

Title	Author	Description
1 <i>Tom Playfair</i>	Fr. Francis J. Finn	The first book in an incredible three-part series about a troublesome boy who learns through the help of virtuous friends and a devoted teacher at his all-boys boarding school to use his inborn stubbornness to serve others instead of merely to cause trouble. This book has been the single most influential piece of literature for me as a teacher and has inspired me to prioritize the Sacraments as a necessary part of any Catholic curriculum. Spoiler: This book leads to the ultimate climax, Tom Playfair's first communion, which he has been praying and studying to prepare himself for throughout.
2 <i>Percy Wynn</i>		The second book in this series focuses on an incoming boy, Percy Wynn, who was homeschooled with only sisters before joining Tom Playfair's all-boys boarding school. Through both hilarious and chilling encounters, Percy goes from being the laughing stock of the school as the only boy unable to throw a baseball to everyone's hero and a model of courage and piety.
3 <i>Harry Dee</i>		The third and final book focuses on yet another incoming boy, Harry Dee, who, after enduring the shock of his mother sitting next to his bedside dead one morning, suffered the further trauma of losing the nanny that served him in his mother's place after his uncle was found murdered on Christmas Day. As you can see, the opening plot reads more like a gothic thriller, but Harry Dee luckily regains his strength and vigor after joining Tom Playfair in many dangerous adventures both in and out of school. In the end, through the help of Tom Playfair and Percy Wynn, Harry is finally able to be reunited with his nanny and discover his uncle's murderer.
4 <i>The Hobbit :</i>	J. R. R. Tolkien	This book hardly needs an introduction, but it is often seen as a book for older children perhaps even nearing High School. In my personal opinion, this is a critical mistake. This book, while grammatically diverse and sometimes challenging, is an incredible story of adventure, and nearly every young boy that has read it in my 4th grade class has left with an imprint of Tolkien's world in his imagination due to this book. In some cases, even struggling readers have been inspired to read due to this story.
5 <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>		



6	<i>Prince Caspian</i>	C. S. Lewis	I cannot provide an introduction to this series that others have not done better. This is an absolute classic that every boy and girl should read as soon as possible.
7	<i>The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i>		
8	<i>The Silver Chair</i>		
9	<i>The Magician's Nephew</i>		
10	<i>The Horse and His Boy</i>		
11	<i>The Last Battle</i>		
12	<i>Men of Iron</i>	Howard Pyle	This story about a young man rising through the ranks to become a knight and reclaim his family's honor is moving. Every hard-headed, self-righteous boy should be handed a copy.
13	<i>The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood</i>		Perhaps one of the most charming renditions of Robin Hood of modern times, Pyle's ability to appreciate and expound on heroic virtue shines in this retelling.
14	<i>Otto of the Silver Hand</i>		Combating many false conceptions of Medieval times, this story empathizes with the practice of giving young children to be raised in a monastery from the perspective of the rampant murder and blood feuds of the period. In an age where true civility struggled to leave the grounds of a Church, one pure-hearted boy will face danger and persecution while remaining true to goodness and morality.
15	<i>Tales of Pirates and Buccaneers</i>		Pirates. Nuf said.

16	<i>Hank the Cowdog (series)</i>	John R. Erickson	Some classical teachers may judge me for placing this book on a list of book suggestions, but this series is delightful, hilarious, and ultimately (mostly) virtuous. Most of the books that I will suggest have characters who either have a virtuous mentor or learn virtue themselves. In this series, in the spirit of the Donald Duck comics, Hank is constantly struggling with hubris which ultimately gets him in trouble. At the same time, when trouble threatens his ranch, despite his cowardice, Hank truly does see himself as a servant and seeks to do what will protect the family he loves. Caution: This book uses incorrect spelling to communicate Hank's Texas accent. As a Texan, I thoroughly enjoy having a series that appreciate the subtleties of Texas vernacular, but it may be confusing for struggling readers to see words intentionally misspelled.
17	<i>Redwall (series)</i>	Brian Jacques	This book is definitely a higher reading level than some 10-year-olds have reached, but it is well worth it. When a rat and his army attack the abbey, Matthias, a young mouse at the abbey, takes the mantle of the mystic founder of the abbey, Martin the Warrior, in order to protect his home. Not enough can be said to praise this book which informed my imagination at its core years ago.
18	<i>Mossflower</i>		Returning to the time of Martin the Warrior, this books illustrates the incredible founder's trials. Faced against a murderous cat queen, truth and goodness are seen to triumph over power for its own sake.
19	<i>The Book of Three</i>	Lloyd Alexander	I will not sully these pages with my absolutely diminished account of this series. A charming tale of a daydreaming assistant pig keeper becoming a man and a hero. Several people have tried to critique its moral foundation and use of magic, but I find their critiques seriously lacking. Anyone who dislikes this book has probably never read it or simply doesn't enjoy children's adventure novels.
20	<i>The Black Cauldron</i>		
21	<i>The Castle of Llyr</i>		
22	<i>Taran Wanderer</i>		
23	<i>The High King</i>		

