

Odyssey Charter School Approved Classical Literature – Updated 2018

*This list is in READING LEVEL order.
(See our spreadsheet version to sort by title, author, genre, etc.)*

Objective: To embrace literature that is classical in nature and of proven quality, enabling students to become great thinkers, learners, and contributors to society.

- Select books that are reasonably challenging (well-written abridged classics may be okay).
- This is NOT a closed list - teachers may approve books not on this list.
- Remember - INTEREST is MUCH MORE important than Reading Level.
- Upper-grade books may have mature themes unsuitable for less seasoned readers - parents are encouraged to monitor the process.
- Anything on our former lists is still approved.

Caldecott (picture book) winners and honors

Newberry (literary) winners and honors

Beehive winners & nominees

Battle of the Books past & present

Grades K-3

Elephant and Piggie series by Willems, Mo§
Fox in Sox by Dr. Seuss§
One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss§
Put Me in the Zoo by Lopshire, Robert
The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry and the Hungry Bear by Wood, Don & Audrey§
Click Clack Moo by Cronin, Doreen
Eloise by Thompson, Kay
Freight Train by Crews, Donald
Leo the Late Bloomer by Kraus, Robert
The Snowman by Briggs, Raymond
Goodnight Moon by Brown, Margaret Wise
Tootle by Crampton, Gertrude
Little Bear by Minarik, Else Holmelund
The Angus series by Flack, Marjorie
The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss§
George Shrinks by Joyce, William
The Carrot Seed by Krauss, Ruth§
A Tree is Nice by Udry, Janice May
Frog and Toad Are Friends by Lobel, Arnold§
A Child's Garden of Verses by Stevenson, Robert Louis§
The Owl and the Pussycat by Lear, Edward
Amelia Bedelia series by Parish, Peggy
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Carle, Eric§
Dinosaur Days by Milton, Joyce
Moonbear Series by Asch, Frank
Anansi the Spider by McDermott, Gerald (1st grade CK)
George and Martha by Marshall, James
Who's in Rabbit's House? by Aardema, Verna
Frederick by Lionni, Leo
Sam the Minuteman by Benchley, Nathaniel
Watch the Stars Come Out by Levinson, Riki
§ Designates an author any of whose works are approved

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Johnson, Crockett
The Snowy Day by Keats, Ezra Jack§
Curious George series by Rey, H.A.
Freckle Juice by Blume, Judy§
The Three Little Pigs by Galdone, Paul (K CK)
Caps for Sale by Slobodkina, Esphyr
Harry the Dirty Dog by Zion, Gene
Stone Soup by Brown, Marcia
Corduroy by Freeman, Don
The Little Engine That Could by Piper, Watty
William's Doll by Zolotow, Charlotte
Where the Wild Things Are by Sendak, Maurice§
Bedtime for Frances by Hoban, Russell
Angelina Ballerina series by Holabird, Katharine
A to Z Mysteries series by Roy, Ron
Cam Jansen series by Adler, David A
The Mitten by Brett, Jan§
Millions of Cats by Gag, Wanda
Abe Lincoln: The Boy who Loved Books by Winters, Kay
Madeline series by Bemelmans, Ludwig
Doctor De Soto by Steig, William
Andy and the Lion by Daugherty, James
Boxcar Children series by Warner, Gertrude Chandler
Tikki Tikki Tembo by Mosel, Arlene
The Biggest Bear by Ward, Lynd
A Chair for my Mother by Williams, Vera B.
Prehistoric Pinkerton by Kellogg, Steven§
Blueberries for Sal by McCloskey, Robert
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by Steig, William
The Little House by Burton, Virginia Lee
Paul Revere's Ride by Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth
Make Way for Ducklings by McCloskey, Robert
Teachers may approve books not included on this list. (August-2018 revision)

