



Book Suggestions to Develop the Reader Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

Here is our selection of books for Years 3 and 4, carefully chosen to further develop the reader. There is a mixture of classics as well as lesser-known books to choose from.

Challenging & Developing Young Readers

There are five types of texts that it would be beneficial for all children have access to in order for them to successfully navigate reading a wide range of books with confidence. These texts are complex beyond the usual level of demand and require more from the reader than other types of books.

Archaic Language

The vocabulary, grammar and cultural references of texts over 50 or 100 years old are vastly different and usually more complex than texts written today.

Non-Linear Time Sequences

In most stories, time tends to unfold with consistency; a story is narrated in a given style with a structure that remains the same. In more complex books, time moves in fits and start. It sometimes doubles back. The only way to master such books is to have read them time and again and to be carefully introduced to them by a thoughtful teacher or parent.

Narratively Complex

Books are sometimes narrated by an unreliable narrator. Some books have non-human narrators such as the horse that tells the story in *Black Beauty*. Others have multiple intertwined and apparently (for a time) unrelated plot lines. These are far harder to read than books with a single plot line and children need to experience these as well.

Symbolic Texts

Texts which have metaphorical or symbolic meaning. This indirect approach creates complexity by attaching additional meaning to an object, action or name.

Resistant Texts

These are texts written to deliberately resist easy meaning-making by readers; perhaps half of the poems ever written fall into this category. Meaning has to be assembled around nuances, hints, uncertainties and clues.

Archaic Texts

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Charlotte's Web	E.B. White	1952	272
The Children of Green Knowe	Lucy M. Boston	1954	128
The Railway Children	Edith Nesbit	1905	230
Five Children and It	Edith Nesbit	1902	272
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	1865	108
Mary Poppins	P.L. Travers	1934	192
Just William	Richmal Crompton	1922	272
Emil and the Detectives	Erich Kastner	1929	224
The Little House on the Prairie	Laura Ingalls Wilder	1935	352
Peter Pan	J.M. Barrie	1911	208
Pippi Longstocking	Astrid Lindgren	1945	144
Heidi	Johanna Spyri	1880	240
Winnie-the-Pooh	A.A. Milne	1926	160
The House at Pooh Corner	A.A. Milne	1928	192
The Little Match Girl	Hans Christian Anderson	1845	54
Beauty and the Beast	Abridged version	1740	48
The Emperor's New Clothes	Hans Christian Anderson	1837	26
The Fishermen and his Wife	Brothers Grimm	1812	32
How the Camel got his Hump	Rudyard Kipling	1902	24
How Doth the Little Crocodile (poem)	Lewis Carroll	1865	N/A
You Are Old Father William (poem)	Lewis Carroll	1865	N/A
Topsy Turvy World (poem)	William Brightly Rands	1871	N/A
There Was a Young Lady Whose Nose and There Was an Old Man With a Beard (poems)	Edward Lear	1920	N/A
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	C.S. Lewis	1950	208
The Velveteen Rabbit	Margery Williams	1922	48
A Bear Called Paddington	Michael Bond	1958	160

Non-Linear Time Sequences

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Midnight Fox	Betsy Byars	1968	208
The Firework Maker's Daughter	Phillip Pullman	1995	144
The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth	Eoin Culfer	2005	112
Fortunately the Milk	Neil Gaiman	2013	160
The Butterfly Lion	Michael Morpurgo	1996	128
Farm Boy	Michael Morpurgo	1997	112
Walk Two Moons	Sharon Creech	1994	304
Dominic Grows Sweetcorn	Mandy Ross	2014	32

Narratively Complex

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Witches	Roald Dahl	1983	224
The Five Realms: The Legend of Podkin One-Ear	Keiran Larwood	2016	288
Max and the Millions	Ross Montgomery	2018	272
Toys Go Out	Emily Jenkins	2006	117
The World According to Humphrey	Betty G. Bimey	2004	160
Woof	Allan Ahlberg	1987	160
Nim's Island	Wendy Orr	1999	128
The Case of the Lost Boy	Dori Hillestad Butler	2010	124

Symbolic Text

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Revolting Rhymes (poems)	Roald Dahl	1982	80
Love That Dog	Sharon Creech	2001	112
The Iron Man	Ted Hughes	1968	80
Catch a Little Rhyme (poem)	Eve Merriam	1999	N/A
Dream Variations (poem)	Langston Hughes	1926	N/A
Ducks Ditty (poem)	Kenneth Grahame	1908	N/A

Resistant Texts

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Cloud Busting	Malorie Blackman	2004	176
The Mysteries of Harris Burdick	Chris Van Allsburg	1984	32
Topsy Turvy World (poem)	William Brighty Rands	1871	N/A
Something Told the Wild Geese	Rachel Field	19	40

Other Books to Consider

These books are recommended for Years 3 and 4. Each year group gradually increases in emotional or plot complexity and contains a mixture of modern books and classics.

Year 3

Cool	Michael Morpurgo
Billy the Kid	Michael Morpurgo
The Twits	Roald Dahl
Charlie and The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl
James and the Giant Peach	Roald Dahl
Fantastic Mr Fox	Roald Dahl
The BFG	Roald Dahl
The Sheep Pig	Dick King-Smith
Bill's New Frock	Anne Fine
The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog	Jeremy Strong
Return of the Hundred Mile an Hour Dog	Jeremy Strong
The Naughtiest Girl in the School	Enid Blyton
Secret Seven series	Enid Blyton
Animal Ark series	Lucy Daniels
Horrid Henry series	Francesca Henry's
Flat Stanley	Jeff Brown
Fungus the Bogeyman	Raymond Briggs
Mystery Winklesea	Helen Cresswell
Mr Majeika	Humphrey Carpenter
Please Mrs Butler	Allan Ahlberg
The Sam Pig Story Book	Alison Uttley
Railway Cat	Phyllis Arkle
The Battle of Bubble and Squeak	Phillipa Pearce
The Abominables	Eva Ibbotson
Hansel And Gretel	Anthony Browne

Year 4

A Caribbean Dozen	John Agard & Grace Nicholls
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	John Steptoe
Beowulf	Kevin Crossley-Holland
The Dragon's Child	Jenny Nimmo
The Ghost Blades	Anthony Masters
Sara, Plain and Tall	Patricia MacLachlan
Smart Girls	Robert Leeson
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky	Susan Jeffers & Chief Seattle
Robi Dobi	Madhur Jaffrey
The Reluctant Dragon	Kenneth Grahame
Flow	Pippa Goodhart
Dragon Poems	John Foster & Korky Paul
The Crazy Shoe Shuffle	Gillian Cross
The Sea Piper	Helen Cresswell
The Chocolate Touch	Patrick Skene Catling
Spacebaby	Henrietta Branford
Gregory Cool	Caroline Binch
A Pot of Gold	Jill Bennett
Fog Hounds Wind Cat Sea Mice	Joan Aiken
The Clothes Horse	Allan Ahlberg
It Was A Dark and Stormy Night	Allan Ahlberg
The Dancing Bear	Michael Morpurgo
Dog So Small	Phillipa Pearce
Emil and the Detectives	Erich Kastner
Little House on the Prairie	Laura Ingalls Wilder
Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh	Robert C O'Brien
Greek Myths for Young Children	Marcia Williams
Voices in the Park	Anthony Browne
Why the Whales Came	Michael Murpurgo