

## Reading List for Class II into Class III

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

### Seeds

You drew a picture of life

with your words.

I listened, and ate these words you said

to grow up strong.

Like the trees, I grew,

branches, leaves, flowers, and then fruit.

I became the words I ate in you.

For better or worse

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Javaka Steptoe

Listed below are books to read to your children and books for your children, if they are ready, to read on their own. A fine guide to reading comfort is a thoughtful evaluation of your child's response to what sits in his or her lap: Is he or she mastering most of the words on the page? If there is frustration, consider an easier read. For your own read-aloud interest, and to connect with stories you might have encountered long ago, books below are separated into categories both contemporary and classic. While books published more than 50 years ago may have old-fashioned views, they represent takes on cultural stances and rituals of family life that become more varied in later works of fiction. In your child's journey from being read-to to exploring books more independently, please remain solidly in the literary loop. The above poem by Javaka Steptoe underscores the dynamic power of words; their power not only to create vivid pictures in our children, but to influence who they become and how they communicate with others. Parent read-alouds are still rewarding social exchanges even with proficient readers, and conversation around stories can give revealing glimpses into how your child experiences and interprets the world.

## From Here to There: Thoughtful Picture-Book Reads

1. *A Chair for my Mother* by Vera B. Williams (1982). When a family home is ruined by fire, all collect their coins bit by bit to purchase a colourful chair and begin again. Also read *Amber was Brave*, *Essie was Smart*; *Something Special for Me*; and *A Chair for Always* by the same author.
2. *The Blessing Cup* by Patricia Polacco (2013). A single china cup, from a tea set left behind when Jews were forced to leave Russia, holds a family together over generations in a new land. Also read *The Keeping Quilt* by the same author.
3. *The Elijah Door: A Passover Tale* by Linda Strauss (2012). As two families feud over a goose, the young people are determined to reunite their homes. A timeless tale with social messages for any time of the year. Also read *The Princess Gown* by the same author, which focuses on flexible thinking and deftly transforming a mistake into something beautiful.
4. *The Matchbox Diary* by Paul Fleischman and illustrator Bagram Ibatoulline (2013). A boy who can neither read nor write records his journey from Italy to America with treasures sequestered in matchboxes; macaroni, typeset letters, a piece of coal. Also read *Peppe the Lamplighter* by Elisa Bartone.
5. *Nora's Chicks* by Patricia MacLachlan (2013). A girl from Russia adapting to her new farm on the American prairie says nostalgically to her father, "You can't plant a hill." Soon, however, a task of caring for chicks leads her to a fond appreciation for the landscape and some reassuring friendships.
6. *This is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration* by Jacqueline Woodson (2013). An African-American girl in South Carolina, during The Great Migration, discovers a piece of rope under a tree and takes it with her. Soon the rope is finding new ways to be useful for jump rope, tying suitcases, and hanging laundry on the line.

## I-Can-Read Books and Their Literary Cousins

These are fine entry-level readers whose larger type, simple vocabulary, lively tales, and supportive illustrations are a gratifying match for children of this age.

1. *Tales of Amanda/Oliver Pig Series* by Jean Van Leeuwen
2. *Amelia Bedelia Series* by Peggy Parish
3. *Arthur Series* by Lillian Hoban
4. *Cork and Fuzz Series* by Dori Chaconas
5. *Fox Series* by James Marshall (solid tongue-in-cheek humor) (also *George and Martha*)
6. *Frog and Toad*, *Grasshopper*, *Mouse Tales*, and *Uncle Elephant Series* by Arnold Lobel
7. *Frances Series* by Russell Hoban

8. Houndsley and Catina Series by James Howe
9. Iris and Walter Series by Elissa Guest
10. Ling and Ting: Not Exactly the Same by Grace Lin
11. Little Bear Series by Else Holmelund Minarek
12. Mouse and Mole Series by Wong Herbert Yee
13. Mr. Putter Series by Cynthia Rylant (also Henry and Mudge)
14. Nate the Great Spy Series by Marjorie Sharmat
15. Katie Morag Series by Mairi Hedderwick

## **On the Farm: I-Can-Read Books**

In preparation for the up and coming Farming Main Lessons that are studied in Class 3, the following books may make for interesting reads.

