

(Descriptions from Amazon, Wikipedia and author websites)

**Alexander, Lloyd ~ The Chronicles of Prydain Series**

*The Book of Three*  
*The Black Cauldron*  
*The Castle of Llyr*  
*Taran Wanderer*  
*The High King*

The adventures of a young man named Taran, who is awarded the honor of Assistant Pig-Keeper but dreams of being a grand hero, and his companions Princess Eilonwy, Fflewddur Fflam the wandering bard and king, a feral yet gentle creature called Gurgi, and a dwarf named Doli. (Ages 10+)

**Avi ~ The Poppy Stories**

*Ragweed (prequel to Poppy)*  
*Poppy*  
*Poppy and Rye*  
and others

Follow Ragweed as he leaves his home looking for adventure, Poppy as she risks her life for others, and Rye as he finds his true value.

**Banks, Lynn Reid**

*The Indian in the Cupboard Series:*  
*The Return of the Indian*  
*The Secret of the Indian*  
*The Mystery of the Cupboard*  
*The Key to the Indian*

When an exhausted Omri puts a plastic toy Indian into an old medicine cabinet just before falling asleep, the magic begins. Turn the key once and the toy comes alive; turn it a second time and it's an action figure again. The story of Omri and the Indian, Little Bear, is replete with subtle reminders of the responsibilities that accompany friendship and love.

**Bellairs, John**

*The House with a Clock in the Walls*  
*The Curse of the Blue Figurine*  
*The Figure in the Shadows*  
*The Mummy, the Will and the Crypt*  
and others

John Bellairs, the name in Gothic mysteries for middle graders, wrote terrifying tales full of adventure, attitude, and alarm. For years, young readers have crept, crawled, and gone bump in the night with the unlikely heroes of these Gothic novels: Lewis Barnavelt, Johnny Dixon, and Anthony Monday. (Ages 10+)

**Blume, Judy**

*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*  
*Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great*  
*Superfudge*  
*Fudge-a-mania*  
*Double Fudge*

The books follow Peter Hatcher, his little brother Fudge, baby sister Tootsie, their neighbor Sheila Tubman, various pets, and minor characters through New York City and on treks to suburbs and camps.

**Blyton, Enid**

*Five on a Treasure Island*  
*Five Run Away Together*  
*Five Fall into Adventure*  
*Five Get into a Fix*  
and many others

The 26 novels in the "Famous Five" series feature the adventures of a group of young children – Julian, Dick, Anne and Georgina (George) – and their dog Timmy. The books were originally published in England from 1942-1962.

**Brinley, Bertrand**

*The Mad Scientists' Club*  
*The New Adventures of the Mad  
Scientists' Club*  
*The Big Ker-plop*  
*The Big Chunk of Ice*

*The Mad Scientists' Club* books build their plot devices around science, mechanical inclination, a do it yourself ethic, and some good-natured pranks.

**Brooks, Walter R.** ~ Freddy the Pig

*Freddy Goes to Florida*  
*Freddy Goes to the North Pole*  
*Freddy the Detective*  
and many others

Freddy is introduced as "the smallest and cleverest" of the pigs on the Bean farm. He becomes the central character shortly into the series. Freddy's interests drive the books as he becomes a detective, politician, newspaper editor, magician, pilot, and other vocations or avocations.

**Byars, Betsy** ~ The Blossom Family Series

*The Not-Just-Anybody Family  
Wanted...Mud Blossom*  
*The Blossoms Meet the Vulture Lady*  
*The Blossoms and the Green Phantom*  
*A Blossom Promise*

Standing on the barn with cloth wings tied to his outstretched arms, seven-year-old Junior Blossom is waiting for the spirit to lift him. Spying an approaching police car and yelling a warning to his sibling below, Junior unwittingly sets in motion events which would seem ludicrous in an ordinary family. But the Blossoms are not ordinary.

