



# RECOMMENDED READING LIST

SUMMER 2024  
AGES 4-8

Some of the titles below may be out of print. Look for them in your local library or request them through an interlibrary loan service. You may also find some titles in used bookstores or online. A good online resource for out-of-print books is [bookfinder.com](http://bookfinder.com).

While we have made an effort to suggest titles on this list with few, if any, objectionable elements, BJU Press does not hold an exclusivist position on objectionable elements in books. Instead, we evaluate their presence based on the criteria of gratuitousness, explicitness, and moral tone. As we read, we ask ourselves: does the objectionable element serve a purpose within the story, is the description more detailed than is necessary, and does the author condemn, shrug off, or promote sinful actions? Each title on this list has been reviewed according to these guidelines; however, as a parent/guardian you are the best judge of what is appropriate for your students. We encourage you to use discernment when selecting reading material for yourself and your family. If you'd like a more thorough explanation of our position, please see chapter four of [Handbook of Christian Education](#).

**AdoraBULL** – Alison Donald (PB)

When Alfred the bull overhears his best friend Tom say that he needs a new pet, an “absolutely, totally adorable” pet, he sets out to prove that bulls can be adorable too.

**Alexander Graham Bell** – Elizabeth Rider Montgomery (B)

This is an easy-to-read story about Alexander, his brother, and their “talking machine” invention.

#### Abbreviation Key

B	Biography	GN	Graphic Novel	PB	Picture Book
ER	Early Reader	NF	Nonfiction		
F	Fiction	P	Poetry		

Titles in blue are published by JourneyForth

**Bear's Scare** – Jacob Grant (PB)

Bear keeps a tidy home, so he is shocked to discover a sticky web attached to one of his books. He and his teddy bear Ursa search high and low for the intruder until they discover that, perhaps, this spider can be a friend instead.

**Bears in the Night** – Stan and Jan Berenstain (ER)

The bear cubs are tucked in bed when they hear a noise out their window and decide to investigate.

**The Biggest Bear** – Lynd Ward (F)

Johnny Orchard sets out to bring back the biggest bear in the forest, but instead he comes home with a very little bear, which becomes a general nuisance to everyone.

**Billy and Blaze series** (8 books) – C. W. Anderson (PB)

Billy receives a beautiful pony for his birthday and the two of them have many adventures together.

**Blue Sky White Stars** – Sarvinder Naberhaus (PB)

Using sparse text, Naberhaus, who immigrated to the US when she was four, explores the similarities between the American flag and the country and people it represents.

**Blueberries for Sal** – Robert McCloskey (PB)

Sal and her mother enjoy picking blueberries. While on a berry-picking excursion, they encounter a mother bear and her cub also gathering blueberries for the coming winter.

**Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins** – Michelle Meadows (PB)

Told in verse, this story follows Janet Collins from learning to dance as a child to becoming the first African-American prima ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera.

**Bug in a Vacuum** – Mélanie Watt (PB)

A bug trapped inside a vacuum cleaner experiences the five stages of grief in this witty tale.

**Bug in the Bog** – Jonathan Fenske (ER)

Tension mounts as a happily singing bug is stalked by a hungry frog.

**Buttercup Hill** – Eileen M. Berry (PB)

Mrs. Bunny Fleet and Hopkin bring sunshine and friendship to their lonely neighbors.

**Carolina's Courage** – Elizabeth Yates (F)

Carolina Putnam's family is moving by covered wagon from New Hampshire to Nebraska. Although space in the wagon is very limited, Carolina is permitted to take her beloved china doll, Lydia-Lou. When the trail becomes dangerous, Carolina's treasure becomes the key to her family's safety.

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**Chickadee Winter** – Dawn L. Watkins (PB)

Jack doesn't think he will ever get used to the cold and snow at his grandparents' house.

**A Child's Garden of Verse** – Robert Louis Stevenson (P)

Full of childhood imaginings, these verses are as fresh as ever.

**Choose Your Journey series** (4 books) – Elizabeth Raum (F)

Imagine you meet Jesus during His earthly ministry. What would you do? Each book features three children and the decisions you make lead to different endings.

