

The Foundation for American Christian Education

The Joy of Reading



Independent Reading Lists
for Christian Families K through 12

Nothing is more supportive of a thorough education than giving children a love of books and opportunities to read widely. Now is the best time to instill the habit of reading by encouraging independent reading skills. A great way to encourage independent reading even for the reluctant reader is the family reading aloud in a shared experience of enjoying a book together.

Whatever your family habits might be, a good book list is essential in every home for cultivating the joy of reading.

*I could never have dreamt that there were such goings-
on in the world between the covers of books, such
sandstorms and ice blasts of words,
such staggering peace, such enormous laughter,
such and so many blinding bright lights,
splashing all over the pages.
in a million bits and pieces
all of which were words, words, words,
and each of which were alive forever
in its own delight and glory and oddity and light.*

Dylan Thomas

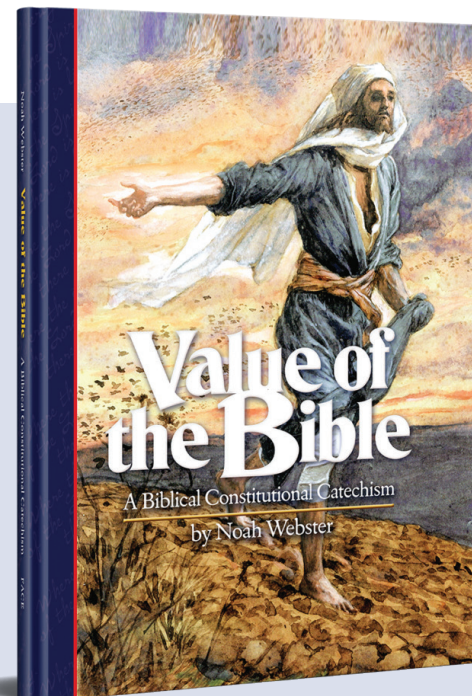
*Read to me riddles and read to me rhymes
Read to me stories of magical times
Read to me tales about castles and kings
Read to me stories of fabulous things
Read to me pirates and read to me knights
Read to me dragons and dragon-book fights
Read to me spaceships and cowboys and then
When you are finished— please read them again.*

Jane Yolen

The words learned by heart will echo throughout their lives.

This unique devotional book gives a comprehensive overview of God's Word written by the Father of American Christian education for families and students. Noah Webster speaks to the student in his "Advice to the Young" and provides a Biblical Constitutional Catechism for teaching children the history of the United States. *Value of the Bible* is suitable for the entire family and is an excellent tool for family devotions. The impressions made upon tender minds will have lasting and life-forming impact. *Value of the Bible: A Biblical Constitutional Catechism*. Available at FACE.net

*And these words that I command you today shall be on
your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you
sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*
Deuteronomy 6:6-7



“Read to me tales about castles and kings Read to me stories of fabulous things.” Jane Yolen

Among the many, many purposes that make the joy of reading important in every home, we suggest three that could frame your reading choices:

Entertainment and Escape: enriching hours through books — visiting new places, having exciting adventures, and meeting unusual characters — all building experiences for life.

Shaping Character: reading to cultivate conscience and character choices through the life experiences represented in fiction and biography.

Expanding Interests: exploring personal interests apart from formal study to develop understanding in areas of knowledge that pique interest.

Research has shown many ways that reading improves your mind:

- At a young age reading is focused on phonemic awareness and fluency.
- As you get older reading teaches vocabulary. Most children learn the meaning of words indirectly through experience and through oral and written language. The quality of what they are reading is vital to teaching good vocabulary.
- Comprehension is the reason for reading. It is important that the student understands what they read, remember what they read and communicate with others. Good readers need to have a purpose for reading and need to be actively involved in the process.
- Writing improves more when connected to reading than to grammar study or extra writing practice.

Reading is like the performance of a symphony

Reading can be compared to the performance of a symphony orchestra. This analogy illustrates three points:

First, like the performance of a symphony, reading is a holistic act. In other words, while reading can be analyzed into sub-skills such as discriminating letters and identifying words, performing the sub-skills one at a time does not constitute reading. Reading can be said to take place only when the parts are put together in a smooth, integrated performance.

Second, success in reading comes from practice over long periods of time, like skill in playing musical instruments. Indeed, it is a lifelong endeavor.