1. *The Bravest Dog Ever: The Story of Balto* by Natalie Standiford (1989). In a rural Alaska community hit with diphtheria, a sled dog comes to the rescue to deliver much-needed medicine to the area's children.
2. *Pigs Might Fly* by Dick King-Smith (1980). Hearty celebration of barnyard life in this book about a deformed pig, Daggie Dogfoot, whose particular talent, swimming, leads to heroism one rainy day. Also look at many other books by this author.
3. *The Biggest Bear* by Lynd Ward (1952). This seems a simple picture book, but is not: in this story, a boy wrestles with the wishes of community to keep bears away (or with skins nailed to barn walls). So, how will the boy manage to keep a pet bear of his own? An alternative read-aloud book is *Gentle Ben* by Walt Morey
4. *McBroom's Wonderful One-Acre Farm* by Sid Fleischman (1992). When Josh McBroom discovers the 80 acres he purchased are actually 80 acres piled one on top of the other at the bottom of a pond, he believes he's been tricked until he discovers the fertile soil can grow just about anything, from seeds growing overnight into full-grown plants and nickels growing into quarters.
5. *Clara and the Book Wagon* by Nancy Levinson (1991). Told by her father that farmers do not have time to read, Clara is determined to do so when the community's first book wagon arrives with a woman ready to teach Clara how to access the books she carries.
6. *Willow Wind Farm: Betsy's Story* by Anne Pellowski (1981). On the farm where Betsy lives, all ten children must help with chores, there is still fun though, like the day the pigs get tipsy on fermented blackberry preserves! Also read *Winding Valley Farm: Annie's Story*, *First Farm in the Valley: Anna's Story*, *Stair Step Farm: Anna Rose's Story*.

7. *Dust for Dinner* by Ann Turner (1995). Jake and Maggy loved the farm of their early childhood, which their parents must sell when dust storms kill crops and force them to move to California. The realities of finding work and rough travel create ample drama.

8. *The Long Way Westward* by Joan Sandin (1999). Moving to Minnesota from New York, a Swedish family takes the journey over 50,000 of their countrymen took from 1868 to 1869. Also read *At Home in a New Land* and *Pioneer Bear* by the same author.

9. *Mediopollito: Half-Chicken* by Alma Flor Ada (1995). An explanation for why a weathervane has a rooster on the top.

10. *Wagon Wheels* by Barbara Brenner (1978). When the three Muldie boys travel long way to Kansas, they must fend for themselves in their temporary dug-out as their father moves on to find better land for his family.

11. *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* by Kate Douglas Wiggin (1903). Tells the story of Rebecca Rowena Randall and her two stern aunts in the fictional village of Riverboro, Maine. Rebecca's joy for life inspires her aunts, but she faces many trials in her young life, gaining wisdom and understanding along the way.

### **Early Chapter Books (under 125 pages)**

Distinguished by smaller type and fewer illustrations, these stories often appear on shelves separate from the Early Reader.

1. *Balto and the Great Race* by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel (112 pp). The legendary tale of a sled dog, not necessarily the fastest, who leads a dog team on a medicine delivery to a remote Alaskan town where children are suffering from diphtheria.

2. *The Twits* by Roald Dahl (112 pp). Mr and Mrs Twit are extremely nasty, so the Muggle-Wump monkeys and the Roly-Poly bird hatch an ingenious plan to give them just the ghastly surprise they deserve!

3. *Crow Boy* by Taro Yashima (40 pp.). A shy mountain boy in Japan leaves his home each morning at dawn to go to the village school; on the way, he learns the calls of the crows.

4. *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh. (52pp).The story of an 8-yearold girl in the Connecticut wilderness in 1707, who helps her father build a new life for their family and also makes friends with the native inhabitants. Also read *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain* by the same author.

5. *Duck for a Day* by Meg McKinlay (89 pp.). A story which reflects school life and the responsibility of looking after the school pet. Who deserves the great honour of looking after the class duck? The illustrations are delightful and bring the story to life.

6. *The Ice Dragon* by George R. R. Martin (112 pp.). Physical and spiritual cold infuse a land inhabited by a child, born in winter chill, who must either seek comfort in familiar icy realms or broach uncomfortable warmth to save her kingdom.

