



CANA ACADEMY®

CLASSIC BOOKS READING LIST

GRADES FIRST THROUGH EIGHT



GENERAL RESOURCES, ANTHOLOGIES & POETRY



As a way to serve parents and teachers seeking to build a robust reading culture, the Cana Academy team has assembled a list of classics for each grade level, first through eight. We hope this list helps your young readers grow in their love of great literature.

Young people especially benefit from hearing great stories. That is why, along with books they can read independently, we offer books that parents and teachers can read aloud to them.

Poems to Learn by Heart, Caroline Kennedy

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, T.S. Eliot

Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young,
Jack Prelutsky & Marc Brown

The Random House Book of Poetry for Children,
Jack Prelutsky & Arnold Lobel

Poetry for Young People, Robert Frost

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain, Verna Aardema

A Child's Garden of Verses, Robert Louis Stevenson & Tasha Tudor

Tasha Tudor's Book of Fairytales, Tasha Tudor

The Book of Virtues, William Bennett

The Real Mother Goose, Blanche Fisher Wright

Wynken, Blynken & Nod, Eugene Field & Susan Jeffers

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, Robert Frost & Susan Jeffers

Paul Revere's Ride, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow & Ted Rand

CULTURAL

The Story of Ferdinand, Munro Leaf & R. Lawson
The Emperor and the Nightingale, Hans Christian Andersen
Madeline, Ludwig Bemelmans
The Three Little Javelinas, Susan Lowell
The Legend of the Bluebonnet, Tomie dePaola
The Night of Las Posadas, Tomie dePaola
Grandfather's Journey, Allen Say
Tree of Cranes, Allen Say
When I Was Young in the Mountains, Cynthia Rylant
Tikki Tikki Tembo, Arlene Mosel
Stone Soup, Marcia Brown
Rainbow Crow, Nancy Van Laan
Ten Little Rabbits, Virginia Grossman & Sylvia Long
The First Strawberries, Joseph Bruchac
How the Stars Fell into the Sky: A Navajo Legend, Jerrie Oughton
Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back: A Native American Year of Moons,
Joseph Bruchac & Jonathan London
The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses, Paul Goble
Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest, Gerald McDermott
The Crane Wife, Odds Bodkin & Gennady Spirin
The Magic Paintbrush, Julia Donaldson & Joel Stewart
Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock, Eric Kimmel
The Boy Who Held Back the Sea, Lenny Hort & Thomas Locker
Lon Po-Po: A Red Riding Hood Story from China, Ed Young
The Rag Coat, Lauren Mills



CINDERELLA
STORIES

FAIRY TALES

Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China,
Ai-Ling Louie
The Golden Slipper: A Vietnamese Legend,
Darrell Lum & Makiko Nagano
Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story,
Tomie dePaola
Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella,
Robert D. San Souci & Brian Pinkney
The Egyptian Cinderella,
Shirley Climo & Ruth Heller
The Korean Cinderella, Shirley Climo
The Rough-Face Girl,
Rafe Martin & David Shannon
Cinderella, Charles Perrault
Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale,
John Steptoe
The Talking Eggs,
Robert San Souci & Jerry Pinkney

Rapunzel, Paul O. Zelinsky
The Seal Prince, Sheila MacGill Callahan & Kris
Waldherr
The Selfish Giant, Oscar Wilde & Ritva Voutila
The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde & Francesca
Dow
The Little Match Girl, Hans Christian Andersen &
Jerry Pinkney
East of the Sun & West of the Moon, Kay
Nielsen
King Midas and the Golden Touch, Charlotte
Craft & Kinuko Y. Craft
The Emperor’s New Clothes,
Hans Christian Andersen & Virginia Lee
Burton
The Tiger, the Brahman, and the Jackal, in
Favorite Fairy Tales Told in India,
Virginia Haviland & Vera Rosenberry

FOLK TALES & MYTHOLOGY

Paul Bunyan, Steven Kellogg
Pecos Bill, Steven Kellogg
John Henry, Julius Lester & Jerry Pinkney
The People Could Fly, American Black Folktales, Virginia Hamilton, Leo Dillon & Diane Dillon
The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit, Julius Lester & Jerry Pinkney
Johnny Appleseed, Reeve Lindbergh & Kathy Jakobsen
D’Aulaires’ Book of Greek Myths, Ingri & Edgar Parin D’Aulaire
Theseus & the Minotaur, Warwick Hutton
Cut From the Same Cloth: American Women of Myth, Legend & Tall Tale, Robert D. San Souci &
Brian Pinkney
William Tell, Margaret Early



