



# 50 great reads

FOR AGES 6-8

# 50 GREAT READS FOR CHILDREN AGED 6-8 COMPILED BY DLR LIBRARIES 2013

dlr Libraries presents the 2013 updated lists of the 200 best authors and books for children and teenagers. We have divided them into 4 age categories to help you find the right book for you. There are separate lists for each category, so be sure to look out for other leaflets in this series.

Some of the books are old and loved enough to be called classics, and some are by exciting new writers, but they're all on this list because they are the most borrowed and requested books from dlr Libraries.

Most of these authors have written other books that you can enjoy too, and some also span several age categories, so when you find a book you particularly enjoy, ask about other titles by the author.

Check out previous “**Great Reads**” also, for more recommendations.

This series is compiled from a variety of sources and we recommend that you look at the following websites for further information on books to suit all age groups and interests: **[www.inismagazine.ie](http://www.inismagazine.ie)**; **[www.booksforkeeps.co.uk](http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk)**; **[www.carouselguide.co.uk](http://www.carouselguide.co.uk)**; **[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)** and **[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)**.

Can't find what you're looking for? Ask a member of staff, we're here to help.

You can also share your reading experiences by having your say on our Library Blog. Send your reviews and comments to **[libraryculture@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:libraryculture@dlrcoco.ie)**, or let us know if we've missed any books you think should be on the list.

Happy reading!



## AS SEEN ON...

- › Carroll, Lewis (ill. By Helen Oxenbury): Alice's adventures in Wonderland

Abundantly illustrated, this unabridged version is packed with contemporary and accessible interpretations of the kaleidoscope of characters - the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, the Queen of Hearts - who have each captured the imaginations of generations of children.

- › Cowell, Cressida: How to seize a dragon's jewel (Hiccup)

The story continues in the 10th volume of Hiccup's How to Train Your Dragon memoirs. When we last left Hiccup the Dragon Rebellion had begun and things were getting very dark indeed. Can he find the Dragon Jewel, mankind's last and only hope? How to Train Your Dragon, the movie, was released by Dreamworks Animation in 2010.

- › Goscinny and Uderzo: Asterix at the Olympic Games (Asterix and Obelix)

In Roman times Gaul was divided into three parts. No, four parts - for one small village of indomitable Gauls still held out against the invaders. One of 34 graphic books featuring Asterix the Gaul, in this one Asterix, Obelix and their friends decide to enter the famous Olympic Games in Athens.

- › Grahame, Kenneth: The Wind in the willows

Far from fading with time, Kenneth Grahame's classic tale of fantasy has attracted a growing audience in each generation. Rat, Mole, Badger and the preposterous Mr. Toad, have brought delight to many through the years with their odd adventures on and by the river, and at the imposing residence of Toad Hall.

- › Hanford, Martin: Where's Wally? Ultimate travel collection

A collection of activity books that feature Wally along with his friends, who are fiendishly hidden in every scene - obsessively irresistible. Contains 5 fantastic Wally books.



## › Hergé: The Secret of the Unicorn (The Adventures of Tintin)

One of a series of classic comic books created by the Belgian artist Georges Remi - or Hergé as he became better known. Translated into 80 languages, Tintin's adventures have taken him to the far reaches of the planet and into the void of space. This one sees our young investigative journalist and his friend, Captain Haddock, setting out to find the treasure of a notorious pirate.

## › Murphy, Jill: The Worst Witch all at sea (Worst Witch)

The 4th of Jill Murphy's classic, much-loved The Worst Witch series, the original story of life at a magical boarding school. Loveable but accident-prone Mildred Hubble is possibly the worst witch ever to go to Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches . . .

## › Simon, Francesca: Horrid Henry's monster movie (Horrid Henry)

In these stories our anti-hero, Henry, makes a scary movie, *The Undead demon monster who would not die*, and sets up his own mini-Olympics, with medals for crisp-eating, TV watching, and burping to the beat.

