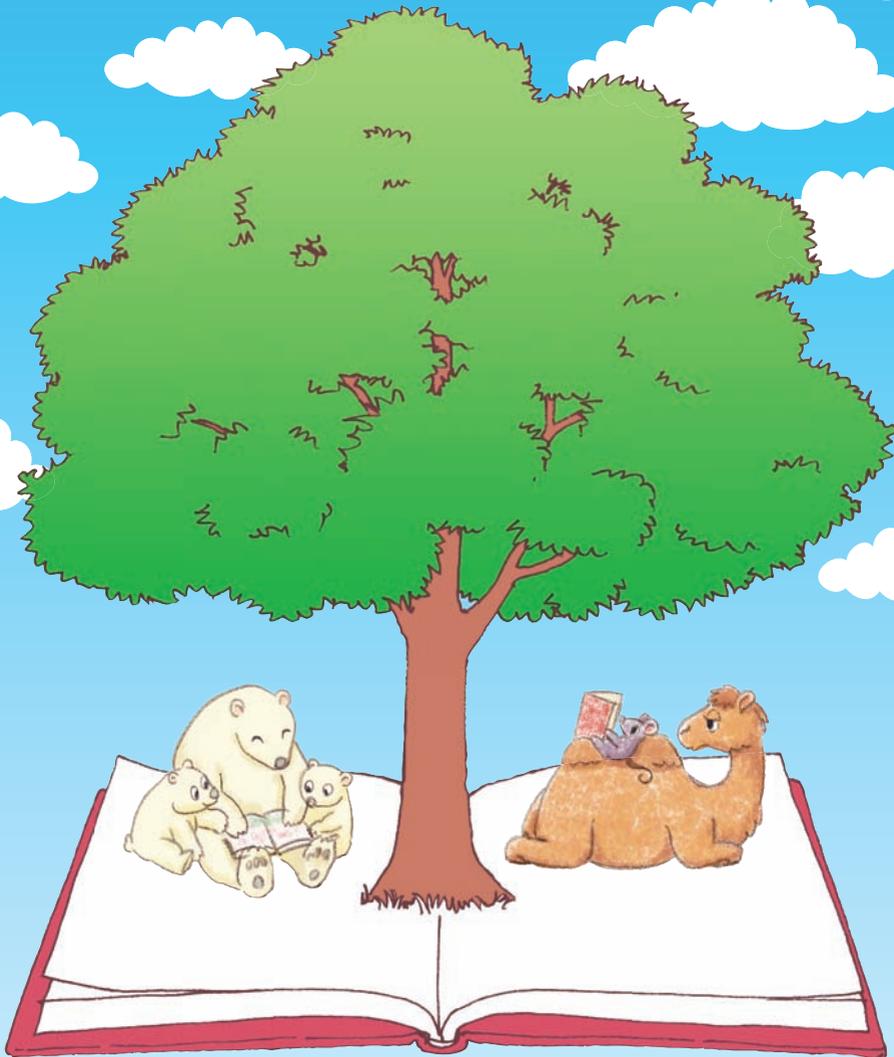


RECOMMENDED READING LIST



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Genres For Level D and above, use the genre icons below to help you find books you will enjoy.

 **Action & Adventure**
Exciting tales for all ages, from *The Saga of Erik the Viking* (D-29) to *The Three Musketeers* (Further Reading 20).

 **Crime & Mystery**
Suspenseful stories, guaranteed to keep you guessing, like *Five on a Treasure Island* (D-28) and *The Thirty-Nine Steps* (H-1).

 **Fairy Tale, Myth & Legend**
Amazing books full of fantastic places and feats, like *The Iliad and the Odyssey* (F-1) and *One Thousand and One Arabian Nights* (G-27).

 **Fantasy**
Magic, adventure and imaginary worlds await readers in incredible books like *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (E-21) and *The Hobbit* (H-3).

 **Historical Fiction**
Tales set in the past, from ancient times in books like *The Kin* (H-7) to the more recent past in books like *Number the Stars* (F-2).

 **Humour**
Funny books guaranteed to raise a giggle, from *You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!* (D-4) to *The Code of the Woosters* (I-10).

 **Non-Fiction**
Amazing tales from the real world, including a playful look at our oceans in *Odious Oceans (Horrible Geography)* (E-16) and fascinating biographies such as *Boy* (G-22).

 **Poetry**
Modern and classic, funny and serious poems all have a place, from *Gargling With Jelly* (D-16) to *The Oxford Treasury of Classic Poems* (I-19).

 **Realistic Fiction**
Gripping tales that really could happen, from *Journey to Jo'Burg* (D-3) to *A Kestrel for a Knave* (H-13).

 **Romance**
Love is in the air in these stories, from amorous vampires in *Twilight* (G-9) to light-hearted matchmaking in *Pride and Prejudice* (Further Reading 15).

 **Science Fiction**
Futuristic tales featuring fantastic characters, from the sole survivor in *Z for Zachariah* (G-1) to the telepathic children in *The Chrysalids* (I-15).

 **Supernatural**
Ghostly goings-on take centre stage in haunting tales like *Skellig* (F-4) and *The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Writings* (Further Reading 29).

INTRODUCTION

What is the Kumon Recommended Reading List?

The Kumon Recommended Reading List (RRL) is a list of 380 books intended to help Kumon students find books that they will enjoy reading, and to encourage them to read books from a wide range of genres and styles.

How are the Books Chosen?

The books on the RRL have been selected because they are popular, award winning, or recognised literary classics. They were all available from major online bookshops (Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Dymocks.com.au and Waterstones.com) at the time of writing.

How are the Books Arranged?

The books are divided into twelve sections, broadly corresponding to the levels of the Kumon English Programme. Like the Kumon worksheets, the RRL is designed so that each student can start reading books at a comfortable level and progress, step by step, to those that are more difficult. Each title includes a short blurb to help students choose books, and students can colour in stars (☆☆☆☆☆☆) to rate the books they have read or listened to.

Read Together

This section was created for children who haven't started reading independently yet. The fifty books were selected because they are particularly suited to being read aloud to children, with the simplest at number one.

Level 2A to Level I

The thirty books in each level from Level 2A to Level I are listed in order of difficulty, with the easiest at number one. For Level D and above, genre icons are included to help readers navigate the list. Please refer to the genre definitions (opposite) for details.

Further Reading

These thirty books are recommended for more confident, mature readers. They include classics and seminal works from a range of genres and periods, and are listed in order of difficulty.

A Wide Range of Books for a Wide Range of Readers!

The RRL contains something for everyone. Each level includes books aimed at younger readers, as well as books more suited to older, more mature readers. Not every book will be appropriate for every student, but everyone will find something he or she will enjoy!

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The following information is intended to help parents make the best use of the Recommended Reading List (RRL), and to give ideas on how to help inspire in children a lifelong love of reading.

Creating a 'Reading-Friendly' Environment at Home

- Store your child's books within his or her reach. Create a reading corner and put some child-sized bookshelves nearby.
- Visit the local library with your child and borrow books together.
- Take an active interest in what your child is reading.
- Children learn by example. If you and other family members read and talk about books, your child will do the same.

Recommending Books

- Children should read books that match their ability and interests, which may not correspond to their age or school year. This is why the books on the RRL are listed according to difficulty rather than age. It may mean that a preschool child chooses to read longer books, while an older primary-school student is more comfortable reading picture books.
- Use the genre icons and book blurbs to help your child choose books.

Reading Aloud to Your Child

The stories you read aloud to your child are his or her first introduction to the world of books. Reading aloud is important, not only because it shows how much fun reading can be, but also for its many other benefits. These include getting a feel for the sounds and rhythms of language, helping to develop imagination and creativity, and widening a child's experience of the world.

- Let your child choose the books he or she wants you to read. Young children enjoy having picture books read to them, particularly books that include repetition, rhythm, or rhyme, and will often want you to reread the same book many times.
- Read at a pace that allows your child to follow the story, and talk about the story and the pictures as you read.

- The 'Read Together' part of the RRL includes fifty books that are ideal for reading aloud, but any other books on the RRL may also be read aloud.
- Don't stop reading to your child as soon as he or she is able to read independently. Try reading longer books a chapter at a time. Your child will enjoy listening to books that are more difficult than his or her own reading ability.

Encouraging Your Child to Become an Independent Reader

Children who are just beginning to read feel an enormous sense of achievement when they can read a whole book by themselves.

- Listen to your child read, give encouragement and help out with difficult words. Read books together, taking turns to read a sentence or a page each.
- Start with short, simple books with large print and few words on each page. The books on the RRL in Level 2A have been specifically selected to suit children taking their first steps in reading.
- As your child gains confidence, he or she will be ready to try the stories in Levels A and B, most of which are still picture books.
- In Level B the RRL introduces longer books, in which the story is told mainly through text rather than pictures and is spread over a number of chapters.

More Confident Readers

Even after your child becomes an independent reader, continue to talk about and recommend books.

- Many of the books on the RRL are part of a series or written by well-known authors of children's books. Encourage your child to read more books in the same series or other titles by the same author.
- Use the genre icons to help your child find more books from genres he or she likes, or to encourage him or her to try a different genre.
- Don't force your child to read, and try not to be judgmental about his or her reading choices.
- Encourage your child to read more of what he or she enjoys; above all, reading should be satisfying and fun.

