



J. Michael Lunsford Middle School Library

RECOMMENDED CLASSICS

These classics are great stories which will enrich your mind, improve your vocabulary and challenge your thinking. This list covers a broad reading range. Many of you read above your grade level, but if you are not comfortable reading a particular book then put it down and choose another. Included in this list are the Accelerated Reader Reading Levels, 7.4= 7th grade, fourth month of schooling...*Mrs. Sullivan, Librarian*

FICTION

		AR reading level
Alcott, Louisa Man	Little Women Chronicles the joys and troubles of the four March sisters -- Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth - as they grow into young ladies during the Civil War.	7.4
Armstrong, William	Souder Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read and through his relation with his devoted dog, Sounder.	5.3
Austen, Jane	Emma Emma Woodhouse imagines that she dominates those around her in the small town of Highbury, but her inept matchmaking creates problems for herself and others.	9.3
Austen, Jane	Pride and Prejudice In eighteenth-century England, a proud heroine and a dashing, prejudiced hero, whose worth is slowly discovered.	12.1
Baum, Frank	The Wizard of Oz/ Wonderful Wizard of Oz (series) Lifted from Kansas to the magical Land of Oz, Dorothy Gale meets a Scarecrow, a Tin Woodman, and a cowardly Lion, all of whom set off to find the Wizard and defeat the Wicked Witch of the West.	7.0
Barrie, James	Peter Pan The adventures of the three Darling children in Never-Never Land with Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up	7.2
Bronte, Charlotte	Jane Eyre Jane, a plain and penniless orphan in nineteenth-century England, accepts employment as a governess at Thornfield Hall and soon finds herself in love with her melancholy employer, Mr. Edward Rochester, a man with a terrible secret.	7.9
Burnett, Frances H	The Secret Garden Spoiled Mary Lennox is orphaned and forced to move into a dreary mansion with her uncle. But when she meets her invalid cousin Colin and a friend, Dickon, the three children bring to life the mansion's long-dormant garden as well as the joyous spirit within them all..	6.3
Carroll, Lewis	Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass By falling down a rabbit hole and stepping through a mirror, Alice experiences unusual adventures with a variety of nonsensical characters.	7.8
Carter, Forrest	The Education of Little Tree Autobiographical remembrances of the author's Indian boyhood, with his Eastern Cherokee Hill Country grandparents in the 1930s Depression era	5.5
Crane, Stephen	The Red Badge of Courage Henry Fleming joins the Union army with dreams of becoming a hero, but after he runs in terror from battle, he must face his cowardice and fight to win back his self-respect.	8.0
de Saint-Exupery, Antoine	The Little Prince This enchanting fable tells the story of a pilot downed in the Sahara and a boy from outer space who teaches him the meaning of life.	5.0
Dahl, Roald	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.	4.8

Dickens, Charles	A Christmas Carol Mean miser Ebenezer Scrooge learns the true meaning of Christmas after being visited by three ghosts.	6.7
	Oliver Twist Tale of an orphan who escapes to London where he is captured by thieves and finally escapes to find a real home.	10.7
Doyle, Arthur Conan	Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Amateur detective Sherlock Holmes, the master of deductive reasoning, solves several mysteries with the aid of his friend, Dr. John Watson.	8.8
Dumas, Alexandre	Count of Monte Cristo Young sailor Edmund Dantes escapes from the island fortress where he has been imprisoned for treason, then sets out to discover the treasure of Monte Cristo and seek revenge against the people who falsely accused him.	8.8
Musketeer= soldier	The Three Musketeers 17 th century France when young D'Artagnan initially quarrels with, then befriends, three musketeers and joins them in trying to outwit the enemies of the king and queen.	11.3
Forbes, Kathryn	Johnny Tremain A young boy after an accident as a silversmith's apprentice has a dramatic involvement as a patriot in the days just before the American Revolution.	5.9
Irving, Washington	The Legend of Sleepy Hollow A superstitious schoolmaster, in love with a wealthy farmer's daughter, has a terrifying encounter with a headless horseman.	11.0
Kipling, Rudyard	Captains Courageous American millionaire's son who is saved from drowning by a New England fishing schooner and forced to prove his worth to the captain and crew.	8.0
	Just So Stories (Story Collection) Twelve stories about animals, insects, and other subjects such as "How the Camel Got his Hump".	6.4
Latham, Jean Lee	Carry On, Mr. Bowditch This fictionalized biography tells the story of the mathematician and astronomer who realized his childhood desire to become a ship's captain.	4.1
L'Engle, Madeleine	A Wrinkle in Time Meg Murry and her family receive a surprise visit from an unearthly stranger out of another dimension in time	4.7
Lee, Harper	To Kill a Mockingbird Two children witness the effects of racial prejudice, as their father courageously defends an innocent black man who has been accused of attacking a white woman.	5.6
London, Jack	Call of the Wild Buck, a dog that has been forced into the harsh life of a sled dog, befriends a man seeking his fortune in the Klondike gold fields, and must ultimately decide whether to stay with his master or obey his instinct to join the wolves	8.0
	White Fang Adventures in the northern wilderness of a dog who is part wolf and how he comes to make his peace with man.	7.4
Mitchell, Margaret	Gone with the Wind The love story of Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler during the Civil War. Scarlett battles great odds to retain her southern traditions at the plantation "Tara".	7.1
Montgomery, L.M.	Anne of Green Gables (series) Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert have decided to adopt an orphan. They want a nice sturdy boy to help Matthew with the farm chores. The orphanage sends a girl instead - a mischievous, talkative redhead and as soon as Anne arrives at white farmhouse called Green Gables, she knows she wants to stay forever.	7.3
O'Dell, Scott	Island of the Blue Dolphins The courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind.	5.4

