

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. I have noted against a few books where I think they may be considered more appropriate for boys or girls.

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 (good for girl readers)

Frances Hodgson Burnett - The Secret Garden, A Little Princess

William Golding - Lord of the Flies

J.R.R Tolkien - 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 (good for girl readers)

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 (good for girl readers)

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 (Good for reluctant boy readers)

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 (good for girl readers)
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 (good for girl readers)
R.M. Ballantyne – Coral Island
Anna Sewell – Black Beauty (good for girl readers)
Erich Kästner – Emil and the Detectives (good for boy readers)
Elizabeth Goudge – The Little White Horse
Johanna Spyri – Heidi (good for girl readers)
Noel Stretford – Ballet Shoes, White Boots (good for girl readers)
Ian Serrailier – The Silver Sword
Mary Norton – The Borrowers and other books in this series
Louisa May Alcott – Little Women (good for girl readers)
Lewis Carroll – Alice in Wonderland
Hugh Lofting – Dr Dolittle
Eva Ibbotson - The Star of Kazan
Eoin Colfer - Artemis Fowl series of books (good for reluctant boy readers)
Richard Adams – Watership Down
Richmal Crompton - Just William books (good for boy readers)
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 (good for girl readers)
Dick-King Smith books – e.g. The Crowstarver, The Sheep Pig
Anthony Horowitz – Granny, Alex Rider series, Stormbreaker (good for boy readers)
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
Jeanne Birdsall - The Penderwicks

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