Classic Children’s Books

a selected list of titles from
Cuyahoga County Public Library
CLASSIC CHILDREN’S BOOKS

All of the books in this booklet were chosen because, no matter what their original era or purpose, these titles and their characters or poems are still being read and asked for by children. With good books children learn to empathize and grow, to experience worlds other than their own, and to gain an appreciation of fine writing and illustrating. We hope that users of this list will find many familiar titles as well as the occasional pleasant surprise.
Laugh, tears, giggles and guffaws await all who take the poetical plunge and journey into the unique imagination of a well-known folksinger, humorist and writer.

“*A Child’s Garden of Verses*” are but four of the familiar poems in this remarkable collection.

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A hungry little caterpillar emerges from an egg and eats his way through a great quantity of food during seven days in this cleverly constructed picture book.
Flack, Marjorie  
P  
**Angus and the Ducks**  1930
A very little dog with a great deal of curiosity gets loose from his leash and learns too much about the “Quack! Quack!” noises beyond the hedge.

Flack, Marjorie  
P  
**Ask Mr. Bear**  1932
When a little boy cannot decide what to give his mother for her birthday, he asks all the animals for their help in choosing the perfect present.

Freeman, Don  
P  
**Corduroy**  1968
After losing his button as he wanders through the department store, a little teddy bear does not seem likely to be sold. Then Lisa with her carefully saved money falls in love with him and names him Corduroy.

Gag, Wanda  
P  
**Millions of Cats**  1928
When the very old man goes off in search of just the right little cat, he finds “hundreds of cats, thousands of cats, millions and billions and trillions of cats,” and cannot pick just one.

Hoban, Russell  
P  
**Bedtime for Frances**  Il. by Garth Williams  1960
Singing the alphabet in bed at night, Frances begins to think about tigers and monsters and other scary things. Not amused by the little badger’s bedtime stalling tactics, Frances’ parents give her the reassurance she needs to fall asleep.

Johnson, Crockett  
P  
**Harold and the Purple Crayon**  1955
Harold picks up his purple crayon and creates everything he needs for a perfect moonlight walk.

Kipling, Rudyard  

**The Jungle Book**  1893
Raised in the jungle by wolves, Mowgli, a man cub, learns their ways and customs as well as those of his protectors Baloo, the bear, and Bagheera, the panther. Along with the many Mowgli stories are those about other jungle creatures including Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, the brave, cobra-fighting mongoose.

Kipling, Rudyard  

**The Just So Stories**  1902
Have you ever wondered, “O, Best Beloved,” how the leopard got his spots, the camel his hump, or any number of other wonderful things? Kipling explains them all, just so!

Lofting, Hugh  

**Doctor Dolittle, a Treasury**  1967 (from 1920s)
These eight stories offer a selective look at the adventures of the famous doctor who learns to speak animal languages.

Saint-Exupery, Antoine de  

**The Little Prince**  1943
Alone in the desert trying to repair his airplane and get home, a pilot meets a little Prince from a distant planet. As they talk, the pilot learns to see life as a child does, without the burden of “matters of circumstance.”

Sandburg, Carl  

**Rootabaga Stories**  1922
The stories of the magical White Horse Girl and Blue Wind Boy, the Huckabuck Family, Corn Fairies, and the village of Liver-and-Onions are lyrically written, perfect for quiet family sharing.
Keats, Ezra Jack
The Snowy Day 1962
Peter has fun making tracks and "angels," building a snowman, and trying to save some of the snow for later.

Kraus, Robert
Whose Mouse Are You? 1970
Through a brief, rhyming text children watch a little mouse as he tries to bring his family back together — one from far away, one from a trap, and another he is yet to meet.

Krauss, Ruth
The Carrot Seed 1945
A little boy's faith in the carrot seed he planted is finally rewarded.

McCloskey, Robert
Blueberries for Sal 1948
Wandering away from their berry-picking mothers, a little girl and a bear cub mistake each other's mothers for their own.

McCloskey, Robert
Make Way for Ducklings 1941
Having hatched her ducklings and taught them to march nicely in single file, Mrs. Mallard decides to take them straight through Boston’s busy streets to their new home in the Public Garden and pond.

Piper, Watty
The Little Engine That Could 1930
After an engine carrying toys breaks down, a cheerful little blue engine determines to get the toys to the children on the other side of the mountain — encouraging himself along the way by repeating "I think I can. I think I can."
Potter, Beatrix

**The Tale of Peter Rabbit**  1903

Though Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail are good little bunnies who stay out of Mr. MacGregor’s garden, their brother Peter disobeys their mother with almost disastrous results.

Rey, H.A.

**Curious George**  1941

A little monkey, Curious George wants to know about everything. Though his curiosity causes plenty of pandemonium, George is always rescued by his friend, the man in the yellow hat.

Sendak, Maurice

**Where the Wild Things Are**  1963

Sent to bed without any supper, Max travels “in and out of weeks and almost over a year to where the wild things are.” Taming them with a special trick, Max suddenly longs to be where he is loved best of all – home.

Slobodkina, Esphyr

**Caps for Sale**  1947

Before taking his nap, a peddler checks his own cap, then the others piled on top his head. When he wakes up the brown, red, and blue caps are all gone – taken by monkeys.

Zion, Gene

**Harry the Dirty Dog**  1956

Rather than take a bath, Harry, a white dog with black spots, runs away. When he finally comes home, no one recognizes the black dog with white spots until Harry gets the bath he tried to escape.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls

**Little House in the Big Woods**  1932

The first of eight books that chronicle the life of Laura Ingalls, this tells about her early years in a little house in the Wisconsin woods. Other books follow the Ingalls family as they move west with other pioneers.

**All Ages**

Andersen, Hans Christian

**1874**

Highly imaginative, witty, and occasionally somber stories like “The Ugly Duckling,” “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” and “Thumbelina” are an essential part of growing up for children all over the world.

Asbjornsen, P. C.

**East of the Sun and West of the Moon**  1852

Anyone who has ever heard or read “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” is familiar with at least one of these Norwegian folk tales. Trolls, princesses on glass hills, husbands who underestimate their wives’ work, magic, and fun fill these delightful stories.

Baum, L. Frank

**The Wizard of Oz**  1900

Carried to the land of Oz by a cyclone, Dorothy joins a scarecrow, a tin woodsman, and a cowardly lion to try to reach the mighty wizard and find a way home.

Brooks, Gwendolyn

**Bronzenville Boys and Girls**  1956

The liveliness and beauty of these thirty-six poems about city children speak to everyone.