**Cinder Edna** – Ellen Jackson (PB)

Like her neighbor Cinderella, Edna is forced to serve her wicked stepmother and stepsisters, but the similarities end there in this fractured fairy tale.

**Corduroy** – Don Freeman (PB)

This is a story about a teddy bear named Corduroy who lives in a toy department, but longs to be owned and loved. Unfortunately, a missing button on his overalls makes him a "poor purchase" until a little girl named Lisa comes along.

**Cowboy Small** – Lois Lenski (PB)

Cowboy Small takes good care of his horse and the Bar S Ranch. Illustrations of equipment are labeled for reference and a glossary of cowboy terms is included.

**The Cranky Blue Crab** – Dawn L. Watkins (PB)

Crusty the Crab leaves the sea hoping to live a perfect life on land.

**The Crayon Man** – Natascha Biebow (B)

Inventor Edwin Binney had an idea; could he combine color pigments with his new wax crayon and make art supplies that were safe for children? This colorful picture book biography tells the story behind the invention of Crayola crayons.

**Donut Feed the Squirrels** – Mika Song (GN)

After accidentally burning their pancake breakfast, squirrels Norma and Belly discover the delights of a doughnut truck.

**Eats: Poems** – Arnold Adoff (P)

This is a delightful book of clever poetry about food. Children will enjoy the humor and unusual arrangements of the poems.

**The End of the Beginning** – Avi (F)

A snail and a misinformed ant go on an epic adventure across a tree branch. Fans of *The Phantom Tollbooth* will especially enjoy it.

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**Escape** – Mona Dunkel (F)

A young missionary kid in Africa uses an unusual bead to escape from a dangerous situation.

**Everyday Animals** – Gertrude Allen (NF)

This informational book reveals fascinating details about the cottontail rabbit, chipmunk, white-footed mouse, striped skunk, porcupine, and gray squirrel.

**Farmer Dillo series** (3 books) – Jesse Adams (PB)

Farmer Dillo teaches numbers, colors, and shapes while searching for his chickens, painting his barn, fixing things up around his farm.

**Farmer John's Tractor** – Sally Sutton (PB)

When a flood traps a family's car, multiple types of vehicles come to the rescue, but none of them can reach the family. Will Farmer John's tractor be able to help?

**The Gardener's Gold Ring** – Nancy Bopp (PB)

A gardener learns that it is possible to find another treasure while looking for a lost one.

**Grandpa's Gizmos** – John Menken (PB)

Grandpa Winslow and his grandson share all kinds of gizmos in his backyard.

**The Great Monster Hunt** – Norbert Landa (PB)

Animal friends work together to discover the source of the strange sound coming from underneath Duck's bed. As the hunt progresses, the noise becomes greatly exaggerated, but when the friends finally look underneath the bed, they find something quite harmless.

**Haiku on Your Shoe** – Eileen M. Berry (F)

After Jeremy befriends Taka, the new boy from Japan, he learns about origami, Japanese poetry, and friendship.

**Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera** – Candace Fleming (NF)

A poetic presentation of the life-cycle of a honeybee with gorgeous illustrations.

**How Science Saved the Eiffel Tower** – Emma Bland Smith (PB)

In order to save his tower from its scheduled demolition, Gustave Eiffel must find a way to make it valuable to Parisian officials.

**I Like Trains** – Catherine Woolley (NF)

This informational book tells about freight trains, passenger trains and express trains.

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***I Talk Like a River*** – Jordan Scott (PB)

A young boy who struggles with a stutter gains confidence from trips to the river with his dad. Based on the authors' childhood.

***Janette Oke's Animal Friends series*** (11 books) – Janette Oke (F)

Each title features an animal that learns an important life lesson. Titles include: *Trouble in a Fur Coat*, *New Kid in Town*, *A Cote of Many Colors*, *This Little Pig*, *Maury Had a Little Lamb*, *Spunky's Diary*, *The Prodigal Cat*, *Pordy's Prickly Problem*, *Ducktails*, *Who's New at the Zoo*, *Prairie Dog Town*, and *The Impatient Turtle*.

***Johnny Appleseed*** – Steven Kellogg (B)

This biography of John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, describes his love of nature, his kindness to animals, and his physical fortitude.

