

Reading List for Class I into Class II

Revised from the San Francisco Waldorf School Library Service by Sian Turner at Wynstones School.,
edited by Jonathan Hobbs, South Devon Steiner School, Sept 2018

Believe in Fairies

Believe in the Fairies

Who make dreams come true.

Believe in the wonder,

The stars and the moon.

Believe in the magic,

From fairies above.

They dance on the flowers,

And sing songs of love.

And if you just believe,

And always stay true.

The fairies will be there,

To watch over you!

Anon

Throughout Class 1 and on the verge of entering Class 2, children possess a burgeoning love of story, an interest cultivated in part by rich Main Lesson content and by caregivers sharing a love of reading and storytelling at home. During this year and beyond, whether read-aloud or alone moments are experienced as quick intakes of breath in the middle of the day or as a restful unfolding at night before bed, the school would like to suggest books honouring a variety of interests.

First on the list are Alphabet Books, traditional in scope they build on Class One's recent acquisition of letters and sounds, even proficient readers can revisit these. Next are Children's Poems, for parents to read to reinforce children's sensitivity to word play, prose rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration. Then there is a Quick-Glance section which can be used by parents for book ideas, or children wishing to find an independent read. We move onto multicultural Fairy and Folk Tale Anthologies and following these are a variety of Picture Books and Chapter Books, both

contemporary and classic, which celebrate the richness and challenges animals, adventure, friendship, fantasy, and family life brings to the story element.

For children beginning to read independently we commence with books that have simple language, predictable plots, and supportive illustration; these include, Usborne Early Readers, Ladybird Books, HarperCollins I-Can-Read series, Oxford Reading Tree (Songbirds), First Little Readers (Scholastic), Sheila K. McCullagh's Puddle Lane Series and Shelley Davidow's Series as well as literary cousins, such as Candlewick Sparks and Early Reader. Children can then proceed to Early Chapter Books with series such as Stepping Stones and Harper Trophy or the longer Chapter Books featured in the 'Read Aloud Tales' section. Do also visit www.waldorflibrary.org for literature closely linked to the Waldorf pedagogy.

Alphabet Books

The alphabet and its sounds may be mastered by your child, but it's still fun to travel through these beautifully imagined alphabet progressions. Pictures by artists of differing backgrounds underscore how letters have the potential to illustrate things in this world authors feel are important to share with others.

1. ABC: A Child's First Alphabet Book by Alison Jay
2. Alison's Zinnia by Anita Lobel
3. A is for Annabelle: A Doll's Alphabet by Tasha Tudor
4. A is for Apple Pie by Genady Spirin
5. Ape in a Cape by Fritz Eichenberg
6. A to Z Picture Book by Gyo Fujikawa
7. Barefoot Books: African Animals ABC by Phillipa Alys Browne
8. The Book of Shadow Boxes by Laura Seeley
9. D is for Doufu: An Alphabet of Chinese Culture by Maywen Shen Krach
10. Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert
11. A Farmer's Alphabet by Mary Azarian
12. From Letter to Letter by Teri Sloat
13. G is for Goat by Patricia Polacco
14. Jambo Means Hello: A Swahili Alphabet Book by Muriel L. Feelings
15. Victory Garden Alphabet Book by Jerry Palette

16. On Market Street by Arnold and Anita Lobel
17. Patty's Pumpkin Patch by Teri Sloat
18. The Wildlife ABC by Jan Thornhill
19. The Absolutely Awful Alphabet by Mordicai Gerstein (2001)

Children's Poetry

In any of the anthologies below, it is nice to scan contents for favourites you feel your child will both enjoy and understand. Pictures offer inspired parental support.

1. Animal Poems by Eric Carle
2. Aunt Giraffe's Green Garden and It's Raining Pigs and Noodles by Jack Prelutsky
3. Every Second Something Happens: Poems for the Mind and Senses by Bill Johnson and Christine San Jose
4. Here's a Little Poem collected by Jane Yolen
5. Lavender's Blue a Book of Nursery Rhymes assembled by Katherine Lewis
6. Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs by Douglas Florian also Poetrees and Insectlopedia
7. Imaginary Menagerie: A Book of Curious Creatures by Julie Larias
8. Mural on Second Avenue and other City Poems by Lilian Moore
9. The Macmillan Treasury of Poetry for Children Forward by Charles Causley
10. A Child's Treasury of Poems by Mark Daniel
11. A Family of Poems by Caroline Kennedy
12. The Barefoot Book of Classic Poems compiled by Jackie Morris
13. A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson
14. Dirty Laundry Pile: Poems in Different Voices by Paul B. Janecko, also Firefly July, a book of seasonal poetry
15. Every Second Something Happen: Poems for the Mind and Senses by Bill Johnson
16. Tomie de Paola's Book of Poems
17. Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein

18. A Whiff of Pine, A Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems by Deborah Ruddell, also Today at the Bluebird Café by the same author.

