

## Appendix: Favorite Books by Grade Level

This list is by no means meant to be a definitive book list. Book lists are subjective, and these are books that I personally have loved or that my children have loved. I believe they are worthy of being read and they all fall under the category of “living books” but there are many other fantastic books that aren’t on this list. I tried to include a range of genres and subject matter, from literature and poetry, to science and history.

Many of the books on the list are by authors who I think it is worth your time to explore. So, for example, if you enjoy *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton, you might also want to look for *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*, or *Katy and the Big Snow*.

I am dividing this list into age range categories, but many of the books can be enjoyed by children younger and older – as C.S. Lewis once said:

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*“No book is really worth reading at the age of ten which is not equally  
– and often far more – worth reading at the age of fifty and beyond.”*

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I’ve labeled the book list for ease of use:

S/M = Science or Math

P = Poetry

G = Geography

H = History

## Ages 3 – 6

*Caps for Sale* Esphyr Slobodkina  
*Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* – Verna Aardema (G)  
*The Little House* – Virginia Lee Burton  
*Life Story* – Virginia Lee Burton  
*The Knight and the Dragon* – Tomie dePaola (H)  
*The Art Lesson* – Tomie dePaola  
*Strega Nona* – Tomie dePaola  
*Where the Wild Things Are* – Maurice Sendak  
*A Pair of Red Clogs* – Masako Matsuno  
*We Are In a Book!* – Mo Willems  
*Ferdinand* – Munro Leaf (G)  
*The Three Snow Bears* – Jan Brett  
*The Mitten* – Jan Brett  
*The Umbrella* – Jan Brett  
*How Much is a Million?* – David M. Schwartz (M)  
*The Snowy Day* – Ezra Jack Keats  
*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* – Bill Martin Jr.  
*The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, And the Big Hungry Bear* – Don Wood  
*Owl Moon* – Jane Yolen (S)  
*Owl Babies* – Martin Waddell (S)  
*Blueberries for Sal* – Robert McClosky  
*Water is Water* – Miranda Paul (S)  
*I Love You Stinky Face* – Lisa McCourt  
*The Day the Crayons Came Home* – Drew Daywalt  
*Tales of Peter Rabbit* – Beatrix Potter  
*I, Crocodile* – Fred Marcellino  
*The Seven Chinese Sisters* – Kathy Tucker  
*I Am Jane Goodall* – Brad Meltzer (S)  
*Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story*– Lisa Westberg Peters (S)  
*Grandmother Fish* – Jonathan Tweet (S)  
*The Book with No Pictures* – B.J. Novak  
*Toot and Puddle* – Holly Hobbie  
*Jambo Means Hello* – Muriel and Tom Feelings (G)  
*Marvin K Mooney Will You Please Go Now!* – Dr. Suess  
*My Name is Yoon* – Helen Recorvits (G)  
*Just Go to Bed* – Mercer Mayer  
*The Monster at the End of This Book* – Jon Stone  
*How Pizza Came to Queens* – Dayal Kaur Khalsa (G)  
*Planting the Wild Garden* – Kathryn O. Galbraith (S)  
*On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* – Jennifer Berne (S)  
*Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young* – Jack Prelutsky (P)  
*A Seed is Sleepy* – Diana Aston and Sylvia Long (S)  
*Snowflake Bentley* – Jacqueline Briggs Martin (S)  
*A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver* – Alikei (S)  
*A Medieval Feast* – Alikei (H)

