

P4 GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMME

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXTENSIVE READING



Note to all readers

“The more that you read, the more things you will know.

The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

~ Dr. Seuss

This list is given to you for extensive reading. By extensive reading, we hope that you will choose from this extensive ‘buffet’ of books and add variety to your general reading diet. From this variety, we hope that you will find some that will excite you and even some that will become your good or best friends.

Books offer us ideas and possibilities to ignite our imagination. Every one of us has only one life to lead, but there is no limit to who (or what) we can be, no limit to the experiences or worlds we can encounter in the world of books. Books offer us a chance to escape into a different world and enter the lives of people different from us. They offer us a chance to pretend to be – for a magical moment – to see the world from the eyes of someone else from a different time, a different place, and of a different personality from what we are. Books also open our eyes and make us aware of others whose lives are different from ours.

Be open in your choice of books and worlds, dare to meet those who are different from you. Observe their situations, and consider their responses – and hopefully you will also find that ways in which you are similar to them. An encounter with a good book is an opportunity to converse with people from another time or period. You may not like every character or book you encounter, but you will be richer for the exposure. Your world will expand as you are exposed to other points of view. You get to see yourself as others may see you, and you get to see how others see themselves. You may even discover ways that will allow you to make meaning out of your own life, or to reach out and connect with others.

For those of you who wonder how reading will help you improve your language ability, consider this: Good writers not only write well, they have ideas that interest their readers. To develop good ideas, you need to read, so you can increase the experiences and knowledge. In addition, when you read, you may also look at the writing techniques used by the writer, and gain ideas about how to polish your own writing. When you read a good book, it should inspire you to wonder at the creative possibilities that language offers us – that the right word, at the right place, should be able to move us and leave a deep impression. It should also make us wonder at the skill with which writers use language – while having fun with language at the same time.

Most importantly, this list is offered to you in the hope that you can find the right companion with which you can spend time with. We wish you the pleasure of an enjoyable read which should be one of your most memorable learning experiences in English.

How to use the given reading list:

The titles recommended are all available in our national libraries.

You may refer to the appendices for a synopsis of each book. If you find some titles particularly interesting, discuss them with your teacher. If you find other titles outside of this list that you are interested in, please check in with your teacher to check their suitability for you.

Books marked with the * symbol are **highly recommended titles that relate most to the genres, concept units or themes you will be covering in your level**. If they catch your fancy, you’d do well to start with those.

Books that are marked with the ^ symbol are **more challenging in terms of language, presentation or narrative structure**.

GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Recommended Titles for Extensive Reading 2026

PRIMARY 4

"Great books help you understand, and they help you feel understood."
-John Green

In P4, the recommended titles include several from the genre of animal fantasy that shares elements of make-believe that are so essential to fairy tales. There are also books that play with language. Many of the books also feature characters who embark on experiences that help them to discover who they are and how they relate to others in coming-of-age tales similar to what you will cover in *A Single Shard*.

No.	Author	Title
1	Adam, Paul	Escape from Shadow Island
2	Aiken, Joan	The Wolves of Willoughby Chase
3	Applegate, Katherine	The One and Only Ivan
4	Banks, Lynne Reid	The Indian in the Cupboard
5	Beck, Ian	The Secret History of Tom Trueheart
6	Birdsall, Jeanne	The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy
7*	Blume, Judy	Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing
8	Boston, Lucy M.	The Children of Green Knowe
9	Broach, Elise	Masterpiece
10	Browne, Anthony	Piggybook
11	Browne, Anthony	Voices in the Park
12	Burnett, Frances Hodgson	The Secret Garden
13*	Byars, Betsy	The Midnight Fox
14*	Carpenter, Frances	Tales of a Korean Grandmother
15*	Cleary, Beverly	Dear Mr. Henshaw
16*	Clements, Andrew	Frindle
17	Coatsworth, Elizabeth	The Cat Who Went To Heaven
18	Creech, Sharon	The Boy on the Porch
19	Creech, Sharon	Absolutely Normal Chaos