A Quick Glance Book Selection by Author

Ahlberg, Allan & Janet FunnyBones; Burglar Bill; It was a Dark and Stormy Night; The Gasketts Series

Alborough, Jez Six Little Chicks Andrae, Giles Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs; Giraffes Can't Dance; The Lion Who wanted to Love

Armitage, Ronda and David The Lighthouse Keeper's Series

Baumgart, Klaus Laura's Star Series Beresford, Elisabeth The Smallest Whale

Blackman, Malorie The Monster Crisp Guzzler

Blake, Quentin The Green Ship Butterworth, Nick Tales from Percy's Park

Carle, Eric The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Carpenter, Humphrey Mr Majeika Series

Child, Lauren Clarice Bean Series; Hubert Horatio Bartle Bobton-Trent

Colfer, Eoin The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth

Cresswell, Helen Dragon Ride

Dahl, Roald The Magic Finger; The Giraffe, Pelly and Me

Daniels, Lucy Animal Ark Series

Dodd, Lynley Hairy Maclary Series

Doherty, Berlie Jinnie Ghost

Donaldson, Julia The Magic Paintbrush; The Gruffalo; Room on A Broom; The Snail and the Whale

French, Vivian Mrs Hippo's Pizza Parlour; The Snow Dragon; Tales from the Five Kingdoms Series; The Kitten With No Name (Early Reader)

Foreman, Michael Cat on the Hill; Jack's Fantastic Voyage; Mia's Story

Gardner, Sally Magical Children Series

Grey, Mini The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon; Egg Drop; Biscuit Bear; Toys in Space

Hoffman, Mary Amazing Grace

Jeffers, Susan Brother Eagle, Sister Sky

Kerr, Judith The Tiger Who Came to Tea; Mog the Forgetful Cat and other Mog books

Mahy, Margaret The Man Whose Mother was a Pirate (early reader)

Mckee, David Elmer Meadows, Daisy Rainbow Magic Fairy Books

Morpurgo, Michael Cockadoodle-doo, Mr Sultana Mudpuddle Farm; Gentle Giant; The Silver Swan; Tom's Sausage Lion;

Morris, Jackie East of the Sun, West of the Moon

Nicoll, Helen Meg and Mog books

Nimmo, Jenny The Owl Tree; The Witch's Tears; The Stone Mouse; Invisible Vinnie; Matty Mouse (Blue Banana Books); The Dog Star; The Night of the Unicorn

Page, Jan Dog on a Broomstick; The Chocolate Monster

Pfister, Marcus The Rainbow Fish Pullman, Philip Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp; I was a Rat

Rawson, Christopher Stories of Dragons – Young Reading Series One Rees, Gwyneth Cosmo and the Magic Sneeze and others in the series

Reid Banks, Lynne Harry the Poisonous Centipede Series

Rickards, Lynne Jack's Bed (Banana Books), also look for Other Green Banana books in the series

Riddell, Chris Emperor of Absurdia

Robertson, Mark. P The Egg; The Great Dragon Rescue

Robinson, Hilary The Frog Prince

Rodgers, Frank The Witch's Dog Series

Rosen, Michael We're going on a Bear Hunt

Stanton, Andy Mr Gum Books

Storr, Catherine Clever Polly and the Wolf Series

Thomas, Valerie Winnie the Witch

Toksvig, Sandy The Troublesome Tooth Fairy; Unusual Day; Super Saver Mouse

Various The Early Reader Collection (Authors include: G. Adams, V. French, S. Gardner, J. Mayhew, A. McAllister, D, Meadows, M. Sedgwick and F. Simon)

Waddell, Martin Farmer Duck and Owl Babies

Read Aloud Folk and Fairy Tale Anthologies

Listed below are multicultural fairy tale anthologies to inspire storytelling at home. The beautiful illustrations are there for your enrichment. Thank you for letting the children create their own inner pictures, using their imaginations as paintbrushes to embellish your words.

1. *African Tales* by Gcina Mhlophe (2009). An award-winning Xhosa storyteller culls favourite tales in this anthology drawing from eight African countries: Ghana, Senegal, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Sudan, Swaziland, Ethiopia. Artwork appliqués feature African beads on a silk base. Each tale is prefaced by an introduction to the country.

2. *A Forest of Stories: Magical Tree Tales from Around the World* compiled by Rina Singh (2003). In this work, various trees and cultures are celebrated, including the Dancing palms (Nigeria), healing fig trees (Jewish), and magical cherry blossoms (India), come to life in stories from around the world illustrated in vivid hues by Helen Cann. Lovely, age appropriate insights into the outstanding characteristics of each tree.

3. *The Wonder Child and Other Jewish Fairy Tales retold* by Howard Schwartz (1996). Stories from Morocco, Egypt, Poland, and Libya provide rich fodder for Schwartz, also known for *Coat for the Moon and Other Jewish Tales*. Illustrator Stephen Fieser beautifully extends the stories with shape-changers, giants, and undersea worlds.