Carroll, Lewis

**Alice in Wonderland**  1865

Chasing a strange white rabbit, Alice falls down into a world of sometimes alarming but always exciting adventures where logic and common sense usually do not apply.
Ages 5 - 8

Allard, Harry

**Miss Nelson Is Missing** 1977
When the quiet discipline of Miss Nelson fails, the infamous substitute teacher, Viola Swamp, comes to the rescue. Hours of homework, no story hour and strict warnings find the class longings for their "real" teacher.

Atwater, Richard and Florence

**Mr. Popper’s Penguins** 1938
Mr. Popper’s life changes dramatically when he is given a penguin as a pet. He converts his basement into an ice rink, adds another penguin, and soon has twelve lively and very talented birds.

Bond, Michael

**A Bear Called Paddington** 1960
Left at Paddington Station with a tag reading “Please look after this bear. Thank you,” the little Peruvian bear is picked up by the Browns. They take him home with them and find their rather humdrum lives changed forever.

Briggs, Raymond

**The Snowman** 1978
After a day playing in the snow and building a snowman, a young boy’s dreamy imagination takes off on a magical flight over the countryside.

Cleary, Beverly

**Ramona the Pest** 1968
Whether she is being rescued from the mud by Henry Huggins, being punished for “boising” Susan’s tantalizing curls, or being the “baddest witch in the world” for Halloween, the spunky kindergartner captivates reader’s of all ages.

Stevenson, Robert Louis

**Treasure Island** 1882
“I remember him as if it were yesterday,” says Jim of the pirate who comes bursting into his life singing “Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest” and leads him into greater danger and adventure than he had ever dreamed possible.

Taylor, Mildred

**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** 1976
During the Depression in the Deep South, nine-year-old Cassie Logan’s secure world is threatened by hatred and bigotry. Night riders and racist attacks threaten the African American community.

Taylor, Sydney

**All of a Kind Family** 1951
This warm, happy family of five girls lives on the lower east side of New York in the early 1900’s. Not having much money, they find enjoyment and fun in simple, everyday things like going to the library or playing in their father’s shop.

Taylor, Theodore

**The Cay** 1969
Philip and his mother board a ship headed back to the United States but are attacked by Germans. Blinded, Philip is saved by an elderly black seaman named Timothy. Philip, Timothy and the ship’s cat make it to a small island, a cay, where Timothy teaches Philip what he needs to know to survive.

Tolkien, J.R.R.

**The Hobbit, or There and Back Again** 1937
Bilbo Baggins is a contented, comfort-loving Hobbit until Gandalf the Wizard appears and leads him on a great quest to recover a treasure from Smaug the dragon.

Twain, Mark, pseud.

**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** 1876
Whether Tom is dousing Aunt Polly’s cat with pain killers, having his friends whitewash his fence, or witnessing a murder, his adventures are lively and memorable.
Dalgliesh, Alice
The Courage of Sarah Noble 1954
"Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble," her mother tells her as Sarah leaves with her father to find the family a new home in the Connecticut wilderness of 1707.

de Brunhoff, Jean
The Story of Babar: The Little Elephant 1933
Orphaned by a hunter, little Babar runs away to the city where he is raised by a rich old lady. He quickly learns to dress and act like a man and when he returns to the land of the elephants, they make him king.

Eastman, P.D.
Are You My Mother? 1960
After a newly-hatched bird falls from his nest, he begins searching for his mother, asking a kitten, hen, dog and on and on.

Estes, Eleanor
The Hundred Dresses 1944
Trying to get the other girls to like her despite her poverty, Wanda brags that she has a hundred dresses at home. Thinking she is lying, the girls torment her until her family quietly moves away.

Gannett, Ruth S.
My Father’s Dragon 1948
A little boy is convinced that he must rescue a baby dragon which is being used as a ferry by the animals of faraway Wild Island. With chewing gum, toothpaste, lollipops, and ribbons, he keeps lions and tigers from eating him as he tries to free the dragon.

Hoff, Syd
Danny and the Dinosaur 1958
A friendly dinosaur leaves his post in a museum for a day to play with Danny and his friends in this imaginative adventure.

Seredy, Kate
The Good Master 1935
Jancsi is fascinated by his city cousin Kate’s daring and reckless behavior. Whether she is stopping a stampede of horses, nearly drowning in the river, or running off with gypsies, she is a marvel to the Hungarian country folk.

Sewell, Anna
Black Beauty 1877
Raised by a kind and gentle master, Black Beauty, a thoroughbred horse, tells how he survives years of horrible treatment and finally returns to people who love and care for him.

Sharp, Margery
The Rescuers 1959
The Prisoners’ Aid Society (made up of mice who come to the aid of imprisoned humans) sends Miss Bianca (a pampered white mouse), Bernard, and Nils to the Black Tower to help a poor poet escape. Not an easy charge, the three have great adventures and struggles along the way.

Speare, Elizabeth George
The Witch of Blackbird Pond 1958
With her grandfather dead, Kit leaves the West Indies to live in the Puritan Colony with her Aunt Rachel. Kit’s dress, her lively personality, and friendship with an outcast Quaker woman make her an object of suspicion.

Sperry, Armstrong
Call It Courage 1940
Afraid of the sea, Mafatu is mocked by the other boys on the island. Finally he secretly takes a boat and leaves, forcing himself to face his fears and overcome them – or die.

Spyri, Johanna
Heidi 1880
Although he is at first reluctant to have her, Heidi’s grandfather tries desperately to stop her aunt from taking her away from the Alps to live with invalid Clara in Frankfurt.
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan

The Yearling 1938
Young Jody Baxter finds an orphaned fawn and brings it to his family farm. His family's life is one of a daily struggle for survival and when the fawn becomes old enough to cause damage, Jody must make a very difficult decision.

Rawls, Wilson

Where the Red Fern Grows 1961
It takes two years of saving for Billy to get his coon hound pups and almost a year to train them. The effort is worth it for they turn out to be not only the best raccoon hunters in the Ozarks but also loyal dogs, willing to give their lives for Billy and each other.

Robin Hood 398.2
Hiding in Sherwood Forest, Robin of Locksley gathers a band of men who do what they can to right wrongs and plague the Sheriff of Nottingham while the King is away at the Crusades.

Salten, Felix

Bambi 1928
Born in a forest near the Danube River, Bambi grows from a young fawn afraid of nothing to an old stag wise enough to know that man is his greatest enemy.

Sandburg, Carl

Abe Lincoln Grows Up 1928
Poet Sandburg offers young readers more than just a straight biography of Lincoln's early years, he offers them the stage upon which his story was built: the stories of his family and the land and its settlers.

Selden, George

The Cricket in Times Square 1960
Accidentally brought into New York City in a picnic basket, Chester Cricket is found by Mario Bellini and taken to his family's newsstand. Befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat, Chester is urged to use his musical talent to help the Bellinis.

