Stories of nature, exploration, adventure, danger, friendship, patriotism, and courage

- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle (as well as other Eric Carle books)
- *Big Red Barn*, by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Drummer Hoff*, by Barbara Emberley
- *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* (as well as *Katy and the Big Snow* and *Choo Choo: The Story of a Little Engine Who Ran Away*), by Virginia Lee Burton
- *Billy and Blaze*, by C. W. Anderson
- *One Was Johnny* (as well as *Chicken Soup with Rice*), by Maurice Sendak
- *The Gingerbread Boy, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Monkey and the Crocodile* (and anything else by this author), by Paul Galdone
- *Tikki Tikki Tembo*, by Arlene Mosel
- *The Little Drummer Boy*, by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Andy and the Lion*, by James Daugherty
- *The House That Jack Built*, a Little Golden Book
- *Ox-Cart Man*, by Donald Hall
- *Curious George*, by H. A. Rey
- *Animal Folk Tales of America*, by Tony Palazzo
- *The Biggest Bear*, by Lynd Ward
- *Chanticleer and the Fox*, by Geoffrey Chaucer
- *Paul Revere's Ride*, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- *Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus*, by Peter Sís
- *The Story of Little Babaji*, by Helen Bannerman
- *The Five Chinese Brothers*, by Claire Huchet Bishop
- *Wee Gillis*, by Munro Leaf
- *Casey at the Bat, Ill. Christopher Bing*
- *The Big Snow*, by Berta and Elmer Hader
- *The Wingdingdilly* (as well as *Cowardly Clyde, Cyrus the Unsinkable Sea Serpent, The Caboose Who Got Loose*, etc.), by Bill Peet
- *Johnny Appleseed*, by Reeve Lindbergh
- *They Were Strong and Good*, by Robert Lawson
- *Frog and Toad books*, by Arnold Lobel
- *Fly High, Fly Low and Norman the Doorman*, by Don Freeman (as well as other Don Freeman books)
- *Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books*, by Kay Winters and Nancy Carpenter
- *A Picture Book of Christopher Columbus*, by David Adler
- *The Little Island*, by Margaret Wise Brown and Leonard Weisgard
- *Little Toot*, by Hardie Gramatky
- *The Star-Spangled Banner, Ill. Peter Spier*
- *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi* and *Just So Stories*, by Rudyard Kipling
• **American Tall Tales**, by Mary Pope Osborne
• **D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths**, by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
• **The Big Wave**, by Pearl S. Buck
• **Call It Courage**, by Armstrong Sperry
• **The American Boy's Handy Book**, by Daniel C. Beard
• **The Jack Tales** (as well as Grandfather Tales), by Richard Chase
• **Lassie Come-Home**, by Eric Knight
• **Homer Price** (as well as One Morning in Maine), by Robert McCloskey
• **The Black Stallion**, by Walter Farley
• **The Adventures of Pinocchio**, by Carlos Collodi
• **Swallows and Amazons**, by Arthur Ransome
• **The Reluctant Dragon**, by Kenneth Grahame
• **My Side of the Mountain**, by Jean Craighead George
• **Where the Red Fern Grows**, by Wilson Rawls
• **Rufus M** (and the rest of the Moffats books), by Eleanor Estes
• **Old Yeller**, by Fred Gipson
• **The Mark of Zorro** (and the rest of the Zorro series), by Johnston McCulley
• **The Call of the Wild**, by Jack London
• **The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow**, by Allen French
• **Farmer Boy** (and the rest of the Little House books), by Laura Ingalls Wilder
• **Tarzan of the Apes** (the rest of the Tarzan series and the Pellucidar series), by Edgar Rice Burroughs
• **Adam of the Road**, by Elizabeth Janet Gray
• **Song of the River**, by Billy C. Clark (along with Riverboy, Useless Dog, Mooneyed Hound, The Trail of the Hunter's Horn, Goodbye Kate, and The Champion of Sourwood Mountain)
• **King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table** and **The Adventures of Robin Hood**, by Roger Lancelyn Green
• **Bud and Me: The True Adventures of the Abernathy Boys**, by Alta Abernathy
• **The Aeneid for Boys and Girls**, by Alfred J. Church
• **The Tripods Trilogy** (The White Mountains, The City of Gold and Lead, and The Pool of Fire), by John Christopher
• **The Chronicles of Narnia**, by C. S. Lewis
• **Paddle-to-the-Sea**, by Holling Clancy Holling (and other Holling Clancy Holling books)
• **Brighty of the Grand Canyon**, by Marguerite Henry (as well as other books from this author)
• **The Bronze Bow**, by Elizabeth George Speare
• **The Prisoner of Zenda**, by Anthony Hope
• **Encyclopedia Brown**, by Donald J. Sobol
• **Beowulf the Warrior**, retold by Ian Serraillier
