

Oh No! Not the Classics!

By Maggie Hogan

Sources for book lists:

Honey for a Child's Heart by Gladys Hunt

What Then Shall We Read by Jan Bloom

Invitation to the Classics by Louise Cowan & OS Guinness, Editors

The Horn Book www.hbook.com

Newbery Medal and Honor Books, 1922-Present:

www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal.htm

1,000 Good Books List: www.classical-homeschooling.org/celoop/1000.html

Sonlight Catalog: www.sonlight.com

Book Peddler Catalog: www.bookpeddler.us

www.sparksnotes.com

www.cliffsnotes.com

www.findbooknotes.com

Progeny Press study guides are excellent & are written from a Christian perspective.

Useful terms to know:

Annotate, v to make or furnish critical or explanatory notes or comments.

Abridge, v to shorten by omission of words without sacrifice of sense.

Unabridged, adj. complete work

When choosing classic books, find an author whose works you're interested in. Then find one of their more accessible books. Use amazon.com to its fullest advantage to find all the titles an author has written. There are too many excellent books and authors out there to name them all. For the sake of this workshop, I am going to refer to the adult literary masterpieces that are generally recognized to be the classics, as the "Great Books." These would include authors such as these, taken from *Invitation to the Classics*:

Homer's *The Iliad* & *The Odyssey*

Herodotus *History of the Persian Wars*

Sophocles *Oedipus Rex*

Plato *The Republic*

Works by Aristotle & Virgil

Beowulf

Augustine - *The Confessions*

Dante - *The Divine Comedy*

Thomas More - *Utopia*

Works of Martin Luther

Machiavelli - *The Prince*

Cervantes - *Don Quixote*

Shakespeare

John Donne poetry

John Keats poetry

John Milton - *Paradise Lost*

Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*

Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*

The Federalist Papers

Jane Austin

Von Goethe – Faust

Essays Ralph Waldo Emerson

Hawthorne, Nathaniel

Emily Dickenson poems

Melville – *Moby Dick*

Flaubert – *Madame Bovary*

Dickens - *Great Expectations*

George Elliot – *Middlemarch*

Tolstoy – *Anna Karenina*

Dostoyevsky – *The Brothers Karamazov*

Henry James

Mark Twain – *Huck Finn*

Conrad – *Heart of Darkness*

James Joyce – *Dubliners*

Kafka – *The Trial*

Robert Frost, TS Elliot and William Butler Yeats poetry

CS Lewis

William Faulkner

Classic Literature for Teens

[20,000 Leagues under the Sea](#) -- Jules Verne
[Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) -- Mark Twain
[Adventures of Sherlock Holmes](#) -- Arthur Conan Doyle
[Adventures of Tom Sawyer](#) -- Mark Twain
[African Queen, The](#) -- C.S. Forester
[Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) -- Lewis Carroll
[Amos Fortune, Free Man](#) -- Elizabeth Yates
[Around the World in Eighty Days](#) -- Jules Verne
[Ben-Hur](#) -- Lewis Wallace
[Big Sky, The](#) -- A.B. Guthrie
[Bridge of San Luis Rey, The](#) -- Thornton Wilder
[Bridges at Toko-Ri, The](#) -- James Michener
[Call of the Wild, The](#) -- Jack London
[Captains Courageous](#) -- Rudyard Kipling
[Christmas Carol, A](#) -- Charles Dickens
[Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, A](#) -- Mark Twain
[Count of Monte Christo, The](#) -- Alexander Dumas
[Cry, the Beloved Country](#) -- Alan Paton
[Deerslayer, The](#) -- James Fenimore Cooper
[Diary of a Young Girl](#) -- Anne Frank
[Dracula](#) -- Bram Stoker
[Drums along the Mohawk](#) -- Walter D. Edmonds
[Ethan Frome](#) -- Edith Wharton

[Fahrenheit 451](#) -- Ray Bradbury
[Frankenstein](#) -- Mary Shelley
[Goodbye, Mr. Chips](#) -- James Hilton
[Gone with the Wind](#) -- Margaret Mitchell
[Hobbit, The](#) -- J.R.R. Tolkien
[Hornblower series, The](#) -- C.S. Forester
[Hunchback of Notre Dame, The](#) -- Victor Hugo
[Innocents Abroad](#) -- Mark Twain
[Island of the Blue Dolphins](#) -- Scott O'Dell
[Ivanhoe](#) -- Sir Walter Scott
[Johnny Tremain](#) -- Esther Forbes
[Journey to the Center of the Earth](#) -- Jules Verne
[Kidnapped](#) -- Robert Louis Stevenson
[Kim](#) -- Rudyard Kipling
[King Must Die, The](#) -- Mary Renault
[King Solomon's Mines](#) -- H. Rider Haggard
[Last of the Mohicans](#) -- James Fenimore Cooper
[Le Morte d'Arthur](#) -- Sir Thomas Malory
[Legend of Sleepy Hollow](#), -- Washington Irving
[Life with Father](#) -- Clarence Day
[Little Men](#) -- Louisa May Alcott
[Little Prince, The](#) -- Antoine de Saint-Exupery
[Lord of the Rings, The](#) -- J.R.R. Tolkien
[Lorna Doone](#) -- Richard D. Blackmore
[Lost Horizon](#) -- James Hilton
[Madame Curie: A Biography](#) -- Eve Curie
[Martian Chronicles](#) -- Ray Bradbury
[Member of the Wedding](#) -- Carson McCullers
[Men of Iron](#) -- Howard Pyle
[Mysterious Island](#) -- Jules Verne
[National Velvet](#) -- Enid Bagnold
[Night to Remember, A](#) -- Walter Lord
[Northwest Passage](#) -- Kenneth Roberts
[Old Man and the Sea, The](#) -- Ernest Hemingway
[Ox-Bow Incident, The](#) -- Walter Clark
[Pearl, The](#) -- John Steinbeck
[Pilgrim's Progress, The](#) -- John Bunyan
[Poems](#) -- Robert Frost
[Prince and the Pauper, The](#) -- Mark Twain
[Profiles in Courage](#) -- John F. Kennedy
[Raisin in the Sun](#) -- Lorraine Hansberry
[Rebecca](#) -- Daphne Du Maurier
[Robe, The](#) -- Lloyd C. Douglas
[Robinson Crusoe](#) -- Daniel Defoe
[Scarlet Pimpernel, The](#) -- Baroness Emma Orczy
[Sea Wolf, The](#) -- Jack London
[Shane](#) -- Jack Schaefer
[Story of My Life](#) -- Helen Keller
[Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, The](#) -- Robert Louis Stevenson
[Three Musketeers, The](#) -- Alexander Dumas
[Through the Looking Glass](#) -- Lewis Carroll

