

Reading List for Class III into Class IV

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

The Uncertainty of the Poet

I am a Poet,
I am very fond of bananas,
I am bananas.
I am very fond of a poet.
I am a poet of bananas.
I am very fond.
A fond poet of 'I am, I am' –
Very bananas.
Fond of 'Am I bananas?
Am I?' – a very poet.
Bananas of a poet!
Am I fond? Am I very?
Poet bananas! I am.
I am fond of a 'very'
I am of very fond bananas
Am I a poet?

Wendy Cope

This poem reminds me of the struggles faced by our Class Three pupils as they battle their inner changes and riddles of life. The rubicon can be a very difficult and emotional stage in a child's development but it is one we must all pass through. As they now head into Class Four, aspects of the previous year's challenges may remain with some, while others will breeze through any issues to stand firmly in the space of 'I am this and this is me'.

Books that may continue to help children through this time of change include the following.

A Quick-Glance Book Selection by Author

Bright, Phoebe Lucky Stars

Burnett, Frances Hodgson Little Lord Fauntleroy

Clearly, Beverly Ramona Quimby and Henry Huggins Series

Colfer, Eoin The Legend of Spud Murphy

Cowell, Cressida How To Train Your Dragon Series

Craighead George, Jean Owl in the Shower

Doherty, Berlie Spellhorn

Edwards, Dorothy My Naughty Little Sister Collection

Ellis, Mary Lily Dragon; The Arctic Fox Fleishman, Sid The Great Horn Spoon

Gardner, Sally Fairy Detective Agency Series

Ingalls Wilder, Laura All Little House series

Jones, Terry Saga of Erik the Viking

Kerven, Rosalind The Cursed Sword; Grim Gruesome Viking Villain

King-Smith, Dick The Water Horse

Nimmo, Jenny Charlie Bone Series; Tom and the Pterosaur

Prior, Natalie Jane Lily Quench Series

Rees, Gwyneth Cosmo and the Magic Sneeze and others in the series

Streatfeild, Noel Ballet Shoes Titus, Eve Anatole (series)

Toksvig, Sandy The Littlest Viking

Webb, Holly Animal Stories Series; The Reindeer Girl Friend's Secret Series; The Snow Bear; The Winter Wolf; Emily Feather Series

Wiley, Melissa Little House in the Highlands Series (Grandmother to Laura Ingalls)

Zephaniah, Benjamin Funky Chickens

On the Farm

1. *The Cabin Faced West* by Jean Fritz (1958). Ann longs for her old life as she faces her new home in the Pennsylvania wilderness until a terrible storm brings a sense of her fortitude and competence—and a visit from George Washington.
2. *The Chickenhouse House* by Ellen Howard (1991). A family settling in a new territory must spend their first winter in a chicken house until spring provides them with the fine weather and friend to help them build a permanent home.
3. *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet (2010). When her mother becomes too ill to harvest tea on a nearby plantation, Tashi is too small to fill in, but when she tells the monkeys why she is so sad, they bring her a basket filled with a rare and valuable wild tea—suddenly her status shifts.
4. *The Corn Grows Ripe* by Dorothy Rhoads (1956). When Tigre's father is injured, his family asks: Who will plant and harvest the corn to help them survive and please the Mayan gods? Tigre, only 12, knows he must do a man's work, helping his mother.
5. *Juan Bobo: Four Folktales from Puerto Rico* by Carmen Bernier-Grand. Mamma puts Juan Bobo to work whenever he has time; somehow Juan always finds ways to make the work fun.
6. *Li Lun: Lad of Courage* by Carolyn Treffinger (1947). Banished to a mountaintop with only a few grains of rice because he is afraid of the sea, Li Lun gently nurtures the rice seedlings into a crop, proving that not only fishermen are needed in a village.
7. *Midnight Fox* by Betsy Byars (1968). Tom, a city boy, is uncomfortable spending the summer at his Aunt Millie's farm until he discovers a black fox in the forest and tracks her to her den. Will he be able to save her and her small cub when they are threatened?
8. *The Year of the Panda* by Miriam Schlein (1990). Strange things are happening on Lu Yi's farm. First, some men from the Chinese government ask Lu Yi's father to sell the property that has belonged to the family for generations. Then a giant panda appears in a neighbour's field. Lu Yi has a feeling that the two mysteries are somehow connected...
9. *Mountain Born* by Elizabeth Yates (1994). Wolves, weather, a black lamb, and a trusty dog are all part of a boy's life on a mountain farm. Also read *A Place for Peter*.
10. *Hill of Fire* by Thomas Lewis (1971). When the volcano Parícutin erupts in his father's cornfield as they travel through with their ox, Pablo sees the routine of his life change. With ash settling over all, his family must relocate to safety.
11. *Pioneer Cat* by William H. Hooks (1988). Nine-year-old Kate Purdy must think of ways to conceal her cat, who is not allowed on the wagon train trip from Missouri to Oregon. Also read *Moss Gown* and *Snowbear Whittington* by the same author.
12. *Black-eyed Susan* by Jennifer Armstrong (1995). A young girl, who, with her father, loves her new life on the plains, must come to terms with the fact that her mother may never feel completely at home there.