Third, as with a musical score, there may be more than one interpretation of a text. “The interpretation depends upon the background of the reader, the purpose for reading and the context in which reading occurs.”

(Anderson 1984, 7)



Primary Reading Level (6-8 year olds)

The Dot
by Peter Reynolds
Madeline
by Ludwig Bemelmans
Fredrick
by Leo Lionni
The Velveteen Rabbit
by Margery Williams
Swimmy
by Loe Lionni
Frog and Toad are Friends
by Arnold Lobel
A Treasury of Mother Goose
by Hilda Often
The Very Hungry Caterpillar
by Eric Carle
Petunia
by Roger Duvoisin
Angus and the Ducks
by Marjorie Flack

*If You Give a Mouse
a Cookie*

by Laura Numeroff
Amelia Bedelia
by Peggy Parish
Nate the Great
by Marjorie Sharmat
The Poky Little Puppy
by Jannette Lowry
Make Way for Ducklings
by Robert McCloskey
**Pocahontas*
by Ingri and Edgar
Parin d'Aulaire
**Benjamin Franklin*
by Ingri and Edgar
Parin d'Aulaire
**George Washington*
by Ingri and Edgar
Parin d'Aulaire
**Abraham Lincoln*
by Ingri and Edgar
Parin d'Aulaire
**Columbus*
by Ingri and Edgar

Parin d'Aulaire
**Snowflake Bentley*
by Jacqueline Briggs
Martin
**Pinocchio*
by Carol Collodi
**Benjamin West and
His Cat Grimalkin*
by Marguerite Henry
Heroes for Young Readers
by Rene Meloche
Winnie the Pooh
by A.A. Milne
Corduroy
by Don Freeman
*The Mouse and the
Motorcycle*
by Beverly Cleary

Please note: All the books in this suggested reading list can be found in your local library and bookstores everywhere. Books marked in **RED** with an asterisk (*) can be ordered from the FACE bookstore at FACE.net. Direct links are provided for your convenience.



Elementary Reading Level (9-12 year olds)

