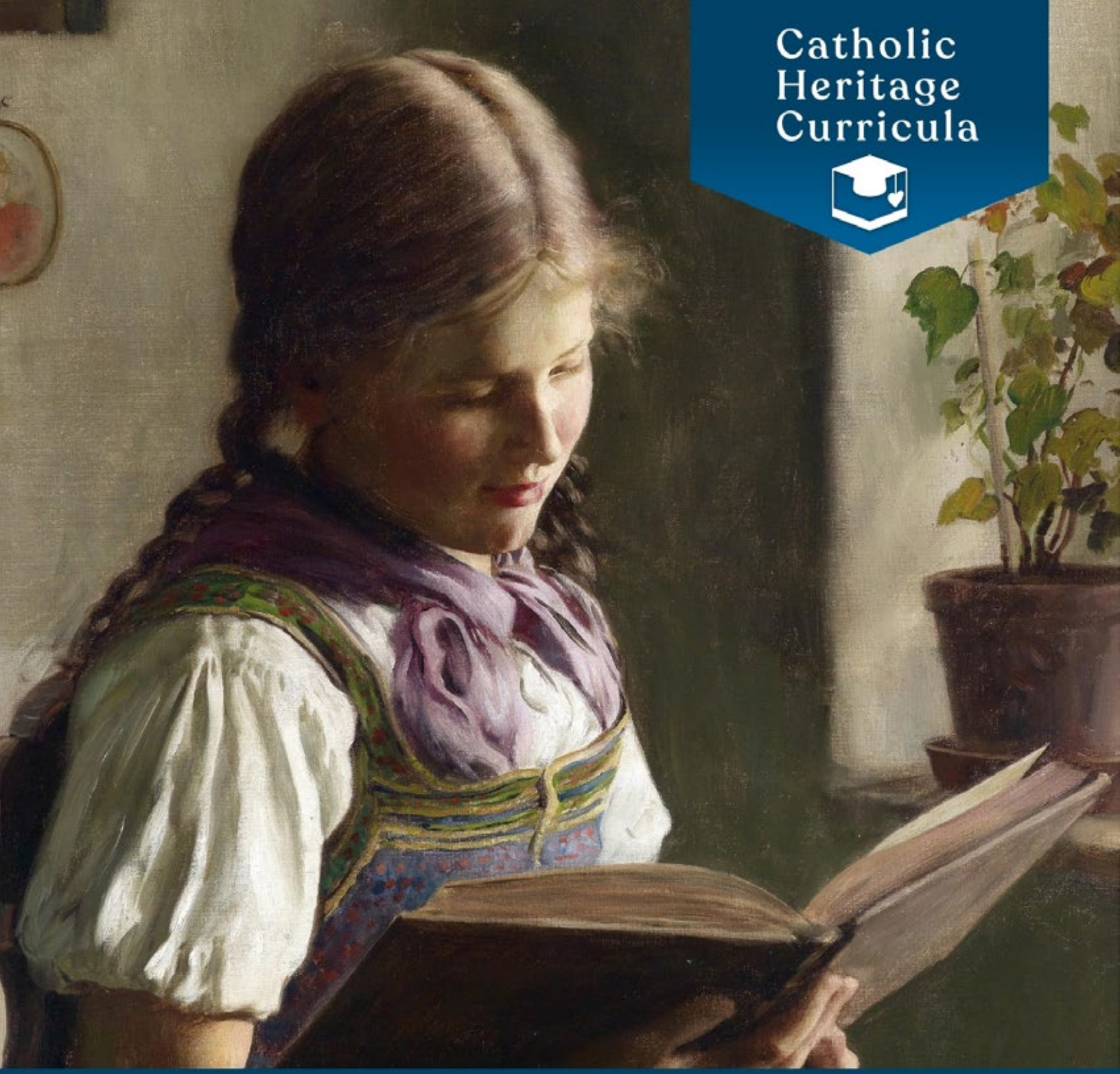


Catholic Heritage Curricula

1001 Good Books for Catholic Children

A VETTED BOOK LIST FOR CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

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Books of Special Catholic Interest

Watch for books marked with an asterisk! ❋ These books have a particular Catholic appeal, usually because they were written by Catholics or include Catholic themes.

How This List Is Organized

Books are grouped by age-appropriateness. We have weighed both reading level (meaning the age at which a child can generally read the book on his own) and the content itself. A book written at a fifth-grade reading level may therefore appear in the Grades 10-12 section if its subject matter calls for an older reader.

"Read-Alouds and Grades 1-3" holds two kinds of books: those worth reading aloud to pre-readers, roughly ages 1 to 5, and those a child can begin reading independently in grades 1 through 3.

A Word of Caution

Every child is different, and only you can judge your own child's reading level and maturity. Use this list as a starting place, not a final answer. The short description under each title is there to make that judgment easier.

Parent Notes

In the older grades, some entries carry a Parent Note identifying the presence of mature themes or incidents: suicide, torture or cruelty, sexual immorality, rape or sexual assault, homosexuality, and prostitution. Where a note reads *Referenced*, the subject is mentioned or occurs off the page. Where it reads *Depicted*, it is shown on the page or is central to the story.

Please do not read the absence of a note as a guarantee. We have tagged what we found, but we may have missed something.

You may wonder why a Catholic book list includes works that require such notes at all. It is because these books reveal things that are true about God, the world, and human nature. Their authors do not write about sin, sexuality, and death in order to make them attractive, but because these things belong to the human experience. Facing these topics honestly can lead a reader to a deeper understanding of God, the world, and himself.

Genres

Within each age group, titles are listed under the following nine genres, then organized alphabetically by author.

Animal Books
Stories in which an animal is the main character, or in which a character's relationship with an animal drives the story.

Biography / Memoir
Factual accounts of a real person's life.

Drama/Play
Works written as scripts for performance on stage.

Fairy Tale / Fantasy / Sci-Fi
Stories whose events, settings, or characters lie outside the possible.

Historical Fiction
Invented stories set in an actual period of the past, written to give the reader a sense of what life was like then.

History / Nonfiction
Factual and informational books, including historical topics.

Mystery / Adventure
Detective and crime stories, and adventure stories whose action reaches beyond ordinary life.

Realistic Fiction
Invented stories that could happen, often facing squarely the harder realities of life rather than resolving them neatly.

Religion / Devotional
Spiritual reading, theology, and saints' lives.

READ-ALOUDS AND GRADES 1–3

Animal Books

Adelson, L. ***Old Rosie, the Horse Nobody Understood***, 1952. A retired workhorse's odd, mischievous antics puzzle her farm family until they realize she simply craves love and attention.

Alderson, Sue Ann. ***Ida and the Wool Smugglers***, 1987. Young Ida, deemed too small for the sheep run, cleverly outsmarts wool smugglers, proving her worth and readiness for responsibility.

Allsburg, Chris Van. ***The Sweetest Fig***, 1993. A cruel dentist gains magic figs that fulfill his wishes, until his mistreated dog turns the tables on him.

Allsburg, Chris Van. ***Two Bad Ants***, 1988. Two ants abandon their colony to explore a human house alone, facing dangers before realizing safety lies with their community.

Anderson, C. W. ***Billy and Blaze*** series, 1936. A boy receives a pony, Blaze, for his birthday; together they explore, rescue a dog, and compete in a horse show.

Angeli, Marguerite de. ***Copper-toed Boots***, 1939. Episodic tale of young Shad in 1870s rural Michigan, who works and trades to earn a dog and copper-toed boots he desires.

Arnosky, Jim. ***Deer at the Brook***, 1986. A gentle picture book following a mother deer and her two fawns as they visit a sparkling woodland brook to drink and play.

Arnosky, Jim. ***Every Autumn Comes the Bear***, 1993. A picture book following a bear each autumn as he prepares for hibernation, finding a den among hilltop boulders for winter.

Arnosky, Jim. ***Rabbits & Raindrops***, 1997. Five baby rabbits leave their nest for the first time, meet woodland creatures, and shelter together when rain suddenly falls.

Atwater, Richard and Florence. ***Mr. Popper's Penguins***, 1938. A house painter obsessed with polar exploration receives a mail-order penguin, leading to a growing, chaotic penguin family and a touring show.

Averill, Esther Holden. ***Jenny and the Cat Club*** series, 1973. Shy black cat Jenny Linsky, living with a sea captain in Greenwich Village, overcomes fear to join the neighborhood Cat Club.

Averill, Esther Holden. ***The Fire Cat***, 1960. A restless stray cat named Pickles finds purpose when firemen adopt him, teaching him to be a helpful, disciplined firehouse cat.

Bailey, Arthur Scott. ***The Tale of Jolly Robin***, 1917. A young robin named Jolly learns to fly, seeks work using his cheerful laugh, and has comic misadventures with forest friends.

Barklem, Jill. ***The Complete Brambly Hedge***, 1980. Eight illustrated tales follow a self-sufficient mouse community through seasons, celebrations, and adventures, emphasizing cooperation and neighborly kindness.

Becker, Bonny. ***A Visitor for Bear***, 2008. A curmudgeonly bear tries to avoid a persistent, cheerful mouse who keeps appearing, leading to an unlikely friendship.

❄ Beebe, Katy. ***Brother Hugo and the Bear***, 2014. A medieval monk hand-copies St. Augustine's letters after a bear devours the original, only to be chased by the book-loving bear again.

Berkes, Marianne Collins. ***The Tree That Bear Climbed***, 2012. A cumulative rhyming picture book, echoing "The House That Jack Built," tracing tree parts from roots to a bear seeking honey.

Beskow, Elsa. ***Pelle's New Suit***, 1912. A Swedish boy shears his lamb and trades chores with family and neighbors to make wool into a new suit, teaching bartering and hard work.

Bland, Nick. ***The Very Cranky Bear***, 2008. Four animal friends shelter in a cave from rain, unwittingly disturb a sleeping bear, and learn to listen to his real needs.

Bond, Michael. ***A Bear Called Paddington***, 1958. A gentle Peruvian bear is adopted by the Brown family in London, leading to warm, comic misadventures about kindness and belonging.

Bontemps, Arna. ***The Fast Sooner Hound***, 1942. A tall-tale picture book about a hound so fast he outruns a railroad's trains, until pitted against the speedy Cannon Ball.

Brett, Jan. ***Annie and the Wild Animals***, 1985. A lonely girl's cat vanishes; she tries to tame wild forest animals, until Taffy returns in spring with new kittens.

Brett, Jan. ***Goldilocks and the Three Bears***, 1992. A curious girl wanders into three bears' cottage, samples their porridge, chairs, and beds, then flees when discovered; a lesson on respecting others' property.

Brett, Jan. ***The Mitten*** and others, 1989. A Ukrainian folktale: woodland animals crowd into a boy's lost mitten for warmth until a bear's sneeze scatters them all.

Brett, Jan. ***The Umbrella***, 2004. Carlos explores Costa Rica's cloud forest hoping to see animals, but they hide in his dropped umbrella instead, unseen by him.

Brett, Jan. ***Town Mouse, Country Mouse***, 1994. Jan Brett's picture-book retelling of Aesop's fable: two mouse couples swap homes and learn to appreciate their own way of life.

Brown, Margaret Wise. ***Big Red Barn***, 1956. Rhyming picture book following farm animals through a day, from morning play to evening rest in the big red barn together.

Brown, Margaret Wise. ***Home for a Bunny***, 1956. A little bunny searches the springtime countryside, asking other animals about their homes, before finding the perfect one with another bunny.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. ***The Valentine Cat***, 1959. A lonely painter adopts a stray kitten with a heart-shaped mark, whose theft and eventual return bring lasting happiness and hope.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. ***Three Dollar Mule***, 1965. A boy buys an abused mule that adults dislike but children love, learning to prioritize the animal's wellbeing over his own wishes.

Bunting, Eve. ***A Turkey for Thanksgiving***, 1991. Mr. and Mrs. Moose search for a turkey to invite as a Thanksgiving guest, not realizing Turkey fears being the main course.

Burningham, John. ***Mr Grumpy's Outing***, 1970. Mr. Gumpy invites children and animals aboard his boat until it capsizes, teaching patience and good humor amid mishaps.

Calhoun, Mary. ***Cross-Country Cat***, 1979. A sassy Siamese cat named Henry, left behind at a ski lodge, skis home through the snowy mountains, showing courage and resourcefulness.

Cannon, Janell. ***Stellaluna***, 1993. A baby fruit bat separated from her mother is raised by birds, learning their ways before reuniting with her own bat family.

Cauley, Lorinda Bryan. ***The Cock, the Mouse, and the Little Red Hen***, 1982. A lazy cock and mouse are saved from a fox by their industrious hen friend, teaching that hard work and preparedness matter.

Chandler, Edna Walker. ***Cowboy Sam***, 1951. An early beginning reader following cowboy Sam's simple ranch adventures with his horse.

Clark, Emma Chichester. ***Piper***, 2005. A mistreated puppy runs away to the city, saves an elderly woman from being hit by a car, and finds a loving new home.

Cooney, Barbara. ***Chanticleer and the Fox***, 1958. Barbara Cooney's Caldecott-winning picture book adapts Chaucer's Nun's Priest's Tale, about a vain rooster outwitting a flattering fox.

Craighead, George. ***Goose and Duck***, 2008. A boy raises a hatched gosling that imprints on him as its mother, then a duckling that imprints on the goose, exploring animal imprinting and migration.

Daugherty, James. ***Andy and the Lion***, 1938. A boy who loves lions meets one on the way to school and removes a thorn from its paw, forming a lasting friendship.

Day, Alexandra. ***Good Dog, Carl*** series, 1985. A wordless picture book where a Rottweiler named Carl secretly babysits a baby, leading to playful mischief and gentle care.

Degen, Bruce. ***Jamberry***, 1983. A boy and a big friendly bear romp through whimsical Berryland picking blueberries, blackberries, and strawberries in rhyming verse.

Delton, Judy. ***Penny-wise, Fun-foolish***, 1977. A children's picture book about an overly thrifty ostrich who learns that sometimes spending money can bring joy.

Dennis, Wesley. ***Flip*** series, 1941. A young colt named Flip longs to jump the brook like his mother, gaining confidence after dreaming he has wings.

Dipucchio, Kelly. ***Gaston***, 2014. A bulldog puppy raised among poodle sisters discovers a mix-up with a bulldog family and must decide where he truly belongs.

Donaldson, Julia. ***The Snail and the Whale***, 2003. A tiny snail longs for adventure and hitches a ride on a whale's tail, exploring the world before saving the beached whale.

Duvoisin, Roger. ***Petunia***, 1950. A vain goose named Petunia finds a book and believes owning it makes her wise, causing farmyard mishaps until she learns wisdom requires reading.

Eastman, P. D. ***Are You My Mother?***, 1960. A newly hatched baby bird falls from its nest and wanders around asking various animals and objects if they are his mother.

Eastman, P. D. ***Go, Dog. Go!***, 1961. Beginner Book about many dogs driving cars, working, and playing, culminating in a big dog party atop a tree.

Erickson, John R. ***Hank the Cowdog*** series, 1983. Hank the Cowdog, Head of Ranch Security, is framed for killing a chicken and becomes an outlaw among coyotes in this comic mystery.

Erickson, Russell E. ***A Toad for Tuesday***, 1974. Warton the toad, captured by an owl planning to eat him, wins the owl's friendship over five days through courage and kindness.

Ets, Marie Hall. ***Play with Me***, 1955. A little girl in a meadow tries to play with animals who flee, until sitting quietly by a pond brings them near.

Fatio, Louise. ***The Happy Lion***, 1954. A friendly lion leaves his open zoo enclosure to visit townsfolk, who react with fear instead of the usual friendliness.

Fenton, Edward. ***The Big Yellow Balloon***, 1967. A cat mistakes a floating balloon for the sun and tries to destroy it, sparking a comic chain of followers; theme of misunderstanding.

Flack, Marjorie. ***Angus and the Ducks***, 1930. A curious young Scottish terrier named Angus escapes through an open door to investigate ducks living beyond the garden hedge.

Flack, Marjorie. ***Ask Mister Bear*** and others, 1932. Danny asks farm animals for a birthday gift idea for his mother, but each offers something she already has, until Mr. Bear gives the perfect suggestion.

Flack, Marjorie. ***The Story About Ping***, 1933. A young duck named Ping hides to avoid a spanking, gets separated from his family, and has adventures on the Yangtze River before returning home.

Fleischman, Paul. ***The Animal Hedge***, 1983. A farmer forced to sell his beloved livestock discovers animal shapes in a hedge, guiding his sons toward their true callings.

Fox, Mem. ***Possum Magic***, 1983. Grandma Poss's magic makes young possum Hush invisible; they tour Australia eating foods to restore her visibility, celebrating love and identity.

Freeman, Don. ***Corduroy***, 1968. A department store teddy bear named Corduroy searches at night for his missing button before a little girl adopts him, teaching that love overlooks flaws.

Freeman, Don. ***Norman the Doorman***, 1959. A mouse doorman at an art museum secretly creates a mousetrap sculpture and enters it in a contest, celebrating art and imagination.

Galdone, Paul. ***Henny Penny***, 1968. A hen mistakes an acorn's fall for the sky falling, leads gullible barnyard friends to warn the king, but a fox eats them.

Galdone, Paul. ***The Monkey and the Crocodile: A Jataka Tale from India***, 1969. A clever monkey twice outwits a hungry crocodile trying to catch him, in this classic Buddhist Jataka fable retold for children.

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Garis, Howard Roger. ***Uncle Wiggly's Story Book***, 1921. Collection of over 30 whimsical tales of Uncle Wiggily Longears, an elderly rabbit, and his animal and child friends' everyday adventures.

Gág, Wanda. ***Millions of Cats***, 1928. An old man searches for the prettiest cat, brings home millions, and only humble little kitten survives; theme of vanity vs. humility.

George, Lindsay Barrett. ***That Pup!***, 2011. A puppy digs up a squirrel's buried acorns for fun, then learns to make amends by reburying them, forming a new friendship.

Griffith, Helen V. ***Grandaddy's Place***, 1987. City girl Janetta visits her Grandaddy's country farm, initially disliking the animals, but grows to love them and him.

Gurney, Nancy. ***The King, the Mice, and the Cheese***, 1965. A king battles pesky mice eating his cheese, bringing in cats, dogs, lions, then elephants, before befriending the mice.

Hader, Berta. ***The Big Snow***, 1948. Caldecott Medal-winning picture book about woodland animals preparing for and surviving a harsh winter snowstorm.

Hall, Lynn. ***Barry the Bravest Saint Bernard***, 1973. Fictionalized true story of Barry, a heroic Saint Bernard raised by Alpine monks who rescues avalanche victims and is wounded saving a frightened boy.

Haseley, Dennis. ***A Story for Bear***, 2002. A curious young bear befriends a woman who reads aloud in the woods, cherishing her books and voice through winter's solitude.

Henkes, Kevin. ***Chester's Way***, 1988. Two mice best friends who do everything the same way must adjust when quirky new neighbor Lilly moves in nearby.

Heyward, DuBose. ***The Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes***, 1939. A country mother rabbit with twenty-one children proves her worth and is chosen as an Easter Bunny despite doubts about her.

Himmelman, John. ***There's a Bug on My Book!***, 2017. Interactive picture book where various bugs and creatures seem to land on the page, and readers move them off using tips, taps, and turns.

Hoag, Nancy. ***Clip Clop***, 1958. A young colt on a farm imagines wearing various people's shoes before receiving his first horseshoes, a whimsical tale of growing up.

Hoban, Russell. ***Bedtime for Frances*** series, 1960. Frances the badger delays bedtime with requests for milk, toys, and kisses, then imagines tigers and giants in the dark.

Hoban, Russell. ***Bread and Jam for Frances***, 1964. Picky-eater badger Frances eats only bread and jam until she tires of it, learning to appreciate variety in food.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. ***A House Is a House for Me***, 1978. A whimsical rhyming picture book listing playful, imaginative houses for animals, objects, and people, celebrating creativity and wonder.

Hodgson, Mona Gansberg. ***Bedtime in the Southwest***, 2004. Rhyming picture book where Southwest desert animal babies find funny excuses to avoid bedtime instead of sleeping.

Hoff, Syd. ***Danny and the Dinosaur***, 1958. A museum dinosaur comes to life to play with Danny, and the two spend a happy day exploring town together.

Hoff, Syd. ***Sammy the Seal*** and others, 1959. A curious zoo seal ventures into the city, attends school with children, then happily returns home; theme: contentment with home.

Howard, Paige. ***A Pigeon in Paris: Petite Takes Flight***, 2023. A young pigeon in Paris fears flying, but with her family's loving encouragement she overcomes fear and takes flight.

Ipcar, Dahlov. ***One Horse Farm***, 1950. A boy and a foal grow up together on a farm through changing seasons, until age and modernization force a bittersweet parting.

Jackson, K & B. ***The Saggy Baggy Elephant***, 1947. Sooki the elephant feels insecure after a parrot mocks his saggy skin, but learns self-acceptance upon meeting fellow elephants.

Jay, Alison. ***Welcome to the Zoo***, 2008. A wordless picture book following a family's visit to a fantastical, cageless zoo where humans and animals playfully interact.

Kessler, Leonard. ***Super Bowl***, 1980. The Animal Champs and Super Birds face off in a football championship, with a fumble deciding the game; teamwork and sportsmanship matter most.

Koide, Tan. ***May We Sleep Here Tonight?***, 1982. Three lost gopher, rabbit, and raccoon families shelter in an empty house, fearing its return owner is a witch, but find a kindly bear.

Krasilovsky, Phyllis. ***The Cow Who Fell in the Canal***, 1957. A bored Dutch cow, Hendrika, accidentally falls into a canal and floats to a city, delighting in the adventure before returning home.

Kraus, Robert. ***Leo the Late Bloomer***, 1971. Leo the tiger cub can't read, write, draw, or speak; his father worries while his mother patiently waits for him to bloom.

Krauss, Ruth. ***The Happy Day***, 1949. Woodland animals awaken from winter hibernation and joyfully discover spring's first flower blooming through the snow.

Kuskin, Karla. ***James and the Rain***, 1957. James walks in the rain wearing his yellow coat, meeting a growing number of animals who share their rainy day games; a playful counting rhyme.

Lamb, Rosy. ***Paul Meets Bernadette***, 2013. Picture book about lonely goldfish Paul, whose world transforms when Bernadette joins him, imaginatively reinterpreting ordinary objects as wonders.

Leaf, Munro. ***The Story of Ferdinand***, 1936. A peaceful bull who prefers smelling flowers to fighting is mistakenly chosen for a Madrid bullfight; theme: staying true to oneself.

Lionni, Leo. ***The Biggest House in the World***, 1968. A young snail dreams of a giant shell; his father's tale of a snail whose huge house brought ruin teaches contentment with less.

Lloyd-Jones, Sally. ***Baby Wren and the Great Gift***, 2016. A tiny wren admires the canyon's creatures, wonders what she can offer, then discovers her gift is singing.

Lobel, Arnold. ***Frog and Toad*** series, 1970. Five gentle short stories about the friendship between Frog and Toad, celebrating loyalty, kindness, and companionship between friends.

Lobel, Arnold. ***Grasshopper on the Road***, 1978. Grasshopper wanders a road meeting eccentric insect characters obsessed with their own routines; theme of enjoying life's unhurried journey.

Lobel, Arnold. ***Owl at Home***, 1975. Five gentle, whimsical stories about a solitary owl coping with fear, loneliness, sadness, and everyday household mishaps at home.

Lopshire, Robert. ***Put Me in the Zoo***, 1960. Spot, a polka-dotted creature, begs to join a zoo, showing two children his color-changing, juggling spot tricks to prove his worth.

Marshall, James. ***George and Martha Stories***, 1972. Five short, humorous vignettes about two hippo best friends, George and Martha, teaching gentle lessons about honesty and true friendship.

McClintock, Marshall and Mike. ***A Fly Went By***, 1958. A boy questions a fleeing fly, sparking a cumulative chase with frog, cat, dog, and other animals joining in.

McCloskey, Robert. ***Blueberries for Sal*** and others, 1948. A young girl and a bear cub, each with their mothers, accidentally cross paths while picking blueberries on a Maine hillside.

McClure, Nikki. ***How to Be a Cat***, 2013. Picture book showing a kitten learning feline skills—stretching, cleaning, pouncing—by imitating an adult cat.

Milne, A. A. ***Winnie-the-Pooh***, 1926. A collection of ten whimsical stories about Pooh Bear and friends in the Hundred Acre Wood, celebrating imagination, friendship, and simple joys.

Minarik, Else Holmelund. ***Little Bear*** series, 1957. Four gentle stories of Little Bear's small adventures—choosing clothes, birthday soup, a moon trip—cared for by loving Mother Bear.

Minarik, Else Holmelund. ***No Fighting, No Biting!***, 1958. Cousin Joan calms squabbling Willy and Rosa by telling them alligator stories about fighting and biting siblings, teaching kindness.

Moore, Lilian. ***I'll Meet You at the Cucumbers***, 1988. Country mouse Adam Mouse, a poet, reluctantly visits city pen pal Amanda; friendship and discovering his gift as a poet.

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Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Albert***, 2001. A reclusive man's outstretched hand becomes a bird's nest, forcing him to patiently engage with the world he feared.

Newberry, Clare Turlay. ***Marshmallow***, 1942. A pampered tabby cat, Oliver, must learn to accept and love a new baby rabbit, Marshmallow, brought into his home.

Numeroff, Laura Joffe. ***If You Give a Moose a Muffin***, 1991. A boy hosts an ever more demanding moose, whose muffin request triggers a comic chain of escalating favors and mishaps.

Oakley, Graham. ***The Church Mouse***, 1972. Lonely church mouse Arthur invites town mice to live in the church; friendship with Sampson the cat saves them from eviction after a burglary.