Leaf, Munro

The Story of Ferdinand 1936
While all the other little bulls spend their time fighting one another, Ferdinand goes off alone to sit and smell the flowers. Grown up, the huge but gentle bull accidentally sits on a bee the day the bulls are chosen to fight in Madrid.

Lindgren, Astrid

Pippi Longstocking 1950
Life seems pretty quiet to Tommy and Annika until Pippi moves in next door with her monkey, her horse, a suitcase full of gold coins, and a yearning for adventure.

Lionni, Leo

Frederick 1967
The other field mice are scurrying to find food while Frederick sits and gathers warm thoughts. In the depth of winter when the food has run out, Frederick shares his own "supplies."

Lionni, Leo

Swimmy 1963
After barely missing being a large fish's meal, Swimmy convinces other small fish to join together to look like one big fish – saving all of them.

Lobel, Arnold

Frog and Toad Are Friends 1970
Best friends Frog and Toad share five brief yet gently humorous adventures. In two of the chapters, Frog tricks the sleepy Toad into getting up a month early to share spring and Frog sends a letter to Toad by snail mail.

Marshall, James

George and Martha 1972
Whether at the beach, playing practical jokes or just being together, George and Martha celebrate the value of friendship in gigantic proportions.
McCloskey, Robert
Homer Price 1943
Homer’s small Ohio town is the perfect setting for his well-known adventures with a doughnut machine; “dangerous” robbers; and Super Duper, the super hero.

MacDonald, Betty
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle 1947
Living in an upside-down house that seems to be forever full of neighborhood children, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle is always the one parents turn to when they need the perfect cure for their children’s bad habits.

Milne, A.A.
Winnie-the-Pooh 1926
Probably the best known bear in the world, Pooh is joined by Christopher Robin, Piglet, Eeyore, Rabbit, Owl, Kanga and Roo in gentle, lighthearted, and often silly stories.

Minarik, Else H.
Little Bear Ill. by Maurice Sendak 1957
In four delightful stories, Little Bear imaginatively plays at going to the moon, discovers what bears wear in the snow, hears a story about himself, and makes soup for his birthday.

Parish, Peggy
Amelia Bedelia 1963
Literally interpreting Mrs. Rogers instructions, new maid Amelia Bedelia “dusts” the furniture with powder; puts the light bulbs “out”side; makes clothes to “dress” the chicken.

Sendak, Maurice
Pierre: A Cautionary Tale in Five Chapters and a Prologue 1962
No matter what his parents do or ask, Pierre always replies, “I don’t care.” Eaten by a hungry lion after saying “I don’t care” once too often, Pierre is rescued by his father and finally learns “to care.”

Norton, Mary
The Borrowers 1953
Hearing Kate complain that she cannot find a needle she very carefully put away, Mrs. May tells the story of Homily, Pod, and Arrietty. They are the little people who live by borrowing from regular-sized humans and are terrified of being seen.

O’Dell, Scott
Island of the Blue Dolphins 1960
When her tribe decides to leave their island home, Karana is accidentally left behind with her little brother. After his death, she is forced to live alone on the island for eighteen years.

O’Neill, Mary
Hailstones and Halibut Bones 1961
Through poetry twelve colors are clearly given life. “Black is beauty/In its deepest form. . . .” “And when you’re angry/Red runs through your head. . . .” “Turn off the light/And colors die.”

Paterson, Katherine
Bridge to Terabithia 1977
A fierce rivalry on the running track becomes a close bond of friendship for fifth grader, Jess Aarons and tomboy, Leslie Burke. Their created kingdom of Terabithia begins to crumble as the reigning queen meets tragedy and the king must find the courage to stand on his own.

Pearce, Philippa
Tom’s Midnight Garden 1958
Staying with his fussy aunt and stodgy uncle, Tom is lonely and longs for someone to play with. One night the old grandfather clock strikes thirteen, beckoning Tom to enter a garden that no longer exists.

Raskin, Ellen
The Westing Game 1978
After the reading of Samuel W. Westing’s will, the sixteen heirs to the eccentric millionaire’s fortune must solve the mystery of his murder to claim the inheritance.
Lewis, C.S.

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* 1950
Playing hide and seek in an old house, Lucy, the youngest of the four children, enters a wardrobe and ends up in Narnia. The unhappy land is in perpetual winter awaiting four children destined to rule it.

Lovelace, Maud Hart

*Betsy-Tacy* 1940
Betsy is the only little girl her age on Hill Street until the Kellys move in with Tacy. The girls develop a friendship that takes them from childhood to marriage in a series which begins with this title.

Mallory, Thomas

*King Arthur*

The tales of King Arthur, Lancelot, Guenevere, the knights of the round table and their noble quests and high deeds make exciting adventure stories.

Montgomery, L.M.

*Anne of Green Gables* 1908
Wanting a boy to help them on their Prince Edward Island farm, an elderly man and his sister are mistakenly sent Anne, a red-headed orphan with plenty of spunk and imagination.

Nesbit, E.

*Five Children and It* 1920
The children discover a Psammead (an unsociable sand fairy) in a gravel quarry and convince it to grant them eleven wishes – all of which end at sunset of the same day.

North, Sterling

*Rascal: A Memoir of a Better Era* 1964
Growing up in rural Wisconsin, eleven-year-old Sterling North attempts to raise Rascal, a raccoon. He manages to tame the wild animal but not suppress his wildness in this bittersweet story of life in rural America.

Seuss, Dr., pseud.

*The Cat in the Hat* 1957
With nothing to do on a cold and rainy day, two children are suddenly startled out of their boredom by the arrival of the Cat in the Hat. Despite their fish’s warnings, the children join his fun in this silly rhyming story.

Seuss, Dr., pseud.

*Green Eggs and Ham* 1960
A furry creature is relentlessly pursued by Sam who is trying to get it to eat green eggs and ham. The rhyming text is outrageously funny and easy to read as well.

Seuss, Dr., pseud.

*Horton Hatches the Egg* 1940
Layzie Mayzie convinces Horton the elephant to sit on her nest, promising to return quickly. She leaves, forgetting to come back, while Horton stays on the nest for months because “an elephant’s faithful one hundred percent!”

Steig, William

*Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* 1969
Collecting pebbles, Sylvester has found a magic one when he is suddenly faced with a lion. Wishing to be a rock, the little donkey becomes one as the pebble bounces away. For a year he is lost to everyone until his parents accidentally set him free again.

Travers, P.L.

*Mary Poppins* 1934, revised 1981
Stiff and straight, never one to waste time being nice, Mary Poppins comes in on an east wind, bringing magic to the Banks family and promising to stay until the wind changes.
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day 1972
From the moment he woke up with yesterday’s gum in his hair and tripped over the skateboard, Alexander knows that this was just the beginning of a very bad day… and he was right. Everyone has one of those days, so the smiles, laughter and understanding come easily.

