

CLASSIC LITERATURE

- A classic usually expresses some artistic quality—an expression of life, truth, and beauty.
- A classic stands the test of time. The work is usually considered to be a representation of the period in which it was written; and the work merits lasting recognition. In other words, if the book was published in the recent past, the work is not a classic.
- A classic has a certain universal appeal. Great works of literature touch us to our very core beings—partly because they integrate themes that are understood by readers from a wide range of backgrounds and levels of experience. Themes of love, hate, death, life, and faith touch upon some of our most basic emotional responses.
- A classic makes connections. You can study a classic and discover influences from other writers and other great works of literature. Of course, this is partly related to the universal appeal of a classic. But, the classic also is informed by the history of ideas and literature—whether unconsciously or specifically worked into the plot of the text.

Below is a list of books generally considered to be classics in English literature. All are originally published before 1960, and are recognized by many of the most respected public and private schools throughout the United States and abroad. These books have entertained and educated young and old for generations, and offer insight into the most basic tools and tenets of Western civilization, often revealing essential truths about human nature.

Classic Literature for Children

And Now Miguel – Joseph Krumgold
Adam of the Road – Elizabeth Janet Gray
Anne of Green Gables – L.M. Montgomery
Bear Called Paddington, A – Michael Bond
Bears on Hemlock Mountain, The – Alice Dalgliesh
Ben & Me – Robert Lawson
Betsy series – Carolyn Haywood
Big Red – Jim Kjelgaard
Black Beauty – Anna Sewell
Black Stallion, The – Walter Farley
Blueberries for Sal – Robert McCloskey
Book of Nonsense – Edward Lear
Born Free – Joy Adamson
Borrowers series, The – Mary Norton
Bronze Bow, The – Elizabeth George Speare
Cabin Faced West, The – Jean Fritz
Caddie Woodlawn – Carol Ryrie Brink
Call It Courage – Armstrong Sperry
Call of the Wild, The – Jack London
Captains Courageous – Rudyard Kipling
Carry on, Mr. Bowditch – Jean Lee Latham
Cat in the Hat, The – Dr. Seuss
Cat Who Went to Heaven, The – Elizabeth Coatsworth
Charlotte's Web – E.B. White
Cheaper By the Dozen – Frank B. and Gilbreth
Children of Green Knowe, The – L.M. Boston
Child's Garden of Verses, A – Robert Louis Stevenson

Chronicles of Narnia series – C.S. Lewis
Cinderella – Charles Perrault
Courage of Sarah Noble, The – Alice Dalgliesh
Cricket in Times Square, The – George Selden
Curious George series – H.A. Rey
Dark Frigate, The – Charles Hawes
Doctor Doolittle series – Hugh Lofting
Door in the Wall, The – Marguerite De Angeli
Enormous Egg, The – Oliver Butterworth
Ernestine G. Carey – Frank B. and Gilbreth
Fables – Aesop
Fairy tales – Hans Christian Andersen
Gay-Neck, the Story of a Pigeon – Dhan Ghopal Mukerji
Ginger Pye – Eleanor Estes
Goodnight, Moon – Margaret Wise Brown
Grimm's Fairy Tales – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates – Mary Mapes Dodge
Harry the Dirty Dog – Gene Zion
Heidi – Johanna Spyri
Henry Huggins series – Beverly Cleary
Hitty, Her First Hundred Years – Rachel Field
Homer Price – Robert McCloskey
House at Pooh Corner, The – A.A. Milne
House of Sixty Fathers, The – Meindert De Jong
Invincible Louisa – Cornelia Meigs
Jungle Books, The – Rudyard Kipling
Just So Stories for Little Children – Rudyard Kipling
Kidnapped – Robert Louis Stevenson

King of the Wind – Marguerite Henry
Lassie Come Home – Eric Knight
Laughing Boy – Oliver LaFarge
Light in the Forest, The – Conrad Richter
Little Bear – Else Holmelund Minarik
Little House series – Laura Ingalls Wilder
Little Women – Louisa May Alcott
Madeline series – Ludwig Bemelmans
Make Way for Ducklings – Robert McCloskey
Mary Poppins series – Pamela L. Travers
Matchlock Gun, The – Walter D. Edmonds
Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, The – Howard Pyle
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel – Virginia Burton
Miracles on Maple Hill – Virginia Sorenson
Miss Hickory – Carolyn Sherwin Bailey
Misty of Chincoteague – Marguerite Henry
Moffats series – Eleanor Estes
Mr. Popper's Penguins – Richard and Florence Atwater
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle – Betty MacDonald
My Friend Flicka – Mary O'Hara
Now We Are Six – A.A. Milne
Old Yeller – Fred Gipson
Onion John – Joseph Krumgold
Peter Pan – J.M. Barrie
Pippi Longstocking series – Astrid Lindgren
Rabbit Hill – Robert Lawson
Red Pony, The – John Steinbeck
Reluctant Dragon, The – Kenneth Grahame

