



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.

Other sources to consider:

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

Chalres Kovac books can also be found as ebooks at florisbooks.co.uk

***This list has suggestions by our TFW members. This book list does not reflect the view of Waldorf Essentials, just a list of recommendations. Please choose what is best for your family.

[Our Amazon Store Link](#)



Early Childhood and Kindergarten

WE Suggestions:

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

Beyond the Rainbow Bridge: Nurturing Our Children from Birth to Seven by Barbara J. Patterson, and Pamela Bradley

The Waldorf Kindergarten Snack Book by Lisa Hildreth





Early Childhood and Kindergarten

TFW Suggestions:

Forest has a song: Poems by Amy Ludwig Vanderbuilt
A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems by Deborah Ruddell
All the Sounds of the Wild books by Maurice Pledger
Farmer Brown books by Teri Sloat
Flip Flap Farm book by Howard Hughes
Step Gently Out by Helen Frost and Rick Lieder
We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom and Michaela Goade
Camille and the Sunflowers by Laurence Anholt
An Egg Is Quiet by Dianna Hutts Aston
A Nest Is Noisy by Dianna Hutts Aston
The Mountain That Loved a Bird by Alice McLerrana and Eric Carle
Fox Eyes by Margaret Wise Brown
A Squirrel's Tale by Richard Fowler
Whose Tracks Are These? by James Nail and Hyla Skudder
The Fox and the Falling Leaves by Julia Rawlinson
The Shortest Day by Susan Cooper
Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
The Great Big Elephant and the Very Small Elephant by Barbara Seuling
Simon and the Wind by Gilles Tibo
Simon and the Snowflakes by Gilles Tibo
Simon's Disguise by Gilles Tibo
Little Blue Boat by Ginger Swift
Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
The Story of the Snow Children by Sibylle von Olfers
A Year in Our New Garden by Gerda Muller
A Year Around the Great Oak Tree by Gerda Muller
The Invisible Boat by Eric G. Muller



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.

WE Suggestions:

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 Brother's 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 Blueland 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..

TFW Suggestions:

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel

Poppleton Readers by Cynthia Rylant

Puck the Gnome by Jakob Streit

Liputto by Jakob Streit

The Brambly Hedge series by Jill Barklem

Beatrix Potter series by Beatrix Potter

Stories by Reg Down

Stories by Kelly Morrow

Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne

Habia Una Vez by multiple different authors



Grade 2



WE Suggestions:

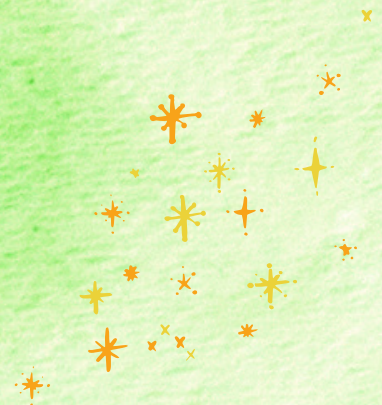
The Secret Wish, The Secret Pet, and The Secret Door by Shelly Davidow
My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett
Elmer and the Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett
Super Happy Party Bears Series by Marcie Colleen, Illustrated by Steve James
Waldorf Readers by Arthur Pittis (some can be used for Main Lesson)

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

TFW Suggestions:

Stories by Isabel Wyatt
Stories by Thornton Burgess
Stories by Enid Blyton
Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel
Hay For My Ox by Isabel Wyatt
The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner
Stories by Roald Dahl



Grade 3

WE Suggestions:

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

TFW Suggestions:

Farmer Boy by Laura Ingalls Wilder
The Bee Book by Jakob Streit
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
Stories by Thornton Burgess
My Father's Dragon Series by Ruth Stiles Gannett
Jenny & the Cat Club series by Esther Averill
Stories by Enid Blyton
Snip Snap Snout by Arthur Pittis and AUSA Peacock
Farm Book: Story and Pictures by E. Boyd Smith
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White



Grade 4



WE Suggestions:

Some Thor comics (old Stan Lee ones, not modern)
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Tal and His Marvelous Adventures with Noon-Zor-Noon by Fenimore Cooper
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.

