

Best Books for Children

Books for All Ages

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
Where the Sidewalk Ends: the Poems and Drawing of Shel Silverstein by Shel Silverstein
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum
Heidi by Johanna Spyri

Books for Children Ages 9-12 - More Books by Grade Level from TeachersFirst

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Hatchet by **Gary Paulsen**
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Little House on the Prairie by **Laura Ingalls Wilder**
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
The BFG by Roald Dahl
The Giver by **Lois Lowry**
James and the Giant Peach: A Children's Story by Roald Dahl
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by Robert C. O'Brien
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson
Matilda by Roald Dahl
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary
The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White
The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery
Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar
Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh
Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater
My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett
Stuart Little by E. B. White
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

Books for Young Adults - More Books by Grade Level from TeachersFirst

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien
Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls
The Cay by Theodore Taylor
The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare



Strategy Talk

What would make sense?

What would look right?

What would sound right?

What could you try?
Does that match the letters?

What can you do to help yourself?

* Does the picture help?

* Skip it, then try again.

* Get your mouth ready for it

* Reread the sentence

A Simple Guide...

to helping your preteen-teenage
child become
a successful reader.



Parent Reading Workshop

Written by Community Resource Specialists Rechienda Jernigan and Debra L. Blossom
Information excerpted from the *Building Better Readers*
Tutor Handbook written by Deborah Gist and Reading is Fundamental, Inc.

Welcome!

Thank you for attending this workshop. We know that you have busy lives, but we promise that you will learn some valuable information. The purpose of this reading workshop is to provide you with information and ideas that will help you to better understand, motivate and enrich your preteen to teenage reader.

Your efforts will make a difference. Research has shown that the extra attention a child receives at home can have a significant impact on their academic achievement. In fact, *studies show that the more children read, the better readers and writers they become.* Together we can—and will—make a difference!



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Tips for Encouraging Your Preteen to Teenage Reader

- ✓ Set an Example. Let your child see you reading for pleasure.
- ✓ Share some interesting things with your child that you have read about in books, newspapers or magazines.
- ✓ Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials.
- ✓ Notice what interests your child.
- ✓ Respect your child's choices.
- ✓ Give teens the opportunity to choose his or her own books.
- ✓ Be patient and be a good listener.
- ✓ Read some books written for teens.
- ✓ Explore books together.
- ✓ Visit the library often.
- ✓ Encourage your child to build his or her own personal library at home.
- ✓ Make reading aloud a natural part of family life. Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, or a letter - without turning it into a lesson.
- ✓ Keep the big picture in mind. Don't panic. Time, encouragement and patience may help rekindle your child's interest in reading.
- ✓ **HAVE FUN TOGETHER!**

Your Independent Reader (9+)

A child in grades four through eight has probably mastered basic reading skills and can read independently for pleasure. This is a great time for you to keep encouraging and motivating your child to read more often.

But what do you do when children can read, but don't?

Why some Children Don't Like to Read:

- It's Boring
- I don't have the time
- It's too hard
- It's not important
- It's no fun

What Won't Work:

- Nagging
- Bribing
- Judging your child's performance
- Criticizing your child's choices
- Setting unrealistic goals
- Making a big deal about reading

What Will Work:

- Expose your child to reading that is related to their interest and hobbies.
- Help your child "rearrange" their schedule to find time to read.
- Find interesting books and materials written at a level that matches your child's reading ability.
- Find reading materials on subjects that matter to your child.
- Take the pressure off reading so that your child can enjoy it.

Choosing Books for Your Preteen-Teenage Reader

Good books can inspire your child to expand their imaginations, and help them become better readers. Parents can encourage reading in many ways, but experts agree that choosing good books is an essential first step. Here are some suggestions for choosing good books for preteens and teens.

Choose books that preteens and teens like. Preteens and teens...

- are interested in local, national, and international current events. Read editorials and articles from the newspaper and news magazines.
- question authority. Read classic and modern novels that deal with "big" issues such as when the needs of a community are more important than those of individuals.
- are striving for independence, yet still want to be connected to their families. Read your favorite books and explain why they are important to you and read books that let you share laughter, a good mystery, an action-packed adventure, a science fiction journey.
- are gradually learning to think abstractly and understand the reasons behind views that differ from their own. Read books that challenges them to think "out of the box" and see the world beyond their daily experiences.
- are thinking about what they will do in their lives - college, careers, and more. Read books that introduce a wide range of opportunities and experiences.