Charlotte’s Web 1952
After being lovingly raised by Fern (a little girl), Wilbur the pig is taken to another farm to be fattened for slaughter. There he meets Charlotte, a wise and caring spider who knows how to save Wilbur.

The Velveteen Rabbit 1922
For a long time the little toy rabbit is forgotten. Finally the boy finds her and his love becomes part of the magic necessary to make her real.

Ages 9 - 12

Little Women 1868
With Father away in the Union Army, the four March sisters: Meg, Jo, Amy and Beth, fill their lives with amateur theatricals, helping others, and – despite their great differences in personality and goals – sharing a warm and loving home.

The Book of Three 1964
Despite warnings, Taran, assistant pig-keeper at Caer Dallben, leaves to join the fight against Annuvin and his deathless warriors. The first of five books in the Prydain Chronicles, this exciting adventure story has its roots in Welsh legend.

The Phantom Tollbooth 1961
Milo is surprised to find a tollbooth suddenly appear in his room. He passes through it to enter a world full of amazing things and marvelous language.

Lassie Come Home 1940
Joe’s dog Lassie is the pride of the village and his family’s treasure. Yet when they become penniless, Lassie is sold. The dog refuses to stay with her new master, returning home over hundreds of miles.

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler 1967
Claudia and her little brother Jamie run away from home to New York City. There they hide in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and become involved in solving the mystery of the origins of a new statue: is it really by Michelangelo?

Rabbit Hill 1939
The excitement among the wild creatures is contagious as Little Georgie, a rabbit, enthusiastically tells every one of them that new folks are coming to the old farm house.

A Wrinkle in Time 1962
Meg Murray, her little brother Charles Wallace, and next door neighbor Calvin O’Keefe go off into space and through time to try to rescue the Murray children’s father, a scientist who disappeared while working on a secret project.

To Be a Slave 1968
“To live as a piece of property that could be sold – a child sold from its mother, a wife from her husband. To be considered not human, but a thing. . . .” Excerpts from slave narratives and testimony given to Congress by slaves powerfully explain what it means to be a slave.
Babbitt, Natalie

_Tuck Everlasting_ 1975

Angry at her parents, Winnie Foster wanders away from home and joins the free-spirited Tuck family, who enjoy the gift of eternal life from the magical waters of a spring. When offered the possibility to join the Tucks forever, Winnie faces a powerful dilemma.

Hautzig, Esther

_The Endless Steppe_ 1968

Because they are Jewish, Esther and her family are herded into cattle cars by the Russian army and taken across Poland and Russia to Siberia. Despite great, seemingly insurmountable hardships, Esther is helped by her mother to do more than merely survive.

Blume, Judy

_Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing_ 1972

Whether smearing mashed potatoes on the walls of Hamburger Heaven or scribbling on Peter's homework, three-year-old Fudge is the center of all the family's attention. Will anyone ever listen to a ‘fourth grade nothing’?

Hautzing, Esther

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Barrie, J. M.

_Peter Pan_ 1911

Going to the Darling house to reclaim his lost shadow, Peter Pan ends up taking Wendy, John and Michael with him to Never-Never Land (second star to the right and straight on till morning).

Henry, Marguerite

_Misty of Chincoteague_ 1947

When Pony Penning day on Chincoteague Island finally arrives, Maureen and Paul are determined to buy the Phantom and her filly, Misty. Then comes the work of training the wild ponies to be around people.

Brink, Carol Ryrie

_Caddie Woodlawn_ 1935

“In 1864 Caddie Woodlawn was eleven and as wild a little tomboy as ever ran the woods of western Wisconsin” begins the story of a pioneer girl who loves the land and people of the west and refuses to become a “lady.”

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

_The Secret Garden_ 1911

Left on their own in a large country home, Mary and Colin, two spoiled and neglected children, conspire to restore a walled garden, which has been locked since Colin’s mother’s death.

Burnford, Sheila

_The Incredible Journey_ 1961

Helping each other along the way, a Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to reach their home.
With a winning Golden Ticket in hand, Charlie Bucket joins four other prizewinners on an unforgettable tour of the top-secret Chocolate Factory owned by the mysterious Willy Wonka.

Leaving San Francisco in one hot-air balloon, Professor Sherman is found three weeks later in the Atlantic Ocean clinging to the remains of twenty-one balloons and refusing to tell how he got there.

Bored and hoping for excitement, Jane finds an old coin that grants wishes — but only in halves. For one week she and her brother and sisters share thrilling and often scary adventures.

Janey, the third of the four Moffat children, is the "Middle Moffat." She tries hard to be serious and do everything well but though things never turn out quite as she expects, Janey is undeterred.

When a storm capsizes the steamer he is on, Alec Ramsay rushes to free a beautiful black horse and is accidentally saved in doing so. The horse pulls Alec to a small island where the two survive until a boat spots them. Once again in the United States, the stallion becomes a race horse of great promise.

The youngest of the three Fitzgerald boys, John recounts the adventures of his older brother Tom — the self-proclaimed "Great Brain." Tom sees the possibility of a business venture and profit in just about anything — even when his family gets the first indoor toilet in their Utah town.

Determined to become a writer, Harriet observes and keeps scrupulously honest notes on her parents, friends and neighbors — never expecting that they will read them.

Fourteen-year-old apprentice silversmith Johnny Tremain has a disastrous accident that forces him to give up his work. Ultimately he becomes involved with Sam Adams and the other patriots plotting revolution and freedom from England.

“I believe in the goodness of man,” writes Anne in the pages of the diary she keeps during the two years she and her family hide from the Nazis.

Sam Gribbley recalls the year he ran away from home and made it on his own in the Catskill Mountains. He lives in a hollowed out tree trunk depending upon every bit of his ingenuity and resourcefulness to survive.

Though teenaged Travis initially resents the troublesome yellow dog, he is gradually won over by its fearlessness and devotion.
Dahl, Roald

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* 1964
With a winning Golden Ticket in hand, Charlie Bucket joins four other prizewinners on an unforgettable tour of the top-secret Chocolate Factory owned by the mysterious Willy Wonka.

DuBois, William Pene

*The Twenty-One Balloons* 1947
Leaving San Francisco in one hot-air balloon, Professor Sherman is found three weeks later in the Atlantic Ocean clinging to the remains of twenty-one balloons and refusing to tell how he got there.

Eager, Edward

*Half Magic* 1954
Bored and hoping for excitement, Jane finds an old coin that grants wishes — but only in halves. For one week she and her brother and sisters share thrilling and often scary adventures.

