

The Best Children's Classics

Part I of 2

Published prior to 1961, these classic books have been treasured for generations. They are organized in age-appropriate groupings.

Kindergarten – Grade 3

Fables, Aesop

Mr. Popper's Penguins, Richard and Florence Atwater

Madeline series, Ludwig Bemelmans

Goodnight Moon, Margaret Wise Brown

The Story of Babar, Jean de Brunhoff

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, Virginia Lee Burton

The Bears on Hemlock Mountain, Alice Dalgliesh

The Mousewife, Rumer Godden

The Reluctant Dragon, Kenneth Grahame

Betsy series, Carolyn Haywood

Just So Stories for Little Children, Rudyard Kipling

The Story of Ferdinand, Munro Leaf

Book of Nonsense, Edward Lear

Mrs. Piggle Wiggle, Betty MacDonald

Blueberries for Sal, Robert McCloskey

Pooh series, A.A. Milne

Cinderella, Charles Perrault

The Tale of Peter Rabbit, Beatrix Potter

Curious George series, H.A. Rey

The Cricket in Times Square, George Selden

The Cat in the Hat, Dr. Seuss

A Child's Garden of Verses, Robert Louis Stevenson

The Velveteen Rabbit, Margery Williams

Harry the Dirty Dog, Gene Zion

Grades 4-6

Born Free, Joy Adamson

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott

Fairy Tales, Hans Christian Andersen

Peter Pan, J.M. Barrie

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, L. Frank Baum

A Bear Called Paddington, Michael Bond

The Secret Garden, Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Enormous Egg, Oliver Butterworth

Henry Huggins series, Beverly Cleary

The Twenty-One Balloons, William Pène du Bois

Moffats series, Eleanor Estes

The Black Stallion, Walter Farley

Old Yeller, Fred Gipson

The Wind in the Willows, Kenneth Grahame

The Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling

Lassie Come Home, Eric Knight

Pippi Longstocking series, Astrid Lindgren

Dr. Doolittle series, Hugh Lofting

Anne of Green Gables, L.M. Montgomery

My Friend Flicka, Mary O'Hara

Black Beauty, Anna Sewell

Heidi, Johanna Spyri

The Red Pony, John Steinbeck

Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson

Charlotte's Web, E.B. White

Little House series, Laura Ingalls Wilder

Swiss Family Robinson, Johann Wyss

Grades 7-8

National Velvet, Enid Bagnold

Lorna Doone, Richard D. Blackmore

The Bridge over the River Kwai, Pierre Boulle

Dandelion Wine, Ray Bradbury

The Thirty-Nine Steps, John Buchan

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll

The Last of the Mohicans, James Fenimore Cooper

Life with Father, Clarence Day

Robinson Crusoe, Daniel Defoe

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Count of Monte Cristo, Alexandre Dumas

Rebecca, Daphne du Maurier

Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank

A Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry

The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway

Kon-Tiki, Thor Heyerdahl

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, James Hilton

Green Mansions, W.H. Hudson

The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Victor Hugo

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Washington Irving

Story of My Life, Helen Keller

Kim, Rudyard Kipling

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

The Sea Wolf, Jack London

The Member of the Wedding, Carson McCullers

Gone with the Wind, Margaret Mitchell

The Scarlet Pimpernel, Baroness Emma Orczy

The Yearling, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Stories, Saki

Shane, Jack Schaefer

Ivanhoe, Sir Walter Scott

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith

The Black Arrow, Robert Louis Stevenson

Dracula, Bram Stoker

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

Around the World in Eighty Days, Jules Verne

Ben-Hur, Lewis Wallace

Up from Slavery, Booker T. Washington

The Time Machine, H.G. Wells