



Waldorf Essentials Suggested Reading List

Introduction

Having a reading list can be so helpful when you are planning out your lessons. I strive to have one in each curriculum. This list arose from my own planning over the years and my goal to have them always reading something that went along with their main lessons.

There are other reading lists you can look into. I also like to update this from time to time and I will be adding more grades as we revise and refine the upper grades. The links should be active if you are viewing this online.

Other resources to consider:

The San Francisco Waldorf School has a nice list. You can find that [HERE](#).

Make Way for Reading: Great Books for Kindergarten through Grade 8 by Karen Latimer and Pamela Fenner (available in our Amazon shop [HERE](#))

The Waldorf Student Reading List, also by the authors above, is the first edition and is still one of my favorites.

Some of these books may be available as free eBooks on WaldorfLibrary.org

Our Amazon Store Link

Early Childhood & Kindergarten

Stories by Elsa Beskow

Stories by Jan Brett

The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle

Tiptoes series by Reg Down

Harriet Can Carry It by Kirk Jay Mueller

Farmer Brown Shears His Sheep by Teri Sloat

When the Root Children Wake Up by Audrey Wood

Peanut Butter & Cupcake by Terry Border

Pirate Jam by Jo Brown

When a Dragon Moves In by Jodi Moore

The Day the Crayons Quit by Oliver Jeffers

When the Sun Rose by Barbara Helen Berger

The Harvest Story by Elizabeth Reppel

Little Gnome Tenderoot by Jakob Streit

Puck the Gnome by Jakob Streit

A Donsy of Gnomes by Sigi de Francesca

Liputto by Jakob Streit

The Adventures of Super Sam by Melisa Nielsen

There are also some great anthologies like Wynstones Press series: Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. and A Child's Seasonal Treasury by Betty Jones.

Grade 1

After you introduce the letters and you have started making those sounds into words, it is nice to have some readers that your child can grow with. My favorites are *Early Readers* by Shelly Davidow. These work on short and long vowel sounds. Shelly's secondary readers work on more vowel sounds, as well as blends in a chapter book format, keeping the child interested as they gain new skills. Chances are your child will not be ready for the secondary readers until Grade 2.

Hay for My Ox - a great secondary reader. by Isabel Wyatt

Waldorf Readers by Arthur Pittis - the set of 5 will take you through a few years and it is likely you will not get to it in first grade.

The Seven Year Old Wonder Book by Isabel Wyatt

My favorite Grimm's edition is "An Illustrated Treasury of Grimm's Fairy Tales: Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Hansel and Gretel and Many More Classics" by the Brothers Grimm with illustrations from Daniela Drescher

They still want to be read to, some of our favorites are:

A Donsy of Gnomes (plus all of her other work) by Sieglinde De Francesca

All the gnome stories mentioned for kindergarten
My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett

Elmer and the Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett

The Dragons of Blue Land by Ruth Stiles Gannett

The MANY works of Thornton Burgess, these are appropriate for younger children too and are used in our second grade as well.

Grade 2

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett

Elmer and the Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett

Super Happy Party Bears Series by Marcie Colleen, Illustrated by Steve James - these are silly and great intermediate readers.

Waldorf Readers by Arthur Pittus (some can be used for Main Lesson)

Main Lesson Stories:

The Dragons of BlueLand by Ruth Stiles Gannett

The MANY works of Thornton Burgess

The Peter Rabbit stories by Beatrix Potter

The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit by Julius Lester

Stories of the Saints: A Collection for Children by Siegwart Knijpenga

The Monkeys and the Mango Tree: Teaching Stories of the Saints and Sadhus of India by Harish Johari

The Eight Year Old Legend Book by Isabel Wyatt

Saint Nicholas by Jakob Streit

Brother Francis by Jakob Streit

Saint Francis of Assisi by Robert Kennedy, Jr.

Brigid's Cloak by Bryce Milligan

Grade 3

Reading:

Little House on the Prairie (and other books in the series)

Some American Girl (watch the themes)

Some Magic Treehouse (watch the themes)

The Kingdom of Beautiful Colors by Isabel Wyatt (formerly known as The Fairy Book of Princes)

Main Lessons & Reading:

And Then There Was Light by Jakob Streit

A Journey to the Promised Land by Jakob Streit

We Will Build A Temple by Jakob Streit

Old Testament Stories by Roy Wilkinson

The Bee Book by Jakob Streit (great for farming)

Little Bee Sunbeam by Jakob Streit (great for farming)

Africa: A Teacher's Guide: Ethnogeography, Geography, History, Culture, Stories and Art by Betty Staley

Grade 4

Reading:

Tal and His Marvelous Adventures with Noon Zor Noon by Fenimore Cooper

Some Thor comics (old Stan Lee ones, not modern)

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling - only one per year if you can help it!

