RECOMMENDED READING LIST
Compiled by Dr. Rosalie de Rosset

AMERICAN CLASSIC LITERATURE
Anderson, Sherwood. Winesburg, Ohio (on small town America)
Angelou, Maya. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Bradbury, Ray. Fahrenheit 451
Buck, Pearl. The Good Earth
Cather, Willa. My Antonia; Death Comes to the Archbishop
Cooper, James Fenimore. The Last of the Mohicans
Crane, Stephen. The Red Badge of Courage
Dreiser, Theodore. An American Tragedy; Sister Carrie
Emerson, Ralph Waldo.
Faulkner, William. As I Lay Dying; Absalom, Absalom, The Sound and the Fury
Fitzgerald, F. Scott. The Great Gatsby
Gaines, Ernest. A Lesson Before Dying
Hanson, Ron. Mariette in Ecstasy (1990’s)
Hawthorne, Nathaniel. The Scarlet Letter; The House of Seven Gables
Hemingway, Ernest. The Old Man and the Sea; A Farewell to Arms
Herbert, Frank. Dune
Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God
Keillor, Garrison. Lake Wobegone Days
Kennedy, John O’Toole. The Neon Bible; Confederacy of Dunces
Kennedy, William. Ironweed
Kennedy, Susan. In Another Country
Kesey, Ron. One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest
Kingsolver, Barbara. The Poisonwood Bible (1990’s)
Lee, Harper. To Kill a Mockingbird
Lewis, Sinclair. Main Street; Babbitt (on small town America)
London, Jack. The Call of the Wild
Lowery, Lois. The Giver, Number the Stars (young adult)
Macleish, Archibald. J.B. (takeoff on Job)
Malamud, Bernard. The Fixer
Melville, Herman. Moby Dick*; Billy Budd*
Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye, Song of Solomon*
O’Henry. *Short Stories*
Poe, Edgar Allen. *Short Stories; Poetry*
Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen; The Promise; My Name is Asher Lev; Davita’s Harp*
Rand, Ayn. *Atlas Shrugged; Anthem; The Fountainhead*
Reynolds, Sherri. *The Rapture of Canaan (1990’s)*
Robinson, Mary Lynn. *Housekeeping*
Russell, Mary Doria. *The Sparrow*, *Children of God (1990’s)*
Salinger, J.D. *Franny & Zoey; Catcher in the Rye*
Schaefer, Jack. *Shane*
Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle; The Octopus*
Stegner, Wallace. *Crossing to Safety*
Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath; East of Eden; Of Mice and Men; The Red Pony*
Susskind, Patric. *Pigeon*
Tartt, Donna. *The Secret History, My Little Friend*
Twain, Mark. *Huckleberry Finn; Tom Sawyer*
Tyler, Anne. *Dinner at Homesick Restaurant; The Accidental Tourist*
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse 5*
Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*
Wallant, Edward. *Children At the Gate; The Pawnbroker*
Wharton, Edith. *Ethan Frome; The House of Mirth; The Age of Innocence*
Wilder, Thornton. *Bridge of San Luis Rey; Our Town (drama)*
* = Indicates the work is written under Christian influence or has Christian overtones

**ENGLISH CLASSIC LITERATURE**

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice; Sense and Sensibility; Persuasion, Emma*
Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre, The Professor, Villette*
Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*
Carroll, Lewis. *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*
Conrad, Joseph. *Lord Jim; The Secret Sharer; The Heart of Darkness*
Dickens, Charles. *David Copperfield; Oliver Twist; A Tale of Two Cities; Great Expectations; A Christmas Carol*
Eliot, George. *Middlemarch; The Mill on the Floss; Silas Marner*
Fielding, Henry. *Tom Jones*
Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*
Hardy, Thomas. *Tess of D’Urbervilles; Return of the Native, Jude the Obscure*
Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*
Kipling, Rudyard. *The Jungle Books; Kim Captain’s Courageous*
Maugham, Somerset. *Rain; Of Human Bondage; Razor’s Edge*
Orwell, George. *1984; Animal Farm*
Scott, Sir Walter. *Ivanhoe*
Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth; Hamlet; King Lear; Othello; Romeo and Juliet; Merchant of Venice*
Shaw, George Bernard. *Saint Joan*; *Pygmalion; Man and Superman*
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*
Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*
Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver’s Travels*
Thackeray, William. *Vanity Fair*
Wilde Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

