

# SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR READ ALOUDS

Compiled by Jill Fitzpatrick

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[PICTURE BOOKS TO READ ALOUD](#)

[POETRY AND CLASSIC TALES](#)

[READ-ALoud CLASSICS FOR ANY AGE](#)

[SUGGESTED TITLES BY GRADE LEVEL](#)

- [K-1](#)
- [2-3](#)
- [4-5](#)

## PICTURE BOOKS TO READ ALOUD [\(Back to Top\)](#)

**Anansi Does the Impossible.** By Verna Aardema. The clever spider Anansi outwits the Sky God, claiming his stories for the people. Aardema has written many books on African and Aboriginal creation myths. If they like Anansi, check out some others by the author.

**The Eleventh Hour** by Graeme Base – Extraordinary, gorgeous illustrations and an environmental message

**Tacky the Penguin** by Helen Lester – Tacky is not like the other penguins--and that's a good thing!

**Ming Lo Moves the Mountain** by Arnold Lobel – The mountain brings nothing but bad luck to Ming Lo so he tries to move the mountain away from his home.

**One Grain of Rice.** by Demi.- Rani is a clever girl who outwits the selfish Raja using the math principle of doubling.

Would be fun to read with...

**Two of Everything** by Lily Toy Hong.- Chinese tale about a magic pot that doubles whatever is put into it.

Henkes, Kevin – Anything at all by Henkes, but the Lily stories are especially popular, **Chester's Way**, **Julius the Baby of the World** and **Lily's Purple Plastic Purse**. He's done some great books about getting ready for school and school socialization, including **Chrysanthemum**, **Wemberley Worried**, **Jessica**. Okay, so he's one of my favorite authors, read him, he'll be one of yours too.

**You Read to Me, I'll Read to You** by Mary Ann Hoberman and Michael Emberley. – There is now a series of these books with different story genres.

**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-good, Very Bad Day** by Judith Viorst – For anyone who's had a bad day. SO much fun to read aloud!

[\(Back to Top\)](#)

## POETRY AND CLASSIC TALES [\(Back to Top\)](#)

[Aesop's Fables](#) by Aesop – Ancient tales that teach lessons about human nature and right behavior.

[Children's Book of Virtues](#), [Children's Book of Heroes](#), [Children's Book of America](#) all edited by William Bennett

[The People Could Fly](#) by Virginia Hamilton – From Wiley and the Hairy Man, to less well-known black folk tales by an accomplished writer.

[Pass It On: African-American Poetry for Children](#) selected by Wade Hudson – Poems on life, love, family, hope, and tradition,

[Just-So Stories](#) by Rudyard Kipling – Kipling's well-loved pourquoi tales from Asian and African traditions.

[Bubble Trouble and Other Poems and Stories](#) by Margaret Mahy – Poems for giggling!

[My Very First Mother Goose](#) by Iona Archibald Opie, editor – Rosemary Wells' illustrations introduce the youngest child to favorite Mother Goose rhymes.

[The beauty of the Beast; Tasty Treats for Animal Appetites](#). By Jack Prelutsky – Poems of the animal kingdom that are fun to read and to look at, with beautiful watercolors by Meilo So.

[Classic Myths to Read Aloud](#) by William F. Russell – Written especially for children ages 5 to 12, classic myths come alive.

[Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales](#) by Jon Scieszka – Twisted folk tales for all ages.

[Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes](#) by Robert Wyndham, editor – Poems, lullabies, counting rhymes and songs for the very young from the Chinese oral tradition.