Charlotte's Web

by E.B. White

Shiloh

by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Wonder

by R.J. Palacio

***Little House
in the Big Woods**

by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Because of Winn-Dixie

by Kate DiCamillo

Plain and Tall

by Patricia Sarah MacLachlan

The Tale of Despereaux

by Kate DiCamillo

***The Magna Charta**

by James Daugherty

My Side of the Mountain

by Jean George

The Reluctant Dragon

by Kenneth Grahame

The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle

by Hugh Lofting

Gentle Ben

by Walt Morey

***Little Women**

by Louisa May Alcott

The Incredible Journey

by Sheila Burnford

Five Little Peppers

by Margaret Sidney

Caddie Woodlawn

by Carol Brink

Blue Willow

by Doris Gates

Old Yeller

by Fred Gipson

***Wizard of the North**

by Pearl Schultz

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

Julie of the Wolves

by Jean Craighead George

Anne of Green Gables

by Lucy Montgomery

Island of the Blue Dolphins

by Scott Odell

***Heidi**

by Johanna Spyri

Swiss Family Robinson

by Johann Wyss

Little Men

by Louisa May Alcott

***Hans Brinker**

by Mary Dodge

The Wind in the Willows

by Kenneth Grahame

Treasure Island

by Robert Louis Stevenson

**Around the World
in Eighty Days**

by Jules Verne

**Journey to the Center
of the Earth**

by Jules Verne

***Carry On, Mr. Bowditch**

by Jean Lee Latham

Cabin Faced West

by Jean Fritz

Louisiana Purchase

by Peter Roop & Connie Roop

The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower

by P.J. Lynch

Cinnabar,

the One O'Clock Fox

by Marguerite Henry

Justin Morgan Had a Horse

by Marguerite Henry

By the Great Horn Spoon

by Sid Fleischman

Caddie Woodlawn

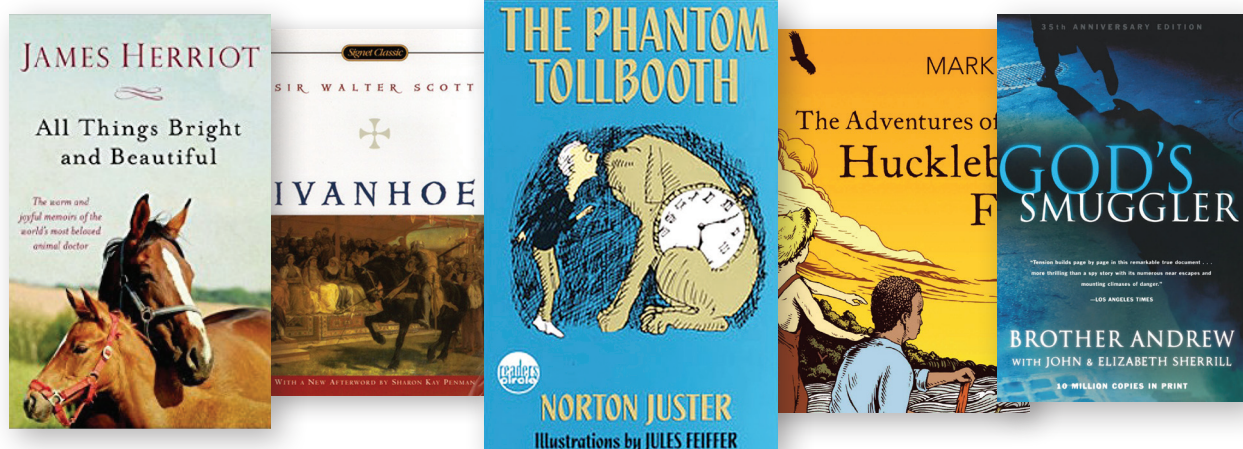
by Carol Ryrie Brink

Rush Revere and Brave Pilgrims

by Rush Limbaugh

***Tales from Shakespeare**

by Charles and Mary Lamb



Junior Reading Level (13-15 year olds)

The Penderwicks
by Jeanne Birdsall

Where the Fern Grows
by Wilson Rawls

Hatchet
by Gary Paulsen

**The Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn**
by Mark Twain

Three Musketeers
by Alexandre Dumas

Big Red
by James Kjelgaard

The Yearling
by Marjorie Rawlings

Bound for Oregon
by Jean Van Leeuwen

Understood Betsy
by Dorothy Fisher

Christy
by Catherine Marshall

My Friend Flicka
by Mary O'Hara

Freedom Train
by Dorothy Sterling

By Right of Conquest
by G.H. Henty

In the Reign of Terror
by G.H. Henty

All Things Bright and Beautiful
by James Herriot

***Virginia's General:**

Robert E. Lee

and the Civil War

by Albert Marrin

The Scarlet Pimpernel

by Emmuska Orczy

***Men of Iron**

by Howard Pyle

***Noah Webster,
Father of the Dictionary**

by Isabel Proudfit

Kidnapped

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry

by Mildred Taylor

Amos Fortune, Free Man

by Elizabeth Yates

God's Smuggler

by Brother Andrew

David Livingstone

by Jeanette Eaton

Calico Bush

by Rachel Field

The Last Crusader

by George Grant

By Pike and Dyke

by G.A. Henty

In Freedom's Cause

by G.A. Henty

Captains Courageous

by Rudyard Kipling

**The Hawk that Dare
Not Hunt By Day**

by Scott O'dell

The Black Arrow

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Morning Star of the Reformation

