



INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC LIBERAL EDUCATION

Selecting Books for the Catholic School Library

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

- ❖ This list is not an unqualified endorsement of every resource referenced below. However, we have done our best to make your job easier by providing recommendations from reliable sources.
- ❖ We have not included many classic works which are typically included in classroom instruction or library holdings, such as the works of Homer, Shakespeare, and Jane Austen. Please see "Book Lists" below for comprehensive catalogues of more canonical works of literature.
- ❖ We recommend finding a beautifully illustrated version of each work when possible.
- ❖ There is no significance to the order in which these resources are listed, or to the presence or absence of a link. Most of the links on this document direct you to Amazon. This is for convenience only. We recommend that you purchase from the publisher or another distributor when possible.
- ❖ The grade level recommendations are fluid, and depend on the wit and formation of the child, as well as whether the child is reading or being read to. Many works can be read to a child at an early age, and then re-read by the child as he grows and matures.

WHERE TO PURCHASE BOOKS

[Good News Book Fair](#)

(Catholic alternative to Scholastic)

BOOK LISTS

[Cardinal Newman Society Reading List for K-12](#)

[Catholic Schools](#)

[John Senior and the Thousand Good Books List](#)

[Before Austen comes Aesop](#)

[Educational Plan of St. Jerome Academy](#)

[St. Jerome Institute Curriculum](#)

[St. John's College Reading Lists](#)

[Glory of America](#)

[Honey for a Child's Heart by Gladys Hunt](#)

[Read Aloud Revival](#)

[Good and Beautiful Book List](#)

[A Landscape with Dragons by Michael O'Brien](#)

[Designing Your Own Classical Curriculum by](#)

[Laura Berquist](#)

[Books in Spanish](#)

[Shower of Roses Book Lists](#)

[A Mother's List of Books](#)

RECOMMENDED AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS

[Books illustrated by Brian Wildsmith](#)

[Books by Tomie dePaola](#)

[Books by Charlotte Yonge](#)

[Books by P.G. Wodehouse](#)

[Gene Stratton-Porter](#)

Rosemary Wells

Kevin Henkes

Robert McClosky

Allen Say

John Himmelman

Barbara Cooney

Mo Willems

Cynthia Rylant

Louisa May Alcott

EARLY (PK-2)

[Poems of Childhood by Eugene Field](#)

[Anthology of older poems and stories for children](#)

[The Handsome Little Cygnet, by Matthew Mehan](#)

[Hilaire Belloc's Cautionary Tales and Bad Child's Book of Beasts](#)

Oh No! A Fox!, by Janet Morgan Stoeke

Minvera Louise on Christmas Eve, by Janet Morgan Stoeke and other books by Janet Morgan Stoeke

The Frog and Toad Treasury, by Arnold Lobel

Fairy Tales, by Hans Christian Anderson

[Very Young Catholics from Holy Heroes](#)

[Fish is fish, by Leo Lionni](#)

Mr. Popper's Penguins, by Richard and Frances Atwater

Mrs. Piggle Wiggle books, by Betty Macdonald

Winne-the-Pooh, by A.A. Milne

Once Upon a Time Saints, by Ethel Pochocki

Happy Times in Noisy Village, The Children of Noisy Village, by Astrid Lindgren, et al.

The Jungle Book, by Rudyard Kipling

Just So Stories, by Rudyard Kipling

King Bidgood's in the Bathtub, by Audrey Wood & Don Wood

The Napping House, by Audrey Wood & Don Wood

Wheel on the School, by Meindert DeJong

[Knuffie Bunny, by Mo Willems](#)

Five Little Peppers, by Margaret Sidney

[Boxcar Children, by Gertrude Chandler Warner](#)

Magic Tree House, by Mary Pope Osborne

My Father's Dragon, by Ruth Stiles Gannett
The Trumpet of the Swan, by E.B. White
Misty of Chincoteague, by Marguerite Henry
The House on East 88th Street, by Bernard Waber
Half Magic, by Edward Eager
Lightfall graphic novel series, by Tim Probert
Ramona series, Henry Huggins series, and Emily's Runaway Imagination, by Beverly Cleary
Tale of Despereaux, by Kate DiCamillo

INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5)

[Beautiful Stories from Shakespeare, by Edith Nesbit](#)

[St. George and the Dragon by Margaret Hodges](#)

[Mr. Mehan's Mildly Amusing Mythical Animals, by Matthew Mehan](#)

[The Psammead Trilogy, by Edith Nesbit](#)

Little House on the Prairie, by Laura Ingalls Wilder

[James Herriot's Treasury for Children, by James Herriot](#)

The Wind in the Willows, by Kenneth Grahame

[The Secret Garden, by Frances Hodgson Burnett](#)

[D'Aulaire collection, by Ingri and Edgar D'Aulaire](#)

[Childhood of Famous Americans](#) (find ones written pre-2004 or so)

Robin Hood, by Howard Pyle (and only Howard Pyle!)

