



50 Great Reads for Ages 9-12

A Little Princess

Burnett, Frances Hodgson:

Motherless Sara Crewe is sent to Miss Minchin's school, where, due to her father's wealth she becomes a 'show pupil' - a little princess. But when her father dies and Sara becomes suddenly poor she has to learn to cope with her changed circumstances.

The Iron Man

Hughes, Ted:

Mankind must put a stop to the dreadful destruction by the Iron Man, but he cannot be kept down. Then, when a terrible monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save the world. Reckoned to be one of the greatest of modern fairy tales.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Lewis, C.S.:

When Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy take their first steps into the world behind the magic wardrobe, little do they realise what adventures are about to unfold. A classic tale that has enchanted readers of all ages, for over half a century.

Anne of Green Gables

Montgomery, L.M.:

Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert are in for a big surprise. They are waiting for an orphan boy to help with the work at Green Gables – but a skinny, red-haired girl turns up instead. Feisty and full of spirit, Anne Shirley charms her way into the affections of the people of Avonlea with her vivid imagination and constant chatter.

The Railway Children

Nesbit, E.:

When Father goes away with two strangers one evening, Roberta, Peter and Phyllis go with their mother to live in a country cottage near a railway line. After many adventures, including saving a train from disaster, they finally solve the mystery of their father's disappearance.

Ballet shoes

Streatfield, Noel:

Three orphans, Posy, Pauline and Petrova are sent to acting school, where Posy realises she is destined to be a ballet dancer.

The Hobbit

Tolkien, J. R. R.:

The predecessor to Tolkien's masterpiece, The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit is in a class of its own - light-hearted enough for younger readers, yet with a dark edge guaranteed to intrigue an older audience.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Twain, Mark:

Mark Twain's tale of a boy's journey down the Mississippi on a raft conveys the voice and experience of the American frontier as no other work had done before. On the run from his brutal father, Huck Finn sets off down the Mississippi River accompanied by Jim, a runaway slave.

Daddy Long-Legs

Webster, Jean:

A trustee of the John Grier orphanage has offered to send Judy Abbott to college. The only requirements are that she must write to him every month and that she can never know who he is. There is a surprise in store for Judy when she finds out who her mysterious benefactor is...

Carrie's War

Bawden, Nina:

Set during World War 2, Carrie and her little brother are evacuated to Wales and billeted at the home of the bullying Mr. Evans and his timid sister Lou.

Under the Hawthorne Tree

Conlon-McKenna, Marita:

The first book in the Famine trilogy, this is the story of Eily, Michael and Peggy who set out on a journey that will test every reserve of strength, love and loyalty they possess. Brings vividly to life a major event in Irish history.

The Rotten Romans (Horrible Histories)

Deary, Terry:

It's history with the nasty bits left in! Want to know what Roman soldiers wore under their kilts? - How Ancient Britons got their hair nice and spiky? - Why rich Romans needed a vomitorium? Discover all the foul facts about the Rotten Romans, all the gore and more!

The Lantern Moon

Friel, Maeve:

Life is not easy for children in 1811. This is the story of Annie Spears and her brother and sister, and what they must do to survive after their father is transported to Australia.

The Owl Service

Garner, Alan:

One of the first and best novels for and about teenagers, it remains one of the most original and gripping ghost stories. An all-time classic, combining mystery, adventure, history and a complex set of human relationships.

Once

Gleitzman, Morris:

The story of Felix who embarks on a long and dangerous journey through Nazi-occupied Poland, befriendng a little orphan girl called Zelda and a kindly dentist, Barney, who hides and cares for Jewish children. But then the Nazis discover them...

When Hitler Stole a Pink Rabbit

Kerr, Judith:

A charming and touching book, often very funny, about a girl called Anna, whose family must flee Nazi Germany for Switzerland during World War 2.

The Thieves of Ostia (The Roman Mysteries)

Lawrence, Caroline:

The first in a mystery series set in Ancient Rome featuring Flavia and her friends.

Rose Blanche

McEwan, Ian:

Rose Blanche was the name of a group of young German citizens who, at their peril, protested against the war. Like them, Rose observes all the changes going on around her that others choose to ignore. An unforgettable story.

Goodnight Mr. Tom

Magorian, Michelle:

Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain is about to enter the Second World War. An unhappy, poor child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley, but his life is shattered when his mother calls him back to London.

My Name is Mina

Almond, David:

In this stunning book, David Almond revisits Mina before she met Michael, before she met Skellig, in what is a thought-provoking and extraordinary prequel to his best-selling and award-winning debut novel, Skellig.

Cherry Crush (The Chocolate Box Girls)

Cassidy, Cathy:

Cherry Costello's life is about to change forever. She and Dad are moving to Somerset where a new mum and a bunch of brand-new sisters await. On Cherry's first day there she meets Shay Fletcher, who turns out to be the boyfriend of Cherry's new stepsister, Honey....

Where I Belong

Cross, Gillian:

A story about bandits and supermodels, secret identities and secret pacts, set in London and Somalia. Fast-moving and exciting.

Alice to the Rescue (Alice and Megan)

Curtin, Judi:

Alice is determined to win the class essay competition and the prize of 4 months in France, but Megan doesn't want her to go. How much should you give up for your best friend?

Dog days (Diary of a Wimpy Kid)

Kinney, Jeff:

Part of the hilarious Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. Greg's mom has a vision of "family togetherness" that really doesn't sound a whole lot of fun. But there's a brand-new addition to the Heffley family to contend with and it looks like Greg might be outnumbered. It could be a real dog of a summer!