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkein

Magnus Chase & the Gods of Asgard Series by Rick Riordan

Most books by Holling C. Holling - animals and geography, appropriate for some Main Lesson work if desired.

Main Lesson stories:

The Human Being and the Animal World by Charles Kovacs

Favorite Norse Myths by Mary Pope Osborne

D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths

Legends of the Norse Kings by Isabel Wyatt

Thorkill of Iceland by Isabel Wyatt

Africa: A Teacher's Guide: Ethnogeography, Geography, History, Culture, Stories and Art by Betty Staley

Mainlesson.com is also a wonderful resource for classical stories on historical topics.

Grade 5

Reading:

Percy Jackson & the Olympians Series by Rick Riordan
To Be a Slave by Julius Lester
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis
Homer's Odyssey retold by Isabel Wyatt

Main Lessons:

Ancient Greece by Charles Kovacs
Botany by Charles Kovacs
Ancient Mythologies by Charles Kovacs
Chapters from Ancient History by Dorothy Harrer
The Wonderous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding our World and Its Ecosystems by Rachel Ignatofsky
Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth by Rochelle Strauss
Tree in the Trail by Holling C. Holling
Little Bee Sunbean by Jakob Streit (this and the Bee Book are great readers for probably grade 3 but the with the topic of botany, it makes them great for grade 5 as well.)
The Bee Book by Jakob Streit
The Living World of Plants by Gerbert Grohmann
The United States of America: A State-by-State Guide by Millie Miller & Cyndi Nelsen (not so much for reading but super handy this year.)
Pyramid by David Macaulay
The Keepers Native American Series by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac
Africa: A Teacher's Guide: Ethnogeography, Geography, History, Culture, Stories and Art by Betty Staley
Historical stories from Mainlesson.com
For Mom: Atlantis by Rudolf Steiner

Grade 6

Reading:

Alexander the Great by John Gunther

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Three Knight Tales by Jakob Streit

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J.K. Rowling

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien

Columban by Jakob Streit

String, Straight Edge & Shadow by Julia E. Diggins - this would be 6th or 7th, or even 8th.

Main Lessons:

Ancient Rome by Charles Kovacs

Geology & Astronomy by Charles Kovacs

Roman Lives by Dorothy Harrer

The Aeneid for Boy and Girls by Alfred Church

Africa: A Teacher's Guide: Ethnogeography, Geography, History, Culture, Stories and Art by Betty Staley

Mosque by David Macaulay

City: A Story of Roman Planning and Construction by David Maccaulay

Castle by David Macaulay (I honestly rarely get this far in 6th, this one is perfect for 7th too.)

Historical stories from Mainlesson.com

For Mom: Atlantis by Rudolf Steiner

Grade 7

Reading:

Copernicus by Heinz Sponsel

Columban by Jakob Streit

Joan of Arc by Tabatha Yeatts

Christopher Columbus by Emma Carlson Berne

Who Was Leonardo da Vinci by Roberta Edwards - you will think I am crazy when you see this book, it actually had some great tid bits in it.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J.K. Rowling

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien

Main Lessons:

Age of Discovery by Charles Kovacs

Muscles and Bones by Charles Kovacs

Geology and Astronomy by Charles Kovacs

The Work Made New by Marc Aronson & John Glenn

Ship by David Maccaulay

Africa: A Teacher's Guide: Ethnogeography, Geography, History, Culture, Stories and Art by Betty Staley

There are still some wonderful books for this age at MainLesson.com

Grade 8

We covered a lot of American history this year, and really worked to bring things current. We saved in depth study on revolutions for grade. 9..

Reading:

To Be a Slave by Julius Lester

Rosa Parks by Ruth Ashby

Biographies for 8th Grade History by Susan Cook

The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins

The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling

Main Lessons:

The Age of Revolutions by Charles Kovacs

Some work of Shakespeare - can also be saved for 9th

Some work of Thoreau, Dickinson, and Melville

Selections from Common Sense by Thomas Paine

Grades 9+

These are books we used for our main lesson discussions. Generally I have them read them and then we tackle a selection together. I still used services like Common Sense Media to approve books read for pleasure.

For Mom: Life Lessons: Reaching Teenagers through Literature

The Nibelungenlied - Scandinavian and German literature, 10th/11th grade

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight retold in modern prose by Jessie L Weston

10th/11th grade

Parsifal by Charles Kovacs 11th grade

Beowulf 10th/11th grade

Some work of Thoreau, Dickinson, and Melville

Meditations by Marcus Aurelius 11th grade

Wisdom of the Buddha: The Unabridged Dhammapada translated by F. Max Muller

Common Sense by Thomas Paine