TFW Suggestions:

Stories by Rick Riordan,
Stories for Native American studies by Joseph Bruchac
Viking myths volume 1 &2 by Jacqueline Morley
My Side of the Mountain trilogy by Jean Craighead George
Norse Mythology by Charles Kovac
Human Being and the Animal World by Charles Kovac
The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich
Odd and the Frost Giants by Neil Gaiman
Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling
Heidi by Johanna Spyri
Wildwood Chronicles by Colin Meloy
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Animalium: Welcome to the Museum by Jenny Broom
Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl

Grade 5

WE Suggestions:

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 Ignotofsky
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
Voices of Ancient Egypt by Kay Winters
Gilgamesh by Bernarda Bryson (it is important that this version is given as others can be too explicit)
Seabird by Holling C. Holling - great for US geography reading
Paddle to the Sea by Holling C. Holling - great for US geography reading
D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths book



Grade 5

Main Lessons:

The Alpha Beta Book: An Introduction to Ancient Greek
Free version of the Odyssey for children is on Mainlesson.com and by Alfred Church
Alexander the Great by John Gunther - choose this or the next, both are not necessary
I am the Great Horse by Katherine Roberts
Mary Frances Garden Book by Jane Eayre Fryer

For Parents:

Atlantis by Rudolf Steiner
The Hidden Glory of India by Steven Rosen
Hindu Festivals throughout the Year by Anita Ganeri
Plant Study and Geology for ages 11 and 12 by Roy Wilkinson

TFW Suggestions:

Stories by Rick Riordan
The Iron Ring by Lloyd Alexander
The Wild Robot series by Peter Brown
The Golden Bull: A Mesopotamia Adventure by Marjorie Cowley
The Story of Divaali by Valmiki and Jatinder Verma
Shanleya's Quest by Thomas J. Elpel
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
Boy of the Pyramids by Ruth Fosdick Jones
Egyptology by Emily Sands
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Jo's Boys by Louisa May Alcott
Botanicum: Welcome to the Museum by Kathy Willis
Nature Anatomy by Julia Rothman
A Kid's Herb Book for Children of All Ages by Leslie Tierra



Grade 6



WE Suggestions:

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

TFW Suggestions:

Rose in Bloom by Louisa May Alcott
The Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Black Stallion by Walter Farley
Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources Paperback by Martin Lings
The Story of the Holy Prophet Muhammad: Ramadan Classics: 30 Stories for 30 Nights by Humera Malik
Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him by The Sincere Seeker Collection
Basic Principles Of Islam by Mohammad Thompson
Prophet Muhammad (The Age of Bliss) by Mustafa Erdogan
Prophet Muhammad: The Beloved Messenger of Allah by Mustafa Erdogan
The Simple Seerah: The Story Of Prophet Muhammad by Asim Khan

Grade 7

WE Suggestions:

Copernicus by Heinz Sponzel

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

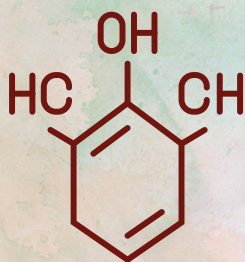
The Work Made New by Marc Aronson & John Glenn

Ship by David Macaulay

Castle by David Macaulay

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.

WE Suggestions:

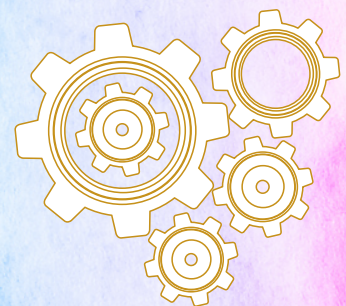
To Be a Slave by Julius Lester
Rosa Parks by Ruth Ashby
Biographies for 8th Grade History by Susan Cook
The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins
The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling

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

TFW Suggestions:

The Life of Frederick Douglass: A Graphic Narrative by David F. Walker
Year of the Horseless Carriage: 1801 by Genevieve Foster
Johnny Tremain by Esther Hoskins Forbes
Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe



Grade 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.