**FOREIGN CLASSIC LITERATURE (WORLD LITERATURE)**
Camus, Albert. *The Plague; The Stranger* (French)
Cervantes, Miguel de. *Don Quixote* (Spanish)
Dante. *The Inferno* (Italian)
Dumas, Alexander. *The Count of Monte Cristo; The Three Musketeers* (French)
Flaubert, Gustave. *Madame Bovary* (French)
Frank, Anne. *Diary of a Young Girl* (Dutch)
Homer. *The Iliad; The Odyssey* (Greek)
Hugo, Victor. *Hunchback of Notre Dame; Les Miserables* (French)
Ibsen. *The Doll’s House/An Enemy of the People* (Scandinavian)
Kafka, Franz. *The Castle; Metamorphosis* (German)
Koestler, Arthur. *Darkness at Noon* (Russian Revolution) (English)
Mann, Thomas. *The Magic Mountain; Tonio Kroger; A Death in Venice* (German)
Pasternak, Boris. *Dr. Zhivago* (Russian)
Sartre, Jean Paul. *Nausea; The Wall* (French)
Tolstoy, Leo. *Anna Karenina*; *War and Peace* (Russian)
Verne, Jules. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*
Vergil. *The Aeneid* (Latin)
Voltaire. *Candide* (French)
Wiesel, Elie. *Night*; *Dawn; A Beggar at Jerusalem*
* = works using Biblical themes, showing Christian influences/themes

**CHRISTIAN CLASSIC FICTION** (some which have not attained “classic” stature)
Bernanos, Georges. *Diary of a Country Priest*
Betts, Doris.
Blamires, Harry. *The Trilogy; The Devil’s Hunting Ground; Cold War in Hell; Highway to Heaven*
Buechner, Frederick. *Godric;* etc.
Bunyan, John. *Pilgrim’s Progress; The Holy War*
*Chesterton, G.K. Father Brown Mysteries; The Man Who Was Thursday*
Dillard, Annie. *Holy the Firm; Pilgrim at Tinker Creek; An American Childhood*
Defoe, Daniel. *Roxanna; Robinson Crusoe*
Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Crime and Punishment; The Brothers Karamazov; The Idiot*
Elliot, Elizabeth. *No Graven Image*
Endo, Shusaku. *Silence; When I Whistle; Wonderful Fool, Deep River*
Fickett, Harold. *Holy Fool*
Godwin, Gayle. *Father Melancholy’s Daughter; Evensong*
Greene, Graham. *The End of the Affair; The Heart of the Matter; The Power and the Glory*
Hassler, Jon. *Simon’s Night, Staggerford, North of Hope*
Hartman, Olov. *Marching Orders; Holy Masquerade*
L’Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time; The Wind in the Door*
Lagerkvist, Par.  *Barabbas*
*Lewis, C.S.  *Till We Have Faces; The Chronicles of Narnia; The Great Divorce; The Screwtape Letters;* etc.
*Macdonald, George.  *The Gifts of the Child-Christ; Lilith; Phantastes; The Lost Princess* (sometimes called *The Wise Woman*)
Mauriac, Francois.  *Viper’s Tangle; Woman of the Pharisees; Therese;* etc.
Miller, Calvin.  *The Singer*  (he has written a trilogy)
Moore, Brian.  *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne; The Color of Blood*
Nelson, Shirley.  *The Last Year of the War*
O’Connor Flannery.  *Three; Everything that Rises Must Converge; The Complete Stories*
Paton, Alan., *Cry The Beloved Country; Too Late the Phalarope; Tales From a Troubled Land; Ah, But Your Land is Beautiful*
*Sayers, Dorothy.  Assorted mystery novels (Peter Wimsey series)*
Schaap, James.  *Romey’s Place* (excellent novel/memoir)
Smith, Lee.  *Amazing Grace*
Solzhenitsyn, Alexander.  *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich; First Circle; Cancer Ward*; *The Gulag Archipelago*; etc.
*Tolkien, J.R.R.  *The Trilogy; The Hobbit* (to be read first)*
Wangerin, Walter.  *The Orphean Passages; Ragman and Other Cries of Faith; The Book of the Dun Cow; Saint Julian*
*Williams, Charles.  *Descent into Hell; All Hallows Eve; War in Heaven;* etc.
Woiwode, Larry.  *Poppa John;* etc.
*The Inklings

