Classical Academy
ALBERTA

Reading Lists

2025/26

Alberta Classical Academy seeks to expose our students to what Matthew Arnold called "the best that has been thought and said." We study classic and enduring works of art, literature, and philosophy not simply for their practical value, but because of they speak to eternal and universal aspects of the human condition, and relate to questions of ultimate concern: why are we here, and what should we desire? What is the nature of justice? What do we owe others? What is the difference between liberty and license, and how can we order our lives well? By engaging with these materials, students acquire the ability to inhabit diverse perspectives. They become historically and culturally literate, and learn to think deeply about life's most fundamental questions.

We also believe that learning is not only an individual endeavour, but is a shared undertaking: we seek wisdom in friendship. The establishment of a common, shared reading list is intended to ensure that our students have common points of reference. It allows them to enter into conversation with each other, and with generations past.

This document includes the reading lists for Kindergarten to Grade 10 for the 2025/26 academic year. It includes short stories, novels, poems, and for grammar school students, copybook phrases.

A portion of novels, stories, and poems are marked with asterisks, meaning they are required as part of a common curriculum. This list also stipulates the minimum number of major works to be completed each year. Teachers may go beyond these recommendations, provided their selections adhere to our general standards of literary, aesthetic, moral and/or informational merit. Section headings (e.g. "Folk Tales," "Arthurian Legends," "Creation Myths," etc.) are also required, though not indicated with an asterisk.

Kindergarten

Novels

Complete at least one novel as a read-aloud

- The Moffats (Estes) *
- Yonnie Wondernose (de Angeli)
- The Adventures of Reddy Fox / Danny Meadow Mouse &c. (Burgess)

Aesop's Fables

- "The Lion and the Mouse"
- "The Grasshopper and the Ants"
- "The Dog and His Shadow"
- "The Hare and the Tortoise"
- *And others*

Creation Myths

- Pan Gu & Nu Wu (Chinese creation stories)
- Genesis 1-2 (adapted by Peter Spier)
- A cow licks the world out of a block of ice (Norse creation story; D'aulaire or Pope)
- *And others (database in progress)*

Other Myths and Legends

- "Gilgamesh the King," "The Revenge of Ishtar," "The Last Quest of Gilgamesh" (Zeman)
- Egyptian Myths (Caselli)
- The City of Rainbows: A Tale from Ancient Sumer (Foster)

Nursery Rhymes

- "Mother Goose Nursery Rhythms"

Folk and Fairy Tales

- "Jack and the Beanstalk"
- "Hansel and Gretel"
- "Three Little Pigs"
- "Cinderella" (Perrault adaptation recommended)
- "Sheep Beauty" (Chinese folktale; Li Jian)
- "The Empty Pot" (Chinese folktale)
- "The Sticky-Sticky Pine" (Japanese folktale; ed. Florence Sakade)
- "Goldilocks and the Three Bears"
- "Ananse's Feast," "A Story, A Story" (West African folktales)
- "Little Red Riding Hood"
- "Momotaro: Peach Boy" (Japanese folktale)
- "The Ugly Duckling" (Hans Christian Andersen)
- Selection of "Just So" Stories (Kipling; picture book version)
- "How Many Spots Does a Leopard Have?" (African folktale)

- “It Could Always Be Worse” (Yiddish folktale)
- “The Legend of Jumping Mouse” (Native American: Northern Plains legend)
- “The Little Red Hen”
- ““Tom Thumb”
- “Chicken Little” (also known as “Henny-Penny”)
- “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”
- “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”
- “The Grateful Statues” (Japanese folktale; ed. Florence Sakade)
- “Silly Saburo” (Japanese folktale; ed. Florence Sakade)

Biographies

- “Great Musicians” series (Wheeler)
- “Snowflake Bentley” (Martin)

Picture Books

- “The Children’s Book of Virtues” (Bennett)
- The Little Fir (Andersen)
- “The Velveteen Rabbit” (Williams)
- “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” [vol 1-5] (Potter)
- “Zen Shorts” (Muth)
- “The Little Engine that Could” (Pipeman)
- “Bear Has a Story to Tell” (Stead)
- “Ferdinand the Bull” (Leaf)
- Pelle’s New Suit (Beskow)
- The Duchess Bakes a Cake (Kahl)
- Caps for Sale (Slobodkina)
- Over and Over (Zolotow)
- My Friend Mac (McNeer & Ward)
- The Sky Was Blue (Zolotow)
- Anatole (Titus)
- The Biggest Bear (Ward)
- The Song of the Swallos (Politi)
- Hildilid’s Night (Lobel)
- Amos and Boris (Steig)
- Amazing Bone (Steig)
- Sylvester and the Magiv Pebble (Steig)
- The Mitten (Tresselt/Yaroslava)
- Blueberries for Sale (McCloskey)
- Oh, Were They Ever Happy (Spier)
- Heckedy Peg (Wood)
- Umbrella (Yashima)
- The Storm Book (Zolotow)
- Millions of Cats (Gag)
- Dandelion (Freeman)
- Corduroy (Freeman)
- Ask Mr. Bear (Flack)
- Veronica (Duvoisin)
- The Happy Lion (Fatio)
- Roxaboxen (McLerran/Cooney)