4. *A Coat for the Moon and Other Jewish Tales retold* by Howard Schwartz (1999). Fifteen folk tales culled from Europe and the Middle East grace the pages of this work drawing on traditional lore, such as “The Fisherman and the Silver Fish” and “Queen of the Sea.”

5. *South, North, East, West: The Oxfam’s Book of Children’s Stories* edited by Michael Rosen (1992) features a fairy tale from Nepal, creation story from Brazil, and a fable from Indonesia, to name a few. Twenty-two artists make for a rich visual feast.

6. *Tales our Abuelitas Told: A Hispanic Folk Tale Collection* by Alma Flor Ada (2006). A sly fox, a magical tale of bagpipes, a bird of a thousand colours, and a boy who saves his family’s corn.

7. *Beyond the Rainbow Warrior* Edited by Michael Morpurgo (1996). A collection of stories to celebrate 25 years of Greenpeace, including stories by Tim WynneJones, Joan Aiken, Michael Morpurgo and Anthony Horowitz.

8. *Barefoot Book of Princesses*, with stories retold by Richard Walker (1996). This book includes lesser-known tales, such as *The Princess Who Lost Her Hair* (Akamba), *The Birdcage Husband* (Kalmuk), and *The Horned Snake’s Wife* (Iroquois). Companion anthologies by this publisher include *The Barefoot Book of Princes* (Animals, Pirates) and *Mother and Son Tales*, and *Father and Daughter Tales*.

9. *The Book of Fairy Princes* by Isabel Wyatt (1949). Here, in a Waldorf favourite, seven tales celebrate the adventures, transformations, and responsibilities of royal young men in their kingdoms, forests, and castles, as they confront a golden eagle, an emerald bull, and a lion with a snow-white heart. Also read *The Seven Year Old Wonder Book*.

10. *Classic Animal Stories and Verse* by Cooper Edens features familiar tales – The Little Red Hen, The Elephant’s Trunk, The Story of Ferdinand - as well as a collection of traditional illustrations by artists such as Beatrix Potter, Alice Wilkins, and Walter Crane. Also read this editor’s *Sea Stories; Favourite Fairy Tales; Pinocchio*.

11. *The Complete Brambly Hedge* by Jill Barklem (1980). Eight favourite tales come together in this single volume celebrating the lives of mice during the four seasons and also by the sea, in the High Hills, and harbouring a precious secret.

12. *Folk Tales from Russia* translated by Olga Shartse (1990). This excellent, but sometimes hard-to-find anthology, presents folk tales by region: Karelian, Chechen, Kekek, etc...If this is difficult to locate, consider the *Everyman’s Library* collection of *Russian Tales*.

13. *James Herriot’s Treasury for Children* (1992). Farmyard life in Yorkshire, through the eyes of a beloved vet, is beautifully recorded in eight stories the author wrote specifically for a young audience.

14. *Japanese Children’s Favourite Stories* by Florence Sakade (1958) include classical tales, such as *The Toothpick Warriors*, *The Little Peach Boy*, *Silly Saburo*, and *The Rabbit Who Crossed the Sea*.

15. *Nursery Tales Around the World*, selected and retold by Judy Sierra (1996). Divided into thematic sections –*Runaway Cookies*, *Incredible Appetites*, *The Victory of the Smallest*, etc., this work mines its stories from cultures as diverse as England, the Cherokee Nation, the Philippines, Italy, and Jamaica.

16. *Silly and Sillier: Read-Aloud Tales from Around the World* by Judy Sierra (2002). Celebrating tales on the edge of laughter, Sierra has found rare, ticklish gems best for waking children up rather than putting them to sleep! Tales include *Too Many Fish* (Borneo), *Boggy Wuggy* (Italy), *Teeny-Tiny Check* and *Sneaky Old Cat* (Myanmar).

17. *Treasury of Fairy Tales* retold by Geraldine McCaughrean and illustrated by Sophy Williams (2003). This Oxford University Press edition includes the more familiar *Sleeping Beauty*; *The Little Mermaid*; and *Cinderella*, but also lesser known: *Tamlin*; *The Three Oranges*; and *The Flower of Love*.

Picture Books: Fairy, Folk and Animal Tales

1. *The Wild Swans* by Hans Christian Andersen, illustrated by Susan Jeffers (1981). The familiar tale of a loyal sister and a flock of swans, beautifully illustrated by Jeffers.

2. *Ahmed and the Feather Girl* by Jane Rey (2010). Ahmed, a poor orphan who lives with a circus, finds life changes when he discovers an egg that hatches a feathered girl named Aurelia. An inspired tribute to dreams, magic, and a yearning for freedom.

3. *Blackie: The Horse that Stood Still* by Christopher Cerf (2006). Born on the Kansas plains, Blackie prefers staying in one place rather than moving and missing anything. Based on a true story of a horse in San Francisco.