by Andy Thomson

The Phantom Tollbooth

by Norton Juster

The Ark, the Reed,

and the Fire Cloud

by Jenny Cote

To Kill a Mockingbird

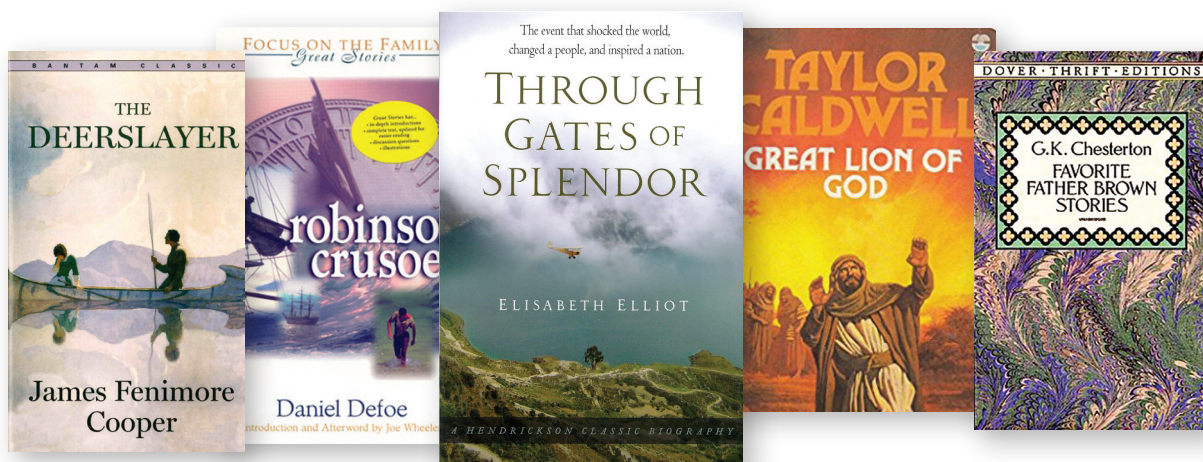
by Harper Lee

The Hobbit

by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Hiding Place

by Corrie ten Boom



Senior Reading Level (16-18 year olds)

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

by Robert Lewis Stevenson

Kisses from Katie

by Katie J. Davis

The Screwtape Letters

by C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia

by C.S. Lewis

A Day in the Life of

Ivan Denisovich

by Alexandr Solzhenitsyn

Father Arseny

translated by Vera Bouteneff

A Girl of Limberlost

by Gene Stratton-Porter

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

***Robinson Crusoe**

by Daniel DeFoe

To Have and to Hold

by Mary Johnston

***The Deerslayer**

by James Fenimore Cooper

***The Spirit of St. Louis**

by Charles Lindbergh

***Mother Carey's Chickens**

by Kate Douglas Wiggin

***Of Courage Undaunted: Across the Continent with Lewis and Clark**

by James Daugherty

Miracle at Midway

by Gordon W. Prange

Edward V. Rickenbacker:

