



TRINITAS Classical School

1934 52nd Street SE • Kentwood, MI 49508 • (616) 855-6518
Fax: (616) 855-6962 • info@trinitasclassical.org • www.trinitasclassical.org

Recommended Summer Reading List

Trinitas is committed to helping children (and their parents) enjoy good literature. Please find attached a list of good books recommended by our teachers for summer reading.

The list includes a wide range of titles (something for everyone) that both delight and teach. We have chosen stories that are beautiful to the ear (and sometimes the eye) and that spark the moral imagination. Most of the stories are "Whole Stories" where good is good and evil is evil and good wins (example: the original Cinderella) or "Healing Stories" where good is good and evil is evil and good wins, but the character experiences a disappointment that causes growth (example: the original Where the Red Fern Grows).

For older children (7/8th grade) we have added a few "Broken Stories" where good is good and evil is evil but the character is a mixture of both forces, losing his fight against evil. However, the character accepts his moral failings and accepts responsibility for his mistakes but still ends in a worse position than he began having learned a TRUE important moral lesson (example: Jekyll and Hyde or Macbeth).

We have intentionally avoided "Twisted Stories" where good is not always good and evil is not always evil or good characters use evil means to obtain good. Twisted stories may also have the reader sympathize or cheer for evil characters to escape justice. These stories may also contain historical Christian symbols of evil (i.e. snakes or dragons) in a positive or redemptive light. Frankenstein is an example of a twisted story because readers feel pity for the monster and desire him to escape punishment. Tragically, his evil is not blamed on poor moral choices but rather his hostile environment. The monster never accepts responsibility for the murders he commits.

*For a greater understanding of the importance of good literature on the development of a child's moral imagination, **we recommend parents read Tending the Heart of Virtue by Vigen Gurioian**, Oxford University Press, 1998.*

Remember that there is great value in reading aloud to your child(ren) at any age and discussing the stories together. Some resources for that include The Read-Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease and The Read-Aloud Family by Sarah Mackenzie. The podcast Read Aloud Revival also give many ideas and tips.

*Below is our **recommended** reading list, with highly recommended selections highlighted. It is not comprehensive. The teachers tried to keep it short and manageable. (For more titles, see also Rayner and Perrin. The Classical Reader, A Reading Guide for K-12 students.)*

Please encourage your students in their independent summer reading and spend time reading good books aloud to them as well. Enjoy!

Stories for Everyone with Music on CD

Classical Kids series produced by Susan Hammond-

- Beethoven Lives Upstairs
- Hallelujah Handel
- Mozart's Magic Fantasy
- Mr. Bach Comes to Call
- Tchaikovsky Discovers America
- Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery

Peter and the Wolf, Illustrated by Peter Malone (pub: Knopf)

Carnival of the Animals, Commentary by Barrie Carson Turner

Carnival of the Animals with new verses by Jack Prelutsky

Poetry Speaks to Children, Edited by [Elise Paschen](#) and [Dominique Raccach](#)

The Story of Classical Music by Darren Henley

Kindergarten/1st Grade

Kindergarteners should spend time with their parents reading delightful and predictable books; these build early reading enthusiasm, reading independence, and stamina. Example include *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See*, or *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*. Additionally, a good book for young readers can have simple text and beautiful illustrations. An example is *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen.

For 1st graders who are strong readers, some of the books in the 2nd grade list will be appropriate, so don't forget to look at that section!

Series Books

Appleton-Smith, Laura. *Books to Remember Series*

Carle, Eric books

Cole, Joanna. *The Magic School Bus Series*

Dr. Seuss books

Early Step Into Reading Series

Eastman, P.D. books

Folktales and Fairytales (Original versions, not adaptations). The Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Andersen, and other authors. *Little Red Hen, Town Mouse and Country Mouse*, and other titles.