Read Together



This section was created for children who haven't started reading independently yet. It contains books that are particularly suited to being read aloud to children, with the simplest at number one.

1 Dear Zoo

Rod Campbell

I wrote to the zoo, but what did they send me?
Lift the flaps to find out.



6 I'm Not Scared!

Jonathan Allen

A fearless baby owl goes for a night-time adventure with his jumpy best friend.



2 Maisy's Bedtime

Lucy Cousins

Maisy the mouse goes through her bedtime routine.



7 Each Peach Pear Plum

Janet and Allan Ahlberg

A wonderful rhyme featuring lots of nursery-rhyme characters in a nursery-rhyme world.



3 Where's Spot?

Eric Hill

Spot the dog is hiding. Can you lift the flaps and find him?



8 Owl Babies

Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson

Where has the baby owls' mother gone? Will she come back in time?



4 Parsnip

Sue Porter

On a bitterly cold night little lamb Parsnip makes friends and hunts for her mummy in this classic lift-the-flap book.



9 Bear on a Bike

Stella Blackstone and Debbie Harter

A bear on a bike travels to some wonderful places in this lovely bedtime book.



5 Dig Dig Digging

Margaret Mayo and Alex Ayliffe

Diggers, tractors, cranes and more. *Dig Dig Digging* shows you how good machines are at doing their stuff.



10 So Much!

Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury

Mum and the baby weren't doing much at home until everyone came to visit.



Read Together

11 Dogger

Shirley Hughes

Dogger, the well-loved stuffed dog, gets lost. Can Dave find him?



18 Peepo!

Janet and Allan Ahlberg

Here's a great book. One, two, three. It's full of rhymes and pictures. It's lov-er-ly!



12 Handa's Surprise

Eileen Browne

Generous Handa wants to carry some fruit to her friend Akeyo as a surprise. But what happens to the fruit on the way?



19 We All Went on Safari:

A Counting Journey through Tanzania

Laurie Krebs and Julia Cairns

A lovely counting rhyme based in Tanzania that is full of all kinds of African animals.



13 Crocodile Beat

Gail Jorgensen and Patricia Mullins

Crocodile is hungry, but the noisy animals don't intend to be his dinner.



20 Look Out, Suzy Goose

Petr Horáček

The other geese are too noisy for Suzy Goose, so she decides to go for a walk in the woods. But who else is there?



14 Quacky Quack-Quack!

Ian Whybrow and Russell Ayto

What a racket! A little baby won't feed the ducks, so they start to quack and then everyone joins in.



21 Queenie the Bantam

Bob Graham

After being saved from a lake in the nick of time, hen Queenie becomes part of Caitlin's family.



15 Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?

Martin Waddell and Barbara Firth

In this lovingly illustrated book Big Bear cares for sleepless Little Bear.



22 The Blue Balloon

Mick Inkpen

Kipper finds a blue balloon that is truly unique.



16 Kipper's A to Z

Mick Inkpen

Kipper the dog capers through the alphabet with his friends and a zealous zebra.



23 Whizz Bang Orang-Utan

John Foster (comp.)

These funny, energetic poems, written especially for young children, are bursting with fun and a love of life.



17 Possum Magic

Mem Fox and Julie Vivas

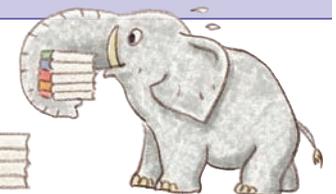
An invisible baby possum and his grandma tour Australia to find that special, magical ingredient to make him visible again.



24 Where's My Teddy?

Jez Alborough

A great rhyming story in which Eddy can't find Freddy and Bear can't find Ted, until...



Read Together



25 Little Polar Bear ☆
 Hans de Beer ☆
 Lars's first hunting trip becomes quite an adventure! Can he get home? ☆

26 Yuck! ☆
 Mick Manning and Brita Granström ☆
 Baby animals eat all kinds of slimy, crunchy, furry things, but surely that's not what human babies eat... Or is it? ☆

27 Leo the Late Bloomer ☆
 Robert Kraus and Jose Aruego ☆
 Leo's father is rather worried about him, but will Leo make it in the end? ☆

28 Who Sank the Boat? ☆
 Pamela Allen ☆
 All the animals got in, but can you guess which one sank the boat? ☆

29 Pumpkin Soup ☆
 Helen Cooper ☆
 Duck, Cat and Squirrel are a supreme soup-making team. ☆

30 Would You Rather... ☆
 John Burningham ☆
 Would you rather be crushed by a snake or eaten by a crocodile? There are some difficult choices to be made. ☆

31 Harold and the Purple Crayon ☆
 Crockett Johnson ☆
 Harold creates a wonderful world with his magical purple crayon. ☆

32 Dino-Dinners ☆
 Mick Manning and Brita Granström ☆
 A cheeky rhyming book about dinosaurs. Fact sheets are included for young palaeontologists. ☆

33 Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy ☆
 Lynley Dodd ☆
 What makes Hairy and his doggy friends run and hide? ☆

34 The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems ☆
 June Crebbin (ed.) ☆
 This wonderful anthology is perfect for sharing. With funny animal poems and warm bedtime rhymes there is something for every occasion. ☆

35 The Tiger Who Came to Tea ☆
 Judith Kerr ☆
 What do you do when a big, furry, stripy tiger comes to tea? ☆

36 The Gruffalo ☆
 Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler ☆
 A clever mouse meets a lot of hungry animals, but even the scariest snake is afraid of the gruffalo. ☆

37 Something Else ☆
 Kathryn Cave and Chris Riddell ☆
 A weird-looking creature isn't accepted by the 'normal' animals, but finds friendship in the end. ☆

38 Wombat Goes Walkabout ☆
 Michael Morpurgo and Christian Birmingham ☆
 Wombat goes looking for his mum. On the way he meets lots of rude animals who don't want to help him, until something scary happens. ☆

39 Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! ☆
 Mo Willems ☆
 The bus driver's instructions are clear, but the pigeon really, really wants to drive the bus. What will you do? ☆

40 Toot and Puddle ☆
 Holly Hobbie ☆
 World traveller Toot writes postcards to stay-at-home Puddle. Both like different things but remain the best of friends. Wonderful! ☆

41 Dr Seuss's ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book! ☆
 Dr Seuss ☆
 Dr Seuss's alphabet, filled with weird and wonderful animals, educates while it entertains. ☆

42 Where the Wild Things Are ☆
 Maurice Sendak ☆
 Mischief-making Max is sent to bed. From his room he goes on an incredible journey meeting, and then becoming king of, the wild things. ☆

43 Revolting Rhymes ☆
 Roald Dahl and Quentin Blake ☆
 Did Little Red Riding Hood really get eaten? Did Cinderella really marry a handsome prince? Find out in this belly-wobblingly funny book. ☆

44 Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type ☆
 Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin ☆
 A herd of uncomfortable cows find a typewriter, and decide to send the farmer an ultimatum. ☆

45 Rotten and Rascal: The Two Terrible Pterosaur Twins ☆
 Paul Geraghty ☆
 Two pterosaurs bicker over a fish. Passing dino chums chip in, but Rex has the last word. ☆

46 The Shopping Basket ☆
 John Burningham ☆
 Steven pops down to the shops but has to get past lots of nasty bullying animals on the way home. ☆

47 The Emperor of Absurdia ☆
 Chris Riddell ☆
 In this fantastically illustrated book a little boy dreams up an amazing world full of live toys. ☆

48 The Colour of Home ☆
 Mary Hoffman and Karin Littlewood ☆
 The moving story of a Somali refugee child who is getting used to life in a British school. ☆

49 The Iron Man: A Children's Story in Five Nights ☆
 Ted Hughes ☆
 A gigantic iron man appears from nowhere and terrorises the countryside. ☆

50 Winnie-the-Pooh ☆
 A A Milne and E H Shepard ☆
 Join Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends on their adventures in and around the Hundred Acre Wood. ☆





1 **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** ☆

Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle ☆

A fantastic rhyming book full of wonderfully colourful animals. ☆

2 **Rosie's Walk** ☆

Pat Hutchins ☆

Rosie the hen decides to wander around the farmyard, but watch out! There's a sneaky fox out to get her. ☆

3 **Titch** ☆

Pat Hutchins ☆

Titch is the smallest in his family and always gets the smallest things, but when he plants a tiny seed something special happens. ☆

4 **Old Hat New Hat** ☆

Stan and Jan Berenstain ☆

A dog wants a new hat but can't find any that fit properly. What will he do? ☆

5 **Clifford the Big Red Dog** ☆

Norman Bridwell ☆

Clifford isn't just big, he's enormous! ☆

6 **Doing the Garden** ☆

Sarah Garland ☆

We're doing the gardening today. Want to join us? ☆

7 **Come on, Daisy** ☆

Jane Simmons ☆

Daisy the duckling loves flopping about around the pond and finding new things. ☆