1st
GR
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INDEPENDENT READING

Are You My Mother?, P.D. Eastman
Sam and the Firefly, P.D. Eastman
Danny and the Dinosaur, Syd Hoff
Sammy the Seal, Syd Hoff
Albert the Albatross, Syd Hoff
The Very Busy Spider, Eric Carle
Wheels on the Bus, Maryann Kovalski
Who Took the Farmer's Hat?, Joan Nodset

Green Eggs and Ham, Dr. Seuss
One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish, Dr. Seuss
The Cat in the Hat, Dr. Seuss
Horton Hears a Who!, Dr. Seuss
There's a Wocket in My Pocket!, Dr. Seuss
And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street,
Dr. Seuss
Horton Hatches the Egg, Dr. Seuss

The Little Red Hen, Paul Galdone
Harry the Dirty Dog (series), Gene Zion
The Story about Ping,
Marjorie Flack & Kurt Wiese
The Relatives Came, Cynthia Rylant
The Little House, Virginia Lee Burton
Miss Rumphius, Barbara Cooney
Caps for Sale, Esphyr Slobodkina

READ-ALOUDs

We're Going on a Bear Hunt,
Michael Rosen & Helen Oxenbury

The Tale of Peter Rabbit & others,
Beatrix Potter

The Velveteen Rabbit, Margery Williams

Town Mouse, Country Mouse, and others,
Jan Brett

Stellaluna, Janell Cannon

Make Way for Ducklings,
Robert McCloskey

Corduroy, Don Freeman

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie,
Laura Joffe Numeroff

If You Give a Moose a Muffin,
Laura Joffe Numeroff

Burt Dow, Deep-Water Man,
Robert McCloskey

INDEPENDENT READING



2nd GRADE

Cowardly Clyde, Bill Peet
The Whingdingdilly, Bill Peet
The Whump World, Bill Peet
Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure, Bill Peet
Kermit the Hermit, Bill Peet
Chester the Worldly Pig, Bill Peet
The Caboose Who Got Loose, Bill Peet
Cyrus the Unsinkable Sea Serpent, Bill Peet
Buford the Little Bighorn, Bill Peet
How Droofus the Dragon Lost His Head, Bill Peet
Big Bad Bruce, Bill Peet
Huge Harold, Bill Peet
Zella, Zack, and Zodiac, Bill Peet
The Gnats of Knotty Pine, Bill Peet
No Such Things, Bill Peet
Jennifer and Josephine, Bill Peet
The Kweeks of Kookatumdee, Bill Peet
Eli, Bill Peet
Smokey, Bill Peet
Yonie Wondernose, Marguerite de Angeli
Stina's Visit, Lena Anderson
Frog and Toad Are Friends, Arnold Lobel
Frog and Toad Together, Arnold Lobel
Little Bear (series), Else Holmelund Minarik
Amelia Bedelia (series), Peggy Parish
Over in the Meadow, Paul Galdone
Harold and the Purple Crayon, Crockett Johnson
The Owl and the Pussycat, Edward Lear & Jan Brett
Where the Wild Things Are, Maurice Sendak
I Know a Lady, Charlotte Zolotow
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble, William Steig
Strega Nona books, Tomie dePaola
Valentine and Orson, Nancy Ekholm Burkert

READ-ALOUDs

A Bear Called Paddington, Michael Bond

Winnie the Pooh (series), A.A. Milne

Charlotte's Web, E.B. White

The Cricket in Times Square, George Selden

Little House on the Prairie (series), Laura Ingalls Wilder

The Trumpet of the Swan, E.B. White

The Courage of Sarah Noble, Alice Dalgliesh

Mr. Popper's Penguins,
Richard Atwater & Florence Atwater

Homer Price, Robert McCloskey

Rabbit Hill, Robert Lawson

The Cabin Faced West, Jean Fritz

Henry and Mudge, Cynthia Rylant

Five Little Peppers and How They Grew (series),
Margaret Sidney

The Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling

Just So Stories, Rudyard Kipling



3rd
GRADE

INDEPENDENT READING

- Lost! A Story in String,*
Paul Fleischman & C.B. Mordan
- The Mouse and the Motorcycle,*
Beverly Cleary
- The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,*
Barbara Robinson
- The BFG,* Roald Dahl
- Betsy-Tacy (series),*
Maud Hart Lovelace
- The Boxcar Children (series),*
Gertrude Chandler Warner
- The Mona Lisa Mystery,* Pat Hutchins