### CLASSIC

## › Blyton, Enid: Secret Seven Adventure

The Secret Seven series is the perfect introduction to adventure stories for children. In this, the second book in the series, a priceless pearl necklace goes missing and the Secret Seven are first on the trail of the thief. Enid Blyton is one of the best-loved authors of all time, and over a million of her books are borrowed from libraries each year.

## › Briggs, Raymond: Fungus the bogeyman

Life in Bogeydom is full of snot, smells, slime, scum and other unspeakable things, and Bogeymen live under the ground reveling in all the nastiness imaginable. Briggs has created a whole new world in this cartoon-strip picture book for older children, which will entice the most reluctant of readers into books. Reissued as the 35th anniversary edition.

## › Brisley, Joyce Lancaster: Milly-Molly-Mandy stories

Milly-Molly-Mandy lives in a tiny village in the heart of the countryside. She is always busy doing things, and whether she is minding the village shop, having a picnic or going sledding, you're sure to have fun when Milly-Molly-Mandy's around! These simple, satisfying stories have something special which makes children want to read them over and over again even in our very different times.

## › Dahl, Roald: Revolting rhymes

Six of the best-loved nursery tales, retold with surprising and sometimes disgusting twists. A ghastly giant, wicked beasts and brazen crooks star in these hilarious nursery rhymes with bite! Dahl is the original "bad boy" of children's literature.

## › Edwards, Dorothy: My naughty little sister and Bad Harry

My naughty little sister is stubborn and greedy and full of mischief and there's double trouble when she gets together with her best friend, Bad Harry! There's a peculiar pile of green mouldy crusts on the floor, Bad Harry gets covered in polish and sawdust, and why on earth are those children taking pieces of cheese and bacon-rind to the library? There are 5 books in this beloved series.

## › Lindgren, Astrid: Pippi goes aboard

A sequel to the classic *Pippi Longstocking*, in this story Pippi, Tommy and Annika have the best time together - going to the circus, buying all the sweets in the sweet shop and getting shipwrecked for the weekend. But when Pippi's long-lost father comes to visit, will Pippi sail away to sea with him and leave the Villa Villekula behind forever?

## › Proysen, Alf: Little old Mrs Pepperpot

Whoever heard of an old woman becoming queen of the crows? Or riding through the snow on the back of a cat? Or tricking a mouse into cleaning her house? Well, with the amazing Mrs Pepperpot, anything can happen as she can shrink to a few inches high without a moment's notice! These classic stories about the much-loved Mrs Pepperpot hold a timeless magic for young children everywhere.





### › Thompson, Kaye: *Eloise in Paris*

Eloise says au revoir to her beloved Plaza Hotel in New York and embarks with Nanny and Weenie on a Parisian adventure, which is rawther extraordinaire. Her conclusions about life avec les Francais - 'you cawn't cawn't cawn't get a good cup of tea...so you have to have champagne with a peach in it' and 'French bread makes very good skis'. Henry James would want to study her, and Queen Victoria would recognise her as an equal.

### › Tomlinson, Jill (ill. by Paul Howard): *The Owl who was afraid of the dark*

Plop, the baby barn owl, is like every barn owl there ever was, except for one thing - he is afraid of the dark! This book will help children afflicted with the same problem, while also being the ideal bedtime story. Jill Tomlinson's animal tales have been loved by children for generations.

### › Duffy, Carol Ann: *101 poems for children: A Laureate's choice*

A collection of poetry to delight young people, chosen by the UK Poet Laureate with love and care, it includes some she adored in her own childhood like *The Owl and the pussycat*; some from the greatest children's poets including Charles Causley and Ted Hughes; some classics like *Hurt no living thing* by Christina Rossetti; and one of her own, *A Crow and a scarecrow*.

### › White, E.B.: *Charlotte's web*

The unforgettable story of a girl called Fern, a pig called Wilbur and a spider called Charlotte, and how they save Wilbur from the usual fate of nice fat pigs!

