

LIVING BOOK LIST

Twaddle and *living books* are terms used at Cornerstone Christian Academy when referring to reading content that either bores or challenges.

Twaddle is “dumbed down” literature that demonstrates an absence of meaning.

Living Books are those books that are well-written and engaging. They absorb the reader. The narrative and characters “come alive”; living books are the opposite of cold, dry textbooks.

The age designations for this list are only approximate. A child’s listening level will often be several grades higher than their personal reading level.

It is suggested that parents begin reading aloud to their children from chapter books (such as *Charlotte’s Web*) before their third birthdays. We should not underestimate the child’s ability to comprehend or listen to fairly advanced material.

This is a suggested reading list of twaddle-free reading.

PRESCHOOL BOOKS

Aesop’s Fables
Aesop’s Fables – Audio Cassette Version
A Child’s Garden of Verses – Robert Louis Stevenson
(illustrated by Tasha Tudor)
The Little House – Virginia Lee Burton
The Snowy Day – Ezra Jack Keats
The Story About Ping – Marjorie Flack
The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant – Jean De
Brunhoff
Beatrix Potter: The Complete Tales – Beatrix Potter
(Peter Rabbit, etc.)
The Velveteen Rabbit – Margery Williams
Winnie-the-Pooh Series – A.A. Milne

EARLY ELEMENTARY

A Little Princess – Frances Hodgson Burnett (illustrated
by Tasha Tudor)
Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass --
Lewis Carroll
Caddie Woodlawn – Carol Ryrie Brink
Charlotte’s Web – E.B. White
Children’s Book of Virtues – William J. Bennett
(illustrated by Michael Hague)
The Chronicles of Narnia (complete paper back set) –
C.S. Lewis
The Chronicles of Narnia (Hardcover Deluxe Set) – C.S.
Lewis
(The) Complete Book of the Flower Fairies – by Cicely
Mary Barker
(The) Courage of Sarah Noble – Alice Dahgliesh
Grimm’s Fairy Tales
Heidi – Johanna Spry

How to Be Your Own Selfish Pig – Susan Schaeffer
MaCaulay
Johnny Appleseed – Eva Moore
Johnny Tremain – Esther Forbes
Just So Stories – Rudyard Kipling
Little House on the Prairie Series – Laura Ingalls Wilder
Little Lord Fauntleroy – Frances Hodgson Burnett
Misty of Chincoteague – Marguerite Henry
Pollyanna – Eleanor H. Porter
(The) Princess and the Goblin – George MacDonald
Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm – Kate Douglas Wiggin
Sarah, Plain and Tall – Patricia MacLachlan
(The) Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett
(illustrated by Tasha Tudor)
Stuart Little – E.B. White
Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims – Clyde Robert Bulla
(The) Story of Dr. Doolittle – Hugh Lofting
Tales from Hans Christian Andersen – Hans Christian
Andersen
Tales from Shakespeare – Charles and Mary Lamb
Tanglewoods’ Secret – Patricia St. John
Treasures of the Snow – Patricia St. John
Trumpet of the Swan – E.B. White
Witch of Blackbird Pond – Elizabeth George Speare

MID-LATE ELEMENTARY

A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl’s Journal
1830-32 – Joan W. Bloss
A Wonder Book for Boys and Girls – Nathaniel
Hawthorne
A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine L’Engle
Adventure of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
(The) Adventures of Pinocchio – Carlo Colladi
(The) Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain
Amos Fortune Free Man – Elizabeth Yates

Anne of Avonlea – L.M. Montgomery
 Anne of Green Gables – L.M. Montgomery
 The Arabian Nights
 Around the World in 80 Days – Jules Verne
 Black Beauty – Anna Sewell
 (The) Book of Virtues – William J. Bennett
 Bronze Bow – Elizabeth George Speare
 Cheaper by the Dozen – Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr.
 Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank
 Early Thunder – Jean Fritz
 Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates – Mary Mapes Dodge
 (The) Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien
 (The) Incredible Journey – Sheila Bumford
 Island of the Blue Dolphins – Scott O’Dell
 (The) Jungle Book – Rudyard Kipling
 Kidnapped – Robert Louis Stevenson
 Little Men – Louisa May Alcott
 Little Women – Louisa May Alcott
 Old Yeller – Fred Gipson
 Oliver Twist – Charles Dickens
 Peter Pan – J.M. Barrie
 (The) Prince and the Pauper – Mark Twain
 Red Badge of Courage – Stephen Crane
 Souder – William H. Armstrong
 (The) Swiss Family Robinson – J.D. Wyss
 Treasure Island – Robert Loius Stevenson
 Twenty-Thousand Leagues Under the Sea – Jules Verne
 (The) Water-Babies – Charles Kingsley
 (The) Wind in the Willows – Kenneth Grahame
 (The) Yearling – Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

JUNIOR HIGH

Call of the Wild – Jack London
 Christy – Catherine Marshall
 David Copperfield – Charles Dickens
 Emma – Jane Austen
 Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte
 (The) Lord of the Rings (trilogy + The Hobbit) – J.R.R. Tolkien
 (The) Merry Adventures of Robin Hood – Howard Pyle
 Pilgrim’s Progress – John Bunyan
 Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen
 Robinson Crusoe – William Defoe
 Tanglewood Tales – Nathaniel Hawthorne
 White Fang – Jack London