**CHRISTIAN CLASSIC POETRY**

Auden, W.H.
Donne, John.  *Holy Sonnets*
Eliot, T.S.  *The Wasteland; The Hollow Man* (pre-conversion); *The Four Quartets* (post-conversion)
Hall, Donald
Herbert, George.  *The Temple*
Hopkins, Gerard Manley.
Leax, John.
L’Engle Madeleine.  *The Weather of the Heart*
Lewis, C.S.  *Poems*
MacDonald, George.  *The Diary of an Old Soul*
Merton, Thomas.  *Strange Islands*
Milton, John.  *Paradise Lost; Paradise Regained*
Shaw, Luci.  *Listen to the Green;* etc.

**CLASSIC CHRISTIAN DRAMA**

Eliot, T.S.  *The Cocktail Party; Murder in the Cathedral; Family Reunion*
Hartman, Olov.  *Three Church Dramas*
Hochuth.  *The Deputy*
Milton, John.  *Paradise Lost; Paradise Regained; Samson Agonistes*
Sayers, Dorothy.  *Man Born to be King; Emperor Constantine*
GOOD QUALITY CHRISTIAN NON-FICTION

Augustine. *The Confessions*
Anselm. *Cur Deus Homo* (Why the God Man)
Athanasius. *De Incarnatione* (The Incarnation: note forward by C.S. Lewis)
Barnes, Craig. *Yearning* (wonderful book on longing)
Baxter, Sidlow J. *Awake My Heart*
Blamires, Harry. *The Christian Mind*
Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship; Life Together*
Bunyan, John. *Grace Abounding* (spiritual biography)
Carmichael, Amy. *Edges of His Ways; Rose from Brier,* etc. (India)
Calvin, John. *The Institutes* (Ford Lewis Battles edition)
Campbell, Will. *Brother to a Dragonfly*
Chambers, Oswald. *My Utmost for His Highest*
Charnock, Steven. *The Existence and Attributes of Man*
Chesterton, G.K. *Orthodoxy; The Everlasting Man*
Colson, Chuck. *Loving God; How Now Shall We Live*
Dark, David. *Everyday Apocalypse: The Sacred Revealed in Radiohead, the Simpsons, and other Pop Culture Icons*
Dawn, Marva. *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down* (and anything else she has written)
Demarest, Bruce. *Satisfy Your Soul*
Downs, Tim. *Finding Common Ground* (on art and preaching in evangelism)
Dunlop, Cheryl. *Follow Me As I Follow Christ* (wonderful guide to teaching children in the church)
Elliot, Elizabeth. *These Strange Ashes; Passion and Purity; A Slow and Certain Light*
Ellul, Jacques. *Propaganda; Money,* etc.
Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart. *How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth*
Forsythe, P.T. *The Soul of Prayer*
Foxes Book of Martyrs
Frankl, Victor. *Man’s Search for Meaning*
Gire, Ken. *Windows to the Soul* (very inspiring about the personal effects of literature in life)
Guiness, Oz. *Doubt; The Dust of Death*
Gundry, Stanley. *Love Them In* (the theology of Dwight Lyman Moody)
Guroian, Vigen. *Tending the Heart of Virtue* (a wonderful treatment of capturing a child’s imagination)
Holmes, Arthur. *All Truth is God’s Truth* *
Hovestal, Tom. *Extreme Righteousness: Seeing Ourselves in the Pharisees*
Hunt, Gladys. *Honey from a Child’s Heart*
James, Carolyn Custis. *When Life and Beliefs Collide*
Laurence, Brother. *The Practice of the Presence of God*
Lewis, C.S. *The Problem of Pain; The Four Loves; Mere Christianity; A Grief Observed*
Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. *Of Preaching and Preachers; Spiritual Depression; Sermon on the Mount,* etc.
McCullough Donald. *The Trivialization of God*
Muggeridge, Malcolm. *Christ and the Media; Jesus Rediscovered; Trumpeter for God; Something Beautiful for God* (on Mother Theresa)
Nouwen, Henri. *Genesse Diary,* etc.
O'Connor, Flannery. *The Habit of Being* (her collected letters); *Mystery and Manners* (lectures on writing, where Christianity fits in)
Packer, J.I. *Knowing God*
Pike, Kenneth. *With The Heart and Mind*
Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It’s Supposed To Be*
Roseveare, Helen. *Living Sacrifice*
Ryken, Leland. *Windows to the World*; *Triumphs of the Imagination*; *Realms of Gold*
Ryle, J.C. *Holiness*
Sayers, Dorothy. *The Mind of the Maker; Are Women Human?*
Sire, James. *How to Read Slowly*
Stott, John R. *Your Mind Matters;* etc.
Schaeffer, Francis. *The Christian Manifesto;* etc.
Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God; The Knowledge of the Holy*
Veith, Gene Edward Jr. *Reading Between the Lines*; *State of the Arts*
Weil, Simone. *Waiting on God*
Wiersbe, Warren, ed. *Treasury of the World’s Greatest Sermons; Preaching With Imagination*
Woolman, John. *Journal*
Zylstra, Henry. *Testament of Vision*
*books on how to interpret what you’re reading

