



INSTITUTE FOR

Excellence in Writing

An effective method for teaching writing skills

Recommended Reading List

Poetry

Pudewa, Andrew, ed. *Linguistic Development Through Poetry Memorization* available at www.excellenceinwriting.com/PMC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Compiled by Maria Gerber

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

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

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

Grades Preschool–2

Andersen, Hans Christian “The Ugly Duckling,” “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” “The Steadfast Tin Soldier”
Bendick, Jeanne *Archimedes and the Door of Science*
Bishop & Wiese *The Five Chinese Brothers*
Burton, Virginia Lee *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*
Carle, Eric *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*
Flack, Marjorie *Angus and the Ducks*
Gag, Wanda *Millions of Cats*
Galdone, Paul *The Elves and the Shoemaker*, retold
Grahame, Kenneth *The Wind in the Willows*
Grimm Brothers numerous fairy tales
Guthrie, Woody *This Land Is Your Land*
Harris, Joel Chandler *Favorite Uncle Remus*
Joose, Barbara M. *Mama, Do You Love Me?*
Keats, Ezra Jack *The Snowy Day*
Kipling, Rudyard *Rikki Tikki Tavi*
Lang, Andrew *The Blue Fairy Book; The Red Fairy Book*, etc.
Leaf, Munro *The Story of Ferdinand*
Lear, Edward *A Book of Nonsense*
Lester, Julius *John Henry; Sam & the Tigers*
Martin, Bill *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*
Milne, A.A. *Winnie the Pooh Series*
Moses, Will *Johnny Appleseed: the Story of a Legend*
Numeroff, Laura Joffe *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*
Piper, Watty *The Little Engine that Could*
Rey, Hans A. *Curious George Series*
Sendak, Maurice *Where the Wild Things Are*
Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman *Nate the Great Series*
Slobodkina, Esphyr *Caps for Sale*
Viorst, Judith *Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*

Resources for Parents & Teachers

Berquist, Laura *The Harp and Laurel Wreath*
Gatto, John *Weapons of Mass Instruction*
Kalpakgian, Mitchell *The Mysteries of Life in Children’s Literature*
Kilpatrick, William, et al. *Books that Build Character: A Guide to Teaching Your Child Moral Values through Stories*
Project Gutenberg free downloadable e-books www.gutenberg.org
Pudewa, Andrew *Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization* available at www.excellenceinwriting.com/PMC
Pudewa, Andrew *Teaching Boys & Other Children Who Would Rather Make Forts All Day DVD* available at www.excellenceinwriting.com/TB-D
Van DeMille, Oliver *A Thomas Jefferson Education*

Level A grades 3–5

Bennett, William J., ed. *The Book of Virtues—A Treasury of Great Moral Stories*
Brandt, Keith *Daniel Boone: Frontier Adventures*
Catling, Patrick Skene *The Chocolate Touch*
Cooney, Barbara, adaptor *Chanticleer and the Fox*
Cousins, Margaret *The Story of Thomas Alva Edison*
Dalglish, Alice *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain*
D’Aulaire, Edgar Parin & Ingri *Book of Greek Myths; Christopher Columbus; Leif the Lucky; George Washington*
Dickens, Charles *A Christmas Carol*
Dixon, Franklin W. *The Hardy Boys Series*
Gauch, Patricia Lee *Aaron and the Green Mountain Boys*
Greene, Carol *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Musical Genius*
Hawthorne, Nathaniel *Tanglewood Tales aka The Wonder Book*
Holling, H.C. *Paddle-to-the-Sea; Tree in the Trail*
Hurwitz, Johanna *The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein*
Irving, Washington *Rip van Winkle*
Kroll, Steven *Lewis & Clark: Explorers of the American West*
Lawson, Robert *Ben and Me*
Lewis, C.S. *The Chronicles of Narnia Series*
McCloskey, Robert *Homer Price*
Monsell, Helen Albee *Robert E. Lee: Young Confederates*
Nesbit, Edith *Five Children and It*
Reit, Seymour *Guns for General Washington*
Rockwell, Thomas *How to Eat Fried Worms*
Roddy, Lee *Robert E. Lee*
Seuss, Dr. *Five Hundred Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*
Stanley, Diane *Leonardo da Vinci*
Stevenson, Robert Louis *Kidnapped*
Twain, Mark *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*
White, E.B. *Stuart Little*
Wyss, Johann David *Swiss Family Robinson*
Yates, Elizabeth *Amos Fortune, Free Man*

