

MARTIN'S ESSENTIAL BOYS BOOKS

*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 Sis
- ***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)
- *Brightly 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 Ingri 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
- *The Chosen*, by Chaim Potok
- *Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe
- *Old Squire's Farm* (and *Sailing on the Ice*, its sequel), by C. A. Stephens
- **The Good Master** (also *The Singing Tree* and any other book by this author), by Kate Seredy
- *A Walk Across America*, by Peter Jenkins
- *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come*, by John Fox, Jr.
- **Captain Blood** (as well as *Scaramouche* and many other books by this author), by Rafael Sabatini
- *The Heroes*, by Charles Kingsley
- *A Texas Ranger*, by N. A. Jennings
- *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*, by C. W. Ceram
- *The Cat of Bubastes* (as well as many others by the same author), by G. A. Henty

- **Mr. Midshipman Hornblower** (as well as many others by the same author), by C. S. Forester
- **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
- *The Wild Blue: The Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24s over Germany, 1944-1945*, by Stephen E. Ambrose
- *The Worm Ouroboros*, by E. R. Eddison
- *1776*, by David McCollough
- *The Once and Future King* (also *The Goshawk*), by T. H. White
- *The Republic of Pirates: Being the True and Surprising Story of the Caribbean Pirates and the Man Who Brought Them Down*, by Colin Woodard
- **Oliver Twist** (as well as *Dombey and Son*, *Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and every other book by this author), by Charles Dickens
- *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded*, by Simon Winchester
- **The Count of Monte Cristo**, by Alexandre Dumas
- *The Great Siege*, by Ernle Bradford
- **Beowulf**, trans. J. R. R. Tolkien
- *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley
- *The Story of Sigurd the Volsung*, trans. William Morris
- *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
- **The Iliad** and **The Odyssey**, by Homer
- *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, by Winston Churchill
- **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

Bolded titles represent Martin Cothran's favorite books that he would not want you to skip.