## Ages 7 – 9

*The Tale of Despereaux* – Kate DiCamillo  
*Little Pear* – Eleanor Frances Lattimore (G/H)  
*Ramona the Pest* – Beverly Cleary  
*The Mouse and the Motorcycle* – Beverly Cleary  
*See Saw Girl* – Linda Sue Park (G/H)  
*The BFG* – Roald Dahl  
*Matilda* – Roald Dahl  
*My Father's Dragon* – Ruth Stiles Gannett  
*The Prairie Thief* – Melissa Wiley  
*Castle Diary* – Richard Platt (H)  
*Shakespeare Stories* – Leon Garfield  
*A Treasury of Children's Literature* – Armand Eisen  
*Coral Reefs* – Jason Chin (S)  
*Hanna, Homeschooler* – Suki Wessling  
*Dear America: A Journey to the New World* – Kathryn Lasky (H)  
*Winnie the Pooh* – A.A. Milne  
*Pippi Longstocking* – Astrid Lindgren  
*Where the Sidewalk Ends* – Shel Silverstein (P)  
*Bunnicula* – James Howe  
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* – Brian Selznick  
*Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian* – Margarita Engle (S)  
*The Cricket in Times Square* – George Selden  
*One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin* – Kathryn Lasky (S/H)  
*Magic School Bus: Inside the Human Body* – Joanna Cole (S)  
*If You Decide to Go to the Moon* – Faith McNulty (S)  
*Ben and Me* – Robert Lawson (H)  
*Molly's Pilgrim* – Barbara Cohen (H/G)  
*Mercy Watson to the Rescue* – Kate DiCamillo  
*Why is Art Full of Naked People? And Other Vital Questions About Art* – Susie Hodge  
*Vincent's Starry Night and Other Stories: A Child's History of Art* – Michael Bird  
*One Small Square: Seashore* – Donald Silver (S)  
*Girls Who Looked Under Rocks* – Jeannine Atkins (S)  
*The Birchbark House* – Louise Erdrich (H)  
*Sarah, Plain and Tall* – Patricia MacLachlan  
*Animalium* – Jenny Broom (S)  
*If: A Mind-bending New Way of Looking At Big Ideas nad Numbers* – David J. Smith (S/M)  
*Classic Treasury of Aesop's Fables* – Don Daily  
*Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales* – Nelson Mandela (G)  
*Math Fables* – Greg Tang (M)  
*Nature Anatomy* – Julia Rothman (S)  
*George's Secret Key to the Universe* – Lucy and Stephen Hawking (S)  
*Under the Weather: Stories About Climate Change* – Tony Bradman (S)  
*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Grace Lin (G)  
*Shanleya's Quest: A Botany Adventure for Kids Age 9 – 99* – Thomas J. Elpel (S)  
*The Hundred Dresses* – Eleanor Estes  
*Sky Tree: Seeing Science Through Art* – Thomas Locker (S)

*Zoey and Sassafras series* – Asia Citro (S)  
*Knock at a Star: A Child's Introduction to Poetry* – X.J. Kennedy (P)

## **Ages 10 – 13**

*Mistakes that Worked* – Charlotte Jones (S/H)  
*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* – J.K. Rowling  
*A Wrinkle in Time* – Madeleine L'Engle  
*The Sherwood Ring* – Elizabeth Marie Pope  
*The Mysterious Benedict Society* – Trenton Lee Stewart  
*The Hobbit* – J.R.R. Tolkien  
*Rules* – Cynthia Lord  
*The War That Saved My Life* – Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (H)  
*Shooting Kabul* – N.H. Senzai (G/H)  
*Book Scavenger* – Jennifer Chambliss Bertman  
*The Magic of Reality* – Richard Dawkins (S)  
*Anna of Byzantium* – Tracy Barrett (H)  
*Inside Out and Back Again* – Thanhha Lai (G/H)  
*The Apprentice* – Pilar Molina Llorente (H)  
Poetry for Young People series (P)  
*Because of Winn Dixie* – Kate DiCamillo  
*Gregor the Overlander* – Suzanne Collins  
*D'Aulaire's Greek Mythology* – Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire  
*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* – Robert C. O'Brien  
*The Phantom Tollbooth* – Norton Juster  
*Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* – Jacqueline Kelly  
*One Crazy Summer* – Rita Williams-Garcia  
*Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science* – John Fleischman (S)  
*The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure* – Hans Magnus Enzensberger (M)  
*Journey to Jo-Burg: A South African Story* – Beverley Naidoo (G/H)  
*Rad Women Worldwide* – Kate Schatz (G/H/S)  
*A Little Piece of Ground* – Elizabeth Laird (H/G)  
*Along Came Galileo* – Jeanne Bendick (H/S)  
*Pagoo* – Holling C. Holling (S)  
*The Story of Clocks and Calendars* – Betsy Maestro (S/M/H)  
*The One and Only Ivan* – Katherine Applegate  
*Frindle* – Andrew Clements  
*Anne of Green Gables* – L.M. Montgomery  
*Wonder* – R.J. Palacio  
*When You Reach Me* – Rebecca Stead  
*Tuck Everlasting* – Natalie Babbitt  
*Bone: Out from Boneville* – Jeff Smith  
*The Giver* – Lois Lowery  
*The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency: The Case of the Missing Moonstone* – Jordan Stratford  
*Find the Constellations* – H.A. Rey (S)  
*The Way Things Work* – David Macaulay (S)  
*Weather!* – Rebecca Rupp (S)

