

Great Books for Kids

Please Note: This list is not intended to be exhaustive. It is only meant to be a starting point from which you and your child can begin to explore different authors and genres.

Nor can the age categories be taken as precise. Children's listening comprehension levels will vary widely and can often be above their chronological age and/or their reading level. Each child's interests and reading/listening ability will vary widely.

Picture Books

I Want my Hat Back - Jon Klassen

Drawn Together - Minh Le

The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors - Drew Daywalt

Malaika's Costume - Nadia L. Hohn

The Baby Who Wouldn't Go To Bed - Helen Cooper

Mother Bruce - Ray T. Higgins

Something from Nothing - Phoebe Gilman

The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors - Drew Daywalt

Knuffle Bunny Free - Mo Willem

Kevin Henkes - anything written by him

Robert Munsch - anything written by him

Mo Willem - anything written by him

The Outlaw - Nancy Vo

The Museum of Everything - Lynne Rae Perkins

Happy Like Soccer - Maribeth Boelts

Henry Holton Takes the Ice - Sandra Bradley

Oi Frog! - Kes Grey

Chaiwala - Priti Birla Maheshwari

The Memory String - Eve Bunting

One Word from Sophia - Jim Auerbeck

Windows - Julia Denos

This is Ruby - Sara O'Leary

Stacy's Extraordinary Words - Stacy Abrams

Gibberish - Young Vo

The World Belonged To Us - Jacqueline Woodson

The Word Collector - Peter H. Reynolds

Too Much Glue - Jason Lefebvre



Picture Books Without Words

Flotsam - David Weisner
The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher - Molly Bang
Journey (series) - Aaron Becker
The Lion and the Mouse - Jerry Pinkney
Where's Walrus? (series) - Stephen Savage
The Only Child - Guojing
Sidewalk Flowers - Jonarno Lawson

Beginning Readers

(for kids learning to read)

I Can Read (series) - "My First" (emergent readers);
followed by Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4
I Can Read Comic Books
(Tiny Tales are graphic novels for beginning readers)
My Readers Classic Stories - Level 1
Acorn Series (Scholastic)
Smell my Feet (Chick & Brain series) - Cece Bell
Fly Guy (series) - Ted Arnold
Elephant & Piggie (series) - Mo Willems
The Cat on the Mat is Flat (poems) - Andy Griffiths
The Big Fat Cow that Goes Kapow (poems) - Andy Griffiths
Yo! Yes? - Chris Raschka
Rhyming Dust Bunnies - Jan Thomas
There is a Carrot in My Ear and Other Noodle Tales - Alvin Schwartz
A Pig in A Wig (series) - Emma J. Virjan

Early Readers

(for kids learning to read independently;
but can also be read out loud by adults)

Ricky Ricotta (series) - Dav Pilkey
Funny Kid for President - Matt Stanton
Gangsta Granny - David Walliams
The Bad Guys - Aaron Blabey





Early Readers (continued)

Elizabella Meets her Match - Zoe Norton Lodge
Real Pigeons Fight Crime - Andrew McDonald & Ben Wood
Horrid Henry (series) - Francesca Simon
My Weird School (series) - Dan Gutman
Junie B. Jones (series) - Barbara Park
Barnes and the Brains (series) - Kenneth Oppel
Time Warp Trio (series) - Jon Scieszka
Fortunately, the Milk - Neil Gaiman
Narwhal & Jelly - Ben Clanton
The Princess in Black (series) - Shannon Hale & Dean Hale
Clementine (series) - Sara Pennypacker

Novels & Short Stories (ages 8-10)

Guys Read (series) - Jon Scieszka
(short story collections written by many of the top children's books writers of our time; a great way for boys AND girls to try different genres and authors to see what and who they like best)

Bunnicula - James Howe
Ivy and Bean - Annie Barrows
Diggers (series) - Terry Pratchett
From Anna - Jean Little
How To Eat Friend Worms - Thomas Rockwell
Frindle - Andrew Clements
The Golden Hoard: Myths and Legends of the World - retold by Geraldine McCaughrean
Museum of Thieves - Lian Tanner
Nanny Piggins - R. S. Spratt
Rain, Reign - Ann Martin
Suddenly Supernatural (series) - Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
Pure Dead Magic - Debi Gliori
The Sisters Grimm (series) - Michael Buckley
Dear Dumb Diary (series) - Jim Benton
The Uncommoners (series) - Jennifer Bell

Novels & Short Stories (ages 8-10) (continued)

