



# 50 great reads

FOR AGES 9-12

# 50 GREAT READS FOR CHILDREN AGED 9-12 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***; ***www.booksforkeeps.co.uk***; ***www.carouselguide.co.uk***; ***www.goodreads.com*** and ***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***, or let us know if we've missed any books you think should be on the list.

Happy reading!



## FUNNY

### › Angleberger, Tom: The Strange case of origami Yoda

Tommy and his classmates narrate the story, each recounting an episode in which they received wise advice from a finger puppet of Yoda, perpetually worn on the finger of their classmate, Dwight, a loser who can't get anything right. Is this puppet really Yoda or is Dwight a bit more together than he seems? This will appeal particularly to Star Wars fans!

### › Burke, Bob: The Third Pig Detective agency

Irish author Burke's Third Pig Detective Agency series is a hilarious pastiche of noir-ish detective stories crossed with all the fairy tales you've ever read. If you've ever wondered what happened to the little pig (otherwise known as Harry Pigg) who was wise enough to build his house out of bricks you'll find the answer in this first book of the series.

### › Byng, Georgia: Molly Moon and the monster music (Molly Moon)

Eleven-year-old Molly Moon is known and loved for her incredible powers - hypnotism, time-travelling, mind-reading. But now something seems to have taken her over, making her a brilliant musician and giving her thousands of new fans, all of whom are mesmerized by her. Only Petula, her pet pug, senses something wrong – Molly is turning into a Big-Old-Meanie. Can one determined dog sort it out before Molly becomes truly monstrous?

### › Child, Lauren: Take your last breath (Ruby Redfort)

Meet your new favourite heroine - Ruby Redfort: detective, secret agent, thirteen-year-old kid. Everyone's favourite kid detective is back for a second mind-blowing adventure packed with all the off-the-wall humour, action and friendship of the first book. This time, though, it's an adventure on the wide open ocean, and Ruby is all at sea.

### › Donbavand, Tommy: Flame of the dragon (Scream Street)

The final crazy adventure in this hugely popular comedy-horror series for ghouls and girls. Banished to the Underlands, Luke, Resus and Cleo begin their 13th adventure fighting for their lives. The battle for Scream Street is drawing to a close, but who will arise victorious?



› Hutchison, Barry: The Darkest corners (Invisible fiends)

The concluding part of the darkly funny horror series Darren Shan called 'deliciously nightmarish'. Kyle won't do what his dad tells him. But that's because his dad wants Kyle to unleash the scuttling, screaming, killer creatures of the Darkest Corners and bring about the end of the world. Now might be a good time to rebel.

› Kinney, Jeff: The Third wheel (Diary of a wimpy kid)

*The Third Wheel* is the hilarious 7th book in the brilliant, bestselling and award-winning Diary of a wimpy kid series. Love is in the air, but what does that mean for Greg Heffley? Neither Greg nor best friend Rowley can get a date for the school Valentine's Day dance. But a lot can happen in one night, and in the end, you never know who's going to be lucky in love ...

› Sedgwick, Marcus: Diamonds and doom (Raven mysteries)

Join the wonderfully weird Otherhand family and their faithful guardian, Edgar the raven, and discover the dark secrets of Castle Otherhand. In the 6th of the Raven Mysteries, all manner of disaster descends on Castle Otherhand; weirdness abounds and they're on the verge of being thrown out of their own home. Will it be diamonds or doom for the Otherhands?

› Walden, Mark: Aftershock (H.I.V.E.)

In an attempt to purge the Global League of Villainous Enterprises of its more destructive elements, Dr Nero has underestimated the cunning and resources of those who oppose him. The 7th volume in the comedy-thriller series, full of baddies, action and lashings of humour.

› Walliams, David: Ratburger

The fifth screamingly funny novel from the author dubbed 'the new Roald Dahl'. Things are not looking good for Zoe. Her stepmother Sheila is so lazy she gets Zoe to pick her nose for her, the school bully Tina Trotts makes her life a misery and now the evil Burt from Burt's Burgers is after her pet rat! And guess what he wants to do with it? The clue is in the title...

› Winkler, Henry & Oliver, Lin: Mind if I read your mind? (Ghost Buddy)

The Ghost Buddy series from Henry 'The Fonz' Winkler and co-writer Lin Oliver is about a hilarious yet tender friendship between Billy Broccoli, an awkward 11 year old, and his seemingly cool, live-in ghost, Hoover 'The Hoove' Porterhouse III.

