

# Suggested Reading Books for Children Preparing for 11+ exams

*provided by Pamela Rolles on 11plus.co.uk*

Reading on a regular basis is an excellent way to help your child develop their English skills and vocabulary in preparation for entrance exams/11+ exams. It will certainly help them in English and verbal reasoning tests.

Reading helps children to identify and understand the use of similes, metaphors, adjectives, adverbs etc. within sentences; it also helps them to see how sentences can be constructed in different ways and apply the rules of English grammar and spellings.

It is important to try and expose your child to the many different types of literature, such as poems, short stories, letters, non-fiction, magazines and newspaper articles.

Reading should be fun, so try not to make it yet another piece of homework that your child has to do. Help them to choose books to read from a local library or perhaps on a Kindle/e-Reader and perhaps consider rewarding them for after they have read a few books to encourage them to read more. Try and make reading part of normal life by including it in your child's daily routine e.g. reading before going to bed. Listening to your child read and discussing the content with them will also encourage them to read more as you are showing that you consider reading an important skill.

The following suggestions are a mix of classics and more contemporary books and are in no particular order.

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** - The Lost World, Sherlock Holmes, The Hound of the Baskervilles

**Arthur Ransome** - Swallows and Amazons and other books in this series

**C.S Lewis** – All of the Narnia Series starting with The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

**Laura Ingalls Wilder** - Little House on the Prairie, Little House in the Big Woods

**Frances Hodgson Burnett** - The Secret Garden, A Little Princess

**William Golding** - Lord of the Flies

**J.R.R Tolkein** - The Lord of the Ring (3 books: The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, The Return of the King)  
The Hobbit

**Mark Twain** - The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

**George Orwell** – Animal Farm

**Arthur Ransome** – Swallows and Amazons series

**Malorie Blackman** – Noughts and Crosses Trilogy, Tell Me No Lies, Thief, Pig Heart Boy

**Susan Coolidge** – What Katy Did series

**Roald Dahl** books – e.g. The BFG, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Giant Peach  
(There are plenty more good books also written by Roald Dahl)

**Anne Holm** – I Am David

**Daniel Defoe** – Robinson Crusoe

**Laura Ingalls Wilder** – Little House on the Prairie series

**E. Nesbit** – The Railway Children, The Phoenix and the Carpet, Five Children and It, The Wouldbegoods, The Treasure Seekers

**Michael Morpurgo** books – e.g. The Butterfly Lion, War Horse, From Hereabout Hill, Why the Whales Came (there are plenty more good books he has also written)

**Louis Sachar** – Holes

**Joan Aiken** – Wolves of Willoughby Chase series

**Nina Bawden** – Carrie's War

**Brian Jacques** – Redwall series

**Carolyn Keene** – Nancy Drew mysteries

**Charles Kingsley** – The Water Babies

**Clive King** – Stig of the Dump

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**Lucy Montgomery** – Anne of Green Gables and other books in this series  
**Gerald Durrell** – My family and Other Animals, Birds, Beasts and Relatives, A Zoo in my Luggage, Encounters with Animals  
**Jonathan Swift** - Gulliver's Travels  
**Robert Louis Stevenson** – Treasure Island, Kidnapped  
**Paul Gallico** – The Snow Goose, Scruffy  
**Kenneth Graham** – The Wind in the Willows  
**Rudyard Kipling** – Jungle Book, Just So Stories  
**Eleanor H. Porter** – Pollanna  
**R.M. Ballantyne** – Coral Island  
**Anna Sewell** – Black Beauty  
**Erich Kästner** – Emil and the Detectives  
**Elizabeth Goudge** – The Little White Horse  
**Johanna Spyri** – Heidi  
**Noel Stretford** – Ballet Shoes, White Boots  
**Ian Serrailier** – The Silver Sword  
**Mary Norton** – The Borrowers and other books in this series  
**Louisa May Alcott** – Little Women  
**Lewis Carroll** – Alice in Wonderland  
**Hugh Lofting** – Dr Dolittle  
**Eva Ibbotson** - The Star of Kazan  
**Eoin Colfer** - Artemis Fowl series of books  
**Richard Adams** – Watership Down  
**Richmal Crompton** - Just William books  
**E.B. White** – Charlotte's Web  
**Jules Verne** – Journey to the Centre of the Earth, Around the World in 80 days  
**Ted Hughes** – How the Whale Became, The Iron Man  
**T.H. White** – The Sword in the Stone  
**Philipa Pearce** – Tom's Midnight Garden  
**Susan Coolidge** – What Katy Did Next  
**Dick-King Smith** books – e.g. The Crowstarver, The Sheep Pig  
**Anthony Horowitz** – Granny, Alex Rider series, Stormbreaker  
**Robert O'Brian** – Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh series of books  
**Anne Fine** books – e.g. The Flour Babies, Madame Doubtfire  
**James Herriot** - All Creatures Great and Small  
**Yan Martel** – The Life of Pi  
**Mark Haddon** - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time  
**Charlotte Bronte** – Jane Eyre  
**H.G. Wells** – The Time Machine  
**Charles Dickens** – A Christmas Carol  
**D Adams** - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy  
**J.K. Rowling** – Harry Potter series of books  
**John Boyne** – Boy in the Striped Pyjamas  
**Eva Ibbotson** - The Star of Kazan  
**Jenny Nimmo** – Children of the Red King series of books (Charlie Bone)  
**Helen Dunmore** - Ingo adventures series of books  
**Terry Deary** – The Fire Thief Fight Back  
**Kate DiCamillo** - The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane  
**Snicket, Lemony** - A Series of Unfortunate Events series of books  
**Lee Trenton Stewart** - The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey, The Mysterious Benedict Society

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**Jeanne Birdsall** - The Penderwicks  
**Antony Horowitz** - Granny  
**Michelle Magorian** - Goodnight Mr Tom  
**Mary Norton** - The Borrowers  
**Zizou Corder** - Lionboy  
**Ross Welford** - Time Travelling With a Hamster  
**John Masefield** - The Box of Delights  
**Lindsay Galvin** - Darwin's Dragons  
**Sophie Anderson** - The House With Chicken Legs  
**Piers Torday** - The Last Wild Trilogy  
**Sara Pennypacker** - Pax  
**S.F. Said** - Phoenix  
**Benjamin Zephaniah** - Windrush Child  
**Catherine Bruton** - No Ballet Shoes in Syria  
**Elizabeth Goudge** - Little White Horse  
**Charlie Higson** - The Young Bond Series  
**Ruth Thomas** - The Runaways  
**Beverley Naidoo** - Journey to Jo'Burg

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