## REAL LIFE / ADVENTURE

### › Ahlberg, Allan (ill. by Katherine McEwan): *The Woman who won things (The Gaskitts)*

One lucky morning Mrs Gaskitt opens the post and finds she's won a prize. Next she kisses the postman, but it's OK, it's Mr Gaskitt doing his latest job. Meanwhile, why are things going missing in Gus and Gloria's classroom? When Mrs Gaskitt wins another prize the plot thickens! Full of Ahlberg's trademark deadpan humour.



- ▶ **Almond, David (ill. by Oliver Jeffers): The Boy who swam with piranhas**  
Multi-award-winning author David Almond brings us a joyfully life-affirming and fabulously fishy tale about one boy's journey from anguish to joy. Funny, poignant and subtle, this is a terrific read perfectly complemented by the equally illustrious Oliver Jeffers' illustrations.
- ▶ **Colfer, Eoin (ill. by Tony Ross): The Legend of the worst boy in the world**  
Will is desperate to win the Giant Jelly Baby competition and be named 'the best boy in the world'. But his big brother Marty always beats him to it. Can Will prevail this year and how will Marty react if he does? Funny, quirky fiction from Irish author, Colfer, with brilliant black-and-white illustrations by Tony Ross.
- ▶ **Gray, Kes (ill. by Nick Sharratt): Daisy and the trouble with coconuts (Daisy and the trouble with...)**  
Daisy, with her perfectly round face, determined, beady eyes and severe Joan of Arc coif, is a veritable icon of juvenile intransigence. This time Daisy is heading to the funfair and her trouble is with coconuts. 'The trouble with coconuts is they are the worst type of nuts in the whole wide world. Coconuts are too big. Coconuts are too hairy. Plus, if you try to win one, they just get you into trouble.'
- ▶ **McDonald, Megan: The Mad, mad, mad, mad treasure hunt (Judy Moody & Stink)**  
Usually starring in their own individual stories, Megan McDonald's best loved characters, sister and brother Judy and Stink, come together in this hilarious "treasure island" adventure, crawling with pirates and puzzles, carbuncles and chuckles. Crucial!
- ▶ **Ó Laighléis, Ré (ill. by AnnMarie McCarthy): Fungie & an tine mhór**  
The collaboration between author, Ré O Laighléis, and illustrator AnnMarie McCarthy resulted in the creation of the popular 'Fungie' series. To date, the series includes 'Fungie' (2010), 'Fungie le DVD' (2011), 'Fungie & Mara' (2011) and 'Fungie & An Tine Mhór' (2012), all written in bilingual text.

- › Rosen, Michael (ill. by Quentin Blake): Michael Rosen's Sad book  
A heartbreakingly honest account of a father's grief for his son from the illustrious pairing of two former Children's Laureates, this is much more than a children's picture book. Quentin Blake's illustrations seem to fill in any gaps in Michael Rosen's spare prose. Ideal for children (or adults) who have suffered bereavement or are coming to terms with loss.
- › Strong, Jeremy (ill. by Nick Sharratt): The Hundred-mile-an-hour - dog goes for gold  
The Animal Games are coming to town and Streaker is going for gold in the Doggy Discus event, even though Mum says a carrot is more obedient than the she is! Another hilarious story from the king of wacky, Jeremy Strong.
- › Wilson, Jacqueline (ill. by Nick Sharratt): Lizzie Zipmouth  
Lizzie refuses to speak. She doesn't want to talk to anyone, especially her new stepbrothers and their dad or even her Mum. Then one day a member of her new family turns out to be even more stubborn than Lizzie, and things begin to change. The simply sensational Jacqueline Wilson strikes hard, fast and funny in this deceptively simple story of a young girl coming to terms with her parents' divorce and her new identity as a stepchild.