HIGH SCHOOL AND UP

Cry, the Beloved Country – Alan Paton
 Don Quixote de la Mancha – Miguel De Cervantes
 Foxe’s Book of Martyrs – John Foxe
 God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics – C.S. Lewis
 (The) Hiding Place – Corrie Ten Boom
 Hinds’ Feet on High Places – Hannah Hurnard
 The Last of the Mohicans – James Fenimore Cooper
 L’Abri – Edith Schaeffer
 The Light and the Glory – Peter Marshall
 Mere Christianity – C.S. Lewis
 (The) Odyssey – Homer
 (The) Pilgrim’s Regress – C.S. Lewis
 (The) Rime of the Ancient Mariner – Samuel Taylor Coleridge
 (The) Scarlet Pimpernel – Baroness Emmuska Orczy
 Silas Marner – George Eliot
 (The) Screwtape Letters – C.S. Lewis
 The Space Trilogy – C.S. Lewis:
 - Out of the Silent Planet (Space Trilogy – Book 1)
 - Perelandra: A Novel (Space Trilogy – Book 2)
 - That Hideous Strength (Space Trilogy – Book 3)
 Uncle Tom’s Cabin – Harriet Beecher Stowe

BOOKS FOR CONSIDERATION IN CONSTRUCTING A COURSE OF STUDY:

A Charlotte Mason Education – Catherine Levison
 Bear’s Guide to Earning College Degrees
 Nontraditionally – John Bear
 Books Children Love – Elizabeth Wilson
 For the Children’s Sake – Susan Schaeffer MaCauley
 Homeschooling for Excellence – David and Micki Colfax
 Honey for a Child’s Heart – Gladys Hunt
 Let the Authors Speak – Carolyn Hatcher
 Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours – Kevin Leman
 (The) Original Homeschooling Series – Charlotte Mason
 The Read-Aloud Handbook (4th Ed.) – Jim Trelease
 Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning – Douglas Wilson
 (The) Successful Homeschool Family Handbook – Raymond Moore
 Teaching Children: A Curriculum Guide – Diane Lopez
 You CAN Teach Your Child Successfully – Ruth Beechick

ART

Drawing With Children – Mona Brookes
Drawing for Older Children and Teens – Mona Brookes
Books by Richard Muhlberger (Metropolitan Museum of Art):

- The Christmas Story: Told Through Paintings
- What Makes a Bruegel a Bruegel?
- What Makes a Cassatt a Cassatt?
- What Makes a Degas a Degas?
- What Makes a Goya a Goya?
- What Makes a Leonardo a Leonardo?
- What Makes a Monet a Monet?
- What Makes a Picasso a Picasso?
- What Makes a Raphael a Raphael?
- What Makes a Rembrandt a Rembrandt?

READING/WRITING/ENGLISH

Any Child Can Write – Harvey S. Wiener
Bob Books for Beginning Readers/Set1
More Bob Books for Young Readers/Set2
Even More Bob Books for Young Readers
English from the Roots Up – Joegil Lundquist
Simply Grammar: An Illustrated Primer – Charlotte Mason (w/ Karen Andreola)
Tales from Shakespeare – Charles and Mary Lamb
Tales from Shakespeare on Cassette
Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons – Siegfried Engelman
The Three R's – Ruth Beechick

SCIENCE

Bible Animals
(The Body Atlas
Gray Anatomy
Gray's Anatomy Fact Filled Coloring Book
(The) Visual Dictionary of Animals
(The) Visual Dictionary of Chemistry
(The) Visual Dictionary of Plants
(The) Way Things Work

HISTORY

(The) Kingfisher Illustrated History of the World
Spiritual Lives of the Great Composers – Patrick Kavanaugh
(The) Timetables of History
What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew – Daniel Pool

THE CORE KNOWLEDGE SERIES

by E.D. Hirsch

What Your Kindergartner Needs to Know
What Your First Grader Needs to Know
What Your Second Grader Needs to Know
What Your Third Grader Needs to Know
What Your Fourth Grader Needs to Know
What Your Fifth Grader Needs to Know
What Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know
Books to Build On: A Grade-By-Grade Resource
Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know
A First Dictionary of Cultural Literacy for Children

NATURE STUDY

Beatrix Potter 1866-1943: The Artist and Her World
Beatrix Potter's Art – Anne Stevenson Hobbs
The Bird Book and the Bird Feeder
The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady, 1906 – Edith Holden
Drawing from Nature – Jim Arnosky
Earthways: Simple Environmental Activities for Young Children – Carol Petrash
Handbook of Nature Study – Anna Comstock
Linnea in Monet's Garden – Bjork and Anderson
Linnea's Almanac – Bjork and Anderson
Linnea's Windowsill Garden – Bjork and Anderson
Nature for the Very Young: A Handbook of Indoor and Outdoor Activities – Marcia Bowden
Nature Journaling: Learning to Observe and Connect with the World Around You – Clare Leslie Walker and Charles E. Roth
Nature Watching (book, tweezers, insect observatory, more) – Paul Sterry
The Outdoor Adventure Handbook – Hugh McManners
Wild Days: Creating Discovery Journals – Karen Skidmore Rackliffe