Parish, Peggy. ***Good Hunting, Blue Sky***, 1962. A young Native American boy attempts his first solo hunt, encountering comic mishaps before riding a wild boar home triumphantly.

Parish, Peggy. ***Scruffy***, 1988. For his birthday, Todd visits an animal shelter and picks a cat named Scruffy, learning about pet care along the way.

Paterson, Katherine. ***The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks***, 1990. Retelling of a Japanese folktale: a caged mandarin drake is freed by a kind maid, whose kindness is magically repaid.

Peet, Bill. ***Chester the Worldly Pig***, 1965. A farm pig runs away to join the circus, faces perilous escapes, and discovers his spotted hide forms a map of the world.

Peet, Bill. ***Cyrus the Unsinkable Sea Serpent***, 1975. A lonely, kind sea serpent secretly protects an immigrant ship from storms, doldrums, and pirates on its ocean voyage.

Peet, Bill. ***Huge Harold*** and others, 1961. An overgrown rabbit is rejected everywhere he goes until a farmer discovers his true purpose as a champion harness-racing trotter.

Peet, Bill. ***The Whingdingdilly***, 1970. A dog named Scamp, envious of a prize horse, is magically transformed into a bizarre mixed-animal creature but learns to accept himself as he is.

Pfister, Marcus. ***The Rainbow Fish*** series, 1992. A vain, beautiful fish with iridescent scales learns true friendship comes from sharing, not physical beauty, by giving scales away.

Potter, Beatrix. ***Tale of Peter Rabbit*** and others, 1902. Mischievous rabbit Peter disobeys his mother, sneaks into Mr. McGregor's garden, and narrowly escapes capture; theme: disobedience has consequences.

Potter, Beatrix. ***The Tailor of Gloucester***, 1902. A sickly tailor's Christmas waistcoat for the Mayor is secretly finished by grateful mice he had freed from his cat.

Provensen, Alice and Martin. ***The Year at Maple Hill Farm***, 1978. Alice and Martin Provensen's picture book follows farm animals and chores month by month, celebrating the changing seasons on their real farm.

Rathmann, Peggy. ***Good Night, Gorilla***, 1994. An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the zoo animals a mischievous gorilla secretly releases at bedtime, told almost wordlessly.

Rathmann, Peggy. ***Officer Buckle and Gloria***, 1995. A police officer's dull safety speeches become a school hit once a mischievous police dog secretly acts them out behind his back.

Regniers, Beatrice Schenk De. ***May I Bring a Friend?***, 1964. A polite boy is invited by the King and Queen to tea, and each time asks to bring a well-behaved wild animal friend.

Rey, H. A. ***Curious George*** series, 1941. A curious monkey is taken from Africa by the Man in the Yellow Hat to a big city, causing mischievous, comedic trouble.

Riggs, Kate. ***On the Farm***, 2015. A board book introducing toddlers to farm animal sounds, pairing baby and adult animals with simple rhythmic text and detailed illustrations.

Root, Phyllis. ***Flip, Flap, Fly!***, 2009. Rhyming picture book following baby animals—bird, fish, snake, otter, duck, mouse—and a child taking first steps with their mothers' help.

Rosen, Michael. ***We're Going on a Bear Hunt***, 1989. A family journeys through grass, river, mud, and snow hunting a bear, then flees home in fright after finding it.

Sayre, April Pulley. ***Squirrels Leap, Squirrels Sleep***, 2016. A nonfiction rhyming picture book following gray, fox, red, and flying squirrels through a day of climbing, eating, and sleeping.

Scarry, Richard. ***I Am a Bunny***, 1963. A rabbit named Nicholas describes his favorite seasonal activities in spring, summer, fall, and winter, celebrating nature's cycles.

Slobodkina, Esphyr. ***Caps for Sale***, 1940. A peddler naps under a tree; mischievous monkeys steal his stacked caps, and he cleverly outwits them to get every one back.

Stead, Philip C. and Erin E. ***A Sick Day for Amos McGee***, 2010. A gentle zookeeper who daily visits his animal friends falls ill, and they travel to his home to care for him in return.

Steig, William. ***Amos and Boris***, 1971. A mouse named Amos and a whale named Boris rescue each other in turn, showing that true friendship transcends differences in size and species.

Steig, William. ***Doctor De Soto***, 1982. A mouse dentist and his wife cleverly outwit a fox patient tempted to eat them after his toothache is cured.

Steig, William. ***Sylvester and the Magic Pebble***, 1969. A donkey named Sylvester finds a wishing pebble, turns himself into a rock in fright, and is later restored by his loving parents.

Stockum, Hilda Van. ***Little Old Bear***, 1962. A worn, discarded teddy bear feels unwanted after losing his fur and eyes, but finds a loving new home and purpose.

Tafuri, Nancy. ***Have You Seen My Duckling?***, 1984. A mother duck searches the pond asking animals if they've seen her missing duckling, who is always nearby.

Taylor, Mark. ***Henry the Castaway***, 1972. Henry and his dog Angus set out to find an ocean, become shipwrecked on an island, and use preparedness to survive.

❄ Thury, Fredrick H. ***The Last Straw***, 1998. A proud camel, Hoshmakaka, carries growing gifts to Bethlehem for the newborn king, learning humility through his mounting burden.

Tillman, Nancy. ***On the Night You Were Born***, 2005. A lyrical picture book celebrating a newborn's uniqueness, as the moon, animals, and nature rejoice; theme of unconditional parental love.

Torrey, Marjorie. ***Artie and the Princess***, 1945. A gentle picture-book tale of a little dragon named Artie who befriends Princess Pandy, teaching kindness and self-confidence.

Tudor, Tasha. ***Corgiville Fair***, 1971. In the village of Corgiville, young Caleb the corgi races his goat Josephine at the town fair against scheming, cheating rival Edgar Tomcat.

Turkle, Brinton. ***Deep in the Forest***, 1976. Wordless picture book: a curious bear cub sneaks into a pioneer family's cabin, reversing the Goldilocks tale with gentle chaos.

Underwood, Deborah. ***The Man Who Didn't Like Animals***, 2024. A tidy man who dislikes animals reluctantly welcomes a cat, dog, and more, becoming Old MacDonald in this playful story.

Ungerer, Tomi. ***Crictor***, 1958. A gentle French village adopts a helpful pet boa constrictor sent to Madame Bodot by her son, who studies reptiles in Africa.

Ungerer, Tomi. ***The Mellops Go Spelunking*** series, 1963. The Mellops pig family go spelunking after a lost golf ball, discovering cave formations and capturing perfume smugglers.

Waber, Bernard. ***Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile***, 1965. A pet crocodile named Lyle wins over a cranky neighbor by rescuing him from a fire, teaching kindness and acceptance.

Waddell, Martin. ***Owl Babies***, 1992. Three baby owls wake to find their mother gone and comfort each other while waiting for her joyful return; theme of trust and reassurance.

Wahl, Phoebe. ***Sonya's Chickens***, 2015. A girl raises three chicks into hens; when a fox takes one to feed his kits, she learns nature's interconnected cycle of life and loss.

Ward, Jennifer. ***The Busy Tree***, 2009. A rhyming picture book following an oak tree's roots, bark, and branches as chipmunks, birds, and insects live and feed there.

Ward, Lynd. ***The Biggest Bear***, 1952. Johnny raises a bear cub after failing to hunt an adult bear; the cub grows huge and troublesome, testing loyalty and responsibility.

White, E. B. ***Stuart Little***, 1945. A tiny mouse-like boy born to a human family in New York City ventures out to find his missing bird friend, Margalo.

Wilson, Karma. ***Bear Snores On***, 2002. A hibernating bear snores through a winter party his woodland friends throw in his cave, then wakes to join the fun.

Woelfle, Gretchen. ***Katje, the Windmill Cat***, 2001. A cat exiled from her miller's home proves her worth by heroically saving the baby during the famous 1421 Dutch flood.

Wolff, Ashley. ***Baby Bear Sees Blue***, 2012. Baby Bear leaves his den and explores the forest with his mother, discovering yellow, green, blue, brown, red, and orange in nature.

Worm, Piet. ***The Three Little Horses***, 1954. Three little horses meet artist Piet, who dresses them as princesses, leading to a mistaken-identity mix-up in town.

Yolen, Jane. ***Owl Moon***, 1987. A young girl and her father walk silently through snowy winter woods at night hoping to see a great horned owl.

Zion, Gene. ***Harry the Dirty Dog***, 1956. A white dog with black spots hates baths, runs away, and gets so dirty his family doesn't recognize him.

Biography / Memoir

Birch, Beverley. ***Pasteur's Fight Against Microbes***, 1988. Illustrated biography for young readers about Louis Pasteur's 1856 investigation of microbes in sugarbeet juice, revolutionizing medicine and science.

* Bulla, Clyde Robert. ***Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims***, 1954. Biography of Squanto, a Wampanoag man captured and enslaved abroad, who later helped the Pilgrims survive in Plymouth.

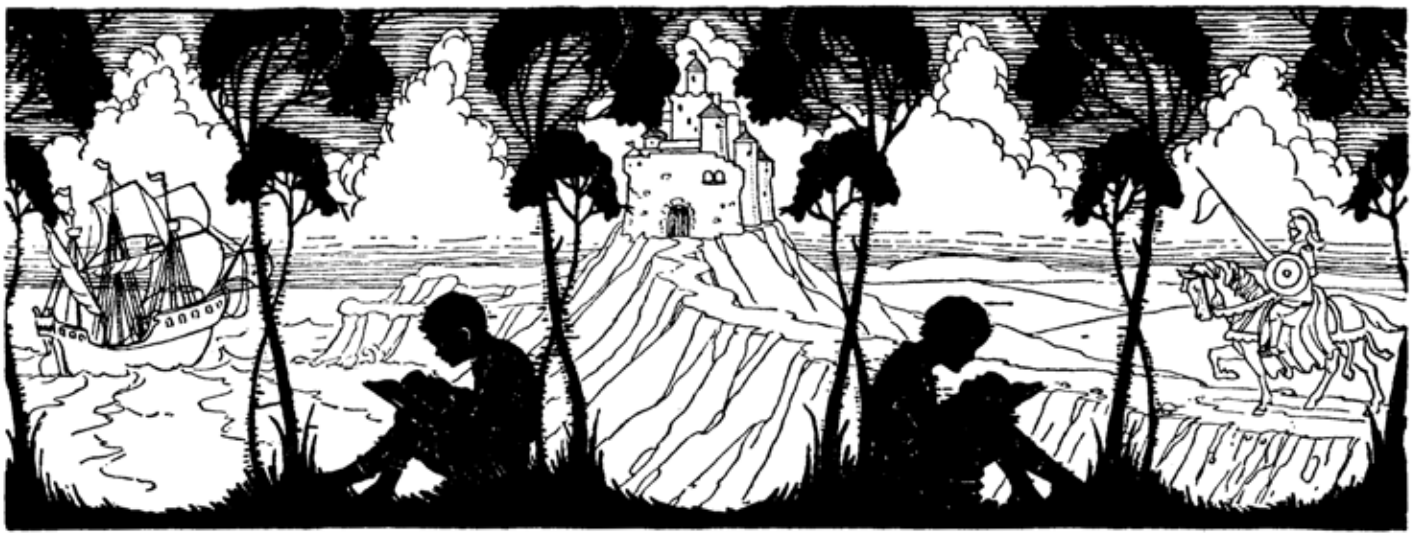
* Fern, Tracey E. ***Pippo the Fool***, 2009. Picture-book biography of Filippo Brunelleschi, nicknamed "Pippo the Fool," who wins the contest to design Florence Cathedral's dome.

Fritz, Jean. ***Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln*** and others, 1993. Jean Fritz's biography for children recounting Abraham Lincoln's life and the writing of his brief, famous Gettysburg Address speech.

Kellogg, Steven. ***Johnny Appleseed*** and others, 1988. Picture book retelling the legend of John Chapman, who planted apple orchards across the frontier and befriended settlers and animals.

Lawson, Robert. ***They Were Strong and Good***, 1940. Robert Lawson's illustrated family history tracing his ancestors' ordinary lives, emphasizing quiet strength and goodness over fame.

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. ***Snowflake Bentley***, 1998. Picture-book biography of Vermont farmer Wilson Bentley, who pioneered photographing snowflakes, celebrating patient curiosity and wonder in nature.



Mattick, Lindsay. ***Finding Winnie***, 2015. True story of Harry Colebourn's WWI-era bear cub Winnie, who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh; themes of friendship and wartime compassion.

* McAlister, Caroline. ***John Ronald's Dragons***, 2017. Picture book biography of J.R.R. Tolkien tracing how childhood dragon fantasies and wartime experiences shaped Middle Earth's creator.

Rylant, Cynthia. ***When I Was Young in the Mountains***, 1982. A lyrical picture-book memoir recalling a girl's joyful childhood with her grandparents in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia.

Shulevitz, Uri. ***How I Learned Geography***, 2008. A refugee boy in wartime finds hope when his father buys a world map instead of bread, awakening his imagination.

Sís, Peter. ***Follow the Dream***, 1991. Picture-book biography of Christopher Columbus, tracing his boyhood dreams of exploration to his 1492 voyage across the Atlantic.

Fairy Tale / Fantasy / Sci-Fi

Ahlberg, Allan. ***The Pencil***, 2008. A lonely pencil draws a boy, then more characters who complain and demand changes, prompting an eraser that causes chaos.

Ahlberg, Janet and Allan. ***Each Peach Pear Plum***, 1978. A rhyming picture book inviting young children to spy hidden nursery rhyme and fairy tale characters like Tom Thumb and Cinderella in the pictures.

Allsburg, Chris Van. ***The Polar Express***, 1985. A boy boards a magical train on Christmas Eve to the North Pole, where Santa lets him choose the first gift of Christmas.

Allsburg, Chris Van. ***The Stranger***, 1986. A memory-less stranger, hit by Farmer Bailey's truck, recuperates with his family and may secretly be the spirit of autumn or Jack Frost.

Andersen, Hans Christian. ***The Emperor and the Nightingale***, 1843. A Chinese emperor spurns a real nightingale for a jeweled mechanical bird, until the true bird's song saves him from Death.

Andersen, Hans Christian. ***The Little Match Girl***, 1845. A poor barefoot girl freezes on New Year's Eve, lighting matches for visions of comfort before dying and joining her grandmother in Heaven.

Arnold, Tedd. ***No Jumping on the Bed!***, 1987. Walter disobeys his father's warning and jumps on his bed until it crashes through every floor, gathering neighbors below.

Barrett, Judi. ***Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs***, 1978. In Chewandswallow, food falls from the sky as weather; when portions grow dangerously large, townspeople must find a new life elsewhere.

Becker, Aaron. ***Journey***, 2013. A lonely girl draws a magic door and embarks on a wordless, imaginative journey through fantastical lands, discovering courage and friendship.

Bianco, Margery Williams. ***The Classic Tale of the Velveteen Rabbit***, 1922. A stuffed toy rabbit longs to become Real through a boy's love, learning that genuine love brings transformation despite wear and loss.

Bishop, Claire Huchet. ***The Five Chinese Brothers*** and others, 1938. Five identical Chinese brothers each have a unique gift; they use them to save one brother wrongly condemned to execution.

Bradfield, Jolly Roger. ***Giants Come in Different Sizes***, 1966. A wizard curses a hamburger-growing island with endless rain; a plucky barber and helpful giants save the kingdom.

Brand, Christianna. ***Nurse Matilda*** series, 1964. A magical, no-nonsense nanny disciplines the endlessly naughty Brown children until they finally learn to behave.

Briggs, Raymond. ***The Snowman***, 1978. A boy's snowman comes to life one night; together they explore and fly over snowy landscapes before he melts by dawn.

Brown, Jeff. ***Flat Stanley***, 1964. A boy flattened by a falling bulletin board discovers being flat lets him have surprising adventures, embracing his unusual difference.

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Browne, Anthony. ***The Tunnel***, 1989. A sister overcomes fear to rescue her brother, turned to stone in a mysterious forest, restoring him through love.

Browning, Robert. ***The Pied Piper of Hamelin***, 1842. A mysterious piper rids Hamelin of rats but is refused payment, so he lures away the town's children in revenge.

Brumbeau, Jeff. ***The Quiltmaker's Journey***, 2005. A wealthy young girl escapes her walled city, discovers poverty outside, and learns joy through giving quilts to the needy.

Brumbeau, Jeff. ***The Quiltmaker's Gift***, 1999. A generous quiltmaker refuses to sell her quilts, teaching a greedy king that true happiness comes from giving, not possessions.

Burton, Virginia Lee. ***Katy and the Big Snow***, 1943. Katy, a red crawler tractor, becomes a snowplow and single-handedly digs out the snowbound town of Geoppolis, showing perseverance.

Burton, Virginia Lee. ***Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel***, 1939. Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel Mary Anne prove their worth digging a town hall cellar, showcasing perseverance and loyalty.

Burton, Virginia Lee. ***The Little House***, 1942. A little house in the countryside watches the seasons pass, then endures the growing city around her until family moves her back to the country.

Cauley, Lorinda Bryan. ***The Pancake Boy***, 1988. A retelling of the traditional Norwegian folk tale in which a talking pancake escapes a hungry family and rolls away.

Collodi, Carlo. ***Pinocchio***, 1883. A mischievous wooden puppet carved by Geppetto lies and misbehaves through comic misadventures before finally becoming a real boy.

Demi. ***One Grain of Rice***, 1997. An Indian folktale: clever village girl Rani outwits a greedy raja by requesting rice doubled daily, teaching a lesson on fairness.

Demi. ***The Empty Pot***, 1990. A Chinese boy who cannot grow a flower from his boiled seed wins the throne by honestly admitting his failure.

Denise, Christopher. ***Knight Owl***, 2022. A small owl joins Knight School and, though frightened, cleverly befriends a hungry dragon threatening the castle using wit, not weapons.

Donaldson, Julia. ***Stick Man***, 2008. An anthropomorphic stick is separated from his family tree and endures misadventures before Santa Claus helps him return home for Christmas.

Fleischman, Sid. ***McBroom's Wonderful One-acre Farm***, 1966. Tall tales of farmer Josh McBroom and his family, whose tiny Iowa farm produces miraculously fast, giant crops.

Fleming, Ian. ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang***, 1964. The Pott family restores a magical flying car and has adventures foiling gangsters and criminals in England and France.

Galdone, Joanna. ***The Little Girl and the Big Bear***, 1980. A clever little girl outwits a big bear holding her captive by hiding in a basket of pies, a retold Slavic folktale.

Galdone, Paul. ***The Elves and the Shoemaker***, 1812. A poor shoemaker is aided nightly by two elves who finish his shoes; grateful, he and his wife sew them clothes.

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. ***My Father's Dragon***, 1948. Elmer Elevator runs away to Wild Island to rescue a baby dragon forced to ferry lazy animals across a river; a tale of courage and kindness.

Godden, Rumer. ***The Story of Holly and Ivy***, 1958. An orphaned girl and a Christmas doll each wish for love and belonging, their fates entwining on Christmas Eve until both find a family.

Gramatky, Hardie. ***Little Toot***, 1939. A playful tugboat who avoids work redeems himself by daringly rescuing a stranded ocean liner during a storm; theme: growing into responsibility.

Hague, Michael. ***Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear***, 1993. Michael Hague illustrates the traditional nursery rhyme, showing a teddy bear turning around, saying prayers, and going to bed.

❄ Hale, Brandon. ***Prince Martin*** series, 2017. A young prince must prove he is brave, loyal, and true to earn his sword, discovering courage and virtue in the forest.

Haley, Gail E. ***Dream Peddler***, 1993. Peddler John Chapman follows a dream to London Bridge, discovering treasure at home and founding a printshop to spread literacy.

Hansen, Ron. ***The Shadowmaker***, 1987. An orphaned sister and brother, Drizzle and Soot, expose a wily wizard whose new shadows are fraudulent, restoring their town's sense.

Hebert, Mary. ***Horatio Rides the Wind***, 1995. A lonely scarecrow is swept by the wind across the sea, meets new friends in far-off lands, and reunites with his farmer.

Hoban, Russell and Lillian. ***The Little Brute Family***, 1966. The rude, brutish Brute family transform into a kind, polite family after discovering a stray good feeling in a field of daisies.

❄ Hodges, Margaret. ***Saint George and the Dragon***, 1984. Picture-book retelling of Spenser's Faerie Queene episode where the Red Cross Knight, George, slays a dragon terrorizing the land, restoring peace.

Kahl, Virginia. ***The Duchess Bakes a Cake***, 1955. A duchess ignores her cook's advice, over-adds yeast to her cake, rises into the sky, and her youngest daughter saves her.

Kellogg, Steven. ***Paul Bunyan*** and others, 1984. A humorous picture-book retelling of the American tall tale of giant lumberjack Paul Bunyan, his ox Babe, and their legendary feats.

Kellogg, Steven. ***The Island of the Skog***, 1973. Mice sail from a dangerous city to a peaceful island, only to discover it's inhabited by a mysterious creature called the Skog.

Krauss, Ruth. ***Open House for Butterflies***, 1960. A whimsical picture book of imaginative sayings and observations about childhood, illustrated by Maurice Sendak with playful, child-logic wisdom.

LaMarche, Jim. ***Up***, 2006. A boy nicknamed Mouse secretly discovers he can levitate objects, using his talent to save a beached whale and prove himself to his fishing family.

Langton, Jane. ***The Queen's Necklace***, 1994. A cruel king prizes his pearl necklace, but his kind wife secretly gives the pearls away one by one to save her starving people.

Lawson, Robert. ***McWhinney's Jaunt***, 1951. An absent-minded professor invents Z-Gas to fly his bicycle, journeying to Hollywood with whimsical resourcefulness and calm optimism.

Levitin, Sonia. ***The Man Who Kept His Heart in a Bucket***, 1991. A folktale-style picture book about Jack, who keeps his broken heart in a bucket until a magical maiden teaches him love's true meaning.

Lionni, Leo. ***Tico and the Golden Wings***, 1964. A wingless bird's wish for golden wings is granted, but he learns true worth by giving his feathers to those in need.

MacDonald, Betty. ***Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*** series, 1947. A magical woman cures children of bad habits like never wanting to go to bed or leaving messy rooms, using clever remedies.

MacGregor, Ellen. ***Miss Pickerell*** series, 1951. Elderly Miss Pickerell accidentally becomes a stowaway when a rocket ship lands in her pasture and blasts off to Mars.

Mayer, Marianna. ***The Twelve Dancing Princesses***, 1815. A king's twelve daughters mysteriously wear out their shoes nightly; a clever young man uncovers their enchanted secret and breaks the spell.

Mayhew, James. ***Katie and the Impressionists***, 1991. Katie steps into famous Impressionist paintings by Monet, Renoir, and Degas, gathering flowers for her grandmother's birthday.

McPhail, David M. ***Edward and the Pirates***, 1997. A boy who loves adventure stories imagines pirates invading his bedroom, demanding his library book about buried treasure.

Mulock, Dinah Maria. ***The Little Lame Prince***, 1875. A paralyzed young prince, exiled by his usurping uncle, is given a magic traveling cloak by his fairy godmother and grows into a wise king.

Peterson, John. ***The Littles***, 1967. A family of tiny people living in the walls of the Biggs' house cleverly outwits a mouse infestation using teamwork and ingenuity.

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Piper, Watty. ***The Little Engine That Could***, 1930. A small engine agrees to pull a stalled train of toys over a mountain, succeeding through repeated self-encouragement and perseverance.

Pittman, Helena Clare. ***A Grain of Rice***, 1986. A farmer's son wins a Chinese princess's hand by cleverly demanding rice doubled daily for 100 days; theme: wit over wealth.

Plume, Ilse. ***The Twelve Days of Christmas***, 1990. Illustrated retelling of the traditional carol set in an Italian Renaissance garden, depicting a suitor's gifts to his beloved.

Prøysen, Alf. ***Mrs Pepperpot Stories***, 1956. Whimsical Norwegian tales of an old woman who randomly shrinks to pepperpot size, showing resourcefulness and problem-solving with animal friends.

Sawyer, Ruth. ***Remarkable Christmas of the Cobbler's Sons***, 1941. A poor cobbler's three sons face a hungry Christmas until goblin King Laurin visits, testing them before rewarding their hospitality with treasure.

Schertle, Alice. ***Little Blue Truck***, 2008. A little blue pickup truck gets stuck in the mud helping a rude dump truck, and farm animal friends rally to help him, teaching kindness and neighborliness.

Seuss, Dr. ***Green Eggs and Ham***, 1960. Sam-I-am persistently urges a skeptical character to try green eggs and ham, illustrating persistence and openness to new experiences.

Seuss, Dr. ***Horton Hears a Who***, 1954. Horton the elephant protects a tiny world of Whos on a speck of dust, teaching that every person matters, however small.

Seuss, Dr. ***The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins***, 1938. A peasant boy's hat magically multiplies before a vain king, satirizing the absurdity of unchecked royal power and pride.

Shaw, Stephanie. ***Schnitzel***, 2016. A lazy wizard's apprentice invites a sinister vacuum-cleaner salesman to help with chores, with disastrous, magical consequences.

Shulevitz, Uri. ***The Treasure***, 1978. A poor man named Isaac follows a recurring dream to a distant city, discovering true treasure lies back home.

Silverstein, Shel. ***The Giving Tree***, 1964. A tree gives everything—apples, branches, trunk—to a boy throughout his life, illustrating selfless love and sacrifice.

Slobodkin, Louis. ***Moon Blossom and the Golden Penny***, 1963. A poor Hong Kong girl earns a golden penny running an errand for a mysterious old woman, bringing unexpected good fortune.