**Cleary, Beverly**

*Beezus and Ramona*  
*Ramona the Pest*  
*Ramona the Brave*  
and other Ramona books

The scrapes Ramona gets herself into—like wearing pajamas to school or accidentally making egg yolk shampoo—are funny and heartwarming, and sometimes embarrassing. No matter what—Ramona's lively, curious spirit shines through.

*Henry Huggins*  
*Henry and Beezus*  
*Henry and Ribsy*  
*Henry and the Paper Route*  
and other Henry books

Henry Huggins feels that nothing very interesting ever happens to him. But from the moment a stray dog in the drugstore begs for a taste of his ice-cream cone and downs it in one gulp, everything is different. And that's only the beginning of Henry's exciting new life!

**Cooper, Susan** ~ The Dark is Rising Sequence

*Over Sea, Under Stone*  
*The Dark is Rising*  
*Greenwitch*  
*The Grey King*  
*Silver on the Tree*

A fantasy series which depicts the struggle between the forces of good, called The Light, and the forces of evil, known as The Dark. The series is based on Arthurian myths and Celtic and Norse legend, and is written primarily for older children and young adults. (Ages 11+)

**dePaola, Tomie**

*26 Fairmount Avenue*  
*Here We All Are*  
*On My Way.*  
and others

Children's author-illustrator Tomie De Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy.

**DuPrau, Jeanne** ~ The Books of Ember

**The City of Ember**  
**The People of Sparks**  
**The Prophet of Yonwood**  
**The Diamond of Darkhold**

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever! (Ages 10+)

**Eager, Edgar** ~ Magic Tales

*Half Magic*  
*Knight's Castle*  
*The Time Garden*  
*Magic by the Lake*  
*Seven-Day Magic*

Magic abounds in Edward Eager's world. Whether his young heroes and heroines are awash in a lake full of magic, making double wishes on a half-magic coin, cavorting with Robin Hood and Ivanhoe, or "thyme" traveling, the adventures simply never stop.

**Enright, Elizabeth** ~ The Melendy Quartet

*The Saturdays*  
*The Four Story Mistake*  
*Then There Were Five*  
*Spiderweb for Two*

Written in the 1940's and 50's—this series follows the myriad adventures of an American family as they move from a Manhattan brownstone to the wonderful, ramshackle “Four-Story-Mistake” in the countryside. They are children of a particular historical moment—but as characters, they are truly timeless.

**Erickson, John** ~ Hank the Cowdog

*Hank the Cowdog*  
*The Further Adventures of Hank...*  
*It's a Dog's Life*  
*Murder in the Middle Pasture*  
*The Phantom in the Mirror*  
and many others

Being Head of Ranch Security is a tough job. And there's only one cowdog who can do it. Patrolling the perimeter, checking out trespassing vehicles, barking at the mailman and fighting coyotes. It's all in a day's work for Hank the Cowdog.

**Estes, Eleanor** ~The Moffats

*The Moffats*  
*The Middle Moffat*  
*Rufus M.*  
*The Moffat Museum*

Meet the Moffats. There is Sylvie, the oldest, the cleverest, and-most days at least-the responsible one; Joey, who though only twelve is the man of the house...sometimes; Janey, who has a terrific upside-down way of looking at the world; and Rufus, who may be the littlest but always gets in the biggest trouble. Even the most ordinary Moffat day is packed with extraordinary fun.

**Farley, Walter**

*The Black Stallion*  
*The Black Stallion Returns*  
*Son of the Black Stallion*  
and many others

The first book in the series is titled *The Black Stallion*. The subsequent novels are about the stallion's three main offspring - his firstborn colt, Satan; his second colt, Bonfire, and his firstborn filly, Black Minx - as well as about the Black himself.

**Fitzgerald, John D.**

*The Great Brain*  
*More Adventures of the Great Brain*  
*Me and My Little Brain*  
and others

Take a step back to a simpler time—where dirt roads run through town, when boys played in vacant lots, carried marbles and slingshots in their pockets, and schools were the one-room variety. This is Adenville, Utah, circa 1896. The Great Brain is told through the eyes of eight-year-old John (the author) who is the youngest of three boys. His ten-year-old brother, Tom, is the Great Brain.