Hollander, *American Poetry, Animal Poems (Poetry for Young People Series)*

I Can Read Books Series

Maslen, Bobby Lynn and John R. Maslen. *Bob Books*

Minarik, [Else](#) and Maurice Sendak. *Little Bear Series*

Sharmat, Marjorie. *Nate the Great Series*

Willems, Mo. *Elephant and Piggie Series*

Authors and Specific Titles

Aesop's Fables

Allard, Henry and James Marchall. *Miss Nelson Is Missing!* (and other titles)

Barrett, Judi. *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*

Bishop, Claire Huchet and Kurt Wiese. *The Five Chinese Brothers*
Bennett, Jill. *Teeny, Tiny*
Bennett, William. *Children's Book of Virtues*
Brett, Jan. *The Mitten* (and other titles)
Brown, Marcia. *Stone Soup*.
Brown, Margaret Wise. *Big Red Barn, Runaway Bunny, Little Fur Family* (and other titles)
Burgess, Thornton. *Mother West Wind's Neighbors* and other titles
Burton, Virginia Lee. *The Little House*
Cannon, Janell. *Stellaluna*
Clements, Andrew. *Big Al*
DePaola, Tomie. *Strega Nona* (and other titles)
Ehlert, Lois. *Color Farm; Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z*
Gag, Wanda. *Millions of Cats*
Galdone, Paul. *The Little Red Hen* (and other titles)
George, Lindsay Barrett. *Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse*
Ginsburg, Mirra. *Mushroom in the Rain*
Grimm, The Brothers. *Twelve Dancing Princesses* (and other titles)
Hall, Donald and Barbara Cooney. *Ox Cart Man*
Heller, Ruth. *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones*
Hoban, Russell. *Bread and Jam for Frances*
Hoff, Syd. *Danny and the Dinosaur* (and other titles)
Hughes, Shirley *The Big Alfie and Annie Rose Storybook, Dogger*
Jacques, Florence. *There Once Was a Puffin*
Jonas, Ann. *Round Trip*
Kay, Helen. *The First Teddy Bear*
Kirk, Daniel. *Library Mouse* (and other titles)
Leaf, Munro. *The Story of Ferdinand*
Lionni, Leo. *Little Blue and Little Yellow* (and other titles)
Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad, Owl at Home, Mouse Tales, Mouse Soup*
Martin Jr., Bill. *"Fire! Fire!" Said Mrs. McGuire, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*
McCloskey, Robert. *Blueberries for Sal, Make Way for Ducklings*
Munsch, Robert. *Wait and See*
Numeroff, Laura. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* (and other titles)
O'Connor, Jane and John O'Brien. *Sir Small and the Dragonfly*
Oxenbury, Helen. *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*
Piper, Watty *The Little Engine That Could*
Potter, Beatrix *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (and other titles)
Prelutsky, Jack. *Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young*
Rankin, Laura. *The Handmade Alphabet*
Rylant, Cynthia books. *Henry and Mudge, Mr. Putter* (and other titles)
Sharmat, Mitchell. *Gregory, the Terrible Eater*
Shaw, Charles. *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*
Shaw, Nancy. *Sheep in a Jeep*
Slobodkina, Esphyr. *Caps for Sale*
Stinson, Kathy. *Red is Best*

Highlighted selections are highly recommended in preparation for the coming school year.

Taback, Simms. *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*
Thomas, Patricia. “*Stand Back,*” *Said the Elephant, “I’m Going to Sneeze!”*
Wescott, Nadine (adapted by). *The Lady with the Alligator Purse*
Wiesner, David. *Flotsam (and other titles)*
Wood, Don and Audrey. *The Napping House*
Yolen, Jane. *Owl Moon*
Young, Ed. *Lon Po Po*
Zion, Gene. *Harry the Dirty Dog*

2nd Grade

Remember that although your child can read independently, there is still great value in reading aloud (picture and chapter books) to your child and discussing the stories together. Some resources for that include *The Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease and *The Read-Aloud Family* by Sarah Mackenzie. The podcast Read Aloud Revival also give many ideas and tips.

Some of these titles may be challenging. When in doubt, the parent will want to read the first chapter aloud, then listen to the child read a portion aloud. This will help determine if the book is best read independently by the child, read aloud by a parent, or listened to in an audio version.

Original Fables, Fairytales, Folktales, and William Bennett’s *Children’s Book of Virtues*.