The Napping House by Wood, Don & Audrey§
 Stellaluna by Cannon, Janell
 Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Viorst, Judith
 The Story of Ferdinand by Leaf, Munro
 The Story about Ping by Flack, Marjorie
 A Book of Nonsense by Lear, Edward
 The Polar Express by Van Allsburg, Chris§
 The Velveteen Rabbit by Williams, Margery (K CK)
 Winnie-the-Pooh by Milne, A.A. (K & 1st grade CK)
 Strega Nona by dePaola, Tomie
 The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Potter, Beatrix (1st grade CK)
 The Garden of Abdul Gasazi by Van Allsburg, Chris§
 Charlotte's Web by White, E.B.§ (2nd grade CK)
 Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Burton, Virginia Lee
 The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Goble, Paul
 Many Moons by Thurber, James
 The Cabin Faced West by Fritz, Jean§ (2nd grade CK)
 Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by Steptoe, John (1st grade CK)
 All-of-a-Kind Family by Taylor, Sydney
 Fables by Aesop (1st grade CK)

Grades 4-6

Peter Pan by Barrie, James M. (2nd grade CK)
 Sarah Plain and Tall by MacLachlan, Patricia
 Stuart Little by White, E.B.§
 Love, Stargirl by Spinelli, Jerry§
 The Wind in the Willows by Grahame, Kenneth (3rd grade CK)
 Where the Sidewalk Ends by Silverstein, Shel§
 Out of My Mind by Draper, Sharon
 Wild Girl by Giff, Patricia Reilly
 Ella Enchanted by Levine, Gail Carson
 The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales by Hamilton, Virginia
 Bunnica by Howe, Deborah
 The Secret Garden by Burnett, Frances Hodgson§ (5th grade CK)
 Gentle Ben by Morey, Walt
 Number the Stars by Lowry, Lois
 Clementine by Pennypacker, Sara
 Harriet the Spy by Fitzhugh, Louise
 Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Coerr, Eleanor
 Bridge to Terabithia by Paterson, Katherine
 Wolf Hollow by Wolk, Lauren
 From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by Konigsburg, E.L.
 A Bear Called Paddington by Bond, Michael
 Hardy Boys Mystery Series by Dixon, Franklin W
 The Family Under the Bridge by Carlson, Natalie Savage
 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Dahl, Roald§
 James and the Giant Peach by Dahl, Roald§

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Wonder by Palacio, R. J
 Our Only May Amelia by Holm, Jennifer L
 The Cricket in Times Square by Selden, George
 Little House on the Prairie series by Wilder, Laura Ingalls (3rd grade CK - Little House in the Big Woods)
 Henry Huggins by Cleary, Beverly§
 The Tales of Uncle Remus by Lester, Julius
 The Indian in the Cupboard series by Banks, Lynne Reid (3rd grade CK)
 Old Yeller by Gipson, Fred (3rd grade CK)
 Nancy Drew Mystery Series by Keene, Carolyn
 No Talking by Clements, Andrew§
 Half Magic by Eager, Edward
 Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by O'Brien, Robert C.
 Devil's Arithmetic by Yolen, Jane
 The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Selznick, Brian
 The Black Stallion by Farley, Walter
 My Side of the Mountain by George, Jean Craighead
 Matilda by Dahl, Roald§
 Pollyanna by Porter, Eleanor H
 The Moffats by Estes, Eleanor
 Pippi Longstocking by Lindgren, Astrid (2nd grade CK)
 Souder by Armstrong, William H.
 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by Rowling, J.K.
 True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi
 The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Kelly, Jacqueline
 Chronicles of Prydain Series by Alexander, Lloyd§
 Adventures of Pinocchio by Collodi, Carlo (1st grade CK)
 Misty of Chincoteague by Henry, Marguerite
 The Trumpet of the Swan by White, E.B.§
 Lassie Come Home by Knight, Eric
 Little Princess by Burnett, Frances Hodgson§
 Ramona the Pest by Cleary, Beverly§
 The Dream Keeper and Other Poems by Hughes, Langston
 The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Cleary, Beverly§
 My Father's Dragon by Gannett, Ruth Stiles
 The Mysterious Benedict Society by Stewart, Trenton Lee
 Mr. Popper's Penguins by Atwater, Richard and Florence
 Hatchet by Paulsen, Gary
 The Giver by Lowry, Lois
 D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths by D'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar Parin
 The Jungle Book by Kipling, Rudyard
 Babe the Gallant Pig by King-Smith, Dick
 Tuck Everlasting by Babbitt, Natalie
 The Chronicles of Narnia series by Lewis, C.S.§
 The Borrowers by Norton, Mary (3rd grade CK)
 The Railway Children by Nesbit, E.
 Abel's Island by Steig, William
 Caddie Woodlawn by Brink, Carol Ryrie
 The Reluctant Dragon by Grahame, Kenneth
 Tom's Midnight Garden by Pearce, Philippa
 Mary Poppins by Travers, P. L.
 The Rescuers by Sharp, Margery

