

## What books should a child read before they leave Primary School?

It pretty much goes with saying that Reading is an essential life-skill.

As a teacher, it is always a focus and we always endeavour to ensure that all children have access to good quality texts and we encourage them to read regularly.

### **The New Curriculum states:**

*The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the written and spoken word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:*

- ⇒ *Read easily, fluently and with good understanding*
- ⇒ *Develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information*
- ⇒ *Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language*
- ⇒ *Appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage*
- ⇒ *Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences*
- ⇒ *Use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas*
- ⇒ *Are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.*

And to be fair much of that sounds quite reasonable.

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This collection of books is made up of the recommendations from teachers and authors from all around the world; from Florida USA to Sydney Australia and from Lincoln England to Wellington NZ and most places in between.

It includes recommendations from authors such as:

Neil Gaiman, Phillip Pullman, Malorie Blackman, Brian Moses, Michael Rosen and Helena Pieliechaty.

The thanks go to all contributors via Twitter, Facebook and beyond.

There were over 200 separate contributions to the lists.

### **Remember:**

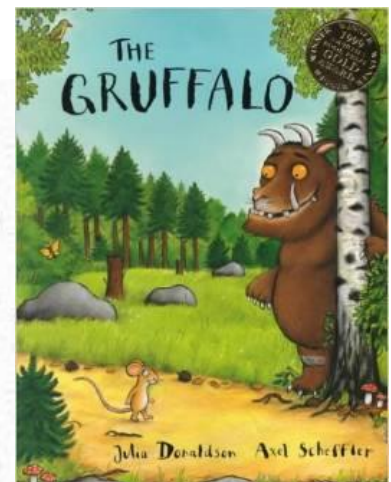
You don't have to agree with all the suggestions and if you have any books that you don't see on the list and think should be, please get in touch:

Email Mike: [wats.ed.consultancy@gmail.com](mailto:wats.ed.consultancy@gmail.com)



**Books recommended for EYFS:**

The Day The Crayons Quit	Oliver Jeffers	Simple Picture Book
The Gruffalo	Julia Donaldson	Simple Picture Book
Duck In The Truck	Jez Alborough	Simple Picture Book
Owl Babies	Waddel/Benson	Simple Picture Book
The Very Hungry Caterpillar	Eric Carle	Simple Picture Book
Elmer	David McKee	Simple Picture Book
We're Going On A Bear Hunt	Michael Rosen	Simple Picture Book
Handa's Surprise	Eileen Browne	Simple Picture Book
Burglar Bill	Janet and Allan Ahlberg	Simple Picture Book
The Places You Will Go	Dr Seuss	Simple Picture Book
Hairy McClary	Lynley Dodd	Simple Picture Book
Newton	Rory Tiger	Simple Narrative
The Tiger Who Came To Tea	Judith Kerr	Simple Narrative
Squash And A Squeeze	Julia Donaldson	Simple Narrative
Where's My Teddy	Jez Alborough	Simple Narrative
Mog The Forgetful Cat	Judith Kerr	Simple Narrative
Classic Fairy Tales	Various	Simple Narrative



The most popular repeated submissions were:

Goodnight Mr Tom – Michelle Magorian

Skellig – David Almond

The Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson

We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen

The Twits – Roald Dahl

Wonder - R J Palacio (6 separate recommendations and the most suggested)



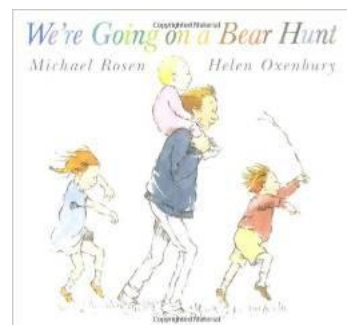
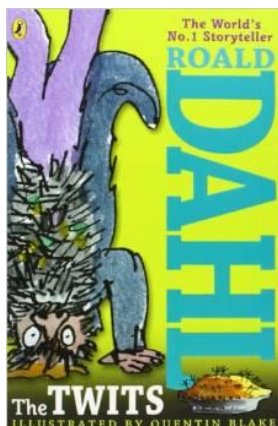
### Books recommended for KSI:

