



Great Books for Kids

for Teachers, Parents & Caregivers

compiled by Kate McQuiggan, Literacy Specialist – July 2025

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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
Harriet, You'll Drive Me Wild! - Mem Fox
Chester (series) – Melanie Watt
Mother Bruce – Ray T. Higgins
Something from Nothing – Phoebe Gilman
Knuffle Bunny Free – Mo Willem
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 Sophia – Jim Averbeck
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
Too Much Glue - Jason Lefebvre
Kevin Henkes – anything written by him
Robert Munsch – anything written by him
Mo Willems – anything written by him

Picture Books Without Words

Flotsam – David Weisner
The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher – Molly Bang
Journey (series) – Aaron Becker
Where's Walrus? (series) - Stephen Savage
The Only Child – Guojing



Picture Books Without Words (continued)

Sidewalk Flowers - Jonarno Lawson
The Midnight Fair - Gideon Sterer
Animals Home Alone - Loes Riphagen

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
Elizabella Meets her Match – Zoe Norton Lodge
Real Pigeons Fight Crime – Andrew McDonald and 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
Mercy Watson To the Rescue - Kate DiCamillo

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



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

Ivy and Bean – Annie Barrows
Diggers (first in series) – Terry Pratchett
From Anna – Jean Little
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
Summer of the Gypsy Moths - Sara Pennypacker
The Sisters Grimm (series) – Michael Buckley
Dear Dumb Diary (series) – Jim Benton
The Uncommoners (series) – Jennifer Bell
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
From Anna - Jean Little
Silverwing (series) - Kenneth Oppel
Apartment 713 - Kevin Sylvester
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
Batpig: When Pigs Fly - Rob Harrell
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



Graphic Novels (ages 8-10) (continued)

Star Wars: Jedi Academy (series) - written by various authors
Like Lava in My Veins - Derick Barnes
InvestiGators - John Patrick Green
El Deafo - Cece Bell
Roll With It - Jamie Sumner
The Lemonade War (series) - Jacqueline Davies

Non-Fiction – Middle School (10-13)

Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio – Peg Kehret
What Were The Negro Leagues – Varian Johnson
Game Day: Meet the People Who Make It Happen - Kevin Sylvester
Usborne True Stories: The Second World War - Paul Dowswell
Who was/What Was? Series
Horrible History Series
Women in Sports - Rachel Ignotofsky

Novels & Short Stories (ages 11-13)

Dealing with Dragons – Patricia Wrede
The Misfits – James Howe
The Squire’s Tales (series)– Gerald Morris (excellent re-imagining of the Arthurian tales)
Look Both Ways: a tale told in ten blocks (interconnected short stories) – Jason Reynolds
Wee Free Men (first in series) – Terry Pratchett
Only You Can Save Mankind – Terry Pratchett
Wayside School (series) – Louse Sachar
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 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 – Torry Maldonado
Apartment 713 - Kevin Sylvester
The Boy Who Woke the Sun - A.T. Woodley
Berani - Michelle Kadarusman
Tamora Pierce – anything written by her (esp. *The Immortals* and *Protector of the Small* series)
Rick Riordan – anything written by him (esp. the two Percy Jackson series)



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 – Jerry Craft
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
The Witch Boy - Molly Knox Ostertag
Princeless - Jeremy Whitley

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
Deep Water - Jamie Sumner
Long Way Down - Jason Reynolds
Life As We Knew It – Susan Beth Pfeffer
Keys to the Kingdom (series) – Garth Nix
Geektastic: stories from the nerd herd – ed. Holly Brown
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
When Stars Are Scattered - Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed
The Olympians (series) – George O'Connor



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)

[Book Riot](#)

[Read Brightly](#)

[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](#)

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

[Best Books for Kids and Teens](#)

[Have Fun, Play Hard, Get Dirty: 12 Books to Encourage Kids Outside](#)