7. *The King's Equal* by Katherine Paterson (64 pp.). To wear the crown, an arrogant prince must find an equal in his bride and stumbles upon one more perfect than he.
8. *The Little Leftover Witch* by Laughlin (111 pp.). When Felina is left behind by her witch mother, she must adjust to life with a sweet girl, Lucinda, who becomes her "sister" and also make an effort to blend in with the mother and father of the Doon family.
9. *Molly's Pilgrim* by Barbara Cohen (45 pp.). Coming from Russia, a young girl shows her third-grade classmates that there are more ways to be a pilgrim than they think.
10. *Tornado* by Betsy Byars (64 pp.). When a farmhand gathers children together in a storm shelter during a tornado, he speaks of a dog that was dropped down to Reading List for Class II into Class III Revised from the San Francisco Waldorf School Library Service by Sian Turner at Wynstones School. 5 the ground by a twister many years ago.
11. *The Skirt* by Gary Soto (80 pp.). Bringing her mother's folklorico skirt to school, Miatta accidentally leaves it on the bus and must find it before the class performance.
12. *The White Stallion* by Elizabeth Shub (62 pp.). When a girl falls asleep on the back of an old mare on a trip across the country, she wakes up in a herd of wild horses.

### **Early Chapter Book Series (under 125 pages)**

Series literature is a comforting genre for children coming into reading, as the familiar characters, prose, and plots free them to focus on new words which they can add to their reading vocabulary.

1. *Akimbo Series* by Alexander McCall Smith (80 pp.). A young boy lives on a game preserve in Africa and helps his father through various adventures with snakes, elephants, baboons, lions, and crocodiles.
2. *Betsy-Tacy Series* by Maude Lovelace (100 pp.). Friendship begins with two girls, then expands to include three; children who really like this also enjoy the more contemporary *The Cobble Street Cousins* by Cynthia Rylant.
3. *Catwings* by Ursula LeGuin (50 pp.). In this series, urban cats, born with wings in a city dumpster, venture into the assumed safety of the countryside. Even here, however, their bravery, resilience, and compassion are tested.
4. *Daisy Dawson* by Steve Voake (100 pp.). One day when Daisy is late for school, an encounter with a butterfly leaves her able to communicate with animals, which proves particularly handy when she loses her best friend, Boom, to the pound.
5. *Encyclopedia Brown Series* by Donald Sobol (96 pp.). Famed series about a boy detective who likes to solve brain-teasing mysteries.
6. *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown (100 pp.). When Stanley Lambchop is sleeping, a bulletin board falls on him, making him a half-inch thick; it is fun sliding under doors and being mailed to friends' houses, but soon it seems better to be like everyone else.

7. *The Gorilla Who Wanted to Grow Up* by Jill Tomlinson (112 pp.). Part of a series that also includes *The Otter Who Wanted to Know* and *The Cat Who Wanted to Go Home*, this work records the antics of a young gorilla, living in the mountains of Africa, who wishes to be just like his more responsible father.
8. *The Lighthouse Series* by Cynthia Rylant (64 pp.). Animals washed ashore on a remote island - a whale, a turtle, an eagle, a dog - learn to live together in their new setting. Beautiful themes of helping, accommodation, and friendship.
9. *The Littles* by John Peterson (80 pp.). Tiny people in a big-people world rise to the occasion in every challenging episode.
10. *LuLu and the Cat in the Bag* by Hilary McKay (84 pp.). When a mysterious bag is left on Lulu's doorstep, the last thing her grandmother expects it to be is a cat; a huge neon-orange cat. Part of a series featuring an African-American child: *Lulu and the Duck in the Park*, *Lulu and the Dog from the Sea*.
11. *Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne (80 pp.). Jack and Annie travel through time to experience quick takes on defining moments in history. Enthusiasm for this series, with its familiar main characters and predictable themes, has taught many emerging readers to gain confidence with independent reading.
12. *Mrs. Noodlekugel Series* by Daniel Pinkwater (80 pp.). Nick and Maxine have a new baby sitter, the eccentric Mrs. Noodlekugel who lives in the funny little house behind their apartment building with her butler cat and four far-sighted mice.
13. *The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's Very First Case* by Alexander McCall Smith. (96pp). Young Precious, at her school in Botswana, shows her gifts for solving cases when she busts through stereotypes to discover who has been stealing the children's food. Also read *The Mystery of Meerkat Hill*; *Precious and the Puggies*.
14. *Sophie's Snail* by Dick King-Smith (96 pp.). Recounts the friendship between a young girl and the first pet she is allowed to have: an obliging snail. Also by the same author, more in the Sophie Series; *A Mouse Called Wolf*; *Happy Mouseday*; *The Hodgeheg*; *The Queen's Nose*; *The Guard Dog*; *The Fox Busters*; *Horse Pie & Harriet's Hare*.
15. *The Stories Julian Tells* by Ann Cameron (1981). In the American tongue-in-cheek tradition, Julian transforms his memories into creative moments filled with humour and sometimes regrets over having taken his tales too far. Also read *Gloria's Way*.
16. *Tashi* By Anna Fienberg (64pp). Jack and his imaginary friend, Tashi, a gnomelike visitor from far away, intertwine as listener and storyteller, with Tashi facing giants, ghosts, and demons and always finding safety in the end. Read more in the series.
17. *Violet Mackerel's Natural Habitat* by Anna Branford (112pp). The smallest in her family, 7-year-old Violet loves nature, in this instance a tiny ladybug, and learning about where garden insects thrive best. Also read *Mackerel's Brilliant Plot*.