[\(Back to Top\)](#)

READ-ALOUD CLASSICS FOR ANY AGE ([Back to Top](#))

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater

The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

The Wind in the Willows. by Kenneth Grahame

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

Little House on the Prairie, Farmer Boy by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

([Back to Top](#))

## SUGGESTED TITLES BY GRADE ([Back to Top](#))

### Grades K-1

Little Bear series by Elsa Holmlund Minarik

Frog and Toad series by Arnold Lobel

Peter Rabbit and other tales by Beatrix Potter

Winnie the Pooh (the original books) by A. A. Milne – This may be a hard sell, since many kids only know the Disney Pooh and think of it as “babyish”. But the original Winnie the Pooh stories are written at a much higher level than the Disney stories. Give it a try and your children may feel as if they’re meeting Winnie the Pooh for the first time.

Thomas the Tank Engine Treasury by Rev. W. Awdry – Another hard sell, but worthwhile. Make sure you are reading the original stories, not novelizations of the tv series/videos, and don’t let your kids tell you it’s just for babies. There’s a lot of historical detail and moral lessons (matter-of-fact, not pound-over-the-head) to these stories, and would be of interest especially to a train aficionado.

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl. – James is the saddest and loneliest boy imaginable, but his life is transformed when he climbs aboard a magical house-sized peach. This is a good stand-alone, and if they like it, you can move on to any other books by Roald Dahl, including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator, but also the lesser known Danny the Champion of the World, Fantastic Mr. Fox, The BFG and others.

Charlotte’s Web by E. B White – Charlotte is a very literate spider whose innovative plan saves her friend, Wilbur the pig, from his unpleasant fate in this classic fantasy. In my semi-professional opinion, this may be the perfect children’s book. Continue with Stuart Little and The Trumpet of the Swan, also by White.

Beezus and Ramona by Beverly Cleary

Ramona’s imagination is sometimes too much of a nuisance for her older sister Beezus. Beverly Cleary is a classic and has other Ramona books and other series--the Henry Huggins series and the Mouse and the Motorcycle series.

Mystery series, Nate the Great by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat, Encyclopedia Brown by Donald Sobol, Cam Jansen by David A. Adler, A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy and of course, Bobbsey Twins, Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys. Those’ll bring back some memories!

Judy Moody Predicts the Future by Megan McDonald

After Judy obtains a mood ring, she tries to convince her third grade classmates that she can predict the future. Judy Moody is a series, so if your child likes this, you can continue with others.

Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus (first in the series) by Barbara Park. Some parents object to Junie’s sass, but ultimately, she is GREAT fun to read aloud and kids love her! Just make sure you have the “Junie’s behavior is funny in books but not in real life” talk.

Attaboy, Sam by Lois Lowry - Sam concocts perfume for mom's birthday, and the results are explosive!

Knights of the Kitchen Table by Jon Scieszka - From the Time Warp Trio series, Joe is given a magic book that transports him and two friends back to King Arthur's Britain. If they like Knights, continue on with the Time Warp Trio.

[\(Back to Top\)](#)

## Grades 2-3 [\(Back to Top\)](#)

**Sideways Stories from Wayside School** by Louis Sachar – Dare you to read this book aloud without cracking up. Can't be done. There are two other Wayside School books.

**Indian in the Cupboard** series by Lynn Reid Banks – Omri's big brother has no birthday present for him, so he gives Omri an old medicine cabinet he's found. When an exhausted Omri dumps a plastic toy Indian into the cabinet just before falling asleep, the toy come to life and the magic begins

**Shiloh** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor – When Marty finds a lost beagle on his parents' property he promises himself and the beagle he'll find a way to keep him from being abused by his real owner. There are two more books about Shiloh.

**The Tale of Despereaux** by Kate DiCamillo – The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse with unusual talents and very large ears

**The Chocolate Touch** by Patrick Skene Catling – John Midas loves candy and is thrilled--at first--to find that everything he touches turns to chocolate.

**My Father's Dragon** by Ruth Stiles Gannett – The fun begins when Elmer Elevator runs away to rescue a flying baby dragon.

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen – Brian is the sole survivor of a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness, with only a hatchet to help him keep going as winter approaches. Paulsen has written other nature adventure books.