8 **This is the Bear** ☆

Sarah Hayes and Helen Craig ☆

Dog pushes Bear into the bin, and poor Bear ends up at the rubbish dump. ☆

9 **Duck in the Truck** ☆

Jez Alborough ☆

Duck's got a truck, and it's got stuck in the muck! How will he get it out? ☆

10 **A Dark, Dark Tale** ☆

Ruth Brown ☆

A spooky book that will surprise you! ☆

11 **Mouse Moves House (Usborne Phonics Readers)** ☆

Phil Roxbee Cox and Stephen Cartwright ☆

Jack helps Mack, but what about Fat Cat? ☆

12 **Go, Dog. Go!** ☆

P D Eastman ☆

High speed hounds who like to race round and round. Don't miss them! ☆

13 **We're Going on a Bear Hunt** ☆

Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury ☆

There's a bear about, so let's search him out! ☆

14 **I Wish I Were a Dog** ☆

Lydia Monks ☆

Kitty thinks that dogs have much more fun than cats. What do you think? ☆

15 **There's a Nightmare in My Closet** ☆

Mercer Mayer ☆

You might be scared of monsters, but they might be even more scared of you. ☆

16 **Pants** ☆

Giles Andreae and Nick Sharratt ☆

Pants, pants, everywhere, on your head and in the air! ☆

17 **Meg and Mog** ☆

Helen Nicoll and Jan Pieńkowski ☆

Witch Meg and her cat Mog go to a big Hallowe'en party in the woods. ☆

18 **Penguin** ☆

Polly Dunbar ☆

No matter what Ben does Penguin won't talk. ☆

19 **Mr Gumpy's Outing** ☆

John Burningham ☆

When Mr Gumpy decides to go out on his boat everyone wants to come along. ☆

20 **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** ☆

Eric Carle ☆

A caterpillar gets bigger and bigger, eating so much food that he might even explode! ☆

21 **Not Now, Bernard** ☆

David McKee ☆

Bernard's parents never listen to him, not even when he tells them that there's a great big, hungry-looking monster in the back garden. ☆

22 **Jump, Frog, Jump!** ☆

Robert Kalan and Byron Barton ☆

Frog jumps into the pond, then more and more things keep happening – try to keep up! ☆

23 **The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat (I Can Read! Beginning Reading)** ☆

Nurit Karlin ☆

When the cat is left home alone all sorts of trouble starts! ☆

24 **The Magic Porridge Pot (Read it Yourself: Level 1)** ☆

Ladybird ☆

A strange old woman gives a poor, hungry girl a magic pot that makes porridge. But the girl's mum doesn't know how to make it stop. ☆

25 **Green Eggs and Ham** ☆

Dr Seuss ☆

Would you eat green eggs and ham? No? But they're delicious, don't you know? ☆

26 **My First Pet (First Times)** ☆

Rebecca Hunter ☆

Having a pet is exciting and fun, but also worrisome! ☆

27 **The Magic Footprints (Green Bananas)** ☆

Melissa Balfour and Russell Julian ☆

When Lola gives Tim a strange birthday present an amazing adventure begins. ☆

28 **A Fly Went By** ☆

Mike McClintock and Fritz Seibel ☆

If you like rhymes and flies don't let this book pass you by. ☆

29 **The Cat in the Hat** ☆

Dr Seuss ☆

Everyone's favourite cat helps you read and rhyme. ☆

30 **Jungle School (Green Bananas)** ☆

Elizabeth Laird, Roz Davison and David Sim ☆

Jani the monkey is worried about her first day at school. Will the other monkeys be friends with her? ☆

A



1 The Rainbow Fish ☆

Marcus Pfister ☆

The Rainbow Fish has beautiful scales but nobody will be his friend. The starfish thinks he knows why. ☆

2 Peace at Last ☆

Jill Murphy ☆

Mr Bear really wants to sleep, but every room in the house is so noisy. Where will he go? ☆

3 Harry the Dirty Dog ☆

Gene Zion and Margaret Bloy Graham ☆

Harry the dog gets so dirty that his family don't even know who he is. Will he have to get a wash? ☆

4 I Want a Friend ☆

Tony Ross ☆

It's the Little Princess's first day at school and she wants to make lots of new friends. ☆

5 Ginger ☆

Charlotte Voake ☆

Ginger is a really spoiled cat, and when a cute little kitten arrives on the scene he is absolutely furious. Will they ever be friends? ☆

6 The Queen's Knickers ☆

Nicholas Allan ☆

This book contains TOP SECRET information about the Queen and her underwear. Don't tell anyone! ☆

7 Mister Magnolia ☆

Quentin Blake ☆

Mr Magnolia has a very serious problem: he only has one boot, which makes splashing through puddles a soggy experience. ☆

8 Six Dinner Sid ☆

Inga Moore ☆

Sid is a very charming cat – so charming, in fact, that he can get six dinners a day from six different people. ☆

9 A Lion in the Meadow ☆

Margaret Mahy and Jenny Williams ☆

If there was a lion in the meadow how would you scare it away? One little boy's mum thinks a dragon might do the trick! ☆

10 Little Beaver and the Echo ☆

Amy MacDonald and Sarah Fox-Davies ☆

Little Beaver is really lonely, but when he hears a voice over the lake he thinks that he may have found a friend. ☆

11 The Three Billy Goats Gruff ☆

Paul Galdone ☆

The grass looks lovely on the other side of the river, but to get to it the goats will have to deal with a smelly, hairy, disgusting troll. ☆

12 Eat Your Peas ☆

Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt ☆

Daisy hates peas, but if her mum offers her an extra pudding for dessert, and a space rocket, do you think she will eat some? ☆

13 A Quiet Night In ☆

Jill Murphy ☆

It's Mr Large's birthday and Mrs Large is planning a quiet night in. However, the Large children have other ideas. ☆

14 Winnie the Witch ☆

Korky Paul and Valerie Thomas ☆

Everything in Winnie's house is black, which makes looking for things very hard, and life very dangerous for her poor little black cat. ☆

15 The Gingerbread Man ☆

Barbara Baumgartner and Norman Messinger ☆

The Gingerbread Man is a very tasty-looking little fellow, which means that everyone wants to gobble him up! ☆

16 Farmer Duck ☆

Martin Waddell and Helen Oxenbury ☆

Poor Duck has to do everything around the farm! Will anybody help? ☆

17 Rose Meets Mr Wintergarten ☆

Bob Graham ☆

Mr Wintergarten is a mean old prune of a man, but Rose really wants her ball back. Thankfully, Mum's hot cakes come to the rescue. ☆

18 Elizabeti's Doll ☆

Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen and Christy Hale ☆

When Elizabeti's mum has a baby Elizabeti decides to look after her very own, cute little baby... rock! ☆

19 May I Bring a Friend? ☆

Beatrice Schenk de Regniers and Beni Montresor ☆

The King and Queen are a lovely couple, and always tell the boy he can bring a friend to tea. But all his friends seem to be from the zoo! ☆

20 Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge ☆

Mem Fox and Julie Vivas ☆

Wilfrid wants to know what a memory is, and asks all his friends in the old people's home if they know anything about it. ☆

21 A Fish Out of Water ☆

Helen Palmer and P D Eastman ☆

If you give your fish too much food who knows what might happen! ☆

22 I am Not Sleepy and I Will Not Go to Bed ☆

Lauren Child ☆

Lola loves staying up late, so Charlie tries everything, including shooting whales down the plughole, to wear her out. ☆

23 The Gift of the Sun: A Tale from South Africa ☆

Dianne Stewart and Jude Daly ☆

Thulani is a lazy farmer who thinks that selling his cow for a goat will make life easier. But what will his wife think? ☆

24 The Tunnel ☆

Anthony Browne ☆

Rose and her brother have fallen out, but when he crawls into a scary tunnel and doesn't come back she gets scared and crawls in after him. ☆

25 Big Dog and Little Dog Go Flying (Blue Bananas) ☆

Selina Young ☆

Big Dog and Little Dog make a plane and go on an amazing flying adventure. But they've forgotten one thing: the landing button! ☆

26 Remember Me ☆

Margaret Wild and Dee Huxley ☆

In this heart-warming story a grandchild helps her grandma remember. ☆

27 Louis Braille (Famous People Famous Lives) ☆

Tessa Potter ☆

The amazing true story of the man who changed the world for blind people. ☆

28 Don't Be Horrid, Henry! ☆

Francesca Simon and Tony Ross ☆

Henry's younger brother Peter is a bit too perfect, and Henry really wants to get him into trouble! ☆

29 The Pig in the Pond ☆

Martin Waddell and Jill Barton ☆

How is a hot pig supposed to cool off? By joining the ducks and geese in the pond! ☆

30 That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown (Cressida Cowell and Neal Layton) ☆

Cressida Cowell and Neal Layton ☆

The dastardly Queen has stolen Stanley the rabbit, and Emily Brown wants him back! ☆

B



1 Mr Archimedes' Bath ☆

Pamela Allen ☆

When Mr Archimedes jumps in the bath lots of water splashes out, and he can't work out why. Maybe his animal friends can help him. ☆

2 The Elves and the Shoemaker (Ladybird Tales) ☆

Vera Southgate ☆

The shoemaker and his wife are really poor, so two little elf friends decide to make fantastic shoes for them to sell. ☆

3 Ape ☆

Martin Jenkins and Vicky White ☆

Orangutans, gorillas, bonobos and chimps – you'll find out lots about them in this brilliant book. ☆

4 Elmer ☆

David McKee ☆

Elmer is a very colourful elephant, but one day he decides he doesn't want to be different any more. Will he be happier? ☆

5 Camille and the Sunflowers ☆

Laurence Anholt ☆

A new person comes to stay in Camille's town. He's got a strange beard and loves painting. His name is Vincent van Gogh. Have you heard of him? ☆