4. *Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A World-Wide Cinderella* by Paul Fleischman (2007). Each spread reveals a moment from Ashpet, Sootface, Catskin, Vasalisa, Cendrillon, among others, touching on regions as far apart as Appalachia, India, Russia, and Zimbabwe.
5. *The Magic Paintbrush* by David K.S Tse (1994). Adapted from the ancient Chinese fable, David Tse's lively, imaginative and hilariously funny retelling shows just how relevant its themes are for all for us today.
6. *Mama Panya's Pancakes: A Village Tale from Kenya* by Mary Chamberlin (2004). A young girl's trip to a bustling market with her mother discloses a lively lesson about the rewards of community and sharing. Also read *Mr. Carey's Garden* by Jane Cutler; *The Fool and the Fish* by Alexander Afanasyev; and *Beatrice's Goat* by Page McBrier.
7. *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi* by Rudyard Kipling (illustrated by Pinckney). A decrepit Indian mongoose carefully oversees the safety of the garden and household when he is adopted by a sympathetic family and battles the fierce Nag and Nagina.
8. *Mr. Semolina-Semolinus* by Chrisoduola Mitakidou. (1997). A woman who wants a man "five times beautiful, ten times kind" fashions one from semolina, almonds, and sugar. Also read *Gabriella's Song* by Candace Fleming.
9. *Stonecutter: A Japanese Folk Tale* by Gerald McDermott (1978). A story describes a stonecutter's intense and foolish longing for power.
10. *Rough-Face Girl* by Rafe Martin (1998). From Algonquin Indian folklore comes one of the most haunting, powerful versions of the Cinderella tale ever told. With stunning illustrations. Also read *Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China* by Ai-Ling Louie, *Little Gold Star: A Latin-American Cinderella* by Robert D. San Souci, *The Golden Sandal: A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story* by Rebekah Hickox, and *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe.
11. *City Dog, Country Frog* by Mo Willems (2010). A reflection on the natural course of friendship in the animal kingdom, where different creatures face varying life spans. A book that promotes flexibility in forming new allegiances.
12. *Coyote Steals a Blanket: Ute Tale* by Janet Stevens (1994). Coyote receives a surprise when he takes something that does not belong to him. Also read *Jackalope and Tops and Bottoms* by the same author.
13. *Elsie Piddock Skips in her Sleep* by Eleanor Farjeon and Charlotte Voake (2000). A young girl, born to skip, is given a gift by the faeries that helps her save the town skipping grounds from a factory-building lord of industry. Pictures focus on Elsie's beauty and optimism.
14. *The Jolly Postman* by the Ahlbergs (2001). Any child who would like to read real letters written from one fairy tale figure to another will surely enjoy this book.
15. *Snook Alone* by Marilyn Wilson (2010). Through the power of faith, a monk named Abba Jacob, and his royal rat terrier, Snook, are re-united after being separated by a ferocious storm.
16. *The Mousehole Cat* by Antonia Barber (1993) and illustrated by Nicola Bayley. This is the stunningly illustrated story of the seaside village of Mousehole Cornwall, where Mowzer the cat lives

happily with old fisherman Tom. Also read *Katje the Windmill Cat* by Gretchen Woelfle (2002), illustrated by Nicola Bayley and *Gracie, the Lighthouse Cat* by Ruth Brown (2011).

17. *The Mermaid of Zennor* by Charles Causley (2001) and illustrated by Michael Foreman. A retelling of a traditional Cornish folktale. Also read *The Sand Horse* by Ann Turnbull (2002), illustrator Michael Foreman.

Picture Books: Brave Children

1. *The Apple Doll* by Elisa Kleven (2007). A young girl, initially teased, overcomes her shyness in a new setting when she brings her homemade apple doll, Susanna, to school.

2. *Brave Charlotte and the Wolves* by Ann Stohner (2009). A stoic sheep protects her flock from predators and challenges long-held views on the timidity of lambs.

3. *Brave Irene* by William Steig (2011). A courageous girl weathers a winter storm to help her sick mother deliver a dress to a neighbor.

4. *Dust Devil* by Anne Isaacs (2010). In the American tall-tale, tongue-in-cheek tradition, Isaacs tells a story of Swamp Angel's amazing horse that exceeds all expectations. Zelinsky's illustrations bolster an already good story.

5. *Kami and the Yaks* by Andrea Stenn Stryer (2007). The tale of a deaf boy, who brings a yak herd down from a mountaintop storm, earning a place of honour in his Tibetan village. Also read *My Name is Yoon* by Helen Recourvits and *Wee Gillis* by Munro Leaf.

6. *Peter and the Wolf* by Prokofiev, illustrated by Mikolajcak (1986). Compare with the pop-up version by Barbara Cooney.

7. *Ruby the Copy Cat* by Peggy Rathmann (2006). Excellent book about the dangers of copying and the importance of being oneself. Also read *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon.

8. *The Sugar Child* by Monique de Varennes (2004). When a mother makes a daughter out of marzipan, the child is cautioned to not get water on her fragile skin. But when a dear boy becomes ill, Matine's tears of sympathy seem to have a strengthening effect.