*The Graveyard Book* – Neil Gaiman  
*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* – E.L. Konigsberg  
*Chains* – Laurie Halse Anderson  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream* – William Shakespeare  
*Macbeth* – William Shakespeare  
*Breaking Stalin's Nose* – Eugene Yelchin (G/H)  
*Shadow Spinner* – Susan Fletcher

## **Ages 14+**

*The Hunger Games trilogy*– Suzanne Collin  
*Lord of the Rings* – J.R.R. Tolkein  
*The Book Thief* – Markus Zusak (H)  
*Mary, Bloody Mary* – Carolyn Meyer (H)  
*A Short History of Nearly Everything* – Bill Bryson (S)  
*Nation* – Terry Pratchett  
*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain  
*Eva* – Peter Dickinson  
*Great Expectations* – Charles Dickens  
*American Born Chinese* – Gene Luen Yang (G)  
*Climate Changed: A Personal Journey Through Science* – Philippe Squarizoni (S)  
*Kindred* – Octavia E. Butler (H)  
*A Book of Luminous Things: An International Anthology of Poetry* – Czeslaw Milosz (P)  
*The Sixth Extinction* – Elizabeth Kolbert (S)  
*Material World: A Global Family Portrait* – Peter Menzel (G)  
*Watership Down* – Richard Adams  
*The Song of Achilles* – Madeline Miller  
*Salt: A World History* – Mark Kurlansky (H)  
*Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Bronte  
*Things Fall Apart* – Chinua Achebe  
*The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee  
*1984* – George Orwell  
*Animal Farm* – George Orwell  
*The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* – Carl Sagan (S)  
*Hamlet* – William Shakespeare  
*Much Ado About Nothing* – William Shakespeare  
*The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood  
*Night* – Elie Wiesel (H)  
*Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck  
*Flowers for Algernon* – Daniel Keyes  
*Wolf by Wolf* – Ryan Graudin  
*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* – Douglas Adams  
*The Complete Persopolis* – Marjane Satrapi (G)  
*Every Day* – David Levithan

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* – Sherman Alexie  
*Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* – Ji-li Jiang (G/H)  
*I Am Malala* – Malala Yousafzai (G)  
*Bomb* – Steve Sheinkin (S/H)  
*The Good Earth* – Pearl S. Buck  
*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* – Rebecca Skloot (S/H)  
*Farewell to Manzanar* – Jeanne Houston (H)  
*Parallel Journeys* – Eleanor H. Ayer (H)  
*100 Best-Loved Poems* – Philip Smith (P)  
*Poetry 180* – Billy Collins (P)  
*An Ember in the Ashes* – Sabaa Tahir  
*Enchantress of the Stars* – Sylvia Engdahl  
*Unwind* – Neal Shusterman

## **Resources for learning more about Charlotte Mason:**

The Charlotte Mason Digital Collection at Redeemer College

<https://www.redeemer.ca/academics/library/charlotte-mason-digitalcollection>

<https://archive.org/details/charlottesondigitalcollection>

You can find everything here, from her writings and theory to Parents' Review articles and explanations of how her methods were originally implemented.