



# Family Favorites: Chapter Books to Read Aloud

Recommended  
for ages 4 and up



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## From the J Fiction Shelves

[S means this is the first book in a series.]

J Atw

Atwater, Richard & Florence

**Mr. Popper's Penguins.** 1938.

Mr. Popper has a houseful of penguins and now the entire Popper family must figure out what to do with them.

J App

Appelt, Kathi

**The True-Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp.**

2013.

When their swamp is threatened, two raccoon brothers decide to awaken the possibly-mythical Sugar Man. Can the Scouts save the day?

J Ave

Averill, Esther

**Jenny and the Cat Club.** 2003.

Meet the black cat Jenny Linski and all of her cat friends as they share adventures in the big city. **S**

J Avi

Avi

**Poppy.** 1995.

A brave mouse faces a bullying owl for the sake of her family. **S**

J Bab

Babbitt, Natalie

**The Search for Delicious.** 1962.

What is *delicious*? A young boy must find a definitive answer before the kingdom is torn apart.

J Bau

Baum, L. Frank

**The Wizard of Oz.** 1900.

Little Dorothy Gale from Kansas finds herself in a strange and wonderful land. **S**

J BB

BB

**The Little Grey Men.** 1942.

Three gnomes in England set out on a long, dangerous journey, searching for their long-lost brother. **S**

J Ber

Beresford, Elisabeth

**The Wombles.** 1968.

Wombles collect, sort and recycle all the rubbish left behind by untidy Human Beings. Today, Bungo and Orinoco will venture out of the burrow for the first time! **S**

J Bir

Birdsall, Jeanne

**The Penderwicks: a Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy.** 2005.

Four lively sisters and their widowed father rent a cottage in the Berkshires for one adventurous summer. **S**

J Bir

Birney, Betty

**The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs.** 2005.

It's a challenge: Eben must find Seven Wonders in his very own boring town of Sassafras Springs.

J Bod

Bodger, Joan

**Tales of Court and Castle.** 2003.

**Favorite Norse Myths.** 1996.

Author Osborne and illustrator Troy Howell recreate the world of Norse mythology in simple, elegant prose and impressive illustration.

J 921 Scieszka

Scieszka, Jon

**Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka.** 2005.

These six brothers from Flint, Michigan are bad news, big trouble, and very, very funny!

J 883.01 Sut

Sutcliff, Rosemary

**The Wanderings of Odysseus: The Story of the Odyssey.** 1995.

The Greek epic is given new life by a master storyteller, with illustrations by Alan Lee.

NOTE TO PARENTS: There are many excellent reference books in the Youth Department which recommend other fine read-alouds. Please ask your librarian to help you use them!

These seven medieval tales include "Tristan," "Iron John," "Burd Janet" and "To the Dark Tower."

J Bon

Bond, Michael

**A Bear Called Paddington.** 1958.

The Brown family adopts a disaster-prone bear from Darkest Peru. **S**

J Bro

Broach, Elise

**Masterpiece.** 2008.

Marvin the beetle's tiny drawing, a gift to his human friend, James, gets the two of them mixed up in art theft and forgery.

J Bro

Brooks, Walter

**Freddy the Detective.** 1932.

Freddy the pig solves a series of barnyard thefts and solves a larger mystery at the same time. **S**

J Bro

Browne, Frances

**Granny's Wonderful Chair and Its Tales of Fairy Times.** 1904.

Granny's amazing chair transports Snowflower to the King's court, where the remarkable chair tells stories of magic and wonder to everyone there.

J Bur

Burgess, Thornton

**Old Mother West Wind: the Centennial Anniversary Edition.** 2011. (First pub. 1911)

Children first met Johnny Chuck, Reddy Fox, the Merry Little Breezes, and other characters in these stories one hundred years ago, when they were published weekly in newspapers across America. **S**

J Bur

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

**A Little Princess.** 1905.

Sara Crewe is a very rich girl until her father dies, and then she becomes a maid at her boarding school.

J But

Butterworth, Oliver

**The Enormous Egg.** 1956.

When Nate's hen lays an egg and the egg hatches into a dinosaur, exciting times are ahead!

J Cam

Cameron, Eleanor

**The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet.** 1954.

Two boys build a rocket and save a planet—with the help of a chicken and a strange little man. **S**

J Car

Carrroll, Lewis

**Alice in Wonderland.** 1865.

Never follow a White Rabbit down a rabbit hole (and watch out for the Red Queen).