- The House on Maple Street (Pryor)
- Weslandia (Fleischman)
- Seashore Story (Yashima)
- The Story about Ping (Flack)
- Pharaoh's Boat (Weitzman)
- A Pair of Red Clogs (Matsuno)
- Katy and the Big Snow (Burton)
- Mirette on the High Wire (McCully)
- The Important Book (Brown)
- The Cow Who Fell in the Canal (Spier)
- The Gingerbread Rabbit (Williams)
- Daisy Comes Home (Brett)
- The Tomten (Lindgren)
- Obadiah books (Turkle)
- The Rabbit Story (Tresselt)
- The Man who Lost his Head (Bishop)
- The Beaver Dam (Tresselt)
- Tikki Tikki Tembo (Mosel and Lent)
- The Quarreling Book (Zolotow)
- Little Toot (Gramatky)
- We Were Tired of Living in a House (Skorpen)
- The Kissing Hand (Penn)
- The Runaway Bunny (Brown)
- Berlioz the Bear (Brett)

Poems

- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- Snow Flakes - (Mary Mapes Dodge)
- If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking (Emily Dickinson)
- The Bee is Not Afraid of Me (Emily Dickinson)
- The Swing (Robert Louis Stevenson)
- Signs of Spring (Eudora Stone Bumstead)
- The New Moon (Evaleen Stein)
- The Crocodile (Lewis Carroll)

Copybook Phrases

- April showers bring May flowers
- Better safe than sorry
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
- The early bird gets the worm
- Great oaks from little acorns grow
- Look before you leap
- Practice makes perfect
- Where there's a will there's a way

Grade 1

Novels

*Complete at least two novels as read-alouds; items marked with * are required*

- Charlotte's Web (White)*
- Three Tales of My Father's Dragon (Gannett)
- "The Boxcar Children" (Warner)
- "The Cricket in Times Square" (Selden)
- "Old Mother West Wind" (or other Green Forest novels by Thornton Burgess)

Aesop's Fables

- "The Boy Who Cried Wolf"
- "The Dog in the Manger"
- "The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing"
- "The Maid and the Milk Pail"
- "The Goose and the Golden Eggs"
- And others

Myths

- D'Aulaire's Greek Myths
    - In Olden Times
    - Gaia, Mother Earth
    - Prometheus
    - Persephone and Demeter
    - Echo
    - King Midas
    - And others
- The Winged Cat: A Tale from Ancient Egypt (Lattimore)
- Chinese myths
    - The Yellow Emperor
    - Chang'e and Hou Yi
    - Nian Monster
    - The Jade Rabbit
    - Yu the Great
    - Pan Gu and Nu Wa creation stories
    - The Dragon King
    - Butterfly Lovers
- Adapted Bible Stories
    - Adam and Eve
    - Noah's Ark
    - Abraham – Joseph
    - Moses (Beneduce adaptation recommended)
    - David and Goliath
    - King Solomon
    - Queen Esther
    - Daniel in the Lion's Den
    - Jonah

Folk and Fairy Tales

- "Butterfly dream" (Zhuangzi)
- "Little Red Riding Hood" (Grimm)
- "The Giant Turnip" (Grimm)
- "Lon Po Po" (Chinese folktale)
- "Issun Boshi" or "One-Inch Boy" (Japanese folktale)
- "The Tiger, the Brahman, and the Jackal" (Indian fairy-tale;, ed. Haviland & Rosenberry)
- "Cinderella"
- "Yen-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China" (Chinese folktale)
- "The Egyptian Cinderella" (Climo)
- The Rough-Faced Girl (Algonquin Cinderella)
- Slavic: The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship (Ransome)
- "The Bremmen Town Musicians"
- "Rapunzel"
- "The Boy at the Dike" (folktale from Holland)
- "The Princess and the Pea" (Andersen)
- Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale (Steptoe)
- Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun (Cherokee fairy tale)
- "The Legend of Lady Slipper" (Ojibwe fairy tale)
- "Anansi the Spider" stories (West African folktale)
- "How the Kiwi Lost Its Wings" (Maori legend)
- Selection of "Just So Stories" (Rudyard Kipling)

