out of the house. Reading level 6.0 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- [Summer of the Monkeys](#) by Wilson Rawls – . A fourteen-year-old Ozark Mountain boy attempts to recapture monkeys escaped from a traveling circus. Reading level 4.8 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
- [Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing](#) by Judy Blume – Peter Hatcher has a terrible problem--his two-year-old little brother. Reading level 3.3 Interest level 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>
- [There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom](#) by Louis Sachar – An eleven-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is also a sort of a misfit. The plot contains mild profanity. Reading level 3.4 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
- [The Trumpet of the Swan](#) by E.B. White – Louis, the Trumpeter Swan, lacks a voice, but his father hits on a bold alternative so that Louis might win his love, Serena. Reading level 4.9 Interest level 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
- [The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle](#) by Avi – As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious. Reading level 5.3 Interest level 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
- [Tuck Everlasting](#) by Natalie Babbitt – Winnie Foster discovers a magic spring that has given the Tuck family eternal life. She is faced with the difficult decision of whether to drink from it and whether to tell all when a stranger wants to know the secret in order to sell the water. Reading level 5.0 Interest level 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
- [The Whipping Boy](#) by Sid Fleischman –A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places. Reading level 3.9 Interest level 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>