20	Cushman, Karen	Matilda Bone
21*	Dahl, Roald	Matilda
22	Dahl, Roald	The BFG
23	DiCamillo, Kate	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
24*^	DiCamillo, Kate	The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread
25	Ende, Michael	The Neverending Story
26	Fang, Linda	The Ch'i-Lin Purse – A Collection of Ancient Chinese Stories
27*	Fine, Anne	Step by Wicked Step
28*	Fleischman, Sid.	The Whipping Boy
29	Gipson, Fred	Old Yeller
30*	Grahame, Kenneth	The Wind in the Willows
31*	Jester, Norton	The Phantom Tollbooth
32*	Kadohata, Cynthia	Kira-Kira
33	Kelly, Eric P.	The Trumpeter of Krakow
34	Kuroyanagi, Tetsuko	Totto-Chan, the Little Girl at the Window
35	LaFleur, Suzanne	Love, Aubrey
36	Lawson, Robert	Rabbit Hill
37*^	Lin, Grace	Where the Mountain Meets the Moon
38*	Lin, Grace	Starry River of the Sky
39	Lowry, Lois	Gossamer
40	Lowry, Lois	See You Around, Sam
41	Lowry, Lois	The One Hundredth Thing about Caroline
42	MacLachlan, Patricia	The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt
43	MacLachlan, Patricia	Word After Word After Word
44	Mah, Adeline Yen	Chinese Cinderella
45	Montgomery, Lucy Maud	Anne of Green Gables
46	Morpurgo, Michael	The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips
47	Neville, Emily	It's Like This, Cat
48	O' Brien, Robert C.	Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
49	Paterson, Katherine	Bridge to Terabithia
50*	Paulsen, Gary	Hatchet
51	Pullman, Philip	Count Karlstein
52*	Pullman, Philip	Clockwork

53	Smith, Doris Buchanan	A Taste of Blackberries
54	Spyri, Johanna	Heidi
55	Stead, Rebecca	Liar and Spy
56	Synder, Zilpha Keatley	The Witches of Worm
57	Voigt, Cynthia	Young Fredle
58	Wang, Gabrielle	The Garden of Empress of Cassia
59	Wang, Gabrielle	A Ghost in My Suitcase
60	Wang, Gabrielle	The Wish Bird
61	Webster, Jean	Daddy Long Legs
62*	White, E.B.	Charlotte's Web
63	Wojciechowska, Maia	Shadow of a Bull

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The MORE that you
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APPENDIX - Blurbs to whet your appetite and help you choose your reads

1 Adam, Paul Escape from Shadow Island

Max Cassidy can escape from anything.. Chained, handcuffed, locked in an airtight water tank, there's nothing the fourteen-year-old world's foremost escape artist can't get himself out of. He learned the art from his father—a man who just two years ago was murdered and Max's mother went to jail for the crime. Now a mysterious man has shown up backstage after one of Max's shows, telling Max that not only is his mother innocent, but his father is still alive. He can provide only one clue, and the clue leads from his home in London to the exotic and deadly Central American country of Santo Domingo and the impenetrable fortress on the sinister Isla de Sombra...

2 Aiken, Joan The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

Wicked wolves and a grim governess threaten Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia when Bonnie's parents leave Willoughby Chase for a sea voyage. Left in the care of the cruel Miss Slighcarp, the girls can hardly believe what is happening to their once happy home. The servants are dismissed, the furniture is sold, and Bonnie and Sylvia are sent to a prison-like orphan school. With the help of Simon the gooseboy and his flock, they escape. But how will they ever get Willoughby Chase free from the clutches of the evil Miss Slighcarp?

3 Applegate, Katherine The One and Only Ivan

This stirring and unforgettable novel celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendship. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point of view of Ivan himself.

Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes...

4 Banks, Lynne Reid The Indian in the Cupboard

It's Omri's birthday, but all he gets from his best friend, Patrick, is a little plastic Indian brave. Trying to hide his disappointment, Omri puts the Indian in a metal cupboard and locks the door with a mysterious skeleton key that once belonged to his great-grandmother. Little does Omri know that by turning the key, he will transform his ordinary plastic Indian into a real live man from an altogether different time and place! Omri and the tiny warrior called Little Bear could hardly be more different, yet soon the two forge a very special friendship. Will Omri be able to keep Little Bear without anyone finding out about him?