Other Stories

- "Frog and Toad are Friends" (Lobel)
- "A Bargain for Francis" (and other Francis books by Russell Hoban)
- "The Tales of Peter Rabbit" [vol 6-10] (Potter)
- The Boy Who Held Back the Sea (Locker)
- The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Grey Ship (Swift)
- Ox Cart Man (Cooney)
- Down, Down the Mountain (Credle)
- Petunia (Duvoisin)
- One Morning in Maine (McCloskey)
- Crow Boy (Yashima)
- Children of the Yangzte River (Otto S.)
- The Little House (Burton)
- Lentil (McCloskey)
- The Big Snow (Hader)
- Clever Rachel (Waldman)
- Owl Moon (Yolen)
- "Wenceslas" (McCaughrean)
- "A House is a House for Me" (Hoberman)
- Tales of Br'er Rabbit (recommended tales: "Br'er Rabbit Gets Br'er Fox's Dinner"; "Br'er Rabbit Tricks Br'er Bear"; "Br'er Rabbit and the Tar Baby")
- "Stone Age Boy" (Kitamura)
- "The Golden Rule" (Cooper)
- The Sun Egg (Beskow)

- Peter in Blueberry Land (Beskow)
- 50 Famous Stories Retold (Baldwin)
- The Gift of the River (Meadowcroft)
- "A Visitor for Bear" (Stead)
- "The Great Kapok Tree"(Cherry)
- "Frog and Toad Together" (Lobel)
- "Frog and Toad All Year" (Lobel)
- Magic Treehouse / Merlin Missions Series (Osborne) –(Recommended stories include "Mummies in the Morning" and "Day of the Dragon King")
- "The Story of Ping" (Flack)
- "The Handsome Little Signet" (Mehan)
- "Paddington Bear" (Bond)
- Madeline stories (Bemelmans)
- "The Quiltmaker's Gift" (Grumbeau)

Biography

- Herodotus and the Road to History (Bendick)

Poems

*Memorize at least 80 lines; items marked with * are required*

- "Windy Nights" (R.L. Stevenson)
- "Now We Are Six" (A.A. Milne)
- "The Owl and the Pussycat" (Edward Lear)
- "Toiling Farmer" (Lǐ shēn)
- "The Value of a Smile" (Wilbur W. Nesbit)
- "Bluebird" (Evaleen Stein)
- "Up Little Ones!" (Evaleen Stein)
- "The Year's at the Spring" (Robert Browning)
- "On the gift of a book to a child" (Hilaire Belloc)

Copybook Phrases

- An apple a day keeps the doctor away
- Treat others how you want to be treated
- If at first you don't succeed, try, try again
- There's no place like home
- A place for everything and everything in its place
- Wolf in sheep's clothing
- It's always darkest before dawn
- Not all that glitters is gold
- What goes around comes around

Grade 2

Novels

*Complete at least four novels as read-alouds, graduating to read-alongs; items marked with * are required*

- The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe (Lewis)*
- Journey to the West (Wu Cheng'en; adapted for children by Debbie Chen)*
- The Golden Key (MacDonald) *
- The Stone Fox (Gardiner)
- Five Children and It (Nesbit)
- Beowulf: A Hero's Tale (Rumford)
- The Reluctant Dragon (Grahame)
- The Roman Mysteries: The Thieves of Ostia (Lawrence)
- Tale of Despereaux (DiCamillo)
- Stuart Little (White)
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Toulane (DiCamillo)
- The Courage of Sarah Noble (Dagliesh)

Aesop's Fables

- The Fox and the Crow
- The Owl and the Cricket
- The Tortoise and the Hare
- The Fox and the Lion
- *And others*

Arthurian Legends

- Of Swords and Sorcerers (Hodges) OR Arthurian Stories (Talbot):
  - "How Arthur Became King"
  - "The Sword in the Stone"
  - "The Sword Excalibur"
  - "Merlin and the Lady of the Lake"
- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (Hastings)
- Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady (Hastings)
- The Kitchen Knight (Hodges)

Greek Myths

- (D'Aulaires Greek Myths or other collection), including:
  - "Jason and the Golden Fleece"
  - "Apples of Love and the Apple of Discord"
  - "Sisyphus"
  - "Heracles"
  - "Theseus"
- "Perseus and Medusa"
- "Cupid and Psyche"
- "The Sword of Damocles"

- "Androcles and the Lion"

Stories from Religions

Christian:

- Nativity
- Jesus Lost in the Temple
- Water to Wine
- Sermon on the Mount
- Feeding Five Thousand
- Crucifixion and Easter Story
- John the Baptist
- 12 Apostles
- Early Church stories (St. Stephen, St. Paul, missionary journeys to the Gentiles, Ananias and Sapphira, Altar to the Unknown God)

Buddhist:

- Siddhartha Gautama's Four Sights
- Teachings on the Four Noble Truths
- Miracles: levitating across rivers, resolving pestilence, clairvoyance, etc.
- The Descent from Tāvatiṃsa Heaven
- Nirvana under the Bodhi tree

Daoist:

- Story of Laozi's birth
- Biographies of the Eight Daoist immortals (Eva Wong or other children's edition)