Souci, Robert D. San. ***Cendrillon***, 1998. A Martinique-set Creole retelling of Cinderella, narrated by her godmother, a poor washerwoman who uses magic to unite her with true love.

Steig, William. ***The Amazing Bone***, 1976. A pig named Pearl finds a magical talking bone that helps her escape robbers and a hungry fox on her way home.

Stockton, Frank R. ***The Griffin and the Minor Canon***, 1885. A lonely griffin befriends a humble church canon while townspeople's fear and ingratitude expose their selfishness and cowardice.

Stone, Rosetta. ***Because a Little Bug Went Ka-Choo!***, 1975. A single sneeze from a bug triggers an escalating chain of comic mishaps that turns a whole town upside down.

Supraner, Robyn. ***No Room for a Sneeze!***, 1986. A folktale retelling: an overcrowded farmhouse family seeks advice from a Wiseman, who tells them to bring animals inside before removing them.

Thurber, James. ***Many Moons***, 1943. A young princess falls ill and only the Court Jester can find a clever way to fulfill her wish for the moon.

Tolkien, J.R.R. ***Mr. Bliss***, 1982. Whimsical illustrated tale of Mr. Bliss's chaotic first drive in his new motor-car, encountering bears, dogs, and mishaps.

Ungerer, Tomi. ***The Three Robbers***, 1961. Three highwaymen who terrorize travelers are transformed into benefactors after kidnapping an orphan girl, Tiffany, who inspires them to help orphans.

William, Joyce. ***George Shrinks***, 1985. A boy wakes up shrunk to mouse size and must handle daily chores and care for his baby brother in a giant world.

Winter, Milo. ***Aesop's Fables***, 1919. Classic collection of over 100 animal fables by Aesop, teaching moral lessons through anthropomorphized creatures, illustrated by Milo Winter.

Wood, Audrey. ***Balloonia***, 1981. Jessica doubts her brother Matthew's claim that lost balloons float to a magical land called Balloonia until she visits it herself.

Wright, Blanche Fisher. ***The Original Mother Goose***, 1916. A classic illustrated compilation of over 200 traditional English nursery rhymes and verses, celebrating childhood, imagination, and oral tradition.

Wright, Maureen. ***Sneezy the Snowman***, 2010. A snowman who feels dreadfully cold keeps melting as he tries to warm up, while children rebuild him each time with warm clothing.

Zelinsky, Paul O. ***Rumpelstiltskin***, 1986. Zelinsky's illustrated retelling of the Grimm fairy tale: a miller's daughter must guess a strange imp's name to keep her firstborn child.

Historical Fiction

Avi. ***Prairie School***, 2001. In 1880s Colorado, Aunt Dora, confined to a wheelchair, teaches reluctant farm boy Noah to read while exploring the prairie together.

Baker, Betty. ***Little Runner of the Longhouse***, 1962. Little Runner, an Iroquois boy, schemes to join the older boys' New Year maple sugar ceremony despite being too young.

Bartone, Elisa. ***Peppe the Lamplighter***, 1993. Italian immigrant boy in NYC's Little Italy becomes a lamplighter to support his poor family, earning his ashamed father's respect after saving his sister.

❊ Bruce, Robertson. ***Marguerite Makes a Book***, 1999. In 1400s Paris, young Marguerite secretly finishes her injured father's illuminated prayer book commission for noblewoman Lady Isabelle.

❊ Bulla, Clyde Robert. ***The Secret Valley***, 1949. The Davis family journeys west during the California Gold Rush; finding little gold, they discover true happiness in a hidden valley.

Bunting, Eve. ***Train to Somewhere***, 1996. Marianne, an unwanted orphan riding the Orphan Train west, hopes her mother will reclaim her; theme of finding unexpected love and belonging.

Dalgliesh, Alice. ***The Courage of Sarah Noble***, 1954. An eight-year-old girl travels with her father into the Connecticut wilderness in 1707, finding courage amid fear and unfamiliar surroundings.

Gauch, Patricia Lee. ***Aaron and the Green Mountain Boys***, 1972. In 1777 Vermont, nine-year-old Aaron Robinson longs to fight the British but must bake bread for soldiers instead.

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Harness, Cheryl. ***Three Young Pilgrims***, 1992. Picture book following three real Mayflower children—Mary, Remember, and Bartholomew Allerton—through Plymouth Colony's hardships to the first Thanksgiving.

Hinrichs, Alexandra S.D. ***Thérèse Makes a Tapestry***, 2013. In 17th-century Paris, young Thérèse secretly weaves a tapestry for her painter father at the royal Gobelins Manufactory, surprising even the king.

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Apples to Oregon***, 2004. A tall tale in which a pioneer father hauls beloved fruit trees and family from Iowa to Oregon; theme: perseverance amid hardship.

Hort, Lenny. ***The Boy Who Held Back the Sea***, 1987. Naughty Dutch boy Jan discovers a leak in the dike and plugs it with his finger overnight, saving his village; a tale of quiet heroism.

Levitin, Sonia. ***Nine for California***, 1996. A picture book: Mama and five children ride a stagecoach 21 days from Missouri to meet Papa in California during the Gold Rush.

* Lorbiecki, Marybeth. ***Sister Anne's Hands***, 1998. A young girl's white classmates react with fear and prejudice to their new African American nun-teacher, who teaches forgiveness and tolerance.

McClintock, Barbara. ***Adèle & Simon in America***, 2008. Siblings Adèle and Simon tour early 1900s America by train with their aunt while Simon repeatedly loses his belongings.

McCully, Emily Arnold. ***Mirette on the High Wire***, 1992. A boardinghouse girl secretly learns tightrope walking from a hidden master wire-walker, helping him overcome fear and reclaim his art.

McDonough, Yona Zeldis. ***The Doll Shop Downstairs***, 2009. Nine-year-old Anna and her Jewish immigrant sisters help save their family's NYC doll repair shop during WWI's German embargo.

Monjo, F.N. ***The Drinking Gourd: A Story of the Underground Railroad***, 1970. Tommy, a Quaker boy, helps his family hide runaway slaves and guide them to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

Moore, Eva. ***Dick Whittington and His Cat***, 1974. Picture-book retelling of the English folk legend of poor orphan Dick Whittington, whose clever cat helps him rise to become Lord Mayor of London.

Polacco, Patricia. ***An Orange for Frankie***, 2004. A farm boy's family awaits Pa's Christmas oranges during a Michigan blizzard, sharing food with hobos and learning generosity.

Polacco, Patricia. ***Tucky Jo and Little Heart***, 2015. A 15-year-old Kentucky soldier in WWII befriends a starving Filipino girl in the Pacific; kindness and friendship transcend war and reunite them decades later.

* Politi, Leo. ***Song of the Swallows***, 1948. A boy named Juan befriends Julian, the mission bell-ringer, and eagerly awaits the swallows' yearly return to San Juan Capistrano.

* Politi, Leo. ***The Mission Bell***, 1953. Picture book following Father Junípero Serra and a Native boy as they build the California missions together over the years.

Prigger, Mary Skillings. ***Aunt Minnie McGranahan***, 1999. A tidy Kansas spinster unexpectedly takes in her nine orphaned nieces and nephews in 1920, using clever systems to raise them with love.

* Richardson, Jean. ***Stephen's Feast***, 1991. Picture book retelling of the carol 'Good King Wenceslas,' following the young page Stephen as he learns generosity toward the poor.

Simon, Tanya and Richard. ***Oskar and the Eight Blessings***, 2015. A young Jewish boy fleeing Kristallnacht arrives in 1938 New York and receives small kindnesses walking to his aunt's home.

Steptoe, John. ***Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters***, 1987. Retelling of a Zimbabwean folktale about two sisters, one kind and one selfish, competing to become the king's queen.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. ***My First Little House Picture Books***, 1932. Four-year-old Laura Ingalls describes a year of pioneer family life, chores, and seasonal traditions in 1870s Wisconsin.

Wise, William. ***The Black Falcon, a Tale from the Decameron***, 1990. A poor knight secretly loves a noblewoman; when she visits, he unknowingly serves her his cherished falcon, his last possession.

History / Nonfiction

Arnosky, Jim. ***Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Birds***, 1992. Crinkleroot the woodsman guides children through birdwatching basics: identifying species, calls, nests, and bird anatomy in the wild.

Arnosky, Jim. ***Wild and Swampy*** and others, 2000. A picture-book nature guide exploring swamp wildlife—alligators, snakes, birds—through Arnosky's paintings and sketches, celebrating natural observation.

Aston, Dianna Hutts. ***A Seed Is Sleepy*** and others, 2007. Poetic nonfiction picture book exploring how seeds sleep, travel, and sprout, celebrating the wonder and diversity found in nature's design.

Bancroft, Henrietta. ***Animals in Winter***, 1963. Nonfiction picture book explaining how animals like woodchucks and butterflies survive winter through migration, hibernation, and adaptation.

Barretta, Gene. ***Neo Leo: The Ageless Ideas of Leonardo da Vinci***, 2009. Picture book showing how Leonardo da Vinci's notebook sketches predicted inventions like helicopters, contact lenses, and robots centuries early.

Berkes, Marianne Collins. ***Going Home: The Mystery of Animal Migration***, 2010. A rhyming picture book describing ten animals' migrations by air, land, and sea, exploring why and how they travel.

Blomgren, Jennifer. ***Where Would I Be in an Evergreen Tree?***, 2004. A rhyming picture book exploring an evergreen tree's ecosystem, showing the plants and animals it supports across centuries.

Borden, Louise. ***America Is..***, 2002. A poetic picture book celebrating America's diverse landscapes, people, and ideals, from farms to cities, unified as one nation.

Brandt, Keith. ***Wonders of the Seasons***, 1982. A children's science book explaining how Earth's orbit and axial tilt around the sun cause the four seasons.

Brown, Margaret Wise. ***The Important Book***, 1949. A poetic picture book describing the essential quality of everyday things like rain, snow, and grass, celebrating individuality.

Cameron, Pamela. ***Sport: Ship Dog of the Great Lakes***, 2019. True story of Sport, a Newfoundland-retriever mix rescued in 1914 and adopted as a mascot by a Great Lakes lighthouse tender ship crew.

Fredericks, Anthony. ***Under One Rock*** and others, 2001. Rhyming children's picture book exploring the community of creatures—worms, ants, spiders, slugs—living beneath a backyard rock; theme of ecological interdependence.

Fritz, Jean. ***Champion Dog, Prince Tom***, 1958. True story of Prince Tom, an undersized cocker spaniel who overcomes being underestimated to become a champion show and hunting dog.

George, Lindsay Barrett. ***In the Snow***, 1995. Two siblings, William and Cammy, hike through snowy woods discovering animal tracks and signs, guessing which creature left each clue.



Gibbons, Gail. ***Ladybugs***, 2012. Nonfiction picture book explaining ladybug anatomy, life cycle, habitat, and their beneficial role in eating crop-damaging insects.

Gibbons, Gail. ***The Vegetables We Eat***, 2007. Nonfiction picture book categorizing vegetables into eight groups by plant part eaten, covering growing, shipping, and variety.

Glaser, Linda. ***Brilliant Bees***, 2003. A young girl observes honeybees, learning how they collect nectar, communicate, pollinate, build hives, and raise young.

Glaser, Linda. ***Hello, Squirrels!***, 2006. Nonfiction picture book following gray squirrels through the four seasons, from spring birth to autumn foraging and winter dormancy.

Glaser, Linda. ***Spectacular Spiders***, 1999. A nonfiction picture book describing the garden spider's body, web-spinning, and hunting habits, celebrating the wonder of nature's small creatures.

Guiberson, Brenda Z. ***Cactus Hotel***, 1991. Nonfiction picture book tracing a giant saguaro cactus's life cycle over 200 years as it shelters desert animals in a fragile ecosystem.

Guiberson, Brenda Z. ***Winter Wheat***, 1995. Picture book following Farmer Albert and his dog through the seasonal cycle of planting, growing, and harvesting winter wheat.

Hall, Kirsten. ***The Honeybee***, 2018. Lyrical picture book following a honeybee through its yearlong journey from spring to spring, celebrating pollination and nature.

Heller, Ruth. ***How to Hide a Butterfly*** and others, 1985. Rhyming nonfiction picture book inviting readers to spot camouflaged insects hidden in illustrations, exploring nature's survival adaptations.

Heller, Ruth. ***The Reason for a Flower***, 1983. A rhyming, illustrated nonfiction picture book explaining how flowers reproduce, form seeds, and why some non-flower-like plants are actually flowers.

Himmelman, John. ***A Wood Frog's Life*** and others, 1998. A nonfiction picture book following the daily life and life cycle of a wood frog, from egg-laying through hibernation, in nature.

Himmelman, John. ***Noisy Bird Sing-along***, 2015. A picture book introducing children to twelve North American birds through their distinctive songs, encouraging outdoor birdwatching and nature awareness.

Hornblow, Leonora. ***Insects Do the Strangest Things***, 1968. Nonfiction children's book describing nineteen insects' strange traits, like walking stick camouflage and driver ants, celebrating nature's wonders.

Jay, Alison. ***Picture This...***, 1999. A wordless-style board book where single labeled words and folk-art paintings hide visual clues linking each page to the next.

Krebs, Laurie. ***We're Riding on a Caravan***, 2005. Rhyming picture book following a Chinese family's year-long Silk Road caravan journey from Xi'an to trade silk at Kashgar's bazaar.

Lasky, Kathryn. ***Marven of the Great North Woods***, 1997. True story of Jewish boy Marven sent to a 1918 Minnesota logging camp during flu epidemic, befriending French-Canadian lumberjack Jean-Louis.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. ***Paul Revere's Ride***, 1861. Narrative poem recounting Paul Revere's 1775 midnight ride warning colonists of the approaching British; celebrates courage and vigilance in a nation's crisis.

Milton, Nancy. ***The Giraffe That Walked to Paris***, 1992. True story of a giraffe sent by Egypt's pasha to France's king in 1826, walking from Marseilles to Paris.

Mishica, Clare. ***Billions of Bugs***, 2003. A children's nonfiction picture book exploring diverse insect species and their traits, framed as marvels of God's creation.

Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Hands & Hearts: With 15 Words in American Sign Language***, 2014. A mother and daughter spend a joyful beach day communicating through American Sign Language, celebrating their loving bond and gentle learning.

Peet, Bill. ***Capyboppy***, 1966. True story of the Peet family's pet capybara Capyboppy, exploring the joys and challenges of raising an exotic wild animal as a pet.

Rand, Gloria. ***Baby in a Basket***, 1997. True story of a 1917 Alaska sleigh accident where baby Ann is swept away in an icy river but miraculously found alive.

Rodgers, Richard. ***My Favorite Things***, 1959. Illustrated picture book adaptation of the Rodgers and Hammerstein song from The Sound of Music, celebrating simple joys throughout the year.

Rydaker, Ewa. ***Lucia Morning in Sweden***, 2002. Picture book following three Swedish children preparing for St. Lucia Day, with recipes, songs, and traditions celebrating light and hope.

Selsam, Millicent E. ***Greg's Microscope*** and others, 1963. Greg gets a microscope and discovers the hidden world in household items like sugar, salt, thread, and hair, sparking scientific curiosity.

Souci, Robert D. San. ***N.C. Wyeth's Pilgrims***, 1991. Picture-book history of the Pilgrims' Mayflower voyage, Plymouth settlement, and first Thanksgiving, paired with Wyeth's murals.

Spier, Peter. ***The Star-Spangled Banner***, 1973. Picture book pairing the national anthem's verses with historical War of 1812 scenes and modern American imagery celebrating patriotic heritage.

Swanson, Shari. ***Gertie, the Darling Duck of WWII***, 2023. True story of Gertie, a Milwaukee mallard who nested precariously above a river in 1945, lifting war-weary spirits worldwide.

Tunnell, Michael O. ***Mailing May***, 1997. True story of five-year-old Charlotte May, mailed via parcel post across Idaho mountains in 1914 to visit her grandmother.

Udry, Janice May. ***A Tree Is Nice***, 1956. A poetic picture book listing simple, joyful reasons trees are wonderful, celebrating nature's everyday beauty and usefulness.

Vaughan, Marcia K. ***Abbie Against the Storm***, 2000. Picture-book account of teenage Abbie Burgess, who single-handedly kept her family's Maine lighthouse lit during a brutal 1856 winter storm.

Vernick, Audrey. ***Brothers at Bat***, 2012. True story of the Acerra family's twelve sons who formed a semi-pro baseball team in 1930s New Jersey, the longest-running all-brother team.

Ward, Jennifer. ***Mama Built a Little Nest***, 2014. Rhyming nonfiction picture book describing diverse bird nests, from falcon scrapes to owl burrows, celebrating nature's variety and maternal care.

Waters, Kate. ***Sarah Morton's Day***, 1989. Photo-illustrated nonfiction following a Pilgrim girl's daily chores at Plimoth Plantation, exploring family adjustment to a new stepfather.

White, Dianne. ***Blue on Blue***, 2014. A farming family experiences a wild seaside thunderstorm, from rising wind and rain to sunny, muddy aftermath; celebrates nature's rhythms.

Wilkin, Eloise. ***My Little Golden Book About God*** and others, 1956. A poetic, gentle introduction to God for children, showing how nature's small wonders reveal His loving presence everywhere.

Mystery / Adventure

Bonsall, Crosby Newell. ***The Case of the Double Cross***, 1980. Marigold and her friends trick their way into the all-boys 'Wizard's Private Eyes' detective club by solving a coded mystery.

Bonsall, Crosby Newell. ***The Case of the Hungry Stranger***, 1963. Four young detectives—Wizard, Skinny, Tubby, and Snitch—investigate who ate their neighbor's blueberry pie, using clues to solve the case.

Laurence, Daniel. ***Captain and Matey Set Sail***, 2001. Two bickering pirates, Captain and Matey, and their parrot Squawk have silly high-seas adventures, learning friendship matters more than treasure.

Lewis, Beverly. ***The Cul-de-Sac Kids*** series, 1993. Abby and Carly expect adopted Korean sisters, but brothers arrive instead, teaching them to trust God's surprising plans.

Mosel, Arlene. ***Tikki Tikki Tembo***, 1968. A retold Chinese folktale about a boy with an extremely long name who falls into a well, explaining why names became short.

Platt, Kin. ***BIG MAX the World's Greatest Detective***, 1965. Detective Big Max travels by umbrella to help the King of Pooka Pooka find his stolen prize elephant, Jumbo, using clever deduction.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. ***Nate the Great*** series, 1972. Boy detective Nate the Great investigates when his friend Annie loses a painting of her dog Fang, using logic and clues.

Supraner, Robyn. ***Sam Sunday and the Mystery at the Ocean Beach Hotel***, 1996. Bear detective Sam Sunday, sad his friends forgot his birthday, investigates vanishing items at a decrepit hotel—only to find a surprise party.

Titus, Eve. ***The Great Mouse Detective Stories***, 1958. Basil, a Sherlock Holmes-admiring mouse detective living beneath 221B Baker Street, solves cases such as a twins' kidnapping using clever deduction.

* Tompert, Ann. ***The Errant Knight***, 2003. A knight traveling to serve his king is repeatedly delayed by people needing his aid, ultimately fulfilling duty through compassion.

Ungerer, Tomi. ***Fog Island***, 2013. Siblings Finn and Cara, castaway on forbidding Fog Island, meet a mysterious Fog Man and learn appearances can deceive; theme of facing fear of the unknown.

Vinton, Iris. ***Look Out for Pirates!***, 1961. Beginner-reader adventure: pirates chase Captain Jim's ship, which capsizes and loses gold, until quick thinking retrieves the treasure.

Warner, Gertrude Chandler. ***The Boxcar Children***, 1924. Four orphaned siblings flee their unknown grandfather, make a home in an abandoned boxcar, and learn self-reliance together.

Realistic Fiction

Ackerman, Karen. ***Just Like Max***, 1990. A boy learns tailoring from his ailing great-uncle Max, becoming his hands and continuing the family craft across generations.

Ada, Alma Flor. ***The Gold Coin***, 1991. A hardened thief pursuing an old healer's gold coin is transformed by the kindness and honest labor of strangers he meets.

Angeli, Marguerite de. ***Bright April*** and others, 1946. A nine-year-old Black girl in 1940s Philadelphia joins a Brownie troop, faces her first encounter with racial prejudice, and finds friendship.

Angeli, Marguerite de. ***Yonie Wondernose***, 1944. A curious Amish boy left in charge of the farm overnight must brave a barn fire during a storm to save the animals.

Anno, Mitsumasa. ***Anno's Counting Book***, 1977. A wordless picture book showing a Japanese village growing from one to twelve buildings across the twelve months, teaching counting and seasons.

Ardizzone, Edward. ***Tim All Alone*** and others, 1956. A boy returns from holiday to find his parents mysteriously gone and sails the seas seeking them, encountering kind and unhelpful strangers alike.

Barnett, Mac. ***Sam and Dave Dig a Hole***, 2014. Two boys dig a hole seeking something spectacular, finding only dirt until an unexpected, ambiguous discovery makes their day extraordinary.

Bemelmans, Ludwig. ***Madeline*** series, 1939. A spirited seven-year-old at a Paris boarding school suffers a sudden appendicitis attack and becomes the envy of classmates after her hospital stay.

Bethers, Linda. ***Christmas Oranges***, 1999. Orphan Rose is sent to a cruel orphanage; when she is denied a Christmas orange, other children secretly share theirs with her.

Bonsall, Crosby Newell. ***Who's a Pest?***, 1962. Homer's sisters call him a pest, but he proves them wrong by rescuing them and several animals from danger.

Brisley, Joyce Lankester. ***Milly-Molly-Mandy Stories***, 1928. Gentle short stories about a young English girl's everyday village adventures with family, friends, and neighbors in the 1920s countryside.

Brown, Marc. ***Arthur's Chicken Pox***, 1994. Arthur catches chicken pox before a family circus trip while jealous sister D.W. fakes illness for attention, then gets real spots herself.

Brown, Marcia. ***Stone Soup***, 1947. Three hungry soldiers trick greedy villagers into sharing food for a communal stone soup feast, teaching generosity and cooperation.

Brown, Margaret Wise. ***Goodnight Moon*** and others, 1947. A little bunny in a great green room says goodnight to familiar objects before sleep, evoking comforting bedtime ritual and calm.

Brown, Margaret Wise. ***The Little Fir Tree***, 1954. A lonely fir tree in a field is dug up each Christmas to bring joy to a bedridden boy, until he finally walks to it.

Brown, Margaret Wise. ***The Little Fireman***, 1938. A big fireman and a little fireman, next-door neighbors, each battle a differently-sized fire, celebrating fitting one's size to one's task.

Brown, Margaret Wise. ***The Little Island***, 1946. A little island in the ocean changes through seasons and weather; a visiting kitten learns its secret about belonging and interconnectedness.

Brumbeau, Jeff. ***Miss Hunnicutt's Hat***, 2003. Miss Hunnicutt wears a hat with a live chicken to the Queen's visit, standing firm despite townsfolk's disapproval; celebrates individuality.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. ***Daniel's Duck***, 1979. A pioneer boy in Tennessee spends winter carving a wooden duck for the spring fair, and copes with others' laughter at his art.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. ***Shoeshine Girl***, 1975. Ten-year-old Sarah Ida, sent to her aunt's for the summer, takes a shoeshine job and learns responsibility and compassion.

Bunting, Eve. ***Clancy's Coat***, 1984. An Irish tailor delays mending a farmer's old coat, but their visits during the repair slowly rebuild their broken friendship and forgiveness.

Caudill, Rebecca. ***Happy Little Family***, 1947. Four-year-old Bonnie Fairchild joins her siblings' seasonal adventures on an early 1900s Kentucky farm, seeking to feel grown-up.

Caudill, Rebecca. ***Saturday Cousins***, 1953. Two families of cousins in early 20th-century Kentucky take turns visiting each other every Saturday, sharing simple childhood adventures.

Clarkson, Nathan. ***The Clubhouse***, 2021. A brother and sister transform their backyard clubhouse into a castle, ship, space rocket, and even a church through imaginative play.

Cole, Henry. ***The Littlest Evergreen***, 2011. A young evergreen tree is harvested with roots intact, celebrated at Christmas, then replanted outdoors, growing tall again.

Cooney, Barbara. ***Island Boy***, 1988. Matthias grows up on a small Maine island, sails the world as a young man, then returns home to marry, farm, and grow old there.

Cooney, Barbara. ***Miss Rumphius***, 1982. Alice Rumphius travels the world, settles by the sea, then plants lupine flowers everywhere to beautify it.

Credle, Ellis. ***Andy and the Circus***, 1971. A boy bicycles to town seeking a job at the circus, helping family and friends along the way, learning self-reliance and kindness.

Credle, Ellis. ***Down Down the Mountain***, 1934. Appalachian siblings Hetty and Hank grow turnips to sell for shoes, generously giving turnips away on their journey to town.

Dalgliesh, Alice. ***The Bears on Hemlock Mountain***, 1952. Eight-year-old Jonathan crosses Hemlock Mountain alone on an errand, doubting bear warnings, until he encounters real bears and finds courage.

Devlin, Wende. ***Cranberry Thanksgiving***, 1971. Grandmother and Maggie prepare cranberry bread for Thanksgiving guests, learning not to judge people by appearances when accusing a suspect.

Estes, Eleanor. ***The Moffats***, 1941. Episodic tales of four siblings and their widowed mother in small-town Cranbury, Connecticut, celebrating family warmth and childhood joy.

Ets, Marie Hall. ***In the Forest***, 1944. A young boy imagines a parade of forest animals joining his walk while blowing his new horn, until his father calls him home.

Ets, Marie Hall;. ***Gilberto and the Wind***, 1963. A young Mexican boy named Gilberto explores the wind as an unpredictable playmate—sometimes helpful, sometimes mischievous, sometimes frightening.