5 Beck, Ian The Secret History of Tom Trueheart

Tom Trueheart's six older brothers are famous. They go on exciting quests in the Land of Stories to complete tales the Story Bureau assigns them. Tom stays at home with his mother. But when his brothers fail to return from their latest adventures in time for Tom's twelfth birthday, a letter from the Story Bureau arrives addressed to Tom. Only he can venture into the Land of Stories to find out why his brothers haven't completed their missions. Tom is about to discover a tale of his own. . . . How will it end?

6 Birdsall, Jeanne The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy

[Also see other books in the series]

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures. The icy-hearted Mrs. Tifton is not as pleased with the Penderwicks as Jeffrey is, though, and warns the new friends to stay out of trouble. Which, of course, they will—won't they? One thing's for sure: it will be a summer the Penderwicks will never forget.

7* Blume, Judy Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

Peter thinks he has the world's biggest problem - his little brother, Fudge. Fudge causes trouble wherever he goes and it's usually up to Peter to sort out the mess. When Peter wins a tiny green turtle called Dribble, he's determined to keep it away from his brother. But when Fudge does get his hands on Dribble - disaster strikes!

8 Boston, Lucy M. The Children of Green Knowe

Tolly's great grandmother isn't a witch, but both she and her old house, Green Knowe, are full of a very special kind of magic. There are other children in the house - children who were happy there centuries before. Running around Green Knowe's moat, gardens and mysterious rooms, Tolly slowly discovers them, their toys and animals, and their wonderful stories . . .

9 Broach, Elise Masterpiece

Marvin, a beetle, lives with his family under the kitchen sink in the Pompaday's apartment. James, a boy, lives in that apartment with his family. After James receives a pen-and-ink set for his birthday, Marvin surprises him by creating an elaborate miniature drawing. James gets all the credit and before long these unlikely friends are caught up in an art heist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art that could lead them to a famous long-lost drawing by Albrecht Durer. But James can't go through with the plan without Marvin's help - and that's where things get really complicated (and interesting!).

10 Browne, Anthony Piggybook

Mr Piggott and his two sons behave like pigs to poor Mrs Piggott - until, finally, she walks out. Left to fend for themselves, the male Piggotts undergo some curious changes!

11 Browne, Anthony Voices in the Park

Four different voices tell their own versions of the same walk in the park. The radically different perspectives give a fascinating depth to this simple story which explores many of the author's key themes, such as alienation, friendship and the bizarre amid the mundane.

12 Burnett, Frances
Hodgson The Secret Garden

When Mary Lennox is sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle everybody says she is the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It is true, too. Mary is pale, spoilt and quite contrary. But she is also horribly lonely. Then one day she hears about a garden in the grounds of the Manor that has been kept locked and hidden for years. When Mary finds the key, she discovers the most magical place anyone could imagine...

13* Byars, Betsy The Midnight Fox

Tom, a town boy, is horrified when his parents tell him he has to stay on Aunt Millie's farm while they are away. He finds country life every bit as strange and uncomfortable as he feared. But soon, he discovers a rare black fox with green eyes, living with her cubs in the forest. Suddenly, the summer is full of excitement. That is, until Uncle Fred decides to go after the fox - will Tom save her and her family in time?

14* Carpenter, Frances Tales of a Korean Grandmother

In her best-selling book for young readers, Frances Carpenter collects thirty-two classic Korean children's stories from the "Land of the Morning Calm": the woodcutter and the old men of the mountain; the puppy who saved his village from a tiger; the singing girl who danced the Japanese General into the deep river; Why the Dog and Cat are Not friends; and even a more familiar tale of the clever rabbit who outsmarted the tortoise. The children of the Kim family sit at their beloved Grandmother's knee to listen to these and other traditional folk tales which are rooted in thousands of years of Korean culture.