Resources for Parents & Elementary Teachers

Berquist, Laura *The Harp and Laurel Wreath*
Gatto, John *Weapons of Mass Instruction*
Kalpakgian, Mitchell *The Mysteries of Life in Children’s Literature*
Kilpatrick, William, et al. *Books that Build Character: A Guide to Teaching Your Child Moral Values through Stories*
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Van DeMille, Oliver *A Thomas Jefferson Education*

Level B grades 6–8

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

Resources for Parents & Middle School Teachers

Berquist, Laura *The Harp and Laurel Wreath*
Gatto, John *Weapons of Mass Instruction*
Kalpakgian, Mitchell *The Mysteries of Life in Children's Literature*
Kilpatrick, William, et al. *Books that Build Character: a Guide to Teaching Your Child Moral Values through Stories*
Blishen, Edward, ed. *Oxford Book of Poetry for Children*
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Van DeMille, Oliver *A Thomas Jefferson Education*

Level C grades 9–12

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

Resources for Parents & High School Teachers

Berquist, Laura *The Harp and Laurel Wreath*
Gatto, John *Weapons of Mass Instruction*
Parker, ed. Thomas K. *The American Short Story*
Project Gutenberg free downloadable e-books www.gutenberg.org
Pudewa, Andrew *Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization*
Van DeMille, Oliver *A Thomas Jefferson Education*

**Reading Lists Excerpted from *Teaching the Classics*, by Adam and Missy Andrews,
available at www.excellenceinwriting.com/TCS**

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

Stories for Young Children

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

Waber, Bernard *You Look Ridiculous Said the Rhinoceros to the Hippopotamus*
Ward, Lynd *The Biggest Bear*
Yolen, Jane *All Those Secrets of The World; Owl Moon*
Ziefert, Harriet *A New Coat for Anna*
Zolotow, Charlotte *Big Sister and Little Sister; Something is Going to Happen*

Juvenile Fiction

Alcott, Louisa May *Little Women*
Alexander, Lloyd *The Book of Three*
Atwater, Richard and Florence *Mr. Popper's Penguins*
Babbitt, Natalie *Tuck Everlasting*
Banks, Lynne Reid *The Indian in the Cupboard*
Bibee, John *The Magic Bicycle*
Brink, Carol Ryrie *Caddie Woodlawn*
Burgess, Alan *The Small Woman*
Burnett, Frances Hodgson *The Secret Garden*
Burnford, Sheila *The Incredible Story*
Cleary, Beverly *Henry and Ribsy*
Dagliesh, Alice *The Courage of Sarah Noble*
Dahl, Roald *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
De Angeli, Marguerite *A Door in the Wall*
Edmonds, Walter *The Matchlock Gun*
Estes, Eleanor *The Moffats*
Field, Rachel *Calico Bush*
Fitzgerald, John D. *The Great Brain*
Fritz, Jean *The Cabin Faced West*
Gannett, Ruth S. *My Father's Dragon*
Gates, Doris *Blue Willow*
George, Jean Craighead *My Side of the Mountain*
Gilbreth, Frank and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey *Cheaper by the Dozen*
Gipson, Fred *Old Yeller*
Gray, Elizabeth Janet *Adam of the Road*
Henry, Marguerite *Misty of Chincoteague*
Hunt, Irene *Across Five Aprils*
Juster, Norton *The Phantom Tollbooth*
Keene, Carolyn *Nancy Drew Series*
Kipling, Rudyard *The Jungle Book*
Konigsburg, E.L. *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*
Lamb, Charles and Mary *Tales from Shakespeare*
Lawson, Robert *Rabbit Hill*
Leaf, Munro *Wee Gillis*
Lenski, Lois *Strawberry Girl*
Lindgren, Astrid *Pippi Longstocking*
MacDonald, George *The Princess and the Goblin*
MacLachlan, Patricia *Sarah, Plain, and Tall*
Meigs, Cornelia *Invincible Louisa*
Merrill, Jean *The Pushcart War*

Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables*
Morey, Walt *Gentle Ben*
Mowat, Farley *Owls in the Family*
Neimark, Anne E. *Touch of Light: The Story of Louis Braille*
Nesbit, Edith *The Enchanted Castle*
O'Brien, Robert *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*
O'Dell, Scott *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
Pyle, Howard *Otto of the Silver Hand*
Rackham, Arthur and C.S. Evens *Cinderella*
Rawls, Wilson *Where the Red Fern Grows*
Robinson, Barbara *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*
Selden, George *The Cricket in Times Square*
Sewall, Marcia *Pilgrims of Plymouth*
Spyri, Johanna *Heidi*
Sterling, Dorothy *Freedom Train*
Taylor, Mildred *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
Warner, Gertrude C. *The Boxcar Children*
White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web; The Trumpet of the Swan*
Wiggin, Kate Douglas *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*
Wilder, Laura Ingalls *Little House on the Prairie*

High School Fiction

Adams, Richard *Watership Down*
Austen, Jane *Pride and Prejudice*
_____, *Beowulf*
Bradbury, Ray *The Martian Chronicles*
Bronte, Charlotte *Jane Eyre*
Cather, Willa *My Antonia*
Chaucer, Geoffrey *The Canterbury Tales*
Conrad, Joseph *The Heart of Darkness*
Cooper, James Fenimore *The Last of the Mohicans*
Costain, Thomas *The Silver Chalice*
Crane, Stephen *The Red Badge of Courage*
D'Orczy, Baroness *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
Dante, *The Divine Comedy*
Defoe, Daniel *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*
Dickens, Charles *Great Expectations*
Dillard, Annie *A Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
Dumas, Alexandre *The Three Musketeers*
Forester, C.S. *Lieutenant Hornblower*
Hemingway, Ernest *The Old Man and The Sea*
Henty, G.A. *The Cat of Bubastes*
Herriot, James *All Creatures Great and Small*
Heyerdahl, Thor *Kon-Tiki*
Hilton, James *Good-bye Mr. Chips*
Hugo, Victor *Les Miserables*
Irving, Washington *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

Jacques, Brian *Redwall*
Kipling, Rudyard *Captains Courageous*
Lewis, C.S. *The Great Divorce; Space Trilogy: Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, That Hideous Strength*
Maclean, Alistair *The Guns of Navarone*
Marshall, Catherine *Christy*
Milton, John *Paradise Lost*
Porter, Gene Stratton *A Girl of the Limberlost*
Potok, Chaim *The Chosen*
Pyle, Howard *Men of Iron*
Reeves, James *The Exploits of Don Quixote*
Richter, Conrad *The Light in the Forest*
Shakespeare, William *The Riverside Shakespeare*
Stevenson, Robert Louis *Treasure Island*
Ten Boom, Corrie *The Hiding Place*
Tolkien, J.R.R., trans. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
Tolstoy, Leo *Anna Karenina*
Ullman, James Ramsey *Banner in the Sky*
Verne, Jules *Around the World in 80 Days*
Vernon, Louise *Ink On His Fingers*
Virgil *The Aeneid*
Wiseman, Cardinal Nicholas Patrick *Fabiola or The Church of the Catacombs*