**GOOD QUALITY NON-FICTION**

Bloom, Alan. *The Closing of the American Mind*
Kilbourne, Jean. *Deadly Persuasion: Why Women and Girls Must Fight the Addictive Power of Advertising*
Kaminer, Wendy. *I’m Dysfunctional, You’re Dysfunctional*
Medved, Michael. *Hollywood vs. America* (a way to critique movies)
Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death; Technopoly*
Shalit, Wendy. *A Return to Modesty*
Tralease, Jim. *The Read Aloud Handbook* (guide to reading to children)
Children’s Reading List
Compiled by Dr. Rosalie de Rosset

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women, Little Men, Jo’s Boys*, etc.
Andersen, Hans Christian. *Andersen’s Fairy Tales.*
Babbit, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting.*
Barrie, James. *Peter Pan.*
Carroll, Lewis. *Alice in Wonderland.*
Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw.*
Cooper, Susan. *The Grey King.*
Cummings, J. *Golden Legends.*
Cummings, e.e.
Dahl, Roald. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, etc.
De Saint Exupery, Antoine. *The Little Prince.*
Dickens, Charles. *David Copperfield*, etc.
Dickinson and Dickinson, eds. *Children’s Second Book of Patriotic Stories.*
Dodge, M. *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*
Doyle, Sir Arthur. *Sherlock Holmes*, etc.
Durrell, Gerald. *My Family and Other Animals.*
Enright, Elizabeth. *Gone-Away Lake, Thinkable Summer*, etc.
Grimm. *Fairy Tales.*
Haggard, Rider H. *King Solomon’s Mines.*
Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*
Hinton, Susan. *The Outsiders* (teenagers)
Hunt, Irene. *Across Five Aprils.*
Johnston, Annie Fellows. *The Little Colonel.* (a series of books…may be out of print)
Konigsburg, E.L. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.*
L’Engle, Madeline. *A Wrinkle in Time*, etc.
Lewis, C.S. *The Chronicles of Narnia.*
Lindren. *Pippi Longstocking.*
Lowery, Lois. *The Giver, Number the Stars*, etc.
Magorian, Michelle. *Good Night, Mr. Tom*
McCloskey, Robert. *Make Way For Ducklings.*
Merrill, Jean. *The Pushcart War, The Toothpaste Millionaire.*
Milne, A.A. *Winnie the Pooh.*
Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables.*
Moody, Ralph. *Little Britches.*
Mowat, Farley. *The Dog Who Wouldn’t Be.*
Neville, Emily. *It’s Like This C*
O’Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh.*
O’Neill, Mary. *Hailstones and Halibut Bones.* (teaches the poetry of color)
Patersen, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia, Jacob Have I Loved, The Great Gilly Hopkins.*
Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet.* (a boy learns to survive in the wilderness)
Polacco, Patricia. *Thank you, Mr. Falker, Pink and Say, Chicken Sunday, The Butterfly*
Potter, Beatrix. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit,* etc.
Sachar, Louis. *Holes*
Sewell, Anna. *Black Beauty.*
Sidney, Margaret. *The Five Little Peppers* (series)
Silverstein, Shel. *The Giving Tree*
Smith, Dodie. *I Capture the Castle*
Spyri, Johanna. *The Heidi Series*
St. John, Patricia. *Treasures of the Snow,* etc. (wonderful Christian writer)
Steinbeck, John. *The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights*
Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island,* etc.
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Trilogy, The Hobbit*
Twain, Mark. *Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn,* etc.
White, E.B. *Charlotte’s Web, Stuart Little, The Trumpet of the Swan.*
White, T.H. *The Once and Future King.*
Wiggin, Kate Douglas. *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.*
Wilde, Oscar. *Fairy Tales and Poems in Prose,* etc.
Wilders, Laura Ingalls. *Little House on the Prairie*
Williams, Marguerite. *The Velveteen Rabbit*