15* Cleary, Beverly Dear Mr. Henshaw

After his parents separate, Leigh Botts moves to a new town with his mother. Struggling to make friends and deal with his anger toward his absent father, Leigh loses himself in a class assignment in which he must write to his favorite author. When Mr. Henshaw responds, the two form an unexpected friendship that will change Leigh's life forever.

16* Clements, Andrew Frindle

Nick really just likes to liven things up at school -- and he's always had plenty of great ideas. When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word, then the people in town too starting using it. His teacher wants Nick to put an end to the uproar he started, but the new word is spreading across the country, and there's nothing Nick can do to stop it.

17 Coatsworth, Elizabeth The Cat Who Went To Heaven

In ancient Japan, a struggling artist is angered when his housekeeper brings home a tiny white cat he can barely afford to feed. But when the village's head priest commissions a painting of the Buddha for a healthy sum, the artist softens toward the animal he believes has brought him luck. A timeless fable on compassion and redemption results from the relationship between the artist and his cat.

18 Creech, Sharon The Boy on the Porch

A young couple wakes up to find a strange boy asleep on their porch. At first they don't expect him to stay, but stay he does, and as the couple's connection to him grows, the three of them blossom into an unlikely family. But where has he come from and to whom does he belong?

19 Creech, Sharon Absolutely Normal Chaos

Mary Lou has what she calls a normally-strange family. That is, until her cousin Carl comes to stay. She had plans to enjoy the summer hanging out with her first ever crush, but there's something so quiet and sad about Carl. What Mary discovers is far from normal and rocks the family to its heart.

20 Cushman, Karen Matilda Bone

Orphaned Matilda is not at all pleased when she arrives at Blood and Bone Alley to become an assistant to Red Peg the Bonesetter. She is a religious, well-educated girl who can't picture herself doing dirty chores or helping sickly patients. Each day is very different from her former quiet life, and self-centered Matilda thinks no one understands her. Through Peg's kindness and teaching however, Matilda learns to see the world around her in a different way.

21* Dahl, Roald Matilda

Matilda's parents have called her some terrible things, but the truth is she's a genius. Underestimating Matilda proves to be a big mistake as they, along with her spiteful headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, soon find out when Matilda discovers she has a very special power.

22 Dahl, Roald The BFG

Every night, when the world is sleeping, big gruesome giants guzzle up whoppsy-whiffling human beans. There's only one giant who can stop them - the BFG. With his friend Sophie in his top pocket, the kind giant sets out to rid the world of the Bloodbottler, the Fleshlumppeater and all their rotsome friends forever . . .

23 DiCamillo, Kate The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Abilene loves her blue china rabbit, but Edward Tulane is extremely vain and only loves himself. On a voyage from New York to London, Edward falls overboard and from there finds himself on an amazing journey. He travels with tramps, works as a scarecrow, comforts a dying child ... and finally learns what it is to truly love.

24^A DiCamillo, Kate The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread

Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. And what happens then?

25 Ende, Michael The Neverending Story

Small and insignificant Bastian Balthazar Bux is nobody's idea of a hero, least of all his own. Through the pages of an old book he discovers a mysterious world of enchantment - but a world that is falling into decay. The great task of making things well again falls on Bastian and so begins a dazzling, magical adventure.

26 Fang, Linda The Ch'i-Lin Purse – A Collection of Ancient Chinese Stories

In turns funny, poignant, and wise, these nine lively stories are peopled with an array of unusual characters, including a young woman raised as a boy who is then faced with the complicated business of marriage; a carp-fish spirit who changes herself into a young woman for love's sake; a Miracle Doctor who can cure all illnesses except one; and a shopkeeper who learns the hard way the true meaning of justice.

27* Fine, Anne Step by Wicked Step

On a wild and stormy night, five students are sent ahead on a school trip. Gathered together in a spooky mansion, they find a secret room and a mysterious old diary. Little do they know that they share a common bond: They are all members of stepfamilies. And each person reveals his story...step by step.