## FANTASY

- › Cole, Steve: The Twist of time (Astrosaurs)  
Meet Captain Teggs Stegosaur and the crew of the amazing spaceship DSS Sauropod, as the astrosaurs fight evil across the galaxy in the 22nd title of the Astrosaurs series. Plunged into a sinister mystery after finding a creepy castle on a distant asteroid (the secret hideout of super-scientist Dr Frankensaur) Teggs must fight deadly robots, headless horrors, mutant monsters and a threat to the entire cosmos.
- › Friel, Maeve: Moonlight mischief (Witch-in-training)  
A 7th magical adventure about everyone's favourite witch-in-training by Irish author Maeve Friel. Jessica is off to the Witches' Games at Coven Garden to compete in the Witch-in-Training Championship Hurdles, but she soon discovers the other witches are determined to win – and will even use trickery if they have to!





› **Gliori, Debi: Witch baby and me on stage (Witch baby and me)**

This is another charming and gorgeously illustrated gem of a book by this hugely popular author/illustrator. Daisy's nearly two, and her nursery class is putting on a musical performance, helped by the older children, including big sister Lily. Meanwhile Mum is trying to potty-train Daisy, unaware that as soon as she succeeds, Daisy will be reclaimed by the witches who live on the hill. Can Lily save the day?

› **Hastings, Caitríona (Maisithe ag Andrew Whitson): Ó Chrann go crann**

Nuair a bhíonn ar Nia bogadh óna teach faoin tuath go teach eile sa bhaile mór, bíonn uirthi éalú óna saol iomlán agus a cairde, na préacháin, ag bun an ghairdín chomh maith. Ach, mar fheicimid, is láidir an nasc í an cairdeas agus feicimid a cáirde sciathánach ag leanúint Nia chun aire a thabhairt dí. Shortlisted for the CBI Irish Book of the Year Awards 2012.

› **Ibbotson, Eva: The Abominables**

The late Eva Ibbotson's last book, this is a warm-hearted and funny story about the daughter of an earl who devotes herself to the upbringing of a family of motherless yetis. But as well as humour, there's also a powerful message here about the importance of nature and the environment, protecting endangered species and opposing cruelty and injustice. A classic in the making.

› **Meadows, Daisy: Olympia the Games fairy (Rainbow Fairies)**

This instalment of the Rainbow Fairies series coincided nicely with the London Olympics. Kirsty and Rachel are on an exciting day out to watch a triathlon but when the competitors start swimming round in circles it's clear that all is not well. Olympia the Games Fairy must save the day. Without her, both the human and fairyland games are doomed to chaos.

› **O'Brien, Joe: Alfie Green and the conker king (Alfie Green)**

Alfie would love to win the School Conker Championship. But with Conor Hoolihan on his team and Whacker Walsh cheating all the time, he has no chance. He needs to find a Super Cracking Conker, fast! Alfie must travel through the Skeleton Woods of Arcania to find the last great king of the conker warriors.

› Rees, Gwyneth: The Butterfly tiara (Magic Dress Shop)

Ava puts on a beautiful trapeze outfit with an amazing butterfly tiara and is transported to a travelling circus. No little girl will be able to resist this fashion-tastic series!

› Smith, Maudie: Opal Moonbaby

Martha's decided friends are stupid. Especially if they're anything like Colette and Chloe. She never wants another friend, ever. Then she meets Opal who has been sent down from her planet on a mission - to work out what on earth people are, and to make a friend. This charming story has a touch of Pippi Longstocking about it but with a sprinkle of Jacqueline Wilson-esque social commentary thrown in.

## FUNNY

› Bass, Guy: The vengeance of Vinister Vile (Atomic!)

It's not easy being the son of a superhero! Jonny and Tommy Atomic's dad is the most famous superhero in the world, making them pretty super too. But of course they're not allowed to use their powers or tell anyone their real identities. Meanwhile while their dad is busy saving the world again, arch-enemy Vinister Vile is devising a dastardly plan...

› Davies, Katie: The Great dog disaster (Animal mystery)

In this 4th instalment of Katie Davies' series Anna has just acquired a dog called Beatrice. But Beatrice is smelly and old and miserable and doesn't like walks, or catching sticks, or any of the things that dogs are meant to like. So Anna and Suzanne devise a plan to turn Beatrice into a proper dog - but if they don't pull it off soon, Suzanne's Dad will send Beatrice away.