## CLASSIC



### › Alcott, Louise May: Little women

'Christmas won't be Christmas without presents...' For Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, times are hard as their father is away fighting in the Civil War. But though they may be poor, life for the four March sisters is rich with colour, as they play games, put on wild theatricals, make new friends, argue and get into all sorts of trouble in this American classic.

### › Burnett, Frances Hodgson: The Secret garden

When orphan Mary Lennox arrives from India to live with her uncle, everyone at Misselthwaite Manor thinks her a most disagreeable child. Then one day she discovers a secret garden, locked and hidden for ten years. With the help of Dickon, the gardener's son, and her spoilt, invalid cousin, Colin, Mary brings the garden back to life; and as she does, the mystery behind it is revealed.

### › Garner, Alan: The Owl service

One of the first and best novels for and about teenagers, it remains one of the most original and gripping ghost stories. An all-time classic, combining mystery, adventure, history and a complex set of human relationships.

### › L'Engle, Madeleine: A Wrinkle in time

When Charles goes searching through a 'wrinkle in time' for his lost father, he finds himself on an evil planet where all life is enslaved by a huge pulsating brain known as 'It'. This well-loved classic is an exciting mixture of fantasy and science fiction, which all the way through is dominated by the funny and mysterious trio of guardian angels known as Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs Which. Soon to be published in graphic novel format, vividly illustrated by Hope Larson.

### › Lewis, C.S.: Prince Caspian (The Chronicles of Narnia)

In the fourth volume of the Narnia chronicles that began with Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy walking into the wardrobe and finding a magical world, a battle is about to begin. A prince denied his rightful throne gathers an army in a desperate attempt to rid his land of a false king. The ensuing battle of honour will decide the fate of an entire world.





### › Nesbit, E.: Five children and It

Less well known than *The Railway Children*, this is the story of five children - Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and their baby brother – who are granted 3 wishes. When faced with the grumpy sand-fairy they find it difficult to make up their minds what to wish for, and are soon getting themselves into all kinds of trouble.

### › Paterson, Katherine: Bridge to Terabithia

When tomboy Leslie Burke moves into the farmhouse next door to him, Jess Aarons knows she is his soul mate. Together they create a secret kingdom in the woods, named Terabithia, where they reign as king and queen until tragedy strikes and the two are separated forever. Written in a plain but powerful style and winner of the 1978 Newbery Medal, this book will stir your heart and put a lump in your throat.

### › Pearce, Philippa: Tom's midnight garden

One night, during a boring summer at his aunt's house, Tom hears the grandfather clock in the hall strike thirteen. Rushing downstairs and opening the back door he finds a beautiful garden - a garden that shouldn't exist. And there are children in the garden too - are they ghosts? Or is it Tom who is really the ghost? A timeless favourite.

### › Streatfeild, Noel: White boots

Harriet is told that she must take up ice-skating in order to improve her health. She isn't much good at it, until she meets Lalla Moore, a young skating star. Now Harriet is getting better on the ice, and Lalla doesn't like it. Does Harriet want to save their friendship more than she wants to skate? From the author of *Ballet Shoes*.

### › Tolkien, J.R.R.: The Hobbit

The predecessor to Tolkien's masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit* is in a class of its own - light-hearted enough for younger readers, yet with a dark edge guaranteed to intrigue an older audience.



## PAST

### › Curtin, Judi: Double trouble (Friends Forever)

Lauren is time travelling again and this time she and her friend Tilly find themselves in Pompeii under an erupting volcano. Totally stressful! Even though she manages to escape back to the present in the nick of time, how does she explain to her family that the friend she's invited for a sleepover dresses in a toga and speaks only Latin? From the ever-popular Irish author of the Alice & Megan series.

### › Deary, Terry: The Awesome Egyptians (Horrible Histories)

It's history with the nasty bits left in! Step back to an awesomely ancient time with the Awesome Egyptians. Discover which king had the worst blackheads, why some kings had to wear false beards and why the peasants were revolting. 2013 is Horrible Histories' 20th anniversary and they continue to be as repulsively fascinating as ever!



### › Doyle, Roddy: A Greyhound of a girl

12 year old Mary's beloved grandmother is near the end of her life. Letting go is hard - until Granny's long-dead mammy appears. She has returned to help her dying daughter say goodbye to the ones she loves. But first she needs to take them all on a road trip to the past. A funny and tender tale about four generations of an Irish family, and the special bond between mothers and daughters. Shortlisted for the CBI Book of the Year.