28* Fleischman, Sid. The Whipping Boy

Princes can't be punished when they misbehave, so Prince Horace, known to his people as "Prince Brat", has Jeremy, his whipping boy, stand in for him and suffer his punishments in his stead. The two young people have little like for each other, but when Prince Brat decides to run away, and is captured by outlaws, Jeremy has to come up with an escape plan. The boys share adventures and take on different identities and discover more about themselves and each other.

29 Gipson, Fred Old Yeller

The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene.

Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis's family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?

30* Grahame, Kenneth The Wind in the Willows

As spring begins to bloom across the countryside, so too does Mole's desire to leave his underground home and venture into the wilds above. His journey delivers him to the banks of a river and to the blue-and-white boat captained by Rat. Their camaraderie sparked, Mole and Rat continue into the Wild Wood, meeting up with the cantankerous Badger and the impulsive Toad. No stranger to calamity, Toad and his reckless habits — including a tendency toward spectacular car crashes — will get the four friends into heaps of trouble, but their steadfast loyalty to one another always sees them through.

31 Gruff, Lisa Absolutely Almost

Albie is just an average fifth-grader. Exceptionally average. He is not good at reading, he is distraught by math, and cannot draw a picture to save his life – and he will seemingly never change. His parents are losing hope and constantly pushing Albie to be better, but his new nanny, Calista, helps Albie to accept himself. It is only then, with Calista's help, that Albie becomes happy with himself and uncovers his true strengths.

32* Jester, Norton The Phantom Tollbooth

For Milo, everything's a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the Island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason! Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams. . . .

33 Kadohata, Cynthia Kira-Kira

kira-kira (kee ra kee ra): glittering; shining Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. Lynn, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- kira-kira -- in the future.

34 Kelly, Eric P. The Trumpeter of Krakow

There was something about the Great Tarnov Crystal....Wise men spoke of it in hushed tones. Others were ready to kill for it. Now a murderous Tartar chief is bent on possessing it. But young Joseph Charnetski was bound by an ancient oath to protect the jewel at all costs.. Will Joseph be able to protect the crystal, and the city, from the plundering Tartars?

35 Kuroyanagi, Tetsuko Totto-Chan, the Little Girl at the Window

This engaging series of childhood recollections tells about an ideal school in Tokyo during World War II that combined learning with fun, freedom, and love. This unusual school had old railroad cars for classrooms, and it was run by an extraordinary man-its founder and headmaster, Sosaku Kobayashi-who was a firm believer in freedom of expression and activity.

36 LaFleur, Suzanne Love, Aubrey

Aubrey has suffered an unbelievable loss, and goes to live with her grandmother in Vermont in order to heal. Readers follow Aubrey as she makes new friends, learns to cope with what has happened, and begins to figure out how to move on. Then she is faced with one of the biggest decisions of her life...

37 Lawson, Robert Rabbit Hill

It has been a while since Folks lived in the Big House, and an even longer time has passed since there has been a garden at the House. All the animals of the Hill are very excited about the new Folks moving in, and they wonder how things are going to change. It's only a matter of time before the animals of the Hill find out just who is moving in, and they may be a little bit surprised when they do.

38*^ Lin, Grace Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

In the valley of Fruitless Mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

39 Lin, Grace Starry River of the Sky

The moon is missing from the remote Village of Clear Sky, but only a young boy named Rendi seems to notice! Rendi has run away from home and is now working as a chore boy at the village inn. He can't help but notice the village's peculiar inhabitants and their problems.

But one day, a mysterious lady arrives at the Inn with the gift of storytelling, and slowly transforms the villagers and Rendi himself. As she tells more stories and the days pass in the Village of Clear Sky, Rendi begins to realize that perhaps it is his own story that holds the answers to all those questions.

40 Lowry, Lois Gossamer

Littlest One is a tiny creature slowly learning her job of giving dreams to humans. Each night she and her teacher, Thin Elderly, visit an old woman's home where she softly touches beloved objects, gathering happy memories, and drops of old scents and sounds, piecing them together as pleasant dreams. But the dreaded Sinisteeds, dark fearsome creatures that plague their victims with nightmares, are always at work against the dreamgivers. When the old woman takes in John, an angry foster child with a troubled past, the Sinisteeds go after him with their horrifying nightmares. Can Littlest One, and her touch light as gossamer, protect John's heart and soul from the nightmare of his dark past?