13. *Blue Willow* by Doris Gates (1941). A girl who wants to have a real home and go to a regular school, hopes that her family whose new home so closely resembles the farm on her blue willow plate, will settle down for good.

14. *The Fox and The Hound* by Daniel P. Mannix (1967). This book tells the tale of a young fox raised by humans for the first year of his life and the halfbloodhound dog who is his close companion. Will friendship or natural instincts win?

15. *Ivy Takes Care* by Rosemary Wells (2013). Upset that her best friend will be going to a fancy camp, Ivy hires herself out to take care of people's farm animals or pets while they are away. A stubborn pony creates a fair share of challenges.

16. *My Friend Flicka* by Mary O'Hara (1941). The story of a ten-year-old boy on a remote Wyoming ranch, who wishes to break a filly, part mustang, and redeem himself in the eyes of his exacting father.

17. *Rabbit Hill* by Robert Lawson (1944). New folks are coming to live in the Big House, and the animal inhabitants of the field wonder if they will plant a delicious and fertile garden as well as be good providers.

18. *Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs* by Betty Birney (1980). Eben searches his small town to see if he can find anything comparable to the Seven Wonders of the World. If he can, his father will send him on a train ride to Colorado.

19. *Sheep* by Valerie Hobbs (2006). After a fire destroys the farm where he was born, a young border collie acquires a series of owners on his way to fulfilling his life dream of shepherding sheep.

20. *Thimble Summer* by Elizabeth Enright (1938). A few hours after 9-year-old Garnet finds a silver thimble in a dried-up Wisconsin riverbed, the rains come, ending the long drought. With thimble luck, other good things follow. Could her carefully tended pig win a blue ribbon? Could her family build a new barn? Winner of the Newbery Award.

21. *Strawberry Girl* by Lois Lenski (1946). Birdie Boyer was a "Florida Cracker;" she belonged to a large "strawberry family," who lived on a flat woods farm in the lake section of the state. This short novel recounts her ambitions to go to school and play the organ while dealing with drought, fires, and roving hogs.

Early Chapter Books

1. *Arthur, for the Very First Time* by Patricia MacLaughlan (1980). When 10-year-old Arthur stays with his great aunt and uncle in the country, eccentric relatives who talk to their chickens in French, sing to their pigs, and climb trees, he loosens up and begins to explore his new world with friend Moira.

2. *Birdie's Lighthouse* by Deborah Hopkinson (1996). A girl, moving to an island off the coast of Maine to be with her father, encounters a fierce storm.