6 Where the Forest Meets the Sea ☆

Jeannie Baker ☆

A young boy follows a stream into an Australian rainforest and discovers all kinds of wonderful things. ☆

7 Uno's Garden ☆

Graeme Base ☆

Uno moves into a wilderness full of bizarre creatures. But more and more settlers arrive and the wilderness slowly disappears... ☆

8 Zoo ☆

Anthony Browne ☆

Looking at animals in cages can be boring. Thankfully monkey hats, burgers and Dad's weird sense of humour help make the day an interesting one. ☆

9 One Snowy Night: A Tale from Percy's Park ☆

Nick Butterworth ☆

Percy the park keeper has a cosy little house. So cosy, in fact, that all the park animals want to spend the night there! ☆

10 Mia's Story ☆

Michael Foreman ☆

Every day Mia's dad goes into the city to sell junk. Then one day Mia finds another way of making money that smells very sweet indeed! ☆

11 Curious George Takes a Job ☆

H A Rey ☆

Everyone's favourite cheeky monkey takes a job as a window cleaner. ☆

12 Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain ☆

Edward Ardizzone ☆

Tim thinks that being a sailor would be great. But when he stows away on a big steam boat he finds out that life at sea isn't so wonderful. ☆

13 Max ☆

Bob Graham ☆

Max's whole family are superheroes, and even though he can walk and talk Max still can't fly. His parents are getting worried! ☆

14 When a Monster is Born ☆

Sean Taylor and Nick Sharratt ☆

When a monster does something one of two (usually very strange) things can happen. ☆

15 Think of an Eel ☆

Karen Wallace and Mike Bostock ☆

Eels are amazing creatures with an amazing life cycle. Find out why in this brilliant book! ☆

16 The Incredible Book Eating Boy ☆

Oliver Jeffers ☆

Books are meant for reading, not eating. But for Henry the more books he eats the cleverer he gets. ☆

17 Bones (Little Genius) ☆

Kate Lennard and Eivind Gulliksen ☆

Find out how bones stop us from looking like big blobs of jelly in this really colourful book. ☆

18 The Giant Jam Sandwich ☆

John Vernon Lord and Janet Burroway ☆

What's the best way to get rid of a swarm of wasps? Make a giant jam sandwich, of course! ☆

19 Hocus Pocus Hound ☆

Samantha Hay and Nathan Reed ☆

Marvo the Magician needs a new assistant, and settles on a scruffy old dog. Will Hocus Pocus Hound be the best assistant ever? ☆

20 Mr Tickle ☆

Roger Hargreaves ☆

Mr Tickle has fabulously long arms, and hands that are perfect for...tickling! ☆

21 006 and a Bit ☆

Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt ☆

Daisy becomes a spy, but can't find anyone who understands her secret spy code. ☆

22 Sniffer and Naughty Nancy ☆

Roger Abbott and Colin West ☆

Naughty Nancy's dog, Sniffer, has a super nose that can sniff out gold, but when he steals the King's crown they are in trouble! ☆

23 Borka ☆

John Burningham ☆

Borka the goose has no feathers, so her mum knits her a jumper. But when all the other geese fly south for the winter, what will Borka do? ☆

24 The Little House ☆

Virginia Lee Burton ☆

The Little House enjoys living in the country, but when new roads are built she gets swallowed up by the big city. ☆

25 The Dinosaur's Packed Lunch ☆

Jacqueline Wilson and Nick Sharratt ☆

Dinah thinks life is pretty boring and wishes she had a mum to make her a packed lunch. She gets her wish – kind of – with a lot more besides. ☆

26 Thomas the Tank Engine (The Railway Series) ☆

Rev W Awdry ☆

Thomas is a cheeky little train who really wants to impress. If he works hard enough maybe he will be given his own line. ☆

27 Living With Vampires ☆

Jeremy Strong ☆

Kevin has a big problem: his parents are vampires! Making sure they don't do anything too gruesome is a full-time job. ☆

28 Flat Stanley ☆

Jeff Brown ☆

Stanley Lambchop has been squashed flat! He soon discovers that being pancake-thin can be very useful indeed. ☆

29 Meerkat Mail ☆

Emily Gravett ☆

A meerkat gets itchy feet and decides to spend some time abroad with his cousins. ☆

30 Tashi and the Giants ☆

Anna and Barbara Fienberg ☆

Tashi loves telling stories, especially when giants and bloodthirsty bandits are involved. ☆



1 The Lighthouse Keeper's Rescue

Ronda and David Armitage

Mr Grinling is getting old and keeps forgetting to turn the lighthouse lamp on. But when a whale gets stuck on the beach he has a chance to prove that he's still handy.

2 The Eyes of Gray Wolf

Jonathan London and Jon Van Zyle

A lone wolf, struggling to survive the harsh winter, crosses paths with a large wolf pack. What will happen next?

3 Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale

John Steptoe

The King is looking for a wife and Mufaro's daughters are the most beautiful in the land. Will he choose between them?

4 First Fairy Tales

Margaret Mayo and Selina Young

A super collection of nine famous fairy tales that includes Cinderella, Puss in Boots, The Sleeping Beauty and Rumpelstiltskin. Each title is also available separately.

5 Poison Island (Zac Power)

H I Larry

Twelve-year-old super spy Zac Power has twenty-four hours to stop the evil scientist Dr Drastic.

6 Stanley Bagshaw and the Short-Sighted Football Trainer

Bob Wilson

Football-mad Stanley looks set to miss his favourite team playing in an important cup match until a short-sighted trainer turns him into a hero.

7 Hans Christian Andersen

Andrew Langley

When Hans was a boy he didn't have many friends, but he always loved making up stories and would later become one of the most famous writers in the world.

8 Badger's Parting Gifts

Susan Varley

Badger's getting old and wants to leave something for each of his friends.

9 Happy Birthday x 3

Libby Gleeson and David Cox

Imagine having two sisters who were born at the same time as you. What would you get them for their birthday?

10 The Shrinking of Treehorn

Florence Parry Heide and Edward Gorey

Poor Treehorn has a serious problem: he keeps getting smaller and smaller, and the worst thing is nobody seems to care!

11 The Diary of a Killer Cat

Anne Fine

Tuffy. It sounds like a cute name for a cat, but he's a cold-blooded bird and mouse killer. Can Ellie get him to change his ways?

12 Stone Age Boy

Satoshi Kitamura

A boy travels back in time to the Stone Age, where he learns how to do all sorts of cool Stone-Age stuff!

13 Alien Teeth

Ian MacDonald

Young Owen accidentally finds some alien teeth. They belong to Emperor Zarg, who is so angry that he might even blow up Earth!

14 The Milk Makers

Gail Gibbons

Ever wondered how milk gets from cow to kitchen table? This book explains all.

15 Sophie Hits Six

Dick King-Smith

Sophie is a mischievous little girl who really wants to be a farmer. In this book she makes friends with a farmer's boy and even gets some kittens.

16 Astrid, the Au Pair from Outer Space

Emily Smith

Harry's new au pair is a bit odd. She keeps asking all kinds of strange questions and her suitcase turns into a spaceship.

17 George Saves the World by Lunchtime

Jo Readman and Ley Honor Roberts

George wants to go out and save the world, like Superman, but his Grandpa shows him that, by doing a few simple things every day, he can save the world from home.

18 Fantastic Mr Fox

Roald Dahl

Mr Fox is the cleverest chap you will ever meet. But when three devious farmers gang together old Foxy's days might be numbered!

19 Horrid Henry Gets Rich Quick

Francesca Simon and Tony Ross

Henry is wicked! He ruins the school sports day, runs away from home and comes up with a cunning plan to make himself very rich.

20 The Shadow Brumby (Bonnie & Sam)

Alison Lester and Roland Harvey

A wild horse storms into town and takes the place of a police horse. Can Bonnie and Sam, experts on all things horse, sort it out?

21 The Worst Witch

Jill Murphy

Miss Cackle's Academy is a great school for learning how to cast spells and make potions, but Mildred can't seem to get anything right!

22 Monster Stones: The Story of a Dinosaur Fossil (Science Works)

Jacqui Bailey and Matthew Lilly

How did dinosaurs end up as hard bits of stone called fossils? *Monster Stones* explains all!

23 The Adventures of Captain Underpants

Dav Pilkey

Is it a pair of socks? Is it a giant vest? No, it's Captain Underpants, school headmaster turned (sort of) superhero!

24 Stella by the Sea

Ruth Starke

Stella lives in a fantastic apartment with her mum and dad, but what she really wants is her own playhouse by the sea.

25 Mr Majeika

Humphrey Carpenter

Class Three are gobsmacked when their new teacher flies into class on a magic carpet. Their lessons will never be the same again.

26 The Legend of Spud Murphy

Eoin Colfer

Will and Marty get dumped in the library by their mum. Will they survive with Spud Murphy, the scariest librarian in the world, in charge?

27 Martin's Mice

Dick King-Smith

All cats are supposed to catch mice but Martin is different: he keeps them as pets! What will happen when his dad finds out?

28 Nim's Island

Wendy Orr and Kerry Millard

Nim and her dad live on a tropical island with an iguana, a sea lion and a turtle. Nim loves it, but when her dad goes missing she emails her favourite adventure writer for help.