9. *Up* by Jim LaMarche (2006). Tired of being called Mouse by his family and Reading List for Class I into staying home while his brother helps on the fishing boat, Daniel proves himself worthy when a problem arises that he can solve using his new extraordinary talent.

10. *The Very Last First Time* by Jan Andrews (2003). A young Inuit girl embarks on her first journey to gather mussels on the seabed floor by being dropped through a hole in the ice by her mother during low tide, assisted by candlelight. When the tide turns and her candle goes out, Eva struggles to arrive safely home above the ice.

Picture Books: Family Life

1. Andrew Henry's Meadow by Doris Burn (1965). 40th anniversary release of a book recounting a child's rustic, but eminently enjoyable life on an island in the San Juan, Washington, archipelago as he builds a house for himself and eventually for others.
2. The Little Dutch Boy: A Tale of Perseverance by Sarah Toast (1997). A story of virtue and perseverance and the results of a little boy who would not give up!
3. Gauchada by Drew Lamm (2002). A necklace or gauchada (a selfless gift) is lovingly passed from one person to another until it finds itself in a land its Argentine cowboy could never have travelled himself.
4. Three Golden Oranges by Alma Flor Ada (1999). In this old Spanish tale, three brothers - Santiago, Tomas, and Matias - must travel far and face many adventures to find wives.
5. Elise's Bird by Jane Yolen (2010). Young Elise must find a way to adapt to her new home on the Nebraska prairie after she and her father move from a comfortable life in Boston.
6. Erandi's Braids by Antonio Hernandez Madrigal (1999). When a mother wishes to sell her hair to buy a fishing net for her family in Mexico, she is told her hair is too short, but would her daughter like to contribute? What will Erandi tell the barber?
7. Mailing May by Michael O. Tunnell (1997). It is 1914 and May's parents wish her to visit her grandmother in Idaho - but her parents don't have the money for a train ticket, so they buy a postage stamp and send her in the mail car, where she is very well taken care of. Based on a true story.
8. Mr. Carey's Garden by Jane Cutler (1996). All of his neighbours have ideas for how Mr. Carey can rid of himself of his garden snails - but Mr. Carey treasures all creatures and likes to think outside the box when it comes to what is truly beautiful. "I see things in a different light," he says.
9. The Talking Eggs by Robert D. Blanche (1989). Following the instructions of an old witch, a girl gains riches while her greedy sister gains sorrow.
10. Mama Panya's Pancakes: A Village Tale from Kenya by Mary Chamberlin (2005). A young girl's trip to a bustling market with her mother discloses a lively lesson about the rewards of community and sharing.
11. The Rag Coat by Lauren Mills (1991). When a resourceful mountain girl, heading into winter, cannot afford a new coat, neighbours gather in the Appalachian community to ensure she stays warm.
12. Thy Friend, Obadiah by Turkle (1982). A Quaker boy living on Nantucket is annoyed by a seagull that seems to perpetually follow him; but when the gull disappears, the boy misses him, welcoming the gull home when it returns, injured.
13. The Winter Wren by Brock Cole (1984). 'Simple' Simon and his little sister, Meg, were told that Spring is asleep at Winter's farm. When they arrive, Meg vanishes. A wren intervenes, with the ending of the book having the feeling of a fable.

Classic and Contemporary Read Aloud Tales

1. *The Princess and the Goblin* by George MacDonald (1872). An indomitable princess is protected by and her friend, Curdie, and her greatest grandmother who resides with the goblin miners beneath the castle. Also read *The Light Princess* by the same author.
2. *The Water Babies* by Charles Kingsley (1863). Poor Tom is an orphan, employed by the underhand Grimes as a chimney sweep. While cleaning a chimney one day, Tom becomes lost and appears in Ellie's bedroom. She mistakes him for a thief and he flees in fright, down to the edge of a stream where he falls asleep. In his dreamlike world, he becomes a water baby, swimming with the other water babies and discovering an aquatic playground full of strange and wonderful characters.
3. *A Hive of Busy Bees* by Effie M. Williams (2009). This deceptively simple book provides a charming story infused with warm, family-building values and lessons. Chapters like *Bee Gentle*, *Bee Polite*, and *Bee Prayerful*, guide the young and young-at-heart toward a life-path filled with strong values.
4. *Wishworks Inc.* by Stephanie Tolan (2009). When third-grader Max is granted his hope for a dog from Wishworks, he is frustrated that the new arrival doesn't appear to match the dog he had imagined.
5. *Mrs Pepperpot Stories* by Alf Proysen (1959). Mrs Pepperpot can't choose when she will shrink to the size of a pepperpot - it just happens! But whatever she encounters, whether it be a monstrous mousetrap, a crafty fox or a gigantic mountain of ice cream, little Mrs Pepperpot will always come out on top.
6. *The Wheel on the School* by Meindert DeJong (1954). Children in a tiny Dutch fishing village conspire to bring the storks back to nest closer to home.
7. *Daughter of the Mountains* by Louise Rankin (1948). Momo, who trusts in the sheltering love of Lord Buddha, embarks on a dangerous journey through the mountains of Tibet to see the city of Calcutta and to recover her stolen Lhasa Terrier, Pempa.
8. *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1911). A girl who goes to live with her uncle on the English moors, changes from a sour, sickly child to a robust one, capable of planting a garden and changing the life of a bed-ridden cousin.
9. *The Chalk Box Kid* by Clyde Bulla (1987). When Gregory needs to move to a poorer part of town, he loses his garden, but then finds it again when he comes Reading List for Class I into Class II Revised from the San Francisco Waldorf School Library Service by Sian Turner at Wynstones School. 12 across an abandoned factory. Also read *The Poppy Seeds* by the same author.
10. *Fly Away* by Patricia MacLachlan (2015). All in Lucy's family sing, even her younger brother who doesn't speak. Lucy's singing voice seems stuck inside her, but she must find it when North Dakota floodwaters rise and she must use a song to save her brother.