3. Cam Jansen Series by David Adler (1989). This spunky girl is an intrepid solver of mysteries, from buried treasure to dinosaur bones.
4. The Cat Who Went to Heaven by Elizabeth Coatsworth (1930). A white cat, thought to bring luck to a gifted painter, turns out to bring him ill, until Buddha intervenes and a happy ending is made possible for all.
5. Chang and the Bamboo Flute by Elizabeth Starr Hill (2002). Born mute, Chang longs to train a cormorant to catch fish from his parent's houseboat on the Li River in China. A bullying neighbour, and brother of his best friend, however, plays a trick and Chang must think of a solution. Also read author's Bird Boy.
6. Crow Boy by Taro Yashima (1955). 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.
7. The Dragon's Boy by Jane Yolen (1990). Young Arthur meets a dragon who is accepted as a friend and mentor.
8. The Dragon Slayer's Academy Series by Kate McMullen (2005). Digory, a boy who should conquer dragons, instead finds himself befriending them. Much humour and mockery of 'bad sorts, braggarts, and people practically too good to wear their own shoes.'
9. Lady Lollipop by Dick King-Smith (2001). A quick-witted swineherd and a pig named Lollipop are royally rewarded after they reform a very spoiled princess. Also read the entertaining sequel, Clever Lollipop and Princess Lollipop.
10. The Magician's Boy by Susan Cooper (2005). A boy who works for a magician meets familiar fairy tale characters when he is transported to the Land of Story while searching for a Missing Puppet. Also read The Boggart.
11. Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater (1938). An unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Reading List for Class III into Class IV Revised from the San Francisco Waldorf School Library Service by Sian Turner at Wynstones School. 6 Popper.
12. Not My Dog by Colby Rodowsky (1999). Ellie wanted a cute puppy, not a fullgrown mutt...so she resists her new pet until one day her resistance almost makes her lose the only pet she's ever likely to have.
13. Sable by Karen Hesse (1994). Tate is delighted when a stray turns up at her doorstep, but the dog makes so much trouble for the neighbours it may not be able to stay. Also read A Wish on a Unicorn by the same author.
14. Just Juice by Karen Hesse (1999). When Juice enters third grade and letters and numbers still don't make sense, she leaves school to help her father work in his shop. A good read aloud for discussions about overcoming hurdles.

15. *The Seven Treasure Hunts* by Betsy Byars. On Saturday, Jackson and his best friend, Goat, hide treasures for one another to find, and then on their next challenge discover someone else has gotten to them first.

16. *Skinny Bones* by Barbara Park (1982). The smallest boy on a baseball team gets more than he bargains for when he challenges the team's star pitcher.

Adventure Beckons

1. *Bed-Knobs and Broomsticks* by Mary Norton (1957). Three English children evacuated to the country during the war, acquire powers from a spinster witch; travel on a flying bed to the tropical island of Ueepe; and help to prevent a German invasion.

2. *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King (1963). When the ground gives way beneath Barney, he finds himself in a cave in the middle of a rubbish dump: Here begins the friendship of Barney and Stig.

3. *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* by Dodie Smith (1966). The classic tale about 101 Dalmatians and their fight for survival against the evil Cruella De Vil. Also read the sequel: *The Starlight Barking*.

4. *Ronia, The Robber's Daughter* by Astrid Lindgren (1981). Ronia lives with her father, a robber chieftain, and his band of men in their fortress on the top of a mountain. On the night Ronia was born, a bolt of lightning split the stronghold in two, leaving a huge chasm - Hell's Gap - in between. Also read *Mischievous Meg and Rasmus and the Vagabond* by the same author.

5. *Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks (1981). Who'd want a boring little plastic Red Indian as a birthday present? Omri doesn't – until his brother gives him a very special cupboard which can make the Indian come alive... Also in the trilogy: *Return of the Indian* and *Secret of the Indian*.

6. *The Whizz Pop Chocolate Shop* by Kate Saunders (2012). Oz and Lily's family have inherited an ancient chocolate shop. It's the perfect home ... apart from the small fact that it's haunted. Also read the sequel *The Curse of the Chocolate Phoenix*.

7. *The Secret Lake: A Children's Mystery Adventure* by Karen Inglis (2011). When Stella and her younger brother, Tom, move to their new London home, they become mystified by the disappearances of Harry, their elderly neighbour's small dog. Stella and Tom soon discover that they have travelled back in time to their home and its gardens almost 100 years earlier.

8. *The Light Princess* by George MacDonald (1864) and illustrated by Maurice Sendak. Tongue-in-cheek tale of a young princess who "having lost her gravity," explores through a playful dream-world the predicaments of levity. Also read *The Princess and the Goblin* (1872) and *The Golden Key*, which like the former, will have different meanings for people of different ages.