41 Lowry, Lois See You Around, Sam

Sam Krupnik, mad at his mother because she won't let him wear his newly acquired plastic fangs in the house, decides to run away to Alaska. But as Sam says goodbye to his neighbors, he receives more advice and survival tools than he knows what to do with. Will Sam have to change his mind about Alaska?

42 Lowry, Lois The One Hundredth Thing about Caroline

When their mother starts to date the mystery man on the fifth floor, who has been instructed by his agent to "eliminate the children" by the first of May, eleven-year-old Caroline and her older brother figure they're targets of a savage crime.

43 MacLachlan, Patricia The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt

Minna wishes for many things. She wishes she understood the quote taped above her mother's typewriter, she wishes her mother would stop writing long enough to really listen to her. She wishes her house were peaceful and orderly like her friend Lucas's. Most of all, she wishes she could find a vibrato on her cello and play Mozart the way he deserves to be played.

Minna soon discovers that some things can't be found, they just have to happen. And as she waits for her vibrato to happen, Minna begins to understand some facts and fictions about herself.

44 MacLachlan, Patricia Word After Word After Word

Every school day feels the same for fourth graders Lucy and Henry and Evie and Russell and May. Then Ms. Mirabel comes to their class — bringing magical words and a whole new way of seeing and understanding.

This is an honest, inspiring story about what is real and what is unreal, and about the ways that writing can change our lives and connect us to our own stories—word after word after word.

45 Mah, Adeline Yen Chinese Cinderella

Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for — the love and understanding of her family.

46 Montgomery, Lucy Anne of Green Gables
 Maud

Anne is described as bright and quick, eager to please, talkative, and extremely imaginative. The book recounts the orphan Anne's adventures in making a home — and friends — in Green Gables.

47 Morpurgo, Michael The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips

It's 1943, and twelve-year-old Lily Tregenza lives on a farm in an idyllic seaside village in England. Apart from her father being away and the "townie" evacuees at school, her life is scarcely touched by the war . . . until Lily and her family, along with 3,000 other villagers, are ordered to evacuate their homes to allow the Allied forces to practise their landings for D-day. It's a dangerous operation — guns firing and bombs exploding — and the whole area is off-limits. But Adolphus Tips, Lily's adored cat, has other ideas — barbed wire and "Keep out!" signs mean nothing to her.

48 Neville, Emily It's Like This, Cat

This is a coming-of-age story about a boy and his pet cat set in late 1950's New York. The novel relies heavily on references to the period, though the characters deal with concerns that present-day readers can find equivalents to. This novel is written in the first person present-tense, with a strong voice characterised by the slang of the period.

49 O' Brien, Robert C. Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma.

50 Paterson, Katherine Bridge to Terabithia

Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. And he almost is, until the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, outpaces him. The two become fast friends and spend most days in the woods behind Leslie's house, where they invent an enchanted land called Terabithia. One morning, Leslie goes to Terabithia without Jess and a tragedy occurs. It will take the love of his family and the strength that Leslie has given him for Jess to be able to deal with his grief.

51* Paulsen, Gary Hatchet

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present—and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart since his parent's divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self pity, or despair—it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

52 Pullman, Philip Count Karlstein

In the mountains of Switzerland the wicked Count Karlstein plots to abandon his two orphaned nieces in a hunting lodge as prey for the Demon Huntsman and his ghostly hounds.

53* Pullman, Philip Clockwork

A tormented apprentice clock-maker, a deadly mechanical knight in armour - and the sinister Dr Kalmenius, who some say is the devil ...Wind up these characters, fit them into a story on a cold winter's evening, with the snow swirling down, and suddenly life and the story begin to merge in a peculiarly macabre - and unstoppable - way.

54 Smith, Doris Buchanan A Taste of Blackberries

Jamie isn't afraid of anything. Always ready to get into trouble, then right back out of it, he's a fun and exasperating best friend. But when something terrible happens to Jamie, his best friend has to face the tragedy alone. Without Jamie, there are so many impossible questions to answer -- how can your best friend be gone forever? How can some things, like playing games in the sun or the taste of the blackberries that Jamie loved, go on without him?