11. *Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain* by Robert Burch (1980). During the Depression, an ungainly young woman walks into the home of a father and his four motherless children, offering practical assistance and renewed joy. Also read *The Year of Miss Agnes* by Kirkpatrick Hill.

12. *The Gold-Threaded Dress* by Carolyn Marsden (2002). New to America, Oy (called Olivia by her teacher) wishes to make friends quickly and finds a way when she secretly brings her silk Thai dancing dress to school.

13. *Tales from Maple Ridge: Logan Price Makes Mess* by Grace Gilmore (2015). Set in 1892 Illinois, this book records the industrious intentions of a boy wishing to save his father's farm. Also read others in the series: *The Lucky Wheel* and *The Big City*.

14. *The Children of Noisy Village* by Astrid Lindgren (1988). The everyday life of six children on three farms is recorded in this rollicking work. Also read the sequel: *Happy Times in Noisy Village*.

Read-Aloud Tales: Animals

1. *Little Grey Rabbit Treasury* by Alison Uttley (1929). In collection are included the following stories: *The Squirrel, the Hare and the Little Grey Rabbit*; *How Little Grey Rabbit Got Back Her Tail*; *The Story of Fuzypeg the Hedgehog*; *The Great Adventure of Hare*; *Little Grey Rabbit's Christmas*; *Squirrel Goes Skating*.

2. *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak (1963). One night Max puts on his wolf suit and makes mischief of one kind and another, so his mother calls him 'Wild Thing' and sends him to bed without his supper. That night a forest begins to grow in Max's room and an ocean rushes by with a boat to take Max to the place where the wild things are...

3. *Higglety, Pigglety, Pop!* by Maurice Sendak (1967). Jenny, a Sealyham terrier, leaves the comfort of her home to see if there is more to life and ends up as the lead performer in the World Mother Goose Theatre. Also by the same author *Where the Wild things are*.

4. *The Complete Tales:* by Beatrix Potter (1902). All the famous characters that children love and adore: *Peter Rabbit*, *Squirrel Nutkin*, *The Flopsy Bunnies*, *Mrs Tiggy-Winkle*, *Tom Kitten*, *Jeremy Fisher*, *Jemima Puddle-Duck* and many more.

5. *The Fairy Caravan* by Beatrix Potter (1929). The story of a highland terrier's miniature (and invisible to some) circus, which celebrates the author's known passion for the antics of animals and the natural world.

6. *Winnie The Pooh and The House at Pooh Corner* by A. A Milne (1926 & 1928). Winnie-the-Pooh may be a bear of very little brain, but thanks to his friends Piglet, Eeyore and, of course, Christopher Robin, he's never far from an adventure. Also find the hardback collection editions which include *When We Were Young* and *Now We Are Six*.