Fox, Mem. ***Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge***, 1984. A small boy living next to a nursing home helps his elderly friend Miss Nancy recover her lost memories using cherished objects.

Gauch, Patricia Lee. ***Christina Katerina and the Box***, 1971. A creative girl transforms a huge refrigerator box into a castle, clubhouse, and more with her friend, celebrating imaginative play.

Guilfoile, Elizabeth. ***Nobody Listens to Andrew***, 1957. A young boy named Andrew tries to tell his busy family and neighbor about a bear in his room, but no one listens.

Harshman, Marc. ***Rocks in My Pockets***, 1991. A poor Appalachian family discovers their pocket rocks are valuable to city folk, testing honesty and resourcefulness over money.

Heide, Florence Parry. ***The Problem with Pulcifer***, 1982. Satirical children's story about a boy whose love of reading books, instead of watching TV, worries his parents and teacher.

Hoban, Lillian. ***Arthur's Funny Money***, 1981. Arthur the chimpanzee earns money with sister Violet's help to buy a T-shirt and cap, learning basic business and money concepts.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. ***The Seven Silly Eaters***, 1997. Rhyming picture book about seven picky-eating siblings whose escalating food demands exhaust their mother until they surprise her with a birthday cake.

Hughes, Shirley. ***Dogger***, 1977. A young boy named Dave loses his beloved stuffed toy dog and his family searches for it, exploring love and sibling kindness.

Hughes, Shirley. ***Out and About***, 1988. A picture-book collection of poems following young Katie and her baby brother Olly enjoying outdoor play through the four seasons.

Isadora, Rachel. ***Lili at Ballet***, 1993. Picture book following young Lili as she attends ballet class, learns positions and steps, and dreams of becoming a ballerina.

Johnston, Tony. ***Yonder***, 1988. A plum tree planted by a young farmer witnesses three generations of births, marriages, and deaths on a 19th-century farm.

Keats, Ezra Jack. ***The Snowy Day*** and others, 1962. Picture book following Peter, an African American boy, as he joyfully explores his neighborhood after the first snowfall of the year.

Kessler, Leonard P. ***Mr. Pine's Mixed-Up Signs*** and others, 1961. Sign painter Mr. Pine loses his glasses and hangs all his newly painted town signs in the wrong places, causing comic confusion.

Krasilovsky, Phyllis. ***The Man Who Entered a Contest***, 1980. A picture book about a man who enters a baking contest and wins in a surprising, humorous twist ending.

Krauss, Ruth. ***The Backward Day***, 1950. A boy declares a backward day, dressing and acting in reverse order, until his family reverses the spell to restore normalcy.

Krauss, Ruth. ***The Carrot Seed***, 1945. A little boy plants a carrot seed and patiently tends it despite everyone insisting it won't grow, celebrating faith and perseverance.

LaMarche, Jim. ***The Raft***, 2000. A reluctant boy spends a summer with his grandmother by a Wisconsin river, discovering nature's wonders and his artistic talent.

Lattimore, Eleanor F. ***Little Pear***, 1931. A mischievous young boy in a Chinese village has adventures involving a fair, a kite, firecrackers, and a river rescue.

Lenski, Lois. ***Mr. Small*** and others, 1980. Picture book compilation where Mr. Small drives his automobile, sails his boat, and flies his airplane, introducing young children to transportation.

Levine, Evan. ***Not the Piano, Mrs. Medley!***, 1991. Overpacking grandmother Mrs. Medley repeatedly turns back for more gear on a walk to the beach with grandson Max; theme of appreciating simple joys.

Levinson, Riki. ***I Go with My Family to Grandma's***, 1986. Five cousins from New York's boroughs travel by different means to Grandma's house for a family reunion and photograph.

Lindman, Maj. ***Flicka, Ricka, Dicka Series for Girls***, 1939. Wholesome tales of blonde Swedish triplet sisters whose everyday adventures highlight helpfulness, kindness, and responsibility toward neighbors.

Lindman, Maj. ***Snipp, Snapp, Snurr Series for Boys***, 1932. Series about three Swedish triplet boys who have wholesome, light-hearted adventures while learning hard work, resourcefulness, and kindness.

Locker, Thomas. ***Where the River Begins***, 1984. Two boys, Josh and Aaron, journey upriver with their grandfather to discover the river's source, marveling at nature's beauty.

Lovelace, Maud Hart. ***Betsy-Tacy***, 1940. Five-year-old Betsy Ray befriends new neighbor Tacy Kelly in 1897 Minnesota; a warm tale of childhood friendship and imagination.

MacLachlan, Patricia. ***All the Places to Love***, 1994. A boy named Eli celebrates his family farm's cherished places with parents and grandparents, later sharing them with his baby sister.

MacLachlan, Patricia. ***Through Grandpa's Eyes***, 1980. A young boy discovers his blind grandfather's rich way of experiencing the world through sound, touch, and other senses.

Matsuno, Masako. ***A Pair of Red Clogs***, 1960. A Japanese girl cracks her new red clogs and is tempted to damage them further to get a new pair, then learns honesty.

McLerran, Alice. ***Roxaboxen***, 1991. True story of children in 1910s Yuma, Arizona who transform a rocky desert hill into an imaginary town using boxes and stones.

Menotti, Andrea. ***How Many Jelly Beans?***, 2012. Siblings Emma and Aiden debate jelly bean quantities, exploring numbers up to one million in this playful counting picture book.

Mills, Lauren A. ***The Rag Coat***, 1991. A poor Appalachian girl, mocked for her patchwork coat, wins classmates over by sharing the story behind each cloth scrap.

Miranda, Patricia J. ***Leaf Man***, 2019. A boy in a deforested field builds a leaf figure from fallen twigs and leaves, inspiring renewal, hope, and creative dreaming.

Oakes, Nathaniel B. ***The Adventures of Nathaniel B. Oakes***, 2010. Humorous true-ish tall tales of fifteen siblings' adventures and misadventures growing up on a small Western farm.

Parish, Peggy. ***Amelia Bedelia*** series, 1963. A new housekeeper follows household instructions with comic literalism, mixing up idioms and chores, delighting employers with her humor and pie.

Parish, Peggy. ***Granny and the Desperadoes***, 1970. Granny Guntry catches two escaped desperadoes who stole her pie and puts them to work doing chores, outwitting them comically.

Polacco, Patricia. ***Thunder Cake***, 1990. A young girl and her grandmother race to bake a cake before a thunderstorm arrives, helping her overcome her fear of thunder.

Rathmann, Peggy. ***The Day the Babies Crawled Away***, 2003. A boy in a fireman's hat chases five babies who crawl away from a picnic into danger, heroically rescuing each one.

Rinker, Sherri Duskey. ***Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site***, 2011. Rhyming bedtime story where construction vehicles—crane, cement mixer, dump truck, bulldozer, excavator—finish work and settle down to sleep.

Schmidt, Gary D. ***Long Road on a Short Day***, 2020. Samuel accompanies Papa on a winter trading journey, exchanging goods with neighbors to obtain the milk cow Mama needs.

Scieszka, Jon. ***The True Story of the Three Little Pigs***, 1989. The wolf recounts his own comic, self-serving version of the Three Little Pigs tale, parodying the classic fairy tale.

Scott, Ann Herbert. ***On Mother's Lap***, 1972. A little Inuit boy learns his mother's lap has room for both him and his new baby sister.

Seuss, Dr. ***And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street***, 1937. Marco transforms a plain horse and wagon into a fantastical parade on Mulberry Street to tell his father, celebrating childhood imagination.

Seuss, Dr. ***Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?***, 1970. Mr. Brown imitates fun sounds—animal noises, weather, and everyday objects—inviting children to make the sounds too.

Shaw, Stephanie. ***Piece by Piece***, 2016. A weaver crafts a beautiful dress from nature-inspired fabric, which her children later repurpose into a quilt, celebrating creativity and family love.

Slobodkin, Florence. ***Sarah Somebody***, 1969. In 1893 Poland, a poor Jewish girl named Sarah gets a rare chance to attend school and learn to read and write.

Steig, William. ***Brave Irene***, 1986. Irene Bobbin braves a fierce snowstorm to deliver a ball gown to the duchess, showing courage and perseverance despite danger.

Wells, Rosemary. ***Forest of Dreams***, 1988. A young girl praises God for nature's beauty as winter melts into spring, rejoicing with forest animals in a lyrical picture book.

Wheeler, Eliza. ***Miss Maple's Seeds***, 2013. A tiny woman named Miss Maple gathers lost seeds, nurtures them through winter in her tree home, then sends them off in spring to grow.

Zelinsky, Paul. ***Wheels on the Bus***, 1990. Interactive movable-parts picture book bringing the classic nursery rhyme to life as a bus travels through town, delighting young readers.

Ziefert, Harriet. ***A New Coat for Anna***, 1986. In post-WWII poverty, Anna's mother trades treasured possessions with villagers to craft her daughter a new winter coat.

Zolotow, Charlotte. ***Big Sister and Little Sister***, 1966. A little sister hides in a meadow to be alone, then comforts her big sister who cries searching for her; theme of sibling love.

Zolotow, Charlotte. ***The Sky Was Blue*** and others, 1963. A young girl and her mother look through a photo album of past generations, discovering timeless joys like blue skies and family love endure.

Zolotow, Charlotte. ***The Storm Book***, 1952. A summer thunderstorm moves across country, city, and seashore, delighting a boy and others who watch it pass into a rainbow.

Religion / Devotional

* Berger, Barbara. ***The Donkey's Dream***, 1985. A humble donkey dreams of carrying wondrous things while bearing Mary to Bethlehem, where she gives birth to Jesus.

* Betz, Eva K. ***Blessed Sebastian and the Oxen***, 1961. Children's biography of Blessed Sebastian de Aparicio, a humble Mexican road builder who became a Franciscan brother renowned for hard work and charity.

* Betz, Eva K. ***Saint Brigid and the Cows***, 1964. Children's tale of St. Brigid of Ireland, a king's daughter who tends cows and shows charity, obedience, and kindness to all creatures.

* Betz, Eva K. ***Saint Colum and the Crane***, 1961. Children's story of St. Colum (Columba) of Iona caring for a weary crane, teaching kindness toward God's creatures.

* Betz, Eva K. ***Saint Germaine and the Sheep***, 1961. A crippled, disfigured shepherdess saint tells children stories of God's creation, showing faith and joy despite suffering.

* Betz, Eva K. ***Saint Martin de Porres and the Mice***, 1965. Illustrated children's biography of St. Martin de Porres, showing his tender care for the poor, sick, and even mice.

Bishop, Jennie. ***The Princess and the Kiss***, 1999. A Christian allegory picture book where a princess treasures her first kiss, symbolizing purity, until marriage to a worthy man.

Bishop, Jennie. ***The Squire and the Scroll***, 2004. A squire aids his knight in a quest to recover a stolen lantern from a dragon, guided by scroll-based rules for guarding purity.

* Collington, Peter. ***A Small Miracle***, 1997. Wordless picture book: an impoverished elderly woman restores a vandalized nativity scene, and the figures come to life to reward her kindness.

* Demi. ***Saint Francis of Assisi***, 2012. Illustrated biography of St. Francis, a rich merchant's son who renounced wealth for poverty, preaching, and love of God's creatures.

* dePaola, Tomie. ***Clown of God***, 1978. An aging Italian juggler, once famous but now poor, offers his last juggling performance as a gift to the Christ Child.

* dePaola, Tomie. ***The Miracles of Jesus***, 1987. Picture book retelling twelve New Testament miracles of Jesus, from the Wedding at Cana to raising Lazarus, with Romanesque-style art.

* Doman, Regina. ***Angel in the Waters***, 2004. A picture book following the growth of an unborn baby in the womb who converses with its guardian angel about life's beginning.

* Dorham, Sylvia. ***The Monks' Daily Bread***, 2018. Rhyming picture book: monks at Archangel Monastery face empty cupboards, trusting God's providence for their daily bread.

* Fraser, Frank. ***Before I Was Me***, 2018. An unborn child converses with God, imagining careers like astronaut and baker, before realizing being God's beloved child matters most.

Gilman, Phoebe. ***Something from Nothing***, 1992. A grandfather transforms his grandson's baby blanket into ever-smaller items as it wears out, teaching resourcefulness and love in a Jewish shtetl.

Hague, Michael. ***A Child's Book of Prayers***, 1985. Michael Hague's illustrated anthology of traditional children's bedtime prayers, including 'The Lord's Prayer,' celebrating faith, comfort, and childlike trust in God.

* Hunt, Angela. ***The Tale of Three Trees***, 1989. Three trees dream of grand futures; their unexpected fates—manger, boat, and cross—reveal God's providence through Christ's life.

* Keats, Ezra Jack. ***The Little Drummer Boy***, 1968. Picture-book adaptation of the Christmas carol: a poor boy joins the procession to Bethlehem and drums for the newborn Christ Child.

* Kelly, Matthew. ***Why Am I Here?***, 2009. A curious boy named Max asks his grandfather life's ultimate question and learns to become the-best-version-of-himself through small daily choices.

Kushner, Lawrence. ***In God's Hands***, 2005. Picture book retelling a Jewish folktale: a rich man and a poor man unknowingly feed each other through bread left in the synagogue, discovering their hands do God's work.

* Linden, Theresa. ***Belt of Truth*** and others, 2019. George Pennington strives for Knight School, but lying about burning his mother's tapestry threatens his quest to earn the Belt of Truth.

* Loyola, Mother Mary. ***The King of the Golden City***, 1921. Allegorical tale of a child, Dilecta, whose visits from a gracious King teach her about grace and Holy Communion.

Lucado, Max. ***The Crippled Lamb*** and others, 1999. A crippled, spotted lamb who feels left out discovers his special purpose when he warms the newborn baby Jesus in the Bethlehem stable.

* Maryknoll. ***Catholic Children's Treasure Box***, 1957. A young children's picture book teaching Catholic doctrine through stories on St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Baptism, and a Guardian Angel.

* McKeegan, Maura Roan. ***Into the Sea, Out of the Tomb: Jonah and Jesus***, 2016. Children's picture book pairing Jonah and Jesus to teach biblical typology, showing obedience to God's mission across Old and New Testaments.

Merheb, Natalie. ***This I Know***, 2020. Picture book following a family's road trip through nature, showing how sunrises, storms, and stars reveal God's beauty and power.

* Michelle Widmer-Schultz. ***The Too-Tall Swiss Guard***, 2024. A tall new Swiss Guard feels out of place in Rome until a Christmas encounter with Pope John Paul II changes his outlook.

* Milligan, Bryce. ***Brigid's Cloak***, 2002. Picture-book legend of young Brigid, given a mysterious cloak by a Druid, who is mystically led to the Nativity in Bethlehem.

* Nibali, Ellen. ***The Secret of St. Nicholas***, 2010. Picture book retelling of St. Nicholas secretly giving gold to save three sisters from slavery, inspiring the Christmas stocking tradition.

* Nicholson, Nancy. ***Bigger Stories for Little Folks***, 2009. Short stories featuring Greg Peterson and his family teach Catholic character lessons while reinforcing phonics and reading skills.

* Nicholson, Nancy. ***Devotional Stories for Little Folks***, 2002. Short real-life stories about the Catholic Peterson family, especially mischievous Greg, teaching children virtue through everyday faith experiences.

* Nicholson, Nancy. ***Devotional Stories for Little Folks, Too***, 2007. More short stories about the Peterson family children, teaching Catholic virtues like honesty, kindness, and faith through everyday life.

* Nobisso, Josephine. ***The Weight of a Mass***, 2002. A poor widow trades her wedding-Mass intention for bread, and a stingy baker learns no riches outweigh the Mass's worth.

Spier, Peter. ***Noah's Ark***, 1977. Wordless picture book depicting Noah building the ark and gathering paired animals to survive God's flood; theme of divine providence.

Spirin, Gennady. ***We Three Kings***, 1857. Illustrated picture book of the classic Christmas carol, following three kings guided by a star bearing gifts to the infant Jesus.

* Tompert, Ann. ***Saint Patrick***, 1998. Picture-book biography of St. Patrick, drawn from his own Confession, tracing slavery, conversion, and mission to Ireland.

* Tompert, Ann. ***The Pied Piper of Peru***, 2002. A mouse named Juana helps Brother Martin de Porres find a compassionate way to relocate a priory's mouse colony instead of killing them.

Tudor, Tasha. ***First Prayers*** and others, 1952. A collection of 25 traditional prayers, hymns, and graces illustrated by Tasha Tudor, for children's daily devotional use.

* Waddell, Martin. ***Room for a Little One***, 2004. A kind ox shelters a dog, cat, mouse, and donkey in his stable, then welcomes Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

Wildsmith, Brian. ***Exodus***, 1998. Illustrated Bible picture book retelling Exodus from Moses' birth through the Red Sea crossing to the Promised Land; theme of God's deliverance.

Wilkin, Eloise. ***The Christmas Story***, 1952. A Little Golden Book retelling of the Nativity: Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus in a stable.

* Wojciechowski, Susan. ***The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey***, 1995. A grieving, gruff woodcarver is transformed by a widow and her young son who commission a nativity set for Christmas.



GRADES 4–6

Animal Books

Armstrong, William H. ***Sounder***, 1969. A young Black sharecropper's son endures his father's imprisonment, learning courage, faith, and literacy through his bond with his dog Sounder.

Brooks, Walter R. ***Freddy the Pig*** series, 1932. Freddy the pig, inspired by Sherlock Holmes, becomes a detective to solve the mystery of a missing toy train and other farm crimes.

Burnford, Sheila. ***The Incredible Journey***, 1961. Three pets—a Labrador, a bull terrier, and a Siamese cat—trek 300 miles through Canadian wilderness to find their owners, showing loyalty and courage.

Clausen, Andrew. ***The Cricket in Times Square***, 1960. Chester Cricket travels from Connecticut to a Times Square newsstand, befriending Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat; themes of friendship and home.

Daly, Maureen. ***The Ginger Horse***, 1964. Thirteen-year-old Rob in a Scottish mining town befriends a pit pony, helping it escape the mines while facing his own future choices.

DeJong, Meindert. ***Along Came a Dog***, 1958. A stray dog befriends and protects an injured, toeless hen on a farm, exploring themes of loneliness, loyalty, and belonging.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***Because of Winn-Dixie***, 2000. Ten-year-old Opal adopts a stray dog in a small Florida town, forming friendships that heal loneliness, grief, and mistrust.

Estes, Eleanor. ***Ginger Pye***, 1951. A Newbery Medal-winning story of siblings Jerry and Rachel Pye searching for their beloved puppy Ginger after he is mysteriously stolen.

Farley, Walter. ***Black Stallion*** series, 1941. Teenage Alec Ramsay survives a shipwreck and bonds with a wild Arabian stallion stranded together on a desert island.

Gardiner, John Reynolds. ***Stone Fox***, 1980. A boy races his dog in a dogsled contest to win prize money and save his sick grandfather's Wyoming farm.

Garfield, James B. ***Follow My Leader***, 1957. A boy blinded by a firecracker accident learns independence and resilience through training with his new guide dog, Leader.

Gipson, Fred. ***Old Yeller***, 1956. In 1860s Texas, teenage Travis bonds with a stray dog while his father is away, but must shoot Old Yeller after he contracts rabies.

Henry, Marguerite. ***Black Gold***, 1957. Fictionalized true story of Black Gold, a small but spirited racehorse, and jockey Jaydee Mooney's bond, ending in triumph and tragedy.

Henry, Marguerite. ***Brighty of the Grand Canyon***, 1953. Fictionalized true story of a wild burro in the Grand Canyon who befriends a prospector and later helps bring his murderer to justice.

Henry, Marguerite. ***Cinnabar, the One O'Clock Fox***, 1956. A clever fox named Cinnabar humorously outwits George Washington's hunting hounds while caring for his family at Mount Vernon.

Henry, Marguerite. ***Gaudenzia, Pride of the Palio***, 1960. An Italian boy, Giorgio Terni, trains a neglected workhorse mare, Gaudenzia, to race and win the historic Palio in Siena.

Henry, Marguerite. ***King of the Wind***, 1948. Fictionalized true story of Sham, an Arabian horse who becomes the Godolphin Arabian, and Agba, his devoted mute stableboy caretaker.

Henry, Marguerite. ***Misty of Chincoteague*** series, 1947. Siblings Paul and Maureen Beebe strive to earn money to capture and own the legendary wild mare Phantom and her foal on Chincoteague Island.

Henry, Marguerite. ***White Stallion of Lipizza***, 1964. A baker's son in Vienna dreams of becoming a rider at the Spanish Riding School, training the famed white Lipizzaner stallions.

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Herriot, James. ***James Herriot's Treasury for Children***, 1992. A collection of James Herriot's animal stories for children, including Moses the Kitten and Smudge, celebrating rural Yorkshire farm life.

James, Will. ***Smoky the Cowhorse***, 1926. A wild colt is captured and trained by cowboy Clint, becomes a prize cowhorse, then suffers theft, abuse, and rodeo life before rescue.

Karwoski, Gail Langer. ***Seaman***, 1999. Historical novel about Seaman, the Newfoundland dog who accompanied Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery across America.

Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. ***Balto and the Great Race***, 1999. True story of Balto, a sled dog who led a team through a blizzard to deliver diphtheria antitoxin to Nome, Alaska in 1925.

Kipling, Rudyard. ***The Jungle Book***, 1894. Mowgli, a boy raised by wolves in the Indian jungle, learns the Law of the Jungle and confronts the tiger Shere Khan.

Kjelgaard, Jim. ***Big Red*** and others, 1945. Teen trapper Danny Pickett bonds with champion Irish setter Big Red, facing wilderness dangers and a legendary bear together.

Knight, Eric. ***Lassie Come-Home***, 1940. A Yorkshire boy's collie, sold to a Scottish duke, escapes and treks hundreds of miles through hardship to return home to him.

Langton, Jane. ***The Fledgling***, 1980. Young Georgie befriends a magical Canada goose that teaches her to fly at Walden Pond, while a hunter threatens to kill him.

Larom, Henry V. ***Mountain Pony*** series, 1946. Andy buys and bonds with a mistreated sorrel pony, Sunny, then joins his game-warden uncle tracking dangerous poachers in Wyoming.

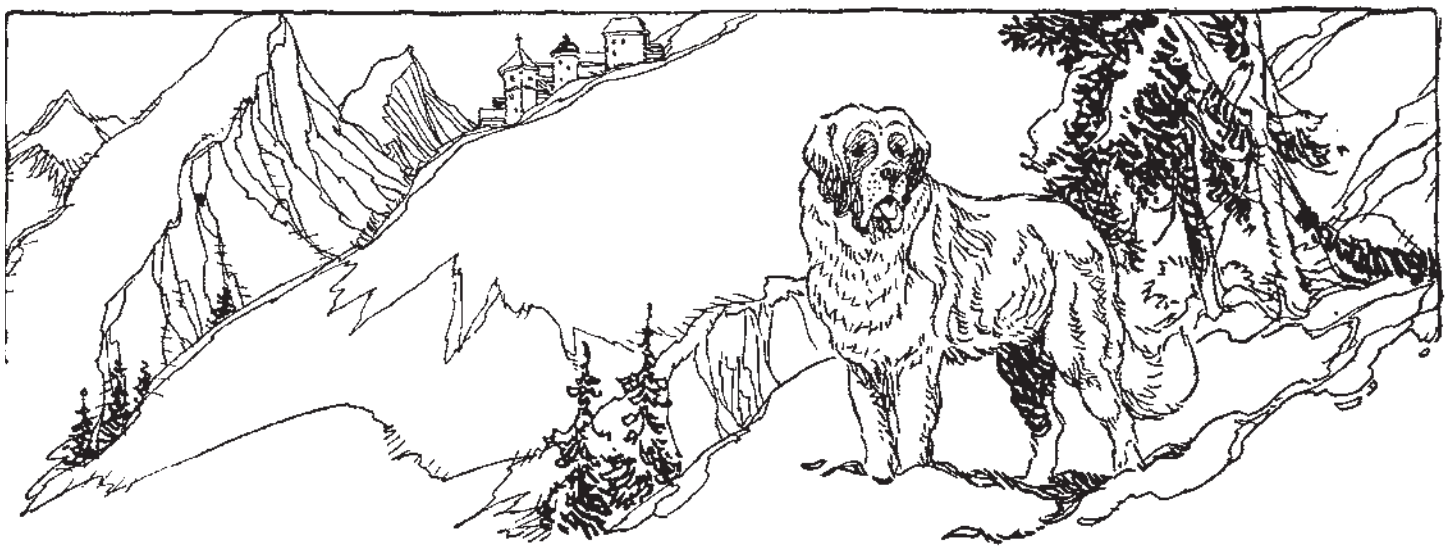
Lofting, Hugh. ***Doctor Dolittle*** series, 1920. An English doctor learns animal languages, abandons his medical practice, and journeys to Africa to cure a monkey epidemic.

London, Jack. ***White Fang***, 1906. A wolfdog's journey from the brutal Yukon wild through cruel captivity to redemption via a kind master's love and patience.

Montgomery, Rutherford George. ***Kildee House***, 1949. A retired stonemason builds a home against a redwood tree, becoming a refuge for multiplying raccoons and skunks that threaten to overwhelm him.

Morey, Walt. ***Gentle Ben***, 1965. A lonely boy named Mark forms a deep friendship with Ben, a mistreated Alaskan brown bear, in a remote fishing village.

Morris, Willie. ***My Dog Skip***, 1995. Memoir of Willie Morris's boyhood in 1940s Yazoo City, Mississippi, and his deep bond with his dog Skip.



Mowat, Farley. ***Owls in the Family***, 1961. Billy, a Saskatoon boy, adopts two great horned owls, Wol and Weeps, whose antics upend his family and town.

