

*=2nd grade level **=3rd grade level ***= 4th grade level; ****=5th and 6th grade level

VICE AND VIRTUE BOOK SUGGESTIONS

The Baldwin Book Project Books

Yesterday's Classics

Langley, Andrew. *Alexander the Great*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Other books in the series include biographies of Amelia Earhart, Galileo, Henry Ford, Cleopatra, Thomas Edison, Alexander the Great, Eric the Red, Shakespeare, Captain Cook, Hans Christian Anderson, Gandhi. I have not previewed the other books in the series, but have been very pleased with what I have seen. The books are listed according to their level of difficulty.

Serrailier, Ian, *Beowulf the Warrior*. Bathgate: Bethlehem Books. ****

This is a very readable rendition of the Anglo Saxon poem about the exploits of Beowulf, king of the Geats. With artfully drawn illustrations, the version is a wonderful means of introducing children to the classic tale. Although gruesome and violent at times, the tale accurately depicts Germanic life of the 1st millennium.

Stanley, Diane. *Peter the Great*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1986. ***

A short biography of Peter the Great, Czar of Russia, 1672-1725. This book takes a fascinating look at an extraordinary man and the unusually backward country that he tried to modernize. The pictures are colorful and plentiful. 32 pages.

Stanley, Diane. *Bard of Avon*. ***

A short, but lavishly illustrated book that gives a picture of Elizabethan culture as well as a look into the life of Shakespeare and his works.

Stanley, Diane. *Charles Dickens: The Man Who Had Great Expectations*. **

A short, but lavishly illustrated book that gives a picture of Elizabethan culture as well as a look into the life of Shakespeare and his works.

White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web*. New York: Harper Collins, 1952. ***

E.B. White is remembered more for his tale of a pig and a spider and their friendship than his work as a professional essayist writing for the New Yorker. This children's classic is kind of silly, but poignant. 184 pages.

Otis, James. *Mary of Plymouth*. Lake Wales, Florida: Lost Classics Book Company, 1997. ***

Originally published in 1910, this enjoyable, instructive look at Pilgrim life from the eyes of a young girl was recently reprinted by the Lost Classics Book Company. The book is based upon Bradford's history and paints an accurate and detailed picture of the hardships our forefathers endured. Wonderful engravings are sprinkled throughout the book. 168 pages.

Ronald Reagan, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, etc. *The Childhood of Famous Americans Series*. Published by Macmillan Publishing Company (New York). **

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This series of books, some old and some new, are exclusively about Americans: American inventors, presidents, patriots, and frontiersmen. I like the older ones in the series, like *Thomas Edison* (published in 1947). In reading this particular book, a seven or eight-year-old gets a glimpse of the childhood of a legendary American inventor: that he was homeschooled; that he became partially deaf by being boxed in the ears by a railroad conductor hoisting him up onto the train; that his curiosity led him to do odd things, like sitting on chicken eggs for hours in a barn to test an idea that he had on incubation. The books are not geared toward a Christian audience, but the content of most of the books is safe.

Bullseye Step Into Classics Series. New York, Random House.*

Titles include *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations*, *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Time Machine*, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *the Three Musketeers*, and others.

Although the language contained in the books of this series, in general, is a bit oversimplified and unaesthetic, the excitement of the stories is retained. The books introduce young children to the great classics.

Jules Verne, *Around the World in 80 Days* (Classic Starts Adaptation). New York: Sterling Publishing Company, 2007.**

A well-adapted book for youngsters to enjoy the story and characters of a great classic. Other books in the series include *Huckleberry Finn*, *Gulliver's Travels*, and *Call of the Wild*.

Margarite D'angelo, *The Door in the Wall*****

A perennial classic that won a Newberry Medal. The book is set in the Middle Ages.

Elizabeth Grey, *Adam of the Road*****

A Newberry Medal winner, the book tells of the travels of a young minstrel boy and his dog.

Skurzynski, Gloria. *The Minstrel in the Tower*. New York: Random House, 1988. (Stepping Stone)**

A boy and a girl go on a journey to find their uncle.

Tiger and Tom and other Stories for Boys. Nashville: Southern Publishing Association.

Good character-building stories for boys (and girls). Some Vice and Virtue stories were taken from this classic story book for children.

The King's Daughter and Other Stories for Girls.

Good character-building stories for girls (and boys).

Bailey, Carolyn Sherwin. *Boys and Girls of Colonial Days*.

An interesting story book that will bring life to colonial history.

Choice Stories for Children.

Another good character-building stories for both girls and boys.

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Homer, The Odyssey. Retold by Geraldine McCaughrean. London: Puffin Books, 1997.

Children invariably love reading the adventures of Odysseus, especially when it is put into language that they can understand.

Other Choices

Students may choose any book from the library or one that they own and show the book to me for my approval.