Owl Babies	Martin Waddell	Simple Picture Book
Shhhhh!	Sally Grindley & Peter Upton	Simple Picture Book
Max The Champion	Sean Stockdale	Simple Picture Book
Zoo	Anthony Browne	Simple Picture Book
The Pirate Cruncher	Johnny Duddle	Simple Picture Book
Man On The Moon	Simon Bartram	Simple Picture Book
Gorilla	Anthony Browne	Simple Picture Book
Where The Wild Things Are	Maurice Sendak	Simple Picture Book
The Tiger Who Came To Tea	Judith Kerr	Simple Picture Book
The Paper Bag Princess	Robert Munsch	Simple Picture Book
Peepo	Allan and Janet Ahlberg	Simple Picture Book
The PenguinPig	Stuart Spendlow	Simple Picture Book
Voices In The Park	Anthony Browne	Simple Picture Book
Oh The Places You'll Go!	Dr Seuss	Simple Picture Book
The Selfish Giant	Oscar Wilde	Simple Picture Book
Classic Fairy Tales	Various	Simple Narrative
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	Simple Narrative
Room On The Broom	Julia Donaldson	Simple Narrative
What The Ladybird Heard	Julia Donaldson	Simple Narrative
The Twits	Roald Dahl	Simple Narrative
Rainbow Fairies Series	Daisy Meadows	Simple Narrative
Badger's Parting Gifts	Susan Varley	Simple Narrative
The Gruffalo	Julia Donaldson	Simple Narrative
The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark	Jill Tomlinson	Simple Narrative
Cat In The Hat	Dr Seuss	Simple Narrative
Something Else	Kathryn Cave	Simple Narrative
The Goalkeeper's Revenge	Bill Naughton	Simple Narrative
Taking The Cat's Way Home	Jan Mark	More Complex Narrative
Magic Faraway Tree	Enid Blyton	More Complex Narrative
Matilda	Roald Dahl	Novel



**Books recommended for LKS2 (Y3/4):**

The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Tales	Jon Scieszka	Simple Picture Book
Ish	Peter Reynolds	Simple Picture Book
Until I Met Dudley	Roger McGough	Simple Picture Book
The Places You Will Go	Dr Seuss	Simple Picture Book
The Firework Maker's Daughter	Philip Pullman	Simple Narrative
George's Marvellous Medicine	Roald Dahl	Simple Narrative
The Secret Island	Enid Blyton	Simple Narrative
Bill's New Frock	Anne Fine	Simple Narrative
Snow Spider	Jenny Nimmo	Simple Narrative
Cool	Michael Morpurgo	Simple Narrative
Mr Stink	David Walliams	Simple Narrative
The One And Only Ivan	K A Applegate	Simple Narrative
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	Simple Narrative
World Of Poo	Terry Pratchett	Simple Narrative
Time Train - To The Blitz	Sophie McKenzie	Simple Narrative
Clockwork	Phillip Pullman	Simple Narrative
Boy Overboard	Morris Gleitzman	Simple Narrative
Stig Of The Dump	Clive King	Simple Narrative
Ottoline And The Yellow Cat	Chris Riddell	More Complex Narrative
Varjak Paw	F. S. Said	More Complex Narrative
The Rabbits	Shaun Tan	Graphic Novel
The Merman	Dick King Smith	Novel
Kaspar	Michael Morpurgo	Novel
The Twits	Roald Dahl	Novel
Fantastic Mr Fox	Roald Dahl	Novel
Harry Potter & The Philosopher's Stone	J K Rowling	Novel
The Iron Man	Ted Hughes	Novel
Flat Stanley	Jeff Brown	Novel
Swallows And Amazons	Arthur Ransome	Novel
The Famous Five (Series)	Enid Blyton	Novel