WE Suggestions:

For Parents: Life Lessons: Reaching Teenagers through Literature by David Sloan

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



Parent Resource

WE Suggestions:

Beyond the Rainbow Bridge: Nurturing Our Children from Birth to Seven by Barbara J. Patterson, and Pamela Bradley

The Waldorf Kindergarten Snack Book by Lisa Hildreth

Through the Rainbow: A Waldorf Birthday Story for Children by Lou Harvey-Zahra

A Child's Seasonal Treasury by Betty Jones

You Are Your Child's First Teacher by Rahima Baldwin Dancy

Joyful Toddlers and Preschoolers : Create a Life that You and Your Child Both Love by Faith Collins

The Power of Stories: Nurturing Children's Imagination and Consciousness by Horst Kornberger

Encountering the Self: Transformation & Destiny in the Ninth Year by Hermann Koepke

Tending the Spark - Lighting the Future for Middle School Students by Betty Staley

Breaking The Habit of Being Yourself by Dr. Joe Dispenza

Between Form and Freedom: Guiding Teenagers Through the Dangerous Years by Betty Staley

Practical Advice to Teachers by Rudolf Steiner

Discussions with Teachers by Rudolf Steiner

The Foundations of Human Experience by Rudolf Steiner

The Kingdom of Childhood by Rudolf Steiner

The Four Temperaments by Rudolf Steiner

Rhythms of Learning by Rudolf Steiner and Roberto Trostli

Start Now!: A Book of Soul and Spiritual Exercises by Rudolf Steiner

Teaching Through Stories by Elizabeth Seward and Jenny Hornung

An English Manual: For the Elementary School by Dorothy Harrar

Make Way for Reading: Great Books for Kindergarten through Grade 8 by Karen Latimer and Pamela J. Fenner

Healing Stories for Challenging Behaviour by Susan Perrow

The Waldorf Book of Poetry by David Kennedy

A Waldorf Song Book by Brien Masters

TFW Suggestions:

The Conscious Parent by Dr. Shefali Tsabary

The Soul of Discipline by Kim John Payne

The Whole Brain Child by Daniel J. Siegel

Raising Your Spirited Child by Mary Sheedy Kurcinka

A Year Full of Stories by Angela McAllister and Christopher Corr



Parent Resource

TFW Suggestions:

Nurturing Spirituality in Children by Peggy Joy Jenkins Ph.D.

Seven Times the Sun by Shea Darian

Free range learning: How Homeschooling Changes Everything by Laura Grace Weldon

Lucia Morning in Sweden by Ewa Rydaker

Circle Round by Starhawk

Spelling by Hand by Jeremy Herrmann

Word Mastery Primer by Hugh Renwick

Grandfather Tang's Story by Ann Tompert

For Australian culture/history-

<http://trevorcairney.blogspot.com/2021/01/stories-for-children-by-aboriginal.html?m=1>

https://www.steinereducation.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/20191016_ATSI-Resources.pdf

Picture Books:

Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran

Earth Mother by Ellen Jackson

Hailstones and Halibut Bones by Mary O'Neill

Tops & Bottoms by Janet Stevens

Down the Road by Alice Schertle

The Magic Weaver of Rugs: A Tale of the Navajo by Jerrie Oughton

The Seven Chinese Brothers by Margaret Mahy

A Collection of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling

Owl at Home by Arnold Lobel

The Great Race of the Birds and Animals by Paul Goble

Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

Mama Do You Love Me? by Barbara M. Joosse

Owl Moon Hardcover by Jane Yolen

The Story of the Butterfly Children by Sibylle von Olfers

Tales of the Mushroom Folk by Signe Aspelin