[Thurber Carnival, The](#) -- James Thurber
[Time Machine, The](#) -- H.G. Wells
[To Kill a Mockingbird](#) -- Harper Lee
[Tortilla Flat](#) -- John Steinbeck
[Tree Grows in Brooklyn, A](#) -- Betty Smith
[Two Years before the Mast](#) -- Richard H. Dana
Treasure Island -- Robert Louis Stevenson
[Up from Slavery](#) -- Booker T. Washington
[War of the Worlds](#) -- H.G. Wells
[Yearling, The](#) -- Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Classic Literature for Children

[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
[Black Beauty](#) -- Anna Sewell
[Black Stallion, The](#) -- Walter Farley
[Blueberries for Sal](#) -- Robert McCloskey
[Book of Nonsense](#) -- Edward Lear
[Borrowers series, The](#) -- Mary Norton
[Cabin Faced West, The](#) -- Jean Fritz
[Caddie Woodlawn](#) -- Carol Ryrie Brink
[Carry on, Mr. Bowditch](#) -- Jean Lee Latham
[Charlotte's Web](#) -- E.B. White
[Cheaper By the Dozen](#) -- Frank B. and Gilbreth
[Child's Garden of Verses, A](#) -- Robert Louis Stevenson
[Chronicles of Narnia series](#) -- C.S. Lewis
[Courage of Sarah Noble, The](#) -- Alice Dalgliesh
[Cricket in Times Square, The](#) -- George Selden
[Curious George series](#) -- H.A. Rey
[Doctor Doolittle series](#) -- Hugh Lofting
[Door in the Wall, The](#) -- Marguerite De Angeli
[Fables](#) -- Aesop
[Fairy tales](#) -- Hans Christian Andersen
[Ginger Pye](#) -- Eleanor Estes
[Goodnight, Moon](#) -- Margaret Wise Brown
[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
[Just So Stories for Little Children](#) - Rudyard Kipling
[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
[Mike Mulligan & His Steam Shovel](#) -- Virginia L Burton
[Miracles on Maple Hill](#) -- Virginia Sorenson
[Misty of Chincoteague](#) -- Marguerite Henry
[Moffats series](#) -- Eleanor Estes
[Mr. Popper's Penguins](#) -- Richard & Florence Atwater
[My Friend Flicka](#) -- Mary O'Hara
[Now We Are Six](#) -- A.A. Milne
[Old Yeller](#) -- Fred Gipson
[Peter Pan](#) -- J.M. Barrie
[Pippi Longstocking series](#) -- Astrid Lindgren
[Red Pony, The](#) -- John Steinbeck
[Reluctant Dragon, The](#) -- Kenneth Grahame
[Rifles for Watie](#) -- Harold Keith
[Secret Garden, The](#) -- Frances Hodgson Burnett
[Story of Babar, The](#) -- Jean de Brunhoff
[Story of Ferdinand, The](#) -- Munro Leaf
[Strawberry Girl](#) -- Lois Lenski
[Stuart Little](#) -- E.B. White
[Swiss Family Robinson](#) -- Johann Wyss
[Tale of Peter Rabbit, The](#) -- Beatrix Potter
[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
[Wind in the Willows, The](#) -- Kenneth Grahame
[Winnie-the-Pooh](#) -- A.A. Milne
[Witch of Blackbird Pond](#) -- Elizabeth George Speare
[Wonderful Wizard of Oz, The](#) -- L. Frank Baum

Another way to choose books is by theme. For example:

Character

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Forbes, *Johnny Tremain*

Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*

Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Paterson, *Bridge to Terabithia*

Ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*

Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Courage and Honor

Crane, Stephen, *The Red Badge of Courage*

Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*

MacLachlan, Patricia, *Sarah, Plain and Tall*

L'Engle, Madeleine *A Wrinkle in Time*

O'Dell, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Speare, *Sign of the Beaver*

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Lord of the Rings* series

Friendship & Loyalty

Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

Fleischman, Sid, *The Whipping Boy*

Fritz, Jean, *The Cabin Faced West*

Good vs. Evil

L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*

Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*

Survival

Taylor, Theodore, *The Cay*

O'Dell, Scott, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Sperry, Armstrong, *Call it Courage*

George, Jean C. *My Side of the Mountain*