9. *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg (1967). An engaging story of two children who leave home and take up residence in the Metropolitan Museum of Art (very nice furniture and artwork!). Winner of the 1968 Newbery Medal. Also read *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett.

10. *Emil and the Detectives* by Erich Kastner (1929). Emil is excited to be taking the train on his own for the first time. However, he doesn't like the look of his fellow passenger, the man in the bowler hat. Emil will just have to keep his wits about him and his money in his pocket. But Emil falls asleep and when he wakes up the man in the bowler hat is gone - and so is the money! Also read *Dot and Anton*; *The Flying Classroom*; *The Parent Trap* by the same author.

11. *Poppy* by AVI (1995). A tiny and intrepid deer mouse urges her family to move to a nearby field of corn; unfortunately, the field is threatened by an owl, Mr. Ocax.

12. *The Narnian Chronicles* by C.S. Lewis (1952). A series of 7 books including *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, which is an especially good book to read as Class 3 will be covering Creation as one of their Main Lessons. In this book, death and rebirth (renewal) are the underlying themes. The series as a whole touches on death and rebirth in many different ways. The books in order are: *The Magician's Nephew* *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* *The Horse and His Boy* *Prince Caspian The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* *The Silver Chair* *The Last Battle*

13. *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo (2003). The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess he loves, the servant girls who wishes to be royalty, and one devious rat.

14. *The Thirteen Clocks* by James Thurber (2008). A prince, a princess, a wandering minstrel, a magical creature, and an evil uncle co-mingle in a clever tale about life in a gloomy castle, true love, and the tasks that must be overcome to live happily ever after.

15. *The Twenty-One Balloons* by William Pene DuBois (1947). When Professor Sherman leaves San Francisco in a hot air balloon, he expects a fairly predictable journey; dealing with hungry seagulls and plummeting onto the of Krakatoa teaches him otherwise.

16. *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Graham. An enchanting adventure about four unlikely friends - Mole, Rat, Toad and Badger. The scrapes Mr Toad gets himself into and how the others work together to help him out.

Family Life: Old and New

1. *The Story of the Blue Planet* by Andri Magnason (2015). An eco-fable with heart and humour. Brimir and Hulda are best friends, living on a beautiful blue planet where there are no grown-ups, life is wild and free, and each day is more exciting than the last. Until, one day, a rocket ship piloted by a strange-looking adult named Gleesome Goodday crashes on the beach. Also read *Love Star* by the same author.

2. *All-of-a-Kind Family* by Sidney Taylor (1951). In the turn-of-the-century Lower East Side of New York City, five sisters indulge in old-time fun: exploring the basement warehouse of Papa's peddler's shop, looking for hidden buttons while dusting the parlor, and enjoying special family holidays.

