

CHILDREN'S BOOKS, ADULT VIEWPOINTS: BIBLIOGRAPHY

Introduction: This bibliography is the result of my own experience as a children's librarian, plus a lot of input from friends. The list does not include nonfiction, picture books, folk tales, or poetry, as those are separate genres and could be the topics of another seminar. Likewise, these are all books that were published before WWII. (The date after the title is the date of first publication.) I have tried, not too successfully, to avoid books that were originally intended for adult readers but, over time, have been repositioned as children's literature. The list is by no means complete; if you have an idea for a book that is not on the list, check with me and we will see if it meets the parameters. All of these books are available as inexpensive paperbacks; most are also available as ebooks, and many as audio books. Please avoid abridged editions.

Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women. 1868)

Semi-autobiographical novel that follows the lives of the four March sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy - as they grow from childhood to womanhood.

Anderson, Hans Christian. The Little Mermaid and Other Fairy Tales. (1837)

Anderson wrote more than 150 stories, including “The Little Mermaid,” “The Ugly Duckling,” and “The Emperor’s New Clothes.” This edition, available from Barnes & Noble, contains seventeen of them.

Barrie, J. M. Peter Pan; or, the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up. (1911)

The adventures of a free-spirited boy who can fly and lives on a mythical island called Neverland with the Lost Boys and his friend Wendy Darling.

Baum, L. Frank. The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. (1900)

Considered the first truly American fairy tale, this story chronicles the adventures of young Dorothy after she and her dog Toto are swept away to Oz by a tornado.

Burgess, Thornton W. Old Mother West Wind. (1910)

Gentle stories about the creatures who live in the Green Forest, including Reddy Fox, Johnny Chuck, and Jimmy Skunk. First in Burgess's “Mother West Wind” series.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. Little Lord Fauntleroy. 1885-86)

Cedric lives in New York in poverty with his mother until he is discovered to be the grandson of an English earl who hates Americans.

----- . A Little Princess. (1905)

Sara Crewe is sent to a boarding school where she is given royal treatment – until the headmistress learns that Sara’s father has lost his fortune.

----- . The Secret Garden. (1911)

How Mary Lennox, a spoiled, unloved child, is transformed by the love of nature after being taken to live in the wilds of Yorkshire.

Burroughs, Edgar Rice. Tarzan of the Apes. (1912)

An orphaned English boy is adopted by a gorilla family; he grows up to bring revenge to his parents’ murderer.

Carroll, Lewis (pseud.). Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland/Through the Looking Glass. (1865)

Alice falls through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world of anthropomorphic creatures. In the sequel, she again enters a fantasy world, this time by climbing through a mirror.

Collodi, Carlo. Pinocchio. (1883)

The mischievous adventures of an animated marionette and his father, a poor woodcarver.

Curtis, Alice Turner. A Little Maid of Province Town. (1910)

Life is full of excitement for little Anne Nelson who lives in a fishing village at the tip of Cape Cod in the days before the American Revolution. First in Curtis’s series of “Little Maid” historical fiction.

Dixon, Franklin W. (pseud.). The Tower Treasure [Hardy Boys series]. (1927)

First in the series of mystery stories about teenage brothers who are amateur sleuths.

Dodge, Mary Mapes. Hans Brinker; or, the Silver Skates. (1865)

In 19th-century Holland, a pair of beautiful skates will be awarded to the winner of a speed-skating race on the canal. Hans would love to win, but with his home-made wooden skates, he has little chance.

Fisher, Dorothy Canfield. Understood Betsy. (1916)

Elizabeth Ann has lived a sheltered life with her aunts in the city. But when she is sent to live on a farm in Vermont with her mother’s cousins, she discovers that she is more competent than she had thought.

Garis, Howard R. Uncle Wiggily’s Story Book. (1910)

Lighthearted stories about Uncle Wiggily, an engaging gentleman rabbit, and his forest friends.

Grahame, Kenneth. The Wind in the Willows. (1908)

Toad is wealthy but scatter-brained, and when he becomes obsessed with motorcars, his friends Rat, Mole, and Badger must come to his rescue.

Grey, Zane. Riders of the Purple Sage. (1912)

Considered one of the foundations of the Western genre, this exciting story involves cattle-rustling, horse-theft, kidnapping, and gunfights.

Gruelle, Johnny. Raggedy Ann and Andy Stories. (1918)

Heartwarming stories about a lovable doll and her toy friends.

James, Will. Smoky the Cow Horse. (1927)

Smoky, a wild colt of the American west, is tamed by a gentle cowboy, but is stolen and sold to a succession of cruel owners. Will he ever find his way back to his friend?

Keene, Carolyn (pseud.). Secret of the Old Clock [Nancy Drew series]. (1930)

First in the series of mystery stories about Nancy Drew, girl detective.

Kipling, Rudyard. Captains Courageous (1896)

The adventures of the spoiled son of a railroad tycoon, after he is rescued from drowning by a fishing schooner off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

----- The Jungle Book. (1894)

A collection of short stories, mostly about animals, although a principal character is Mowgli, a boy who is raised in the jungle by wolves. Other stories include "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi," about a mongoose who triumphs over his enemies, a pair of cobras.

----- Just So Stories. (1902)

Twelve stories, originally bedtime stories for Kipling's daughter Effie, that are among Kipling's best known works.

----- Kim. (1901)

Kim, the orphaned son of an Irish soldier, lives a vagabond existence in the slums of Lahore until he is recruited to become a spy for British intelligence.

Lofting, Hugh. The Story of Doctor Dolittle. (1923)

When a parrot teaches Dr. Dolittle how to talk to animals, he becomes their champion around the world.