Folk and Fairy Tales

- "The Blind Men and the Elephant" (Indian folktale)
- "The Fisherman and His Wife" (Grimm)
- "The Little Match Girl" (Andersen)
- "How the Camel Got His Hump" and other "Just-So" stories (Kipling)
- Iktomi stories (Gobles)
- "Beauty and the Beast"
- "The Crane Maiden" (Matsutani)
- "Baba Yaga" (Slavic folk tale)
- "Salt is Sweeter than Gold" (Slavic folk tale)
- "Rumplestiltskin" (Grimm)

Biography

- Marcus Aurelius: The Boy Who Would Be King (Holiday)
- Leif the Lucky (D'Aulaire)
- Alexander the Great (Demi)
- Confucius (Demi)
- Buddha (Demi)
- St. George and the Dragon (Hodges)
- He Went With Hannibal (Kent)

Stories

- "Pookie Puts the World Right" (Ivy Wallace) *
- The Bad Children's Book of Beasts (Hilaire Belloc)
- Strega Nona Treasury (Tomie DePaola)
- Magic Treehouse / Merlin Missions Series (Mary Pope Osborne) (Recommended stories include "Dragon of the Red Dawn," "Vikings at Sunrise," "Hour of the Olympics," "Warriors in Winter," Knight at Dawn," "Christmas at Camelot," "Season of the Sandstorms (Baghdad's House of Wisdom)," "Stallion by Starlight"
- Usborne Illustrated Chinese Stories
- Temple on a Hill: The Building of the Parthenon (Rockwell)
- The Lion at the Gateway (Battles of Greeks and Persians) (Renault)
- Viking Tales (Hall)
- The Viking Explorers (excerpts) (Buehr)
- 30 More Famous Stories Retold (Baldwin)
- The Making of a Knight (O'Brien)
- A Ride on the Red Mare's Back (Le Guin)
- Beethoven Lives Upstairs (Nichol)
- Miss Rumphius (Cooney)
- Holly and Ivy (Cooney)
- Melisande (Nesbit)

Poems

*Memorize at least 100 lines; items marked with * are required*

- "In Flanders Fields" (John McCrae) *
- "Bed in Summer" (Robert Louis Stevenson)
- "Buffalo Dusk" (Carl Sandburg)
- "Sermons we see" (Edgar Guest)
- "Thoughts in Silent Night" (Li Bai)
- "The Night Before Christmas" (Clement Clarke Moore)
- "There Was an Old Man with a Beard" (Edward Lear)
- "May Baskets" (Evaleen Stein)
- "The Frog" (Hilaire Belloc)
- "Stars" (Sara Teasdale)
- "The Fairies" (William Allingham)
- "Try, Try Again" (William Hickson)

Copybook Phrases

- Health better than wealth
- Do unto others as you would have done unto you
- Honesty is the best policy
- Neither a borrower nor a lender be
- Never leave till tomorrow what you can do today
- All's well that ends well
- You reap what you sow
- Better late than never
- Practice what you preach
- Truth will prevail
- Count your blessings
- Cleanliness is next to godliness
- Don't make a mountain out of a molehill

- Wisdom begins in wonder
- Hope springs eternal

Grade 3

Novels

*Complete at least six novels as read-alongs, graduating to some independent reading; items marked with * are required*

- The Snow Queen (Andersen) *
- Prince Caspian (Lewis) *
- A Door in the Wall (de Angeli) *
- Dangerous Journey: The Story of Pilgrim's Progress (John Bunyun, ed. Oliver Hunkin) *
- Don Quixote and Sancho Panza (Hodges)
- The Brothers Lionheart (Lindgren)
- Stories of Rolland (Marshall)
- Pinocchio (Collodi)
- Farmer Giles of Ham (Tolkien)
- The Little Duke (Life of Richard the Fearless) (Yonge)
- The Little House on the Prairie (Wilder)
- Trumpet of the Swan (White)
- The Princess and the Goblin (MacDonald)
- Sign of the Beaver (Speare)
- Caddie Woodlawn (Brink)
- Adam of the Road (Gray)

Biography

- 50 Famous People (Baldwin)
- St. Francis & Claire (Holy Twins - dePaola)
- The Apple and the Arrow: story of William Tell (Buff)
- The Bard of Avon (Stanley)
- Cartier: Finder of the St. Lawrence (Syme)
- Henry Hudson (Carmer)

Stories

- Tales of Peter Rabbit [vol 11 - 15] (Beatrix Potter)
- Selections from Winnie the Pooh (A.A. Milne)
- Bruce and the Spider (James Baldwin or other telling)
- The Little Mermaid (Hans Christian Andersen) *
- "The Hunting of the Great Bear" (Iroquois legend)
- "The Magic Brocade" (Chinese fairy tale)
- Stories from Shakespeare (Charles & Mary Lamb) OR
  Beautiful Stories From Shakespeare (Edith Nesbit) *
- One Thousand and One Nights [Selections]: *
  - "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp"
  - "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves"
- "The Husband Who Was to Mind the House" (a Norse/English folktale, also known as "Gone is Gone")
- The Blue Book of Fairy Stories [Selections] (Andrew & Nora Lang)
- "Twilight Land" [Selections] (Howard Pyle)

