

# Lara Lleverino's recommended reading list for encouraging a love of reading or increasing spiritual formation

## Preschool-Kindergarten

1. Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel: can be read to a Preschooler and up, or an independent read for an average 1st grader. Topics to discuss: friendships, diligence, truth, organization.
2. Little Bear by Else Holmelund Minarik: read to your preschooler or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade independent reading. Topics to discuss: family, making mistakes, telling the truth.
3. The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones: preschool to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Great introduction to the gospel and the idea that Jesus was the unifying theme through the whole Bible.
4. The Little Engine that Could by Watty Piper discuss persistence
5. Mother Goose – great for introducing the beginnings of five common topic type questions
6. Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by J. Viorst
7. The Big Red Tractor and the Little Village by Francis Chan
8. In this very moment by Jim Arnosky good book to introduce the idea of here versus there
9. When God Made you by Matthew Paul Turner
10. God's Great Love for you by Rick Warren
11. Ronnie Wilson's Gift by Francis Chan
12. Aesop's Fables – great for asking the question should the character have acted the way he or she did. What could they have done differently? (Challenge)
13. Flotsam by David Wiesner Great picture book to ask what do you see from page to page
14. Who Owns the Sun by Stacy Chbosky a gentle introduction to the topic of slavery published by Purple House Press
15. The Complete Adventures of Curious George by H.A. Rey
16. What Do you do, dear? By Sesyle Joslin and Maurice Sendak
17. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
18. Christina Katerina & the box by Patricia Lee Gauch
19. Where's my Teddy Trilogy by Jez Alborough
20. Miracle Man by John Hendrix

## 1st-2<sup>nd</sup> grade

1. Beatrix Potter Series especially Peter Rabbit series discuss consequences to our choices
2. Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney bringing joy to the world
3. Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey: topics obeying your parents and staying close to them.
4. The Little Engine that Could – by Watty Piper
5. A Tale of 3 Trees by Angela Hunt
6. George and Martha by James Marshall
7. Journey by Aaron Becker (this is a picture book that you could use to have your child practice writing a story for)
8. Chanticleer and the Fox by Geoffrey Chaucer, Barbara Cooney
9. The Growly Trilogy by Philip and Erin Ulrich
10. The Wishes of the Fish King by Douglas Cain McKelvey sold in the Rabbitroom
11. Halfway Herbert by Francis Chan
12. The Grasshopper and the Ant by Jerry Pinkney: a retelling of an Aesop fable with beautiful illustrations. Topics to discuss procrastination and diligence.
13. Abraham Lincoln by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire (actually any books by the d'Aulaires)
14. The Bravest of Us All by Marsha Diane Arnold
15. The Bat Boy and His Violin by Gavin Curtis
16. A Tree for Peter by Kate Seredy published by Purple House Press
17. Night of the Moonjellies by Mark Shasha published by Purple House Press
18. The Lord's Prayer by Rick Warren
19. The Donkey Who Carried a King by R.C. Sproul (challenge)
20. The Prince's Poison Cup by R.C. Sproul (challenge)

## 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade

1. Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne. Topics: fear, kindness, sadness, thinking of others.
2. The Wingfeather Saga by Andrew Peterson (note books 1&2 are great, books 3&4 PHENOMNAL)
3. Henry and the Chalk Dragon by Jennifer Trafton sold through the Rabbit Room store

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4. The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis (begin the series with The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe and read in publication order! Later titles may need to wait for later aged readers)
5. Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
6. Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder
7. Understood Betsy by Dorothy Canfield
8. Robin Hood – by Howard Pyle
9. Heidi (there are a variety of translations of this book make sure your copy includes the chapter titled Sunday Church Bells, recommended translator is Helen B. Dole)
10. Redwall Series by Brian Jacques
11. The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett
12. The Green Ember Series by SD Smith can be purchased through the Rabbit Room Store
13. The Evergreen Wood by Perry Alan
14. The Dragon of Cripple Creek by Troy Howell (title is out of print but worth searching for)
15. A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
16. Nathan Hale Hazardous Tales (graphic novel history series)
  - a. One Dead Spy
  - b. Big Bad Ironclad!
  - c. Donner Dinner Party (the is the one book in the series that might be a bit violent)
  - d. Treaties, Trenches, Mud and Blood
  - e. The Underground Abductor
  - f. Alamo All-Stars
  - g. Raid of No Return
  - h. Lafayette!
17. The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo
18. Shooting at the Stars: The Christmas Truce of 1914 by John Hendrix
19. The Bark of the Bog Owl Wilderking Series – by Jonathan Rogers sold through The Rabbit Room Store
20. The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald

#### 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade

1. The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli
2. Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
3. Amos Fortune Free Man by Elizabeth Yates
4. The Sign of the Beaver Elizabeth George Speare
5. The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare
6. The Illiad for Children by AJ Church
7. The Odyssey for Children by AJ Church
8. Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
9. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
10. Little Men by Luisa May Alcott
11. Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
12. The Story of King Arthur and His Knights by Roger Lancelyn Green
13. 100 Cupboards books by ND Wilson (a bit spooky) from the Rabbit Room Store
14. Outlaws of Time books by ND Wilson through the Rabbit Room Store
15. The Rwendigo Tales by by JA Myhre
16. Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan
17. Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling (use of magic so some parents may decide not to include these titles but for pure reading joy they almost cannot be beat)
18. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson
19. The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
20. The Little Britches Series by Ralph Moody and published by Purple House Press

#### 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade

1. Freckles by Gene Stratton Porter
2. Laddie by Gene Stratton Porter
3. The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
4. Wee Sir Gibbie by George MacDonald
5. Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
6. The Faithful Spy by John Hendrix (graphic novel about Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his plot to kill Hitler)
7. The Angel Knew Papa and the Dog by Douglas Kaine McKelvey purchased through The Rabbit Room store
8. Hilda and the Bird Parade by Luke Pearson – graphic novel

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9. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
10. Black Ships before Troy by Rosemary Sutcliff
11. Lorna Doone by RD Blackmore
12. A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle can be purchased through The Rabbit Room store
13. Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
14. The Hound of Baskerville by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
15. Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
16. The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy
17. Ben Hur by Lew Wallace
18. Ashtown Burials books by ND Wright
19. The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien (challenge)
20. Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling (challenge)

### Highschool

1. The Glass Town Game by Catherynne M. Valente (this author has some adult titles that I have not evaluated so although I give this book 5/5 stars I can't give all her writing a whole hearted endorsement)
2. The Fiddler's Gun by A.S. Peterson purchased through the Rabbit Room Store
3. The Fiddler's Green by A.S. Peterson purchased through the Rabbit Room Store
4. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
5. Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
6. Up from Slavery by Booker T. Washington
7. The Chosen by Chaim Potok
8. Unwind Series by Neal Shusterman (this could be read in lower grades but is thematically better for highschoolers)
9. The Shiloh trilogy by Helena Sorensen purchased
10. The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom
11. Animal Farm by George Orwell
12. Christy by Catherine Marshall
13. Soul Survivor: How Thirteen Unlikely Mentors Helped my Faith Survive the Church by Philip Yancey
14. Seven Men: And the Secret of Their Greatness by Eric Metaxas
15. Seven Women: And the Secret of Their Greatness by Eric Metaxas
16. A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
17. Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica – also reprinted as the Age of Dragon Series by James A. Owen (challenge if the reader isn't well read in classic fiction)
18. Frankenstein or the modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley
19. The Gateway to Great Books Series (challenge)
20. Mansfield Park by Jane Austen (challenge)

### Recommended Anthologies

1. My Bookhouse – the earlier edition you can find the better (preschool to middle school)
2. Through Golden Windows – (later elementary to middle school)
3. Gateway to Great Books (7<sup>th</sup> grade-sophomore in college)
4. Great Books Series (college level)

### All Star Books (if your budget is limited these are MUST HAVES)

1. The Jesus Storybook Bible by
2. The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis
3. Henry and the Chalk Dragon by Jennifer Trafton
4. The Wingfeather Saga by Andrew Peterson
5. The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings Trilogy by JRR Tolkien

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# Resources for encouraging reading well

*Remember only God's word is infallible these are recommended resources BUT they are written by fallible humans and should still be evaluated against your God given wisdom.*

## Books:

Who Should We Then Read by Jan Bloom  
Who Should We Then Read volume 2 by Jan Bloom  
Honey for a Child's Heart by Gladys Hunt  
Honey for a Teen's Heart by Gladys Hunt  
The Read Aloud Family by Sarah Mackenzie  
Read for the Heart by Sarah Clarkson  
On Reading Well by Karen Swallow Prior

## Websites:

Crossway - Publishes gospel-centered, Bible-centered content that will honor our Savior and serve his Church.  
[www.crossway.org](http://www.crossway.org)

Focus on the Families Plugged In

<https://www.pluggedin.com/book-reviews/?p=0&l=20&s=alias&o=asc&c=%7B%7D>

Reshelving Alexandria - Curating legacy libraries. There is both free information and a subscription service.

<https://reshelvingalexandria.com/about/>

Storyformed - Putting great books into the hands and hearts of children everywhere.

<https://www.storyformed.com/welcome>

<https://www.storyformed.com/lists/>

The Rabbit Room - Fostering Christ-centered community and spiritual formation through music, story and art. Rabbit Room's podcast alone has guaranteed that my to-read pile will NEVER be conquered!

[www.rabbitroom.com](http://www.rabbitroom.com)

The Read Aloud Revival - Making meaningful connections with your kids. This website has some free content but also paid membership content for book recommendations.

<https://readaloudrevival.com/>

Valerie's Living Library - <http://www.valerieslivinglibrary.com/>

Goodreads – a website I use to track what I have read, am reading and want to read in the future

[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

Kirkus – reviewing books since 1933. Secular but prolific.

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/>

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