London, Jack. Call of the Wild. (1903)

Buck, a collie-St. Bernard mix, is stolen from his peaceful California home and sold as a sled dog in the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush. As he learns to survive in the harsh environment, he gradually sheds the veneer of civilization.

Montgomery, L. M. Anne of Green Gables. (1908)

Anne Shirley, an orphan, is mistakenly sent to live with two middle-aged siblings who were expecting a boy to help with the farm. Will Anne's spunky personality bring them chaos or joy?

----- Emily of New Moon. (1923)

When her father dies, Emily goes to live with relatives who don't understand her and her need to write, but she finds her way with the help of good friends and a caring teacher.

Macdonald, George. The Princess and the Goblin. (1872)

Considered a pioneer of modern fantasy literature, this story tells of a lonely princess who is kidnapped by goblins and rescued by Curdie, a young miner.

Mulock, Dinah Maria. The Little Lame Prince. (1875)

Young Prince Dolor, crippled by a trauma during infancy, is exiled to a tower in a wasteland, until his fairy godmother gives him with a magical travelling cloak.

Nesbit, E. Five Children and It. (1902)

While spending the summer in the countryside, five siblings uncover a grumpy, ugly sand-fairy with the ability to grant wishes.

Peck, George W. Peck's Bad Boy and His Pa. (1883)

The fictional adventures of Henry "Hennery" Peck, a mischievous prankster.

Perkins, Lucy Fitch. The Dutch Twins. (1911)

Through the eyes of Kit and Kat, 5 year-old twins, we catch a glimpse of life in Holland a century ago. First of Perkins' "twins" series.

Pyle, Howard. The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood. (1883)

Classic tales of how Robin and his Merry Men – Little John, Will Scarlett, Friar Tuck and the rest – steal from the rich, give to the poor, and generally frustrate the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Pyle, Katharine. The Counterpane Fairy. (1898)

Teddy is bedridden, recovering from a long illness. He is visited by a fairy who entertains him with stories, each one associated with one of the squares in his counterpane quilt.

Ransome, Arthur. Swallows and Amazons. (1930)

The "Swallows," four siblings who take their name from the name of their sailboat, meet the "Amazons," two tomboy sisters, while camping on an island in a lake. Their adventures are capped by catching an actual burglar.

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. The Yearling. (1938)

Set in rural Florida, the story follows young Jody as he struggles with loneliness and poverty, lightened by his affection for his pet fawn, Flag.

Sewell, Anna. Black Beauty. (1877)

The fictional autobiography of a gentle, well-bred horse during the era before automobiles. Black Beauty lives comfortably with a kind family, but is sold to series of increasingly brutal owners.

Stratton-Porter, Gene. A Girl of the Limberlost. (1909)

Elnora, an impoverished young woman who lives with her emotionally abusive mother, decides to pay for her education by selling moths and other biological specimens from Limberlost Swamp.

Spyri, Johanna. Heidi. (1881)

Heidi lives an idyllic life in the Swiss Alps until her aunt takes her to Frankfurt to be a companion to Clara, a lonely, shut-in invalid.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. Treasure Island. (1883)

An adventure story of “buccaneers and buried gold.”

Sydney, Margaret. The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew. (1881)

The five Pepper children live, learn and play in their little brown house. They are poor, and Mamsie must work, but their lives are happy.

Terhune, Albert Payson. Lad: A Dog. (1919)

Lad, an intelligent, courageous collie, lives at The Place, with his Master and Mistress. His adventures include attacking a burglar, and saving a baby from a poisonous snake.

Travers, P. L. Mary Poppins. (1934)

A magical nanny is blown by the East wind into the Banks' household, and everyday life is forever changed.

Twain, Mark (pseud.). The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. (1876)

In the course of just a few weeks, Tom gets engaged to the new girl in town, witnesses a murder, stays in a haunted house, finds buried treasure, gets lost in a cave, and watches his own funeral – and don't forget white-washing the fence!

----- The Prince and the Pauper. (1882)

Two boys are born on the same day into dramatically different circumstances. Physically identical, they swap places, and what was intended as a prank goes spectacularly wrong.

Verne, Jules. Around the World in Eighty Days. (1872)

To win a bet, a London adventurer and his valet attempt to circumnavigate the world in 80 days.

----- A Journey to the Center of the Earth. (1864)

A party of explorers rappels into an inactive volcano, attempting to reach the very center of the earth.

----- Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas. (1870)

French naturalist Dr. Aronnax embarks on an expedition to hunt down a sea monster, but discovers instead the *Nautilus*, a self-contained world built by the enigmatic Captain Nemo.

Warner, Gertrude Chandler. The Boxcar Children. (1924)

Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny are orphans, and the only way they can stay together is to make it on their own. (*Note: This book has spawned more than a hundred sequels, some by other authors. For the seminar, we are only interested in this first book.*)

Webster, Jean. Daddy Long Legs. (1912)

Jerusha Abbott has lived her whole life in an orphanage, but her life changes when a mysterious benefactor sends her to college.

Wiggin, Kate Douglas. Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm. (1903)

Rebecca lives with her aunts, one stern and one kind. Her joy for life inspires her aunts, but she faces many trials as well.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. Little House in the Big Woods. (1932)

Laura lives with her family in the Big Woods of Wisconsin, where hard work is the rule, but fun is often had in the middle of it.

Wyss, Johann David. Swiss Family Robinson. (1812)

A family of immigrants is on a ship bound for Australia, but the ship goes off course and they are shipwrecked on an island. They undergo many adventures as they learn to survive.