Estes, Eleanor

*The Middle Moffat* 1942
Janey, the third of the four Moffat children, is the “Middle Moffat.” She tries hard to be serious and do everything well but though things never turn out quite as she expects, Janey is undeterred.

Farley, Walter

*The Black Stallion* 1941
When a storm capsizes the steamer he is on, Alec Ramsay rushes to free a beautiful black horse and is accidentally saved in doing so. The horse pulls Alec to a small island where the two survive until a boat spots them. Once again in the United States, the stallion becomes a race horse of great promise.

Fitzgerald, John

*The Great Brain* 1967
The youngest of the three Fitzgerald boys, John recounts the adventures of his older brother Tom — the self-proclaimed “Great Brain.” Tom sees the possibility of a business venture and profit in just about anything — even when his family gets the first indoor toilet in their Utah town.

Fitzhugh, Louise

*Harriet the Spy* 1964
Determined to become a writer, Harriet observes and keeps scrupulously honest notes on her parents, friends and neighbors — never expecting that they will read them.

Forbes, Esther

*Johnny Tremain* 1943
Fourteen-year-old apprentice silversmith Johnny Tremain has a disastrous accident that forces him to give up his work. Ultimately he becomes involved with Sam Adams and the other patriots plotting revolution and freedom from England.

Frank, Anne

*The Diary of a Young Girl* 1947
“I believe in the goodness of man,” writes Anne in the pages of the diary she keeps during the two years she and her family hide from the Nazis.

George, Jean

*My Side of the Mountain* 1959
Sam Gribley recalls the year he ran away from home and made it on his own in the Catskill Mountains. He lives in a hollowed out tree trunk depending upon every bit of his ingenuity and resourcefulness to survive.

Gipson, Fred

*Old Yeller* 1956
Though teenaged Travis initially resents the troublesome yellow dog, he is gradually won over by its fearlessness and devotion.
Babbitt, Natalie

Tuck Everlasting 1975

Angry at her parents, Winnie Foster wanders away from home and joins the free-spirited Tuck family, who enjoy the gift of eternal life from the magical waters of a spring. When offered the possibility to join the Tucks forever, Winnie faces a powerful dilemma.

Barrie, J. M.

Peter Pan 1911

Going to the Darling house to reclaim his lost shadow, Peter Pan ends up taking Wendy, John and Michael with him to Never-Never Land (second star to the right and straight on till morning).

Blume, Judy

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing 1972

Whether smearing mashed potatoes on the walls of Hamburger Heaven or scribbling on Peter’s homework, three-year-old Fudge is the center of all the family’s attention. Will anyone ever listen to a ‘fourth grade nothing’?

Brink, Carol Ryrie

Caddie Woodlawn 1935

“In 1864 Caddie Woodlawn was eleven and as wild a little tomboy as ever ran the woods of western Wisconsin” begins the story of a pioneer girl who loves the land and people of the west and refuses to become a “lady.”

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

The Secret Garden 1911

Left on their own in a large country home, Mary and Colin, two spoiled and neglected children, conspire to restore a walled garden, which has been locked since Colin’s mother’s death.

Burnford, Sheila

The Incredible Journey 1961

Helping each other along the way, a Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to reach their home.
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day  
Viorst, Judith  
1972
From the moment he woke up with yesterday’s gum in his hair and tripped over the skateboard, Alexander knows that this was just the beginning of a very bad day… and he was right. Everyone has one of those days, so the smiles, laughter and understanding come easily.

Charlotte’s Web  
White, E. B.  
1952
After being lovingly raised by Fern (a little girl), Wilbur the pig is taken to another farm to be fattened for slaughter. There he meets Charlotte, a wise and caring spider who knows how to save Wilbur.

The Velveteen Rabbit  
Williams, Margery Bianco  
1922
For a long time the little toy rabbit is forgotten. Finally the boy finds her and his love becomes part of the magic necessary to make her real.

Ages 9 - 12

Little Women  
Alcott, Louisa May  
1868
With Father away in the Union Army, the four March sisters: Meg, Jo, Amy and Beth, fill their lives with amateur theatricals, helping others, and – despite their great differences in personality and goals – sharing a warm and loving home.

The Book of Three  
Alexander, Lloyd  
1964
Despite warnings, Taran, assistant pig-keeper at Caer Dallben, leaves to join the fight against Annuvin and his deathless warriors. The first of five books in the Prydain Chronicles, this exciting adventure story has its roots in Welsh legend.

The Phantom Tollbooth  
Juster, Norton  
1961
Milo is surprised to find a tollbooth suddenly appear in his room. He passes through it to enter a world full of amazing things and marvelous language.

Lassie Come Home  
Knight, Eric  
1940
Joe’s dog Lassie is the pride of the village and his family’s treasure. Yet when they become penniless, Lassie is sold. The dog refuses to stay with her new master, returning home over hundreds of miles.

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler  
Konigsburg, Elaine  
1967
Claudia and her little brother Jamie run away from home to New York City. There they hide in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and become involved in solving the mystery of the origins of a new statue: is it really by Michelangelo?

Rabbit Hill  
Lawson, Robert  
1939
The excitement among the wild creatures is contagious as Little Georgie, a rabbit, enthusiastically tells every one of them that new folks are coming to the old farm house.

A Wrinkle in Time  
L’Engle, Madeleine  
1962
Meg Murray, her little brother Charles Wallace, and next door neighbor Calvin O’Keefe go off into space and through time to try to rescue the Murray children’s father, a scientist who disappeared while working on a secret project.

To Be a Slave  
Lester, Julius  
1968
“To live as a piece of property that could be sold – a child sold from its mother, a wife from her husband. To be considered not human, but a thing. . . .” Excerpts from slave narratives and testimony given to Congress by slaves powerfully explain what it means to be a slave.
Lewis, C.S.  
*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* 1950
Playing hide and seek in an old house, Lucy, the youngest of the four children, enters a wardrobe and ends up in Narnia. The unhappy land is in perpetual winter awaiting four children destined to rule it.

Lovelace, Maud Hart  
*Betsy-Tacy* 1940
Betsy is the only little girl her age on Hill Street until the Kellys move in with Tacy. The girls develop a friendship that takes them from childhood to marriage in a series which begins with this title.

Mallory, Thomas  
*King Arthur* 1938
The tales of King Arthur, Lancelot, Guenevere, the knights of the round table and their noble quests and high deeds make exciting adventure stories.

Montgomery, L.M.  
*Anne of Green Gables* 1908
Wanting a boy to help them on their Prince Edward Island farm, an elderly man and his sister are mistakenly sent Anne, a red-headed orphan with plenty of spunk and imagination.

