



50 great reads

FOR AGES 0-5

50 GREAT READS FOR CHILDREN AGED 0-5 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 and authors 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.

Happy reading!



AS SEEN ON...

› Awdry, Rev W.: Thomas the Tank Engine (Railway Series)

Having celebrated their 65th anniversary last year, Thomas and his friends remain as popular as ever, loved by millions all over the world. The original Railway Series books continue to delight children of all ages.

› Child, Lauren: I will not ever, never eat a tomato (Charlie & Lola)

Lola will not eat peas - or any vegetables, and absolutely not a tomato. But when Charlie explains that peas are actually green drops from Greenland, and that carrots are orange twiglets from Jupiter, even Lola is tempted to clear her plate. An innovative and fun-filled look at the problem of fussy eating, this is the first ever Charlie and Lola book.

› Falconer, Ian: Olivia and the fairy princesses

In her newest madcap endeavour, Olivia, everyone's favourite little pig, embarks upon a quest for identity and individuality. It seems there are far too many pink and sparkly princesses around these days and Olivia has had quite enough! So, in typical 'Olivia' style, she shows us that everyone can be individual and special.

› Hargreaves, Roger: Mr. Worry (Mr. Men & Little Miss)

A classic story from the Mr. Men series, this one is about the permanently anxious Mr. Worry. Mr. Worry meets a friendly Wizard who magics all of his worries away but before long he's worrying about not having anything to worry about! Another adorable character from the Mr Men & Little Miss series.

› McBratney, Sam: Guess how much I love you: Here, there and everywhere

Four new Guess how much I love you stories in one volume – *The Hiding tree*, *On Cloudy mountain*, *The Far field*, *Coming home* - featuring Little Nutbrown Hare, this time off adventuring on his own. But in the end Little Nutbrown Hare finds that coming home is best of all, because Big Nutbrown Hare is there.



› McKee, David: Elmer and Papa Red (Elmer the elephant)

In this Christmas instalment of the Elmer series, the young elephants are very excited. They choose a tree to decorate and prepare the presents for Papa Red to collect during the night to take to those who need them. But this year Elmer has a special treat in store for the young elephants, if they can keep quiet and out of sight.

› Meet Mike (Mike the Knight)

A tie-in with the Cbeebies series, you'll discover everything you need to know about Mike the Knight in this introduction to Glendragon. Find out all about Mike's missions, Evie's magic and the dragons, Sparkle and Squirt.

› Peppa goes camping (Peppa Pig)

Peppa and her family are going on holiday to the countryside in their camper van. Find out what happens when they discover the delights of Mrs Camper Van, otherwise known as satellite navigation! A Ladybird book based on the Nick Junior TV series.

› Ross, Tony: I want a boyfriend (Little Princess)

In the latest instalment of the well-loved series, the Little Princess decides she wants a boyfriend. After searching everywhere, Donald is proclaimed as the Royal Boyfriend. But the Little Princess soon finds out boyfriends aren't nearly as fun as she thinks! Written with insightful understanding of a child's perspective, it also manages to maintain the anarchic humour that characterises these stories.



FUNNY

› Donaldson, Julia (ill. by Axel Scheffler): Superworm

Superworm is super-long, Superworm is super-strong, watch him wiggle, see him squirm, there's no other worm like Superworm! But who will come to Superworm's rescue, when he's captured by a wicked Wizard Lizard? Luckily, all of his insect friends have a cunning plan.





› **Freedman, Claire (ill. by Ben Cort): Pirates love underpants (Underpants)**

Ahoy me hearties! Join the Pants Pirates on a special treasure hunt. Grab your cutlass and sail on the Pirate Ship Black Bloomer past angry crocs, sharks in fancy pants and through gurgling swamps on a quest to find the Pants of Gold! A hilarious new addition to the phenomenally successful Underpants series.

› **Gravett, Emily: Matilda's cat**

Climbing trees, playing with wool - Matilda is sure her cat will love these things, but he doesn't seem very enthusiastic. Undaunted, she thinks up new ways to amuse him but the beleaguered cat just goes from nonplussed to terrified. What use is a pet if it doesn't want to play? An insightful, fond and funny look at the relationship between a little girl and her cat. Emily Gravett is a two-time winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal.

