

Books for Children and Teens

Grade Levels: 5th-12th



CHILDREN

[THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS](#) (BARRETT, G. C.), COURAGE BOOKS, AN IMPRINT OF RUNNING PRESS, 1993. SPRING IS IN THE AIR AND MOLE HAS FOUND A WONDERFUL NEW WORLD. THERE'S BOATING WITH RATTY, A FEAST WITH BADGER AND HIGH JINX ON THE OPEN ROAD WITH THAT RECKLESS RUFFIAN, MR. TOAD OF TOAD HALL. THE FOUR BECOME THE FIRMEST OF FRIENDS, BUT AFTER TOAD'S LATEST ESCAPE, CAN THEY JOIN TOGETHER AND BEAT THE WRETCHED WEASELS?

[THE ANNOTATED SECRET GARDEN](#) (FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT), W.W. NORTON, 2007. WHEN ORPHANED MARY LENNOX, LONELY AND SAD, COMES TO LIVE AT HER UNCLE'S GREAT HOUSE ON THE YORKSHIRE MOORS, SHE FINDS IT FULL OF SECRETS. ONE DAY, WITH THE HELP OF A FRIENDLY ROBIN, MARY DISCOVERS THE MOST MYSTERIOUS WONDER OF ALL -- A SECRET GARDEN, WALLED AND LOCKED, WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN FOR YEARS AND YEARS. IS EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN DEAD, OR CAN MARY BRING IT BACK TO LIFE?

[NUMBER THE STARS](#) (LOWRY, LOIS), HOUGHTON MIFFLIN CO., 1989. IN 1943, DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION OF DENMARK, TEN-YEAR-OLD ANNEMARIE LEARNS HOW TO BE BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS WHEN SHE HELPS SHELTER HER JEWISH FRIEND FROM THE NAZIS.

[LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE SERIES BY LAURA INGALLS WILDER](#) LAURA INGALLS WILDER'S CHARMING, FASCINATING TALES OF HER OWN GIRLHOOD SPENT IN THE AMERICAN WEST. THE SERIES IS A DOCUMENT OF FRONTIER-TOWN AMERICA IN THE 19TH CENTURY AND A BEAUTIFULLY TOLD COMING-OF-AGE STORY. LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS; FARMER BOY; LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE; ON THE BANKS OF PLUM CREEK; BY THE SHORES OF SILVER LAKE.

[THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA SERIES BY C.S. LEWIS](#) C.S. LEWIS' BELOVED CHILDREN'S CLASSIC SET IN WORLD WAR II-ERA ENGLAND ABOUT FOUR SIBLINGS WHO STUMBLE THROUGH A MAGICAL WARDROBE INTO THE ENCHANTED REALM OF NARNIA. THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW; THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE; THE HORSE AND HIS BOY; PRINCE CASPIAN: THE RETURN TO NARNIA; THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER ; THE SILVER CHAIR; THE LAST BATTLE.

[PILGRIM'S PROGRESS](#) (SCHMIDT, GARY D.), W.B. EERDMANS, 1994. THE PILGRIM CHRISTIAN UNDERTAKES THE DANGEROUS JOURNEY TO THE CELESTIAL CITY, EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL OBSTACLES ALONG THE WAY.

[AND NOW MIGUEL](#) (KRUMGOLD, JOSEPH), HARPERCOLLINS, 1953. MIGUEL, THE MIDDLE CHILD OF THE CHAVEZ FAMILY, LIVES NEAR TAOS, NEW MEXICO, AND LONGS TO GO WITH THE MEN OF HIS FAMILY TO THE SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS.

[THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX: BEING THE STORY OF A MOUSE, A PRINCESS, SOME SOUP, AND A SPOOL OF THREAD](#) (DICAMILLO, KATE) CANDLEWICK PRESS, 2003. THE ADVENTURES OF DESPEREAUX TILLING, A SMALL MOUSE OF UNUSUAL TALENTS, THE PRINCESS THAT HE LOVES, THE SERVANT GIRL WHO LONGS TO BE A PRINCESS AND A DEVIOUS RAT DETERMINED TO BRING THEM ALL TO RUIN.

