

Classics for Your Classroom?

The following list has been extracted from a much longer list of classics suggested by Michael Clay Thompson in his book *Classics in the Classroom* ((1995), Royal Fireworks Press. I have also added a few of my own recommendations. These books are appropriate for verbally talented elementary and middle school students.

Elementary Titles

Little Women
Souder
Peter Pan
Caddie Woodlawn
A Little Princess
The Secret Garden
The Incredible Journey
Understood Betsy
The Door in the Wall
The Moffats
Johnny Tremain
The Starry Messenger
Julie of the Wolves
Wind in the Willows
Fairy Tales
Rip Van Winkle
The Phantom Tollbooth
From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
A Wrinkle in Time
Castle
Cathedral
Pyramid
Winnie-the-Pooh
Anne of Green Gables
The Borrowers
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
Island of the Blue Dolphins
Where the Red Fern Grows
The Westing Game
The Witch of Blackbird Pond
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
Charlotte's Web

Authors

Alcott
Armstrong
Barrie
Brink
Burnett
Burnett
Burnford
Canfield
DeAngeli
Estes
Forbes
Sís
George
Grahame
Grimm
Irving
Juster
Konigsburg
L'Engle
Macaulay
Macaulay
Macaulay
Milne
Montgomery
Norton
O'Brien
O'Dell
Rawls
Raskin
Speare
Taylor
White

Middle School Titles

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Emma
Persuasion
Pride and Prejudice
Jane Eyre
A Christmas Carol
Robinson Crusoe
Fahrenheit 451
Ellen Foster
Sketchbook
Legend of Sleepy Hollow
To Kill a Mockingbird
The Call of the Wild
The Sea Wolf
The Member of the Wedding (script or story)
Gone with the Wind
Animal Farm
Treasure Island
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Lord of the Flies
Lord of the Rings
Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Prince and the Pauper
A Journey to the Center of the Earth
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea
The Time Machine
Ethan Frome
The Bridge of San Luis Rey
The Swiss Family Robinson

Authors

Angelou
Austen
Austen
Austen
Bronte
Dickens
Defoe
Bradbury
Gibbons
Irving
Irving
Lee
London
London
McCullers
Mitchell
Orwell
Stevenson
Smith
Golding
Tolkien
Twain
Twain
Verne
Verne
Wells
Wharton
Wilder
Wyss

Poetry of Frost, Dickinson, Hughes, Sandburg, Poe, Lear, Whitman, Brooks, Blake, Longfellow, Angelou, Wordsworth, Stevenson, Carroll. (See Poetry for Young People Series published by Sterling and often available through Scholastic Book Clubs.)