29 The Forests of Silence (Deltora Quest)

Emily Rodda

Two unlikely companions set off on a quest to find the seven stones that will rid Deltora of the evil Shadow Lord.

30 The Butterfly Lion

Michael Morpurgo

When Bertie rescued a lion from certain death he never thought that he would meet it again, many years later, in war-torn France.

E



1 Ramona Forever ☆
 Beverly Cleary ☆
 A funny, often touching book featuring young Ramona, a girl who is never far from trouble. ☆
 ☆

2 Varjak Paw ☆
 S F Said ☆
 An action-packed mix of mystery and martial arts. Varjak, a pedigree cat, must venture 'Outside', face gangs of cats and solve the mystery of the Vanishings in a battle to save his family. ☆

3 Charlotte's Web ☆
 E B White ☆
 When Wilbur the pig learns what is about to happen to him, Charlotte the spider comes to his rescue. A wonderful, humorous book. ☆
 ☆

4 Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess, Page ☆
 Richard Platt and Chris Riddell ☆
 A fascinating look at life in a thirteenth-century English castle through the eyes of young Tobias Burgess. ☆
 ☆

5 Island of the Blue Dolphins ☆
 Scott O'Dell ☆
 A young girl has to learn to fend for herself after being stranded on an island. Based on a true story. ☆
 ☆

6 The Wizard of Oz ☆
 L Frank Baum ☆
 A tornado sweeps Dorothy to the magical Land of Oz, where she and Toto meet the Lion, the Tin Woodman and the Scarecrow. But only the Wizard can get her home. ☆
 ☆

7 Anne of Green Gables ☆
 L M Montgomery ☆
 When Anne arrives at Green Gables, the Cuthberts are disappointed that she is not the boy they expected. But Anne's bubblyness and imaginative character soon win them over. ☆

8 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory ☆
 Roald Dahl ☆
 Young Charlie wins a chance to visit the famous Wonka's Chocolate Factory, beginning a hilarious adventure. ☆
 ☆

9 Harriet the Spy ☆
 Louise Fitzhugh ☆
 Harriet spies on people and writes about them in her secret notebook. When her classmates find the book and read it aloud Harriet finds herself a lonely outcast. ☆

10 Maniac Magee ☆
 Jerry Spinelli ☆
 Maniac Magee doesn't have a home, but his amazing antics are enough to make him a local legend. ☆
 ☆

11 Journey to the River Sea ☆
 Eva Ibbotson ☆
 A breathtaking adventure story about Maia, an orphan, who is sent to live with grumpy relatives in the wild Amazon rainforest. ☆
 ☆

12 Walk Two Moons ☆
 Sharon Creech ☆
 Thirteen-year-old Salamanca travels across America to find her mother in this excellent, touching and amusing story. ☆

13 Fire, Bed and Bone ☆
 Henrietta Branford ☆
 A hunting dog narrates the ups and downs of her owner's family in post-plague fourteenth-century England. ☆
 ☆

14 Artemis Fowl ☆
 Eoin Colfer ☆
 Twelve-year-old criminal mastermind Artemis Fowl kidnaps a fairy to get his hands on fairy gold, but the LEPrecon police squad are out to foil his plan. ☆
 ☆

15 The Borrowers ☆
 Mary Norton ☆
 Lost anything recently? Perhaps it has been borrowed. Under the grandfather clock, behind the wainscot there's a hole where someone tiny lives. Meet Pod, Homily and Arriety. ☆
 ☆

16 Odious Oceans (Horrible Geography) ☆
 Anita Ganeri ☆
 A book for those interested in everything over, on, in and under the sea. You'll be amazed! You'll certainly be amused! ☆
 ☆

17 Seven Little Australians ☆
 Ethel Turner ☆
 When one of the mischievous Woolcot children's pranks goes too far, wild Judy gets sent away to school and everything starts to change. ☆

18 The Wolves of Willoughby Chase ☆
 Joan Aiken ☆
 Winter wolves and a wicked governess's dastardly dealings test tough Bonnie and sickly Sylvia in this action-packed adventure set in a Britain where not everything is as it seems. ☆
 ☆

19 Bridge to Terabithia ☆
 Katherine Paterson ☆
 Jess and his new friend Leslie create a secret place where they are king and queen. But tragedy is around the corner. (May not be suitable for younger readers.) ☆

20 The Sign of the Beaver ☆
 Elizabeth George Speare ☆
 An excellent story of survival, friendship and difficult choices made in the American wilderness. ☆
 ☆

21 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone ☆
 J K Rowling ☆
 The book that began the incredibly popular series is a brilliant, funny and magical story that introduces us to the amazing boy wizard. ☆
 ☆

22 River Boy ☆
 Tim Bowler ☆
 Jess's grandfather is dying, but he refuses to go to hospital until he finishes his final painting; a painting which leads to an amazing encounter in this touching, supernatural tale. ☆
 ☆

23 Tom's Midnight Garden ☆
 Philippa Pearce ☆
 Tom thinks that staying with his aunt and uncle will be boring, until the clock strikes thirteen and a magical adventure begins. ☆
 ☆

24 The Phoenix and the Carpet ☆
 E Nesbit ☆
 Wrapped in the new nursery carpet the children find a very special egg. This is a fantastic adventure featuring flying carpets and mythical beasts. ☆
 ☆

25 Black Beauty ☆
 Anna Sewell ☆
 A dramatic and heart-warming tale with a difference, as the horse tells the story. ☆

26 The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (The Chronicles of Narnia) ☆
 C S Lewis ☆
 A classic tale following the adventures of Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy in the wintry land through the wardrobe. ☆
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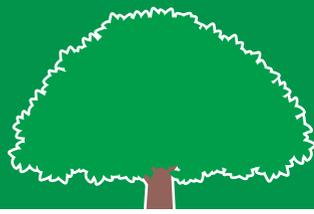
27 Dragon Keeper ☆
 Carole Wilkinson ☆
 A dramatic mix of myth and historical fact as young Ping begins an epic adventure with the last dragon of the Han Dynasty in ancient China. ☆
 ☆

28 At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England ☆
 Walter Dean Myers ☆
 A young African girl is plucked from her tribe and literally lives like a princess in England. ☆

29 George's Secret Key to the Universe ☆
 Lucy and Stephen Hawking ☆
 George's scientist neighbour has an amazing computer that can transport a person to any point in the universe. But someone else wants it and is willing to do nearly anything to get it. ☆
 ☆

30 HOCUS POCUS: A Tale of Magnificent Magicians and Their Amazing Feats ☆
 Paul Kieve ☆
 A brilliant book for budding conjurers combining the stories of some of the world's greatest magicians with step-by-step guides to performing their tricks! ☆
 ☆

F



1 The Iliad and the Odyssey ☆
 Marcia Williams ☆
 The original adventure stories are brilliantly retold in this amazing graphic novel. ☆
 ☆

2 Number the Stars ☆
 Lois Lowry ☆
 Set in Nazi-occupied Denmark in 1943, ten-year-old Annemarie embarks on a courageous and dangerous mission to save her best friend. ☆

3 Matilda ☆
 Roald Dahl ☆
 A wonderfully comic book packed with eccentric characters, evil relatives and lots of laughs. ☆

4 Skellig ☆
 David Almond ☆
 Life looks grim for Michael, with a sick sister, a new home and no friends, until he finds Skellig and things start to improve in strange, haunting ways in this uplifting, eerie tale. ☆

5 The Incredible Journey ☆
 Sheila Burnford ☆
 Three animal friends set out on an emotional, dramatic and truly incredible journey across the Canadian wilderness to find their owners. ☆

6 Volcanoes (100 Facts) ☆
 Chris Oxlade ☆
 All you wanted to know about volcanoes – and more! This book is full of amazing facts and spectacular photographs. ☆

7 The Summer of the Swans ☆
 Betsy Byars ☆
 Sara is busy feeling sorry for herself until the disappearance of her younger brother leads her to question what is really important. ☆

8 Foxspell ☆
 Gillian Rubinstein ☆
 A remarkable book in which a young boy faces a truly life-changing decision. What would you do? ☆

9 The Second World War (Usborne True Stories) ☆
 Paul Dowswell ☆
 This is an immensely readable, straightforward account of war in all its horror, including the Soviet Air Force's heroic women pilots and the 'destroyer of worlds'. ☆

10 The Book of Three ☆
 Lloyd Alexander ☆
 This, the compelling first part of the Chronicles of Prydain, follows Taran, assistant pig-keeper, and his strange companions on a pursuit through perilous woods. ☆

11 A Wizard of Earthsea ☆
 Ursula Le Guin ☆
 Young wizard Ged battles a sinister creature as he comes to realise that his fate may be far more important than he ever dreamt possible. ☆

12 Lyddie ☆
 Katherine Paterson ☆
 After a huge black bear breaks into the kitchen Lyddie's life is thrown into turmoil. This uplifting tale follows her determined efforts to survive and reunite her family. ☆

13 Little Brother ☆
 Allan Baillie ☆
 In this gripping tale of courage and survival two brothers embark on a terrifying journey through deadly Khmer Rouge-run Cambodia. ☆

14 Walkabout ☆
 James Vance Marshall ☆
 Two children survive a plane crash, but, stranded in a hot, dry Australian desert, their future looks bleak. Out of nowhere an Aboriginal boy appears to save them. A haunting tale of survival. ☆