3. *The Animal Family* by Randell Jarrell (1965). A lonely hunter living in the wilderness beside the sea gains a family made up of a mermaid, a bear, a lynx, and a boy. It is an indispensable book one can turn to again and again for inspiration and sheer enjoyment.
4. *Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie* by Peter Roop (1985). This doesn't take place on a farm, but rather on a remote Maine island, where a girl must keep the lighthouse fire burning in a storm until her father returns four weeks later.
5. *Pollyanna* by Eleanor H Porter (1913). The classic story of a tough, spunky, focused and extremely alert little girl with a strong will and good clear instincts. Also read *Pollyanna Grows Up*.
6. *Ava & Pip* by Carol Weston (2014). Extroverted 9-year-old Ava is puzzled that her older sister, Pip, 13, is so quiet and not quick to make friends. Wishing to help, Ava writes a story, but things do not turn out as planned.
7. *The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner (1924). The Alden children begin their independent lives by making a home in an abandoned boxcar—a beautiful story about optimism, loyalty, and resourcefulness.
8. *Mary Poppins* by P.L. Travers (1934). The famous story of a British governess, practically perfect in every way, who creates havoc and transformation on Cherry Tree Lane (part of a series and filled with humour).
9. *Dog Friday* by Hilary McKay (1995). A lost dog finds its way into a loving home and the heart of a child who doesn't want to let him go, even when he knows who the owner might be. Other books by this author include *Dolphin Luck* and *The Amber Cat*.
10. *The Doll People* by Ann Martin (2000). A family of porcelain dolls who have lived in a dollhouse for 100 years feel they will die of boredom until, one day, a family of plastic dolls move in who create havoc by not following "The Doll Code of Honor."
11. *The Family Under the Bridge* by Natalie Savage Carlson (1958). Children who live under a bridge befriend a grumpy old man whose entire world can be pushed around in a baby buggy. Together they work to improve their situation.
12. *The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew* by Margaret Sidney (1881). A fatherless family, raised by an industrious and joyous mother, finds strength in their simple life and ultimately the generosity of a neighbour.
13. *Ginger Pye* by Eleanor Estes (1951). The disappearance of a new puppy named Ginger and the appearance of a mysterious man in a mustard yellow hat bring excitement into the lives of the Pye children. Winner of the 1952 Newbery Medal.
14. *The Lost Flower Children* by Janet Taylor Lisle (1999). After their mother's death, two sisters move in with their great aunt and slowly bring a weedy garden back to life.
15. *Love, Ruby Lavender* by Deborah Wiles (2005). When her quirky grandmother goes to Hawaii for the summer, 9-year-old Ruby learns how to survive on her own in Mississippi by writing letters, befriendng chickens, and making a new best friend.

16. *The Saturdays* by Elizabeth Enright (1941). Four siblings pool their allowances so that each one may choose an adventure on consecutive Saturdays...sequel include *Then There Were Five*, *Four-Story Mistake*, and *Spiderweb for Two*.

17. *Owls in the Family* by Farley Mowat (1962). A young boy's pet menagerie, which includes crows, gophers, magpies, and a dog, gets out of control when he adds two owls, which terrorize the neighbourhood.

18. *The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall (2005). The summer adventures of a family of five as they assist a young boy whose mother plans a future for her child that has nothing to do with his ambitions in music (also read the sequel: *The Penderwicks of Gardam Street*).

19. *The School Mouse* by Dick King-Smith (1994). Flora has brothers and sisters who prefer to play; she, however, wishes to teach herself to read...a talent that proves worthwhile when she is able to discover the word "Poison" and warn her parents of the box. Also *Pigs Might Fly* and *Martin's Mice*.

20. *Sun and Spoon* by Kevin Henkes (1997). A young boy, navigating the death of a beloved grandmother, tries to find something special he can remember her by— an Apostle Spoon—but is it really his to borrow?

21. *Ten Rules for Living with My Sister* by Ann Martin (2012). Pearl's older sister is popular, but Lexie is not "because of the three bad things that happened to Reading List for Class III into Class IV Revised from the San Francisco Waldorf School Library Service by Sian Turner at Wynstones School. 10 her" in school, which no one else will forget. How will these two share a room when grandfather moves in?

22. *White Fur Flying* by Patricia MacLaughlin (2103). Rescue dogs and one rescue parrot help a 9-year-old boy, who refuses to speak, socialize once again with friends and family in a rural Maine setting.

23. *When the Circus Comes to Town* by Laurence Yep (2001). A young girl recovering from smallpox finds a way to re-enter the hustle of small-town life with a special talent.

24. *The Year of Miss Agnes* by Kirkpatrick Hill (2002). In 1948, a school teacher arrives in a remote part of Alaska to give the children an educational experience they haven't encountered in years...at the same time accepting their odd smelling fish sandwiches and insisting that the deaf-boy, Bakko, attend school with everyone else.

25. *Tree Girl* by T.A. Barron (2001). A young girl named Rowanna lives in a seaside cottage with an old man named Mellwyn, who found her abandoned under a tree when she was a baby. She is determined to find her mother and her past, but Mellwyn warns her that the forest around the High Willow is haunted by tree ghouls. Despite his warnings, Anna makes her way closer to the forest, and befriends a tree spirit.