Remember: The more your child *likes* what they are reading, the more they *will* read.

Tips on Helping the Struggling Reader

Most likely your preteen and teen child will not be receptive in your efforts to help if they are a struggling reader. We suggest that you share these reading strategies with your child. Allow your preteen or teen to use these strategies independently.

All good readers use multiple strategies as they read. They think about what would make sense (MEANING), sound right (STRUCTURE), and look right (VISUAL). In order to become good readers, children must learn these strategies and be able to apply them as they read.

When children are reading books that are on their level, they will struggle with approximately one out of every ten words. Helping them use strategies to figure out these unknown words is one of the most effective ways to teach them how to read on their own. Encourage your child to ask themselves some of the following questions when he or she struggles with words.

Meaning

- ✓ What would make sense here? Does that make sense?
- ✓ Why don't you start that sentence again?
- ✓ Skip that word and go on. Does that help?

Structure

- ✓ Does it sound right?
- ✓ Can we say it that way?
- ✓ Why don't you start that sentence again?
- ✓ Skip that word and go on. Does that help?

Visual

- ✓ Get your mouth ready to say that word.
- ✓ Look at how the word begins.
- ✓ Have you seen that word before?
- ✓ Think of a word you know with the same sound(s) in it.
- ✓ Is that right? Check it again. Does it match the letters?

Reading Aloud With Your Preteen or Teen Child

Reading stories aloud encourages a love of reading. Reading books and other materials to your child is a great way to spend time with them!

We encourage you to read aloud to your child, especially a child who is discouraged by his or her own poor reading skills. The pleasure of listening to you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's initial enthusiasm for books and reading.

Read aloud so preteens and teens can:

- Continue to associate reading with warm, pleasant feelings.
- Learn about words and language
- Build listening skills and expand vocabularies
- Explore social and moral issues and behaviors
- Become more skilled independent readers
- Be motivated to read on their own
- Discover which authors and writing styles they like
- Stay connected to their families
- Establish a lifelong commitment to reading

Try these read-aloud tips:

- Respect your child by letting them keep their views to themselves, when they wish. It's perfectly normal for this age group to want to maintain privacy about some things.
- Vary the read-aloud menu from light, engaging items to longer, thought-provoking ones.
- Model thinking about what you read by stopping to discuss a key point.
- Stimulate discussion by asking open-ended questions that don't have right or wrong answers, but instead invite thinking and learning.

Reading Outside the Book

Encourage your child to read a variety of materials.

- **Newspapers** – Many newspapers have sections geared toward teenage children. The articles are generally short and snappy, and either appeal directly to kids or are written from a kid's point of view.
- **Magazines** – Magazines for preteens might seem fluffy, but if they keep your kids reading, the benefits might make up for the lack of heavy hitting content.
- **Cookbooks** – Even if your child would much rather eat out than cook, cooking is a good opportunity to get kids reading. You can also make the meals together as a great family activity.
- **Comic Books** – Comic books and graphic novels are becoming more and more popular. The illustrations and often-offbeat topics should keep kids interested.
- **Brochures** – Get brochures for destination spots, tourist attractions and theme parks. Let your child read the brochures and get excited about an upcoming event or a potential adventure.
- **Song lyrics** – Rare is the child that doesn't love music. Encourage your child to read along as they listen to songs.
- **Instructions** – Have your child read the instructions and help you go step by step on a project.
- **Food and product labels** – Have your child read the cereal box, bag of chips, soda can, suntan lotion bottle, bug spray, or anything else that is lying around.
- **Catalogues** – These are great options if your child is exploring a particular interest. For example from soccer, clothes, bedroom furniture to whatever turns your child's head.
- **Backs of videos/DVDs** – Rather than picking a movie based on its packaging, have your child select a movie based on the story description on the back of the box. Challenge them to find a good story based on the plot rather than the marketing.
- **Read to Younger Children** – Encourage older children to read to their younger brother and sisters. Older children enjoy showing off their skills to an admiring audience.
- **Play Games** – Play games that are reading related.