When You Reach Me - Rebecca Stead
Because of the Rabbit - Cynthia Lord
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane - Kate DiCamillo
Eliza Bing is NOT a Big, Fat Quitter - Carmella Van Vleet
Ranger's Apprentice (series) - John Flanagan
Holes - Louis Sachar
The One and Only Ivan - Katherine Applegate
Clean Getaway - Nic Stone
Willow & Twig - Jean Little
Silverwing (series) - Kenneth Oppel
Savvy - Ingrid Law
Prairie Lotus - Linda Sue Park
Gordon Korman - anything written by him
Dav Pilkey - anything written by him
-particularly popular: Captain Underpants (series)
Andy Griffiths - anything written by him
-particularly popular: The 13-Story Treehouse (series)

Graphic Novels (ages 8-10)

Fairy Tale Comics - Chris Duffy
Raina Telgemeier - anything written by her
Hilo (series) - Judd Winick
Hilda (series) - Luke Pearson
All's Faire - Victoria Jamieson
Dream Jumper - Greg Grunberg
The Witch Boy - Molly Knox Ostertag
The Nameless City - Faith Erin Hicks
Zita the Space Girl (series) - Ben Hatke
Mighty Jack (series) - Ben Hatke
5 Worlds (series) - Mark Siegel
Lily the Thief - Janne Kukkonen
Estranged - Ethan M. Aldridge
Doodleville - Chad Sell
The Cardboard Kingdom - Chad Sell



Novels & Short Stories (ages 11-13).

Dealing with Dragons - Patricia Wrede
The Misfits - James Howe
The Squire's Tales (series)- Gerald Morris
Look Both Ways: a tale told in ten blocks
(interconnected short stories) - Jason Reynolds
Wee Free Men (series) - Terry Pratchett
Only You Can Save Mankind (series) - Terry Pratchett
Hatchet - Gary Paulsen
Wayside School (series) - Louse Sachar
Tamora Pierce - anything written by her
(especially The Immortals and Protector of the Small series)
Rick Riordan - anything written by him
(especially the two Percy Jackson series)
Howl's Moving Castle - Dianna Wynne Jones
Guests of War (series) - Kit Pearson
Handful of Time - Kit Pearson
Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library - Chris Grabenstein
The Graveyard book - Neil Gaiman
The Princess Academy - Shannon Hale
The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle - by Leslie Connor
Here in the Real World - Sara Pennypacker
City of Ember (series) - Jeanne DuPrau
The Gilded Girl - Alyssa Colman
Counting by 7s - Holly Goldberg Sloan
The War That Saved My Life - Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
War Horse - Michael Morpurgo
Tight - Torrey Maldonado

Non-Fiction - Middle School (10-13).

Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio - Peg Kehret
What Were The Negro Leagues - Varian Johnson



Graphic Novels (ages 11-13)

Raina Telgemeier - anything written by her
Will & Whit - Laura Lee Gulledge
Paige by Paige - Laura Lee Gulledge
The New Kid (series)- Jerry Craft
The Olympians (series) - George O'Connor
Amulet (series) - Kazu Kibuishi
Courageous Princess - Rod Espinosa
Real Friends - Shannon Hale
Rapunzel's Revenge - Shannon Hale
Bone (series) - Jeff Smith
Snow White - Matt Phelan
Snapdragon - Kat Leyh
The Last Witch - Connor McCreery

Novels & Short Stories (ages 14 & up)

Ready Player One - Ernest Cline
Raven Cycle (series) - Maggie Stiefvater
Six of Crows (series) - Leigh Bardugo
Dragonfly - Julia Golding
Graceling - Kristin Cashore
Geektastic: stories from the nerd herd - ed. Holly Brown
Fat Boy Swim - Catherine Forde
Knife of Never Letting Go (series) - Philip Ness
Life As We Knew It - Susan Beth Pfeffer
Keys to the Kingdom (series) - Garth Nix
Homecoming (first in series) - Cynthia Voigt
Dumplin' - Julie Murphy
I Must Betray You - Ruta Sepetys
The Roar - Emma Clayton





Graphic Novels (ages 14+ & Up)

Heartstopper - Alice Oseman

Nimona - Noelle Stevenson

The Crossover - Kwame Alexander

Giant Days - John Allison

Grimoire Noir - Vera Greentea

Miles Morales: Straight Out Of Brooklyn - Saladin Ahmed

Amulet (series) - Kazu Kibuishi

American Born Chinese - Gene Luen Yang

Online Book Lists and Resources

If you're looking for books to read to your kid(s) or something for them to read on their own here are some great places to start (listed in no particular order)

[What Should I Read Next](#)

[Book Lists from This Reading Mama](#)

[Book Lists 2 from This Reading Mama](#)

[The Best Nonfiction Book Series \(according to 300 teachers\)](#)

[Recommended Books from the The Association for Library Service to Children](#)

[Teacher Recommended Read Alouds: Fiction Chapter Books](#)

[Best Canadian Kids' Books of All Time \(Today's Parent\)](#)

[Scholastic: Book Wizard](#)

[8 Websites with Summer Reading Ideas for Struggling Readers](#)

[James Patterson's Read kiddo Read.com](#)