Encyclopedia Brown, by Donald Sobol

Homer Price, by Robert McClosky

Freddy the Detective books, by Walter R. Brooks

Little Lord Fauntleroy, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

[The Mary Fabian Windeatt books](#)

Green Ember series, by S.D. Smith

Mysterious Benedict Society, by Trenton Lee Stewart

The Vanderbeekers, by Karina Yan Glaser

Straw into Gold, by Gary D. Schmidt

Chronicles of Prydain, by LLoyd Alexander

Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place, by Maryrose Wood

A Little Princess, by Francis Hodgson Burnett

The Giver quartet, by Lois Lowry

By the Great Horn Spoon, by Sid Fleischmann

The Whipping Boy, by Sid Fleischmann

The Gammage Cup, by Carol Kendall

Snow Treasure, by Marie McSwigan

Swallows and Amazons series, by Arthur Ransome

A Door in the Wall, by Marguerite de Angeli

Redwall books, by Brian Jacques

A Wrinkle in Time series, by Madeline l'Engle

Zita the Spacegirl series, by Ben Hatke

Mighty Jack series, by Ben Hatke

Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen

Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow, Lost Baron, and The Red Keep, by Allen French

The Phantom Tollbooth, by Norton Juster

North to Freedom, by Anne Holm

Mac B, Kid Spy, by Mac Barnett

Waterbabies by Charles Kingsley

[Brother Giovanni's Little Reward: How the Pretzel was Born](#)

MIDDLE (Grades 6-8)

[The Hobbit](#), by J.R.R. Tolkien (with original illustrations)

[Lord of the Rings](#), by J.R.R. Tolkien (with original illustrations)

[Farmer Giles of Ham & Tom Bombadil](#), by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Chronicles of Narnia, by C.S. Lewis

The Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis

Watership Down, by Richard Adams

[Wingfeather Saga, by Andrew Peterson](#)

The Black Stallion, by Walter Farley

All Creatures Great and Small series, by James Herriot

Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Heidi, by Johanna Spyri

The War of the Worlds, by H.G. Wells

The Time Machine, by H.G. Wells

Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain

Oliver Twist, by Charles Dickens

Kon-Tiki, by Thor Heyerdahl

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Journey, by Alfred Lansing

Profiles in Courage, by John F Kennedy

The Boys in the Boat, by Daniel James Brown

To the Moon!, by Jeffery Kluger

The Story of my Life, by Helen Keller

Quo vadis?, by Henryk Sienkiewicz

Treasure Island, by Robert Louis Stevenson

The Bronze Bow, by Elizabeth George Speare

[Alfred of Wessex, by Frank Morriss \(ebook only\)](#)

[Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series](#) (may have some upsetting bits for younger kids)

The Wednesday Wars, by Gary D. Schmidt

Okay for Now, by Gary D. Schmidt

Just Like That, by Gary D. Schmidt

The Witch of Blackbird Pond, by Elizabeth Speare

The Scarlet Pimpernel, by Baroness Orczy (and sequels!)

Fabiola, by Nicholas Wiseman Ender's Game, by Orson Scott Card

The Winged Watchman, by Hilda van Stockholm

HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)

Till We Have Faces, by C.S. Lewis

The Space Trilogy, by C.S. Lewis

The Ballad of the White Horse, by G. K. Chesterton

Father Brown series, by G.K. Chesterton

[Kristin Lavransdatter, by Sigrid Undset](#)

To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

A Tale of Two Cities, by Charles Dickens

The Call of the Wild, by Jack London

Dracula, by Brahm Stoker

Come Rack, Come Rope, by Robert Hugh Benson

The Chosen, by Chaim Potok

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury

[Father Brown Mysteries, by G.K. Chesterton](#)

The Flying Inn, by G.K. Chesterton

[The Dream of Gerontius, by St. John Henry Newman](#)

[Books by George MacDonald](#)

Ranger's Apprentice series, by John Flanagan (also Brotherband Chronicles and others)

Longitude, by Dava Sobel

Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell, by Susanna Clarke

The Prisoner of Zenda, by Anthony Hope

Ivanhoe, by Walter Scott

Rebecca, by Daphne du Maurier

Story of a Soul, by Therese of Liseux

Hero of the Empire, by Candace Millard

The Seashell on the Mountaintop, by Alan Culter