

Reading List for Students Entering 3rd Grade

Reading Range: 2nd-5th Grade

Classical Books (Timeless & Rich in Language and Themes)

These are age-appropriate, adapted when needed, and great for family read-alouds or independent reading:

Book Title	Author	Approx. Grade Level
Charlotte's Web	E.B. White	3rd-5th
The Boxcar Children	Gertrude Chandler Warner	2nd-4th
The Tale of Peter Rabbit	Beatrix Potter	2nd
Winnie-the-Pooh	A.A. Milne	2nd-4th
The Secret Garden (abridged)	Frances Hodgson Burnett	4th-5th
The Wind in the Willows (adapted)	Kenneth Grahame	3rd-5th
Pippi Longstocking	Astrid Lindgren	3rd-5th
The Hundred Dresses	Eleanor Estes	3rd-5th
A Bear Called Paddington	Michael Bond	3rd-4th
The Velveteen Rabbit	Margery Williams	2nd-3rd

Beloved Standalone Books (Modern & Classic Mix)

Book Title	Author	Approx. Grade Level
Because of Winn-Dixie	Kate DiCamillo	3rd-5th
Henry Huggins	Beverly Cleary	3rd-5th
Sarah, Plain and Tall	Patricia MacLachlan	3rd-5th
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Kate DiCamillo	4th-5th
Stone Fox	John Reynolds Gardiner	3rd-5th
The Year of Billy Miller	Kevin Henkes	2nd-4th
My Father's Dragon	Ruth Stiles Gannett	2nd-4th
Frindle	Andrew Clements	4th-5th
Mr. Popper's Penguins	Richard & Florence Atwater	3rd-4th
Owls in the Family	Farley Mowat	3rd-5th

Series to Spark a Love of Reading

These are perfect for growing confidence and engagement.

For 2nd-3rd Grade AR Level

Series	Author	Notes
---------------	---------------	--------------

Mercy Watson	Kate DiCamillo	Funny early chapter books
Henry and Mudge	Cynthia Rylant	Gentle and warm
Frog and Toad	Arnold Lobel	Classic friendship tales
Amelia Bedelia (early chapter versions)	Peggy Parish	Great for idioms
Nate the Great	Marjorie Weinman Sharmat	Beginner mysteries
The Littles	John Peterson	Fun for imaginations

For 3rd-4th Grade AR Level

Series	Author	Notes
Magic Tree House	Mary Pope Osborne	Historical fiction/fantasy blend
Cam Jansen	David A. Adler	Young detective
Junie B. Jones	Barbara Park	Spunky first-person humor
Ivy + Bean	Annie Barrows	Friendship and mischief
The Critter Club	Callie Barkley	Animals and teamwork
A to Z Mysteries	Ron Roy	Exciting chapter mysteries

For 4th-5th Grade AR Level

Series	Author	Notes
The Boxcar Children	Gertrude Chandler Warner	Mystery and family adventures
Ramona Quimby	Beverly Cleary	Realistic and funny
The Wild Robot (duology)	Peter Brown	Tech, nature, and heart
Fudge series	Judy Blume	Great humor and sibling themes
The Chronicles of Narnia	C.S. Lewis	Advanced but excellent read-alouds

Faith-Based Options (Optional for Catholic or Christian Families)

Book Title/Series	Author	Notes
The Chronicles of Narnia	C.S. Lewis	Christian allegory in fantasy form
The Tale of Three Trees	Angela Elwell Hunt	Beautiful Easter allegory
Saint Stories for Kids	various	Choose age-appropriate collections
Little House on the Prairie	Laura Ingalls Wilder	Christian themes, pioneer life

Tips for Use

- Encourage daily reading time (20 minutes).
- Mix read-alouds, independent reading, and audiobooks.
- Discuss books with open-ended questions to build comprehension.
- Use library trips to let your child explore and pick what interests them.
- **Don't forget about the summer reading program. Our Clark County Library is a rich community resource! Please visit over the summer.**
- **Few habits are as enriching and impactful for our children as reading regularly. ❤️**

Have a wonderful summer! ☀️