Paterson, Katherine	Bridge to Terabithia Jess and Leslie, two unlikely friends, form a close bond and develop their own fantasy play world called Terabithia. Their friendship is tragically cut short by Leslie's accidental death.	4.6
Portis, Charles	True Grit In the 1870s, a young girl avenges her father's death with the help of a crusty, old, U.S. Marshal by the name of Rooster Cogburn.	8.0
Pyle, Howard	The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood 22 stories of Robin Hood and his merry men who steal from the rich and give to the poor and his adventures in Sherwood Forest during the Middle Ages.	8.6
Pyle, Howard	The Story of King Arthur and His Knights 398.2 PYE This abridged edition is a retelling of the adventures and exploits of King Arthur and his knights at the court of Camelot and elsewhere in the land of the Britons.	6.7
Rawlings, Marjorie	The Yearling A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.	5.0
Rawls,Wilson	Where the Red Fern Grows This is a moving story of the love between a young boy and his two dogs. Together, they experience danger, adventure, love, and sorrow.	4.9
Remarque, Erich	All Quiet on the Western Front Depicts the experiences of a group of young German soldiers fighting and suffering during the last days of World War I.	8.0
Shaefer, Jack	Shane A mysterious drifting gunman helps the homesteaders break the power of the Wyoming cattlemen.	4.9
Sewall, Anna	Black Beauty A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters.	7.7
Smith, Betty	A Tree Grows in Brooklyn A young girl comes of age in the squalor and poverty of the Brooklyn slums during the 1910s.	5.8
Speare, Elizabeth	The Witch of Blackbird Pond Puritan neighbors regard Kit Tyler with suspicion, fear, and anger when she befriends an old woman accused of witchcraft.	5.7
Spyri, Johanna	Heidi An orphan sent to live with her grandfather learns to love both the old man and the Swiss Alps and becomes homesick when she goes to the city to be a companion to an invalid.	8.2
Stevenson, Robert Louis	Kidnapped A 16-year-old orphan is kidnapped by his mean uncle, but escapes and becomes involved in the fight of the Scottish highlanders against English rule.	5.6
	Treasure Island While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune	8.3
	Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde A respected London doctor invents a formula which turns him into an evil and ugly person who stalks the streets at night killing people, and by the time his friends discover his secret, it is too late.	9.5
Taylor, Mildred	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry Warmth, humor and hard times prevail as a black family struggles to maintain dignity and independence in Depression-era Mississippi.	
Tolkien, J.R.R.	The Hobbit Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit, hobbits being a group of tiny peaceful people who live in a land called the Shire. When Bilbo finds himself on an adventure where he meets dwarves.	6.6

Twain, Mark	The Adventures of Tom Sawyer Tom Sawyer, a mischievous 19th-century boy in a Mississippi River town, and his friends, Huck Finn and Becky Thatcher, run away from home, witness a murder, and find treasure in a cave.	8.1
	The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn A 19th-century boy, floating down the Mississippi River on a raft with a runaway slave, becomes involved with a feuding family, two scoundrels pretending to be royalty, and Tom Sawyer's aunt, who mistakes him for Tom.	6.6
	The Prince and the Pauper A prince and pauper, who are identical in appearance, trade places in life.	9.3
Verne, Jules	Journey to the Center of the Earth When Axel deciphers an old parchment describing a secret passage through a volcano to the center of the earth, nothing will stop his eccentric Uncle Lidenbrock from setting out at once. With silent Hans as guide, the two men encounter natural hazards, prehistoric beasts, and other curiosities on their perilous, astonishing, terrifying trek.	
	20,000 Leagues Under the Sea Pierre Aronnax and his two companions as they are captured by Capt. Nemo and find themselves trapped aboard the Nautilus, a high-powered submarine that traverses about the world revealing the mysteries of the sea.	
Wells, H.G.	The Time Machine The Time Traveller journeys 800,000 years into the future and discovers two bizarre races at war on the Earth, the ethereal Eloi and the subterranean Morlocks.	7.4
	War of the Worlds Visitors from the planet Mars come to Earth with intentions of destroying the civilization.	9.1
BIOGRAPHY		
Frank, Anne	Diary of a Young Girl The diary of the young Jewish girl, chronicles the years she and her family hid from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic.	6.5
Gilbreth, Frank	Cheaper by the Dozen (Nothing Like the Steve Martin Movie!) Humorous memoir of life with 12 children run by a traditional, efficiency expert father during the turn of the century.	7.0
Herriot, James	All Creatures Great and Small Humorous and touching stories of a young veterinarian starting his career in Yorkshire, England	6.7
Keller, Helen	Story of My Life This is the memoir by Helen Keller and her triumph over deafness and blindness.	6.8
Washington, Booker T	Up from Slavery The autobiography of the founder of the Tuskegee Institute--his rise from slavery to become a very influential American educator.	8.2