Rifles for Watie – Harold Keith
Secret Garden, The – Frances Hodgson Burnett
Secret of the Andes – Ann Nolan Clark
Snow Treasure – Marie McSwigan
Story of Babar, The – Jean de Brunhoff
Story of Ferdinand, The – Munro Leaf
Story of Mankind, The – Hendrik Van Loon
Strawberry Girl – Lois Lenski
Stuart Little – E.B. White
Swiss Family Robinson – Johann Wyss
Tale of Peter Rabbit, The – Beatrix Potter
Tom's Midnight Garden – Philippa Pearce
Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson
Trumpeter of Krakow, The – Eric Kelly
Twenty-One Balloons, The – William Pene Du Bois
Velveteen Rabbit, The – Margery Williams
Wheel on the School, The – Meindert De Jong
When We Were Very Young – A.A. Milne
White Fang – Jack London
Wind in the Willows, The – Kenneth Grahame
Winnie-the-Pooh – A.A. Milne
Witch of Blackbird Pond, The – Elizabeth George Speare
Wonderful Wizard of Oz, The – L. Frank Baum

Selected Literature Titles by Grade (check doverpublications.com)

Kindergarten	Grade 1
<p>Amelia Bedelia Berenstain Bears Big Blue Book Big Red Story Book Bobby Raccoon, Adventures of Curious George Danny and the Dinosaur Frog and Toad Sturdy Story Books – D Harry the Dirty Dog I Can Read series Jerry Muskrat, Adventures of Johnny Chuck, Adventures of Learning About Books – D Little Bear Madelaine Peter Rabbit, Tale of Phonics readers Sticker Books – D Story Books</p>	<p>Adventures of Buster Bear, The Aesop’s Fables Baby Animal Stories Black Beauty – D Chatterer the Red Squirrel Danny Meadow Mouse Folk Tales, Picture Folk Tales, Treasury of Grandfather Frog Little House on the Prairie Little House in the Big Woods Mother Goose Rhymes Once Upon a Time Tales Ordinary Princess, The Peter Cottontail, Adventures of Pinocchio, Adventures of – D Reddy Fox Sleeping Beauty, Other Tales Story of Peter Pan, The – D Ugly Duckling, Other Tales Velveteen Rabbit, The Wind in the Willows, The – D Wizard of Oz</p>

Grade 2	Grade 2
<p>Aesop for ChildrenAnimal Tales, Classic</p> <p>Anne of Green Gables – D</p> <p>Babe the Gallant Pig</p> <p>Beatrix Potter Stories</p> <p>Beauty and Beast, Other Tales</p> <p>Box Car Children, The</p> <p>Cabin Faced West, The</p> <p>Charlotte’s Web</p> <p>Fairy Tales, My Treasury of</p> <p>Farmer Boy</p> <p>Grimm, Fairy Tales</p> <p>Happy Prince, Other Stories</p> <p>Jimmy Skunk</p> <p>Lightfoot the Dear</p> <p>Mother Goose, The Real</p> <p>Mrs. Piggle Wiggle</p> <p>Mrs. Peter Rabbit</p> <p>Nonsense Poems</p> <p>Old Mother West Wind</p> <p>Old Man Coyote</p> <p>Old Mr. Toad</p> <p>On the Banks of Plum Creek</p>	<p>Paddington, A Bear Called</p> <p>Peter Rabbit and Friends</p> <p>Pippi Longstocking</p> <p>Poor Mrs. Quack</p> <p>Prickly Porky</p> <p>Rascal</p> <p>Scottish Fairy Tales</p> <p>Secret Garden, The – D</p> <p>Snow White and Other Tales</p> <p>Story of King Arthur, The – D</p> <p>Story of Pocahontas, The</p> <p>Stuart Little</p> <p>Winnie the Pooh</p>

Grade 3	Grade 3
101 Dalmatians Ace: The Very Important Pig Alice in Wonderland Animal Poems, Favorite Beatrix Potter, Classic Tales of Benjamin Bunny Big Red By the Shores of Silver Lake Children's Stories, Classic Cinderella and Other Stories D'Auliare's Norse Gods, Giants Elephant's Child, The Gentle Ben Greek Myths, Favorite Hercules Indian in the Cupboard James Herriot's Treasury Jemima Puddle Duck Jeremy Fisher Little Town on the Prairie Mythology, Children's Treas Myths to Read Aloud, Classic North American Indian Tales Old Yeller	Poems of Childhood, Favorite Poetry Collection, Classic Railway Children, The Robin Hood – D Sign of the Beaver, The Squirrel Nutkin Three Musketeers, The – D Tom Sawyer – D Tom Kitten Trojan Horse, The Tuck Everlasting Wind in the Willows, The