**Furlong, Monica**

*Wise Child*  
*Juniper*  
*Colman*

In a remote Scottish village, nine-year-old Wise Child is taken in by Juniper, a healer and sorceress. Then Wise Child's mother, Maeve, a black witch, reappears. In choosing between Maeve and Juniper, Wise Child discovers the extent of her supernatural powers—and her true loyalties. (Ages 11+)

**Gannett, Ruth Stiles ~ Three Tales of My Father's Dragon**

*My Father's Dragon*  
*Elmer and the Dragon*  
*The Dragons of Blueland*

The story begins when Elmer Elevator (the narrator's father as a boy) runs away with an old alley cat to rescue a flying baby dragon being exploited on a faraway island.

**George, Jean Craighead**

*My Side of the Mountain*  
*On the Far Side of the Mountain*  
*Frightful's Mountain*

Set in the Catskill Mountains, *My Side of the Mountain* is an account of how Sam Gribble survives in the wilderness of upstate New York.

**Henry, Marguerite**

*Misty of Chincoteague*  
*Stormy, Misty's Colt*  
*Sea Star: Orphan of Chincoteague*

Set on the coastal island of Chincoteague, Virginia, the book tells the story of the Beebe family and their efforts to raise a filly born to a wild horse.

**Hicks, Clifford B.**

*The Marvelous Inventions of Alvin Fernald*  
*Alvin's Secret Code*  
*Alvin Fernald, Foreign Trader*  
*and many others*

Whenever Alvin's Magnificent Brain kicks into action, it's time to watch out! For Alvin is always thinking up another marvelous invention. But there's no doubt about it, as his sister the Pest says, "Alvin is a genius!"

**Howe, James**

*Bunnicula*  
*Howliday Inn*  
*The Celery Stalks at Midnight*  
*Nighty Nightmare*  
and others

The story is centered on the Monroe family and their pets and is told from the perspective of their dog Harold. The Monroes find a bunny at the theater where they were watching a Dracula film. Because of this, they name him Bunnicula. Their cat Chester, however, is convinced Bunnicula is a vampire and attempts to get Harold to help save the Monroes from the perceived menace.

**Jacques, Brian ~ Redwall Series**

*Redwall*  
*Mossflower*  
*Mattimeo*  
and many, many more

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy. (Ages 11+)

**Jansson, Tove ~ The Moomins**

*The Moomins and the Great Flood*  
*Comet in Moominland*  
*Finn Family Moomintroll*  
and many others

The Moomins are a family of trolls who are white and roundish, with large snouts that make them resemble hippopotamuses. The carefree and adventurous family live in Moominvalley, in the forests of Finland. They have many adventures along with their various friends.

**Korman, Gordon ~ Bruno and Boots Series**

*This Can't Be Happening at MacDonald Hall*  
*Go Jump in the Pool!*  
*The War with Mr. Wizzle*  
*The Zucchini Warriors*  
and others

The lead characters are Bruno Walton and Melvin "Boots" O'Neal, MacDonald Hall students who have a well earned reputation for mischief. For all their troublemaking, however, the pair has a deep loyalty to the school and many of the books have them and their friends going to great lengths to support it.

**L'Engle Madeleine ~ Time Quartet**

*A Wrinkle in Time*  
*A Wind in the Door*  
*A Swiftly Tilting Planet*  
*Many Waters*

L'Engle challenges concepts of time, space, and the power of good over evil in each of her four riveting novels.

**Lewis, C. S. ~ The Chronicles of Narnia**

*The Magician's Nephew*  
*The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*  
*The Horse and His Boy*  
*Prince Caspian*  
and others

Set in the fictional realm of Narnia, a place where animals talk, magic is common, and good battles evil, the series narrates the adventures of various children who play central roles in the unfolding history of that world.

**MacLachlan, Patricia**

*Sarah Plain and Tall*  
*Skylark*  
*Caleb's Story*  
*More Perfect than the Moon*  
*Grandfather's Dance*

A tender story about the fragile beginnings of a family relationship, it takes place during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. *Sarah, Plain and Tall* tells the story of Sarah, who came from Maine to answer Jacob's advertisement for a wife and mother, all from the point of view of young Anna.

**McAllister, M. I. ~ The Mistmantle Chronicles**

*Urchin of the Riding Stars*  
*Urchin and the Heartstone*  
*The Heir of Mistmantle*  
*Urchin and the Raven War*  
*Urchin and the Rage Tide*

Mistmantle is inhabited by squirrels, hedgehogs, moles and otters. It has a king and queen, a tower, woods and coastline - but it also has villains, secrets, and betrayals.

**Martin, Ann**

*The Doll People*  
*The Meanest Doll in the World*  
*The Runaway Dolls*

In the first book of the series, a doll made of china and her new best friend made of plastic try to find her aunt that long ago went on an adventure and never came back.

**McCloskey, Robert**

*Homer Price*  
*Centerburg Tales*

Welcome to Centerburg! Where you can win a hundred dollars by eating all the doughnuts you want; where houses are built in a day; and where a boy named Homer Price can foil four slick bandits using nothing but his wits and a pet skunk.

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds**

*Shiloh*  
*Shiloh Season*  
*Saving Shiloh*

When 11-year-old Marty Preston chances upon a mistreated beagle pup, he is not prepared for the ethical questions he has to face. Should he return the dog to its owner, only to have the animal abused again? Should he tell his parents? Marty's efforts to cope with these questions provides the moral backbone for this story.

**Nixon, Joan Lowery ~ The Orphan Train Adventures**

*A Family Apart*  
*Caught in the Act*  
*In the Face of Danger*  
*A Place to Belong*  
*A Dangerous Promise*

Nixon explores a time and place in America's recent past that is not widely covered in history lessons. Beginning in 1854, over 100,000 homeless children were rescued from the streets of New York City and sent by train to new homes in the West.

**Norton, Mary**

*The Borrowers*  
*The Borrowers Afield*  
*The Borrowers Afloat*  
*The Borrowers Aloft*  
*The Borrowers Avenged*

*The Borrowers* is a series of children's fantasy novels by Mary Norton about tiny people who live in the homes of big people and "borrow" things to survive while keeping their existence unknown. The central characters of the novels are a borrower family surnamed Clock: Pod, Homily and Arrietty.

**Osborne, Mary Pope ~ Magic Tree House Series**

*Dinosaurs before Dark*  
*The Knight at Dawn*  
*Mummies in the Morning*  
and many, many others

In the first series, consisting of the first 28 books, Morgan le Fay sends Jack and Annie, two normal children from Frog Creek, PA, on numerous adventures and missions with a magical tree house in order to help free Morgan from a spell, solve four ancient riddles to become Master Librarians, and save four ancient stories from being lost forever.

**Paolini, Christopher** ~ The Inheritance Cycle

*Eragon*  
*Eldest*  
*Brisings*  
*Inheritance*

Not so very long ago, Eragon — Shadeslayer, Dragon Rider — was nothing more than a poor farm boy, and his dragon, Saphira, only a blue stone in the forest. Now the fate of an entire civilization rests on their shoulders. (Ages 11+)

**Paver, Michelle** ~ Chronicles of Ancient Darkness

*Wolf Brother*  
*Spirit Walker*  
*Soul Eater*  
*Outcast*  
*Oath Breaker*  
*Ghost Hunter*

The books chronicle the adventures of Torak, an adolescent boy from the Wolf Clan, and his friends Renn and Wolf. The main story arc revolves around Torak and his quest to defeat the Soul Eaters, a group of evil clan mages who seek out to destroy all life in the forest. (Ages 10+)

**Peck, Richard**

*A Long Way from Chicago*  
*A Year Down Yonder*  
*A Season of Gifts*

When Joey and his sister Mary Alice are sent every summer to visit Grandma Dowdel, they little expect to enjoy it so much. Grandma manages to keep them on their toes and to defy the town with everything she does.

**Peck, Robert Newton**

*Soup*  
*Soup and Me*  
*Soup for President*  
and many others

Here are the stories of that friendship, and of the troubles—stories from a boyhood filled with barrels to roll in, apples to whip, windows to break, ropes to bind prisoners, and ten-cent Saturday movies. But then as always nothing was quite as important as a best friend.

**Sachar, Louis**

*Sideways Stories from Wayside School*  
*Wayside School is Falling Down*  
*Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger*  
*Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School*

The books tell many stories of a school built as a tower 30 stories high, with one room per story, but with no 19th story. Each book contains 30 chapters, called stories, complementing the 30 stories in the school.

**Smith, Alexander McCall**

*Akimbo and the Baboons*  
*Akimbo and the Elephants*  
*Akimbo and the Lions*  
*Akimbo and the Snakes*

Ten-year-old Akimbo lives on a game preserve in Africa. His father is the head ranger, and Akimbo is eager to help him whenever he can—even if it means getting into some pretty dangerous situations.

**Sobol, Donald** ~ Encyclopedia Brown

*Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective*  
*Encyclopedia Brown Keeps the Peace*  
*Encyclopedia Brown Finds the Clues*  
and many others

Encyclopedia lives in Idaville, Florida. He's aided in his investigations by his best friend, Sally. Each chapter is a short mystery with the solution in the back of the book. The clues are pretty fair and quite numerous, and well-distributed through each story.

**Stewart, Trenton Lee**

*The Mysterious Benedict Society*  
*The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*  
*The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma*

After Reynie Muldoon responds to an advertisement recruiting "gifted children looking for special opportunities," he finds himself in a world of mystery and adventure.

**Sutcliff, Rosemary ~ Arthurian Trilogy**

*The Sword and the Circle*  
*The Light Beyond the Forest*  
*The Road to Camlann*

A retelling of the story of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table (Ages 11+)

**Taylor, Mildred**

*Song of the Trees (prequel)*  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*  
*Let the Circle Be Unbroken*  
*The Friendship*

This series explores life in Depression-era Mississippi as lived by an African-American family, the Logans. The Logans are fortunate; they own their own land in a time and place when many—black and white—are living as sharecroppers on various plantations and racially-motivated crimes are common. (Ages 10+)

**Tolkien, J. R. R. ~ The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings Trilogy**

*The Hobbit (or There and Back Again)*  
*The Fellowship of the Ring*  
*The Two Towers*  
*The Return of the King*

Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who wanted to be left alone in quiet comfort. But the wizard Gandalf came along with a band of homeless dwarves. Soon Bilbo was drawn into their quest, facing evil orcs, savage wolves, giant spiders, and worse unknown dangers. (Ages 10+)

**Warner, Gertrude Chandler**

*The Boxcar Children*  
*Surprise Island*  
*The Yellow House Mystery*  
and many others

The series involves the children solving various mysteries and occasionally traveling to other locations as they do so. After the first novel, the children become amateur sleuths. They stumble across a mystery no matter where they are, whether on vacation or in their own backyard.

**Wilder, Laura Ingalls**

*Little House in the Big Woods*  
*Little House on the Prairie*  
*Farmer Boy*  
and many others

The *Little House* series is based on decades-old memories of Laura Ingalls Wilder's childhood in the Midwest region of the United States during the late 19th century.

**Winthrop, Elizabeth**

*The Castle in the Attic*  
*The Battle for the Castle*

A magical replica of a castle transports William to adventures in another land in these companion novels.

**Wrede, Patricia ~ The Enchanted Forest Chronicles**

*Dealing with Dragons*  
*Searching for Dragons*  
*Calling on Dragons*  
*Talking to Dragons*

Cimorene is everything a princess is *not* supposed to be: headstrong, tomboyish, smart. . . . And bored. So bored that she runs away to live with a dragon . . . and finds the family and excitement she's been looking for.