

8th Grade – This list will challenge 8th grade readers, and prepare them for high school/AP exam reading lists. The winter holiday is a great time to get started!

Achebe, Chinua, *Things Fall Apart*

Adams, Douglas, *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*

Alexie, Sherman, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

Angelou, Maya, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Austen, Jane, *Pride and Prejudice*

Bradbury, Ray, *Fahrenheit 451*

Bradbury, Ray, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*

Bronte, Charlotte, *Jane Eyre*

Bronte, Emily, *Wuthering Heights*

Carson, Rachel, *Silent Spring*

Cervantes, Miguel de, *Don Quixote*

Cisneros, Sandra, *House on Mango Street*

Crane, Stephen, *The Red Badge of Courage*

Darwin, Charles, *Origin of Species*

Dashner, James, *The Maze Runner*

Dickens, Charles, *Great Expectations*

Fitzgerald, F. Scott, *The Great Gatsby*

Gardner, John, *Grendel*

Gawande, Atul, *Complications*

Golding, William, *Lord of the Flies*

Goldman, William, *The Princess Bride*

Hawthorne, Nathaniel, *The Scarlet Letter*

Huxley, Aldous, *Brave New World*

Joyce, James, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

Lee, Harper, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Martel, Yann, *Life of Pi*

Melville, Herman, *Moby Dick*
Poe, Edgar Allan, *Complete Short Stories and Tales*
Rigg, Ransom, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*
Satrapi, Marjane, *Persepolis*
Shakespeare (plays)
Stevenson, Robert Lewis, *Treasure Island*
Swift, Jonathan, *Gulliver's Travels*
Twain, Mark, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Wiesel, Elie, *Night*
X, Malcolm, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
Yousafi, Malala, *I Am Malala*
Zusack, Markus, *The Book Thief*

6th and 7th Grades (or, 13 books every kid should read before turning 13 ☺)

White, E.B., *Charlotte's Web*
Dahl, Roald, *Matilda*
Sachar, Louis, *Holes*
Palacio, R.J., *Wonder*
Lowry, Lois, *Number the Stars*
Spinelli, Jerry, *Maniac Magee*
Blume, Judy, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*
Cleary, Beverly, *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*
Bond, Michael, *A Bear Called Paddington*
Babbitt, Natalie, *Tuck Everlasting*
Lewis, C.S. *The Chronicles of Narnia*
White, E.B. *Stuart Little*
Raskin, Ellen, *The Westing Game*

4th and 5th Grades

There are so many amazing books out there for 4th and 5th graders!

Anderson, Laurie Halse, *Fever 1793*

Applegate, Katherine, *The One and Only Ivan*

Babbitt, Natalie, *Tuck Everlasting*

Balliet, Blue, *Chasing Vermeer*

Banks, Lynne Reid, *The Indian in the Cupboard*

Barry, Dave and Pearson, Ridley, *Peter and the Starcatchers* (this is a series)

Birdsall, Jeanne, *The Penderwicks*

Black, Holly and DiTerlizzi, Tony, *The Spiderwick Chronicles*

Burnett, Frances Hodgson, *The Secret Garden*

Cece, Bell, *El Deafo*

Coerr, Eleanor, *Sadko and the Thousand Paper Cranes*

Collins, Suzanne, *Gregor the Overlander* (this is a series)

Creech, Sharon, *Love That Dog*

Creech, Sharon, *Walk Two Moons*

Curtis, Christopher Paul, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*

Dahl, Roald, *Matilda*

Dahl, Roald, *Vile Verses*

DiCamillo, Kate, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

Draper, Sharon, *Out of My Mind*

DuPrau, Jeanne, *The City of Ember* (this is a series)

Erskine, Kathryn, *Mockingbird*

Fitzhugh, Louise, *Harriet the Spy*

Fleischman, Paul, *Joyful Noise: Poem for Two Voices*

Funke, Cornelia, *Inkheart* (this is a series)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson, *Among the Hidden* (this is a series)

Juster, Norton, *The Phantom Tollbooth*

Kamkwamba, William, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*

Kibuishi, Kazu, *Amulet* (this is a series)

Kipling, Rudyard, *The Jungle Book*

Korman, Gordon, *Everest* (this is a series)

L'Engle, Madeleine, *A Wrinkle in Time*

Lai, Thanhha, *Inside Out and Back Again*

Lewis, C.S., *The Chronicles of Narnia* (this is a series)

Lowry, Lois, *Number the Stars*

Lowry, Lois, *The Giver*

Martin, Ann M., *A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray*

O'Dell, Scott, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Paolini, Christopher, *Eragon*

Patterson, Katherine, *Bridge to Terabithia*

Paulsen, Gary, *Hatchet*

Rawls, Wilson, *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Riordan, Rick, *The Lightning Thief*

Rowling, J.K., *Harry Potter* (this is a series)

Ryan, Pam Muoz, *Esperanza Rising*

Sachar, Louis, *Holes*

Sage, Angie, *Magyk* (this is a series)

Selznick, Brian, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

Sewell, Anna, *Black Beauty*

Sharp, Margery, *The Rescuers*

Silverstein, Shell, *A Light in the Attic*

Silverstein, Shell, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*

Smith, Jeff, *Bone*, (this is a series)

Stead, Rebecca, *When You Reach Me*

Stewart, Trenton, *The Mysterious Benedict Society* (this is a series)

Telgemeier, Raina, *Smile*

Twain, Mark, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Yang, Gene Luen, *Secret Coders* (this is a series)

Yep, Lawrence, *The Earth Dragon Awaits*

1-3rd grades

Popular series:

Kline, Suzy, *Horrible Harry series*

Osborne, Mary Pope, *Magic Treehouse series*

Warner, Gertrude Chandler, *The Boxcar Children series*

My America series (various authors)

Birney, Betty, *Humphrey series*

Capec, Anne, *Magic Schoolbus Chapter Book series*

Who Was biographies (various authors)

Miles, Ellen, *Puppy Place series*

Christopher, Matt, *Soccer Cats series*

Lobel, Arnold, *Frog and Toad Are Friends series*

Hoffman, Alice, *Amazing Grace* (or any of the *Grace* books – there's also *Boundless Grace*, and *Princess Grace*)

Numeroff, Laura Joffe, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*

Canon, Janell, *Stellaluna*

Freeman, Don, *Corduroy*

McPhail, David, *The Teddy Bear*

The two books below offer up tons of fun creative writing activities and prompts that are sure to get kids excited about writing. Giving young writers the chance to tap into their creative sides through writing is a great way to get them invested in all aspects of the writing process.

Grades 5 and up:

Levine, Gail Carson, Writing Magic: Creating Stories That Fly

All ages:

Benke, Karen, Rip the Page: Adventures in Creative Writing