### › Gleitzman, Morris: After

*After* is the 4th shocking, funny and heartbreaking book in the Australian author's Second World War series about Felix, a Jewish orphan caught in the middle of the Holocaust.

### › Hughes, Shirley: Hero on a bicycle

In extraordinary circumstances people are capable of extraordinary things. It is 1944 and Florence is occupied by Nazi German forces. The Italian resistance movement has not given up hope, though – and neither have Paolo and his sister, Constanza. Both are desperate to fight the occupation, but what can two siblings do against a whole army with only a bicycle to help them?

## › Morpurgo, Michael: War horse

From master storyteller, Michael Morpurgo, comes an incredibly moving story about one horse's experience in the deadly chaos of World War 1. In 1914, Joey, a young farm horse, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. But even in the desolation and horror of the trenches Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him. Now a major movie by Steven Spielberg.

## › Wilson, Jacqueline: Emerald Star (Hetty Feather)

The last in the Hetty Feather trilogy sees Hetty setting off to find her father after the death of her beloved mama. She's no longer a simple country girl and begins to fear she'll never truly belong anywhere. But could the unexpected reappearance of an enchanting figure from her past mean a more exciting future lies ahead for Hetty? See also *Hetty Feather* and *Sapphire Battersea*.

## PRESENT

## › Almond, David: Skellig

In this story of a young boy living in fear of the death of his baby sister and coming to terms with life, there is an indefinable magic that Skellig - part owl, part human, part everything and nothing - brings to Michael's unsettled world. *Skellig* won the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children's Book Award and is now a major Sky 1 feature film. David Almond is also winner of the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen award.

## › Cashman, Seamus (ed.): Something beginning with P

Published by Wolfhound Press in 2005, this spectacular and highly acclaimed collection of specially commissioned new poems for children is already an established bestseller. Featuring work by 103 leading Irish poets and stunning illustrations, this magnificent anthology is a book for the entire family to enjoy.





› Cassidy, Cathy: Marshmallow Skye (The Chocolate Box Girls)

The Chocolate Box Girls is a sumptuous series starring sassy sisters, super-cool boys and chocolate. Skye and Summer Tanberry are identical twins, and Skye loves her sister Summer more than anyone else in the world, but lately Skye's been feeling like second-best. Will Skye ever step out of the effortlessly cool Summer's shadow and find her own chance to shine?

› Conlon-McKenna, Marita: Love, Lucie

Lucie is the middle child in a family that has been devastated by the death of her mother. As if things weren't tough enough, Lucie is also trying to navigate the challenges of turning eleven: her first kiss is baffling, and her big sister's a total nightmare. How will she cope without Mum there to guide her? A touching story of love and loss, told through Lucie's own letters. From the author of the bestselling Children of the Famine series.

› McKay, Hilary: Caddy's world (Casson Family)

The Casson Family saga recreates a tightly knit world, imbued with a strong sense of belonging - a slice of childhood which is multi-layered, touching and real with something for every reader to identify with and enjoy - just the sort of crazy family you ache to be a part of.

› Palacio, R.J.: Wonder

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old, eat ice cream and play on his Xbox. He feels ordinary inside. But ordinary kids don't make other kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled his whole life but now he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. How can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them underneath? Funny, frank, astonishingly moving, this is one of those rare books that appeals equally to children and adults, and should be read by everyone.

› Russell, Rachel Renee: Skating sensation (Dork Diaries)

Enter Nikki Maxwell's world through her sketches, doodles and diary entries in the latest instalment of this entertaining series.

› Stead, Rebecca: Liar and spy

The latest book by multi-award-winning author, Rebecca Stead. When Georges responds to a notice saying Spy Club Meeting - today! his life begins to change. A skilful tale which, despite its light touch, contains important themes about the truths we tell ourselves.

### › Webb, Sarah: Dancing daze (Ask Amy Green)

Amy's best friend needs help. How can she refuse, even though she has Big Problems of her own to solve? From boy troubles to wardrobe dilemmas, first dates to embarrassing parentals – Agony Queen Amy Green is back in her fifth adventure, solving problems for pre-teens everywhere!

## FANTASY / ADVENTURE

### › Blade, Adam: Elko Lord of the Sea (Beast Quest)

A new evil enemy and dangerous realm await Tom on his latest Beast Quest. Elko, Lord of the Sea, has risen from the waves to wreak havoc. Can Tom overcome this deadly peril?

### › Boyne, John: The Terrible thing that happened to Barnaby Brocket

To the horror of the respectable Brockets, their son Barnaby is a floater - he defies the laws of gravity. Desperate to please his parents, Barnaby does his best to keep both feet on the ground but he just can't do it. One fateful day Barnaby floats into the path of a very special hot air balloon, and so begins a magical journey around the world with a cast of extraordinary new friends.