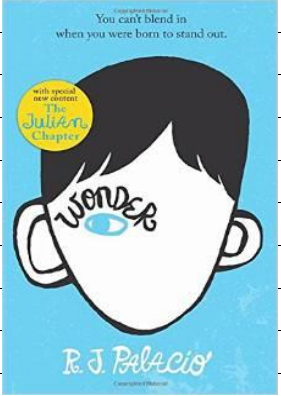

### Books recommended for UKS2 (Y5/6):

The Watertower	Gary Crew	Simple Picture Book
The Paradise Garden	Colin Thompson	Simple Picture Book
The Lost Thing	Shaun Tan	Graphic Novel
The Invention Of Hugo Cabret	Brian Selznick	Graphic Novel
Flotsam	David Wiesner	Wordless
Kasper - Prince Of Cats	Michael Morpurgo	Simple Narrative
Tiger Rising	Kate DiCamillo	Simple Narrative
The 18th Emergency	Betsy Byers	Simple Narrative
Willy The Wimp	Anthony Browne	Simple Narrative
Why The Whales Came	Michael Morpurgo	Simple Narrative
The Water Babies	Charles Kingsley	Simple Narrative
Coraline	Neil Gaiman	Simple Narrative
Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo	More Complex Narrative
Charlotte's Web	E B White	More Complex Narrative
Wolf Brother	Michelle Paver	More Complex Narrative
Stay Where You Are Then Leave	John Boyne	More Complex Narrative
Pig Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman	More Complex Narrative
Street Child	Berlie Doherty	More Complex Narrative
Boom	Mark Haddon	More Complex Narrative
Varjak Paw	S F Said	More Complex Narrative
The Other Side Of Truth	Beverley Naidoo	More Complex Narrative
Big Tom	Jean Ure	More Complex Narrative
Butterfly Lion	Michael Morpurgo	More Complex Narrative
Under The Hawthorn Tree	Marita McKenna	More Complex Narrative
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	More Complex Narrative
Jade's Story	Helena Pieliechaty	More Complex Narrative
Charlie Bone Series	Jenny Nimmo	More Complex Narrative
The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken	More Complex Narrative
The Midnight Fox	Betsy Byers	More Complex Narrative
Gilgamesh	Geraldine McCaughrean	More Complex Narrative
King Arthur	Geraldine McCaughrean	More Complex Narrative
The Turbulent Term Of Tyke Tiler	Gene Kemp	More Complex Narrative
Skellig	David Almond	More Complex Narrative
Eight Days Of Luke	Diana Wynne-Jones	More Complex Narrative
Kids' Shakespeare Series	E Nesbitt	More Complex Narrative
The Best Christmas Present In The World	Michael Morpurgo	More Complex Narrative
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	More Complex Narrative
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	More Complex Narrative
Wonder	R J Palacio	More Complex Narrative



Books Every Child Should Read before leaving Primary School

Curated by Mike Watson - WatsEducation

Abomination	Robert Swindells	More Complex Narrative	
Ransom Of Dond	Siobahn Dowd	More Complex Narrative	
There's A Boy In The Girl's Bathroom	Louis Sachar	Novel	
Matilda	Roald Dahl	Novel	
What Katy Did	Susan M Cooleridge	Novel	
The Machine Gunners	Robert Westall	Novel	
Danny Champion Of The World	Roald Dahl	Novel	
Kaspar Prince Of Cats	Michael Murpurgo	Novel	
Kensuke's Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo	Novel	
Goodnight Mr Tom	Michelle Magorian	Novel	
The Runaways	Ruth Thomas	Novel	
The Garbage King	Elizabeth Laird	Novel	
The Whispering Road	Livi Michael	Novel	
Weirdo's War	Michael Coleman	Novel	
Demon Dentist	David Walliams	Novel	
Granny	Anthony Horowitz	Novel	
The Switch	Anthony Horowitz	Novel	
The Borrowers	Mary Norton	Novel	
Diary Of A Wimpy Kid	Jeff Kinney	Novel	
Chocolate Box Series	Cathy Cassidy	Novel	
Any Jacqueline Wilson!	Jacqueline Wilson	Novel	
The Hobbit	JRR Tolkien	Novel	
Journey To The River Sea	Eva Ibbotson	Novel	
Bridge To Terbitia	Katherine Paterson	Novel	
Tomorrow When The War Began	John Marsden	Novel	
The Giver	Lois Lowry	Novel	
I Am David	Anne Holm	Novel	
A Little Love Song	Michelle Magorian	Novel	
Rooftoppers	Katherine Rundell	Novel	
Holes	Louis Sachar	Novel	
The Brothers Lionheart	Astrid Lindgren	Novel	
Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan	Novel	
Tom's Midnight Garden	Jill Paton Walsh	Novel	
Bearkeeper	Josh Lacey	Novel	
Harry Potter Series	JK Rowling	Novel	
Chronicles Of Narnia (Series)	CS Lewis	Novel	
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	Novel	
My Sister Lives On The Mantelpiece	Annabel Pitche	Novel	
The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman	Novel	
His Dark Materials Trilogy	Philip Pullman	Novel	



Here is an InfoGraphic which goes a long way towards explaining how important it is that children, read, are read to and enjoy reading...

## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"  
reads **20 minutes**  
each day

3600 minutes in  
a school year

**1,800,000 words**



Student "B"  
reads **5 minutes**  
each day

900 minutes in  
a school year

**282,000 words**



Student "C"  
reads **1 minute**  
each day

180 minutes in  
a school year

**8,000 words**



If the National Curriculum wants this:

- ⇒ Read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- ⇒ Develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- ⇒ Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- ⇒ Appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage

**Then perhaps 20 minutes a day is more valuable than we realise!**