24	<i>Paddington</i>	Michael Bond	Hilarity ensues as a bear from the wilds of darkest Peru tries to incorporate himself into London city life. Found at Paddington station by the eclectic Brown family, this book single-handedly taught my brother to love reading.
25	<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society (series)</i>	Trenton Lee Stewart	Four exceptional children are chosen to participate in adventures under the tutelage and guidance of Mr. Benedict and his team of quirky colleagues.
26	<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey</i>		
27	<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma</i>		
28	<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Riddle of Ages</i>		
29	<i>The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict</i>		

30	<i>The Mouse and the Motorcycle</i>		
31	<i>Runaway Ralph</i>	Beverly Cleary	It's a mouse on a motorcycle! If that doesn't sell you, I don't know what will.
32	<i>Ralph S. Mouse</i>		
33	<i>Mrs. Frisbee and the Rats of NIMH</i>	Robert C. O'Brien	To save her children's lives, Mrs. Frisbee is forced to uncover the strange secrets of her late husband's unnatural intelligence. She will face down owls, cats, and humans to work with the hyper intelligent rats her husband was friends with.
34	<i>Hatchet</i>		After a crash landing in the Canadian wilderness, one boy will survive through grit and invention.
35	<i>Lawn Boy</i>	Gary Paulsen	A bored boy fixes up an old lawnmower and finds more work to do than he bargained for.
36	<i>Lawn Boy Returns</i>		The adventure continues as a summer lawn-mowing company becomes a full-on conglomerate.
37	<i>Tales from King Arthur</i>		A short volume initiating the reader into the story of King Arthur. Andrew Lang brings his classic fairy-tale attitude towards the telling.
38	<i>The Book of Saints and Heroes</i>		The greatest name in fairy stories aside from the Brothers Grimm tries his hand at Saints and heroes. Famously non-Christian, Lang tells these stories with the charity and tact of a believer and lover of history.
39	<i>The Blue Fairy Book</i>	Andrew Lang	Perhaps the last word on fairy stories, Lang tells classic fairy stories for children of all ages.

40	There are a number of other colored fairy books to choose from.		Although hard to find, this series is <i>extensive</i> and well worth perusing with your family.
41	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>	Daniel Defoe	A classic of the adventure genre, Crusoe's insatiable thirst for adventure leads him to around the world despite his family's insistence that he become a lawyer.
42	<i>The Swiss Family Robinson</i>	Johann Wyss	One family is forced to take danger and adventure in full stride when they are shipwrecked in an unknown land.
43	<i>King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table</i>	Roger Lancelyn Green	An excellent full-bodied introduction to the Arthur legendarium, this book covers a wide breadth of topics including Arthur's kingship, the Grail quests, and Arthur's ultimate betrayal. For your sword fighting, youngster, pick this one.
44	<i>The BFG</i>	Roald Dahl	What if a giant collected dreams? In this mythical tale, Dahl outdoes himself with this incredibly imaginative tale.
45	<i>Treasure Island</i>	Robert Lewis Stevenson	A classic story of fighting off rebellious pirates, Stevenson marks himself as one of the greats with his iconic characters and suspenseful storytelling.
46	<i>Winnie the Pooh</i>	A. A. Milne	If the last time you read this story was as a child, you are missing out. Not only is this series <i>hilarious</i> , the shenanigans they get into are wonderfully delightful. Winnie the Pooh lives in the hearts of all he touches.
47	<i>The House at Pooh Corner</i>		

48	<i>Pen and Bayonet: The Story of Joyce Kilmer</i>	Norah Smaridge	Although nearly forgotten, at one point, Joyce Kilmer was recognized as one of the great Catholic intellectuals of the early 20th century. A committed family man, mesmerizing poet, and witty personality Joyce deserves to be remembered for his life as a remarkable Christian, father, and American. When Americans were killed by German ships in World War I, he felt that it was his duty to fight alongside younger men to protect his home. Riddled with his poetry, this narrative serves a public service to keep his memory alive and the adventure of his life among us.
49	<i>All Creatures Great and Small</i>	James Herriot	The book that inspired my own father to become a veterinarian, James Herriot's memories of life as a country vet are unforgettable. To this day, no one has been able to imbue such magic into stories in the context of their career. Being a vet seems almost as exciting and far more rewarding than any other job in the world by the end of the book.
50	<i>Black Beauty</i>	Anna Sewell	Black Beauty, after needing to be sold, encounters a slew of hard times with wonderful stories as he continues to look for love and kindness.
51	<i>The Jungle Book</i>	Rudyard Kipling	A group of fables, these stories are memorable and delightful. Kipling's iconic love for adventure and heroism shine through, creating something for every boy's imagination to take hold of.
52	<i>My Side of the Mountain</i>	Jean Craighead George	Playing into every boy's desire to survive on his own cunning in the wilderness, this novel follows Sam Gibley who actually gives it a try!