26. *A Lion to Guard Us* by Clyde Robert Bulla (1981). Even though this is a fictional story, it is littered with historical truths. It follows the adventure of three children from London who sail on the ship 'Sea Venture' which was wrecked on Bermuda.

Fantasy

1. *Any Which Wall* by Lynn Snyder (2009). Inspired by the *Half Magic* series, this delightful story follows siblings on their journeys through a wall in a nearby cornfield that takes them back in time to nearly insurmountable adventures.
2. *The Castle in the Attic* by Elizabeth Winthrop (1986). When a boy receives a medieval castle with a knight from his housekeeper, he is pulled into the turbulent times of this toy-come-to-life to fight an evil wizard. Also read *The Battle for the Castle* by the same author.
3. *The Magic Half* by Annie Barrows (2008). In this light fictional tale, a young girl who grows up with two sets of sibling twins goes in search of a twin for herself and finds one in an unexpected and magical way.
4. *The Clockwork Three* by Matthew J. Kirby (2010). Giuseppe, an orphaned street musician; Frederick, an apprentice clockmaker; and Hannah, an overworked hotel maid, discover that when they unite, they possess remarkable powers that can unlock secrets to one another's pasts.
5. *Frost Hollow Hall* by Emma Carroll (2013). Tilly's heart sinks. Will's at the door of their cottage, daring her to come ice-skating up at Frost Hollow Hall. No one goes near the place these days. Rumour has it that the house is haunted . . . Also read *The Girl Who Walked on Air*; *In Darkling Wood*; *The Snow Sister* by the same author.
6. *The Enormous Egg* by Oliver Butterworth (1956). A young boy is surprised when he goes to his hen's nest one morning to find a gigantic egg and even more surprised when the egg hatches a triceratops dinosaur.
7. *Five Children and It* by E. Nesbit (look for versions illustrated by H.R. Miller or Paul Zelinsky); when four children, digging to Australia, discover a Psammead, or sand fairy, in the gravel pit of the house where they are staying, they look to a future of adventure and wish-making. Also read *The Railway Children*.
8. *Liesl and Po* by Lauren Oliver (2011). Liesl, whose only attic friends are shadows and mice, makes friends with equally lonely Po, a boy from *The Other Side*; both are unexpectedly given hope, when an alchemist's apprentice bungles a delivery.
9. *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher* by Bruce Colville (1991). Small for his age, but artistically gifted, Jeremy purchases a dragon's egg; adventure ensues, part of the author's humorous *Magic Shop* series.
10. *Horns & Wrinkles* by Joseph Helgerson (2006). River trolls, rock trolls, and blue-wing fairies are the usual suspects in a Mississippi tale, where Claire must transform her difficult cousin, Duke, who has suddenly sprouted horns and a tusk.
11. *Madame Pamplemousse and her Incredible Edibles* by Rupert Kingfisher (2008). This book tells the story of a young girl in Paris, who has extraordinary talent as a cook, but also a horrid Uncle who makes the most atrocious food in the land: Pig's Ear Pizza anyone?

12. *No Flying in the House* by Betty Brock (1970). Annabel Tippins doesn't have parents; she has a three-inch dog that talks. When she discovers she's half fairy and has special talents, such as flying and kissing her elbow, she must look at her life in a fresh way.

13. *One Dog and His Boy* by Eva Ibbotson (2012). All Hal ever wanted was his dog, but his mother said no. But on his 10th birthday his wish comes true and his parents give him a glorious terrier (but Hal doesn't know he is only for rent).

14. *The Ordinary Princess* by M. M. Kaye (1980). The most beautiful and gifted princess in the kingdom has a spell put on her shortly after birth making her "merely ordinary" and, thus, destined for a very different life from her sisters', one she seeks at first as "the fourteenth assistant kitchen maid" in a neighbouring castle.

15. *Whittington* by Alan Armstrong. A blend of a rags-to-riches folktale, barnyard lore, and a tale of a wise cat who teaches a young boy to read.

16. *The Last of the really Great Whangdoodles* by Julie Andrew Edwards (1974). Ben, Tom and Lindy Potter are ordinary children, until they meet the brilliant Professor Savant. He tells them all about the Whangdoodles, the wise and magical creatures who once lived on Earth but then disappeared to another land.

