



## Reading rocks!

We, teachers and parents, are always telling children that books and reading are good for them and we believe it is true but, what do older children get out of reading novels? What do younger kids get from being read to? Does reading matter?

The more children are read to, the greater their interest in mastering reading. Reading out loud exposes children to proper grammar and phrasing. It enhances the development of their spoken language skills, their ability to express themselves verbally.

Reading, by way of books, magazines or websites, exposes kids to new vocabulary. Even when they don't understand every new word, they absorb something from the context that may deepen their understanding of it the next time the word is encountered.

When parents read aloud to children, the children also hear correct pronunciation as they see the words on the page, even if they can't yet read the words on their own. Through stories and novels children can vicariously try out new experiences and test new ideas, with no negative consequences in their real lives.

They can meet characters who they'll enjoy returning to for comforting and satisfying visits when they reread a cherished book or discover a sequel. Books also give kids the opportunity to flex their critical thinking skills in such areas as problem solving, the concepts of cause and effect, conflict resolution, and acceptance of responsibility for one's actions.

Mysteries allow children to follow clues to their logical conclusions and to try to outguess the author. Even for very young children, a simple story with a repetitive refrain or a simple mystery to solve, gives a confidence boost. Children can predict the patterns and successfully solve the riddles. Reading is the basis of all knowledge.

Reading ROCKS!!!

## 100 Best Books

**Here is a list of one hundred books selected by the National Education Association as great reading for children and young people.**

- **Books for All Ages**

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Where the Sidewalk Ends: the Poems and Drawing of Shel Silverstein  
by Shel Silverstein

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott  
The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum  
Heidi by Johanna Spyri

- **Books for Preschoolers**

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle  
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown  
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? by Bill Martin, Jr.  
The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister  
Corduroy by Don Freeman  
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats  
The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise  
Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney

- **Books for Children Ages 4-8**

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg  
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss  
The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss  
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak  
Love You Forever by Robert N. Munsch  
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by  
Judith Viorst  
The Mitten by Jan Brett  
Stellaluna by Janell Cannon  
Oh, The Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss  
Strega Nona by Tomie De Paola  
The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams  
How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss  
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka  
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by John Archambault  
The Complete Tales of Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne  
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff  
The Lorax by Dr. Seuss  
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman  
Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg  
Math Curse by Jon Scieszka  
Are You My Mother? by Philip D. Eastman  
The Napping House by Audrey Wood  
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig  
The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter  
Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss  
Basil of Baker Street by Eve Titus  
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper  
Curious George by Hans Augusto Rey  
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox  
Arthur series by Marc Tolon Brown  
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes

The Little House by Virginia Lee Burton  
Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish  
The Art Lesson by Tomie De Paola  
Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina  
Clifford, the Big Red Dog by Norman Bridwell  
The Paper Bag Princess by Robert N. Munsch

- **Books for Children Ages 9-12**

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White  
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen  
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis  
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson  
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl  
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle  
Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor  
Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett  
The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner  
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan  
The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks  
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell  
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli  
The BFG by Roald Dahl  
The Giver by Lois Lowry  
James and the Giant Peach: A Children's Story by Roald Dahl  
Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor  
Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner  
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry  
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by Robert C. O'Brien  
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson  
Matilda by Roald Dahl  
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume  
Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary  
The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White  
The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis  
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster  
Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt  
Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery  
The Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson  
Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder - Laura Ingalls Wilder

- **Webquest**

Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar  
Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh  
A Light in the Attic by Shel Silverstein  
Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett  
Stuart Little by E. B. White  
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech  
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare  
The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

- **Books for Young Adults**

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls  
The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien  
Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls  
The Cay by Theodore Taylor