› **Hahn, Daniel (ill. by Stella Dreis): Happiness is a watermelon on your head**

Why is Miss Jolly such a merry old soul? Miss Whimper, Miss Grouch and Miss Stern are determined to find out. Is happiness to be found in daft hats or a menagerie of pets or is it simply wearing a watermelon on your head? The zany rhyming text and richly coloured illustrations make for a splendidly silly caper!

› **Haughton, Chris: Oh no, George**

Harris is off to do some shopping. "Will you be good, George?" he asks. George hopes he can. He really wants to. but chocolate cake is just so very delicious and he does love to chase cats. What will George do now? Chris Haughton's distinctive, award-winning artwork perfectly accompanies the innocent charm of affable George, a dog trying to be good - with hilarious results!

› **Jeffers, Oliver: The New jumper (The Hueys)**

Introducing the Hueys – a fabulously quirky group of characters in a new series from award-winning author/illustrator, Oliver Jeffers, creator of *Stuck* and *Lost and found*. The thing about the Hueys is that they are all the same. They all look the same, think the same and do the same things. Until one day, Rupert knits himself a new jumper. How will the other Hueys react? A very funny story about individuality.



› Kerr, Judith: The Great Granny Gang

The renowned Granny Gang, each famous for their own unique talent, comes to the aid of all those in need, so when there's a robbery at the bakery they turn their hand to crime solving. The witty text and child-friendly illustrations make this an excellent book for reading out loud to younger children. A welcome new story from the author of classic *The Tiger who came to tea*.

› Klasson, Jon: This is not my hat

A shifty-looking little fish swims into view wearing a rather fetching turquoise hat. He's just stolen it, he tells us, but he's confident he's gotten away with it. The pictures however tell a different story. A cautionary tale told through subversive and sumptuously illustrated visual humour.

› Melling, David: Hugless Douglas and the big sleep

Hugless Douglas is very excited about Rabbit's sleepover, but he collects so many friends along the way that soon it's a big squash in Rabbit's small burrow. How will they ever get to sleep? Douglas has already captured the hearts of thousands of children, and this third delightful story is as funny and compelling as the first. Perfect for bedtime and hugtime!

› Thomas, Valerie & Paul, Korky: Winnie's dinosaur day (Winnie the Witch)

Winnie the witch and her cat Wilbur are time-travelling this time, all the way back to the age of dinosaurs to find out what they looked like, in order to win a drawing competition. Trouble is, when they arrive back they appear to have brought a rather surprised triceratops with them. Time for one of Winnie's famous spells.

› Willems, Mo: The Duckling gets a cookie!?

The pigeon is back and something has really ruffled his feathers. The duckling has a cookie and he, 'the asking-est pigeon in town' has none. Little does he realise that simply by asking politely he might get one too. A side-splitting lesson on minding your manners from the most brazen bird on the block.



CLASSIC

› Ahlberg, Allan: Goldilocks

This is a classic with a twist – in fact it's pretty well unrecognisable! This clever pop-up book which includes a booklet containing 'Goldilocks, a play', tells the story of Goldilocks' encounters with the 33 bears, the Blim and the Furniture in a deadpan style with beautifully detailed, humorous illustrations.

› Bemelmans, Ludwig: Madeline

'In an old house in Paris that was covered in vines lived twelve little girls in two straight lines...' The small but feisty heroine, Madeline, and her charming Parisian world have been loved by children and adults alike for seventy years.

› Bruna, Dick: Miffy and the new baby

Dick Bruna's captivating illustrations make Miffy an enduring classic. In this one, Miffy has a sibling and it's a little strange - will mama bunny still love her?

› Campbell, Rod: Dear Zoo

'I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet...' This classic lift-the-flap book has been a favourite with toddlers ever since it was first published. Celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2012!

› Carle, Eric: The Very hungry caterpillar

The imaginative illustration and clever cut-out detail chart the progress of a very hungry caterpillar as he eats his way through the week, in this perennial favourite.

› Jansson, Tove: The Moomins and the great flood (Moomin Series)

Created in 1945, now published in English for the first time, *The Moomins and the great flood* offers a glimpse into the creativity and imagination that launched the Moomin books. Moominmamma and young Moomintroll search for the long lost Moominpappa through forest and flood, meeting various odd creatures along the way. Tove Jansson illustrates with stunning sepia watercolour and delightful pen and ink drawings.