Friendship

1. *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry (1947). A pony from an island off the coast of Virginia lived with the author as she researched the valuable horses of this tale, believed to be descendants of animals on an old Spanish ship that was lost at sea. Part of the Treasury of Horses Series: *Misty of Chincoteague*, *Justin Morgan Had a Horse* & *King of the Wind*. Plus *Sea Star: Orphan of Chincoteague*.

2. *Albert The Dragon* by Rosemary Weir (1961). Albert lives in a cave in Cornwall and all he wants to do is make friends with the children, have tea and play bonfires. However, dragons have not made a good name for themselves and so most children are scared of them. This is the story of how Albert makes a friend. Other books in the series: *Further Adventures of Albert the Dragon*; *Albert the Dragon and the Centaur*; *Albert and the Dragonettes*; *Albert's World Tour*.

3. *Why the Whales Came* by Michael Morpurgo (1985). Gracie and her friend Daniel have always been warned to stay away from the Birdman and his side of the island. But then they find a message in the sand and discover the Birdman is not who they thought. Also read *An Elephant in the Garden*; *Kaspar: Prince of Cats*; *The Nine Lives of Montezuma*; *I Believe in Unicorns*; *Out of the Ashes and Kensuke's Kingdom* by the same author

4. *The Child's Elephant* by Rachel Campell-Johnston (2013). When a baby elephant is abandoned on the African savannah, a young boy named Bat takes her back to his village and cares for her.

5. *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden (1960). Mesmerized by the fine smell of liverwurst, Chester Cricket makes himself at home in a newsstand, where young Mario makes him comfortable

with mulberry-leaf meals, Kleenex sheets, and matchbox bed. Also read *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary.

6. *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White (1952). People sometimes think *Charlotte's Web* is too sad, too unresolved to read to children; consider when it was written and applaud the author's fierce effort to keep the ending as it was—a rare moment at that time in children's literature. Also read *Stewart Little* (1945) by the same author.

7. *The Ghost and Bertie Boggin* by Catherine Sefton (1980). An amusing tale about a young boy who meets a ghost (who is in love with Florence Nightingale) in the garden coal shed that nobody else in the family can see. Full of fun and adventure.

8. *Down the Mysterly River* by Bill Willingham (2011). Boy Scout Max, an expert at orienteering, finds himself lost and with no memory. Fortunately, a bear, badger, and catlike monster befriend him, but all must escape deadly hunters and their zealous hounds.

9. *Little Dog, Lost* by Bauer (2012). Mark needs a dog and Buddy needs a boy in this gentle story written in free verse (a visually satisfying format for new readers).

10. *Milly-Molly-Mandy Series* by Joyce Kilmer (1925). Deeply entrenched in the simplicity of an old-fashioned childhood, twenty-one stories explore, among other things, the dilemmas of spending one's first penny, caring for a hedgehog, and spending one's first night away from home; endpapers include a helpful map of the town.

11. *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi (2001). A beautifully written story about a young girl who moves from Korea with her family. The anxiety about starting a new school in a new town and worries about fitting into the new culture.

12. *Ophelia and the Marvellous Boy* by Karen Foxlee (2014). Ophelia initially doesn't believe in anything that can't be proven by science...but when she meets an imprisoned boy in her father's museum, a boy from another time, she is forced to recognize a world where not everything can be explained. Based loosely on *The Snow Queen*.

13. *The Secret Language* by Ursula Nordstrom (1972). Going to boarding school, Victoria North feels very lonely until a friend teaches her a language only a few can understand.

14. *The Silver Balloon* by Susan Bonners (1997). Gregory, a shy boy in the 4th grade, sends a helium filled balloon into the sky with his name and address. A farmer in a faraway state answers, then Gregory, with the guidance of his mother, begins a correspondence.

15. *Soup* by Robert Newton Peck (1974). The humorous antics of boys in rural Vermont in the 1920s. This book is great for boys who usually have no interest in reading. Also read other books in the series as well as the *Marvin Redpost* series by Louis Sachar.