READ-ALOUDs

- The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe,*
C.S Lewis
- Big Red,* Jim Kjelgaard
- The Secret Garden,*
Frances Hodgson Burnett & Tasha Tudor
- The Little Princess,*
Frances Hodgson Burnett
- The Railway Children,* E. Nesbit
- The Call of the Wild,* Jack London
- White Fang,* Jack London
- All-of-a-Kind Family,* Sydney Taylor
- Adam of the Road,* Elizabeth Janet Gray
- The Princess and the Goblin,*
George MacDonald
- James and the Giant Peach,* Roald Dahl

HISTORICAL LITERATURE

- The Door in the Wall,* Marguerite de Angeli
- Castle* and others, David Macaulay
- Non-Fiction**
- Abe Lincoln Grows Up,* Carl Sandburg

INDEPENDENT READING

4th GRADE



The Invention of Hugo Cabret, Brian Selznick

Alice in Wonderland and *Through the Looking Glass*, Lewis Carroll

The Indian in the Cupboard, Lynne Reid Banks

Sarah, Plain and Tall, Patricia MacLachlan

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler,
E.L. Konigsburg

The Penderwicks (series), Jeanne Birdsall

The Tale of Despereaux, Kate DiCamillo

READ-ALOUDs

HISTORICAL LITERATURE

The Phantom Tollbooth, Norton Juster

Johnny Tremain, Esther Forbes

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

The Five Children and It, E. Nesbit

The Phoenix and the Carpet, E. Nesbit

The Enchanted Castle, E. Nesbit

A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engle

Anne of Green Gables (series),
L.M. Montgomery

The Borrowers, Mary Norton

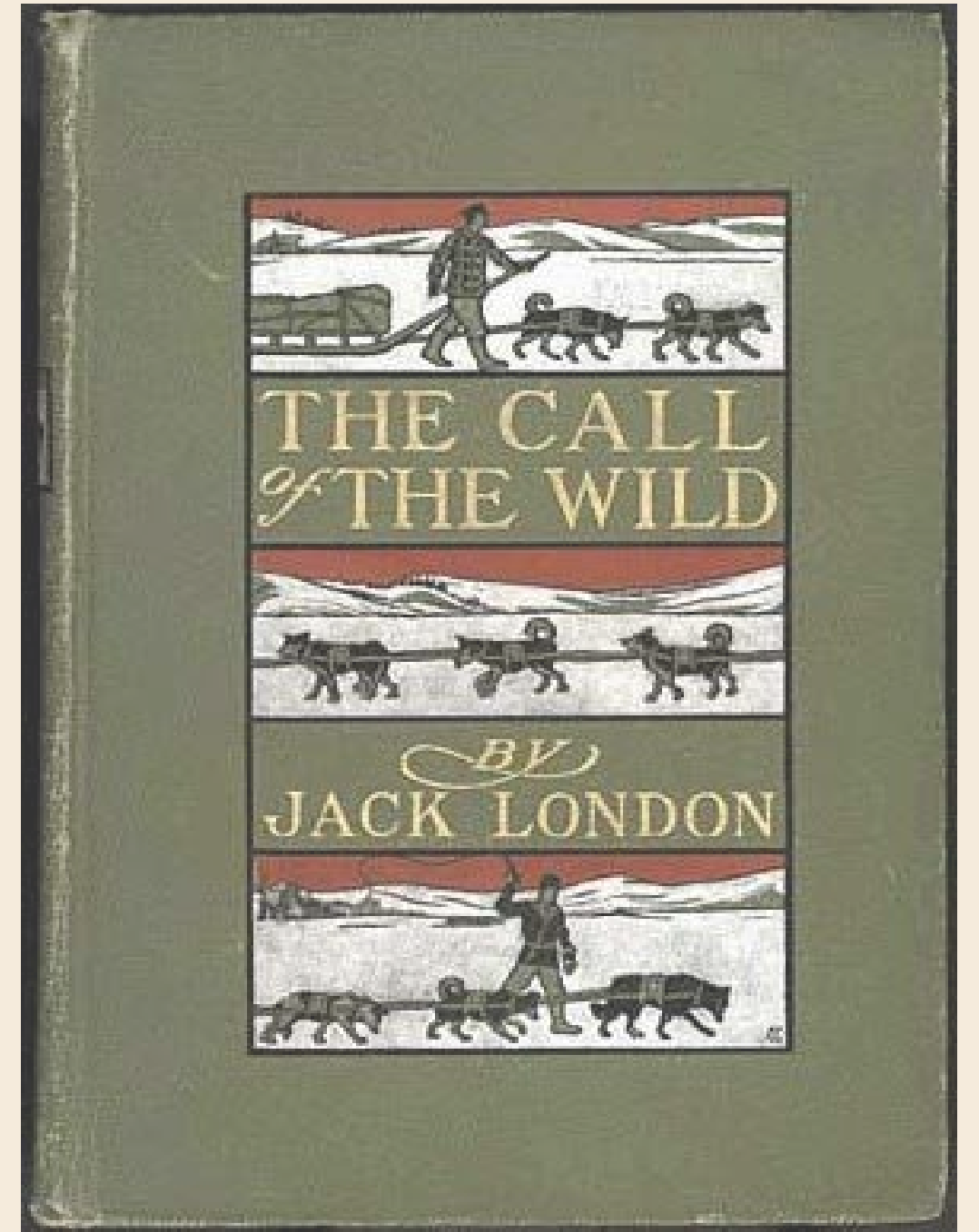
Toliver's Secret, Esther Brady

Across Five Aprils, Irene Hunt

The Sign of the Beaver, Elizabeth
George Speare

The Red Keep, Allen French

The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow,
Allen French



5th GRADE

INDEPENDENT READING

Black Beauty, Anna Sewell

The Call of the Wild, Jack London

The Good Master, Kate Seredy

Redwall (series), Brian Jacques

READ-ALOUDs

