



“Must Reads” are, as their name suggests, books you must read. They’re books that have stood the test of time or have enthralled good readers as soon as they hit the bookstands. They’re books that are an essential part of a well-rounded, classical education, and they’re books we believe in here at SLOCA. These books are not required reading, but we encourage you to pick them up in our Den bookstore and share them with your children.

We’ve chosen two books per level for each trimester. Below, Trimester 1 books are listed in the first column, Trimester 2 in the second column, etc. However, please think of this list as fluid depending on your child’s reading ability and maturity. Many of these books would also make great read-alouds for the entire family. After all, as author C.S. Lewis says, “A children’s story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children’s story in the slightest.”

KINDER

Socks
by Beverly Cleary
The Bears on Hemlock Mountain
by Alice Dalgliesh

My Popper's Penguins
by Richard + Florence Atwater
My Father's Dragon
by Alice Dalgliesh

Charlotte's Web
by E.B. White
James and the Giant Peach
by Roald Dahl

PRIMARY

Mrs Piggie-Wiggle
by Betty MacDonald
Many Moons
by James Thurber

The BFG
by Roald Dahl
The Undeclared
by Kwame Alexander

McBroom's Wonderful One-Acre Farm by Sid Fleischman
The Trumpet of the Swan
by E.B. White

INTERMEDIATE

Heidi
by Johanna Spyri
Little Britches
by Ralph Moody

Strawberry Girl
by Lois Lenski
The Twenty-One Balloons
by William Pene du Bois

The Secret Garden
by Francis Hodges Burnett
By the Great Horn Spoon!
by Sid Fleischman

LOWER MS

Little Women
by Louisa May Alcott
Where the Red Fern Grows
by Wilson Rawls

Black Beauty
by Anna Sewall
The Princess and the Goblin
by George MacDonald

The Jungle Book
by Rudyard Kipling
Rickshaw Girl
by Mithali Perkins

UPPER MS

Romeo and Juliet
by William Shakespeare
The Diary of a Young Girl
by Anne Frank

The Happy Prince and Other Stories
by Oscar Wilde
Chains
by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Hound of the Baskervilles
by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Jane Eyre
by Charlotte Brontë