## Stories of Family and Friends

1. *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton (1953). Unfolds the adventures of a tiny family—Pod, Homily, and Arrietty—who survive by living under the floorboards and borrowing castoffs from humans. Look for the 50th-anniversary edition featuring sepia-toned illustrations by original illustrator, Diana Stanley.
2. *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling (1894). The short stories and poems include the tale of Mowgli, a boy raised by a pack of wolves in the Indian jungle. We meet the tiger Shere Khan; Bagheera, the black panther; Baloo, the sleepy brown bear and the python, Kaa.
3. *Henry Reed Series* by Keith Robinson (1989). Fast companions, Henry and his side-kick, Midge, get themselves in and out of trouble in this series illustrated by Robert McCloskey. Also read *The Soup* series by Robert Newton Peck (1964).
4. *The Little Grey Men* by B.B (1942). Meet the last gnomes in Britain. This is the story of three Brothers' epic journey to find their missing brother. Set against the background of the English countryside, beginning in spring, continuing through summer and concluding in autumn.
5. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum (1900). After a cyclone transports her to the Land of Oz, Dorothy must seek out the great wizard with the help of the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion in order to return to Kansas.
6. *The Children of Green Knowe* by L.M. Boston (1955). When Tolly comes to live with his great Grandmother in an ancient manor house, he discovers and befriends three children from 17th century England. Also read other books in this series.
7. *Island of Adventure* by Enid Blyton (1944). Philip, Dinah, Lucy-Ann, and Jack, sailing to the Island of Gloom with their pet parrot, discover danger in undersea tunnels and abandoned copper mines. Also read other books in this series.
8. *The Worry Week* by Anne Lindbergh (2003). Left alone for a week in their family's summer house in Maine, Allegra and her two sisters forage for food and look for buried treasure, all the while gaining an growing appreciation for their dear parents.
9. *The Year of the Book* by Andrea Cheng (2013). In Chinese peng you means friend, and Anna Wang must learn to turn away from books to discover a friend in the real world.
10. *The Golden Name Day* by Jennie D. Lindquist (1966). Nine-year-old Nancy, who is staying with her adopted grandparents in Sweden for a year, hopes to find a way to celebrate her birthday, even though her name is not Swedish. Also read *The Little Silver House* by the same author.
11. *The Dancing Bear* by Michael Morpurgo (1994). A gentle and deeply moving story of a young girl and her bear. High in the mountains, in a tiny village, an abandoned bear cub is adopted by a lonely orphan child. Also read *Mr Skip*; *The Rainbow Bear*; *Dolphin Boy*; *Mimi and the Mountain Dragon*; *On Angel Wings*; *It's a Dog's Life* by the same author.
12. *The Cottage at Bantry Bay* by Hilary Von Stockum (1938). Part of a series about the story of the O'Sullivan family in County Cork, Ireland.