- Magic Treehouse / Merlin Missions Series (Mary Pope Osborne) (Recommended stories include “Night of the Ninjas,” “Stage Fright on a Summer Night,” “Moonlight on the Magic Flute,” “Monday With a Magic Genius “

Myths

(the Children of Odin or other collection):

- The Slaying of Fafnir
- The Slaying of Jormundandr
- Ragnarok
- Thor and the Ice Giants
- Odin the Wanderer
- Freya’s Necklace
- Rainbow Bridge
- The Otter’s Ring

Poems

*Memorize at least 140 lines; items marked with * are required*

- The Tyger (William Blake) *
- The Lamb (William Blake)
- Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening (Frost) *
- The Arrow and the Song (Longfellow)*
- My Shadow (RL. Stevenson)
- The Duel (Eugen Fields)
- Fetching Water (Robert Frost)
- After Apple-Picking (Robert Frost)
- Spring Morning (Meng Haoran)*
- Bee! I’m expecting you (Emily Dickinson)
- Foreign lands (RL Stevenson)*
- Sonnets 30 (Shakespeare)
- Sonnet 19 (Shakespeare)*
- March (Mary Mapes Dodge)
- The Moon (R.L. Stevenson)
- A Time to Talk (Robert Frost)
- The Village Blacksmith (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)
- By the sea (Woodsworth)
- Sea Fever (John Masefield)

Copybook Phrases

- Truth will set you free
- A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step
- A little learning is a dangerous thing
- A bad workman blames his tools
- The rising tide lifts all boats
- Never judge a book by its cover
- Actions speak louder than words
- A stitch in time saves nine
- An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind
- As a tree bends, so shall it grow
- Good things come to those who wait
- Cheats never prosper

- Easy come easy go
- Every tide has its ebb
- Knowledge is power
- Let bygones be bygones

Grade 4

Novels

*Complete at least four novels as a class and at least two as independent reading; items marked with * are required*

- Voyage of the Dawn Treader (Lewis)*
- The Wind in the Willows (Grahame) *
- Le Petit Prince / The Little Prince (Saint-Exupery) *
- The Secret Garden (Burnett)
- Alice in Wonderland (Carol)
- The Jungle Book (Kipling)
- The Voyages of Dr. Doolittle (Lofting)
- The Whipping Boy (Fleischman)
- The Winged Watchman (Van Stockum)
- The Little Princess (Burnett)
- Pollyanna (Porter)
- Black Beauty (Sewell)
- The Silver Chair (Lewis)
- Call it Courage (Sperry)
- Big Red (Kjelgaard)
- The Good Master (Seredy)
- The Singing Tree (Seredy)
- The Book of Three (Alexander)

Myths, Folk and Fairy Tales

- The Good Samaritan and Other Parables (dePaola)
- Dick Whittington and His Cat (Brown)
- The Bearskinner (Grimm)
- The Steadfast Tin Solider (Andersen)
- Canadian Wonder Tales (Macmillan)
- Tikta'Liktak (Houston)
- East of the Sun and West of the Moon (Lang)

Poems

*Memorize at least 180 lines; items marked with * are required*

- The Charge of the Light Brigade (Tennyson) *
- Death be not Proud (Donne) *
- "The Cattle Country" (Emily Pauline Johnson/Tekahionwake) *
- Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death (Patrick Henry)
- Amazing Grace (John Newton)
- Our Lips and Ears (Anonymous)
- Where go the Boats? (Robert Louis Stevenson)
- Snow in the Suburbs (Thomas Hardy)
- The Splendour Falls (Alfred Tennyson)
- The Sun Has Long Been Set (William Wordsworth)
- Sweet and Low (first stanza; Alfred Tennyson)

- The Eagle (Alfred Tennyson)
- Nobility (Alice Cary)*
- The Jumblies (Lear)
- Mr. Toad (Kenneth Grahame)
- Boy Wanted (Frank Crane)

Copybook Phrases

- The wages of sin is death
- Reputation is not character
- Let your promises be sincere
- Opinion misleads many
- Fools rush in where angels fear to tread
- Manners maketh man
- Haste makes waste
- No pain no gain
- Patience is a virtue
- Still waters run deep
- To err is human, to forgive divine
- Virtue is its own reward
- Two wrongs don't make a right
- The empty vessel makes the most noise

Grade 5

Novels

*Complete at least four novels as a class, and at least three as independent reading; items marked with * are required*

- The Iliad (Homer, as abridged by Sutcliff, Colum, Cross, Church, or other high quality adaptation) *
- The Epic of Gilgamesh (adapted by McCaughrean) *
- The Odyssey (Homer, as abridged by McCaughrean, Sutcliff, Colum, or Church)
- The Anabasis (Xenophon; abridged by Geoffrey Household)
- Anne of Green Gables (Montgomery)
- At the Back of the North Wind (MacDonald)
- The Call of the Wild (London)
- The Aeneid for Boys and Girls (Church)
- The Golden Goblet (McGraw)
- The Winged Girl of Knossos (Berry)
- The Horse and His Boy (Lewis)
- The Treasure Seekers (Nesbit)
- The Railway Children (Nesbit)
- My Side of the Mountain (George)