[THE SUMMER OF THE SWANS](#) (BYARS, BETSY), VIKING JUVENILE, 1970. THE STORY OF A 14-YEAR-OLD NAMED SARA-MOODY, UNPREDICTABLE, AND ON THE BRINK OF WOMANHOOD--AND HOW HER LIFE CHANGES WHEN HER YOUNGER, DEVELOPMENTALLY CHALLENGED BROTHER DISAPPEARS.

[A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS: A PLAY IN TWO ACTS](#) (BOLT, ROBERT), VINTAGE BOOKS, 1990. THE CLASSIC PLAY ABOUT SIR THOMAS MORE, THE LORD CHANCELLOR WHO REFUSED TO COMPROMISE AND WAS EXECUTED BY HENRY VIII. THE STORY IN PLAY FORM OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SIR THOMAS MORE & HENRY VIII.

TEENS

[LEAVE IT WITH HIM: A NOVEL](#) (LONSETH, ELIZABETH), PLEASANT WORD, 2007. 15-YEAR-OLD LUKE HAS BEEN STRUGGLING WITH HIS PARENTS' DIVORCE. AND NOW HIS MOTHER IS SERIOUSLY ILL, SO HE AND HIS BROTHER MUST LEAVE ORCAS ISLAND AND LIVE WITH THEIR FATHER IN OLYMPIA. HIS LOVE FOR GOD HELPS HIM TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY AND TEMPTATION.



TEENS CONTINUED...

[ABLAZE: STORIES OF DARING TEEN SAINTS](#) (SWAIM, COLLEEN), LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS, 2011. SHARES STORIES OF EIGHT YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE SELFLESS HEROISM AND REFUSAL TO DENY THEIR FAITH LED TO THEIR BECOMING SAINTS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INCLUDING SAINT TERESA OF THE ANDES, SAINT STANISLAUS KOSTKA, AND BLESSED PEDRO CALUNGSON.

[THRIFT STORE SAINTS: MEETING JESUS 25 CENTS AT A TIME](#) (KNUTH, JANE), LOYOLA PRESS, 2010. THE AUTHOR'S EXPERIENCES SERVING THE POOR AT A ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THRIFT STORE IN THE INNER CITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN. KNUTH'S MOVING STORIES DEMONSTRATE THE PROFOUND JOY ANY OF US CAN EXPERIENCE WHEN WE SEE SERVING THE POOR NOT AS SOCIAL WORK, BUT AS A SPIRITUAL PATH THAT LEADS US TO THE HEART OF JESUS.

[CHRISTOPHER: A NOVEL](#) (ATHEY, DAVID), SOPHIA INSTITUTE PRESS, 2011. YOUNG CHRISTOPHER LAGORIO SEES THE GRANDEUR OF GOD IN THE VAST MINNESOTA SKY, AND IN ITS COLD LAKES AND DARK FORESTS. WHEN A CATHOLIC GIRL INTRODUCES HIM TO THE EUCHARIST, CHRISTOPHER FALLS IN LOVE WITH HER AND WITH THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH, BUT LACKS SUFFICIENT FAITH TO CONVERT. HAUNTED BY THE HEAVENLY, YET BORN OF THIS EARTH, CHRIS GROWS TOWARD MANHOOD SEEKING TO DISCOVER AND BECOME WORTHY OF THE PERFECT GIRL, BUT YEARNING EVEN MORE TO SATISFY HIS GOD-HUNGER. PAGE BY PAGE, MYSTERY BY MYSTERY, ADVENTURE AFTER ADVENTURE, AND WITH EVER-GROWING URGENCY, CHRISTOPHER STRUGGLES TO SEE THE LIGHT THAT IS EVER ANCIENT AND EVER NEW, AND FINALLY TO HEAR THE SONG THAT IS BEYOND HUMAN LANGUAGE. A MODERN LOVE STORY AND A QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL, CHRISTOPHER IS A TRIBUTE TO GENUINE LOVE AND TO THE FAITH THAT SHAPED THE BEST OF OUR WESTERN CIVILIZATION.