Nesbit, E.  
*Five Children and It* 1920
The children discover a Psammead (an unsociable sand fairy) in a gravel quarry and convince it to grant them eleven wishes – all of which end at sunset of the same day.

North, Sterling  
*Rascal: A Memoir of a Better Era* 1964
Growing up in rural Wisconsin, eleven-year-old Sterling North attempts to raise Rascal, a raccoon. He manages to tame the wild animal but not suppress his wildness in this bittersweet story of life in rural America.

Seuss, Dr., pseud.  
*The Cat in the Hat* 1957
With nothing to do on a cold and rainy day, two children are suddenly startled out of their boredom by the arrival of the Cat in the Hat. Despite their fish’s warnings, the children join his fun in this silly rhyming story.

Seuss, Dr., pseud.  
*Green Eggs and Ham* 1960
A furry creature is relentlessly pursued by Sam who is trying to get it to eat green eggs and ham. The rhyming text is outrageously funny and easy to read as well.

Seuss, Dr., pseud.  
*Horton Hatches the Egg* 1940
Layzie Mayzie convinces Horton the elephant to sit on her nest, promising to return quickly. She leaves, forgetting to come back, while Horton stays on the nest for months because “an elephant’s faithful one hundred percent!”

Steig, William  
*Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* 1969
Collecting pebbles, Sylvester has found a magic one when he is suddenly faced with a lion. Wishing to be a rock, the little donkey becomes one as the pebble bounces away. For a year he is lost to everyone until his parents accidentally set him free again.

Travers, P.L.  
*Mary Poppins* 1934, revised 1981
Stiff and straight, never one to waste time being nice, Mary Poppins comes in on an east wind, bringing magic to the Banks family and promising to stay until the wind changes.
McCloskey, Robert

Homer Price 1943

Homer’s small Ohio town is the perfect setting for his well-known adventures with a doughnut machine; “dangerous” robbers; and Super Duper, the super hero.

MacDonald, Betty

Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle 1947

Living in an upside-down house that seems to be forever full of neighborhood children, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle is always the one parents turn to when they need the perfect cure for their children’s bad habits.

Milne, A.A.

Winnie-the-Pooh 1926

Probably the best known bear in the world, Pooh is joined by Christopher Robin, Piglet, Eeyore, Rabbit, Owl, Kanga and Roo in gentle, lighthearted, and often silly stories.

Minarik, Else H.

Little Bear 1957

In four delightful stories, Little Bear imaginatively plays at going to the moon, discovers what bears wear in the snow, hears a story about himself, and makes soup for his birthday.

Parish, Peggy

Amelia Bedelia 1963

Literally interpreting Mrs. Rogers instructions, new maid Amelia Bedelia “dusts” the furniture with powder; puts the light bulbs “out”side; makes clothes to “dress” the chicken.

Sendak, Maurice

Pierre: A Cautionary Tale in Five Chapters and a Prologue 1962

No matter what his parents do or ask, Pierre always replies, “I don’t care.” Eaten by a hungry lion after saying “I don’t care” once too often, Pierre is rescued by his father and finally learns “to care.”

Norton, Mary

The Borrowers 1953

Hearing Kate complain that she cannot find a needle she very carefully put away, Mrs. May tells the story of Homily, Pod, and Arrietty. They are the little people who live by borrowing from regular-sized humans and are terrified of being seen.

O’Dell, Scott

Island of the Blue Dolphins 1960

When her tribe decides to leave their island home, Karana is accidentally left behind with her little brother. After his death, she is forced to live alone on the island for eighteen years.

O’Neill, Mary

Hailstones and Halibut Bones 1961

Through poetry twelve colors are clearly given life. “Black is beauty/In its deepest form. . . .” “And when you’re angry/Red runs through your head. . . .” “Turn off the light/And colors die.”

Paterson, Katherine

Bridge to Terabithia 1977

A fierce rivalry on the running track becomes a close bond of friendship for fifth grader, Jess Aarons and tomboy, Leslie Burke. Their created kingdom of Terabithia begins to crumble as the reigning queen meets tragedy and the king must find the courage to stand on his own.

Pearce, Philippa

Tom’s Midnight Garden 1958

Staying with his fussy aunt and stodgy uncle, Tom is lonely and longs for someone to play with. One night the old grandfather clock strikes thirteen, beckoning Tom to enter a garden that no longer exists.

Raskin, Ellen

The Westing Game 1978

After the reading of Samuel W. Westing’s will, the sixteen heirs to the eccentric millionaire’s fortune must solve the mystery of his murder to claim the inheritance.
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan

_The Yearling_ 1938
Young Jody Baxter finds an orphaned fawn and brings it to his family farm. His family’s life is one of a daily struggle for survival and when the fawn becomes old enough to cause damage, Jody must make a very difficult decision.

Rawls, Wilson

_Where the Red Fern Grows_ 1961
It takes two years of saving for Billy to get his coon hound pups and almost a year to train them. The effort is worth it for they turn out to be not only the best raccoon hunters in the Ozarks but also loyal dogs, willing to give their lives for Billy and each other.

Robin Hood  j398.2
Hiding in Sherwood Forest, Robin of Locksley gathers a band of men who do what they can to right wrongs and plague the Sheriff of Nottingham while the King is away at the Crusades.

Salten, Felix

_Bambi_ 1928
Born in a forest near the Danube River, Bambi grows from a young fawn afraid of nothing to an old stag wise enough to know that man is his greatest enemy.

Sandburg, Carl

_Abe Lincoln Grows Up_ 1928
Poet Sandburg offers young readers more than just a straight biography of Lincoln’s early years, he offers them the stage upon which his story was built: the stories of his family and the land and its settlers.

Selden, George

_The Cricket in Times Square_ 1960
Accidentally brought into New York City in a picnic basket, Chester Cricket is found by Mario Bellini and taken to his family’s newsstand. Befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat, Chester is urged to use his musical talent to help the Bellinis.

Leaf, Munro

_The Story of Ferdinand_ 1936
While all the other little bulls spend their time fighting one another, Ferdinand goes off alone to sit and smell the flowers. Grown up, the huge but gentle bull accidentally sits on a bee the day the bulls are chosen to fight in Madrid.

Lindgren, Astrid

_Pippi Longstocking_ 1950
Life seems pretty quiet to Tommy and AnniKa until Pippi moves in next door with her monkey, her horse, a suitcase full of gold coins, and a yearning for adventure.

Lionni, Leo

_Frederick_ 1967
The other field mice are scurrying to find food while Frederick sits and gathers warm thoughts. In the depth of winter when the food has run out, Frederick shares his own “supplies.”

Lionni, Leo

_Swimmy_ 1963
After barely missing being a large fish’s meal, Swimmy convinces other small fish to join together to look like one big fish – saving all of them.