Biography

- Plutarch's Lives for Children [Selections] (W.H. Weston) *

Other Myths and Stories

- Tales of Ancient Egypt (Green)
- Shen of the Sea (Chrisman)
- The Forging of Sampo (Baldwin)
- Jataka Tales
- The Gift of the Magi (O Henry)
- A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys (Nathaniel Hawthorne)
    - The Gorgon's Head (Perseus and Medusa)
    - The Golden Touch (King Midas)
    - The Paradise of Children (Pandora's Box)
    - The Three Golden Apples
    - The Miraculous Pitcher (Baucis and Philemon)
- Tanglewood Tales (Nathaniel Hawthorne)
    - The Minotaur (Theseus and the Minotaur)
    - The Pomegranate Seed (Proserpina)
    - The Golden Fleece
- Classic Myths to Read Aloud (William F. Russell)
    - Icarus and Daedalus
    - Echo and Narcissus
    - Damon and Pythias
    - The Sword of Damocles
    - Orpheus and Eurydice
    - Cupid and Psyche
    - Pygmalion and Galatea

- The Riddle of the Sphinx
- And others

Plays

(choose at least one of the following):

- Prometheus Bound (Aeschylus; adapted by Cullum)
- Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare)

Poems

*Memorize at least 180 lines; items marked with * are required*

- If (Kipling) *
- Horatius at the Bridge - stanzas 26-33 (Thomas Babbington Macaulay)*
- The Echoing Green (Blake)
- Psalm 23 *
- Jabberwocky (Lewis Carroll)
- Lament for Ur (unknown)
- Ode to Man (Sophocles, *Antigone*)
- Prologue to *Odyssey* (lines I.1-22 (trans. Green) *
- Hope is a thing with feathers (Dickinson)
- Apostrophe to the Ocean [from Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, Canto 4, Nos. 178-184] (George Gordon Byron)
- I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud (William Wordsworth)
- Mother to Son (Langston Hughes)
- A narrow fellow in the grass (Emily Dickinson)
- A Psalm of Life (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)
- The Raven (Edgar Allan Poe)
- There is no frigate like a book (Emily Dickinson)
- The Law of the Jungle (Kipling)
- Matilda (Beloc)
- August 1914 (May Wedderburn Cannan)
- The Destruction of Sennacherib (Byron)

Grade 6

Novels & Narrative Poems

*Complete at least four novels as a class and at least four as independent readings; items marked with * are required*

- The Hobbit (JRR Tolkien) *
- Beowulf the Warrior (Serraillier) *
- King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table (Howard Pyle / R.L Green) or The Boy's King Arthur (John Steinbeck) *
- The Adventures of Robin Hood (select chapters of R.L. Green, Howard Pyle, or Core Knowledge edition) *
- The White Stag (Seredy)
- El Cid (McCaughrean)
- The Ring and the Fire (Bulla)
- Don Quixote of La Mancha (Parry)
- Heidi (Johanna Spyri)
- The Pied Piper of Hamelin (Robert Browning)
- The Magician's Nephew (Lewis)
- The Knight's Fee (Sutcliff)
- The Prince and the Pauper (Twain)
- Jane of Lantern Hill (Montgomery)
- Lassie Come Home (Knight)
- Banner in the Sky (Ramsey)
- Number the Stars (Lowry)
- Silver Chief: Dog of the North (O'Brien)
- The Battle of Maldon

Stories

- The Lady or the Tiger (Stockton) *
- Canterbury Tales retellings *
- Golden Legend (de Voragine)
- Arthur in the Cave (Thomas)
- The Wild Swans (Andersen)
- The Happy Prince (Wilde)
- Britannia: 100 Great Stories from British History (McCaughrean), selections
- One Thousand and One Arabian Nights (McCaughrean), selections

Biography

- The Crusader King: Richard the Lionheart (Suskind)
- Charlemagne (Komroff)
- The Story of Sir William Wallace OR The Rise of Robert the Bruce (Scott)
- Leif Eriksson: First Voyager to America (Shippen)

Plays

(choose at least one of the following):

- Julius Caesar (Shakespeare)
- As You Like It (Shakespeare)

Poems

*Memorize at least 220 lines; items marked with * are required*

- Saint Crispin's Day (Shakespeare) *
- The Ruin (unknown; old Anglo-Saxon)
- The Seafarer (unknown; old Anglo-Saxon)
- The Lady of Shalott (Part I) (Tennyson)
- Childe Harold's Pilgrimage - CLXXVIII, CLXXVIV (Byron)
- Eldorado (Poe)*
- Macavity the Mystery Cat (Eliot)
- The Roads Goes Ever On (Tolkien)
- Seven Ages of Man (Shakespeare) *
- Invictus (Henley)
- Courage (Guest)
- "Perseverance" Alice Cary
- "For the Fallen" (Laurence Binyon)
- "Leisure" WH Davies
- "A Song of Sherwood" (Alfred Noyes)
- "Caedmon's Hymn" (translated from Old English)