13. *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1911). When Mary Lennox is sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle everybody says she is the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It is true, too. Mary is pale, spoilt and quite contrary, but she is also horribly lonely. Then one day a friendly robin helps Mary find a key and she discovers the most magical place anyone could imagine...

14. *Miss Hickory* by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey (1947). A tale of a doll with an applewood body and hickory-nut head recounts the kindness of friends; a crow, squirrel and doe in a bleak New England winter.

15. *The Moffats* by Eleanor Estes (1941). The adventures and misadventures of the four Moffat children and their widowed mother, struggling to make ends meet in their yellow house on New Dollar Street at the turn of the last century.

16. *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* by Betty MacDonald (1947). Mrs. Piggle Wiggle, who lives in an upside-down house and smells like cookies, has brilliant solutions to childhood ailments that even the most intrepid and creative neighbourhood parents can't seem to fix.

17. *Roller Skates* by Ruth Sawyer (1936). Winner of the Newbery award, this work, set in the 1890s in New York City, tells of Lucinda's year with the Misses Peters, who let her skate everywhere and aren't particularly interested in a focus on ladylike behaviour.

18. *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Betty Bao Lord (1947). Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams to be realized in her new home of Brooklyn, New York.

19. *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World* by Mildred Pitts Walter (1986). Justin would prefer sports over doing chores, but when he stays with his cowboy grandfather, he learns men, too, must cook and clean. Thoughtful references to this country's African-American pioneers and cowboys give this younger novel a rich historical backdrop.

20. *My Name is Maria Isabel* by Alma Flor Ada. A third grader, born in Puerto Rico, wants to fit into her new school and finds a way in her essay assignment, "My Greatest Wish."

21. *Rickshaw Girl* by Mitali Perkins (2007). When young Naima, a gifted Bangladeshi apana painter, borrows her taxi-cab father's only means of transportation, she damages the rickshaw and must think of a way to assist her father in making the expensive repairs.

22. *The Great Ghost Rescue* by Eva Ibbotson (1975). Humphrey the Horrible sounds scary, but he's actually a very friendly skeleton. Humphrey dreams of being ghastly and terrifying, like his brother and cousins, but when Humphrey discovers an evil plot to exorcise his family, he finally realizes you don't have to be spine-chillingly fearsome to be a hero.

## **Animals Finding Their Way**

1. *Bambi: A Life in the Woods* by Felix Salten (1923). The well-known, but not often read aloud story of a fawn growing, against all the odds, to adulthood in a wood filled with beauty and danger to become The Prince of the Forest.

2. Harry the Poisonous Centipede Series by Lynne Reid Banks (1997). Harry may be a poisonous centipede, but he's not very brave. He would be quite happy never to venture into the dangerous no-top-world above, where flying swoopers, furry biters, belly wrigglers and the dreaded Hoo-Mins live!
3. The Real Thief by William Steig (1973). When Gawain, the trusted chief of the Royal treasury discovers some treasures missing, he becomes falsely accused until the true thief develops an overwhelming fit of conscience.
4. Freddy Books by Walter Brooks (1929) feature titles in which a detective pig assists others in need, often other animals. In Freddy the Pied Piper, for Reading List for Class II into Class III Revised from the San Francisco Waldorf School Library Service by Sian Turner at Wynstones School. 9 example, Freddy helps a travelling circus rid its show of rats.
5. Lassie by Eric Knight (1938). The inspiring tale of a boy and his beloved collie, who braves a thousand miles to escape from Scotland to reunite with his owner. Look for the unabridged version or the shortened tale retold by Rosemary Wells.
6. The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford (1960). A Labrador retriever, Siamese cat, and terrier make their way from the Canadian wilderness to their beloved family out West.
7. Kneeknock Rise by Natalie Babbit (1984). The Megrimum is a wailing mystery the Instep villagers fear; nevertheless, a boy bravely challenges superstition to explain the natural origins by climbing the peak with his elderly dog.
8. Rascal by Sterling North (1963). Based on the author's own life, a young boy befriends a raccoon, enjoying a perfect friendship for a year swimming, fishing, and exploring the neighbouring land.....until the animal's true nature creates problems in the boy's home.
9. Gobbolino the Witch's Cat by Ursula Moray Williams (1942). This is the charming tale of a cat born a witch's cat but who would much rather be a kitchen cat.
10. Bogwoppit by Ursula Moray Williams (1978). Orphaned Samantha is packed off to her Aunt Daisy. Snooty Lady Daisy Clandorris has no time for children. Lucky Samantha discovers the small, furry creature living in the cellar; a bogwoppit - believed extinct.
11. A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond (1958). Look for the new hardcover edition of this work about a stuffed bear from the darkest Peru, who ends up in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brown after having been discovered in the Paddington Train Station.
12. Abel's Island by William Steig (1976). A gallant mouse, wishing to rescue his wife's scarf from the winds of a passing storm, becomes stranded for a year on an island, where he must survive by his wits, rely on the wisdom of others, and overcome his loneliness. Also read Amos and Boris by the same author.
13. Gooseberry Park and the Master Plan by Cynthia Rylant (2015). After a storm puts a squirrel and her family in danger, animal friends come to her rescue.