Teachers may approve books not included on this list. (August-2018 revision)

The Pushcart War by Merrill, Jean
Rip Van Winkle by Irving, Washington§ (4th grade CK)
Tales from Shakespeare by Lamb, Charles
The Phantom Tollbooth by Juster, Norton
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by Baum, L. Frank
Rascal by North, Sterling
Ben and Me by Lawson, Robert
Heidi by Spyri, Johanna
Black Beauty by Sewell, Anna
Castle by Macaulay, David§
Swiss Family Robinson by Wyss, Johann David
Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates by Dodge, Mary Mapes
Fairy Tales by Andersen, Hans Christian§
The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales (Hänsel and Gretel, Rapunzel, etc.) by Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm
The Complete Fairy Tales (Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, etc.) by Perrault, Charles (K & 2nd grade CK)

Grades 6th and Up

A Christmas Carol by Dickens, Charles§ (2nd grade CK)
Anne of Green Gables series by Montgomery, L.M.
A Wrinkle in Time series by L'Engle, Madeleine§
The Outsiders by Hinton, S.E.
The Sign of the Beaver by Speare, Elizabeth George
The Little Prince by Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de
Where the Red Fern Grows by Rawls, Wilson
Dragonwings by Yep, Laurence
Island of the Blue Dolphins by O'Dell, Scott
National Velvet by Bagnold, Enid
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Speare, Elizabeth George
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Taylor, Mildred D.
Julie of the Wolves by George, Jean Craighead
The Upstairs Room by Reiss, Johanna
Johnny Tremain by Forbes, Esther
The White Mountains by Christopher, John
My Friend Flicka by O'Hara, Mary
Little Women by Alcott, Louisa May§ (5th grade CK)
Call It Courage by Sperry, Armstrong
Diary of a Young Girl by Frank, Anne
Poems by Frost, Robert
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Twain, Mark§
The Endless Steppe by Hautzig, Esther
Dragonsong by McCaffrey, Anne
Journey to Topaz by Uchida, Yoshiko
The Hero and the Crown by McKinley, Robin
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Irving, Washington§ (4th grade CK)
The Incredible Journey by Burnford, Sheila
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Carroll, Lewis§ (3rd grade CK)
Treasure Island by Stevenson, Robert Louis§ (4th grade CK)
Call of the Wild by London, Jack§
Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Twain, Mark§ (5th grade CK)
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Doyle, Sir Arthur
Conan (5th grade CK)

The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Pyle, Howard (4th grade CK)
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Verne, Jules§
Robinson Crusoe by Defoe, Daniel (4th grade CK)
The Last of the Mohicans by Cooper, James Fenimore
The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Hugo, Victor
Story of My Life by Keller, Helen
Ivanhoe by Scott, Sir Walter
Frankenstein by Shelley, Mary
The Hobbit by Tolkien, J.R.R.§
The Lord of the Rings series by Tolkien, J.R.R.§
Goose Girl by Hale, Shannon
Eragon by Paolini, Christopher
The Pilgrim's Progress by Bunyan, John
The Count of Monte Cristo by Dumas, Alexandre
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Douglass, Frederick (5th grade CK)
War of the Worlds by Wells, H.G.§