• **True Grit**, by Charles Portis
• **The Hobbit** and **The Lord of the Rings**, by J. R. R. Tolkien
• **So Dear to My Heart** (also Rascal), by Sterling North
• **The Kid from Tomkinsville** (and anything else written by this author), by John Tunis
• **Uncle Remus**, by Joel Chandler Harris
• **Stars in My Crown**, by Joe David Brown
• **Lays of Ancient Rome**, by Lord Macaulay
• *The Coral Island*, by R. M. Ballantyne
• *Little Britches* (along with *The Home Ranch* and *The Fields of Home*), by Ralph Moody
• **20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** (as well as *The Mysterious Island*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, and *Around the World in 80 Days*), by Jules Verne
• *The Yearling*, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
• *Shane*, by Jack Schaefer
• *Francie on the Run* (and all other books by this author), by Hilda Van Stockum
• *Men of Iron* (as well as *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, *The Story of King Arthur and His Knights*, and anything else written by the same author), by Howard Pyle
• *The War of the Worlds* (as well as *The Time Machine* and *The Invisible Man*), by H. G. Wells
• **The Dog Who Wouldn’t Be** (and *Lost in the Barrens*, *Owls in the Family*, and *Never Cry Wolf*), by Farley Mowat
• *Fallon*, by Louis L’Amour (along with *Last Stand at Papago Wells*, *The Sackett Brand*, and many other books by this author)
• **The Jungle Book** (as well as *Kim* and *Captains Courageous*), by Rudyard Kipling
• **Treasure Island** (as well as *The Black Arrow*, *Kidnapped*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Sire de Maletroit’s Door*), by Robert Louis Stevenson
• *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (*El Dorado* and all the other *Scarlet Pimpernel* novels), by Baroness Orczy
• *Benjamin Franklin*, by Ingrid and Edgar Parin d’Aulaire
• *Gay-Neck: The Story of a Pigeon*, by Dhan Gopal Mukerji
• *Mr. Revere and I*, by Robert Lawson
• *Man-Eaters of Kumaon*, by Jim Corbett
• **Tom Sawyer** (as well as *Huckleberry Finn*), by Mark Twain
• *Wilderness Trek*, by Zane Grey
• *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*, by Jean Lee Latham
• *The Eagle of the Ninth*, by Rosemary Sutcliff (as well as *Black Ships Before Troy*, *The Wanderings of Odysseus*, and many other books by this author)
• *Poor Richard*, by James Daugherty (as well as other books by this author)
• **A Wonder Book** (as well as its equally good sequel, *Tanglewood Tales*), by Nathaniel Hawthorne
• *Mutiny on the Bounty*, by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall
• *King Solomon’s Mines* (as well as *Allan Quatermain*, *Morning Star*, *She Who Must Be Obeyed*, *The People of the Mist*, *Red Eve*, *Montezuma’s Daughter*, *Nada the Lily*, and many other books by this author), by H. Rider Haggard
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• *Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe
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• **The Cat of Bubastes** (as well as many others by the same author), by G. A. Henty
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• The Book of the Dun Cow, by Walter Wangerin
• Something Wicked This Way Comes, by Ray Bradbury
• West with the Night, by Beryl Markham
• Lord of the Flies, by William Golding
• Lost to the West: The Forgotten Byzantine Empire That Rescued Western Civilization and The Sea Wolves: A History of the Vikings, by Lars Brownworth
• Penrod (as well as Penrod and Sam, a sequel), by Booth Tarkington
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• The Great Siege, by Ernle Bradford
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• Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley
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• The Story of Christianity, by David Bentley Hart
• St. Augustine, by Garry Wills (Warning: This book contains a very candid discussion of sin, but it’s something boys need to hear and Augustine is the person to hear it from.)
• The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, by William L. Shirer
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• The Aeneid, by Virgil
• The Talisman (as well as Ivanhoe and every other book by this author), by Sir Walter Scott
• Henry V, by William Shakespeare (Julius Caesar and any other play by this author)
• The Civil War: A Narrative, by Shelby Foote
• War and Peace, by Leo Tolstoy
• Moby Dick, by Herman Melville
• With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa, by E. B. Sledge

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