14. *Maggie & Oliver and a Bone of One's Own* by Valerie Hobbs (2012). A young maid tossed out into the street and a stray dog discover new beginnings through a golden locket.
15. *Nurk: The Strange, Surprising Adventures of a (Somewhat) Brave Shrew* by Ursula Vernon (2008). Nurk, a sort-of courageous rodent, packs up a few pairs of clean socks and sails off on an accidental voyage, guided by the wisdom found in the journal of his famously brave and fierce grandmother, Lady Surka the Warrior Shrew.
16. *Tumtum and Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall* by Emily Bearn (2009). Comfortable, married mice, Tumtum and Nutmeg, secretly try to help a brother and sister living in a tumbledown cottage with their kind, but absentminded father.
17. *Wild Times at the Bed and Biscuit* by Joan Carris (2011). Part of a series, this Reading List for Class II into Class III Revised from the San Francisco Waldorf School Library Service by Sian Turner at Wynstones School. 10 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.
18. *The Cat Who Came off the Roof* by Annie M.G Schmidt (2014). Minou is a young woman who has moved into Tibble's flat. She hates dogs, likes rooftops, loves the fishmonger, and happens to have been, until very recently, a cat.

### **Classics: Fantasy**

1. *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* by Ian Fleming (1964). A flying car takes the Pott family on a colourful range of adventures as they try to catch an elusive gang of thieves.
2. *Finn Family Moomintroll Series* by Tove Jansson (1958). Published originally in Finland, this series recounts the adventures of beasts in the Moomin Valley.
3. *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie (1911). Desperate to hear bedtime stories, Peter Pan waits outside the nursery window of Wendy, John and Michael Darling. When Peter asks Wendy to fly with him to Neverland, the Darling children are whisked away to a world of adventure; daring fairies; wondrous mermaids and The Lost Boys. But there is danger in Neverland too: the villainous Captain Hook is out for revenge and will stop at nothing to take it.
4. *The Glassblower's Children* by Maria Gripe (1964). A glassblower and his wife live happily until the prophecy that their children, a girl and a boy, will disappear comes true; many adventures lead to a satisfying ending.
5. *Half Magic* by Edward Eager, with illustrations by Quentin Blake (1951). Magic can be tricky if you are only granted half your wish, what might that look like, let's say, if you wanted to be invisible?
6. *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren (1945). Part of series recording the adventures of a young girl and her very ordinary neighbours.
7. *The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet* by Eleanor Cameron (1988). A mysterious man invites a boy to build a space ship and travel to Basidium to help the Mushroom people (part of a series including *Stowaway to the Mushroom Planet*).

8. *The King of the Copper Mountain* by Paul Biegel (1965). At the end of his thousand-year reign of the Copper Mountains, old King Mansolain is tired and his heart is slowing down. When his attendant, the Hare, consults The Wonder Doctor, he is told he must keep the King engaged in life by telling him a story every night until the Doctor can find a cure.

9. *Green smoke* by Rosemary Manning. 144pp. (1967). A young girl called Susan meets a wonderful dragon in a cave at Constantine bay, near Padstow. A friendship develops and he tells her marvellous stories of Arthur and his knights; creatures and magical happenings. Also in the series *Dragon in Danger*; *the Dragon's Quest* and *Dragon in the Harbour*.

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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