Mukerji, Dhan Gopal. ***Gay-Neck***, 1927. A Bengali boy raises and trains his carrier pigeon Gay-Neck, who serves valiantly delivering messages on the WWI French battlefield.

Nye, Julie. ***Scout***, 1987. A boy bonds with an injured, mysteriously trained dog he finds on a Michigan island, learning that God answers prayer.

O'Brien, John "Jack" Sherman. ***Silver Chief, Dog of the North***, 1933. A Mountie sergeant befriends and trains a wild wolf-husky pup in the Canadian north; theme of loyalty and man-animal bond.

Rankin, Louise. ***Daughter of the Mountains***, 1948. A brave Tibetan girl, Momo, journeys alone from the Himalayas to Calcutta to recover her beloved stolen Lhasa Terrier, Pempa.

Rawls, Wilson. ***Summer of the Monkeys***, 1976. A boy in the Ozarks tries to catch escaped circus monkeys for reward money to help pay for his crippled sister's surgery.

Rawls, Wilson. ***Where the Red Fern Grows***, 1961. A boy in the Ozarks saves for two coonhounds, forming a devoted bond; themes of perseverance, sacrifice, and love ending in loss.

Salten, Felix. ***Bambi***, 1923. A young roe deer named Bambi grows from fawn to solitary stag, learning survival, loss, and the dangers posed by human hunters.

Sewell, Anna. ***Black Beauty***, 1877. A horse narrates his life from carefree colt to abused cab horse, exposing cruelty and championing humane treatment of animals.

Smith, Dodie. ***The Hundred and One Dalmatians***, 1956. Dalmatians Pongo and Missis rescue their stolen puppies from fur-obsessed Cruella de Vil, fleeing with dozens of rescued dogs to safety.

Smith, Samuel Dale. ***The Green Ember*** series, 2014. Rabbit siblings Heather and Picket are swept into a war against tyranny, discovering their family's hidden role in a fallen kingdom's fight for redemption.

Taylor, Don Alonzo. ***Old Sam and the Horse Thieves***, 1967. Sequel to Old Sam, Dakota Trotter: young Johnny Scott and friends track down horse thieves who steal his beloved trotter Old Sam in 1880s Dakota.

Taylor, Don Alonzo. ***Old Sam, Dakota Trotter***, 1955. Two brothers homestead 1880s Dakota Territory with Old Sam, a crippled ex-champion trotter, sharing prairie adventures and rediscovered talent.

Terhune, Albert Payson. ***Lad: A Dog*** and others, 1919. Twelve linked stories chronicling a loyal, heroic collie's adventures protecting his family, fighting burglars, and winning dog shows.

Tolstoy, Leo. ***Lion and the Puppy***, 1875. A puppy placed in a zoo lion's cage forms a deep bond with the lion; when the puppy dies, the grieving lion soon dies too.

* Trevino, Elizabeth Borton de. ***Nacar, the White Deer***, 1963. In 17th-century Mexico, a mute shepherd boy nurses a sick albino deer meant as a gift for the King of Spain, growing in courage and love.

White, E. B. ***Charlotte's Web***, 1952. A pig named Wilbur is saved from slaughter by a barn spider, Charlotte, exploring friendship, sacrifice, and the cycle of life.

Biography / Memoir

Abernathy, Alta. ***Bud & Me: The True Adventures of the Abernathy Boys***, 1998. True story of young brothers Bud and Temple Abernathy's unsupervised horseback, car, and motorcycle journeys across America in the early 1900s.

Daugherty, James. ***Daniel Boone*** and others, 1939. Newbery-winning biography of frontiersman Daniel Boone's restless westward journeys, pioneering exploits, and conflicts on the American frontier.

Davidson, Margaret. ***Louis Braille the Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind***, 1971. Biography of Louis Braille, blinded as a child, who as a boy invented a raised-dot reading system for the blind.

Doss, Helen Grigsby. ***The Family Nobody Wanted***, 1954. Memoir by Helen Doss recounting how she and her Methodist minister husband adopted twelve mixed-race children, facing prejudice while building a loving family.

Gilbreth, Frank. ***Cheaper by the Dozen***, 1948. Memoir by two of the twelve Gilbreth children recounting their large family's humorous, efficiency-driven upbringing in early 1900s New Jersey.

Hautzig, Esther Rudomin. ***The Endless Steppe***, 1968. Memoir of Esther Hautzig's childhood exile with her family to Siberia after Soviet arrest during WWII; theme of resilience amid hardship.

Henry, Marguerite. ***Benjamin West and His Cat Grimalkin***, 1947. Biographical novel about young Quaker artist Benjamin West, whose cat Grimalkin's tail hair becomes his first paintbrush; theme: pursuing one's God-given talent despite family disapproval.

Hunter, Edith Fisher. ***Child of the Silent Night***, 1963. Biography of Laura Bridgman, the first deaf-blind child educated in America, decades before Helen Keller; theme of overcoming isolation.

* Killilea, Marie Lyons. ***Karen***, 1952. True memoir by a mother of her daughter Karen's triumph over cerebral palsy through faith, family devotion, and refusal to institutionalize her.

* Kurelek, William. ***A Prairie Boy's Winter***, 1973. William Kurelek's illustrated memoir recalls a 1930s Canadian prairie boyhood's daily winter chores, hardships, and simple joys.

Kurelek, William. ***Lumberjack***, 1974. William Kurelek's autobiographical paintings and stories recount his youth working as a lumberjack in the Canadian bush.

Latham, Jean Lee. ***Elizabeth Blackwell***, 1975. Biography of Elizabeth Blackwell, first American woman to earn a medical degree, who opened medicine to women in England and America.

Lawson, Robert. ***Ben and Me*** and others, 1939. A witty mouse named Amos claims credit for Benjamin Franklin's famous inventions and ideas, blending history with humor and friendship.

* Lee, Holly Geiger. ***The Life of Chesterton: The Man Who Carried a Swordstick and a Pen***, 2024. A homeschool-friendly biography tracing G.K. Chesterton's life and his bold, joyful defense of Christian faith.

MacDonald, Fiona. ***Marco Polo***, 1998. Nonfiction picture book tracing Marco Polo's Silk Road journey to China, exploring the cultures, people, and places he encountered.

Moody, Ralph. ***Little Britches*** series, 1950. Memoir of young Ralph Moody's family moving to a Colorado ranch in 1906, learning resilience, hard work, and responsibility through ranching life.

Pace, Mildred Mastin. ***Old Bones the Wonder Horse***, 1955. True story of Exterminator, an unheralded gelding who won the 1918 Kentucky Derby and raced a century of races.

Reynolds, Quentin. ***The Wright Brothers*** and others, 1950. Biography of Orville and Wilbur Wright, tracing their inventive childhood through their historic first airplane flight in 1903.

Seymour, Flora Warren. ***Sacagawea, American Pathfinder***, 1945. A children's biography imagining young Sacagawea's Shoshone childhood before she guided Lewis and Clark's expedition to the Pacific.

Tolstoy, Leo. ***Nikolenka's Childhood***, 1852. Autobiographical novel following young Nikolenka's aristocratic Russian childhood, exploring family bonds, growing self-awareness, and the sorrow of his mother's death.

* Trapp, Maria Augusta von. ***The Story of the Trapp Family Singers***, 1949. Maria von Trapp's memoir of her family's life in Austria, escape from Nazi occupation, and new life as singers in America.

Yates, Elizabeth. ***Amos Fortune, Free Man***, 1950. Fictionalized biography of an African prince captured into slavery in colonial America who earns his freedom and helps free others.

Drama/Play

Gibson, William. ***The Miracle Worker***, 1957. A dramatization of Annie Sullivan's fierce, breakthrough struggle to teach language and discipline to young deaf-blind Helen Keller.

Fairy Tale / Fantasy / Sci-Fi

Aiken, Joan. ***The Wolves of Willoughby Chase***, 1962. Cousins Bonnie and Sylvia battle a cruel governess who seizes their estate, aided by goose-boy Simon, in Gothic alternate-history England. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Babbitt, Natalie. ***Tuck Everlasting***, 1975. A ten-year-old girl discovers a family made immortal by a magic spring, and must choose whether to drink its water herself.

Baum, L. Frank. ***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz***, 1900. Dorothy and her dog Toto are swept to the magical Land of Oz, where she journeys with new friends to find a way home.

Bois, William Pène Du. ***The Twenty-one Balloons***, 1947. Professor Sherman's balloon crashes on Krakatoa, revealing a hidden diamond-rich utopia, just before its volcanic eruption forces a whimsical escape.

Bond, Nancy. ***A String in the Harp***, 1976. American siblings living in Wales discover a bard's harp key showing visions of the past while grieving their mother's death.

Brink, Carol Ryrie. ***Andy Buckram's Tin Men***, 1966. Twelve-year-old Andy Buckram builds four tin-can robots that come to life after a storm, aiding his family; theme of ingenuity.

Butterworth, Oliver. ***The Enormous Egg***, 1956. A boy's hen lays a giant egg that hatches into a pet triceratops, upending his family, town, and Washington politicians.

Cameron, Eleanor. ***The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet***, 1954. Two boys build a homemade spaceship and fly to Basidium, a tiny mushroom-covered moon, to help its dying inhabitants.

Chrisman, Arthur Bowie. ***Shen of the Sea: Chinese Stories for Children***, 1925. Sixteen original pourquoi tales in the style of Chinese folklore, explaining inventions like chopsticks, china, and gunpowder with wit and fantasy.

Dahl, Roald. ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***, 1964. Poor boy Charlie Bucket wins a golden ticket to tour eccentric Willy Wonka's magical chocolate factory, learning virtue triumphs over greed.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***The Tale of Despereaux***, 2003. A tiny mouse, banished for loving a human princess, braves the rat-filled dungeon to rescue her, in a tale of courage and forgiveness.

Eager, Edward. ***Half Magic*** series, 1954. Four siblings discover a magic coin granting only half of any wish, leading to comic and dangerous mismatched adventures.

George, Jessica Day. ***Tuesdays at the Castle***, 2011. Princess Celie uses her secret knowledge of her ever-changing, magical castle to protect her kingdom after her parents disappear.



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Goudge, Elizabeth. ***The Little White Horse***, 1946. Orphaned Maria Merryweather arrives at magical Moonacre Manor, uncovering her family's ancient curse and reconciling age-old enmity through courage and forgiveness.

Grahame, Kenneth. ***The Reluctant Dragon***, 1898. A boy befriends a peaceful, poetry-loving dragon and must convince fearful villagers and St. George there's no need to fight.

Gutman, Dan. ***Baseball Card Adventures*** series, 1997. Twelve-year-old Joe Stoshack finds a rare Honus Wagner baseball card that lets him time-travel to meet the legendary player in 1909.

Jacques, Brian. ***Redwall*** series, 1986. Woodland mice and other creatures at Redwall Abbey defend their peaceful monastic community against the evil rat warlord Cluny the Scourge.

Juster, Norton. ***The Phantom Tollbooth***, 1961. A bored boy named Milo drives through a magic tollbooth into the Kingdom of Wisdom to rescue Princesses Rhyme and Reason, learning to value curiosity.

Kaye, M.M. ***The Ordinary Princess***, 1980. Princess Amy, cursed with 'ordinariness,' flees an arranged marriage, becomes a scullery maid, and finds true love and self-acceptance.

Kendall, Carol. ***The Gammage Cup***, 1959. Nonconformist Minnipins are exiled from their village but discover ancient enemies preparing to attack, becoming unlikely heroes.

Lanier, Sidney. ***The Boy's King Arthur***, 1880. Sidney Lanier's abridgment of Malory's Le Morte d'Arthur, retelling King Arthur's knights' quests, chivalry, and the Holy Grail for young readers.

Lawson, Robert. ***The Fabulous Flight***, 1949. A boy who shrinks to four inches tall flies to Europe on a seagull's back to stop a mad scientist's dangerous weapon.

Lewis, C. S. ***The Chronicles of Narnia***, 1950. Four children journey to the magical land of Narnia across seven tales of talking beasts, epic battles, and Aslan's redemptive sacrifice.

Lin, Grace. ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***, 2009. Minli, a poor Chinese village girl, journeys to find the Old Man of the Moon to change her family's fortune; theme of gratitude over greed.

Lindgren, Astrid. ***Pippi Longstocking*** and others, 1945. A nine-year-old of impossible strength lives alone with a horse and a monkey, in an everyday world that bends to her whims.

Lovett, Margaret. ***The Great and Terrible Quest***, 1967. An abused orphan boy risks his life helping an amnesiac wounded knight recover memory of his quest across medieval lands; themes of loyalty and identity. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

MacDonald, George. ***The Princess and the Goblin***, 1872. Princess Irene, guided by her mystical great-great-grandmother, and miner boy Curdie defeat goblins threatening the kingdom.

Masefield, John. ***The Box of Delights, or When the Wolves Were Running***, 1935. Kay Harker guards a magical box from an evil wizard, entering a Christmas adventure blending time-travel, myth, and wonder.

Nesbit, Edith. ***Five Children and It***, 1902. Five siblings discover a cranky sand-fairy, the Psammead, who grants wishes that comically backfire, teaching them wisdom.

Norton, Mary. ***The Borrowers*** series, 1952. A family of tiny people, the Clocks, live secretly beneath the floorboards of an English house, surviving by borrowing items from the human residents.

O'Brien, Robert C. ***Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh***, 1971. Widowed mouse Mrs. Frisby seeks help from genetically enhanced, super-intelligent rats to save her sick son and relocate her family safely.

Sharp, Margery. ***The Rescuers***, 1959. Three mice from the Prisoners' Aid Society undertake a daring mission to rescue a Norwegian poet from the grim Black Castle prison.

Siegel, Robert. ***Alpha Centauri***, 1980. A girl and her horse travel back in time to ancient Britain, where she must save benevolent centaurs from extermination through faith and courage.

Steele, Mary Q. ***Journey Outside***, 1969. A boy from an underground Raft People tribe escapes to the surface world, seeking truth about his people's mythical 'Better Place.'.

Stolz, Mary. ***The Cuckoo Clock***, 1987. An orphan boy apprentices to an old clockmaker in the Black Forest, learning to craft a magical, beautiful cuckoo clock together.

* Tolkien, J.R.R. ***The Hobbit***, 1937. Reluctant hobbit Bilbo Baggins joins Gandalf and thirteen dwarves on a quest to reclaim treasure guarded by the dragon Smaug.

Travers, Pamela L. ***Mary Poppins***, 1934. A magical English nanny arrives via the East Wind to care for the Banks children, teaching them wonder, imagination, and family love.

White, T. H. ***Mistress Masham's Repose***, 1946. Orphaned heiress Maria discovers exiled Lilliputians on her decaying estate and must protect them from her greedy, scheming guardians.

White, T. H. ***The Sword in the Stone***, 1938. Young Arthur ('the Wart') is secretly tutored by the wizard Merlyn, transformed into animals, and learns wisdom before pulling the sword from the stone.

Wilde, Oscar. ***Stories for Children***, 1888. Six Wilde fairy tales—Happy Prince, Selfish Giant, and others—teaching self-sacrifice, compassion, and redemption through symbolic, often melancholy stories.

Williams, Jay. ***Danny Dunn*** series, 1956. Danny Dunn accidentally invents anti-gravity paint, leading to a perilous spaceship mishap that strands him and friends in space.

Historical Fiction

Alcott, Louisa May. ***Little Women***, 1868. Four March sisters grow from girlhood to womanhood in Civil War-era New England, facing poverty, love, and loss together.

* Angeli, Marguerite de. ***The Door in the Wall***, 1949. A crippled 14th-century English noble boy learns courage, patience, and self-worth from a monk while training as a page.

Avery, Gillian. ***A Likely Lad***, 1971. Edwardian Manchester boy Willy Overs is pressured by his ambitious shopkeeper father to leave school. Willy runs away and gains a new perspective on his future.

Avi. ***The Secret School***, 2001. Fourteen-year-old Ida Bidson secretly becomes teacher at her rural Colorado one-room school to save her chance at high school.

Beatty, Patricia. ***Turn Homeward, Hannalee***, 1984. Twelve-year-old Georgia mill girl Hannalee Reed is forced north during the Civil War and struggles to keep her promise to return home.

Benary-Isbert, Margot. ***The Ark***, 1948. A displaced German family rebuilds life in postwar rubble, turning an old railway car into a home while awaiting their father's return.

* Bishop, Claire Huchet. ***Twenty and Ten***, 1952. French schoolchildren, guided by a nun, risk their lives hiding ten Jewish refugee children from Nazi soldiers during WWII France.

Borden, Louise. ***The Little Ships***, 1997. A young English girl disguises herself as a boy to help her father sail their fishing boat to rescue trapped soldiers at Dunkirk.

Brady, Esther Wood. ***Toliver's Secret***, 1976. Ten-year-old Ellen Toliver, disguised as a boy, smuggles a secret patriot message hidden in bread through British-occupied New York to George Washington.

* Brill, Ethel C. ***Madeleine Takes Command***, 1946. Fictionalized true story of 14-year-old Madeleine de Verchères, who defends her family's New France fort against an Iroquois siege in 1692.

Brink, Carol Ryrie. ***Caddie Woodlawn***, 1935. A high-spirited girl runs wild with her brothers on the 1860s Wisconsin frontier, through river crossings, prairie fires, and schoolhouse scrapes.

Buff, Mary. ***The Apple and the Arrow***, 1951. Historical novella retelling the William Tell legend from son Walter's viewpoint, exploring courage, family loyalty, and the fight for Swiss freedom.

Burch, Robert. ***Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain***, 1980. A free-spirited housekeeper brings joy and adventure to a widower's four children during the Great Depression in rural Georgia.

Byars, Betsy Cromer. ***Trouble River***, 1969. A boy and his grandmother flee down a wild river on his homemade raft to escape an Indian raid on their prairie cabin.

Clark, Ann Nolan. ***Secret of the Andes***, 1952. An Inca boy, Cusi, leaves his hidden Andean valley to discover his true identity and ancestral heritage, guided by his llama Misti.

Conlon-McKenna, Marita. ***Under the Hawthorn Tree***, 1990. During Ireland's Great Famine, three siblings flee starvation and the workhouse to find their great-aunts.

* Daly, Maureen. ***The Small War of Sergeant Donkey***, 1966. A young Italian boy bonds with an American army mule named Sergeant Donkey during WWII's Italian campaign, showing courage and cross-cultural friendship.

DeJong, Meindert. ***The House of Sixty Fathers***, 1956. A Chinese boy, Tien Pao, is swept away during WWII and journeys through Japanese-held territory seeking his family, aided by American airmen.

Dodge, Mary Mapes. ***Hans Brinker, or, the Silver Skates***, 1865. Dutch siblings Hans and Gretel Brinker strive to win an ice-skating race while seeking a cure for their father's head injury.

Erdman, Loula Grace. ***The Wind Blows Free***, 1952. Reluctant 14-year-old Melinda Pierce adjusts to hardship after her family homesteads the 1890s Texas Panhandle, finding friendship and belonging.

* Field, Rachel. ***Calico Bush***, 1931. Orphaned French Catholic girl becomes an indentured servant in 1743 Maine, enduring hardship and prejudice with quiet courage.

Field, Rachel. ***Hitty, Her First Hundred Years***, 1929. A wooden doll named Hitty narrates a century of adventures with different owners, from sea voyages to a quiet attic.

* Finn, Francis J. ***Tom Playfair***, 1890. A mischievous ten-year-old sent to a Jesuit boarding school grows in virtue and prepares for First Communion amid pranks, friendship, and tragedy.

Fleischman, Sid. ***By the Great Horn Spoon***, 1963. A Boston boy and his butler Praiseworthy join the 1849 California Gold Rush to save his aunt's home from debt.

Fleischman, Sid. ***The Whipping Boy***, 1986. An orphan whipping boy and the spoiled prince he serves are kidnapped and forced into a wild escape adventure.

French, Allen. ***The Lost Baron***, 1940. A 13th-century Cornish page, Martin, uncovers secrets after Baron Eric vanishes and his moody heir Sir Basil seizes the castle.

French, Allen. ***The Red Keep***, 1938. Squire Conan helps Lady Anne reclaim her father's castle from the ruthless Sauval brothers in 12th-century Burgundy, championing loyalty and justice.

French, Allen. ***The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow***, 1904. In Christianizing Iceland, young Rolf seeks justice after his father's murder and unjust outlawing, ending a family curse of vengeance.

Gray, Elizabeth. ***Adam of the Road***, 1942. A minstrel's son in 13th-century England searches the roads for his stolen dog and missing father, growing into independence.

Green, Roger Lancelyn. ***The Adventures of Robin Hood***, 1956. Retelling of Robin Hood ballads: an outlaw and his band fight tyranny and injustice from Sherwood Forest.

Hamori, Laszlo. ***Dangerous Journey***, 1962. Two boys flee communist Hungary via stowaway train to reunite with family in Sweden, escaping to freedom despite danger.

Hart, Alison. ***Gabriel's Horses***, 2010. In 1864 Kentucky, enslaved 12-year-old Gabriel protects his master's racehorses from a cruel trainer and Confederate raiders while dreaming of becoming a jockey.

* Hastings, Selina. ***Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***, 1981. Retelling of the medieval Arthurian romance in which Sir Gawain accepts a beheading challenge and faces temptation testing his honor and chastity.

Holm, Anne. ***I Am David***, 1963. A boy raised in a concentration camp escapes and journeys across Europe alone, seeking his mother and discovering trust, humanity, and hope. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Jewett, Eleanore M. ***The Hidden Treasure of Glaston***, 1946. Crippled boy Hugh, left at Glastonbury Abbey in 1171, searches with friend Dickon for the Holy Grail and Arthurian treasure.

Johnston, Tony. ***The Harmonica***, 2004. A Jewish boy separated from his parents in Nazi-occupied Poland survives a concentration camp by playing harmonica for the commandant. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Kaler, James Otis. ***Toby Tyler***, 1877. A runaway orphan joins a traveling circus, enduring a cruel master, learning that following instinct over conscience brings hardship.

* Kelly, Eric Philbrook. ***The Trumpeter of Krakow***, 1928. In medieval Kraków, young Joseph Charnetski's family guards the legendary Great Tarnov Crystal from Tartars and dark alchemists seeking its power.

Levitin, Sonia. ***Journey to America***, 1970. A Jewish girl and her family flee Nazi Germany in 1938, enduring separation and hardship in Switzerland before reuniting in America.

* Lomask, Milton. ***Ship's Boy with Magellan***, 1960. A boy flees his scheming uncle by joining Magellan's crew, enduring mutiny and native hostility on the first voyage around the world.

Lowry, Lois. ***Number the Stars***, 1989. In Nazi-occupied Denmark, 10-year-old Annemarie helps hide her Jewish friend Ellen and aids the resistance's rescue of Danish Jews.

Malvern, Gladys. ***Jonica's Island***, 1945. In 1660s New Amsterdam, 13-year-old indentured servant Jonica proves her loyalty when suspected of theft; theme of prejudice and forgiveness.

Marryat, Frederick. ***Masterman Ready***, 1841. The Seagrave family is shipwrecked on a deserted Pacific island and, aided by veteran sailor Masterman Ready, must survive hardships and native attacks.

Marryat, Frederick. ***The Children of the New Forest***, 1847. Orphaned Royalist children hide from Roundhead soldiers in the New Forest, disguised as a forester's grandchildren, learning humility and self-reliance.

McDonough, Yona Zeldis. ***The Bicycle Spy***, 2016. In Nazi-occupied 1942 France, 12-year-old bicyclist Marcel discovers his parents' bread deliveries hide Resistance messages, endangering a Jewish friend.

McSwigan, Marie. ***Snow Treasure***, 1942. Norwegian children secretly sled gold bullion past Nazi guards to a waiting ship during WWII occupation, showing courage and ingenuity.

Meigs, Cornelia. ***Swift Rivers***, 1932. Orphaned Chris Dahlberg, abandoned by his harsh uncle, risks perilous log-rafting down the Mississippi to support his aging grandfather.

Mills, Lauren A. ***Minna's Patchwork Coat***, 1991. In hard times, Appalachian Minna receives a coat sewn by her grandmother from family clothing scraps, each patch recalling a loved one.

Morey, Walt. ***Year of the Black Pony***, 1976. A boy in early 1900s Oregon endures his father's death and mother's remarriage while pursuing his dream of taming a wild pony.

Morrison, Lucille. ***The Lost Queen of Egypt***, 1937. Historical novel following Princess Ankhsenpaaten, daughter of Akhenaten and Nefertiti, through childhood and her marriage to Tutankhamen amid court intrigue.

* Morrison, Taylor. ***Antonio's Apprenticeship***, 1996. In Renaissance Florence, young Antonio apprentices to his uncle, learning patience and craft while helping paint a chapel fresco on the life of Christ.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***A Night Divided***, 2015. A young girl in divided Berlin risks her life digging a tunnel to reunite her family across the Wall.

North, Sterling. ***So Dear to My Heart***, 1947. An orphan boy in rural Indiana protects a forbidden pet lamb while his grandmother weaves a quilt telling his family's story.

* Pellowski, Anne. ***Latsch Valley Farm*** series, 1982. Six-year-old Anna grows up on her Polish immigrant family's Wisconsin farm in the 1870s, learning that faith and community fulfill her.

Polland, Madeleine A. ***Beorn the Proud***, 1961. In 9th-century Ireland and Denmark, a Viking boy learns Christian humility and mercy from Ness, his young Irish Christian captive.

* Polland, Madeleine A. ***Fingal's Quest***, 1961. A young Irish monastic student secretly follows his beloved master Brother Columban to sixth-century Gaul, learning to put God's will above personal devotion.