***A King for Brass Cobweb*** – Dawn L. Watkins (F)

Chipmunk leaves home to find a king for the Kingdom of Brass Cobweb—a king who is wise and brave and true.

***The Lighthouse Book*** – Michael Berenstain (NF)

This simple book with readable text and intriguing illustrations describes several well-known lighthouses, various methods of illumination, and the automated structures used today.

***Lindbergh: The Tale of a Flying Mouse*** – Torben Kuhlmann (PB)

A young mouse emerges from his studies to discover that all the other mice have fled across the sea to America to escape the dangers of mousetraps. With the docks controlled by cats, the only way the intrepid mouse can join his friends is to build a flying machine. Richly illustrated by the author, this is the first book in the Mouse Adventures series (4 books).

***Little Bear*** – Else Minarik (F)

This anthology of several short stories centers on an imaginative, lovable bear cub. Little Bear plays in the snow, celebrates his birthday, and takes an imaginary trip to the moon.

***Little Bear Adventure series*** (6 books) – Kathleen Allan-Meyer (PB)

Little Bear learns about family, friendship, and more.

***The Little Engine that Could*** – Watty Piper (PB)

When the engine of a train carrying food and toys for the children on the other side of the mountain breaks down, will any of the passing engines stop to help?

***The Little House*** – Virginia Burton (PB)

This is a well-loved story that describes the changes imposed by civilization on a small house.

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**Looking for Home** – Eileen M. Berry (F)

After living in the country, having to be quiet and follow all the rules of their apartment complex is hard for Micah and Liz.

**Make Way for Ducklings** – Robert McCloskey (PB)

After a long search for the perfect place to raise their family, Mr. and Mrs. Mallard decide to make their home on the island in the city park.

**Mice of the Herring Bone series** (5 books) – Tim Davis (F)

The adventures of two brave mice who sail the world on behalf of their queen and outwit a crew of seadogs.

**Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel** – Virginia Burton (PB)

Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel Mary Anne race to dig the basement of Popperville’s town hall before the sun sets.

**Millions of Cats** – Wanda Gag (PB)

When an older couple decides they want a cat for a pet, the man finds millions of them. He cannot decide which one to take home.

**Mole Had Everything** – Jamison Odone (PB)

Mole is content until a friend suggests that he needs more stuff. Mole goes savaging for more things, but he learns that having a lot of material possessions adds a burden to his life that he did not expect.

**Mumsi Meets a Lion** – Kim Stegall (PB)

Mumsi has been taught what to do if he ever meets a lion. Will he remember it on the most terrifying night of his life?

**My Creation Bible** – Ken Ham (NF)

The story of Creation, the flood, the Tower of Babel, and the birth and death of Christ is told in simple verse.

**Nine Months: Before a Baby is Born** – Miranda Paul (NF)

In child-friendly text and exquisite, actual size illustrations, this book describes a baby’s growth from day seventeen to delivery.

**Noah’s Ark** – Peter Spier (NF)

With the exception of a poem at the beginning, this is a wordless book giving a pictorial story of Noah and the ark. Readers of all ages will find the detailed illustrations appealing.

**Old MacDonald Had a Zoo** – Iza Trapani (PB)

Chaos ensues as Farmer MacDonald’s farm is overrun with escaped zoo animals.

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***The Old Woman and Her Pig*** – Paul Galdone (PB)

This folktale tells of the creative plan a little old woman must implement in order to coax her pig over a stile and to bring him safely home.

***Once in Blueberry Dell*** – Dawn L. Watkins (PB)

The moles of Blueberry Dell try to outdo each other in preparing for the visit of the High Prince.

***Petunia, I Love You*** – Roger Duvoisin (PB)

Petunia, a clever goose, manages to avoid all of Raccoon’s attempts to eat her. Eventually the two become friends.

***Pippa’s Jumping Shoes*** – Joyce Magnin (F)

Pippa, a small frog, is already stressed about the jumping contest at Mulberry Pond’s upcoming Summer’s End Celebration. When the community receives a mysterious challenge from their neighbors, the stakes get even higher.