7. *Pinkie Pye* by Eleanor Estes (1958). Travelling with their father to study birds on Fire Island, the Pye children discover a very angry black cat on their doorstep and invite him into their family. Also read Newbery-winning *Ginger Pye*, a dog story by the same author, writer of the *Moffats*.
8. *Babe, the Gallant Pig* by Dick King-Smith (1983). When Babe arrives at Hogget Farm, he seems destined for bacon, until the Hoggets recognize Babe's unique talent for shepherding. Also read *Pigs Might Fly*.
9. *Along Came a Dog* by Meindert DeJong (1958). A friendless little red hen receives the protection of a homeless dog in this book that relates interesting details about chickens and also dogs. Better as a read-aloud for children who might be sensitive to animals suffering - all comes out well in the end.
10. *Minnie and Moo: Hooves of Fire* by Denys Cazet (2014). A ridiculous romp centred around the First Annual Hoot, Holler, and Moo Talent Festival, has these two famous cows overseeing a judging event based on whim. Entries include hyenas telling jokes, a fox playing magic tricks, sheep reciting poetry, and a rooster playing bagpipes.
11. *Gwinna* by Barbara Helen Berger (1990). Having grown wings and felt longing for freedom, Gwinna goes to the Mother of the Owls, who sends her on a mysterious quest.
12. *Gooseberry Park* by Cynthia Rylant (1998). A lovely collaboration between a wellintended Labrador retriever, a wise hermit crab, and a bat who eats Chinese food as they gather around a mother squirrel and her new babies.
13. *The Mouse & the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary (1965). When a boy and his shiny toy motorcycle check into the Mountain View Inn, a small rodent uses this exciting mode of transportation for a series of adventures.
14. *Thimbleberry Stories* by Cynthia Rylant (2006). Stories revolve around Nigel the Chipmunk, who lives in a quaint cottage on Thimbleberry Lane.
15. *Ugly* by Donna Jo Napoli (2006). When a Tasmanian "duck" is rejected by his family (his neck is too long, he stays underwater for too many seconds), he finds solace in a blended family featuring a wallaby, maternal wombat, possum, and two wild geese.
16. *Wild Times at the Bed and Biscuit* by Joan Carris (2009). Part of a series, this book celebrates the exploits of animals occupying a boarding house that has gone wild. Characters include Sir Walter (a very proper Scottie puppy), a cranky muskrat, a wounded Canada goose, and two starving but sassy fox kits.
17. *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney (2004). A pet hamster, assigned to room 26, has a great deal to teach the students, who are discovering 'that you learn a lot about yourself by studying another species.' Part of a popular series.

Earliest Readers

While there are many worthy reads in this genre, choices below tend toward traditional illustration and a gentler narrative voice. As you consider other books, avoid cartoon-like formats that mock social relationships, over-simplify nature, or caricature the human form.

1. *Cork & Fuzz: Short and Tall* by Dori Carconas (2005). Cork is a short muskrat and Fuzz, a tall possum. So, if Cork is older, shouldn't he be taller? A puzzle worth figuring out as two good friends explore their differences. Other titles: *Cork and Fuzz*, *Cork and Fuzz: The Swimming Lesson*, *Cork and Fuzz: The Collectors*, and *Cork and Fuzz: Good Sports*.

2. *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel (1970). From going swimming to finding buttons, writing letters, and telling stories, these animals have a rich friendship. Other fine series by Lobel are *Mouse Tales*, *Grasshopper on the Road*, *Uncle Elephant*. Also read *George and Martha* by James Marshall.

3. *Penny and Her Doll* by Kevin Henkes (2013). Given a beautiful doll by her grandmother, mouse Penny struggles to find a name worthy of for her most treasured possession. (Other books in this series are *Penny and Her Marble* and *Penny and Her Song*.)

4. *Prairie Friends* by Nancy Levinson (2003). For the child who seeks "a story from olden times," Levinson chronicles children seeking comfort in a new setting., in this case, mid- 19th-century Nebraska, where Betsy convinces new arrival, Emmeline, to love her home through the gift of a corn husk doll, a game of highgrass tag, and buffalo-berry picking.

5. *A Bargain for Frances* by Russell Hoban (1970). One of literature's favourite badgers has her heart thumped when a "friend" tricks her into an unfair exchange; how to stand up for herself? Other books are *Bread and Jam for Frances* and *A Birthday for Frances*. Also read Hoban's Arthur Series celebrating the shenanigans of a lively chimp.

6. *Daniel's Duck* by Clyde Bulla (1982). A young boy wishes to enter his wood carving in a local fair and is teased for the simplicity of his first effort, until the town's esteemed wood carver takes notice and praises his work.

7. *Harry in Trouble* by Barbara Ann Porte (1989). When Harry loses his library card for the third time, he is truly distressed. Fortunately, caring neighbours, a father, and friends help find a solution. Series includes titles: *Harry's Dog*, *Harry's Visit*, *Harry's Pony*.

8. *Houndsley and Catina* by James Howe (2006). In this tale where one is a writer and one is a cook, two friends learn when it is best to hold one's tongue and craft very carefully what needs to be said (part of a delightful series).

9. *Little Bear Series* by Else Minarek (1957). In this popular series, a small bear enjoys his animal family and friends as they enjoy moon adventures, picnics, and traveling kisses. Also read *No Fighting, No Biting*.

10. *Mooch the Messy* by Marjorie Sharmat (1976). Only for love does a very messy rat clean his hole to make his father feel welcome. Amusing and touching moments occur as this young rodent moves from personal comfort to a sense of what another might need to be happy in his presence. Also read the author's *Nate the Great* series.

11. *Park Pals Adventures: Lexi's Tale* by Johanna Hurwitz (2001). Lexi, a streetsmart squirrel, is wary of humans until a homeless person shows her a kindness; the squirrel then experiences a change of heart. Others in this Central Park series include *Peewee's Tale*, *Squirrel World*, and *Peewee and Plush*.

12. *Mr. Putter and Tabby Pour the Tea* by Cynthia Rylant (1994). In this first book of the series, Mr. Putter considers bringing a cat into his life to help him feel less lonely; illustrator Arthur Howard uses transparent watercolour, pencil, and gouache to illuminate Rylant's gentle, socially insightful prose.