an Autobiography

by Edward V. Rickenbacker

Seven Came Back

by Edward V. Rickenbacker

Quo Vadis

by Henryk Sienkiewicz

Pillar of Iron

by Taylor Caldwell

Great Lion of God

by Taylor Caldwell

Dear and Glorious Physician

by Taylor Caldwell

The Big Fisherman

by Lloyd C. Douglas

The Robe

by Lloyd C. Douglas

A Tale of Two Cities

by Charles Dickens

The Count of Monte Cristo

by Alexandre Dumas

Banner in the Sky

by James Ramsey Ullman

Run Silent, Run Deep

by Edward L. Beach

Mama's Bank Account

by Kathryn Forbes

So Big

by Edna Ferber

How Green is My Valley

by Richard Llewellyn

Lord of the Rings

by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Bridges at Toko-ri

by James A. Michener

The Good Earth

by Pearl Buck

Shadows On the Rock

by Willa Cather

The Light in the Forest

by Conrad Richter

Tom Sawyer

by Mark Twain

The House of Seven Gables

by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Madam Curie

by Eve Curie

Ben Hur

by Lew Wallace

Alone

by Admiral Richard E. Byrd

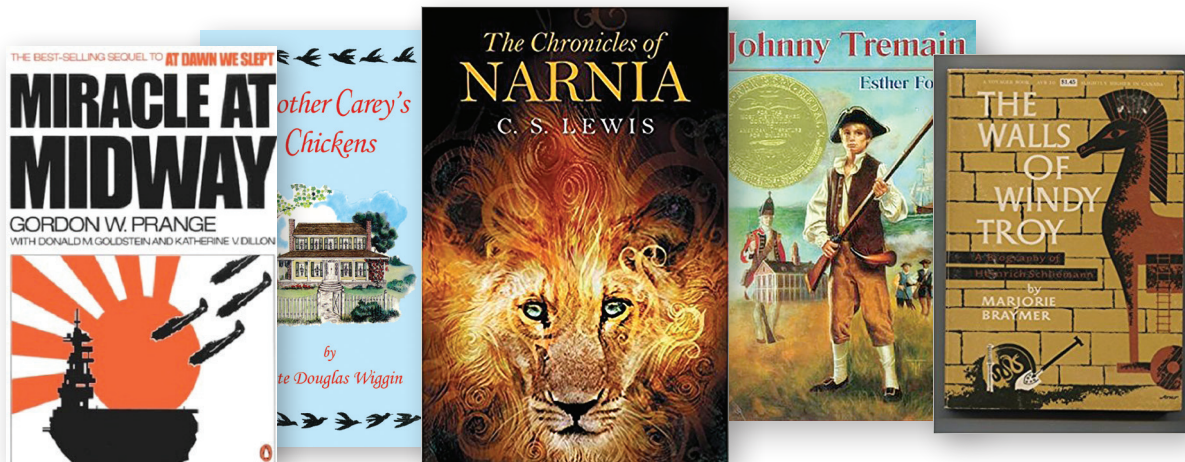
Admiral of the Ocean Sea

by Samuel Eliot Morison

***David Copperfield,**

The Personal History

by Charles Dickens



Senior Reading Level continued (16-18 year olds)

Glory and the Dream:

Abraham Lincoln

by Michael A. Musmanno

***Ivanhoe**

by Sir Walter Scott

**Thread That Runs So True: Story of
a Kentucky Mountain School Teacher**

by Jesse Stuart

**Walls of Windy Troy: Biography of
Heinrich Schliemann**

by Marjorie Braymer

Sense and Sensibility

by Jane Austin

Walden or Life in the Woods

by Henry David Thoreau

The Sign of the Beaver

by Elizabeth George Speare

Through Gates of Splendor

by Elizabeth Elliott

Johnny Tremain

by Esther Forbes

Favorite Father Brown Stories

by G.K. Chesterton

Mere Christianity

by C.S. Lewis

Orthodoxy

by G.K. Chesterton

1984

by George Orwell

Animal Farm

by George Orwell

The Pilgrim's Progress

by John Bunyan

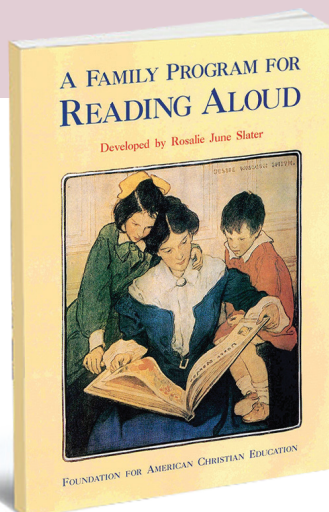
Brave New World

by Aldous Huxley

***Great Expectations**

by Charles Dickens

*** Available at FACE.net**



A Family Program for Reading Aloud The family is the educational center of our nation. Teach leadership and Christian character to your children through literature. This valuable volume discusses more than 200 classics by great authors that identify Biblical ideals and will give your children a better understanding of forming Christian character. Expand your child's interests and make your home the beginning place for developing leaders. For decades this book has been bonding and blessing families who discover the delight of enjoying books together. Paperback, illustrated, 120 pages, Only \$19.95. Available at FACE.net.



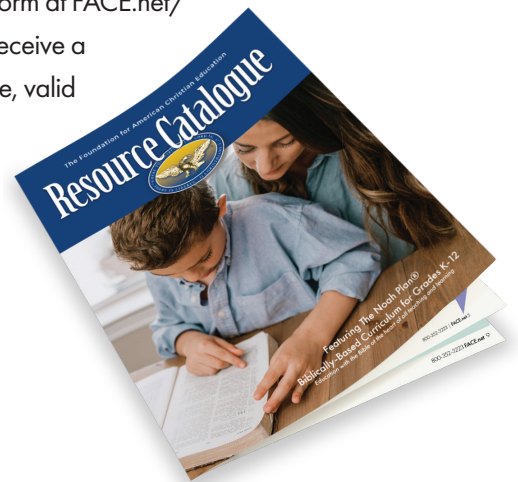
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The Foundation for American Christian Education (FACE) was founded in 1965 with the purpose of reminding Americans of their unique heritage of Christian liberty, documented in our nation's primary sources. FACE remains steadfast in its goal to re-arm Americans with the principles of liberty that formed our nation, enabling them to be Keepers of Liberty and excellent Christian scholars. Our threefold mission:

1. **Safeguarding His Story** by preserving primary sources that mark milestones in Constitutional history and self-government housed in the Hall-Slater Library and Teaching Center.
2. **Teaching Biblical principles** and America's Christian history to teachers, families, pastors and Christian leaders.
3. **Planting the seeds of Christian self-government** by publishing a Biblically-based curriculum to restore Biblical principles and Christian character to our Republic.

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