

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

An ongoing list of literature &
related resources for parents & teachers

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It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it. ~Oscar Wilde

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

Obviously, books that grab small children's attention won't be the same as those that interest them when they enter their teens or collegiate years. In general, however, books that children—big or small—enjoy reading are **relevant** to them.

Relevancy

identification with a virtuous male protagonist	"I'll try to be more like him." or "Hmm, he's kind of like me."
interest in adventure, risk, conflict, battles, danger	"Take that!" or "I dare you!"
fascination & at the same time revulsion: disgusting foods, slimy bugs, poisonous creatures	"That's gross!" & "Wow, look at that."
spatial reasoning: architecture, maps, clues, math	"I know that." or "I can do that."
physical humor, unpredictable actions, absurdity, exaggeration	Ha ha ha ha ha!
inspirational heroes who overcome animals, monsters, villains, nature	"He's awesome!"
a game with both potential gain and loss	"I'm gonna' win!"
weaponry, tools, machines	"This is so cool."

Sound familiar?

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.

Level Pre-A grades K–2

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

Resources for Parents & Teachers

Berquist, Laura	<i>The Harp and the Laurel Wreath</i>
Gatto, John	<i>Weapons of Mass Instruction</i>
Kalpakgian, Mitchell	<i>The Mysteries of Life in Children’s Literature</i>
Kilpatrick, William, et al.	<i>Books that Build Character: A Guide to Teaching Your Child Moral Values through Stories</i>
Project Gutenberg	free downloadable e-books
Pudewa, Andrew	<i>Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization</i>
Van DeMille, Oliver	<i>A Thomas Jefferson Education</i>

Level A grades 3–5

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

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Kilpatrick, William, et al.	<i>Books that Build Character: A Guide to Teaching Your Child</i> <i>Moral Values through Stories</i> free downloadable e-books
Project Gutenberg	
Pudewa, Andrew	<i>Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization</i>
Van DeMille, Oliver	<i>A Thomas Jefferson Education</i>

Level B grades 6–8

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

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Kilpatrick, William, et al.	<i>Books that Build Character: A Guide to Teaching Your Child Moral Values through Stories</i>
Blishen, Edward, ed.	<i>Oxford Book of Poetry for Children</i>
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Level C grades 9–12

Belloc, Hilaire	<i>Joan of Arc</i>
Bradbury, Ray	<i>The Martian Chronicles</i>
Bullfinch	<i>Mythology</i>
Colum, Padraic	<i>Jason and the Golden Fleece</i>
Connell, Richard	"The Most Dangerous Game"
Crane, Stephen	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>
Dickens, Charles	<i>Oliver Twist; David Copperfield</i>
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan	<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>
Dumas, Alexandre	<i>The Count of Monte Cristo; The Man in the Iron Mask</i>
Eliot, T.S.	<i>Murder in the Cathedral</i>
Farrow, John	<i>Damien the Leper</i>
Harte, Bret	"The Luck of Roaring Camp"
Heyerdahl, Thor	<i>Kon-Tiki</i>
Kalpakgian, Mitchell	<i>The Mysteries of Life in Children's Literature</i>
Lee, Harper	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>
Lewis, C.S.	<i>Space Trilogy: Out of the Silent Planet; Perelandra; That Hideous Strength</i>
London, Jack	<i>Mere Christianity; The Four Loves; The Screwtape Letters</i>
Lorenz, Konrad	<i>The Sea Wolf; "To Build a Fire"</i>
Melville, Herman	<i>King Solomon's Ring</i>
O. Henry	<i>Billy Budd, Sailor</i>
Orwell, George	"The Gift of the Magi" "The Ransom of Red Chief"
Poe, Edgar Allen	<i>Animal Farm; 1984</i>
Roper, William	"The Telltale Heart" other short stories
Schaefer, Jack	<i>The Life of Sir Thomas More</i>
Serraillier, trans. Ian	<i>Shane</i>
Shaara, Michael	<i>Beowulf</i>
Shakespeare	<i>Killer Angels</i>
Shelley, Mary	<i>Taming of the Shrew; Merchant of Venice; Macbeth; Julius Caesar</i>
Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Sienkiewicz, Henryk	<i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i>
Steinbeck, John	<i>Quo Vadis?</i>
Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>The Grapes of Wrath; The Pearl</i>
Sutcliff, Rosemary	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad</i>
Tolkien, trans.	<i>The Wanderings of Odysseus: The Story of the Odyssey</i>
Twain, Mark	<i>Lord of the Rings Trilogy</i>
Washington, Booker T.	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>
Waugh, Evelyn	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; Puddin'head Wilson</i>
Wells, H.G.	<i>Up from Slavery</i>
	<i>Edmund Campion</i>
	<i>Journey to the Center of the Earth; The Time Machine; War of the Worlds</i>

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Parker, ed. Thomas K.	<i>The American Short Story</i>
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