Aardema, Verna. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears*
Adler, David. *Cam Jansen* series
Andersen, Hans Christian. *Emperor’s New Clothes* (and other stories)
Burton, Virginia Lee. *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*
Cameron, Ann. *The Stories Julian Tells*
Catling, Patrick. *The Chocolate Touch*
Cleary, Beverly. *Henry Huggins, Ralph S. Mouse* (and other stories)
Dalgliesh, Alice. *Courage of Sarah Noble*
Dahl, Roald. *James and the Giant Peach* (and other stories)
DiCamillo, Kate. *Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride* (and other stories)
Evans, Douglas. *The Elevator Family*
Grahame, Kenneth. *Reluctant Dragon*
Green, Norma. *The Hole in the Dike*.
Gross, Gwen. *Knights of the Round Table*
Hodges, Margaret. *St. George and the Dragon*
Holub, Joan. *Young Princesses Around the World* series
Homer (children’s versions or read aloud)
 Colum, Padraic. *The Children’s Homer*
 Little, Emily. *The Trojan Horse*
 Homer, Barbara Leonie Picard and Joan Kiddell-Monroe. *The Odyssey*

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Tales from the Odyssey* series
Sutcliffe, Rosemary. *Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad*
Lewis, J. Patrick. *The House*
Lowry, Lois. *Gooney Bird Greene* series
MacDonald, Betty. *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* series
MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah, Plain and Tall*
McCaughrean, Geraldine. *The Canterbury Tales*
Milne, A.A. *The Complete Tales and Poems of Winnie-the-Pooh*
Osborne, Mary Pope. *The Magic Tree House* series
Paris, Harper. *Greetings from Somewhere* series
Parish, Peggy. *Amelia Bedelia (and other titles)*
Peterson, John. *The Littles* series
Potter, Beatrix. *The Complete Tales of Beatrix Potter*
Roo, Peter and Connie. *Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie*
Roy, Ron. *A to Z mysteries* series
Sobol, Donald. *Encyclopedia Brown* series
Warner, Gertrude. *The Boxcar Children* series
White, E. B. *The Trumpet of the Swan*
Williams, Margery. *The Velveteen Rabbit*
Yashima, Taro. *Crow Boy*

3rd / 4th Grade

Some of these titles may be challenging. When in doubt, the parent will want to read the first chapter aloud, then listen to the child read a portion aloud. This will help determine if the book is best read independently by the child, read aloud by a parent, or listened to in an audio version.

Authors and Specific Titles:

Atwater, Richard. *Mr. Popper's Penguins*
Banks, Lynne Reid. *Indian in the Cupboard*
Bennett, William. *Children's Book of Virtues*
Brink, Carol. *Caddie Woodlawn*
Burdett, Lois. *Shakespeare Can be Fun* Series
D'Aulaire, Edgar Parin & Ingri. *George Washington*
Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *Farmer Boy*
Bullseye Step into Classics Series *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
Lawson, Robert. *Ben and Me or Rabbit Hill*
Mowat, Farley. *Owls in the Family*
O'Brien, Robert. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*
Peterson, John. *The Littles*
Selden, George. *The Cricket in Times Square*
Sharp, Margery. *The Rescuers*
Sobol, Donald. *Encyclopedia Brown*
Steig, William. *Abel's Island*
Stevenson, Robert L. *A Child's Garden of Verses*
Warner, Gertrude. *The Boxcar Children*

More Challenging:

Burnett, Frances. *The Secret Garden*
George, Jean. *My Side of the Mountain*
Juster, Norton. *The Phantom Tollbooth*
McSwigan, Marie. *Snow Treasure*
Morey, Walt. *Gentle Ben*
Stevenson, Robert Lois. *Treasure Island*
Taylor, Sydney. *All of a Kind Family*