**Frindle** by Andrew Clements – Nick Allen's teacher loves the dictionary and what it symbolizes. But when Nick invents a new word, he starts a chain of events which grows out of control.

**Love That Dog** by Sharon Creech – The story of Jack, who finds his voice with the help of poetry, a teacher and a dog.

**Holes** by Louis Sachar – Stanley Yelnats is sent to a correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds not only his first real friend but also himself

**Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key** by Jack Gantos – Joey who says he is "wired bad" has acute attention deficit disorder. When his medication wears off, Joey can't control himself even though he has the best of intentions.

**Maniac Magee** by Jerry Spinelli – "One part fact, two parts legend, and three parts snowball," Maniac Magee brings a racially divided town together through his amazing exploits, and finds a home.

**Tuck Everlasting**. By Natalie Babbitt – Ten year old Winnie discovers the Tuck family secret--water from the well of eternal life, in this powerful, yet poignant story.

**Chronicles of Narnia (Series)** by C. S. Lewis – Follow four children through the wardrobe and into the magical land of Narnia, where a golden lion rules and evil threatens--a timeless masterpiece. Book 1: **The Magician's Nephew**

Harry Potter series, years 1 through 3 by J.K. Rowling - Harry's stifling life with his horrid relatives is transformed when he learns that he is in fact a wizard, and the heir to a mantle of great magic.

[\(Back to Top\)](#)

## Grades 4-5 ([Back to Top](#))

**Harry Potter series Years 4 through 7** by J. K. Rowling – Harry's stifling life with his horrid relatives is transformed when he learns that he is in fact a wizard, and the heir to a mantle of great magic.

**Ella Enchanted** by Gail Levine – A blundering fairy enacts a terrible curse on Ella – to obey every command that she is given--by anyone, to do anything.

**The Hobbit** by J. R. R. Tolkien – Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in adventures with trolls, dragons, and a ring of invisibility--a stepping stone to Tolkien's **Lord of the Rings** trilogy.

**Dealing With Dragons** by Patricia Wrede – Princess Cimorene would rather not learn dancing or marry a prince, so she runs away to the enchanted forest to become a cook for a dragon in this humorous and lively fantasy. (Series title: The Enchanted Forest)

**Redwall (Series)** by Brian Jacques – Longing for their mythic hero, the forest animals of Redwall Abbey must fight the evil rat Cluny and his hordes – until the bumbling mouse Mathias finds his destiny.

**Call of the Wild** by Jack London – Buck, a domesticated dog from California, becomes a sled dog in the Klondike, before rejoining his wolf ancestors

**Freak the Mighty.** by Rodman Philbrick – A tiny genius and a hulking loner become the adventurous duo, "Freak the Mighty," in this blend of triumph and tragedy.

**The Golden Compass** by Philip Pullman – In an altered Medieval England of spirit daemons and mystical spells, Lyra uncovers a chilling plan, which compels her to the far North to rescue legions of missing children.

**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred Taylor – Unforgettable story of a black family's struggle to retain their dignity and humanity in rural Mississippi during the depression. Sequels: **Let the Circle be Unbroken; The Road to Memphis.**

**Bad Beginning** by Lemony Snicket – Although the Baudelaire children are smart, witty, and charming, they must survive an evil uncle greedy for their fortune and other unfortunate events. There are thirteen books in this series.

**Anne of Green Gables** series by L.M. Montgomery – first in a series about the imaginative orphan Anne Shirley.

**Eragon** by Christopher Paolini – In a land called Alagaesia, fifteen-year-old Eragon finds a dragon egg that hatches, and he forms a psychic connection with the dragon called Saphira.

**A Long Way from Chicago** by Richard Peck. – The humorous and warm stories of Joey and his sister's annual summer vacations to his grandmother's house in Illinois during the Great Depression.

**The Thief Lord** by Cornelia Funke – Two brothers who are running away to keep from being split up when being adopted find shelter and protection with Venice's "Thief Lord."

[\(Back to Top\)](#)