13. *Tales of Oliver Pig* by Jean van Leeuwen and illustrated by Arnold Lobel (1979), is part of a series including titles *More Tales of Oliver Pig* and *Oliver, the Mighty Pig*. Other books by this author include the *Amanda Pig* series.

14. *Penny and Her Doll* by Kevin Henkes (2013). Given a beautiful doll by her grandmother, young mouse Penny struggles to find a worthy name for her most treasured possession. Simpler, outlined artwork here reveals reverence for its subjects. Other books in this series are *Penny and Her Marble* and *Penny and Her Song*.

Early Chapter Books (Under 100 pages)

Readers ready for longer tales will enjoy these stories celebrating friendship, magic, and adventure. Use partner reading – where a parent reads one paragraph and the child the next – can be a fun way for both to engage in a new work and lead a child gently into emerging reading mastery.

1. *Anna, Grandpa, and the Big Storm* by Carla Stephens (64pp). Anna's grandfather doesn't like city life until he shows his country skills while navigating a city storm.

2. *The Gingerbread Rabbit* by Randall Jarrell (64pp). When a mother bakes a large gingerbread rabbit to give to her daughter, the rabbit jumps into the forest, much to the mother's surprise. The rabbit is in for a surprise, too, when he visits some crafty foxes.

3. *The Hen Who Wouldn't Give Up* by Jill Tomlinson (100pp). Hilda, a small speckled hen, who likes corn flakes, fire engines, and exploring, is determined to visit her new cousins but encounters hurdles along the way. Other books: *The Otter Who Wanted to Know*, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*, *The Gorilla Who Wanted to Grow Up*.

4. *The Invisible Dog* by Dick King-Smith (80pp). A young girl, whose reluctant parents refuse to get her a dog, must muster an imaginary pet to prove she can handle the job.

5. *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain* by Alice Dalgleish (64pp). When Jonathan's mother says that only her sister's pot will do for the preparation of a family dinner for 20, he must leave his farm chores to retrieve the pot, trusting he will meet no bears on the way.....Also read *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by the same author.

6. Chester Cricket's Pigeon Ride by George Selden (64pp). When Chester of Times Square begins to miss the country, a pigeon takes him on a restorative flight. Also read Harry Kitten and Tucker Mouse.
7. Donovan's Word Jar by Andrew Clements (80 pp.). When the jar Donovan keeps his word collection in fills up, he discovers a special means of giving his words away and receiving something wonderful in return.
8. Henner's Lydia by Marguerite de Angeli (72pp). Lydia, a young Amish girl, must complete a hooked run if she is to go into town with her father. Unfortunately, there are many distractions: making apple butter, listening to her grandmother's stories. Also read Skippack School and Thee, Hannah by the same author.
9. A Horn for Louis by Eric Kimmel (96pp). At seven-years-old, young Louis Armstrong, living in relative hardship in New Orleans, finds a Russian immigrant family to help him realize his dreams of playing a cornet, but only if he can put pride aside to receive a gift.
10. Many Moons by James Thurber (48pp). When Princess Lenore becomes ill from eating too many raspberry tarts, she believes that possessing the moon is the only thing that will cure her.
11. My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett (80pp). A young boy is determined to save a baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across a river on Wild Island - part of a trilogy.
12. A New Coat for Anna by Harriet Ziefert (40pp). In hard times following WWII, a mother is determined to provide a warm coat for her daughter, trading the few things she has for the services of a shearer, spinner, weaver, and tailor.
13. The School for Cats by Esther Averill (32pp). Reissued by the New York Children's Collection, this series celebrates the life of a black cat facing obstacles while travelling and at home in New York City. Others in this series: Jenny Goes to Sea; Jenny's Moonlight Adventure; The Hotel Cat.
14. Sprout Street Neighbours: Five Stories by Anna Alter (100pp). Living in the very same apartment building Henry the mouse professes a love of poetry; Violet, a love of knitting; shy Fernando the rabbit a passion for acting; Emma the bear a fondness for parties; and Wilbur the cat a talent for gardening.

This book list is meant as a guide to provide you with ideas of books that your child may like to read at this age, either alone or with company. Naturally, some children take to reading more quickly than others and you will have to judge for yourself which books you feel will be the most appropriate. You may need to look at alternative lists for different ideas and some of the books on this list could be read at an earlier or later stage. As a basic rule of thumb, the age of the main character in the book is the age the child could be to read it. For example, in E. B. White's *The Trumpet of the Swan*, Sam is 11, so this would be a good book for a child at age 11 as the reader has something in common with the protagonist. However, another school of thought is that children

could read books in which the main character is older than themselves to provide inspiration, anticipation and challenge.

Most books listed above are available at your local library, but those recently released might need to be located from a bookshop. The Totnes Bookshop would be good places to start, as would most charity shops. Happy reading! With thanks to Sian Turner for letting us share her hard work.

Jonathan Hobbs

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