› Nicoll, Helen: *Meg and Mog*

Meg and Mog is the first in the long-standing series about a witch (Meg) and her cat (Mog). Meg is a cute well-meaning witch who lives with Mog and her owl. But sometimes her spells don't go exactly to plan.

› Sendak, Maurice: *Where the wild things are*

One of those truly rare books that can be enjoyed equally by a child and a grown-up. Max dons his wolf suit in pursuit of some mischief and gets sent to bed without supper. Fortunately, a forest grows in his room, allowing his wild rampage to continue unimpaired.

› Seuss, Dr.: *Green eggs and ham*

When Sam-I-Am persists in pestering a grumpy grouch to eat a plate of green eggs and ham, perseverance wins the day, teaching us all that we cannot know what we like until we have tried it! With his unique combination of hilarious stories, zany pictures and riotous rhymes, Dr. Seuss, creator of the wonderfully anarchic *Cat in the Hat*, has been delighting young children and helping them learn to read for over fifty years. Dr. Seuss books have now been rebranded, with guidance on reading levels. This one belongs to the Green Back range which is for budding readers to tackle on their own, but still probably best read aloud.

ANIMALS

› Bently, Peter (ill. by Mei Matsuoka): *The Great sheep shenanigans*

'A lamb for my supper will taste mighty fine! thought a wily old wolf by the name of Lou Pine, as he sneakily, slyly snuck up on the flock - but it wasn't the sheep that were in for a shock...' With a stunningly cunning plan, Lou Pine finds a disguise that is sure to deliver a lamb stew or two. But this flock of sheep aren't quite the dumb mutton they seem ... A hilarious rhyming story ideal for reading aloud.

› Braun, Sébastien: *Meeow and the blue table*

Creative cat Meeow is back and today his friends have come round to play, ready to make something amazing. Watch as they use objects from around the house and lots of imagination to create a magical castle. This fun-filled series promotes creative play, and encourages little ones to see what they can do too.

› Burningham, John: Tug of war

Hare, Hippopotamus and Elephant live together, but not happily, for Hippopotamus and Elephant are forever teasing poor Hare. One day, Hare decides to teach his friends a lesson, and so the great tug of war begins. This beautifully illustrated picture book gives a salutary and inspiring lesson about the importance of fighting back against abuse.

› Cousins, Lucy: Maisy big, Maisy small

An exciting range of opposites is explored by Maisy, the happy little mouse, as you've never seen her before: stripy and spotty, happy and sad, tall and short!

› Deacon, Alexis: Croc and Bird

Side by side on the sand sit two eggs. With a crack and a rip, the eggs hatch, and out comes a bird and a ... crocodile! But they can't be brothers - can they? A heartwarming tale of friendship against the odds.

› Dodd, Emma: Cinderelephant

Prince Trunky is on the lookout for a bride and the whole kingdom is invited to a ball. The Warty Sisters are determined to keep Cinderelephant at home and snag the handsome bachelor for themselves, but the Furry Godmouse has other ideas. Emma Dodd is on rip-roaring form with this hilarious take on a well-loved fairy tale.

› Uí Cheallaigh, Carmel (Maisithe ag Fintan Taite): Spidey

Spidey! Spidey! Spidey! Tá suim an-mhór ag Séimí beag sna damháin alla. Bíonn siad le feiceáil i ngach áit, dar leis! Ba bhreá leis féin bheith ina Spidey lá éigin!

› Yates, Louise: Dog loves drawing

Dog loves books, but one day he receives a strange one in the post - it's blank! Soon, Dog realises that this book is not for reading, but for drawing, and before long Dog is doodling and drawing himself into a new world, full of friends and surprises. Illustrated in both childlike and conventional styles, this clever book will fire the imagination.

GROWING/LEARNING

› Browne, Anthony: Gorilla

Hannah loves gorillas but has never seen one. Her father is too busy to take her to the zoo, or anywhere else, come to that. For her birthday, Hannah asks him for a gorilla, and is disappointed when it turns out to be a toy one. But then the toy turns into a real gorilla who puts on her father's hat and coat and takes her off for a magical visit to the zoo. This award-winning picture book has become a classic to be enjoyed on many levels by children of all ages.

