

# 40 VALUABLE BOOKS

For children and teenagers



## 40 VALUABLE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

We spoke to parents and teachers all across Australia to compile this list of both classic and modern books that will contribute to a well-rounded cultural education of young Australians.

This list exposes children to our cultural and literary heritage both in Australia and abroad. It also supports their literary, social and developmental needs.

This resource has been put together by Class Action, a program of the Institute of Public Affairs. Class Action produces educational material that is fair, balanced and academically rigorous for a community of parents and teachers concerned by the increasing politicisation of Australian education.

You can download all our curriculum material on [class-action.org.au](http://class-action.org.au).



## **YOUNG CHILDREN (AGES 0-6)**

At this age, children are absorbing new information about the world they live in, and are imitating what they see. This selection of books will appeal to their sense of wonder about themselves, their relationships and the world around them.

### **The Children's Book of Virtues**

by William J Bennett, illustrated by Michael Hague

### **The Koala Who Could**

by Rachel Bright, illustrated by Jim Field

### **Are You My Mother?**

by PD Eastman

### **Koala Lou**

by Mem Fox, illustrated by Pamela Lofts

### **The Invisible String**

by Patrice Karst, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff

### **Guess How Much I Love You**

by Sam McBratney, illustrated by Anita Jeram

### **The Handsome Little Cygnet**

by Matthew Mehan, illustrated by John Folley

### **The Tale of Peter Rabbit**

by Beatrix Potter

### **The Dot**

by Peter H Reynolds

Any book by **Dr Suess**



## **CHILDREN (AGES 7-12)**

As children's imaginations develop, they begin to ask 'why' and to situate experiences and knowledge into a bigger picture. This selection of books of books cultivates children's imagination and propels them to consider deeper questions, such as 'Why do good people do bad things?'

### **The Little Prince**

by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

### **The Secret Garden**

by Frances Hodgson Burnett

### **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**

by CS Lewis

### **Anne of Green Gables**

by LM Montgomery

### **The Giving Tree**

by Shel Silverstein

### **A Series of Unfortunate Events series**

by Lemony Snicket

### **The Arrival**

by Shaun Tan

### **The Hobbit**

by JRR Tolkien

### **Charlotte's Web**

by EB White

Any book by **Roald Dahl**



## **YOUNGER TEENAGERS (AGES 13-16)**

As adolescents confront the challenging questions of life, they hunger for a deeper understanding of themselves in relationship to others and take on more personal responsibility. These stories about the frailty of human beings encourage teenagers to understand themselves more deeply.

### **Pride and Prejudice**

by Jane Austen

### **Jane Eyre**

by Charlotte Brontë

### **A Christmas Carol**

by Charles Dickens

### **The Count of Monte Cristo**

by Alexandre Dumas

### **The Diary of a Young Girl**

by Anne Frank

### **Lord of the Flies**

by William Golding

### **To Kill a Mockingbird**

by Harper Lee

### **Twelve Angry Men**

by Reginald Rose

### **The Fellowship of the Ring**

by JRR Tolkien

### **The Picture of Dorian Gray**

by Oscar Wilde



## **OLDER TEENS (AGES 17-18)**

These books are selected for advanced readers, both in skills and in maturity. They grapple with rich and complex ideas, often acting as a commentary on the modern world and the human person.

### **Tuesdays with Morrie**

by Mitch Albom

### **Fahrenheit 451**

by Ray Bradbury

### **Crime and Punishment**

by Fyodor Dostoevsky

### **The Brothers Karamazov**

by Fyodor Dostoevsky

### **A Fortunate Life**

by AB Facey

### **Man's Search for Meaning**

by Viktor Frankl

### **Les Misérables**

by Victor Hugo

### **Fly Away Peter**

by David Malouf


### **1984**

by George Orwell

### **Of Mice and Men**

by John Steinbeck





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