15 Out of India: ☆
 An Anglo-Indian Childhood Jamila Gavin ☆
 A fascinating account of growing up in two very different cultures during some world-changing events. ☆

16 The House of Dies Drear ☆
 Virginia Hamilton ☆
 Set in the early 1960s, a modern African-American family moves into a house that was a major 'station' on the Underground Railroad for slaves. This is a real page-turner! ☆

17 The Red Pony ☆
 John Steinbeck ☆
 Four excellent, related stories trace Jody Tiflin's adolescence as he learns about courage, responsibility and loss. ☆

18 The World in the Time of Marco Polo ☆
 Fiona Macdonald ☆
 Do you want to know what the world was like when the legendary explorer was alive? This is the book for you! ☆

19 SilverFin (Young Bond) ☆
 Charlie Higson ☆
 A brilliant, action-packed tale depicting the early life of the world's best-known superspy: James Bond. ☆

20 From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs Basil E Frankweiler ☆
 E L Konigsburg ☆
 Two children run away from home to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. There they attempt to solve a mystery involving a statue and a very rich old lady. ☆

21 Wolf ☆
 Gillian Cross ☆
 Young Cassy realises that a recurring nightmare, glimpses of a mysterious stranger and memories of her father may mean that her grandmother's life is in danger. ☆

22 The Sword in the Stone ☆
 T H White ☆
 A fantastic adventure, full of magic and humour, that traces the story of the legendary King Arthur and the amazing characters that surround him. ☆

23 The Secret Garden ☆
 Frances Hodgson Burnett ☆
 Sickly orphan Mary finds a long-neglected garden. As the garden blooms she learns to love life and makes new friends. ☆

24 The Wind in the Willows ☆
 Kenneth Grahame ☆
 A wonderful tale of adventure and friendship featuring Mole, Water Rat, Badger, and the mischievous Toad. ☆

25 Treasure Island ☆
 Robert Louis Stevenson ☆
 A brilliant adventure story featuring sneaky pirates, a hunt for treasure in far-off, exotic lands and lots of action on the high seas. ☆

26 Just William ☆
 Richmal Crompton ☆
 Funny stories set in 1920s Britain following the antics of cheeky schoolboy William Brown. ☆

27 Framed ☆
 Frank Cottrell Boyce ☆
 In difficult times the National Gallery in London sends its collection to a remote Welsh mountain, where the art inspires the inhabitants of a nearby village. ☆

28 Redwall ☆
 Brian Jacques ☆
 A gripping tale of good versus evil as the mice of Redwall Abbey have to protect their home from the wicked rat warlords. ☆

29 The Railway Children ☆
 E Nesbit ☆
 Roberta, Peter and Phyllis begin a series of exciting adventures while trying to solve the mystery of their father's disappearance. ☆

30 Alice in Wonderland ☆
 Lewis Carroll ☆
 Join Alice on her weird, wonderful adventures down the rabbit hole. A classic book full of humour and unforgettable characters. ☆

G



1 Z for Zachariah

Robert C O'Brien

A riveting story of a young girl's survival in the ravaged wastes of a nuclear-devastated world.

2 Holes

Louis Sachar

In a remote juvenile detention centre the inmates are forced to dig holes in a dried-up lake bed. What are they looking for? Stanley Yelnats is the boy to find out.

3 A Gathering Light

Jennifer Donnelly

Mattie, a gifted country girl whose family responsibilities are smothering her dream of becoming a writer, finds herself entranced by the love letters of a murdered girl.

4 The Yearling

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

The touching story of Jody, who lives in the wild frontier forests and craves a companion. One day he finds a fawn, which opens up a new world of friendship.

5 The Owl Service

Alan Garner

An eerie tale of three young people, a legendary power and their struggle to break with their destiny.

6 The Philosophy Files

Stephen Law and Daniel Postgate

Should you eat meat? What is 'real' and how do you know? A fascinating book for budding philosophers that explores these questions and many more.

7 Face

Benjamin Zephaniah

A ne'er-do-well teenager falls in with the wrong crowd, with terrible consequences. Includes some strong language.

8 Madame Doubtfire

Anne Fine

A hilarious story in which an out-of-work actor dad takes on his greatest role in order to spend more time with his three children.

9 Twilight

Stephenie Meyer

In this vampire romance, Bella thinks that moving to a dreary town can only lead to a boring life. But then she meets the alluring Edward and her life changes in exciting, and terrifying, ways.

10 The Snake Scientist (Scientists in the Field)

Sy Montgomery and Nic Bishop

Imagine 18,000 snakes writhing in a pit somewhere in the Canadian wilderness. Most people would run a mile, but not these intrepid scientists.

11 The Old Man and the Sea

Ernest Hemingway

The magnificent story of an old fisherman, a young boy and a huge marlin in an epic battle for survival off the coast of Cuba.

12 The Recruit (CHERUB)

Robert Muchamore

The exciting story of orphaned tearaway James as he battles to join CHERUB, Britain's top secret spy agency for kids. Contains adult themes.

13 The Ghost of Thomas Kempe

Penelope Lively

James is haunted by a mischievous seventeenth-century sorcerer who wants a new apprentice. How can he satisfy the ghost and stop it from getting him into trouble?

14 Del-Del

Victor Kelleher

In this hair-raising thriller a young boy is possessed by a malicious spirit called Del-Del, who is bent on destruction.

15 Goodnight Mister Tom

Michelle Magorian

A heart-warming tale about Willie Beech, a sad, deprived inner-city child who is evacuated from a soon-to-be-bombed London to the quiet British countryside.

16 Coraline

Neil Gaiman

Coraline steps through a door and into a strange mirror reality. This creepy tale pits her against her horribly possessive, button-eyed 'other' parents. Can she escape back to her own world?

17 Bad Alice

Jean Ure

In this deeply moving story a young misfit boy befriends bold, bad Alice. Nobody stops to question why she is the way she is. May not be suitable for younger readers.

18 The Giver

Lois Lowry

In a future where 'sameness' is everything Jonas is chosen to become the new 'Receiver of Memory'. But as the memories are given to him, he learns the horrible truth about his 'perfect' society.

19 Chinese Cinderella: The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter

Adeline Yen Mah

In this heart-rending tale, set in turbulent 1940s China, Adeline Yen Mah, shunned by her family, struggles to gain acceptance against all the odds.

20 Tales of the Greek Heroes

Roger Lancelyn Green

This great book retells the extraordinary exploits of the heroes and gods of ancient Greece, such as Theseus's battle with the Minotaur and the adventures of Jason and the Argonauts.

21 The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition

Anne Frank

A life-affirming tale of survival against the inhumanity of Nazi rule, as told through the engaging words of a vivacious teenager.

22 Boy: Tales of Childhood

Roald Dahl

One of the world's best-loved children's writers tells the fascinating, often painful, story of his own boyhood with warmth and humour.

23 Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Mildred D Taylor

A young girl learns the painful truth about what it means to be African American in 1930s Mississippi.

24 The Call of the Wild

Jack London

The powerful story of Buck, a family dog who is abducted and forced into pulling sledges in the frozen, unforgiving wilds of gold rush-era Canada.

25 A Little History of the World

E H Gombrich

An engaging look at a fascinating subject: the development of human society, from cavemen to the Second World War. This is probably the best starter in world history.

26 Moonfleet

J Meade Falkner

In this wonderful swashbuckling adventure young John Trenchard falls in with local smugglers and finds himself an outlaw.

27 One Thousand and One Arabian Nights

Geraldine McCaughrean

Each day Shahrazad's husband declares that this day will be her last, but she, quick-witted and beautiful, weaves fantastic tales that keep him enthralled night after night.

28 Tomorrow, When the War Began

John Marsden

The compelling first book in a series about a group of teenagers living on their wits in an occupied Australia. It deals with their friendships, losses and courage in the face of adversity.

29 Chemical Chaos (Horrible Science)

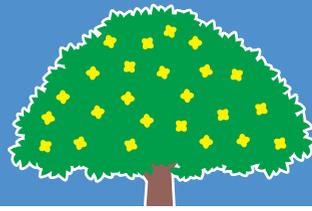
Nick Arnold and Tony De Saullis

This fascinating book, which is all about the messy, noisy and smelly side of science, is presented in a light-hearted, chaotic mix of comic strips and fact files.

30 The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Mark Twain

The entertaining story of Tom's madcap capers with his friends in nineteenth-century Missouri.