Pyle, Howard. ***Otto of the Silver Hand***, 1888. A robber baron's son, raised by monks, is caught in a violent blood feud between rival German noble families in medieval times. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Reilly, Robert T. ***Red Hugh, Prince of Donegal***, 1957. Teen prince Hugh Roe O'Donnell is imprisoned by the English in Dublin Castle, escapes, and fights to free Catholic Ireland from Elizabeth's rule.

Savery, Constance. ***Enemy Brothers***, 1943. A British airman brings home a Nazi-raised boy he believes is his kidnapped brother, whose hardened heart is slowly won by patient family love.

Savery, Constance. ***The Reb and the Redcoats***, 1961. A young American POW held by an English family during the Revolutionary War forges friendship and trust despite plotting escape.

Sawyer, Ruth. ***Roller Skates***, 1936. Ten-year-old Lucinda Wyman roams 1890s New York on roller skates during a year of freedom while her parents are abroad, befriending diverse neighbors and confronting loss.

* Seredy, Kate. ***Philomena***, 1955. Orphaned Philomena leaves her Czech village for Prague, guided by her late grandmother's faith and wit, to find her lost aunt.

Seredy, Kate. ***The Chestry Oak***, 1948. A young Hungarian prince endures Nazi occupation, loses his family, and rebuilds his life on an American farm; a tale of resilience.

Seredy, Kate. ***The Good Master***, 1935. Spoiled city girl Kate transforms during a summer on her uncle's Hungarian ranch, learning to love rural life and family.

Serraillier, Ian. ***The Silver Sword***, 1956. Four Polish children—Ruth, Edek, Bronia, and Jan—flee wartime Warsaw and journey across Europe seeking their lost parents; theme of hope amid war's devastation.

Shannon, Monica. ***Dobry***, 1934. A Bulgarian peasant boy growing up on a farm discovers his passion for sculpture and must convince his mother to let him pursue art.

Shemin, Margaretha. ***The Little Riders***, 1963. American girl Johanna protects her Dutch village's beloved clock-tower figurines from Nazi soldiers during WWII occupation of Holland.

Snedeker, Caroline Dale. ***A Triumph for Flavius***, 1955. A Roman boy receives a captured Greek slave as a war prize and learns compassion when his father moves to punish him. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Speare, Elizabeth George. ***The Bronze Bow***, 1961. Jewish teen Daniel bar Jamin seeks revenge against Rome for his father's death but is transformed by Jesus's teaching on love over hate.

Speare, Elizabeth George. ***The Sign of the Beaver***, 1983. A boy alone in 1700s Maine wilderness befriends a Native American youth who teaches him survival skills and friendship.

Spence, Eleanor. ***The Switherby Pilgrims***, 1967. A spinster leads ten orphans from a typhus-stricken English town to settle the Australian bush, building new lives together.

Steele, William O. ***The Buffalo Knife*** and others, 1952. In 1782, nine-year-old Andy and his family journey by flatboat down the Tennessee River, facing rapids and Chickamauga raids to reach a new frontier home.

Steele, William O. ***The Perilous Road***, 1958. A Tennessee boy who hates the Yankees warns his soldier brother of a Confederate ambush, learning war's human cost.

* Stockum, Hilda Van. ***The Mitchells***, 1945. Five American children start a wartime club to help their mother while Dad fights in WWII, befriending a refugee girl; theme: family loyalty.

* Stockum, Hilda Van. ***The Winged Watchman***, 1962. Dutch brothers Joris and Dirk Jan aid the WWII resistance from their family's windmill, hiding a downed RAF airman and a Jewish child.

Stuchner, Joan Betty. ***Honey Cake***, 2007. Jewish boy David Nathan and his Copenhagen family face Nazi occupation and flee to Sweden in 1943, aided by Christian neighbors.

* Sullivan, Peggy. ***The O'Donnells***, 1956. An Irish Catholic policeman's family in early-1900s Kansas City balances dreams, sacrifice, and generosity toward relatives from Ireland.

Taylor, Sydney. ***All-of-a-Kind Family*** series, 1951. Five Jewish sisters share holidays, mischief, and daily life on New York's Lower East Side in 1912, celebrating close family bonds.

* Trevor, Meriol. ***The Crystal Snowstorm and Sequels***, 1997. Orphaned Catherine Ayre is summoned to Letzenstein by her grandfather the Grand Duke amid the political turmoil of 1848 revolutions.

Twain, Mark. ***The Prince and the Pauper***, 1881. Prince Edward Tudor and pauper Tom Canty swap identities, each discovering injustice and mercy across England's rigid class divide.

* Weil, Ann. ***Red Sails to Capri***, 1952. A 14-year-old innkeeper's son on 1820s Capri helps three foreign travelers uncover the island's mysterious Blue Grotto sea cave.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. ***Little House on the Prairie*** series, 1932. Autobiographical children's series recounting the Ingalls family's pioneer journey across Wisconsin, Kansas, Minnesota, and Dakota Territory, celebrating resilience and family bonds.

Williams, Laura E. ***Behind the Bedroom Wall***, 1996. Thirteen-year-old Korinna, a Hitler Youth member, must decide whether to expose her parents for hiding Jews behind her bedroom wall.

Williamson, Joanne S. ***Hittite Warrior***, 1960. A young Hittite warrior flees his conquered homeland and becomes entangled in the biblical battle between Canaanites and Israelites in Judges.

History / Nonfiction

Brown, Daniel James. ***The Boys in the Boat***, 2013. True story of the University of Washington's working-class rowing crew who won gold at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Brownlee, W. D. ***The First Ships Around the World***, 1974. Nonfiction for young readers on 16th-century sailing ships, detailing Magellan's circumnavigation, shipboard life, and navigation tools.

Clements, Gillian. ***The Picture History of Great Inventors***, 1993. An illustrated, decade-by-decade catalog profiling over fifty major inventors and their world-changing inventions, from the wheel to virtual reality.

Coggins, Jack. ***The Illustrated Book of Knights***, 1957. Illustrated nonfiction history of medieval knights, chivalry, arms and armor, blending documented fact with beloved legends like King Arthur's Round Table.

Daugherty, James. ***Of Courage Undaunted***, 1951. Narrates the Lewis and Clark expedition's 3,555-mile journey through wilderness from St. Louis to the Pacific, based on original expedition records.

Holling, Holling Clancy. ***Minn of the Mississippi*** and others, 1951. A snapping turtle named Minn journeys down the Mississippi River from Minnesota headwaters to the Gulf, blending adventure with natural history and geography.

Kalman, Bobbie. ***Life in the Old West series***, 1999. Nonfiction children's book on the Gold Rush, covering prospectors' lives, hardships, and effects on Native Americans in the Old West.

Macauley, David. ***The Way Things Work*** and others, 1988. A whimsical illustrated nonfiction guide explaining the scientific principles behind everyday machines, from levers to computers, featuring recurring woolly mammoths.

Viking Juvenile Press. ***See Through History*** series, 1992. Illustrated nonfiction guide showing Roman daily life through cutaway pictures and artifacts like weapons, tools, and jewelry; theme: everyday Roman civilization.

Mystery / Adventure

Blyton, Enid. ***Five Go to Smuggler's Top***, 1945. The Famous Five stay at Mr. Lenoir's eerie marshside house, uncovering smugglers using its secret tunnels for kidnapping and crime.

Brink, Carol Ryrie. ***The Pink Motel***, 1959. Siblings Kirby and Bitsy inherit an eccentric, brightly painted Florida motel, encountering mystery, gangsters, and a hidden family secret.

Catherall, Arthur. ***The Strange Intruder***, 1964. A Faroe Islands teen, Sven, battles a storm to rescue shipwrecked sailors while a mysterious dangerous intruder threatens the island; courage and duty.

* Chesterton, G.K.; Nancy Carpentier Brown. ***The Father Brown Reader***, 2007. Four Chesterton Father Brown mysteries adapted for children, following a humble priest-detective solving mysteries through insight into human nature.

* Chesterton, G.K.; Nancy Carpentier Brown. ***The Father Brown Reader II***, 2010. Four more Father Brown mysteries adapted for children. In these stories, the notorious criminal Flambeau has reformed and is now a great detective who assists Father Brown.

Dixon, Franklin W. ***The Hardy Boys Series (original editions)***, 1960. Frank and Joe Hardy buy a Chinese junk as a summer ferry business, then uncover smugglers and hidden treasure aboard the ship.

Hergé. ***The Adventures of Tintin***, 1929. Belgian reporter Tintin and his dog Snowy travel the globe, exposing crime and corruption through daring, mystery-filled adventures.

Konigsburg, E. L. ***From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler***, 1967. Siblings Claudia and Jamie run away to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and investigate a mysterious statue possibly by Michelangelo.

Kästner, Erich. ***Emil and the Detectives***, 1929. Emil, a German boy, loses money stolen on a train, then teams up with Berlin children to catch the thief, emphasizing resourcefulness and teamwork.

Lindgren, Astrid. ***Rasmus and the Vagabond***, 1956. An orphan runs away seeking a family, befriends a wandering tramp musician, helps solve a robbery, and is finally adopted.

McCann, Heather. ***Master Detective: Kalle Blomkvist Mysteries***, 1993. A Harlequin Intrigue romance: a woman must protect her psychic niece from a suspected murder plot while falling for a mysterious stranger.

McCloskey, Robert. ***Homer Price***, 1943. Six comic episodes in small-town Centerburg as a clever boy outwits bandits, tames a runaway doughnut machine, and more.

Mowat, Farley. ***Lost in the Barrens***, 1956. Jamie, a Canadian orphan, and Awasin, a Cree boy, become stranded in Canada's Arctic Barren Lands and must survive a brutal winter.

Ransome, Arthur Michell. ***Coot Club***, 1934. Dick and Dorothea join the Coot Club on the Norfolk Broads, sailing and protecting birds' nests from careless holiday boaters.

Ransome, Arthur Michell. ***Swallows and Amazons*** series, 1930. Four Walker children sail and camp on a Lake District island, encountering the Blackett sisters in imaginative summer adventures.

Ransome, Arthur Michell. ***The Big Six***, 1940. The Death and Glories are falsely accused of casting boats adrift on the Norfolk Broads; Dick and Dorothea help solve the mystery.

Robertson, Keith. ***Henry Reed, Inc***, 1958. A boy spends summer with his aunt and uncle in New Jersey, starting a humorous research business with his neighbor Midge.

Sobol, Donald J. ***Encyclopedia Brown*** series, 1963. Ten-year-old Leroy 'Encyclopedia' Brown solves ten neighborhood mysteries using logic and trivia; readers can try solving them too.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Treasure Island***, 1883. Young Jim Hawkins sails in search of buried pirate treasure, encountering Long John Silver in a classic coming-of-age adventure.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. ***The Mysterious Benedict Society***, 2007. Four gifted children pass secret tests and go undercover at a strange institute to stop a mind-control plot by a villain.

Twain, Mark. ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***, 1876. Mischievous boy Tom Sawyer explores the Mississippi River town of St. Petersburg, witnessing a murder and hunting treasure with Huck Finn.

Twain, Mark. ***Tom Sawyer, Detective***, 1896. Tom and Huck return to Uncle Silas's Arkansas farm, solving a murder mystery involving stolen diamonds and twin brothers, parodying detective fiction.

Wallace, Barbara Brooks. ***Peppermints in the Parlor***, 1980. Orphaned Emily Luccock arrives at Sugar Hill Hall to find her aunt imprisoned, uncle missing, and dark secrets hidden within the mansion's walls.

West, Jerry. ***The Happy Hollisters*** series, 1953. The Hollister family moves to Shoreham and solves the mystery of a vanishing moving van, a haunted house, and hidden treasure.

Realistic Fiction

Bee, Clair. ***Chip Hilton Sports*** series, 1948. Series following Chip Hilton, a small-town athlete excelling at football, basketball, and baseball, stressing sportsmanship and moral character.

Birdsall, Jeanne. ***The Penderwicks***, 2005. Four Penderwick sisters spend a summer at Arundel estate, befriending a lonely boy and outwitting his cold mother.

Birney, Betty G. ***The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs***, 2005. A farm boy searches his ordinary Missouri town for wonders to rival the Seven Wonders of the World.

Bishop, Claire Huchet. ***All Alone***, 1953. Two French Alpine shepherd boys defy village tradition of isolation to form a friendship, saving each other when a storm strikes.

Bishop, Claire Huchet. ***The Big Loop***, 1955. A poor Parisian boy, André Girard, dreams of becoming a professional cyclist and strives to compete in the Tour de France.

Buck, Pearl S. ***The Big Wave***, 1948. A Japanese boy, Jiya, loses his family and village to a tsunami and learns resilience, courage, and acceptance of life's dangers.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. ***The Little Princess***, 1905. Wealthy schoolgirl Sara Crewe is reduced to servitude after her father's death, yet maintains dignity, kindness, and imagination despite poverty.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. ***The Secret Garden***, 1911. Orphaned Mary Lennox moves to a Yorkshire manor, discovers a hidden garden and her sickly cousin, and both are healed through nature.

Byars, Betsy Cromer. ***The Summer of the Swans***, 1970. A teen girl's insecurities fade as she searches for her disabled younger brother, who is missing.

Carlson, Natalie Savage. ***The Family Under the Bridge***, 1958. A homeless Parisian who dislikes children reluctantly shelters three siblings and their mother, becoming their devoted, working family.

❄ Carlson, Natalie Savage. ***The Happy Orpheline*** series, 1957. Twenty orphan girls in a French orphanage are so happy they fear adoption; Brigitte gets lost after a dog-cemetery outing and meets a woman claiming royal ties.

Cleary, Beverly. ***Henry and Ribsy***, 1954. Henry tries to keep his mischievous dog Ribsy out of trouble so his father will take him salmon fishing; friendship and responsibility.

Clymer, Eleanor Lowenton. ***The Trolley Car Family***, 1947. The Parker family moves into an old trolley car in the country after Pa loses his trolley-driving job, sparking cheerful adventures.

Crompton, Richmal. ***Just William***, 1922. Twelve comic short stories about mischievous eleven-year-old William Brown and his gang, the Outlaws, causing chaotic family and village adventures.

DeJong, Meindert. ***The Wheel on the School***, 1955. Six schoolchildren in a Dutch fishing village hunt for a wagon wheel to bring nesting storks back, drawing the whole village together.

Enright, Elizabeth. ***Gone-Away Lake***, 1957. Two cousins discover a forgotten resort at a drained lake and befriend the elderly siblings still living there, celebrating friendship and imagination.

Enright, Elizabeth. ***The Melendy Quartet***, 1941. Four Melendy siblings—Mona, Rush, Randy, and Oliver—share resourceful, imaginative adventures in 1940s New York and the countryside, celebrating family bonds.

Enright, Elizabeth. ***Thimble Summer***, 1938. Nine-year-old Garnet Linden finds a magic-seeming thimble during a Depression-era Wisconsin summer full of family adventures and small triumphs.

Estes, Eleanor. ***The Hundred Dresses***, 1944. A Polish-American girl ridiculed for wearing the same dress daily claims to own a hundred dresses; a classmate regrets her silence, learning empathy.

Fisher, Dorothy Canfield. ***Understood Betsy***, 1916. A sheltered, timid orphan girl is sent to live with farm relatives in Vermont, where she gains confidence, independence, and self-understanding.

Garnett, Eve. ***The Family from One End Street***, 1937. Warm, realistic tale of the working-class Ruggles family—a dustman, washerwoman, and seven lively children—in a small English town.

George, Jean Craighead. ***My Side of the Mountain*** series, 1959. A 12-year-old boy runs away to live alone in the Catskill Mountains, learning wilderness survival before realizing he needs human companionship.

Glaser, Karina Yan. ***The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street***, 2017. Five Vanderbeeker siblings in Harlem scheme to win over their reclusive landlord who won't renew their brownstone lease before Christmas.

Henry, O. ***The Gift of the Magi***, 1905. A poor young couple, Della and Jim, each sacrifice their most prized possession to buy the other a Christmas gift, celebrating selfless love.

Krumgold, Joseph. ***Onion John***, 1959. A boy's friendship with an eccentric immigrant handyman strains his relationship with his practical, ambition-driven father in small-town New Jersey.

Lenski, Lois. ***Texas Tomboy*** and others, 1950. Tomboy Charlie Boy loves ranching over housework, but a severe Texas drought teaches her every family member's role matters.

McCormick, Wilfred. ***Bronc Burnett Stories***, 1948. Series following teen athlete Bronc Burnett through baseball, football, and Boy Scout adventures in Sonora, New Mexico; themes of sportsmanship and character.

McGraw, Eloise Jarvis. ***Sawdust in His Shoes***, 1950. Orphaned circus boy Joe Lang flees an industrial school and finds belonging on a farm family, torn between two worlds.

Montgomery, Lucy Maud. ***Anne of Green Gables*** series, 1908. An imaginative red-haired orphan is mistakenly sent to elderly siblings, transforming their lives with her spirited nature.

Murphy, Robert. ***The Pond***, 1964. A Virginia boy matures through hunting, friendship, and caring for an abused dog at a secluded countryside pond in the early 1900s.

Nesbit, Edith. ***The Railway Children***, 1906. Three siblings and their mother move to a country cottage near a railway after their father mysteriously disappears, exploring themes of family loyalty and hope.

Nesbit, Edith. ***The Story of the Treasure Seekers***, 1899. Six Bastable children pursue creative money-making schemes to restore their family's fortune after their father's business fails.

Porter, Eleanor Hodgman. ***Pollyanna***, 1913. Orphaned Pollyanna moves in with stern Aunt Polly, spreading her hopeful "Glad Game" philosophy through a New England town.

Richardson, Arleta. ***In Grandma's Attic*** series, 1974. A girl's grandmother recounts nostalgic childhood tales from her 1800s Michigan farm upbringing, teaching faith and character lessons.

Robinson, Barbara. ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***, 1972. The unruly Herdman siblings take over a church's Christmas pageant, discovering the Nativity's true meaning and transforming the town.

Seredy, Kate. ***A Tree for Peter***, 1941. A lame, fatherless boy in Depression-era Shantytown meets a mysterious vagrant who gives him hope, transforming the whole community.

Sidney, Margaret. ***Five Little Peppers*** series, 1881. Follows the widowed Mamsie and her five children in their little brown house, enduring poverty with love and perseverance until fortunes change.

Sperry, Armstrong. ***Call It Courage***, 1940. A Polynesian chief's son, afraid of the sea, sails alone to a deserted island and returns home having conquered his fear, proving his courage.

Spyri, Johanna. ***Heidi***, 1880. Orphaned Heidi lives happily with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps, then must adapt to city life in Frankfurt before returning home.



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Stephens, C.A. ***Stories from the Old Squire's Farm***, 1995. Anthology of 36 nostalgic tales about six Civil War orphans living with grandparents on a Maine farm, celebrating hard work and honesty.

* Stockum, Hilda Van. ***Francie on the Run***, 1939. Newly healed Irish boy Francie escapes a Dublin hospital and has adventures traveling home, aided by kind strangers, in 1930s Ireland.

* Stockum, Hilda Van. ***The Cottage at Bantry Bay***, 1938. Warm tale of the O'Sullivan family's simple, faith-filled life and adventures near Bantry Bay, Ireland, celebrating love amid poverty.

Stolz, Mary. ***Cider Days***, 1978. Sequel to Ferris Wheel: Polly and her Vermont family grow closer to shy Mexican neighbor Consuela, who slowly comes to love her new home.

Stolz, Mary. ***Ferris Wheel***, 1977. A Vermont farm girl faces a lonely summer after her best friend moves to California, and hopes to find a new friend.

Streatfeild, Noel. ***Ballet Shoes***, 1936. Three adopted orphan sisters train at a London stage academy to earn money, each discovering her own special talent.

Streatfeild, Noel. ***Thursday's Child***, 1970. Orphan Margaret Thursday flees a cruel orphanage matron with new friends, seeking fortune via canal boat and theatre.

Thayer, Ernest Lawrence. ***Casey at the Bat***, 1888. Comic narrative poem about mighty Casey, a boastful slugger whose overconfidence leads to a stunning, disappointing strikeout for Mudville.

Tunis, John R. ***The Kid from Tomkinsville***, 1940. Rookie pitcher Roy Tucker joins the slumping Brooklyn Dodgers, becomes an outfielder after injury, and helps clinch the pennant.

Ullman, James Ramsey. ***Banner in the Sky***, 1954. A Swiss teen, Rudi Matt, risks family disapproval to climb the Citadel, the perilous peak that killed his mountaineer father.

* Waggaman, Mary T. ***Barney's Fortune***, 1923. An orphan boy joins a poor Catholic family in the mountains; rescuing a stranger on Christmas Eve tests his courage and faith.

* Waggaman, Mary T. ***Captain Ted***, 1910. When his father falls ill and the family loses everything, schoolboy Ted must work to support his family, but he unknowingly gets drawn into a counterfeiting ring.

* Waggaman, Mary T. ***Sandy Joe***, 1916. A streetwise boy struggles to protect a little girl in his care as a hidden truth about her past begins to surface.

West, Joyce. ***Drovers Road*** series, 1953. Orphaned girl Gay Allan recounts joyful, adventurous family life on her uncle's New Zealand sheep station, celebrating home and belonging.

Wiggen, Kate Douglas. ***Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm***, 1903. A spirited, imaginative ten-year-old girl is sent to live with her two spinster aunts in rural Maine, growing up over seven years.

Wyss, Johann David. ***The Swiss Family Robinson***, 1812. A shipwrecked Swiss pastor's family survives on a remote tropical island, using faith, ingenuity, and cooperation to thrive together.

Religion / Devotional

Bennett, William J. ***The Book of Virtues***, 1993. Anthology of stories, poems, and fables organized by virtue—compassion, courage, honesty—to teach children moral character.

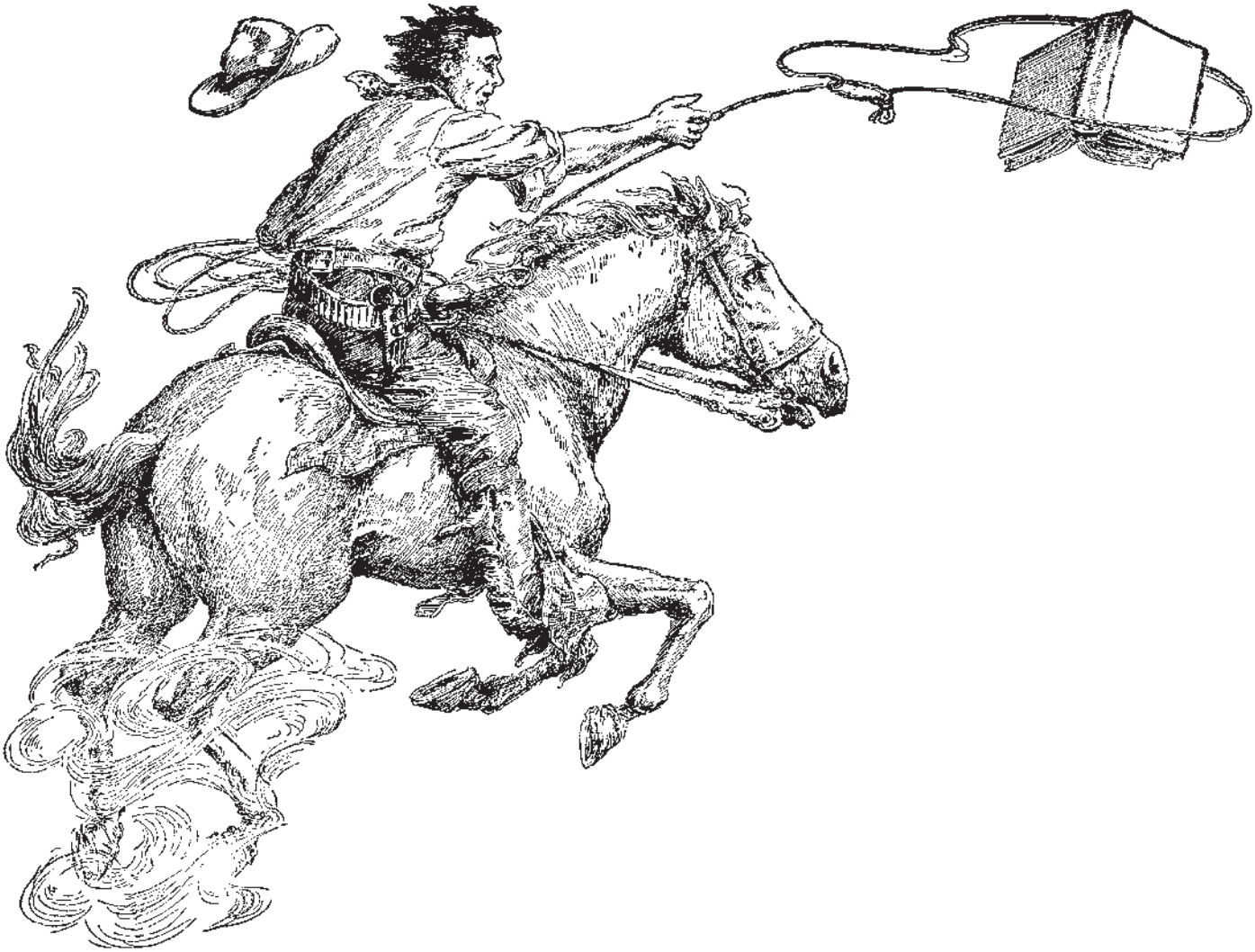
* Brennan, Thomas G. ***The Good Bad Boy***, 1942. Diary of Pompey Briggs, a Catholic eighth-grader in 1940s New York, humorously chronicling school, friends, and moral growth.

* dePaola, Tomie. ***The Lady of Guadalupe***, 1980. Tomie dePaola retells the 1531 apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego in Mexico, exploring faith and miraculous devotion.

Fraser, A. ***St. Vincent***, 1998. A Caribbean primary-school social studies textbook covering St Vincent and the Grenadines' geography, history, government, economy, and culture.

* Lomask, Milton. ***Cross Among the Tomahawks***, 1961. A young Huron boy, Tsiko, meets Jesuit missionary Jean de Brébeuf and embraces Christianity amid Iroquois attacks on his people. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Various authors. ***Encounter the Saints*** series, 2003. A collection of biographical chapter books for middle-grade readers, each recounting a Catholic saint's life, family, and historical era.
* Various authors. ***Vision Books: Lives of the Saints***, 1955. A children's biography series telling saints' life stories with historical context, written by various Catholic authors for young readers.
* Windeatt, Mary Fabian. ***Lives of the Saints***, 1942. A collection of short, engaging Catholic biographies of saints written for young readers, teaching faith, virtue, and heroic holiness.



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GRADES 7–9

Animal Books

Ollivant, Alfred. ***Bob, Son of Battle***, 1898. Two rival sheepdogs and their feuding masters compete for a trophy in rural England, while a boy matures amid the conflict.

Roth, Arthur J. ***The Iceberg Hermit***, 1974. A shipwrecked Scottish teen survives seven years marooned on an Arctic iceberg, bonding with an orphaned polar bear cub.

Biography / Memoir

Bjorn, Thyra Ferré. ***Papa's Wife***, 1955. A young maid marries a Swedish pastor; together they raise eight children and later emigrate to America, guided by faith.

Boom, Corrie ten. ***The Hiding Place***, 1971. True account of the ten Boom family sheltering Jews from Nazis in Holland, then enduring concentration camps; theme of faith and forgiveness. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Borden, Louise. ***His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg***, 2012. Verse biography of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who used forged passports and safe houses to rescue Hungarian Jews from the Holocaust.

* Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. ***For Freedom***, 2003. True story of a French teen who becomes a WWII Resistance spy while pursuing her opera-singing dreams during Nazi occupation.

* Brinkley, William. ***The Deliverance of Sister Cecilia***, 1954. True memoir of Sister Cecilia, a Slovak nun who defies Communist persecution, aids priests' escapes, and flees using disguises. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Carson, Ben. ***Gifted Hands***, 1990. Autobiography of neurosurgeon Ben Carson, from a troubled Detroit childhood to pioneering pediatric neurosurgery, emphasizing faith and perseverance.

Eaton, Jeanette. ***Leader by Destiny: George Washington***, 1938. Fictionalized biography tracing George Washington's life from youth through military career and presidency, emphasizing duty and destined leadership.

Frank, Anne. ***The Diary of a Young Girl***, 1947. Anne Frank's real diary chronicling her family's two years hiding from Nazis in Amsterdam; a testament to human resilience and hope.

* Hawkins, Leonard C. ***The Man in the Iron Lung***, 1956. True story of Frederick Snite Jr., paralyzed by polio, who lived 18 years in an iron lung with courage, faith, and family love.

Hillary, Sir Edmund. ***High Adventure***, 1955. Hillary's memoir of the 1951 Everest reconnaissance and the historic 1953 ascent with Tenzing Norgay, celebrating perseverance and teamwork.

Hilton, James. ***Good-bye, Mr. Chips***, 1934. A gentle, aging schoolmaster reflects on his decades teaching English boys, his brief marriage, and enduring devotion to his students.

Landon, Margaret. ***Anna and the King of Siam***, 1944. Fictionalized biography of Anna Leonowens, a widowed British governess who teaches King Mongkut's children in 1860s Siam, clashing over tradition versus reform.

Lindbergh, Charles A. ***"We"***, 1927. Lindbergh's autobiographical account of his early aviation career and historic solo transatlantic flight, with reflections on aviation's future.

Martin, Betty. ***Miracle at Carville***, 1950. Autobiography of a New Orleans debutante diagnosed with leprosy who spent twenty years at the Carville leprosarium, fighting stigma and despair.

Reid, P.R. ***Escape from Colditz***, 1952. Memoir by British officer Pat Reid recounting ingenious escape attempts from the 'escape-proof' Colditz Castle POW camp during WWII.

Reit, Seymour. ***Behind Rebel Lines***, 1988. Fictionalized biography of Emma Edmonds, a woman who disguises herself as a man to spy for the Union Army during the Civil War.

Rose, Anna Perrott. ***Room for One More***, 1950. Memoir of a modest New Jersey family fostering three children—Jane, Joey, and Jimmy John—chronicling struggles and rewards of foster parenting.

Sandulescu, Jacques. ***Donbas***, 1968. True account of a Romanian teen conscripted into Soviet slave labor in Ukraine's Donbas coal mines, and his daring escape. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Singer, Flora M. ***Flora***, 2007. Memoir of a Jewish girl hidden with her sisters in Belgian convents during the Holocaust, saved by righteous rescuers.

* Twain, Mark. ***Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc***, 1896. Fictionalized memoir narrated by Joan of Arc's page, chronicling her visions, military leadership, trial, and martyrdom for France.

Washington, Booker T. ***Up from Slavery***, 1901. Booker T. Washington's autobiography tracing his rise from slavery to founding Tuskegee Institute, emphasizing education, hard work, and racial uplift.

Wassiljewa, Tatjana. ***Hostage to War***, 1994. True diary-based memoir of a Russian teen's WWII ordeal as a forced laborer in Nazi Germany, enduring hunger yet finding friendship and hope. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Drama/Play

Shakespeare, William. ***Julius Caesar***, 1623. Shakespeare's tragedy dramatizes the conspiracy to assassinate Julius Caesar and its violent aftermath, exploring ambition, honor, and political betrayal. Parent note: Suicide (Depicted)

Shakespeare, William. ***Romeo and Juliet***, 1597. Two teenage lovers from feuding Verona families secretly marry, but a chain of tragic mistakes leads to their deaths. Parent note: Suicide (Depicted)

Shakespeare, William. ***The Tempest***, 1623. Exiled sorcerer Prospero uses magic on an island to reclaim his dukedom, orchestrating reconciliation, forgiveness, and his daughter's marriage.

Fairy Tale / Fantasy / Sci-Fi

Christopher, John. ***The Tripods Trilogy***, 1967. Teen Will Parker flees mind-controlling Tripod machines, journeys to free White Mountains, and later helps overthrow alien Masters ruling Earth.

Dickens, Charles. ***A Christmas Carol***, 1843. Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by four ghosts on Christmas Eve, learning compassion and generosity toward the poor.

Hale, Shannon. ***Princess Academy***, 2005. A mountain girl, Miri, is sent to a harsh academy to compete for a prince's hand, discovering courage, learning, and self-worth.

Hale, Shannon. ***The Goose Girl***, 2003. A betrayed princess flees to a foreign kingdom and becomes a goose girl, using hidden magical animal-speech gifts to reclaim her identity.

Lewis, C. S. ***Out of the Silent Planet***, 1938. Philologist Elwin Ransom is kidnapped and taken to Mars, discovering an unfallen world and Earth's fallen spiritual state.

Orwell, George. ***Animal Farm***, 1945. A satirical allegory of farm animals overthrowing their human master, only for pigs to become new tyrants, mirroring Soviet totalitarianism.

* Tolkien, J.R.R. ***The Lord of the Rings***, 1954. Hobbit Frodo Baggins journeys to destroy the One Ring and defeat the Dark Lord Sauron, exploring courage, sacrifice, and providence.

Historical Fiction

* Betz, Eva K. ***Priest on Horseback: Father Farmer***, 1958. Historical novel following Jesuit missionary Father Farmer's dangerous circuit rides to bring Mass to hidden Catholics in colonial New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Brand, Max. ***Gunfighter's Return***, 1922. A reluctant gunman robs a stagecoach for the exact sum a gambler needs, sparking a strange, fateful bargain between them.

Clark, Ann Nolan. ***All This Wild Land***, 1976. An eleven-year-old Finnish immigrant girl and her parents leave Turku, Finland to homestead in 1870s Minnesota wilderness.

Doyle, Arthur Conan. ***The White Company***, 1891. A young novice leaves an English abbey to join Sir Nigel Loring's mercenary company during the Hundred Years' War in France and Spain.

Dumas, Alexandre. ***The Black Tulip***, 1850. Wrongly imprisoned for treason, Dutch tulip breeder Cornelius van Baerle cultivates a prize black tulip aided by jailer's daughter Rosa.

Fast, Howard. ***Haym Salomon***, 1941. Fictionalized biography for young readers about Haym Salomon, the Jewish American patriot who helped finance the Revolutionary War.

Forester, C. S. ***Hornblower*** series, 1950. A seventeen-year-old Horatio Hornblower begins his naval career in 1793, facing seasickness, duels, and battles that forge him into a skilled officer.

* Garnett, Henry. ***Crossbows and Crucifixes***, 2009. In 1585 England, fifteen-year-old Nicholas Thorpe joins the Companions, a secret Catholic network sheltering hunted priests from persecution. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Garnett, Henry. ***The Blood Red Crescent***, 1960. Venetian boy Guido Callata joins the Catholic Holy League fleet and fights in the 1571 Battle of Lepanto against Ottoman invaders, testing his faith and courage.

* Giesler, Michael. ***Grain of Wheat***, 2008. Third novel in a trilogy about 2nd-century Roman Christians facing persecution, exploring the vocation to celibacy and sanctity of family life.

* Giesler, Michael. ***Junia***, 2002. A senator's daughter in ancient Rome secretly explores Christianity after a friend's martyrdom, risking family, status, and her life.

* Giesler, Michael. ***Marcus***, 2004. In second-century Rome, Marcus, grieving his martyred sister Junia, is drawn into the early Christian community amid persecution and betrayal.

Hunt, Irene. ***Across Five Aprils***, 1964. Nine-year-old Jethro Creighton matures on his Illinois farm as the Civil War divides his family and community across five wartime Aprils.

Hunt, Irene. ***No Promises in the Wind***, 1970. During the Great Depression, 15-year-old Josh and his younger brother Joey leave home, surviving via music while seeking belonging and family reconciliation.

Keith, Harold. ***Rifles for Watie***, 1957. A Kansas teen joins the Union Army, faces brutal Civil War combat, and is sent to spy among Stand Watie's Confederate forces.

Lewis, Elizabeth Foreman. ***Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze***, 1932. A widow's son becomes a coppersmith's apprentice in 1920s Chungking, China, learning honesty, courage, and perseverance amid city life.

Marshall, Catherine. ***Christy***, 1967. A young teacher confronts poverty, superstition, and personal faith while running a school in 1912 Appalachia; themes of compassion and calling. Parent note: Rape/sexual assault (Referenced)

McGraw, Eloise Jarvis. ***Mara, Daughter of the Nile***, 1953. An Egyptian slave girl becomes a double spy for rival factions vying for Pharaoh's throne, risking her life for freedom and love.

Meader, Stephen W. ***Cleared for Action!***, 2001. Anthology of four Stephen W. Meader adventure novels following young sailors through American naval history from 1812 to the Civil War.

Nye, Robert. ***Beowulf: a New Telling***, 1968. A children's retelling of the Anglo-Saxon epic, following hero Beowulf as he battles the monster Grendel to save Hrothgar's kingdom.

Orczy, Emma. ***The Scarlet Pimpernel***, 1905. An English aristocrat secretly rescues French nobles from the guillotine during the Reign of Terror, risking his life and disguising his heroism.

Pyle, Howard. ***Men of Iron***, 1891. A 15th-century English squire, Myles Falworth, trains for knighthood while seeking to clear his blind father's name from treason.

Rinaldi, Ann. ***Time Enough for Drums***, 1986. Teenage Jemima Emerson navigates the Revolutionary War in Trenton, falling for her Tory tutor while her family divides over independence.

Scott, Sir Walter. ***The Talisman***, 1825. A poor Scottish crusader, Sir Kenneth, undertakes secret missions and duels during the Third Crusade, proving honor and true royal identity.

Sperry, Armstrong. ***All Sails Set***, 1935. A New England boy apprentices with shipbuilder Donald McKay and sails the record-breaking maiden voyage of the clipper Flying Cloud around Cape Horn.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Kidnapped!***, 1886. Orphaned David Balfour is kidnapped by his greedy uncle, surviving shipwreck and Highland adventures with Jacobite Alan Breck Stewart to reclaim his inheritance.

* Stockum, Hilda Van. ***The Borrowed House***, 1975. A German Hitler Youth girl in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam gradually discovers Nazi lies and Jewish persecution, awakening her conscience amid propaganda. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced); Rape/sexual assault (Referenced)

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. ***Uncle Tom's Cabin***, 1852. An enslaved Christian man, Tom, is sold repeatedly and endures cruelty under Simon Legree, dying a Christ-like martyr; theme: faith versus slavery's brutality. Parent note: Torture/cruelty; Rape/sexual assault (Depicted)

Wallace, Lew. ***Ben Hur***, 1880. A Jewish prince is betrayed and enslaved by Rome, becomes a charioteer, and finds redemption through Christ's mercy and forgiveness. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Wallace, Sr. M. Imelda. ***Outlaws of Ravenhurst***, 1923. In 17th-century Scotland, young Charles Gordon fights to reclaim his clan's stronghold and defend the Catholic faith amid persecution. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Werstein, Irving. ***The Long Escape***, 1964. Based on a true story, a rest-home matron leads fifty children fleeing Belgium to England as Hitler's armies invade in 1940.

History / Nonfiction

Lansing, Alfred. ***Endurance***, 1959. True account of Ernest Shackleton's 1914-16 Antarctic expedition, whose ship Endurance was crushed by ice, and the crew's harrowing survival.

Maas, Peter. ***The Terrible Hours***, 1999. True account of the 1939 USS Squalus submarine disaster and Swede Momsen's daring rescue of 33 trapped sailors.

Mystery / Adventure

Buchan, John. ***The Thirty-Nine Steps***, 1915. Richard Hannay flees across Scotland after a spy is murdered in his flat, uncovering a plot to steal British secrets.

Christie, Agatha. ***Murder on the Orient Express*** (and other mysteries), 1934. Hercule Poirot solves the stabbing murder of an American gangster aboard a snowbound train, unmasking a conspiracy of vigilante justice.

Hawes, Charles Boardman. ***The Dark Frigate***, 1923. Orphaned sailor Philip Marsham is forced into piracy after his ship is seized at sea, facing trial and moral peril upon return.

MacLean, Alistair. ***The Guns of Navarone***, 1957. WWII commandos led by Keith Mallory infiltrate a Greek island to destroy massive German guns threatening Allied forces.

Masefield, John. ***Jim Davis***, 1911. An orphaned 12-year-old boy on the Devon coast is drawn into a smuggling gang, facing sea chases, battles, and danger.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde***, 1886. A London lawyer investigates the sinister link between his respectable friend Dr. Jekyll and the violent Mr. Hyde, exploring good and evil within one soul.

Verne, Jules. ***Around the World in Eighty Days***, 1872. Wealthy Englishman Phileas Fogg wagers he can circle the globe in eighty days, testing determination against time and technology.

Realistic Fiction

Austen, Jane. ***Emma***, 1815. Wealthy, clever Emma Woodhouse meddles in friends' romances, learning humility and self-knowledge through comic misunderstandings and mistaken matchmaking.

Austen, Jane. ***Persuasion***, 1817. Anne Elliot, persuaded years earlier to reject Captain Wentworth, gets a second chance at love when he returns, wealthier and eligible, testing pride and regret.

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Austen, Jane. ***Pride and Prejudice***, 1813. Witty Elizabeth Bennet and proud Mr. Darcy overcome misjudgments and class pride to find true love in Regency England.

Austen, Jane. ***Sense and Sensibility***, 1811. Two Dashwood sisters, one reasoned and one romantic, navigate love, financial hardship, and heartbreak after their father's death. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

Bianco, Margery Williams. ***Winterbound***, 1936. Four siblings, led by teens Kay and Garry, manage an unheated Connecticut farmhouse alone through winter while their parents are away.

Cleaver, Vera. ***Where the Lilies Bloom***, 1969. Fourteen-year-old Mary Call Luther hides her father's death and struggles to keep her Appalachian siblings together and self-sufficient.

* Doman, Regina. ***Black as Night***, 2004. A modern Snow White retelling: Blanche hides from dangerous pursuers in NYC while Franciscan friars shelter a runaway girl, exploring faith and vocation. Parent note: Suicide (Depicted); Sexual immorality (Referenced)

* Doman, Regina. ***The Shadow of the Bear***, 1997. Modern retelling of Snow White and Rose Red: two sisters befriend a mysterious young man entangled in danger, exploring trust, virtue, and family loyalty.

* Doman, Regina. ***Waking Rose***, 2008. A modern retelling of Sleeping Beauty in which college student Rose Brier and Fish must overcome past trauma, danger, and doubt to find true love. Parent note: Rape/sexual assault (Referenced); Homosexuality (Referenced)

Forbes, Kathryn. ***Mama's Bank Account***, 1943. Episodic, semi-autobiographical stories of a Norwegian immigrant mother's thrift, wisdom, and love holding her San Francisco family together.

Gallico, Paul. ***Mrs Harris Goes to Paris***, 1958. A London charwoman scrimps to buy a Dior gown in Paris, discovering kindness and connection matter more than material dreams.

* Guareschi, Giovanni. ***The Little World of Don Camillo***, 1948. Comic short stories of a feisty village priest, Don Camillo, and communist mayor Peppone clashing yet finding grudging respect in postwar Italy.

Holman, Felice. ***Slake's Limbo***, 1974. Bullied 13-year-old Aremis Slake hides in NYC subway tunnels for 121 days, finding resilience, dignity, and quiet human kindness.

Kipling, Rudyard. ***Captains Courageous***, 1897. A spoiled rich boy, swept overboard from a liner, is rescued by a fishing schooner's crew and learns hard work, humility, and character.

Patton, Frances Gray. ***Good Morning, Miss Dove***, 1954. A stern small-town geography teacher's sudden hospitalization reveals her lifelong, disciplined influence on generations of students.

Stratton-Porter, Gene. ***A Girl of the Limberlost***, 1909. Impoverished Elnora Comstock overcomes her grieving mother's neglect, pursuing high school, music, and moth-collecting near Indiana's vanishing Limberlost Swamp.

Stratton-Porter, Gene. ***Freckles***, 1904. An orphaned, one-armed young man guards Limberlost Swamp timber, falls for the 'Swamp Angel,' and seeks his true parentage.

Twain, Mark. ***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***, 1884. Huck Finn flees his abusive father and rafts down the Mississippi with runaway slave Jim, confronting slavery and morality.

Webster, Jean. ***Daddy Long-Legs***, 1912. Orphan Judy Abbott writes witty letters to an anonymous college benefactor, growing intellectually and falling for the mysterious 'Daddy-Long-Legs.'.

Religion / Devotional

* Barrett, William E. ***The Lilies of the Field***, 1962. A drifting Black ex-GI helps German refugee nuns build a desert chapel, discovering faith, community, and purpose.

* Gallagher, J. P. ***The Scarlet and the Black***, 1967. True WWII account of Msgr. Hugh O'Flaherty's Vatican-based network saving Jews, POWs, and refugees from Nazi-occupied Rome. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Hurnard, Hannah. ***Hinds' Feet on High Places***, 1955. Allegorical tale of Much-Afraid's journey with the Shepherd through Sorrow and Suffering to reach the High Places, symbolizing spiritual transformation and trust in God.

❄ Swaim, Colleen. ***Ablaze***, 2011. Nonfiction profiles of eight young Catholic saints and blesseds who lived heroic virtue and faith as teenagers, with reflections and prayers.



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GRADES 10–12

Animal Books

Bagnold, Enid. ***National Velvet***, 1935. A shy 14-year-old English girl wins a piebald horse in a raffle and trains him to win the Grand National steeplechase.

Wangerin, Walter, Jr. ***The Book of the Dun Cow***, 1978. Chauntecleer the rooster leads farmyard animals against Wyrm, an ancient evil, in a mythic tale of sacrifice and redemption.

Biography / Memoir

Burgess, Alan. ***The Small Woman***, 1957. Biography of Protestant missionary Gladys Aylward, who ministered in 1930s China and led orphaned children to safety during the Japanese invasion.

Cherry-Garrard, Apsley. ***The Worst Journey in the World***, 1922. Memoir recounting Scott's fatal 1910–1913 Antarctic expedition, exploring courage, suffering, and endurance in extreme conditions.

❄ Chesterton, G.K. ***Autobiography of G.K. Chesterton***, 1936. Chesterton's reflective memoir tracing his childhood, ideas, friendships, and journey to Roman Catholic faith, told with wit and humility.

Crockett, Davy. ***Life of David Crockett***, 1834. Crockett's autobiography recounts his frontier childhood, hunting exploits, militia service, and rise in politics, celebrating self-reliant individualism.

Curie, Eve. ***Madame Curie***, 1937. Eve Curie's biography of her mother, Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie, tracing her life, discoveries, and scientific dedication.

Dana, Richard Henry. ***Two Years Before the Mast***, 1840. Dana's memoir of two years as a common sailor voyaging from Boston to California, exposing the hardships of maritime labor.

Day, Clarence. ***Life with Father***, 1935. Humorous autobiographical vignettes about Clarence Day's domineering, larger-than-life Wall Street father in 1890s New York.

❄ Denton, Jeremiah A. ***When Hell Was in Session***, 1975. Navy pilot Jeremiah Denton's memoir of nearly eight years as a Vietnam POW enduring torture, sustained by prayer and unbroken faith. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Frankl, Viktor E. ***Man's Search for Meaning***, 1946. Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl recounts his Nazi concentration camp experiences and outlines logotherapy, the search for meaning even amid suffering. Parent note: Torture/cruelty; Suicide (Referenced)

Franklin, Benjamin. ***The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin***, 1791. Franklin's unfinished memoir written to his son, recounting his rise from apprentice printer to renowned statesman, scientist, and inventor.

Griffin, John Howard. ***Black Like Me***, 1961. A white journalist darkens his skin to travel through the segregated Deep South, documenting the everyday racism and prejudice Black Americans faced.

Herriot, James. ***All Creatures Great and Small*** series, 1972. Memoir of a young veterinarian in 1930s Yorkshire, treating farm animals and pets while cherishing rural life and its people.

* Johnson, Abby. ***Unplanned***, 2010. Memoir of a former Planned Parenthood clinic director whose witnessing an abortion sparked her dramatic conversion to the pro-life movement.

Keller, Helen. ***The Story of My Life***, 1903. Helen Keller's autobiography recounting her childhood deafness-blindness and her education with teacher Anne Sullivan.

Peter, Jenkins. ***A Walk Across America***, 1979. Memoir of Peter Jenkins' 1970s cross-country walk from New York to New Orleans, seeking personal meaning and rediscovering faith in America.

Shiber, Etta. ***Paris Underground***, 1943. American Etta Shiber's memoir of smuggling British soldiers out of Nazi-occupied Paris before her arrest and imprisonment by the Gestapo. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Drama/Play

* Bolt, Robert. ***A Man for All Seasons***, 1960. Play dramatizing Sir Thomas More's principled refusal to support Henry VIII's divorce, exploring conscience versus political power.

* Eliot, T. S. ***Murder in the Cathedral***, 1935. Verse drama dramatizing Archbishop Thomas Becket's 1170 assassination by Henry II's knights, exploring martyrdom, temptation, and spiritual integrity.

* Shakespeare and other Elizabethan playwrights. ***Sir Thomas More***, 1844. Elizabethan collaborative play dramatizing Thomas More's rise as Lord Chancellor, the 1517 Ill May Day riots, and his execution for conscience. Parent note: Rape/sexual assault (Referenced)

Shakespeare, William. ***A Comedy of Errors***, 1623. Farcical comedy of two sets of twins separated at birth, causing mistaken identities and chaos in Ephesus before joyful family reunion.

Shakespeare, William. ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, 1600. Four young Athenian lovers flee to a fairy-haunted forest, where Puck's magic causes comic romantic chaos before love is restored.

Shakespeare, William. ***As You Like It***, 1623. Rosalind flees a usurping duke's court to the Forest of Arden, disguises as a boy, and explores love, identity, and true nobility.

Shakespeare, William. ***Hamlet***, 1603. A Danish prince feigns madness while seeking revenge against his uncle for murdering his father, the king. Parent note: Suicide (Referenced)

Shakespeare, William. ***Henry V***, 1599. Shakespeare's history play dramatizing King Henry V's invasion of France, culminating in the English victory at Agincourt and his marriage to Katherine.

Shakespeare, William. ***King Lear***, 1608. A king who divides his realm based on flattery descends into madness and tragedy, exploring loyalty, betrayal, and human suffering. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Shakespeare, William. ***Macbeth***, 1623. A Scottish general, spurred by witches' prophecies and his ambitious wife, murders the king to seize the throne, leading to his ruin.

Shakespeare, William. ***Much Ado About Nothing***, 1600. Comedy of two couples in Messina: witty rivals Beatrice and Benedick, and Hero and Claudio, tested by deception and false accusation. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

Shakespeare, William. ***Richard III***, 1597. Richard of Gloucester schemes, murders relatives and rivals to seize the English crown, then falls to Richmond at Bosworth Field.

Shakespeare, William. ***The Merchant of Venice***, 1600. Bassanio borrows from Shylock to court Portia; when Antonio's ships fail, Shylock demands his pound of flesh in this comedy.

Shakespeare, William. ***The Winter's Tale***, 1623. King Leontes' baseless jealousy destroys his family; years later, reunion, forgiveness, and a statue's miraculous 'awakening' restore all.

Shaw, George Bernard. ***Pygmalion***, 1913. Phonetics professor Henry Higgins transforms Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle into a lady, satirizing class and identity in Edwardian England.