[JOHN PAUL 2 HIGH SERIES](#) BY FRANK, CHRISTIAN M., SOPHIA INSTITUTE PRESS, 2007. THE SEVEN STUDENTS OF A NEWLY-ESTABLISHED, "REAL" CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRY TO LEARN AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT AS THEY FACE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR BUILDING WILL BE CONDEMNED, PERSONALITY CONFLICTS, AND PROBLEMS WITH THE NEARBY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE TWO OF THEM ARE ON THE WRESTLING TEAM. CATHOLIC (RELUCTANTLY); TRESPASSES AGAINST US; SUMMER OF MY DISSENT; UNDERCOVER PAPIST.

[LINCOLN PARK SERIES](#) BY JOHN SHEA AND MICHAEL CAROTTA, OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, 2007. A MYSTERY SERIES FOR YOUNG ADOLESCENTS. THE BOOKS CENTER AROUND THE EXPERIENCES OF NINTH-GRADERS WHO UNDERGO SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A VERY SPECIAL EXTRACURRICULAR CLUB—SAVE OUR URBAN LIFE—AT THEIR HIGH SCHOOL. AS THEY READ, PRE-TEENS AND TEENS WILL DISCOVER THEIR OWN STRENGTHS OF CHARACTER AND SPIRITUAL INTERESTS. BODY AND S.O.U.L.; ALL S.O.U.L.'S; ORIGINAL S.O.U.L.

Resources for Teachers and Parents

[A WORKING READING LIST FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS](#) (BURGESS, KAY), NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION, 2012. A READING LIST THAT PROVIDES PARENTS AND TEACHERS WITH SUGGESTIONS OF CURRENT CHILDREN'S LITERATURE WITH CHARACTERS THAT LEARN AND GROW, DEMONSTRATE THE VIRTUES OF FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY, JUSTICE, COURAGE, FORGIVENESS AND SERVICE. EACH LIST IS ARRANGED THEMATICALLY. AT LEAST TWENTY TITLES ARE PRESENTED FOR EACH VIRTUE. MIDDLE CHILDHOOD-GRADES 3-5/EARLY ADOLESCENCE-GRADES 5-8.

[BOOKS THAT BUILD CHARACTER: A GUIDE TO TEACHING YOUR CHILD MORAL VALUES THROUGH STORIES](#) (KILPATRICK, WILLIAM), SIMON & SCHUSTER, 1994. GUIDE TO CLASSIC NOVELS, CONTEMPORARY FICTION, MYTHS AND LEGENDS, SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY, FOLKTALES, BIBLE STORIES, PICTURE BOOKS AND BIOGRAPHIES THAT CELEBRATE VIRTUES AND VALUES AND EXPLORE THE MORAL GROUND AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG. ENTRIES ARE ARRANGED BY CATEGORY AND AGE LEVEL FROM PRESCHOOL TO TEEN.

[ONE HUNDRED GREAT CATHOLIC BOOKS: FROM THE EARLY CENTURIES TO THE PRESENT](#) (BROPHY, DONALD), BLUEBRIDGE, 2007. CONTAINS SUMMARIES OF ONE HUNDRED CLASSICS OF CATHOLIC LITERATURE, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES, HISTORIES, POETRY, FICTION, SPIRITUAL TEXTS, AND MYSTICAL WRITINGS, EACH WITH INFORMATION ON THE AUTHOR AND THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN.

[IMAGINING FAITH WITH KIDS: UNEARTHING SEEDS OF THE GOSPEL IN CHILDREN'S STORIES FROM PETER RABBIT TO HARRY POTTER](#) (KEATON, MARY MARGARET), PAULINE BOOKS & MEDIA, 2005. MARY MARGARET KEATON SHARES IDEAS AND STRATEGIES TO HELP PARENTS CHOOSE GREAT SECULAR LITERATURE TO READ TO AND WITH THEIR CHILDREN, SHOWING US HOW TO USE NON-RELIGIOUS BOOKS TO REINFORCE GOSPEL VALUES. CONTAINS EXTENSIVE RESOURCE LIST OF LITERATURE AS WELL AS BIBLIOGRAPHY.