› Corderoy, Tracey (ill. by Sophie Allsopp): A Flower in the snow

In an icy kingdom far away lived the very best of friends, Luna and Bear. When a beautiful flower pops up in the snow, Luna is delighted! But soon the flower fades, and with it, Luna's smile. Can Bear help his friend by finding another sunshine flower? A beautifully written and illustrated tale of friendship.

› Donaldson, Julia (ill. by Nick Sharratt): Goat goes to playgroup

This comforting story for children who are about to start, or have recently started, playschool takes us through a typical day with lots of fun activities and an accident or two! Julia Donaldson is currently Children's laureate in the UK, and is the author of the award-winning *The Gruffalo*.

› Graham, Bob: A Bus called Heaven

An old bus is left outside Stella's house. With the help of friends and neighbours she sets about restoring it, and in doing so, restores their community spirit. Bob Graham has brought us another moving and captivating tale, beautifully illustrated with his signature, highly detailed pen and ink illustrations.

› Heap, Sue & Sharratt, Nick: Alphabet ice cream

A unique look at the alphabet and friendship in a chunky board-book format, this is about two friends, Sue and Nick, who like very different things but are still best friends. They take us through all their favourite things from A to Z. The artwork is stunning with each artist contributing alternate pages in their own inimitable style. The deceptively simple text is perfect for children learning to read.

› Hughes, Shirley: The Alfie treasury

This treasury contains birthday parties and birthday surprises as well as babysitters and big boys, burst pipes, beloved pets and brilliant prizes. Alfie solves the important mysteries of pre-schoolers' lives as he takes on shyness, sisters and the brave new world of Big School. Every child should know Alfie!

› Ladybird: This little potty (Ladybird Touch-and-Feel)

Each chunky double-page spread has a jaunty rhyme introducing a young child and their potty, plus a big touch-and-feel area. Freddie is using the potty for a wee along with his teddy, Lou is doing a poo and Rory is sitting on his and reading a story! Perfect for sharing with your child as a gentle, pressure-free introduction to potty-training.

› Oxenbury, Helen: Clap hands

Helen Oxenbury's much-loved and cherished babies help engage toddlers and encourage a love of reading, in these delightful stories. See also *Tickle tickle* and *Say goodnight*.

› Raynor, Catherine: Solomon Crocodile

Solomon is looking for some fun but no one wants to play. The dragonflies tell him to buzz off, the storks get in a flap and the less said about the hippo the better! Surely somewhere there must be the perfect pal for a lonely crocodile? Shortlisted for the 2012 Kate Greenaway Medal.

› Scarry, Richard: Richard Scarry's Best first book ever

Huckle Cat and Lowly Worm have fun learning about colours, counting, the alphabet, manners, shapes and sizes and much more in this reprint of a well-loved classic. Each colourful illustration is packed with everyday objects and details, all clearly labelled, and like every Richard Scarry picture book it will provide hours and hours of educational entertainment.

› Schwartz, Viviane: There are no cats in this book

Three little cats want to see the world but can't seem to get out of the book. They try pushing their way out, and jumping their way out but nothing works. Finally they decide to wish themselves out. A book that perfectly expresses the power of the imagination, one to play with as much as to read, and ideal for sharing. Shortlisted for the 2012 Kate Greenaway Medal.

› Waddell, Martin: Can't you sleep little bear?

Winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal and the Smarties Prize for Children's Books, this gorgeously illustrated tale of the little bear who just *can't* go to sleep should find a place on every pre-school bookshelf. While Big Bear tries to read his Bear Book, Little Bear tries to sleep, but he's scared of the dark. So Big Bear keeps bringing him progressively bigger lanterns. But nothing seems to work, until he leads Little Bear out of the Bear Cave into the dark night to see for himself that the dark is nothing to be afraid of.

› Yoon, Salina: Penguin and Pinecone: a friendship story

When little Penguin finds a lost pinecone in the snow, an unlikely friendship blossoms. But pinecones don't belong in the cold - they need to be in the warm forest far away. So Penguin returns Pinecone to his proper home and dreams of a reunion with his friend someday. When they do meet again, he's surprised to find that Pinecone has grown bigger and taller than he ever could have imagined!