

Suggested Reading List

Upper Elementary · Grades 3–6 · Ages 8–11

Longer chapter books, historical adventure, and richer nonfiction. These titles build stamina and open doors into history, making, exploration, and nature.

These titles favor high-interest stories, classic adventure, biography of builders and discoverers, and practical nonfiction. Series are listed as one entry when the whole run is the point; start with the first or best-known volume. Adjust for reading level and interest.

Novels and High-Interest Series

1. Little House in the Big Woods and the Little House series — Laura Ingalls Wilder
2. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and the Narnia series — C. S. Lewis
3. The Secret Garden — Frances Hodgson Burnett
4. Heidi — Johanna Spyri
5. Anne of Green Gables — L. M. Montgomery
6. Black Beauty — Anna Sewell
7. Treasure Island — Robert Louis Stevenson
8. Swiss Family Robinson — Johann David Wyss
9. Robinson Crusoe — Daniel Defoe (abridged or original)
10. The Call of the Wild / White Fang — Jack London
11. Hatchet — Gary Paulsen
12. My Side of the Mountain — Jean Craighead George
13. Carry On, Mr. Bowditch — Jean Lee Latham
14. Johnny Tremain — Esther Forbes
15. The Witch of Blackbird Pond — Elizabeth George Speare
16. Caddie Woodlawn — Carol Ryrie Brink
17. Across Five Aprils — Irene Hunt
18. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer — Mark Twain
19. Swallows and Amazons — Arthur Ransome
20. The Chronicles of Prydain: The Book of Three — Lloyd Alexander
21. Redwall — Brian Jacques (first book)
22. Encyclopedia Brown — Donald Sobol
23. Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew (original-text editions)
24. The Railway Children — E. Nesbit
25. The Hobbit — J. R. R. Tolkien

Informative Reading to Spark Further Interest

26. Landmark Books (Random House): The Landing of the Pilgrims; The Wright Brothers; Ben Franklin of Old Philadelphia; The Story of Thomas Alva Edison; Gettysburg; The American Revolution
27. World Landmark titles: Alexander the Great; Genghis Khan; The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt; Marco Polo

28. G. A. Henty historical adventures — start with *The Cat of Bubastes*, *The Dragon and the Raven*, *In Freedom's Cause*, *With Lee in Virginia*, *Under Drake's Flag*
29. *The Way Things Work* — David Macaulay (full edition)
30. *Famous Men of Greece / Rome / the Middle Ages* (or similar classical history readers)
31. D'Aulaires' *Book of Greek Myths* (complete)
32. Biographies of Edison, Ford, the Wright brothers, Faraday, Pasteur, and Carver
33. Age-appropriate narratives of Lewis and Clark, Magellan, Cook, and Shackleton
34. The Burgess nature books continued
35. Holling C. Holling: *Paddle-to-the-Sea*; *Tree in the Trail*; *Minn of the Mississippi*
36. Tuttle Twins remaining children's titles (*Creature from Jekyll Island*; *Food Truck Fiasco*; *Search for Atlas*; *Spectacular Show Business*)
37. Simple books on electricity, flight, engines, and bridges
38. Beginner field guides (Peterson or National Geographic)
39. Books on knights, castles, Viking ships, and Roman life
40. *The Story of the World* — Susan Wise Bauer (volumes 1-2 as read-aloud or independent)
41. Traditional civic treatments of the Constitution and the Declaration
42. Books on farming, logging, mining, and how cities get food and power
43. Inventor collections that stay on the workshop and the idea
44. Survival and outdoor-skills primers written for this age
45. Astronomy picture-and-text books (constellations, planets, telescopes)
46. Books on horses, dogs, and working animals
47. Early how-to-draw or how-to-build-simple-machines books
48. Selections from Plutarch's *Lives* (children's versions)
49. *The Courage of Sarah Noble* — Alice Dalgliesh
50. *Amos Fortune, Free Man* — Elizabeth Yates

How to use this list

This is a starting map, not a mandate. A student who finishes one adventure often wants the next book in the series, a related biography, or a hands-on skill. Vocational and college titles are included so families can see that “what comes next” includes trades, certificates, military technical training, two-year programs, and four-year study.

Availability varies. Many classics are in any public library; older history series such as *Landmark* and G. A. Henty are often found used or in reprint. Preview unfamiliar editions for reading level and suitability.