1 The Thirty-Nine Steps ☆
John Buchan ☆

In this relentless tale of murder, intrigue and mistaken identity the reader is taken from London to the Scottish countryside and back in a whirlwind of high adventure. ☆

2 Rebecca ☆
Daphne du Maurier ☆

The haunting mystery surrounding Rebecca's death gradually unfolds, with devastating effect. ☆

3 The Hobbit ☆
J R R Tolkien ☆

Hobbit Bilbo Baggins is dragged out of his comfortable hole into a world of adventure in a quest to steal the dragon Smaug's treasure. ☆

4 The Princess Bride ☆
William Goldman ☆

The spellbinding tale of beautiful Buttercup and heroic Westley. The pair seem destined for each other but murderers, giant wrestlers and insane princes constantly interfere. ☆

5 Across the Nightingale Floor (Tales of the Otori) ☆
Lian Hearn ☆

Takeo, the sole survivor of a massacre, is pursued by The Tribe for his special skills, until he meets the untouchable Kaede and realises his life is no longer his own. ☆

6 So Much to Tell You ☆
John Marsden ☆

Given the task of writing a daily journal, fourteen-year-old Marina, whose traumatic past has robbed her of the power of speech, records her thoughts in this touching story. ☆

7 The Kin ☆
Peter Dickinson ☆

Facing natural disasters, wild animals and murderous clans, four children – the last of the tribes – cross hostile valleys and plains in this epic quest for the elusive 'good places'. ☆

8 Of Mice and Men ☆
John Steinbeck ☆

In this brilliant story of life lived on the edge, the child-like Lennie and his street-wise companion George are penniless migrant workers in pursuit of their dreams. ☆

9 Rice Without Rain ☆
Minfong Ho ☆

In a gripping story of one family's tough life in rural Thailand, Jinda finds romance against a background of drought, injustice and student-led protests. ☆

10 Kidnapped ☆
Robert Louis Stevenson ☆

Young David Balfour, betrayed by his uncle, kidnapped and on his way to a life of slavery, survives a shipwreck and falls in with a desperate outlaw. ☆

11 Cry, the Beloved Country ☆
Alan Paton ☆

This wonderful book, set in a country ripped apart by racial injustice, is the moving story of dignified Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo, who faces impossible odds in order to reunite his family. ☆

12 Northern Lights (His Dark Materials) ☆
Philip Pullman ☆

In this first novel of the trilogy eleven-year-old Lyra and her daemon overhear forbidden secrets, secrets that set them on a desperate chase to the icy Arctic wastes. ☆

13 A Kestrel for a Knave ☆
Barry Hines ☆

Billy, a bullied loner about to leave school with no qualifications, little hope for the future and no desire to work 'down the pit' has one special, perhaps unique, gift. ☆

14 The Dark is Rising (The Dark is Rising Sequence) ☆
Susan Cooper ☆

Will, turning eleven, finds himself imbued with the power of the Old Ones and must defeat the magic of the Dark. This haunting fantasy is the second episode in the sequence. ☆

15 Don't Know Much About Geography ☆
Kenneth C Davis ☆

Told in a light-hearted, user-friendly style, this is an eye-opening look at the Earth from the big bang into the space age, via global warming and the oceans. ☆

16 Charlotte Sometimes ☆
Penelope Farmer ☆

Charlotte and Clare board at the same school but live about forty years apart, and every other day they swap lives. In this magical tale the girls face their future and their past. ☆

17 All Creatures Great and Small ☆
James Herriot ☆

This is James Herriot's hilarious account of the ups and downs of life as a newly-qualified vet in the unforgiving, but beautiful, Yorkshire Dales. ☆

18 A Wrinkle in Time ☆
Madeleine L'Engle ☆

When a mysterious stranger drops in, Meg and Charles find themselves involved in two life-changing events: a galactic battle between good and evil and a quest to save their own family. ☆

19 Coal: A Human History ☆
Barbara Freese ☆

From jewellery to the fuel of the Industrial Revolution this black fossilised rock is bound into the very substance of civilisation. A fascinating look at this most dirty of subjects. ☆

20 The Changeover ☆
Margaret Mahy ☆

Laura, gifted with the power of premonition, knows that something awful is going to happen to her brother. Only she can save his life, and only the mysterious Sorensen Carlisle can help her. ☆

21 The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy ☆
Douglas Adams ☆

When Arthur Dent's planet, Earth, is demolished he is plunged into a universe of paranoid androids, translating fish and the impossibly named Improbability Drive. ☆

22 Forensics (Kingfisher Knowledge) ☆
Richard Platt ☆

In this look at the real life of forensic science the reader is taken through the incredible detective work that unmask even the most devious of criminals. ☆

23 Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats ☆
T S Eliot ☆

Good cats, bad cats, magical cats, ordinary cats and many more beasts of the purring kind – lovingly penned short poems by a world-renowned poet. ☆

24 A Little Piece of Ground ☆
Elizabeth Laird ☆

Twelve-year-old Palestinian Karim Aboudi lives for football. With friends, he finds and clears a piece of wasteland and, dodging curfews and tanks, enjoys his little piece of ground. ☆

25 The Lost World ☆
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ☆

Journalist Edward Malone and his intrepid companions trek through impenetrable Amazonian rainforest in search of a mysterious lost world. ☆

26 Around the World in Eighty Days ☆
Jules Verne ☆

In this thrilling mix of adventure, exploration and a race against time Phileas Fogg attempts the impossible. ☆

27 Little Women ☆
Louisa M Alcott ☆

The heart-warming tale of four sisters whose kindness and enthusiasm in the face of poverty and civil war inspire all who meet them. ☆

28 Noughts and Crosses ☆
Malorie Blackman ☆

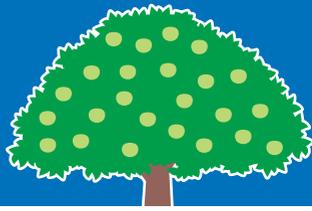
In this breathtaking romance Callum and Sephy have to come to terms with their divided world and deal with the choices that life has dealt them. Contains adult themes. ☆

29 Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World ☆
Jennifer Armstrong ☆

Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew set out in the *Endurance*, well-prepared and seemingly destined to reach the South Pole. But things don't always go as planned. ☆

30 Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? ☆
Philip K Dick ☆

Bounty hunter Rick Deckard hunts six murderous androids through the ruins of a devastated San Francisco in this thoughtful, dark thriller. ☆



1 **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** ☆

John Boyne ☆

Wartime Nazi Germany: Bruno's dad has an important new job in a place called 'Out-With'. Bruno goes exploring and finds a big fence, and a boy in pyjamas on the other side of it.

2 **Fahrenheit 451** ☆

Ray Bradbury ☆

Owning a book is a crime and fireman Guy Montag loves his job: burning books and the houses in which they are found. But an encounter with a teenage girl turns his world upside down.

3 **The Joy Luck Club** ☆

Amy Tan ☆

This is an extraordinary tale of the escape of four Chinese women from war-torn China and their complicated relationships with their Chinese-American daughters.

4 **Flowers for Algernon** ☆

Daniel Keyes ☆

In this moving novel of self-discovery Charlie Gordon (IQ 68) tells, in his own faltering words, the poignant story of his rise from baker's assistant to super-genius. Contains adult themes.

5 **Animal Farm** ☆

George Orwell ☆

This timeless fable describes how the animals, led by the pigs, took over Manor Farm – with unforeseen consequences.

6 **Brighton Rock** ☆

Graham Greene ☆

Up-and-coming gangster Pinkie will do anything to conceal a murder he committed. Will Ida be able to expose him before an innocent girl becomes his next victim? Contains adult themes.

7 **Silent Spring** ☆

Rachel Carson ☆

Rachel Carson's classic exposé of the use of a harmful pesticide created a stir and acted as a call to arms for eco-warriors worldwide.

8 **Life of Pi** ☆

Yann Martel ☆

One small boy, an enormous Bengal tiger and a tiny lifeboat adrift in the Pacific Ocean set the scene for this tale of companionship and survival in the most unlikely of circumstances.

9 **Watership Down** ☆

Richard Adams ☆

The compelling story of rabbit Hazel and his small band of brave bunny rebels who risk everything in this magnificent tale of adventure and heroism.

10 **The Code of the Woosters** ☆

P G Wodehouse ☆

Bertram Wooster is in trouble. Once again he is at the mercy of one of his aunts, blackmailed by an old flame and threatened by a wannabe dictator. Can servant Jeeves save the day once more?

11 **Wide Sargasso Sea** ☆

Jean Rhys ☆

Caught in a passionate tangle of hearsay, suspicion and history, heiress Antoinette Cosway's marriage starts to unravel in the sinister jungles of the post-slavery Caribbean.

12 **Cat's Cradle** ☆

Kurt Vonnegut ☆

An almost unclassifiable, brilliantly written book of stupendous reach that encompasses life, death, religion, politics, misguided science and apocalyptic war.

13 **Cider With Rosie** ☆

Laurie Lee ☆

Laurie Lee's heart-warming account of his childhood in a long lost rural England conjures up an atmosphere of bucolic nostalgia.

14 **Jane Eyre** ☆

Charlotte Brontë ☆

Harassed and abused by all she comes across, governess Jane Eyre copes with everything that life throws at her in this celebration of endurance and individuality.

15 **The Chrysalids** ☆

John Wyndham ☆

To be different can be fatal in the community of Waknuk. When David and a band of friends discover they have telepathic abilities can they keep it a secret for long enough to escape?

16 **The Hound of the Baskervilles** ☆

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ☆

Tackling the apparently supernatural mystery of Sir Baskerville's death, Holmes travels to Dartmoor to disprove the existence of the devil hound and solve the case.

17 **I, Robot** ☆

Isaac Asimov ☆

In this glimpse of the future, robots have become man's best friend, until, for one reason or another, they go wrong and, from the surface of Mercury to Earth's orbit, somebody has to go and fix them.

18 **Three Men in a Boat** ☆

Jerome K Jerome ☆

Hypochondriac J and two of his equally 'ill' friends decide that a jaunt up the River Thames would do them good. But their little excursion soon turns into a highly amusing expedition.