Lobel, Arnold

_Frog and Toad Are Friends_ 1970
Best friends Frog and Toad share five brief yet gently humorous adventures. In two of the chapters, Frog tricks the sleepy Toad into getting up a month early to share spring and Frog sends a letter to Toad by snail mail.

Marshall, James

_George and Martha_ 1972
Whether at the beach, playing practical jokes or just being together, George and Martha celebrate the value of friendship in gigantic proportions.
“Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble,” her mother tells her as Sarah leaves with her father to find the family a new home in the Connecticut wilderness of 1707.

Orphaned by a hunter, little Babar runs away to the city where he is raised by a rich old lady. He quickly learns to dress and act like a man and when he returns to the land of the elephants, they make him king.

After a newly-hatched bird falls from his nest, he begins searching for his mother, asking a kitten, hen, dog and on and on.

Trying to get the other girls to like her despite her poverty, Wanda brags that she has a hundred dresses at home. Thinking she is lying, the girls torment her until her family quietly moves away.

A little boy is convinced that he must rescue a baby dragon which is being used as a ferry by the animals of faraway Wild Island. With chewing gum, toothpaste, lollipops, and ribbons, he keeps lions and tigers from eating him as he tries to free the dragon.

A friendly dinosaur leaves his post in a museum for a day to play with Danny and his friends in this imaginative adventure.

Jancsi is fascinated by his city cousin Kate’s daring and reckless behavior. Whether she is stopping a stampede of horses, nearly drowning in the river, or running off with gypsies, she is a marvel to the Hungarian country folk.

Raised by a kind and gentle master, Black Beauty, a thoroughbred horse, tells how he survives years of horrible treatment and finally returns to people who love and care for him.

The Prisoners’ Aid Society (made up of mice who come to the aid of imprisoned humans) sends Miss Bianca (a pampered white mouse), Bernard, and Nils to the Black Tower to help a poor poet escape. Not an easy charge, the three have great adventures and struggles along the way.

With her grandfather dead, Kit leaves the West Indies to live in the Puritan Colony with her Aunt Rachel. Kit’s dress, her lively personality, and friendship with an outcast Quaker woman make her an object of suspicion.

Afraid of the sea, Mafatu is mocked by the other boys on the island. Finally he secretly takes a boat and leaves, forcing himself to face his fears and overcome them – or die.

Although he is at first reluctant to have her, Heidi’s grandfather tries desperately to stop her aunt from taking her away from the Alps to live with invalid Clara in Frankfurt.
Ages 5 - 8

Allard, Harry

Miss Nelson Is Missing 1977
When the quiet discipline of Miss Nelson fails, the infamous substitute teacher, Viola Swamp, comes to the rescue. Hours of homework, no story hour and strict warnings find the class longing for their “real” teacher.

Atwater, Richard and Florence

Mr. Popper’s Penguins 1938
Mr. Popper’s life changes dramatically when he is given a penguin as a pet. He converts his basement into an ice rink, adds another penguin, and soon has twelve lively and very talented birds.

Bond, Michael

A Bear Called Paddington 1960
Left at Paddington Station with a tag reading “Please look after this bear. Thank you,” the little Peruvian bear is picked up by the Browns. They take him home with them and find their rather humdrum lives changed forever.

Briggs, Raymond

The Snowman 1978
After a day playing in the snow and building a snowman, a young boy’s dreamy imagination takes off on a magical flight over the countryside.

Cleary, Beverly

Ramona the Pest 1968
Whether she is being rescued from the mud by Henry Huggins, being punished for “boinging” Susan’s tantalizing curls, or being the “baddest witch in the world” for Halloween, the spunky kindergartner captivates reader’s of all ages.
Potter, Beatrix  
*The Tale of Peter Rabbit* 1903
Though Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail are good little bunnies who stay out of Mr. MacGregor’s garden, their brother Peter disobeys their mother with almost disastrous results.

Rey, H.A.  
*Curious George* 1941
A little monkey, Curious George wants to know about everything. Though his curiosity causes plenty of pandemonium, George is always rescued by his friend, the man in the yellow hat.

Sendak, Maurice  
*Where the Wild Things Are* 1963
Sent to bed without any supper, Max travels “in and out of weeks and almost over a year to where the wild things are.” Taming them with a special trick, Max suddenly longs to be where he is loved best of all – home.

Slobodkina, Esphyr  
*Caps for Sale* 1947
Before taking his nap, a peddler checks his own cap, then the others piled on top his head. When he wakes up the brown, red, and blue caps are all gone – taken by monkeys.

Zion, Gene  
*Harry the Dirty Dog* 1956
Rather than take a bath, Harry, a white dog with black spots, runs away. When he finally comes home, no one recognizes the black dog with white spots until Harry gets the bath he tried to escape.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls  
*Little House in the Big Woods* 1932
The first of eight books that chronicle the life of Laura Ingalls, this tells about her early years in a little house in the Wisconsin woods. Other books follow the Ingalls family as they move west with other pioneers.

### All Ages

Andersen, Hans Christian 1874
Highly imaginative, witty, and occasionally somber stories like “The Ugly Duckling,” “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” and “Thumbelina” are an essential part of growing up for children all over the world.

Asbjornsen, P. C. 1852
*East of the Sun and West of the Moon*
Anyone who has ever heard or read “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” is familiar with at least one of these Norwegian folk tales. Trolls, princesses on glass hills, husbands who underestimate their wives’ work, magic, and fun fill these delightful stories.

Baum, L. Frank 1900
*The Wizard of Oz*
Carried to the Land of Oz by a cyclone, Dorothy joins a scarecrow, a tin woodsman, and a cowardly lion to try to reach the mighty wizard and find a way home.

Brooks, Gwendolyn 1956
*Bronzeville Boys and Girls*
The liveliness and beauty of these thirty-six poems about city children speak to everyone.