J Cle

Cleary, Beverly

**Henry Huggins.** 1950.

A skinny dog called Ribsy brings lots of love and some trouble into Henry's life. **S**

J Cle

Clements, Andrew

**Frindle.** 1996.



What starts as a joke becomes a seriously funny campaign when Nick Allen convinces everyone in his school to use the word "frindle" instead of "pen."

J Col  
Collins, Suzanne  
**Gregor the Overlander**. 2003.

Gregor follows his baby sister through a heating duct and into an astonishing underground world with entire cities, giant insects, and much more. **S**

J Cur  
Curtis, Christopher Paul  
**The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963**. 1995.  
Follow a Flint (MI) family through a funny, sad, touching, and even frightening year.

J Dah  
Dahl, Roald  
**Matilda**. 1988.  
A brilliant child develops remarkable powers and wicked grownups regret it!

J DeA  
DeAngeli, Marguerite  
**Copper-Toed Boots**. 1938.  
A boy in 1870s Michigan has many adventures, including feeding the elephants when the circus comes to town.

J DeJ  
DeJong, Meindert  
**Hurry Home, Candy**. 1953.  
A little dog is separated from his family and searches for a new home.

J DiC  
DiCamillo, Kate  
**The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread**. 2003.  
A small mouse risks his life for the princess he loves in a fairytale-like story of love, hate, darkness, and light.

J Eag  
Eager, Edward  
**Seven Day Magic**. 1962.  
Five children check out a book with blank pages from the public library. But it doesn't stay empty: this is a magic book and it fills with the story of their adventures. **S**

J Erd  
Erdrich, Louise  
**The Birchbark House**. 1999.  
The seventh year of Omakayas, an Ojibwa girl living on an island in Lake Superior, is filled with happenings large and small, and reveals the truth of her origins. **S**

J Far  
Farjeon, Eleanor  
**Elsie Piddock Skips in her Sleep**.  
When her town is threatened, only 109-year-old Elsie Piddock can save it—by jumping rope.

J Fie  
Fienberg, Anna  
**The Great Big Enormous Book of Tashi**. 2010.  
Tashi is an odd little fellow who comes from a country far away. He tells his friend, Jack, stories about his adventures—31 of them in all. (Individual books are also available in the JE Red section.)

**Many history, science and travel books also make good read-aloud selections.**

J 398.2 Bru  
Bruchac, Joseph  
**The Boy Who Lived with Bears and other Iroquois Stories**. 1995.  
The six animal stories in this collection have been passed down both to entertain and to teach.

J 892 Bry  
Bryson, Bernarda  
**Gilgamesh, Man's First Story**. 1966.  
The world's oldest known legend, about Gilgamesh and his friend, Enkidu, is retold.

J 398.209 Fro  
**From Sea to Shining Sea: A Treasury of American Folklore and Folk Song**. Compiled by Amy Cohn. 1993.  
Wonderful reading for every family, with folktale heroes and heroines, traditional songs and poems, and much more, all illustrated by award-winning artists.

J 921 George  
George, Jean  
**The Tarantula in My Purse: and 172 Other Wild Pets**. 1996.  
Skunks, raccoons, crows, kids—which ones cause the most trouble? The author of *My Side of the Mountain* tells the real-life story of life in her own house!

J 398.2 Hag  
Hague, Michael  
**Michael Hague's Treasured Classics**. 2012.  
The well-known illustrator presents many familiar stories with new pictures.

J 921 Huynh  
Huynh, Quang Nhuong  
**The Land I Lost**. 1982.  
A boy's childhood in Vietnam includes owning a water buffalo, encounters with pythons and wild hogs, and family incidents both amusing and sad.

J 398.208 Ham  
Hamilton, Virginia  
**The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales**. 1985.  
This outstanding collection runs the gamut from heartbreaking to laugh-out-loud funny. Illustrations are by Leo and Diane Dillon.  
J 398.2 Mandela  
Mandela, Nelson  
**Favorite African Folktales**. 2002.  
Gathered from all over the African continent, most of these stories will be unfamiliar but will give readers lots to think about.

J 398.2 McB  
McBratney, Sam  
**One Voice, Please: Favorite Read-Aloud Stories**. 2008.  
Stories old and new, none more than five pages long, are collected from around the world and retold by Irish author and story-teller McBratney.