### › Colfer, Eoin: Artemis Fowl and the last guardian

It's the thrilling climax to this mega bestselling series - but will it all end happily ever after? After more than 10 years of writing the series can Eoin Colfer tie up its many strands? Opal Koobai has to be dealt with. And what about Mulch Diggums? Holly Short has to save the day, again. And it seems Butler is getting too old to keep up with his young ward. Colfer deftly tackles all – fans won't be disappointed.

### › Early, Alan: Arthur Quinn and the Fenris wolf (Father of lies chronicles)

A second thrilling adventure from Irish author Early, this contains all the ingredients necessary for a successful fantasy series – Gods, wars, heroes, dastardly villains and mythical creatures – and all on the streets of Dublin!



### › Gaiman, Neil: Coraline

Coraline is everything you'd expect from the fantastic imagination of graphic novel writer, Neil Gaiman. His first book for children is special and wonderful, and though comparisons have been made to *Alice in Wonderland*, this is infinitely weirder and more frightening, and its modest length adds to the book's undiluted potency. Shortly after moving into an old house with strange tenants above and below, Coraline discovers a big, carved, brown wooden door at the far corner of the drawing room ...

### › Horowitz, Anthony: Scorpius rising (Alex Rider)

This gripping final mission brings together Alex Rider's old enemies to frame the teenage superspy in an unstoppable plot of revenge. This is the twistiest and most deadly plot of any Alex Rider mission yet, and will reveal Smithers' ultimate gadget and see the shock death of a major character.

### › Landy, Derek: Kingdom of the wicked (Skulduggery Pleasant)

The 7th book in this hugely popular comedy-horror-adventure series, starring Skulduggery Pleasant and Valkyrie Cain, is full of Landy's trademark wisecracks, combined with pacey action, suspense, genuinely scary shenanigans and topped off with a hint of romance.

### › Mason, Emily: The Lost bride (Ghost detectives)

New in town, Abi volunteers to help restore the museum at the old Grainger House and is soon firm friends with Sarah, Grace and Hannah. But she hadn't reckoned on a rather demanding ghost tagging along too. Can the 'ghost detectives' help Louise-Anne find peace by solving her 100 year old mystery before the Grand Opening? A cracking new series in the tradition of Nancy Drew, with cute boys and arch-enemies - but with a twist!

### › Paver, Michelle: Gods and warriors

From a time of myths and ancient magic comes the legend of the lost city of Atlantis - tales of gods and warriors, and the rise of a hero, Hylas. Perfect for fans of epic, action-packed adventures, this is a brand new series from the internationally acclaimed Michelle Paver, author of Wolf Brother.



### › Reeve, Philip: Goblins

There are goblins and then there are Philip Reeve's goblins. They're the thickest and most brutish lot in the gobliverse, except for clever young Skarper who can see that the dark magic created by a vanquished sorcerer is rising again. From the lands of men come fortune-seekers - and trolls, giants, swamp monsters, tree-warriors and bloodthirsty goblins are swept into a fabulous magical conflict to thrill all fantasy fans.

### › Riordan, Rick: The Serpent's shadow (The Kane chronicles)

Carter and Sadie Kane, descendants of the magical House of Life, are in pretty big trouble in this latest instalment of the Kane chronicles. Apophis, the giant snake of Chaos, is threatening to plunge the world into eternal darkness and it's up to the Kanes to stop him - no pressure there then. Set in ancient Egypt, this series will appeal to fans of Riordan's popular Percy Jackson series.

### › Snicket, Lemony: Who could that be at this hour? (All the wrong questions)

In the first book of his new four-part series - apparently an autobiographical account of the author's childhood - a young Lemony Snicket must solve a mystery in an almost-abandoned town full of curious characters. Stain'd-by-the-Sea is (of course!) not actually by the sea but it is surrounded by an eerie forest of still-living seaweed. The oddness only increases from there... A sort of prequel to A Series of Unfortunate Events.

### › Valente, Catherynne: The Girl who circumnavigated Fairyland in a ship of her own making

September is a twelve-year-old girl, Somewhat Grown and Somewhat Heartless, and she longs for adventure. So when a Green Wind and a Leopard of Little Breezes invite her to Fairyland, well, of course, she accepts. This is a magical book full of references to classic children's literature. It can be read to children, by children, by adults and should be re-read to dig deeper.