› Di Camillo, Kate & McGhee, Alison (ill. by Tony Fucile): Bink and Gollie: Two for one

Get ready for more laughs in this wry, warmhearted sequel to the New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Book, *Bink and Gollie*, written by award-winning Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee and featuring the exuberant visual humor of illustrator Tony Fucile. This time best friends Bink and Gollie are going to the state fair.

### › Doyle, Roddy: *The Meanwhile adventures*

More adventures from the characters that first appeared in *The Giggler treatment*, this is a thoroughly silly, occasionally subversive, completely satisfying read, featuring among other absurdities, slugs in crash helmets voting to take over the world. A word of warning, this will only make sense to the average 7 year-old. We expect no less from Mr. Doyle.

### › Fine, Anne: *The Diary of a killer cat*

Poor Ellie is horrified when Tuffy drags a dead bird into the house, then a mouse. But Tuffy can't understand what all the fuss is about. Who on earth will be the next victim to arrive through the cat-flap? The hilarious antics of Tuffy and his family are told by the killer cat himself.

### › McCombie, Karen: *The Dreaded Noodle-doodles (You, me and Thing)*

Ruby and Jackson get the surprise of their lives when they discover a Thing living at the bottom of their gardens. But Thing is cute, and funny, even if sometimes when he's upset he gets a bit aarrghh! Like the time he comes to school, and Ruby and Jackson find themselves mixed up in a terrible tangle of noodle-doodles. The 2nd title in a hilarious new series by best-selling author Karen McCombie.

### › Macdonald, Alan (ill. by David Roberts): *Snow (Dirty Bertie)*

Dirty Bertie (the boy with nose-pickingly disgusting habits) is back for another helping of comic chaos! Join Bertie as he takes on the challenge of beating Know-all Nick in a sled race, breaks a revolting world record, and changes the course of history during a battle re-enactment.

### › Monroe, Sue: *The Magnificent Moon Hare*

The first book in an enchanting new comedy series. P.J. Petulant is a pampered princess who likes presents, crisps and getting her own way. She demands a pet dragon and insists on calling him Sandra. But things change when she gets a visit from Hare from the moon. Cleverly mixing classic fairytale motifs with modern humour, the story is nicely offset by the quirky illustrations.

› Moorcroft, Christina: Old Joe Rowan (Twisters Rhymers)

Who will help Old Joe when he ventures out into the cold and gets caught in the snow? Twisters Rhyming Stories are a great way of introducing young children to stories with the fun factor of a rhyme, while the repetitive sound endings help them to read.

› Pilkey, Dav: Captain Underpants and the revolting revenge of the radioactive robo-boxers

When we last saw our heroes, George and Harold, they had been turned into evil zombie nerds doomed to roam a devastated, post-apocalyptic planet for all eternity. But why didn't the amazing Captain Underpants save the boys from this frightening fate? Because Tippy Tinkletrousers prevented George and Harold from creating Captain Underpants in the first place! Can our heroes change back the course of human history or is this the end for Captain Underpants?!

› Smith, Jim: I am not a loser (Barry Loser)

Barry Loser is out to prove that he is not a loser to his nemesis, the terrible Fronkle-burping Darren Darrenofski. Using his self-proclaimed genius, Barry embarks on a series of self-reinventions with disastrous and hilarious results.

› Stanton, Andy: The Story of Matthew Buzzington

Matthew Buzzington has a special secret power - he can turn into a fly. Only problem is, it doesn't work! The school bully's making his life a misery - can he summon up his powers to take revenge? Hilarious comedy from the hugely successful author of the Mr Gum books.

› Stilton, Geronimo: The Curse of the cheese pyramid

It's a dream come true – Geronimo is off to Egypt to interview a famous archaeologist! He'll travel across the desert to the Cheese Pyramid, where, among mummies and hieroglyphs, he will learn the secret of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient Mouse World .