J 398.2 Mor  
Morpurgo, Michael  
**Robin of Sherwood**. 1996.  
Excellent illustrations by Michael Foreman accompany a lively retelling of the Robin Hood legends.

J 293.13 Osb  
Osborne, Mary Pope

about an eccentric visiting uncle.

J Smi

Smith, Roland

**Peak.** 2007.

A twelve-year-old boy hopes to prove himself worthy of his father, a famous climber, when he joins his dad's expedition to Mt. Everest.

J Spe

Speare, Elizabeth George

**The Sign of the Beaver.** 1983.

A colonial boy gets through a harsh winter with help from neighboring Indians.

J Ste

Stevenson, Robert Louis

**Treasure Island.** 1881.

A strange old sailor moves into his family's inn and Jim Hawkins is pulled into adventure and danger.

J Tay

Taylor, Sydney

**All-of-a-Kind Family.** 1951.

Five sisters grow up in a loving Jewish family in early 1900s New York City. **S**

J Thu

Thurber, James

**The 13 Clocks.** 1957.

A prince, a princess, a wicked duke, and thirteen clocks that will not go—everything you need for a fairy story!

J Tol

Tolkien, J.R.R.

**The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again.** 1937.

Trolls, a dragon, and treasure are some of the things Bilbo Baggins finds when he opens the door to a wizard and twelve dwarfs.

J Tra

Travers, P.L.

**Mary Poppins.** 1934.

Vain, snappish, hard to please, and completely magical—that's the new nanny, Mary Poppins! **S**

J War

Warner, Gertrude Chandler

**The Boxcar Children.** 1942.

Four orphans run away and hide in an abandoned boxcar; then they make a wonderful discovery. **S**

J Whi

White, E.B.

**Charlotte's Web.** 1952.

Wilbur the pig is befriended by an extraordinary spider, who saves his life.

J Wil

Wilder, Laura Ingalls

**Little House in the Big Woods.** 1932.

Laura, Mary, Ma and Pa live in the Wisconsin woods in the 1870s; later, they will travel to the Great Plains and become settlers. **S**

J Fle

Fleischman, Sid

**The Whipping Boy.** 1986.

Prince Brat is running away, and orphan Jemmy will be punished for it unless he runs away, too.

J Fun

Funke, Cornelia

**Dragon Rider.** 2000.

A young dragon, a brownie, and a small boy embark on a dangerous search, looking for a new and safer place for dragons to live.

J Gan

Gannett, Ruth Stiles

**My Father's Dragon.** 1948.

What would you do if you found a baby dragon? **S**

J Gar

Gardiner, John Reynolds

**Stone Fox.** 1980.

Little Willie must win a sled-dog race or his grandfather's farm will be lost.

J Gra

Grahame, Kenneth

**The Wind in the Willows.** 1908.

Mole, Rat and Mr. Toad have adventures along the riverbank in a classic animal fantasy.

J Hen

Henry, Marguerite

**Brighty of the Grand Canyon.** 1958.

Brighty is a mule living in the Grand Canyon, meeting humans both good and bad along the way.

J Hol

Holling, Holling Clancy

**Paddle-to-the-Sea.** 1941.

A small carved boat makes a long journey through the Great Lakes and across the ocean. It's a Great Lakes inhabitant's must-read!

J Jen

Jenkins, Emily

**Toys Go Out.** 2006.

Washing machines! Bathtubs! The ocean! The world is an exciting and sometimes scary place for toy friends StingRay, Lumphy, and Plastic. Luckily, they have each other and their Little Girl. **S**

J Jus

Juster, Norton

**The Phantom Tollbooth.** 1961.

Milo is bored until he opens a strange package and finds a toy tollbooth inside.

J Ken

Kendall, Carol

**The Gammage Cup.** 1959.

Muggles and her friends have been asked to leave their town, but only they can save it from danger. **S**

J Kin

King-Smith, Dick

**Sophie's Snail.** 1988.

Four-year-old Sophie is determined to be a farmer when she grows up, but she's starting with something small: a snail. **S**

J Kip

Kipling, Rudyard

**Just-So Stories.** 1912.

How the camel got his hump, how the rhinoceros got his skin, how the elephant got his trunk and more.

## FROM THE NONFICTION SHELVES

"Nonfiction" refers to books shelved by Dewey Decimal numbers. Dewey sections include mythology (290s), folk tales (398s) and biography (921).