Saffy's Angel

McKay, Hilary:

The story of Saffron and her siblings, Cadmium, Indigo and Rose. Close-knit and eccentric, the family (under the not-so-stable guidance of their mother Eve and their weary father, Bill) chug along quite nicely until one day Saffron discovers that she was adopted by the family following the death of her mother, Eve's twin sister. Sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking, this is a must-read.

Lob

Newbery, Linda:

A beautiful and touching story filled with gardening magic from a classic storyteller.

Second Fiddle

Parkinson, Siobhan:

Aspiring writer, Mags Clarke has just moved with her mother to a new area after the death of her father. One day she stumbles across a girl who appears to be floating above the trees while playing her violin in the woods. Mags usually has her feet firmly on the ground so she's not sure that she and this girl are going to get on, but an unlikely friendship develops.

The Longest Whale Song

Wilson, Jacqueline:

Ella's mum's in a deep coma having just had a new baby. Ella's school project gives her an idea - It's all about whales and how they sing out to each other to attract a mate. Maybe a whale song could reach Mum, wherever she is, and bring her back to Ella and baby Samson. Surely it's worth a try?

Titanic 2020

Bateman, Colin:

Everyone said the original Titanic was unsinkable. We all know how that story ended. The new Titanic is also supposedly unsinkable but there are worse things than drowning as Jimmy Armstrong quickly finds out...

Artemis Fowl and the Atlantis Complex

Colfer, Eoin:

Artemis Fowl is behaving strangely – he seems different. Something terrible has happened to him, he has become nice! The fairies diagnose Atlantis Complex (that's obsessive compulsive disorder to you and I). It seems dabbling in magic has damaged Artemis' main weapon, his mind...

Halo

Corder, Zizou:

Washed ashore as a baby in ancient Greece, Halo is discovered by a family of centaurs. Although her true identity remains a mystery, she is loved as one of their own. But who is Halo and where did she really come from?

Crocodile Tears (Alex Rider)

Horowitz, Anthony:

Alex Rider's 8th adventure and the most action-packed yet. In this instalment Alex finds himself being manipulated in a deadly game that could lead to the destruction of an entire East African country.

The Ring of Five

McNamee, Eoin:

Danny must infiltrate the Ring of Five, ruthless leaders of the Lower World. A riveting tale of good and evil.

Day of the Predator (Time Riders)

Scarrow, Alex:

The 2nd book in the Time Riders series: Liam, Maddy and Sal must work together to prevent time travelling from destroying history.

The Immortals (The Edge Chronicles)

Stewart, Paul & Riddell, Chris:

The final instalment in the Edge Chronicles, this one is truly epic, with adventure, creatures and monsters galore!

Zero hour (H.I.V.E.)

Walden, Mark:

A comedy thriller, full of baddies, action and lashings of humour.

Tagus the Horse-Man

Blade, Adam:

Avantia needs a hero. Under the spell of an evil wizard, the magical beasts that once protected the land are destroying it. Tagus the horse-man is terrorising the people and animals in the plains - can Tom stop him?

Worm King (Beyond the Spiderwick Chronicles)

Black, Holly & DiTerlizzi, Tony

The spinoff series roars to a satisfying conclusion with its third book, "The Worm King". Racing along at a frenetic pace, it's a nicely gory, bizarre and intricate story.

Noah Barleywater Runs Away

Boyne, John:

Noah is running away from his problems, or at least that's what he thinks, the day he takes the un-trodden path through the forest. A magical story about the choices we make.

Molly Moon and the Morphing Mystery

Byng, Georgia:

Molly Moon is unstoppable! She's a master hypnotist, a time-traveller and a mind-reader, and in this sizzling new story she harnesses a new power - morphing. Soon she and her twin brother Mickey are swapping bodies with ladybirds, dogs, rats, even the Queen of England herself!

Rampage of the Goblins (Scream Street)

Donbavand, Tommy:

The 10th crazy adventure in this hugely popular comedy horror series of ghouls and girls.

The Tree of Seasons

Gately, Stephen & Considine, June:

When Josh, Michael and Beth Lotts catch sight of some mysterious lights one summer's evening, they are drawn into a dense forest near their home where no one dares ever go. What they find there is simply incredible. Reminiscent of the Narnia tales.

Mortal Coil (Skulduggery Pleasant)

Landy, Derek:

Skulduggery Pleasant and Valkyrie Cain are back – just in time to see their whole world get turned upside down in the 5th instalment of the series. Contains at least 40% humour, 50% action, and 100% thrills...

The Armoured Ghost (Armouron)

McGann, Oisin:

The Armouron are elite warriors who banded together centuries ago to fight for justice and freedom. This time they are ready to do battle against the power-mad Chairman...

Charlie Bone and the Red Knight (Children of the Red King)

Nimmo, Jenny:

Charlie Bone discovers the truth about the Red King, and the key to his own past. Charlie must stop the evil Bloors

Ghost Hunter: (Chronicles of Ancient Darkness)

Paver, Michelle:

In the final book of the series Torak must face the most heart-rending choice of all as he faces the final battle against the Soul-Eater.

Fever Crumb (Mortal Engines)

Reeve, Philip:

A stand-alone prequel to Philip Reeve's brilliant science fantasy quartet. It is set many generations before the events of *Mortal Engines*, in whose dazzling world huge, predatory cities chase and devour each other.

Percy Jackson and the Last Olympian

Riordan, Rick:

Most people get presents on their sixteenth birthday but not when you're the son of Poseidon, God of the Sea. Instead you get a prophecy that could save or destroy the world...

A Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events)

Snicket, Lemony:

There is nothing to be found in the pages of these books but misery and despair. You still have time to choose something else to read. But if you must know what unpleasantries befall the charming and clever Baudelaire children, read this book...