Grade 7

Novels

*Complete at least four novels as a class and at least four as independent readings; items marked with * are required*

- The Fellowship of the Ring (Tolkien) *
- Ivanhoe (Scott) *
- Treasure Island (Stevenson) *
- A Christmas Carol (Dickens) *
- Little Women (Alcott) *
- Lieutenant Hornblower (Forester)
- Swiss Family Robinson (Wyss)
- Robinson Crusoe (Defoe)
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond (Speare)
- The Woolpack (Harnett)
- The Bronze Bow (Speare)
- The Children of the New Forest (Marryat)
- The Giver (Lowry)
- Drummer Boy for Montcalm (Hays)
- Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze (Lewis)
- The Voyagers: Being Legends and Romances of Atlantic Discovery (Colum)
- The Dark Star of Itza (Malkus)
- A Wrinkle in Time (L'Engle)

Summer Reading (Grade 7—>8 transition)

- The Two Towers (JRR Tolkien)*

Short Stories

- The Emperor's New Clothes (Andersen) *
- Rikki Tikki Tavi (Kipling)
- Genesis: A story from Wolf Willow (Stegner)
- The Light Princess (MacDonald)

Histories

- A Child's History of England [Selections] (Dickens) *

Plays

(choose at least one of the following):

- Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare)
- Romeo & Juliet (Shakespeare)

Poems

*Memorize at least 220 lines; items marked with * are required*

- The Road Not Taken (Frost)
- For Whom the Bell Tolls (Donne) *
- Pied Beauty (Hopkins)
- She Walks in Beauty (Byron)
- Ozymandias (Shelley)*
- Captain, My Captain (Whitman)
- He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven (Yeats) *
- In the Bleak Midwinter (Christina Rossetti)
- Sonnet 173 (Shakespeare) *
- Holy Sonnet I ("Thou hast made me…") (Donne)
- Lepanto (Chesterton)
- Because I Could Not Stop for Death (Dickinson)
- Riddle of Strider (Tolkien)
- To My Mother (Wendell Berry)
- Ode on a Grecian Urn (Keats)
- Into Battle (Julian Grenfell)

Grade 8

Novels

*Complete at least four novels as a class and at least four as independent readings; items marked with * are required*

- Oliver Twist (Dickens) * OR
- Jane Eyre (Bronte) *
- The Scarlet Pimpernel (Orczy) *
- The Return of the King (JRR Tolkien) *
- Captains Courageous (Kipling) *
- Fahrenheit 451 (Bradbury)
- A Tale of Two Cities (Dickens)
- Around the World in 80 Days (Verne)
- 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Verne)
- The Count of Monte Cristo [abridged] (Dumas)
- Lost in the Barrens (Mowat)
- Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (Stevenson)
- To Kill a Mockingbird (Lee)
- The Good Shepherd (Forester)
- Kim (Kipling)
- Lord of the Flies (Golding)
- Johnny Tremain (Forbes)
- The Red Badge of Courage (Crane)
- Across Five Aprils (Hunt)
- The Ark (Benary-Isbert)
- Emma (Austen)
- The Book of Three (Alexander)
- The Innocence of Fr. Brown (Chesterton)
- Eagle of the Ninth (Sutcliff)
- Watership Down (Adams)
- Mara, Daughter of the Nile (McGraw)
- The Black Arrow (Stevenson)
- A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (Smith)

Plays

- Oedipus the King (Sophocles) *

Stories

- The Veldt (Bradbury)
- Alyosha the Pot (Tolstoy)
- How Much Land Does a Man Need? (Tolstoy)
- The Machine Stops (E.M. Forster)
- The Necklace (Maupassant)
- The Telltale Heart (Poe)

Poems

*Memorize at least 220 lines; items marked with * are required*

- On his blindness (Milton) *
- The Passionate Shepherd to His Love (Christopher Marlowe)
- The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd (Walter Raleigh)
- Hymn to the Moon (Lady Mary Wortley Montagu)
- Jerusalem (William Blake) *
- The Cremation of Sam McGee (Robert Service) *
- The Soldier (Rupert Brooke)
- Ode to France (Coleridge)
- Sonnet 116 (Shakespeare)*
- Sonnets 18 (Shakespeare)
- Sonnet 130 (Shakespeare)
- Canadian Born (Emily Pauline Johnson/Tekahionwake)
- The Cattle Thief (Emily Pauline Johnson/Tekahionwake)
- What we Need is Here (Wendell Berry)

Grade 9

Core Books, Stories, and other writings

Novels

*Complete at least five novels or major philosophical works as a class, and at least four as independent readings; items marked with * are required*

