

... Middle School Book List ...
to stretch your learner's thinking and knowledge

Here are recommendations for your homeschool reading
of award winning or well-regarded books.

Parents, please choose from this list as it fits your goals and values.



Historical Fiction:

Burn My Heart by Beverley Naidoo (two boys—one white, one black—share an uneasy friendship during Kenya's struggle for freedom in the 1950s.)

Words on Fire by Jennifer A. Nielsen (Lithuania, 1893, .occupying Russian Cossack soldiers)

Paperboy by Vince Vawter (segregated south, similar to *To Kill a Mockingbird*.)

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (poetry, beginning of Civil Rights)

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (Jewish experience in WWII)

Snow Treasure by Maria McSwigan (Norway during WWII)

My Brother Sam is Dead by Collier (American Revolution)

The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli (14th Century Britain)

Strawberry Girl by Lois Lenski (Regional story from 1940s Florida)

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman (Middle Ages)

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan (prairie living)

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party by Ying Chang Compestine (1972; *Chinese Revolution, Mao*)

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor (Mississippi; height of the Depression, racism and social injustice).

The Breadwinner series by Deborah Ellis (Taliban's rule in Afghanistan in the late 1990s)

Stella by Starlight by Sharon Draper (multicultural, depression, Klan)

Refugee by Alan Gratz (1930s Nazi Germany; Cuban girl in 1994; Syrian boy in 2015)

Betsy and the Emperor by Staton Rabin (Napoleon Bonaparte)

Angel on the Square by Glora Whelan (Russian Revolution)

[Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March](#) by Lynda Blackmon Lowery
[Nory Ryan's Song](#) by Patricia Reilly Giff (Irish Potato Famine)

Differences, Fiction

[Fish in a Tree](#) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
[Bud Not Buddy](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis
[Out of My Mind](#) by Sharon Draper
[Freak the Mighty](#) by Rodman Philbrick
[Stargirl](#) by Jerry Spinelli
[Maniac McGee](#) by Jerry Spinelli
[Anne of Green Gables](#) Series by L.M. Montgomery
[Pictures of Hollis Woods](#) by Patricia Reilly Giff

Personal Growth / Coming of Age

[Missing May](#) by Cynthia Rylant
[Counting by 7s](#) by Holly Goldberg Sloan (coping with being an outsider & loss)
[Walk Two Moons](#) by Sharon Creech
[Esperanza Rising](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Great Depression, Mexican immigration and field work)
[Out of My Mind](#) by Sharon Draper
[Bridge to Terebithia](#) by Katherine Paterson
[Wonder](#) by R.J. Palacio
[The Wednesday Wars](#) by Gary Schmidt
[Ghost](#) by Jason Reynolds
[The Crossover](#) by Kwame Alexander
[Harbor Me](#) by Jacqueline Woodson (student stories novel)
[Scorpions](#) by Walter Dean Myers
[Souder](#) by William H Armstrong
[Operation Yes](#) by Sara Lewis Holmes
[Bridge to Terabithia](#) by Katherine Paterson
[A Year Down Yonder](#) by Richard Peck
[A Christmas Carol](#) by Charles Dickens
[Alex Rider](#) Anthony Horowitz 10 explosive missions Action Adrenaline Adventure

[From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler](#) by [E.L. Konigsburg](#)

Biographies & True Stories

I Am Malala : How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai (youth version)

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip M. Hoose

Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Martin Canada and Caitlin Alifrenka,

Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, a Life in Balance by Simone Bile

Lion: A Long Way Home Young Readers' Edition by Saroo Brierley

The Keeper: The Unguarded Story of Tim Howard Young Readers' Edition by Tim Howard

Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers by Deborah Heiligman

Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir by Margarita Engle

Going Solo by Roald Dahl

Mystery

Holes by Louis Sachar

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

The Ghost In The Tokaido Inn by Dorothy Hoobler (eighteenth-century Japan)

Trials of Apollo series by Rick Riordan

The Baby-Sitters Club by Ann Martin

A Middle School Story: Dog Diaries series by James Patterson,

Spy School Project X: Spy School by Stuart Gibbs,

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Adventure

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell (based on the true story of Juana Maria, a Nicoleño

Native American left alone for 18 years on San Nicolas Island, California during the 19th century.)

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Julie of the Wolves series by Jean Craighead George

The Broken Blade by William Durbin

The King's Fifth by Scott O'Dell (1541 and a cartographer, Nuevo España (modern day Mexico and Arizona) searching for gold.)

The Outlaws of Sherwood by Robin McKinley

Treasure Island by Robert Lewis Stevenson

The Giver Quartet by Lois Lowry

The Wrinkle in Time Quintet by Madeleine L'Engle

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

The Shadow Children series by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

The Princess Bride by William Goldman

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K le Guin

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brian

Enchantress from the Stars by Silvia Engdahl

The Girl Who Speaks Bear by Sophie Anderson

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funk

The Gammage Cup series by Carol Kendall

Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

[The One and Only Ivan](#)

[Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry](#)

[Nory Ryan's Song by Patricia Reilly Giff | Full AudiobookIt's](#)

[Bud not Buddy](#)

[Maniac McGee audiobook](#)

[A Year Down Yonder](#)