Carroll, Lewis, pseud. 1865
*Alice in Wonderland*
Chasing a strange white rabbit, Alice falls down into a world of sometimes alarming but always exciting adventures where logic and common sense usually do not apply.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keats, Ezra Jack</td>
<td><em>The Snowy Day</em></td>
<td>1962</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter has fun making tracks and &quot;angels,&quot; building a snowman, and trying to save some of the snow for later.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kraus, Robert</td>
<td><em>Whose Mouse Are You?</em></td>
<td>1970</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Through a brief, rhyming text children watch a little mouse as he tries to bring his family back together — one from far away, one from a trap, and another he is yet to meet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Krauss, Ruth</td>
<td><em>The Carrot Seed</em></td>
<td>1945</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A little boy’s faith in the carrot seed he planted is finally rewarded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCloskey, Robert</td>
<td><em>Blueberries for Sal</em></td>
<td>1948</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wandering away from their berry-picking mothers, a little girl and a bear cub mistake each other’s mothers for their own.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>McCloskey, Robert</td>
<td><em>Make Way for Ducklings</em></td>
<td>1941</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Having hatched her ducklings and taught them to march nicely in single file, Mrs. Mallard decides to take them straight through Boston’s busy streets to their new home in the Public Garden and pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piper, Watty</td>
<td><em>The Little Engine That Could</em></td>
<td>1930</td>
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<td></td>
<td>After an engine carrying toys breaks down, a cheerful little blue engine determines to get the toys to the children on the other side of the mountain — encouraging himself along the way by repeating “I think I can. I think I can.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Collodi, Carlo, pseud.  
*The Adventures of Pinocchio*  
1882  
As Geppetto carves his marionette, its eyes begin to move, its nose to grow, and its mouth to laugh. When he is finished, the mischievous Pinocchio runs away, curious about the world, and longing to be a real boy.

Dunbar, Paul Laurence  
*Little Brown Baby*  
1895  
Dunbar’s view of African-American life at the turn of the century is reflected in these joyful and often poignant poems.

Grahame, Kenneth  
*The Wind in the Willows*  
1908  
Throwing away his paint brush and forgetting about spring cleaning, Mole discovers the river and meets Ratty. Their adventures are shared with Toad, Badger, Otter, and other creatures in a memorable story perfect for reading aloud or alone.

Grimm, Jakob and Wilhelm  
*The Complete Grimm’s Fairy Tales*  
1812+  
The stories the Brothers Grimm collected in the early eighteen hundreds are a part of western culture not to be missed. “The Bremen Town Musicians,” “Rumpelstiltskin,” “Hansel and Gretel,” and “The Twelve Dancing Princesses” are just a few of the tales that continue to be asked for and enjoyed by children.

Hughes, Langston  
*The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*  
1932  
Whether high spirited, thoughtful, or somber, the poems of Langston Hughes touch both those reading them and those being read to.
Flack, Marjorie

**Angus and the Ducks** 1930
A very little dog with a great deal of curiosity gets loose from his leash and learns too much about the “Quack! Quack!” noises beyond the hedge.

Flack, Marjorie

**Ask Mr. Bear** 1932
When a little boy cannot decide what to give his mother for her birthday, he asks all the animals for their help in choosing the perfect present.

Freeman, Don

**Corduroy** 1968
After losing his button as he wanders through the department store, a little teddy bear does not seem likely to be sold. Then Lisa with her carefully saved money falls in love with him and names him Corduroy.

Gag, Wanda

**Millions of Cats** 1928
When the very old man goes off in search of just the right little cat, he finds “hundreds of cats, thousands of cats, millions and billions and trillions of cats,” and cannot pick just one.

Hoban, Russell

**Bedtime for Frances** II. by Garth Williams 1960
Singing the alphabet in bed at night, Frances begins to think about tigers and monsters and other scary things. Not amused by the little badger’s bedtime stalling tactics, Frances’ parents give her the reassurance she needs to fall asleep.

Johnson, Crockett

**Harold and the Purple Crayon** 1955
Harold picks up his purple crayon and creates everything he needs for a perfect moonlight walk.

Kipling, Rudyard

**The Jungle Book** 1893
Raised in the jungle by wolves, Mowgli, a man cub, learns their ways and customs as well as those of his protectors Baloo, the bear, and Bagheera, the panther. Along with the many Mowgli stories are those about other jungle creatures including Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, the brave, cobra-fighting mongoose.

Kipling, Rudyard

**The Just So Stories** 1902
Have you ever wondered, “O, Best Beloved,” how the leopard got his spots, the camel his hump, or any number of other wonderful things? Kipling explains them all, just so!

Lofting, Hugh

**Doctor Dolittle, a Treasury** 1967 (from 1920s)
These eight stories offer a selective look at the adventures of the famous doctor who learns to speak animal languages.

Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de

**The Little Prince** 1943
Alone in the desert trying to repair his airplane and get home, a pilot meets a little Prince from a distant planet. As they talk, the pilot learns to see life as a child does, without the burden of “matters of circumstance.”

Sandburg, Carl

**Rootabaga Stories** 1922
The stories of the magical White Horse Girl and Blue Wind Boy, the Huckabuck Family, Corn Fairies, and the village of Liver-and-Onions are lyrically written, perfect for quiet family sharing.
Laughter, tears, giggles and guffaws await all who take the poetical plunge and journey into the unique imagination of a well-known folksinger, humorist and writer.

“‘The Land of Story-Books,’” “‘The Swing,’” “‘My Shadow,’” and “‘The Land of Counterpane’” are but four of the familiar poems in this remarkable collection.

Silverstein, Shel

Where the Sidewalk Ends

1974

Laughter, tears, giggles and guffaws await all who take the poetical plunge and journey into the unique imagination of a well-known folksinger, humorist and writer.

Stevenson, Robert Louis

A Child’s Garden of Verses

1885

“The Land of Story-Books,” “‘The Swing,’” “‘My Shadow,’” and “‘The Land of Counterpane’” are but four of the familiar poems in this remarkable collection.

Preschool

Bemelmans, Ludwig

Madeline

1939

Though Madeline is the smallest of the twelve little girl’s in Miss Clavell’s class, she is nevertheless the bravest.

Brown, Marc

Arthur’s Nose

1976

Everyone’s favorite aardvark is unhappy! Believing his nose to be too big, Arthur visits the rhinologist, but finally decides “I’m just not me without my nose.”

Brown, Margaret Wise

Goodnight Moon

1947

A little rabbit says good night to each and every thing in his room before he finally falls asleep.

Brown, Margaret Wise

The Runaway Bunny

1942

Each time a little bunny tells his mother where he will run away, she tells him of the various ways she will steadfastly find him.

Burton, Virginia Lee

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel

1939

Though Mike Mulligan’s steam shovel Mary Anne is out-of-date, it’s Mike and Mary Anne who come to the rescue and finish the basement in city hall.

Carle, Eric

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

1970

A hungry little caterpillar emerges from an egg and eats his way through a great quantity of food during seven days in this cleverly constructed picture book.
CLASSIC CHILDREN’S BOOKS

All of the books in this booklet were chosen because, no matter what their original era or purpose, these titles and their characters or poems are still being read and asked for by children. With good books children learn to empathize and grow, to experience worlds other than their own, and to gain an appreciation of fine writing and illustrating. We hope that users of this list will find many familiar titles as well as the occasional pleasant surprise.
Classic Children’s Books

a selected list of titles
from
Cuyahoga County Public Library