J Law  
Lawson, Robert  
**Rabbit Hill**. 1944.  
Will the New People on the hill like animals? **S**

J Lew  
Lewis, C.S.  
**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**. 1950.  
Four children find their way to the magic land of Narnia, where a witch holds the country in thrall. **S**

J Lin  
Lin, Grace  
**Where the Mountain Meets the Moon**. 2009.  
Quest fantasy and Chinese folklore mingle in Minli's search for the Old Man of the Moon, who may be able to reverse her family's bad fortunes.

J Lin  
Lindgren, Astrid  
**Pippi Longstocking**. 1950.  
Tommy and Annika are amazed by their new neighbor, who is the strongest girl in the world and lives alone with a horse and a monkey. **S**

J Lin  
Lindsay, Norman  
**The Magic Pudding**. 1918.  
In this Australian classic, a sailor, a penguin, and a koala (with a vast vocabulary) join forces to protect a magic pudding from evil puddin' thieves.

J Lov  
Lovelace, Maud Hart  
**Betsy-Tacy**. 1940.  
Two girls meet when they are four years old and become best friends forever. **S**

J Low  
Lowry, Lois  
**All About Sam**. 1988.  
Life is very funny when seen from the perspective of Sam, from birth through potty training. **S**

J Mac  
MacDonald, Betty  
**Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle**. 1947.  
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle can cure even the worst child of his or her faults, always in funny ways. **S**

J Mah  
Mahy, Margaret  
**The Greatest Show Off Earth**. 1994.  
Space Station Vulnick is gloomy, so Delphinium and Jason launch themselves into hyperspace and a wild and crazy adventure with space pirates, a space circus, and the Acropola: slimy green fun-stealing aliens.

J McC  
McCloskey, Robert  
**Homer Price**. 1943.  
Homer's activities include inventing a remarkable donut machine. **S**

J McS  
McSwigan, Marie  
**Snow Treasure**. 1942.  
School children help smuggle gold out of Norway during the German occupation of World War II.

J Mer  
Merrill, Jean  
**The Toothpaste Millionaire**. 1972.

A twelve-year-old boy goes into business and becomes a millionaire, but not without complications!

J Mil  
Milne, A.A.  
**Winnie-the-Pooh**. 1926.  
Meet the world's most famous bear and his friends in the Enchanted Forest. **S**

J Mor  
Morey, Walt  
**Gentle Ben**. 1965.  
A remarkable friendship develops between a young boy and an enormous brown bear in Alaska Territory.

J Nam  
Namioka, Lensey  
**Yang the Youngest and his Terrible Ear**. 1992.  
Yingtao is great at baseball and lousy at the violin, but his father expects him to play in an important recital. Can Yingtao's friend Matthew help? **S**

J Noy  
Noyce, Pendred  
**Lost in Lexicon: An Adventure in Words and Numbers**. 2011.  
Cousins Ivan and Daphne are sent on a magical treasure hunt in a strange land where grammar and math concepts come to life. **S**

J Pau  
Paulsen, Gary  
**Hatchet**. 1987.  
When his plane crashes after the pilot has a heart attack, a boy must survive the Canadian wilderness. **S**

J Pec  
Peck, Richard  
**Secrets at Sea**. 2011.  
The Upstairs Cranston family (humans) sets off on an ocean voyage and the Downstairs Cranstons (mice) decide to accompany them.

J Pec  
Peck, Richard  
**The Teacher's Funeral: a Comedy in Three Parts**. 2004.  
Russell's big sister is the new teacher in his one-room schoolhouse. This can't be good!

J Roo  
Root, Phyllis  
**Aunt Nancy and the Bothersome Visitors**. 2007.  
Clever Aunt Nancy outwits Old Man Trouble, Cousin Lazybones, Old Woeful, and "Mr. Death himself" in four original trickster tales.

J Row  
Rowling, J.K.  
**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**. 1998.  
Harry is astonished to learn he is the child of wizards and must go off to wizard school. **S**

J Sel  
Selden, George  
**The Cricket in Times Square**. 1960.  
A picnic basket stowaway travels from Connecticut to New York City, where he becomes famous. **S**

J Sin  
Singh, Vandana  
**Younguncle Comes to Town**. 2004.  
Three children in northern India find that life becomes very interesting in this funny family story