The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkien

Castaways of the Flying Dutchman trilogy, Brian Jacques

The Bronze Bow, Elizabeth George Speare

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Horse and His Boy, C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Silver Chair, C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew,
C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian, C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader,
C.S. Lewis

Where the Red Fern Grows, Wilson Rawls

Summer of the Monkeys, Wilson Rawls

Kon-Tiki, Thor Heyerdahl

HISTORICAL LITERATURE

Bull Run, Paul Fleischman

Iron Scouts of the Confederacy, Lee McGiffin

The Perilous Road, William O. Steele

Rifles for Watie, Harold Keith

Non-Fiction:

The Magna Charta, James Daugherty



6th GRADE

INDEPENDENT READING

The Witch of Blackbird Pond, Elizabeth George Speare

Calico Captive, Elizabeth George Speare

The Scarlet Pimpernel, Baroness Emma Orczy

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle,
C.S. Lewis

READ-ALOUDs

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott
Eight Cousins, Louisa May Alcott
An Old-Fashioned Girl, Louisa May Alcott

The Moonstone, Wilkie Collins

All Creatures Great and Small, James Herriot

The Complete Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens

HISTORICAL LITERATURE

A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver,
E.L. Konigsburg

Non-Fiction:

The Hiding Place, Corrie Ten Boom

Amos Fortune, Free Man, Elizabeth Yates



7th GRADE

INDEPENDENT READING

All About Jeeves, P.G. Woodhouse

Watership Down, Richard Adams

Shane, Jack Schaefer

Shackleton's Valiant Voyage, Alfred Lansing

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

Where the Lilies Bloom, Vera & Bill Cleaver

Cheaper by the Dozen,
Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr., & Ernestine Gilbreth
Carey