55 Spyri, Johanna Heidi

At the age of five, little orphan Heidi is sent to live with her grandfather in the Alps. Everyone in the village is afraid of him, but Heidi is fascinated by his long beard and bushy grey eyebrows. She loves her life in the mountains, playing in the sunshine and growing up amongst the goats and birds. But one terrible day, Heidi is collected by her aunt and is made to live with a new family in town. Heidi can't bear to be away from her grandfather; can she find a way back up the mountain, where she belongs?

56 Stead, Rebecca Liar and Spy

This is a story about spies, games, and friendship. Seventh grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. His assignment? Tracking the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: what is a lie, and what is a game? How far is too far to go for your only friend?

57 Synder, Zilpha Keatley The Witches of Worm

Cats. Jessica's never liked them. Especially not a skinny, ugly kitten that looks like a worm. Worm. Jessica wishes she'd never brought Worm home with her, because now he's making her do terrible things. She's sure she isn't imagining the evil voice coming from the cat, telling her to play mean tricks on people. But how can she explain what's happening?

58 Voigt, Cynthia Young Fredle

Cynthia Voigt crafts a novel about discovery, perspective, and the meaning of home—all through the eyes of an affable and worried little mouse. Fredle is an earnest young fellow suddenly cast out of his cozy home behind the kitchen cabinets—into the outside. It's a new world of color and texture and grass and sky. But with all that comes snakes and rain and lawnmowers and raccoons and a different sort of mouse. Do the dangers outweigh the thrill of discovery? Fredle's quest to get back inside soon becomes a wild adventure of predators and allies, of color and sound, of discovery and nostalgia. And, as Fredle himself will come to understand, of freedom.

59 Wang, Gabrielle The Garden of Empress of Cassia

When Mimi is given a box of magical pastels, she discovers that she can draw the Garden of Empress Cassia – a drawing so beautiful and real that people are transported inside it. But the pastels are ancient, mysterious and powerful, and in the wrong hands can be very dangerous . . .

60 Wang, Gabrielle A Ghost in My Suitcase

When Celeste travels to China to visit her grandmother, she uncovers an incredible family secret. And with this secret comes danger and adventure. If Celeste is to save her family and friends, she must learn to harness her rare and powerful gift as a ghost-hunter. . .

61 Wang, Gabrielle The Wish Bird

Oriole's beloved Wishbird is dying and she must leave the Forest of Birds to save him. But in the City of Soulless there are traitors everywhere, and when Oriole is captured, only a street orphan can help her. Can Oriole and Boy save Soulless and its bewitched king, or will the city's darkness prove too great even for magic?

62 Webster, Jean Daddy Long Legs

A trustee of the John Grier orphanage has offered to send Judy Abbott to college. The only requirements are that she must write to him every month and that she can never know who he is. Judy's life at college is a whirlwind of friends, classes, parties and a growing friendship with the handsome Jervis Pendleton. With so much happening in her life, Judy can scarcely stop writing to 'Daddy-Long-Legs', or wondering who her mysterious benefactor is...

63* White, E.B. Charlotte's Web

Some Pig. Humble. Radiant. These are the words in Charlotte's Web, high up in Zuckerman's barn. Charlotte's spider web tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, who simply wants a friend. They also express the love of a girl named Fern, who saved Wilbur's life when he was born the runt of his litter.

Manolo was only three when his father, the great bullfighter Juan Olivar, died. But Juan is never far from Manolo's consciousness -- how could he be, with the entire town of Arcangel waiting for the day Manolo will fulfill his father's legacy?

But Manolo has a secret he dares to share with no one -- he is a coward, without *afición*, the love of the sport that enables a bullfighter to rise above his fear and face a raging bull. As the day when he must enter the ring approaches, Manolo finds himself questioning which requires more courage: to follow in his father's legendary footsteps or to pursue his own destiny?

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There is more treasure in
books than in all the pirate's
loot on Treasure Island.

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