***Pocket Change*** – Dawn L. Watkins (PB)

Can a rabbit outwit a bobcat? Does a turtle who is a hundred years old have a secret worth hearing? And who will dare to match riddles with the king of lions?

***Pulling Together*** – Dawn L. Watkins (F)

After a fierce storm ruins his family’s farm, Matthew takes a big risk to keep their horses from being sold.

***A Question of Yams*** – Gloria Repp (F)

When Kuri’s father chose to trust God for the success of his yam crop and rejected the pagan traditions of their village, the Head Men said something terrible would happen to them. Who is right?

***The Rag Coat*** – Lauren Mills (PB)

Minna wants very badly to attend school, but she doesn’t have a coat, and her family cannot afford one. A group of ladies get together to make her a unique coat that eventually becomes appreciated by all.

***Rain School*** – James Rumfor (PB)

Thomas’s first lesson at his school in Chad, Africa is how to make mud bricks. Soon the school is built, and his encouraging teacher fills his mind with knowledge.

***Red Sky at Night*** – Elly MacKay (PB)

MacKay accompanies this collection of weather sayings with beautiful photographs of her paper dioramas.

***Rodney Robbins and the Rainy-Day Pond*** – Kim Stegall (F)

Every time it rains, the street in front of Mr. Hamilton’s house becomes a pond. So Rodney Robbins and Mr. Hamilton decide to fix it themselves – in a very unusual way.

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***Sarah Witcher's Story*** – Elizabeth Yates (F)

After young Sarah becomes lost in a thick New Hampshire forest, settlers come from all across the countryside to help find her. None of them expected the role a bear played in her rescue.

***Seven Silly Eaters*** – Mary Ann Hoberman (PB)

The children in the Peters family each have a food they like the best—and will eat nothing else!

***Snail Crossing*** – Corey Tabor (PB)

In this tale of friendship, Snail is crossing a road to get to his dinner when he encounters ants, a hungry bird, cars, and a rainstorm.

***Sticky Flies, Whirling Squirrels, and Plucky Ducks*** – Eileen M. Berry (F)

A collection of fables gathered from all around the world.

***Sydney and Taylor series*** (3 books) – Jacqueline Davies (F)

Two best friends star in this set of early chapter books. Sydney is a skunk who enjoys staying at home in his cozy burrow. Taylor is a hedgehog who gets big ideas like exploring the whole wide world, flying, and making more friends.

***The Tale of Peter Rabbit*** – Beatrix Potter (PB)

Peter, a feisty little rabbit, disobeys his mother and gets caught in Mr. McGregor's garden.

***These Are my People*** – Mildred Howard (B)

When war between China and Japan breaks out, missionary Gladys Aylward trusts God as she takes the many orphans in her care over the mountains to safety.

***They Didn't Use Their Heads*** – Jo Ann Stover (PB)

This amusing and rhyming tale makes an unforgettable case for good behavior.

***Through the Wardrobe: How C.S. Lewis Created Narnia*** – Lina Maslow (PB)

Learn how a boy named Jack grew up to write one of the most famous fantasy books for children.

***Thy Friend, Obadiah*** – Brinton Turkle (PB)

This story is about Obadiah, a little boy of colonial America living on Nantucket Island, and his friend, a sea gull.

***The Treasure of Pelican Cove*** – Milly Howard (F)

Jimmy and his dog Blackie visit his grandmother at Land's End and learn about a hidden treasure. His adventures continue in *The Mystery of Pelican Cove*.

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**Very Like a Star** – Dawn L. Watkins (PB)

A little bee who's smaller than the rest finds out that she really is like her namesake star.

**What's the Big Idea, Molly?** – Valeri Gorbachev (PB)

Molly and her friends want to give Turtle a present for his birthday, but they all have the same idea. Then Molly has a really big idea that allows each of her friends to work together to create something extra special.

**Welcome Home, Mouse** – Elisa Kleven (PB)

Stanley accidentally ruins Mouse's house, but he creatively uses everyday household items to build Mouse another home.

**Zap! Clap! Boom!: The Story of a Thunderstorm** – Laura Purdie Salas (PB)

Three children and a mother goat with her kids are playing around their island home when a summer storm pops up. This book features rhyming text and vivid illustrations by Elly MacKay.

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