

Books You've Gotta Read with Your Kids

"1001 Children's Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up" is the kind of book that makes you wish your children would never grow up--or at least not until you and they have enjoyed the 900-plus pages of wonderful contemporary and classic children's books from authors and illustrators all around the world. Most of the book descriptions are illustrated with cover images, many of them fabulous art in themselves.

Space in this article limits how many books we can describe, so, we're looking at stories for children 3 and older. Each listing includes the author and illustrator, if known, the publisher, a plot outline and a brief history of the story, or how it came to be. If you don't have these books in your home or in your local library, you can use WorldCat, www.worldcat.org, to see where you might obtain the books as inter-library loans.

Kate Greenaway's "Mother Goose" and "Marigold Garden" are among the first books in the section for preschoolers, which continues with such other wonderfully illustrated books as Beatrix Potter's tales of Peter Rabbit, Jeremy Fisher and Jemima Puddle-Duck. There's "Winnie-the-Pooh," "The Story of Babar," "The Story of Ferdinand," marmalade cat "Orlando," and "Little Toot."

Then there's "Madeline," "Mike Mulligan," "Curious George," "Eloise," "Harry the Dirty Dog," "The Cat in the Hat," "A Bear Called Paddington," "Where the Wild Things Are," "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile," "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?," Richard Scarry books, "Corduroy," and "Lotta's Bike," about a character almost as adventurous as author Astrid Lindgren's famous Pippi Longstocking.

If it's hot where you live, your children may love "The Snowman," wordless and full of winter images, "Frog in Winter," or the bundled up bear and mouse in "Ernest and Celestine Have Lost Simon." Other favorites, old and new, are "Angelina Ballerina," "Fire-Engine Lil," "Guess How Much I Love You," "Olivia," and "Knuffle Bunny."

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