

# Classic Children's Fiction

A classic is a book that has been read with enjoyment for many years. This list contains books originally written for children, as well as some books that were originally intended for adults but are popular with young readers. Classic books usually speak to readers on several levels and these books also have great appeal for adults. This list includes annotated versions, as many classics may prove difficult for today's young readers. We also include a note of any ESL versions, which have controlled vocabularies. Everyone should have a chance to get to know these great books!

## J ALC

### Little Women

by *Louisa May Alcott* (American, 1832-1888)

Also: **Little Men, Eight Cousins, Jo's Boys.**

The four March sisters and their mother cope while their father is away fighting in the American Civil War. This book presents a strong loving family doing their best in a difficult period of American history.

Abridged versions are by *Monica Kulling, Laurie Lawlor* and *Deanna McFadden*.

ESL version is **J 428.6 ALC**

Adult DVD available starring Wynona Ryder, **DVD LIT**.



## J BAU

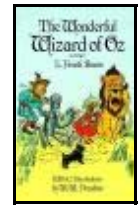
### The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

by *L. Frank Baum* (American, 1856-1919)

Dorothy is whisked away by a tornado to the magic world of Oz, where she is helped to return home by the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion and the Tin Man.

Abridged versions are by *Grace Mabie* and *Joan Collins*.

Adult DVD starring Judy Garland (**Wizard of Oz, DVD WIZ**).



## J BUR

### The Secret Garden

by *Frances Hodgson Burnett* (English, 1849-1924)

Also: **A Little Princess.**

Spoilt Mary is sent to her Uncle's home in England on the death of her parents in India. She changes greatly when she starts caring for others and for the overgrown secret garden.

Abridged versions are by *James Howe, Martha Hailey* and *Jane Resnick*.

## J CAR

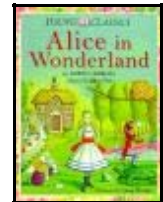
### Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass

by *Lewis Carroll* (English, 1832-1898)

Alice follows a rabbit down his hole into a magic and nonsensical world. Famous characters include the Caterpillar, The Queen of Hearts, Tweedledum and Tweedledee and The Cheshire Cat.

Abridged versions are by *Joan Collins* and *Janet Riehecky*.

DVDs by Disney available under **DVD J ALI** for both DVDs.



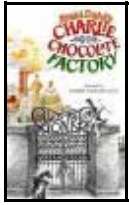
## J COL

### Pinocchio

by *Carlo Collodi* (Italian, 1826-1890)

A lonely man makes a wooden puppet that wants to become real. Pinocchio is thrown into a series of misadventures that force him to grow in character before he achieves his goal.

Abridged versions are by *Gina Ingoglia, James Riordan* and *Ed Young*.



## J DAH

### Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

by *Roald Dahl* (English, 1916-1990)

Charlie wins one of the golden tickets for a tour of the famous Willy Wonka chocolate factory.

Sequel is *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*. Also: **George's Marvelous Medicine, The BFG, The Witches** etc. Dahl was one of the most popular children's authors of the 20th century.

Juvenile DVD available under **DVD J CHA**

## J DIC

### Oliver Twist

by *Charles Dickens* (English, 1812-1870)

Dickens was the most popular author of the 19th century, and many of his books have child characters who grow up in difficult circumstances. Oliver lives in a cruel orphanage and when he escapes, he meets up with the harsh Fagan, who teaches boys to steal. Also: **A Christmas Carol** and **David Copperfield**.

Abridged versions by *John Malam* and *Chris Mould*.

Juvenile DVD available under **DVD J OLI**



## J BIS

### The Wind in the Willows

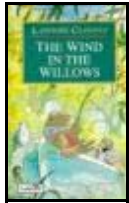
by *Kenneth Grahame* (English, 1859-1932)

Toad, Ratty, Mole and a host of other animal characters inhabit the river bank. Between boating, experimenting with motor cars, and fighting their enemies the weasels, these forest animals have full lives!

DVD available under DVD J WIN

ESL version J428.6 Gra

Illustrated chapter versions, by Grahame: **Adventures of Mr. Toad, The Open Road, The River Bank, Wayfarers All**.



## J KIP

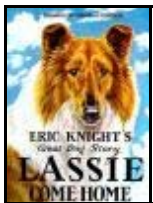
### The Jungle Book

by *Rudyard Kipling* (English, 1865-1936)

Mowgli is raised by animals in the Indian jungle. Other books by Kipling are **Just So Stories** and **Captains Courageous**.

Abridged version by *Jim Razzi*; Picture book version: **Walt Disney's the Jungle Book**.

Video available under **VIDEO J RUD**.



## J KNI

### Lassie Come-Home

by *Eric Knight* (English/American, 1897-1943)

This is one of the original "boy and dog" stories. Lassie is sold when Joe's father loses his job, but finds her way back to him over hundreds of miles of Scottish wilderness.

## J LEW

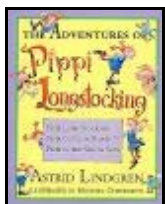
### The Chronicles of Narnia series

by *C.S. Lewis* (English, 1898-1963)

Children find the entrance to the magical world of Narnia, where they take part in the battle of Good versus Evil. The first book, *The Magician's Nephew*, is rarely read today. Most readers start with **The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe**.

Abridged versions by *Laurie Lawlor* and *Hiawyn Oram*.

DVD's available under **DVD J CHR**.

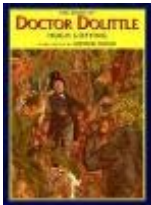


## J LIN

### Pippi Longstocking

by *Astrid Lindgren* (Swedish, 1907-2002)

The strongest girl in the world lives with her horse and monkey in her own ramshackle house. Her sea faring father has disappeared, so Pippi runs her own life in her own way.