16. *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman (1986). Prince "Brat" and the unfortunate boy who must receive his punishments slowly become friends on a humbling night they are forced to switch places away from the castle.

Feels Ridiculous

1. Arabel and Mortimer Series by Joan Aiken (1972). A troublesome and hilarious friendship between a young girl and her pet raven... Arabel's Raven is the first story about Arabel and her pet raven Mortimer. Mr Jones, while driving his taxi, notices something bedraggled in the road. He stops and discovers an injured raven. He takes it home and his four-year-old daughter Arabel falls in love at first sight.
2. The Castle Corona by Sharon Creech (2007). There was a spoiled king whose primary wish was to be able to nap and have a gown that didn't itch. And then there were two plucky and proud peasants in possession of a pouch that could change their lives.
3. George's Marvelous Medicine by Roald Dahl (1997). Some relatives are so horrible that you simply must find an improvement potion to make life bearable— a book both adults and children can enjoy. Also read: Fantastic Mr. Fox; James and the Giant Peach; Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by the same author.
4. The Golden Goose by Dick King-Smith (2006). Farmer Skint and his family have fallen on hard times at Woebegone Farm until their seemingly ordinary goose lays a golden egg and their fortunes begin to change.
5. Gooney Bird Greene Series by Lois Lowry (2002). A unique child at Watertown Elementary School, Gooney Bird loves telling stories with wonderful word play and plot twists; Gooney Bird, herself, is a delightfully complex and confident character. Also read Anastasia Krupnik series.
6. The Willoughby's by Lois Lowry (2008). Four children, abandoned by their illhumoured parents, are overseen by a seasoned nanny and rescued by their sudden brush with an abandoned baby and reclusive candy magnate.
7. How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell (1953). Two boys set out to prove worms can make a fantastic meal by eating (in many different ways) 15 worms in 15 days.
8. Staying Nine by Pam Conrad (1988). Nine-year-old Heather doesn't want to turn ten until wacky Rosa Rita shows her that growing up isn't so bad.
9. Stories from the Wayside School by Louis Sachar (1989). Each child in this short-story anthology presents hilarious issues that need to be overcome. Also read the sequels.
10. The Pool Party by Gary Soto (1993). Invited to a friend's pool party, where his father and grandfather work as gardeners, Rudy Hererra looks for an inner tube with a friend and experiences one antic after the next.

Truth be Told: Fun Works of Nonfiction

1. Building Big by David Macaulay (2000). Why this shape and not that? Why steel instead of concrete? Why put it here and not over there? These questions and more are explored in Macaulay's

fascinating book on large structures, such as the Hoover Dam, the Pantheon, the Channel Tunnel, and the Chrysler Building.

2. *Can We Save the Tiger?* By Martin Jenkins (2011). The beauty and potential disappearance of ground iguanas, partula snails, and white-rumped vultures are some of the many animals described in this thoughtful, age-appropriate book.

3. *Our Farm: By the Animals of Farm Sanctuary* by Maya Gottfried (2010). Poems seemingly written in first person by the rescued animals themselves; Maya the Cow, J.D. the Piglet, Hilda the Sheep, and a dozen more, describe the essence of what it means to be each one in a place that newly treasures them.

4. *The Philharmonic Gets Dressed* by Karla Kuskin (1982). They look so calm, poised, and organized once we see them with their instruments in the pit, but what happens behind the scenes before the music starts?

5. *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (1999). From the time he was a young boy, Wilson Bentley was amazed at the varied beauty of snowflakes, devoting his entire life to photographing or freezing their crystalline form for the camera, images which we still admire today.

6. *Maps: Getting from Here to There* by Harvey Weiss (1991). Discusses in an engaging manner and with playful illustration, beginning with one's bedroom, various aspects of maps, including direction, distance, symbols, latitude, longitude, how maps are made, and special purpose maps and charts.

7. *Mistakes that Worked* by Charlotte Jones (1991). The classic work about things people created by accident actually helping to move the world forward with splendid inventions that have stood the test of time. On the list: popsicles, Silly Putty, bricks, and cheese!

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; some of the books on this list could be read at an earlier or later stage.

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

Sept 2018