**POETRY**
De La Mare, Walter. *Songs of Childhood.*

---

Midday Book Club

Midday Connection / 820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610 / midday@moody.edu
www.midayconnection.org
Silverstein, Shel. *Where the Sidewalk Ends.*
Stevenson, Robert Louis. *A Child’s Garden of Verses*
Utermeyer, Louis. Has many collections.

**YOUNGER CHILDREN’S LITERATURE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Ackerman, Karen. *Song and Dance Man.*
Blos, Joan W. *Old Henry.*
Blume, Judy. *The Pain and the Great One.*
Bourgeois, Paullette. *Franklin Fibs.*
Douglass, Barabar. *Good As New.*
Dragonwagon, Crescent. *Home Place.*
Hall, Donald. *Ox-Cart Man.*
Hoban, Russell. *Bedtime For Frances.*
Hoffman, Mary. *Amazing Grace.*

**YOUNGER CHILDREN’S LITERATURE BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued)**

Howard, Jane R. *When I’m Sleepy.*
Jukes, Mavis. *Like Jake and Me.*
MacLachlin, Patricia. *Through Grandpa’s Eyes.*
McCloskey, Robert. *Blueberries for Sal.*
McCully, Emily Arnold. *Mirette on the High Wire.*
McLerran, Alice. *Roxaboxen.*
Rylant, Cynthia. *The Relatives Came, When I Was Young in the Mountains.*
Sebestyen, Ouida. *Words by Heart.* (beautiful, painful story of a black family)
Waber, Bernard. *Ira Sleeps Over.*
Williams, Vera B. *A Chair For My Mother.*

**READING LIST: JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL** (some adult level)

*(you’ll have to pace your child—some may do better than others with these)*

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre* (demanding reading)
Chesterton, G.K. *Adventures of Father Brown* (mystery), *The Man Who Was Thursday.*
Dumas, Alexander. *Count of Monte Cristo.*
Flemming, Ian. *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*
Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain* (adventure, history).
Gilbreth, Frank and Ernestine Carey. *Cheaper by the Dozen* (wonderful true story about a family with 12 children)
Hilton, James. *Good-by Mr. Chips*.
Hugo, Victor. *Les Miserables* (spine-tingling drama)
Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird* (wonderful-teaches integrity and the evil of racism)
Lewis, C.S.  Science Fiction trilogy
Murphey, Robert. *The Pond*.
Rawlings, Marjorie. *The Yearling* (the movie is wonderful too).
Thurber, James. *The Thirteen Clocks* (humor).
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit, The Fellowship of the Ring* (4 volumes--fantasy)
Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Tom Sawyer* (funny, adventure, sad).
Zindel, Paul. *The Pigman*

**BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND BOOKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF READING**

Guroian, Vigen. *Tending the Heart of Virtue: How Classic Stories Awaken a Child’s Moral Imagination*
Hunt, Gladys. *Honey For a Child’s Heart*.
Russell, William. *Classics to Read Aloud to Your Children*.
Wilson, Elizabeth. *Books Children Love*.

**GUIDE TO TEACHING CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH/TEACHING GUIDES**

Dunlop, Cheryl. *Follow Me As I Follow Christ*.