## J LOF

### The Story of Dr. Doolittle

by *Hugh Lofting* (English, 1886-1947)

The kind doctor is taught to talk to animals by a parrot. He is soon overrun with animal patients, and learns of the illness facing the monkeys of Africa. There are several sequels  
Juvenile DVD available starring Eddie Murphy, **DVD J DOC**.

## J KITS

### Winnie-the-Pooh

by A.A. Milne (English, 1882-1956)

Pooh lives in the Hundred Acre Wood with his friends Eeyore, Piglet and Tigger. Christopher Robin is the little boy who loves them and comes to visit their innocent world.

Also: **Now We Are Six, When We Were Very Young, The House at Pooh Corner.**

Abridged version: Walt Disney's *The Many Adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh* under **J WAL**.



## J MON

### Anne of Green Gables

by *Lucy Maud Montgomery* (Canadian, 1874-1942)

The most popular Canadian children's book. This story of the spirited orphan Anne Shirley who is sent to live with an elderly brother and sister who were expecting a boy, is loved around the world. There are several sequels following Anne as a young woman and mother.

Abridged versions by *F. McHugh, J. Mattern* and *K. Olmstead*.

ESL version: **J 428.6 MON**

## J NES

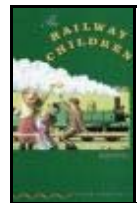
### The Railway Children

by *Edith Nesbit* (English, 1858-1924)

Three children are sent away to the country when their father is wrongly imprisoned. They busy themselves helping to prevent accidents on the local railway line. Also: **The Story of the Treasure Seekers, Five Children and It, The Phoenix and the Carpet.**

Abridged versions by *Joan Collins* and *John Escott*.

ESL version **J 428.6 NES**



## J NOR

### The Borrowers

by *Mary Norton* (English, 1903-1992)

Tiny people live under the floors in old houses, and survive by "borrowing" things from the humans. There are several sequels to this delightful fantasy.

Juvenile DVD available under **DVD J BOR**.

## J PEA

### Tom's Midnight Garden

By *Philippa Pearce* (English, 1920-2006)

When Tom goes to stay in the city with his aunt and uncle, he discovers a secret garden that does not exist in his own time. He makes a friend there, but as he passes back and forth, time speeds up in the garden world.



## J SEW

### Black Beauty

by *Anna Sewall* (English, 1820-1878)

Beauty is badly treated by a series of owners, but finds happiness at last.

Abridged versions by *Lisa Church, Betty Evans, Caryn Jenner* and *Robin McKinley*. Graphic novel version by *L. Owens*.

Juvenile DVD available under **DVD J BLA**

ESL version J 428.6 Sew

## J SMI

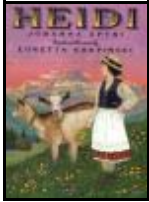
### **The Hundred and One Dalmatians**

by *Dodie Smith* (English, 1896-1990)

Pongo and his mate undertake a dangerous mission to rescue their puppies from the terrible Cruella de Vil.

Juvenile DVD starring Glenn Close available under **DVD J ONE**.

ESL version **J 428.6 SEW**



## J SPY

### **Heidi**

By *Johanna Spyri* (Swiss, 1827-1901)

A Swiss orphan is sent to live with her embittered grandfather in the Alps. They gradually grow to love each other, but are separated when Heidi is sent away again by her unkind aunt, this time to be a companion to an invalid girl in the city.

Abridged versions by *Alison Answorth, Loretta Krupinski, Ana Lopljar and Lucy Coates*.

## J STE

### **Treasure Island**

by *Robert L. Stevenson* (Scottish, 1850-1910)

This is a rousing adventure story including pirates, ships, mutiny, a buried treasure and a brave young man. Long John Silver the pirate is a wonderful creation – a mixture of good and evil. Stevenson is also the author of **Kidnapped** and **A Child's Garden of Verses** (J821.8).

Abridged versions by *Wim Coleman, Joyce Faraday, Earle Hitchner Chris Mould and Chris Tait*.

ESL version **J 428.6 STE**



## J TWA

### **Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**

by *Mark Twain* (American, 1835-1910)

Tom lives with his Aunt Sally, who tries to make him behave. Tom is full of fun and pranks, and would rather be getting into mischief with his friend Huckleberry Finn!

Abridged versions by *Monica Kulling, Margaret Hall, Martin Woodside*.

ESL version **J 428.6 TWA**

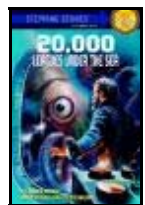
## J VER

### **Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea and Around the World in 80 Days**

by *Jules Verne* (French, 1828-1905)

Verne was a visionary science fiction author, writing of submarines and underwater exploration in the 19th century. His stories are packed with information about the natural world, and are rousing adventures.

Abridged version by *Ron Miller*.



## J WHI

### **Charlotte's Web**

by *E.B. White* (American, 1899-1995)

"Some pig!" Wilbur's life is saved by young Fern, and guided by the love of an intelligent and loving spider. White also wrote *Trumpet of the Swan* and *Stuart Little*

DVD available under **DVD J CHA**.

## J WIL

### **The Little House series**

by *Laura Ingalls Wilder*

Wilder shares the story of her hard working, loving family as they travel and settle the American frontier. The illustrations by Garth Williams bring her words to life. This series is best read in order: **Little House in the Big Woods, Farmer Boy, Little House on the Prairie, On the Banks of Plum Creek, By the Shores of Silver Lake, The Long Winter, Little Town on the Prairie, These Happy Golden Years**.