19 **The Oxford Treasury of Classic Poems** ☆

Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clark (eds.) ☆

This excellent, beautifully illustrated anthology includes well-loved and well-known poems. Recommended for all budding poetry lovers.

20 **A Walk in the Woods** ☆

Bill Bryson ☆

A side-splittingly funny account of two under-prepared friends who trek through the Appalachian Mountains – one of America's great wildernesses – dodging bears, snakes and rain on the way.

21 **The Time Machine** ☆

H G Wells ☆

A scientist travels 800,000 years into the future, where he discovers a beautiful, peaceful people. But his initial impressions are rudely shattered in a dramatic encounter.

22 **David Copperfield** ☆

Charles Dickens ☆

The ups and downs of David Copperfield's life, from his poor, unhappy childhood to his eventual success and prosperity as a novelist, are told with Dickens's customary wit and sharp dialogue.

23 **The Knife of Never Letting GO (Chaos Walking)** ☆

Patrick Ness ☆

Surrounded by 'Noise', there are no secrets in Prentisstown. But when Todd discovers a patch of silence he suddenly finds himself in a dramatic race for survival. Contains adult themes.

24 **Frankenstein** ☆

Mary Shelley ☆

Gifted and driven Victor Frankenstein creates a living being from leftover body parts. Unable to live with his creation, Frankenstein flees, leaving the child-like monster with a thirst for vengeance.

25 **The Dispossessed** ☆

Ursula Le Guin ☆

A brilliant physicist leaves his supposedly utopian anarchist planet for its luxurious neighbour, but events soon go horrifically out of his control. A fascinating book for mature readers.

26 **To Kill a Mockingbird** ☆

Harper Lee ☆

Told through the eyes of a young girl, this Depression-era story of injustice and growing up exposes the racial prejudices that troubled America's Deep South. Contains adult themes.

27 **Seven Wonders of the Industrial World** ☆

Deborah Cadbury ☆

This amazing book details seven of the most significant feats of engineering in modern history, from the steamship *Great Eastern* to the Hoover Dam.

28 **Empire of the Sun** ☆

J G Ballard ☆

Jim, a privileged European schoolboy, lives a cocooned life in Shanghai until Japan bombs Pearl Harbor. What follows is an authentic tale of survival in the brutal civilian camps.

29 **The Colour of Magic (Discworld)** ☆

Terry Pratchett ☆

In this magical fantasy a tourist, his many-legged luggage and an earnest wizard do their best to avoid Death, guards and the edge of the world.

30 **Nathaniel's Nutmeg** ☆

Giles Milton ☆

A fascinating true story of intrigue, betrayal and war between the Dutch and the English over the remote Banda Islands and their precious crop of nutmeg.

Further Reading



Further Reading

1 Lord of the Flies ☆☆☆
 William Golding ☆☆☆
 A disturbing tale for mature readers about a group of schoolboys who find themselves stranded on a deserted island. They try to set up their own laws, with disastrous results.

2 The Catcher in the Rye ☆☆☆
 J.D. Salinger ☆☆☆
 Two crazy days in the life of Holden Caulfield, a seventeen-year-old misfit, who has just been expelled from an expensive private school. Contains adult themes.

3 To Sir, with Love ☆☆☆
 E.R. Braithwaite ☆☆☆
 London, 1950s: Young, handsome and intelligent, E.R. Braithwaite is the ideal teacher, but for many of his students the colour of his skin is a barrier that will take time and patience to break down.

4 The Code Book ☆☆☆
 Simon Singh ☆☆☆
 Making codes and code-breaking is as old as civilisation itself. The secrets and history of this mysterious art are revealed in this fascinating book.

5 Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde ☆☆☆
 Robert Louis Stevenson ☆☆☆
 Dr Jekyll has created a potion so powerful that it can change him into Mr Hyde, a frightful and savage brute who is capable of realising his wickedest desires.

6 The Great Gatsby ☆☆☆
 F. Scott Fitzgerald ☆☆☆
 Charismatic, wealthy and party-loving, the 'great' Jay Gatsby is a mystery to all. This fast-paced story brings 1920s America vibrantly to life.

7 Nineteen Eighty-Four ☆☆☆
 George Orwell ☆☆☆
 In this dystopian nightmare the past is rewritten to suit the devilish wants of the Party and its omnipotent leader, Big Brother. Contains adult themes.

8 The Importance of Being Earnest ☆☆☆
 Oscar Wilde ☆☆☆
 Oscar Wilde's classic play centres around two English gentlemen who get themselves into a comical tangle when they start to tell some very tall tales.

9 Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster ☆☆☆
 Jon Krakauer ☆☆☆
 The shocking first-hand account of an ill-fated expedition to reach the summit of Mount Everest and its tragic consequences. Contains adult themes.

10 Dracula ☆☆☆
 Bram Stoker ☆☆☆
 When vampire Count Dracula buys a house in London, a terror that was once confined to the Transylvanian mountains takes root in England's capital city.

11 The Lord of the Rings ☆☆☆
 J.R.R. Tolkien ☆☆☆
 Pint-sized hobbit Frodo Baggins embarks on the most important quest in the history of Middle Earth: to destroy the One Ring before it falls into the hands of the Dark Lord Sauron.

12 Things Fall Apart ☆☆☆
 Chinua Achebe ☆☆☆
 Okonkwo, a Nigerian tribesman, is desperate to save his people's culture and traditions from the influence of European missionaries. Can he succeed? Contains adult themes.

13 The Motorcycle Diaries ☆☆☆
 Ernesto 'Che' Guevara ☆☆☆
 In 1952 two young Argentinian doctors travelled across South America by motorcycle. This is the story of the adventures and mishaps they encountered on the way.

14 The Secret Life of Walter Mitty and Other Pieces ☆☆☆
 James Thurber ☆☆☆
 A delightful collection of short stories from one of America's greatest comic writers.

15 Pride and Prejudice ☆☆☆
 Jane Austen ☆☆☆
 A wonderful, quick-witted romance set among the middle- and upper-classes of Georgian England.

16 All Quiet on the Western Front ☆☆☆
 Erich Maria Remarque ☆☆☆
 The horrors of the First World War as seen through the eyes of a young German soldier. Contains adult themes.

17 Metamorphosis and Other Stories ☆☆☆
 Franz Kafka ☆☆☆
 Imagine waking up one day to discover that you've become a giant insect. What would you do? A compelling, strange and classic collection.

18 Captain James Cook: A Biography ☆☆☆
 Richard Hough ☆☆☆
 From humble beginnings, James Cook rose to become one of the greatest navigators the world has ever seen. This vivid account of his life and voyages is truly inspiring.

19 The Spy Who Came in from the Cold ☆☆☆
 John le Carré ☆☆☆
 British spy Alec Leamas has had enough of Berlin and the Cold War. But before he can come in from the cold he must undertake one final assignment. Contains adult themes.

20 The Three Musketeers ☆☆☆
 Alexandre Dumas ☆☆☆
 A rip-roaring romantic adventure that pits a band of honourable warriors against the might of Cardinal Richelieu's guards.

21 New Selected Poems 1966–1987 ☆☆☆
 Seamus Heaney ☆☆☆
 The work of one of Ireland's greatest poets is brought together in this wonderful collection, which will appeal to a wide range of tastes.

22 An Unsuitable Job for a Woman ☆☆☆
 P.D. James ☆☆☆
 Cordelia Gray's first case as a detective – a suicide – seems fairly straightforward, but the deeper she delves, the more perilous her own life becomes. Contains adult themes.

23 Brave New World ☆☆☆
 Aldous Huxley ☆☆☆
 The leaders of the world have created a 'perfect' society, free of war, hunger and disease. But the price of perfection is very high indeed. Contains adult themes.

24 Wuthering Heights ☆☆☆
 Emily Brontë ☆☆☆
 A powerful, almost supernaturally strong, bond exists between adopted street urchin Heathcliff and his step-sister Catherine, one so strong that it threatens to tear their lives apart.

25 Farewell, My Lovely ☆☆☆
 Raymond Chandler ☆☆☆
 A gripping detective story in which a private eye finds himself searching for a missing girl among the colourful characters of 1940s Los Angeles. Contains adult themes.

26 Heart of Darkness ☆☆☆
 Joseph Conrad ☆☆☆
 Ferry captain Marlow is sent upriver into the wild, untamed heart of the Belgian Congo to bring back Kurtz, a mysterious ivory trader who may or may not be alive.

27 On the Road ☆☆☆
 Jack Kerouac ☆☆☆
 One of the most influential novels of the twentieth century, *On the Road* is Kerouac's unconventional account of his travels across the United States. Contains adult themes.

28 A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes ☆☆☆
 Stephen Hawking ☆☆☆
 A fascinating book that attempts to explain some of the most baffling theories of modern cosmology, such as black holes and dark matter, in plain, easy-to-understand terms.

29 The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Writings ☆☆☆
 Edgar Allan Poe ☆☆☆
 A collection of poems and spine-tingling stories that will leave you thankful that the real world isn't quite so strange... Or is it?

30 The Death of Ivan Ilyich ☆☆☆
 Leo Tolstoy ☆☆☆
 Ivan, a well-respected Russian judge, finds himself staring death in the face. During his long, often uncomfortable, wait for the inevitable he contemplates the meaning of his life.

Name: