



# CCA Reading Guide

*A Reading List and Plan for  
Classical Students and Parents*

## **Preface**

*By Christopher Perrin and Leslie Rayner*

**A**fter six years of research, review, reading and collaborating, the Curriculum Committee of Covenant Christian Academy (CCA) has produced a Reading List and Guide for CCA students and parents. Leslie Rayner, the Committee Co-Chair is responsible for compiling this list with input and review from the rest of the committee. This document has been designed with three basic goals and five specific objectives. We thought it would be helpful to list them for you at the outset:

## **Goals**

1. Encourage and foster a life-long love of reading
2. Develop in students a taste for the best literature
3. Guide the reading activity of students in an incremental, topical fashion

## Objectives

1. Give students guidance and direction as they choose books for independent reading and book reports (as required by CCA in various grades).
2. Help students, teachers and parents make intelligent, wise decisions regarding what books students read, enabling them to select books at the right reading level, in the right genre and of appropriate topic and content.
3. Insure that parents read more good literature themselves and with their children (e.g., reading aloud to children, discussing books that both parent and child read).
4. Provide students with a record of the books they read in order to grant them the satisfaction of seeing their reading achievements and to motivate them to read more great books.
5. Provide parents and teachers with a record of the books that students read in order to help parents and teachers guide reading, suggest new books and avenues of study, cultivate interests and build new areas of interest.

At Covenant Christian Academy, our desire is not only for students to learn how to read, but also to acquire a passion for reading. We aim to cultivate a life-long love of reading excellent books that span generations and are worth reading over again. The list of books in the *CCA Reading Guide* has been compiled to encourage reading what CCA considers superb literature while allowing for individual choice and preference. We hope that parents and children will come to know and love some of the best authors and literature that exist, and develop a lifelong love of reading!



God is a Being who speaks, who has fashioned creatures who speak. Christ himself is called the “Word.” He has also chosen to preserve a written record (the Scripture) of his saving acts for our salvation, edification and instruction. The Bible itself is full of many kinds of literature--history, narration, poetry, philosophy, parables, letters. Christians have been called from ancient times “people of the Book;” consequently Christians have always been interested in books, in reading them and writing them. As speaking beings and as Christians, we wish to pass on this love of Scripture and literature to our children.

If we are going to pass on literature to our children, why not give them the best we have found? And why not give it to them as intelligently as we can, guiding their reading according to their ability, interest and maturity? We have tried to do this in our guide, so that CCA parents can benefit from the labor of our committee and staff who have put their heads together towards this end. Why another guide when there are others to consult? Indeed we have consulted many reading guides. While they have been very helpful, we have frequently found that these guides vary in scope and disagree with one another, compelling us to do a great deal of our own reading and assessment. Additionally, we have tried to cull books that fit well with our curriculum, philosophy and students here at CCA, which no other guide could do. It is also integrated with the historical periods that our children study. This guide, therefore, is tailor-made for classically-educated, Christian students, in a fairly academic school. We believe, however, that other families, students and schools will benefit from this guide as well.



So let the children read. Let the grown-up children read. An education--with hard work, adventure, surprise and change--awaits us all. We imagine and pray for many wonderful hours in which we are transported by great words from great minds--words so well chosen that they “awaken sensibility, great emotions, and understanding of truth.”<sup>1</sup>

Ensnorced with great books, our children will travel to places which we cannot take them, to times we cannot go. Lives will be lived, loves lost and gained, battles fought and won. Virtue can be taught and stoked; empathy, understanding, conviction, courage and compassion can all find strength and depth. As our children travel the world among the pages, we will find them not just entertained but one day made wise. The right book at the right time can change the course of a child’s life; the right story, the right biography can awaken an interest or calling that may serve the church and culture as much as it surprises mom and dad. Since you will be reading with your children, you will likely find that something in you wakes up too.

Because a child’s understanding and character can be shaped and influenced by what he reads, “it is imperative that their books be of high caliber.”<sup>2</sup> The books listed in the *CCA Reading Guide* have been carefully selected. These books have been examined to insure that they are excellent examples of English writing containing proper grammar and syntax, skillful language of various styles, vivid description and gripping narration and dialogue. Many of the books also contain appealing visual illustrations. The content

<sup>1</sup> Hunt, Gladys, *Honey for a Child’s Heart*, Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 1989, p. 14.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12



# Lower Grammar School List

Title	Author	Genre	Notations	Level	√
Aesop's Fables for Children (selections)	Aesop	Fa	M-3 TRA	3	
Corn is Maize	Aliki	F	TRA-1	1	
Story of William Penn, The	Aliki	B/H	TRA-1	1	
Miss Nelson is Missing	Allard	F	TRA-2	2	
Miss Nelson (+ sequels)	Allard	F		2	
An Amish Year	Ammon	HF	TRA-1	2	
Amish Horses	Ammon	HF	TRA-1	2	
Billy and Blaze	Anderson	Ad	TRA-2	2	
Blaze (sequels)	Anderson	Ad		2	
Emperor's New Clothes, The	Anderson	Fa		2	
Anderson's Fairy Tales (selections)	Anderson	Fa	M-3 TRA	3	
Ugly Duckling, The	Anderson	Fa		3	
History Detectives, Ancient Egypt	Ardagh	HF	I-2	1	
Mr. Popper's Penguins	Atwater	Fa		2	
Folks in the Valley	Aylesworth	HF	TRA-1	2	
Adventures in Ancient Egypt	Bailey	HF	I-2	1	
Big Book of Brambly Hedge, The	Barklem	Fa		2	
Little Rabbit (+ any in series)	Bate	F		1	
Madeline (+ any in series)	Bemelman	RF		1	
George, the Drummer Boy	Benchley	HF		1	
Sam, the Minute Man	Benchley	HF		1	
Amish Home	Bial	HF	TRA-1	2	



Title	Author	Genre	Notations	Level	✓
Bear Called Paddington, A	Bond	Fa		2	
Boy Who Loved to Draw, The	Brenner	B/H	TRA-1	2	
Hat, The	Brett	F		1	
Milly, Molly, Mandy Storybook	Brisley	RF		3	
Stone Soup	Brown	Fa		1	
Dick Whittington and His Cat	Brown	Fa		2	
Daniel's Duck	Bulla	F		2	
Little Pilgrim's Progress	Bunyan/ Taylor	Fa	M-3	3	
Adventures of Old Mr. Toad	Burgess	F		2	
Little House	Burton	F	M-1	1	
Mike Mulligan and the Steam Shovel	Burton	F		1	
Katy & the Big Snow	Burton	F		1	
Pancakes, Pancakes!	Carle	RF		1	
Alice in Wonderland	Carroll	Fa		3	
Chanticleer and the Fox	Chaucer/ Cooney	Fa	TRA-1	1	
Henry Huggins	Cleary	RF	M-2	2	
Ribsey	Cleary	RF		2	
Henry Huggins sequels	Cleary	F		2	
Ralph S. Mouse	Cleary	Fa		3	
Ramona Quimby, Age 8	Cleary	RF		3	
Runaway Ralph	Cleary	Fa		3	
King's Giraffe, The	Collier	F		2	
Pinocchio of C. Collodi	Collodi	Fa		3	
Children's Homer, The	Colum	Fa	M-3 TRA	3	



Title	Author	Genre	Notations	Level	√
Golden Fleece, The	Colum	Fa/H	I-3	3	
Ancient Greece of Odysseus	Connolly	HF	I-3	2	
Cavalryman, The	Connolly	HF	I-3	1	
Legionary, The	Connolly	HF	I-3	1	
Miss Rumphius	Cooney	F	TRA-1	1	
Against the World: The Odyssey of Athanasius	Coray	HF	I-3	3	
Little Lame Prince, The	Craik	Fa		3	
Book of Greek Myths (selections)	D'Aulaire	Fa/H	I-3	3	
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Dahl	Fa		3	
Bears on Hemlock Mountain, The	Dalgliesh	F	M-2	2	
Courage of Sarah Noble, The	Dalgliesh	H	M-2	2	
Thanksgiving Story, The	Dalgliesh	H		2	
Henner's Lydia	Dalgliesh	HF	TRA-1	3	
Andy and the Lion	Daugherty	F		2	
Tales From the Arabian Nights	Dawood (retold by)	Fa		3	
Thee, Hannah	DeAngeli	HF		3	
Wheel on the School, The	DeJong	RF	M-3	3	
Children's Classic Poetry	Derrydale Books	P		2	
Tut's Mummy	Donnelly	NF	M-2	2	
Moonwalk: First Trip to the Moon	Donnelly	NF		2	
Mystery of the Hieroglyphs	Donoughue	H	I-2	1	
Black Stallion	Farley	RF		3	