Fairy Tale / Fantasy / Sci-Fi

Card, Orson Scott. ***Ender's Game***, 1985. A gifted child is trained through brutal war games to command Earth's fleet against an alien species, exploring guilt, isolation, and unintended genocide. Parent note: Crude language

* Chesterton, G.K. ***The Ball and the Cross***, 1909. A devout Catholic Scotsman and an atheist publisher pursue a duel over faith versus reason, sparking comic philosophical adventures.

Huxley, Aldous. ***Brave New World***, 1932. In a genetically engineered future World State, Bernard and Lenina meet John the Savage, exposing dehumanizing costs of enforced happiness. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Depicted); Suicide (Depicted)

Lewis, C. S. ***Perelandra***, 1943. Elwin Ransom travels to Venus to stop the demonic Un-man from tempting the planet's Eve-like Green Lady into a second Fall.

Lewis, C. S. ***That Hideous Strength***, 1945. The final Space Trilogy novel; a couple is drawn into a battle between the sinister N.I.C.E. and Ransom's allies over England's soul. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Lewis, C.S. ***The Great Divorce***, 1945. Allegorical dream-vision in which a narrator rides a bus from a dreary Hell to the outskirts of Heaven, exploring free will and grace. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

Lewis, C.S. ***Till We Have Faces***, 1956. Lewis retells the myth of Cupid and Psyche through jealous sister Orual, exploring possessive love, faith, and self-deception in a pagan kingdom.

Lowry, Lois. ***The Giver***, 1993. Twelve-year-old Jonas becomes Receiver of Memory in a controlled society, discovering the hidden cost of enforced sameness and painless conformity. Parent note: Euthanasia (Referenced)

Morris, William. ***The Well at the World's End***, 1896. Prince Ralph of Upmeads quests for a legendary well granting renewed life, facing knights, love, and loss along the way. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

Wells, H. G. ***The Invisible Man***, 1897. A scientist named Griffin discovers how to become invisible but cannot reverse it, descending into madness and violence; warns against unchecked scientific power.

Historical Fiction

Aleichem, Sholem. ***Tevye the Dairyman and the Railroad Stories***, 1894. A Bible-quoting Jewish dairyman recounts his daughters' marriages and misfortunes amid modernity's disruption of shtetl life in Tsarist Russia. Parent note: Suicide (Referenced)

* Benson, Robert Hugh. ***Come Rack! Come Rope!***, 1912. Two young Derbyshire lovers, Robin and Marjorie, sacrifice marriage for priesthood and martyrdom amid Elizabethan Catholic persecution. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Cather, Willa. ***Death Comes for the Archbishop***, 1927. Two French priests establish a Catholic diocese in 19th-century New Mexico, facing hardship, loneliness, and quiet faith amid vast frontier landscapes.

* Cather, Willa. ***My Antonia***, 1918. Jim Burden recalls his childhood friendship with Ántonia Shimerda, a spirited Bohemian immigrant girl, on the Nebraska frontier. Parent note: Suicide (Depicted); Sexual immorality (Depicted); Rape/sexual assault (Depicted)

* Cather, Willa. ***O Pioneers!***, 1913. Swedish immigrant Alexandra Bergson transforms her Nebraska farm through toil and vision, while love, loss, and a tragic affair unfold nearby. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Depicted)

* Cather, Willa. ***Shadows on the Rock***, 1931. A widowed apothecary and his devout young daughter navigate one year of daily life in 17th-century French colonial Quebec.

* Chesterton, G.K. ***The Ballad of the White Horse***, 1911. Epic poem of King Alfred the Great rallying Saxons against Danish invaders after a vision of the Virgin Mary inspires his faith and courage.

Cooper, James Fenimore. ***The Deerslayer***, 1841. Young frontiersman Natty Bumppo aids the Hutter family against an Iroquois attack at Otsego Lake, exploring honor and nature's moral law. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Costain, Thomas Bertram. ***The Silver Chalice***, 1952. First-century Greek slave Basil is commissioned to craft a chalice for Christ's Last Supper cup, exploring faith, art, and moral integrity amid Roman corruption.

Crane, Stephen. ***The Red Badge of Courage***, 1895. A young Union soldier flees his first battle, then grapples with shame and fear before finding courage in later combat.

Dickens, Charles. ***A Tale of Two Cities***, 1859. Set during the French Revolution, Dr. Manette's family faces peril in Paris; Sydney Carton sacrifices himself out of selfless love. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Douglas, Lloyd C. ***The Robe***, 1942. A Roman tribune wins Christ's robe at the Crucifixion and is drawn toward faith while investigating its origin and power.

* Fort, Gertrud von Le. ***The Song at the Scaffold***, 1931. Novella about Blanche de la Force, a timid aristocrat nun facing martyrdom with the Carmelites of Compiègne during the Reign of Terror.

Fox, John. ***The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come***, 1903. Orphaned Kentucky mountain boy Chad Buford rises in society, faces the Civil War, and must choose loyalty to Union or Confederacy.

Freedman, Benedict. ***Mrs. Mike***, 1947. Sixteen-year-old Irish-American Katherine O'Fallon marries a Mountie and builds a life of love and hardship in the Canadian wilderness.

Goldsmith, Oliver. ***The Vicar of Wakefield***, 1766. A vicar's family endures ruin, betrayal, and misfortune, testing faith, patience, and virtue before happiness is restored. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

* Greene, Graham. ***The Power and the Glory***, 1940. A nameless alcoholic 'whiskey priest' flees persecution in 1930s Mexico, wrestling with sin and grace toward possible martyrdom. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

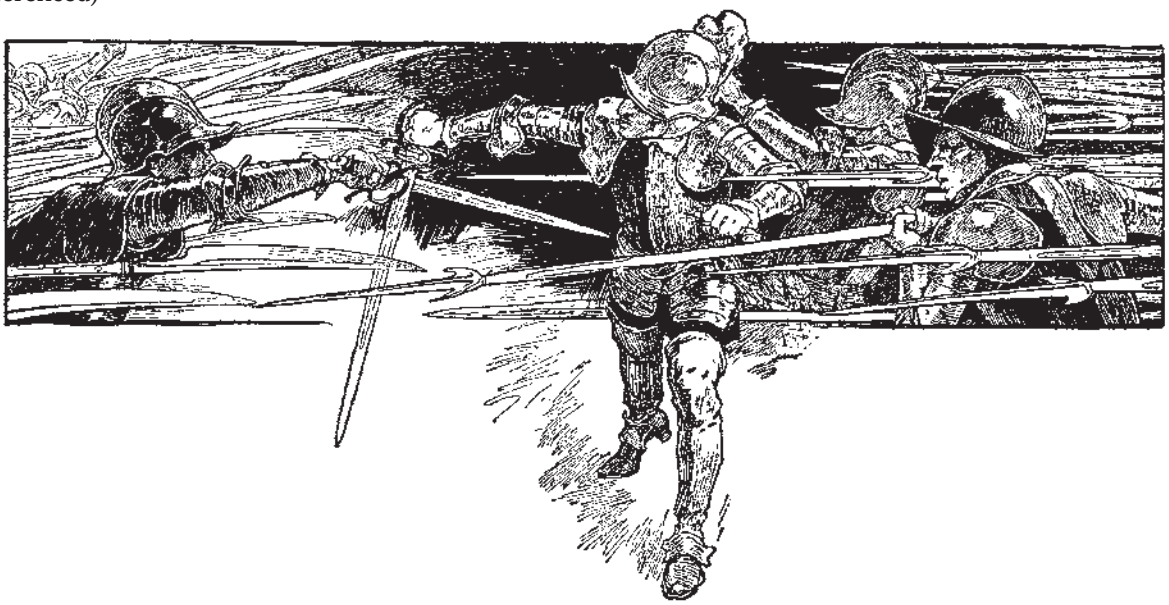
Grey, Zane. ***Wilderness Trek***, 1944. Two American cowboys join a dangerous cattle drive across the vast Australian outback, facing rustlers, weather, and a villainous rival, with romance woven throughout.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. ***The Scarlet Letter***, 1850. In Puritan Boston, Hester Prynne bears public shame for adultery while the secret guilt of her lover, a minister, destroys him from within. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

Melville, Herman. ***Billy Budd***, 1924. Handsome sailor Billy Budd is falsely accused of mutiny by envious Claggart, kills him, and is condemned; explores innocence versus institutional justice.

Porter, Jane. ***The Scottish Chiefs***, 1810. Historical novel following William Wallace's fight for Scottish independence after the English kill his wife, exploring heroism and patriotism.

Sabatini, Rafael. ***Captain Blood***, 1922. An Irish physician wrongly convicted of treason is enslaved, escapes, and becomes a notorious but honorable Caribbean pirate captain.



Sabatini, Rafael. ***Scaramouche***, 1921. A French lawyer turns actor, revolutionary, and fencing-master, seeking revenge for a friend's death, transforming from cynic to idealist.

Schaefer, Jack. ***Shane***, 1949. A mysterious gunfighter aids Wyoming homesteaders against a ruthless cattle baron, exploring honor, sacrifice, and the cost of violence.

* Sienkiewicz, Henryk. ***Quo Vadis?***, 1896. In Nero's Rome, patrician Vinicius pursues Christian hostage Lygia, whose faith transforms his pagan worldview amid persecution. Parent note: Torture/cruelty; Sexual immorality (Referenced)

* Sienkiewicz, Henryk. ***With Fire and Sword***, 1884. Polish officer Jan Skrzetuski battles Cossack and Tartar forces while searching for his beloved Helena during the 17th-century Khmelnytsky Uprising. Parent note: Rape/sexual assault (Referenced)

Wister, Owen. ***The Virginian***, 1902. A Wyoming cowboy known as the Virginian battles his enemy Trampas and courts Vermont schoolteacher Molly Wood, contrasting frontier honor with Eastern civility.

History / Nonfiction

Bowen, Catherine Drinker. ***Miracle at Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention***, 1966. Nonfiction narrative of the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, detailing delegates' compromises that produced the U.S. Constitution.

Brickhill, Paul. ***The Great Escape***, 1950. True account of the 1944 mass tunnel escape by Allied POWs from a Nazi German air force prison camp. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Burgess, Alan. ***The Longest Tunnel***, 1990. Nonfiction account of the 1944 Great Escape from Stalag Luft III: the tunnel breakout, execution of 50 airmen, and postwar hunt for their Gestapo killers. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Chesterton, G.K. ***Lepanto***, 1911. Narrative poem celebrating the 1571 Battle of Lepanto, portraying Don John of Austria as a Christian champion against the Ottoman fleet.

* Chesterton, G.K. ***On Lying in Bed and Other Essays***, 2000. Anthology of witty G.K. Chesterton essays, edited by Alberto Manguel, celebrating wonder and meaning in everyday, ordinary experiences.

Parkman, Francis. ***The Oregon Trail***, 1849. Parkman's first-person account of his 1846 journey along the Oregon Trail, including weeks spent hunting buffalo with Oglala Sioux.

Mystery / Adventure

Brontë, Charlotte. ***Jane Eyre***, 1847. Orphaned Jane Eyre endures hardship as a child and governess, falling in love with Mr. Rochester while asserting her moral independence and integrity.

Brontë, Emily. ***Wuthering Heights***, 1847. Tragic tale of Heathcliff and Catherine's destructive obsessive love, spanning two generations on the Yorkshire moors; explores revenge and class. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Chesterton, G.K. ***Four Faultless Felons***, 1930. Four linked mystery novellas about men who confess to seeming crimes—murder, fraud, theft, treason—each with a paradoxical, virtuous justification.

* Chesterton, G.K. ***Manalive***, 1912. Eccentric Innocent Smith upends a London boarding house, facing charges of bigamy, burglary, and murder that reveal deeper truths about joy and life.

* Chesterton, G.K. ***The Club of Queer Trades***, 1905. Whimsical mystery stories in which a retired judge and his brother uncover bizarrely inventive, legal professions behind seemingly strange crimes.

* Chesterton, G.K. ***The Complete Father Brown Mysteries***, 1911. Complete collection of Chesterton's detective stories starring Father Brown, a humble priest whose insight into human sin solves ingenious crimes.

* Chesterton, G.K. ***The Man Who Was Thursday***, 1908. Poet-detective Gabriel Syme infiltrates a surreal anarchist council, uncovering a mysterious allegory about order, chaos, and divine providence.

* Chesterton, G.K. ***The Napoleon of Notting Hill***, 1904. In a future London ruled by a joking king, one man defends his small borough with fierce, transformative patriotic idealism.

* Chesterton, G.K. ***The Poet and the Lunatics***, 1929. Eight linked mystery tales in which eccentric poet-painter Gabriel Gale uses insight into madness to solve or prevent crimes.

Collins, Wilkie. ***The Moonstone***, 1868. A sacred Indian diamond vanishes after being given to Rachel Verinder; multiple narrators unravel the theft in this pioneering detective novel. Parent note: Suicide (Referenced)

Defoe, Daniel. ***Robinson Crusoe***, 1719. An Englishman is shipwrecked and survives alone nearly 28 years on a Caribbean island, exploring providence, faith, and self-reliance.

Doyle, Arthur Conan. ***The Complete Adventures of Sherlock Holmes***, 1887. Complete collection of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories, following the detective and Dr. Watson solving crimes through logical deduction.

Dumas, Alexandre. ***The Count of Monte Cristo***, 1844. Falsely imprisoned sailor Edmond Dantès escapes, gains hidden treasure, and methodically exacts elaborate revenge on his betrayers. Parent note: Suicide (Depicted); Torture/cruelty; Sexual immorality (Referenced)

Homer. ***The Iliad***, c. 8th century BC. Epic poem on the final weeks of the Trojan War, centered on Achilles' wrath; explores honor, fate, and mortality.

Homer. ***The Odyssey***, c. 8th century BC. Epic poem following Odysseus's ten-year journey home to Ithaca after the Trojan War, facing monsters, gods, and temptations.

Hope, Anthony. ***The Prisoner of Zenda***, 1894. An Englishman impersonates the kidnapped King of Ruritania, facing the scheming Black Michael and villainous Rupert of Hentzau, while falling in love with Princess Flavia.

Melville, Herman. ***Moby Dick***, 1851. Ishmael narrates Captain Ahab's obsessive, vengeful hunt for the great white whale that maimed him, exploring fate and evil.

Sayers, Dorothy L. ***Whose Body?*** and others, 1923. Lord Peter Wimsey investigates an unidentified corpse found in a bathtub, unraveling a case of stolen identity and murder. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced); Suicide (Presented Positively)

Tey, Josephine. ***Brat Farrar***, 1949. An orphan is coached to impersonate a dead heir to a wealthy English family, until old secrets threaten to expose him. Parent note: Suicide (Referenced)

Tolkien, J.R.R. ***Beowulf***, 2014. J.R.R. Tolkien's prose translation of the Old English epic, in which Beowulf slays Grendel, his mother, and a dragon before dying.

Virgil. ***Aeneid***, 19 BC. Trojan hero Aeneas flees fallen Troy and endures years of wandering and war to found the destined nation of Rome. Parent note: Suicide (Depicted)

Realistic Fiction

Austen, Jane. ***Mansfield Park***, 1814. Fanny Price grows up amid wealthy relatives, navigating temptation, family duty, and steadfast moral virtue in Regency England. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

Austen, Jane. ***Northanger Abbey***, 1817. Satirical coming-of-age novel following naïve Catherine Morland, whose gothic-novel fantasies collide with reality during visits to Bath and Northanger Abbey.

Chekhov, Anton. ***Short Stories of Anton Chekhov***, 1880-1903. A collection of Chekhov's short stories exploring Russian life, disillusionment, and unfulfilled dreams through spare, impressionistic realism. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

* Connolly, Myles. ***Mr. Blue***, 1928. A wealthy young man gives away his fortune to live among the poor, embracing radical Christian joy and freedom, a modern St. Francis.

Conrad, Joseph. ***Heart of Darkness***, 1899. Sailor Marlow journeys up the Congo River, encountering ivory trader Kurtz, exploring imperialism's corrupting effect on human nature.

* Cronin, A. J. ***The Keys of the Kingdom***, 1941. A humble Scottish priest, Francis Chisholm, spends decades as a missionary in China, enduring hardship, famine, and war with quiet faith.

Dickens, Charles. ***David Copperfield***, 1849. Semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story following orphaned David Copperfield from hardship-filled childhood to adulthood in Victorian England.

Dickens, Charles. ***Oliver Twist***, 1837. Orphan Oliver Twist escapes a workhouse and falls in with a London gang of pickpockets led by the criminal Fagin. Parent note: Torture/cruelty; Prostitution (Referenced)

Dickens, Charles. ***The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby***, 1839. Young Nicholas Nickleby supports his widowed mother and sister while battling his cruel uncle Ralph and a brutal Yorkshire school, exposing social injustice. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. ***Crime and Punishment***, 1866. An impoverished former student murders a pawnbroker in St. Petersburg, then endures guilt, isolation, and eventual spiritual redemption. Parent note: Suicide (Depicted); Prostitution (Depicted)

Hemingway, Ernest. ***The Old Man and the Sea***, 1952. An aging Cuban fisherman battles a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream, exploring endurance, dignity, and man's struggle against nature.

Henry, O. ***Complete Short Stories of O. Henry***, 1911. Anthology gathering O. Henry's witty, ironic American short stories about ordinary city folk, famous for surprise twist endings and gentle humor.

James, Henry. ***The American***, 1877. Wealthy American Christopher Newman courts aristocratic Parisian widow Claire de Cintré, whose family's pride and dark secrets thwart his marriage hopes.

Lee, Harper. ***To Kill a Mockingbird***, 1960. A young girl in 1930s Alabama watches her lawyer father defend a Black man falsely accused of rape amid racial injustice. Parent note: Rape/sexual assault (Referenced); Profanity; Crude language

Potok, Chaim. ***The Chosen***, 1967. Two Brooklyn teens from different Jewish traditions forge a deep friendship after a baseball injury, amid faith and father-son tension.

Tolstoy, Leo. ***Anna Karenina***, 1878. Anna Karenina, unhappily married to a government official, pursues a passionate affair with Count Vronsky, defying Russian society's moral codes. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Depicted); Suicide (Depicted)

❋ Waugh, Evelyn. ***Brideshead Revisited***, 1945. Charles Ryder recalls his entanglement with the aristocratic Catholic Flyte family, exploring nostalgia, grace, and faith's pull. Parent note: Homosexuality (Referenced); Sexual immorality (Depicted)

Wilde, Oscar. ***The Picture of Dorian Gray***, 1890. A vain young man's portrait ages and bears his sins while he stays youthful, exploring hedonism, corruption, and the soul's decay. Parent note: Suicide (Depicted); Sexual immorality (Referenced)

Religion / Devotional

❋ Augustine of Hippo. ***Confessions of St. Augustine***, AD 397. Augustine's autobiographical account of his sinful youth, restless search for truth, and conversion to Catholic Christianity through God's grace. Parent note: Sexual immorality (Referenced)

❋ Chesterton, G.K. ***Heretics***, 1905. Chesterton's essay collection critiquing modern thinkers like Shaw, Wells, and Kipling while defending Christian orthodoxy.

❋ Chesterton, G.K. ***Orthodoxy***, 1908. Chesterton's spiritual autobiography and Christian apologetics classic, defending orthodox Christianity as the philosophy that best satisfies human paradoxes and needs.

❋ Chesterton, G.K. ***St. Francis of Assisi***, 1923. Chesterton's spiritual biography of St. Francis of Assisi, exploring his radical poverty, joy, and love of creation as authentic sanctity.

❋ Chesterton, G.K. ***St. Thomas Aquinas***, 1933. Chesterton's witty biography of St. Thomas Aquinas, exploring his life, character, and reconciliation of faith with Aristotelian reason.

❋ Chesterton, G.K. ***The Everlasting Man***, 1925. Christian apologetics work arguing humanity and Christ are unique, rebutting evolutionary materialist views of history and religion.

❋ Ciszek, Walter J. ***He Leadeth Me***, 1973. Jesuit priest Walter Ciszek shares the spiritual lessons he learned from 23 years in Soviet prisons and Siberian labor camps. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Ciszek, Walter J. ***With God in Russia***, 1964. Jesuit priest Walter Ciszek recounts 23 years in Soviet prisons and Siberian labor camps, secretly saying Mass and hearing confessions. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Fadelle, Joseph. ***The Price to Pay***, 2010. True memoir of an Iraqi Shiite Muslim who converts to Catholicism after befriending a Christian roommate, facing persecution and near-martyrdom. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Glynn, Paul. ***A Song for Nagasaki***, 1988. Biography of Takashi Nagai, Japanese doctor who survived the Nagasaki atomic bomb and converted to Catholicism amid suffering and loss.

* Goldmann, Fr. Gereon. ***The Shadow of His Wings: The True Story of Fr. Gereon Goldmann, OFM***, 1964. Fr. Gereon Goldmann's memoir of surviving forced SS/Wehrmacht service in WWII while secretly completing seminary training and ministering as a Franciscan priest.

  Lewis, C. S. ***The Screwtape Letters***, 1942. Senior devil Screwtape mentors nephew Wormwood via letters on tempting a man, satirizing sin, virtue, and spiritual warfare.

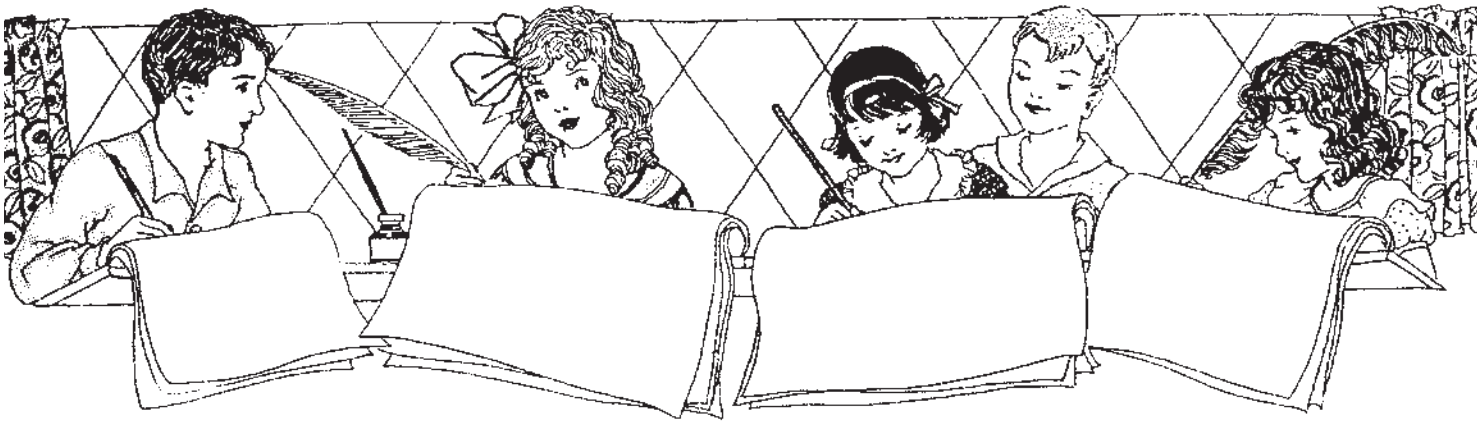
  Lewis, C.S. ***Mere Christianity***, 1952. Lewis's classic apologetics work argues for the reasonableness of Christian belief, morality, and doctrine from BBC wartime radio talks.

* Thérèse of Lisieux, St. ***The Story of a Soul***, 1898. St. Thérèse's spiritual autobiography describing her childhood, Carmelite vocation, and her 'Little Way' of confidence and love toward God.

* Treece, Patricia. ***A Man for Others: Maximilian Kolbe, Saint of Auschwitz***, 1982. Biography of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Franciscan priest who died at Auschwitz, told through eyewitness testimonies of those who knew him. Parent note: Torture/cruelty

* Werfel, Franz. ***The Song of Bernadette***, 1941. Novel dramatizing St. Bernadette Soubirous's 1858 Marian visions at Lourdes, exploring faith, humility, and skepticism from authorities.

* Wohl, Louis De. ***Citadel of God*** and others, 1959. Historical novel following Benedictus of Nursia from Roman student to hermit and founder of monasteries amid the fall of Rome to the Goths.

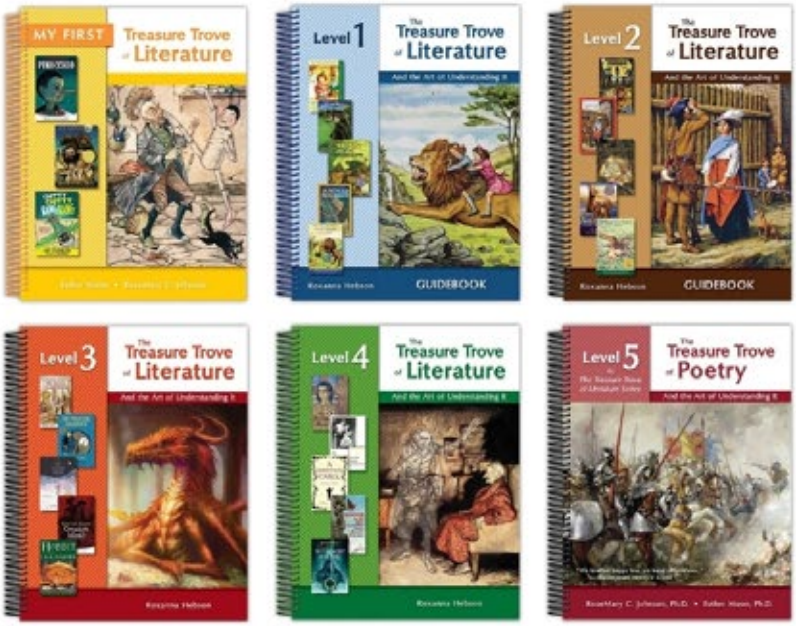


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