Swallows and Amazons, Arthur Ransome

READ-ALOUDs

Our Mutual Friend, Charles Dickens

A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens

Emma, Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen

The Miracle Worker, William Gibson

HISTORICAL LITERATURE

The Endless Steppe, Esther Hautzig

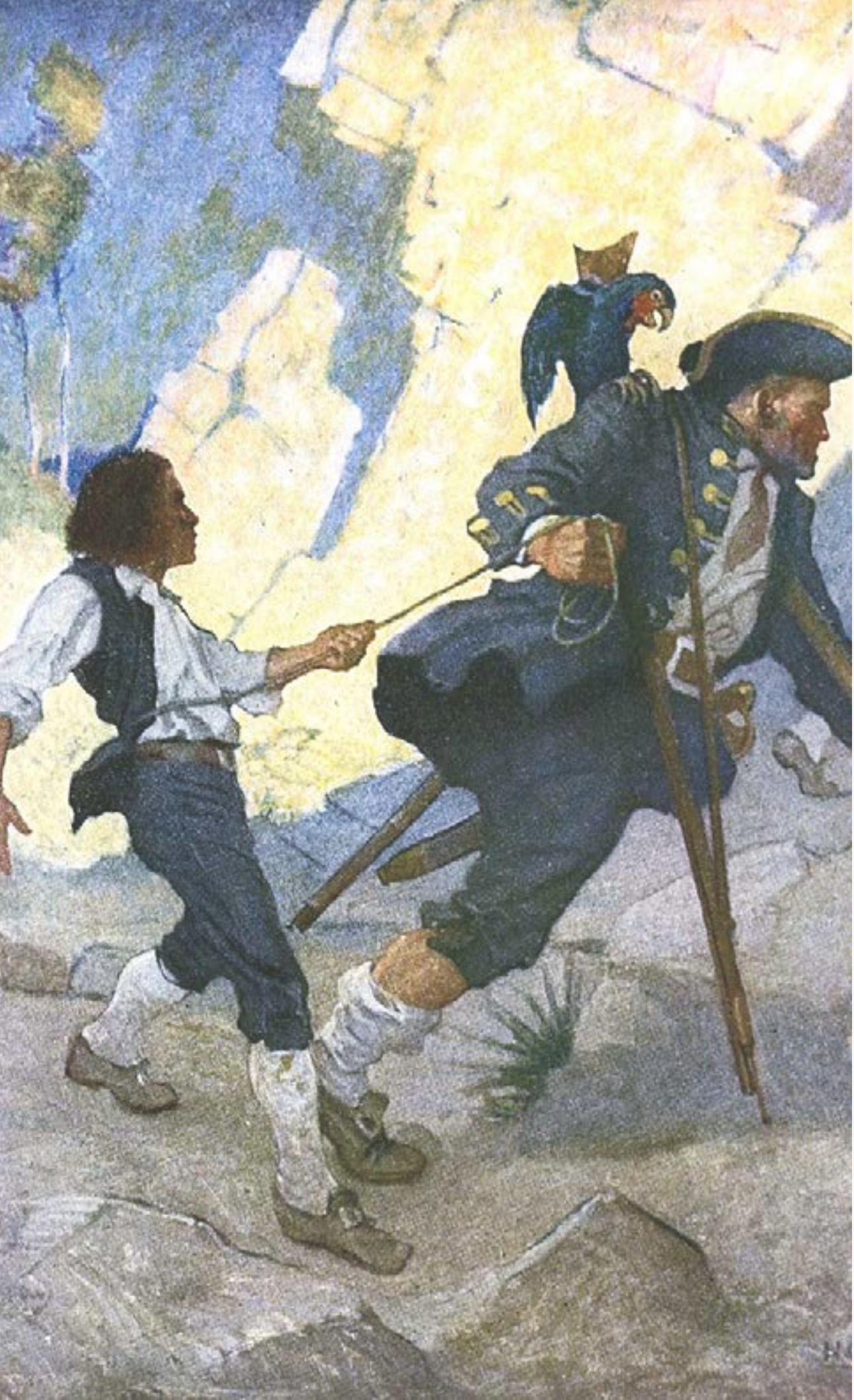
The Eagle of the Ninth, Rosemary Sutcliff

Outcast, Rosemary Sutcliff

Non-Fiction:

Bright Valley of Love, Edna Hong

Of Courage Undaunted, James Daugherty



8th GRADE

INDEPENDENT READING

The Lord of the Rings trilogy, J.R.R. Tolkien
Beowulf, translated by Seamus Heaney
The Chosen, Chaim Potok
The Woman in White, Wilkie Collins
Many Waters, Madeleine L'Engle
My Side of the Mountain, Jean Craighead George
O Pioneers!, Willa Cather
Death Comes for the Archbishop, Willa Cather

READ-ALOUDs

A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens
Kidnapped, Robert Louis Stevenson
Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson
Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte
Little Dorrit, Charles Dickens
To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Leer
Sense and Sensibility, Jane Austen
Our Town, Thornton Wilder
The Count of Monte Cristo, Alexandre Dumas

We only recommend the abridged version, as the unabridged edition contains explicit mature content.

This book contains some racist language, some violence, a failed attempt at lynching, and courtroom testimony on the alleged assault of a woman.

READ-ALOUDs Continued

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain

Rebecca, Daphne du Maurier

Murder on the Orient Express, And Then There Were None, and others,
Agatha Christie

Strong Poison, Have His Carcase, Gaudy Night, Whose Body, and others,
Dorothy Sayers

The entire genre of “murder mysteries” involves violence, of course. Additionally, these books contain other mature content.

HISTORICAL LITERATURE

Gods and Generals, The Killer Angels, and *The Last Full Measure*,
Michael and Jeff Shaara

The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses,
Robert Louis Stevenson

Escape from Warsaw, Ian Serraillier

Non-Fiction:

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave,
Frederick Douglass

Due to the military nature of these stories, they contain some violence and bad language.

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First edition cover of the *Call of the Wild*. Constitutes fair use under the [Copyright law of the United States](#)
The Witch of Blackbird Pond cover. Constitutes fair use under [Copyright law of the United States](#).
Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson, Sidney Paget. PD-old-100