- Animal Farm (George Orwell) *
- The Odyssey (Homer) *
- Who Has Seen the Wind (W.O. Mitchell) *
- One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich (Solzhenitsyn) *
- Screwtape Letters (C.S. Lewis)
- All Quiet on the Western Front (Erich Maria Remarque)
- And No Birds Sang (Mowat)
- Picture of Dorian Gray (Wilde)
- Diary of a Young Girl (Anne Frank)
- Wild Swans (Jung Chang)
- Other independent reads approved by teacher

Philosophy

- Meditations (Marcus Aurelius) *
- Epictetus handbook (Epictetus)
- Poetics; selections (Aristotle)

Speeches and Essays

- Learning in Wartime (C.S. Lewis)
- Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat (Churchill)
- Their Finest Hour (Churchill)

Stories

- The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas (Ursula K. Le Guin)
- The Snow Goose (Paul Gallico)
- The Sniper (Liam O'Flaherty)
- The Monkey's Paw (Jacobs)

Plays

At least one of the following:

- Oresteia (Aeschylus)
- Macbeth (Shakespeare)

Poems

*Memorize at least 220 lines; items marked with * are required*

- The Second Coming (Yeats) *
- The Dead (Rupert Brooke)
- August 1914 (Vera Mary Brittain)
- Binsey Poplars (Hopkins)
- The Darkling Thrush (Hardy) *
- The Vanity of Human Wishes (Samuel Johnson)
- "Zazen on Ching-t'ing Mountain" (Li Bai) *
- To a Skylark (Percy Shelly)
- "In the Quiet Night" (Li Bai)
- "The Uses of Fear" (Rumi)
- Sonnet 24 (Shakespeare)
- Sonnet 29 (Shakespeare)
- Sonnet 138 (Shakespeare)
- Sonnet 106 (Shakespeare)
- Soliloquy / monologue from *Merchant* or *Macbeth* (Shakespeare)*

Grade 10

Novels

*Complete at least four novels and narrative poems as a class, and at least four as independent readings; items marked with * are required*

- Out of the Silent Planet (Lewis)
- Utopia (More) *
- Frankenstein (Shelley) *
- Crime and Punishment (Dostoyevsky)
- Tale of Two Cities (Dickens)
- Brave New World (Huxley)
- Rasselas (Johnson)
- The New Atlantis (Bacon)
- Gulliver's Travels (Swift)
- Marie Chapdelaine (Hémon)
- Shadows on the Rock (Cather)
- Never Cry Wolf (Farley Mowatt)
- Other independent reading approved by teacher

Narrative poems

- The Metamorphosis, books 1-2 (Ovid)
- Georgics, Book I (Virgil)

- Works and Days (*selections,* Hesiod) *
- Paradise Lost (Bks 1-4, 8, 9, Milton) *
- The Shepherd's Calendar or Faerie Queen selections (Spencer)

Philosophy & Religion

- Genesis 1-4 ; Job
- Dao de Jing (Laozi)
- Book of Zhuangzi (*selections*)
- The Apology (Plato) *
- *On the Shortness of Life* (Seneca)
- *On Tranquility* (Seneca)
- *On Providence* (Seneca)
- *Pensées (Pascal; selections)*
- Other excerpts (refer to lead sheets)

Plays

- The Tempest (Shakespeare)
- Henry IV - part I (Shakespeare)
- Henry V (Shakespeare)

Biography

- Joan of Arc (Twain)

Poems

*Memorize at least 220 lines; items marked with * are required*

- "Fern Hill" (Dylan Thomas)
- "Ode to a Nightingale" (Keats)
- "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" (Yeats)
- "Easter 1916" (Yeats)
- "Alone and Drinking Under the Moon" (Li Bai)
- "God's Grandeur" (Hopkins) *
- "Preface to the Orchid Pavilion" (Wang Xizhu)
- "Only Breath," "Because I cannot sleep," "Until You've Found Pain," and "Ode 314," (Rumi)
- "To Autumn" (Keats)
- "And Death Shall Have No Dominion" (Dylan Thomas)
- "The Gods of the Copybook Headings (Kipling)
- "Music, when soft voices die" (Percy Shelley)
- The Dark Stag (Isabella Valancy Crawford)
- The Camp of Souls (Isabella Valancy Crawford)
- The St. Lawrence and the Saguenay (Charles Sangster)
- Spring (Charles Sangster)

- The Voice of God (Charles Sangster)
- The Kneeling Heart (Charles Sangster)
- The Chieftain's Last Sigh (Charles Sangster)
- Holy Ground (Charles Sangster)
- Tantramar Revisited (Charles G.D. Roberts)
- The Waking Earth (Charles G.D. Roberts)
- The Winter Fields (Charles G.D. Roberts)
- Low Tide on Grand Pre (Bliss Carman)
- A Cry from an Indian Wife (Pauline Johnson)
- Wild Rose (W.W.E. Ross)