5th Grade/6th Grade

Adams, Richard. *Watership Down*
Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*
Alder, Elizabeth. *The King's Shadow*.
Ballyntyne, R. M. (Historical Fiction – 90 various titles available free on line at <http://www.athelstane.co.uk/ballanty/index.htm>)
Bendick, Jeane. *Archimedes and the Door of Science* (and other titles from the Living History Library)
Bennett, William. *The Book of Virtues* (recommendation: read the introduction to each virtue and select writings from each virtue)
Benge, Janet and Geoff. *Heroes of History* series
Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks*
Burnford, Shelia. *The Incredible Journey*
Colum, Padraic. *The Children's Homer; The Golden Fleece*
Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*
Doyle, Arthur Conan. *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.
Farley, Walter. *The Black Stallion*
Herriot, James. *All Creatures Great and Small*
Jacques, Brian. *Redwall* series
Kipling, Rudyard. *The Jungle Book*
Kjelgaard, Jim. *Snow Dog, Big Red*, and other titles
L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time* (and other titles)
Lewis, C. S. *The Narnia Series*
MacDonald, George. *Princess and the Goblin, Back of the North Wind*
McCaffrey, Anne. *Black Horses for the King*
[McCaughrean](#), Geraldine and Geoffrey Chaucer. *The Canterbury Tales*.
McGrow, Eloise Jarvis. *The Golden Goblet*
Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables* series
O'Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. *The Yearling*.
Rawls, Wilson. *Summer of the Monkeys*
Riordan, Rick. *Percy Jackson* series
Ryan, Patrick. *Shakespeare's Storybook*
Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Sign of the Beaver; The Witch of Blackbird Pond, The Bronze Bow*

Stevenson, Robert Louis. Multiple titles: *Kidnapped*; *Treasure Island*; *The Black Arrow*
Stewart, Trenton. *The Mysterious Benedict Society* series
Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*
Verne, Jules. *Around the World in Eighty Days*
Wiggin, Kate Douglas. *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*
Wyss, J. D. *Swiss Family Robinson*

7th Grade/8th Grade

Tip: Many challenging and fine selections appear on the 5th/6th grade list above. Those that haven't been read before 7th or 8th grade are worth reading alongside the titles below.

To the “Whole Stories” and “Healing Stories” of the earlier years, we now add “Broken Stories” where good is good and evil is evil but the character is a mixture of both, losing his fight against evil. However, the character accepts his moral failings and accepts responsibility for his mistakes but ends in a worse position than he began having learned a TRUE important moral lesson (example: *Jekyll and Hyde* or *Macbeth*). We want to avoid “Twisted Stories.”

Austen, Jane. *Mansfield Park, Emma, Pride and Prejudice*
Bennett, William. *The Book of Virtues* (recommendation: read the introduction to each virtue and select writings from each virtue)
Boswell, Sandra. *Protocol Matters: Cultivating Social Graces in Christian Homes and Schools*
Bunyan, John. *The New Pilgrim's Progress*
Carroll, Lewis. *Alice in Wonderland*
Chesterton, G. K. *Favorite Father Brown Stories.* (Dover Thrift Edition)
Colfer, Chris. *The Land of Stories* series
Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist, Nicholas Nickleby*
Douglas, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas*
Franklin, Benjamin. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*
Gibson, William. *The Miracle Worker*
Green, Roger Lancelyn. *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table*
Henty, George Alfred. (Historical Fiction – 67 various titles available free online at <http://www.onread.com/writer/Henty-George-Alfred-5165/>)
Hopkins, Gerard Manley. “The Windhover,” “The Starlight Night,” “Spring,” “God's Grandeur,” “Pied Beauty,” and others.
Hugo, Victor. *Les Miserables* (may want an abridged version)
Hunt, Irene. *Across Five Aprils*
Irving, Washington. *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*
Keith, Harold. *Rifles for Watie*
Kipling, Rudyard. *Kim, Captains Courageous*
Lamb, Charles and Mary. *Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare*
Lord, Walter. *A Night to Remember: The Sinking of the Titanic*
Marshall, Catherine. *Christy*

Melville, Herman. *Billy Bud*

Nielsen, Jennifer. *The False Prince* series

Peterson, Andrew. *The Wingfeather Saga* series

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *The Black Arrow* (*Richard III* - at Shakespeare Festival)

Schmidt, Gary D. *Wednesday Wars*

This book is required reading prior to the 2018-2019 school year.

Shakespeare, William. *Twelfth Night, As You Like It, Much Ado About Nothing,*

A Comedy of Errors, All's Well That Ends Well, Measure for Measure, King Lear

(This last book is the GVSU play that we will see in the fall)

Ten Boom, Corrie. *The Hiding Place*

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Pudd'nhead Wilson*

Tolkien J. R. R. *Lord of the Rings* series

Wallace, Lew. *Ben Hur*

More Challenging (recommend reading with a parent):

Dumas, Alexander. *The Count of Monte Cristo*

Lewis, C. S. *The Screwtape Letters*

Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels*