

# 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 (К 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§  
 Stellanluna 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)  
 Sounder 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  
 The Pushcart War by Merrill, Jean  
 Rip Van Winkle by Irving, Washington§ (4th grade CK)

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

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. §