

100

BOOKS TO READ BEFORE YOU'RE FIVE



HIDDEN LIFE

FORMING MINDS, HEARTS AND HANDS IN THE SPIRIT OF NAZARETH.

AUTUMN BOOKS

HARVEST, WOODLAND, ANIMALS, HOME & CHANGING SEASONS

1. The Tale of Peter Rabbit — *Beatrix Potter*
2. The Tale of Benjamin Bunny — *Beatrix Potter*
3. The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin — *Beatrix Potter*
4. The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle — *Beatrix Potter*
5. The Tale of Tom Kitten — *Beatrix Potter*
6. The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck — *Beatrix Potter*
7. The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse — *Beatrix Potter*
8. The Tale of Two Bad Mice — *Beatrix Potter*
9. The Story of the Root Children — *Sibylle von Olfers*
10. The Story of the Snow Children — *Sibylle von Olfers*
11. The Little House — *Virginia Lee Burton*
12. The Little Red Hen — *Traditional Tale (Ladybird Book)*
13. The Enormous Turnip — *Traditional Tale (Ladybird Book)*
14. The Three Little Pigs — *Traditional Tale (Ladybird Book)*
15. The Ugly Duckling — *Hans Christian Andersen*
16. The Little Red Riding Hood — *Traditional Tale (Ladybird Book)*
17. The Gruffalo — *Julia Donaldson*
18. Owl Babies — *Martin Waddell*
19. The Little Bear — *Elsa Beskow*
20. The Children of the Forest — *Elsa Beskow*
21. The Busy Little Squirrel — *Nancy Tafuri*
22. The Apple Pie Tree — *Zoe Hall*
23. The Wind in the Willows — *picture-book adaptation*
24. Ferdinand — *Munro Leaf*
25. The Little Nut Tree — *Traditional Nursery Tale*



WINTER BOOKS

CHRISTMAS, SNOW, DARKNESS, WARMTH & WONDER

1. The Snowman — *Raymond Briggs*
2. The Snowy Day — *Ezra Jack Keats*
3. The Tomten — *Astrid Lindgren, illustrated by Harald Wiberg*
4. The Mitten — *Jan Brett*
5. The Hat — *Jan Brett*
6. Owl Moon — *Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr*
7. The Story of the Snow Children — *Sibylle von Olfers*
8. The Little Fir Tree — *Hans Christian Andersen*
9. The Snow Queen — *Hans Christian Andersen, picture-book edition*
10. The Nutcracker — *E.T.A. Hoffmann, picture-book edition*
11. The Night Before Christmas — *Clement C. Moore, illustrated edition*
12. The Jolly Christmas Postman — *Janet & Allan Ahlberg*
13. The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey — *Susan Wojciechowski*
14. The Polar Express — *Chris Van Allsburg*
15. The Christmas Story — *beautifully illustrated children's edition*
16. The Nativity — *a beautifully illustrated traditional children's edition*
17. The Little Match Girl — *Hans Christian Andersen, picture-book edition*
18. The Elves and the Shoemaker — *traditional tale*
19. The Christmas Robin — *David Hately*
20. The Legend of the Poinsettia — *Tomie dePaola*
21. The Gruffalo's Child — *Julia Donaldson*
22. The Winter Tale — *Jill Barklem*
23. The Winter Rabbit — *a beautifully illustrated seasonal story*
24. The Christmas Crocodile — *Bonnie Becker*
25. The Donkey's Dream — *Adrian Mitchell*



SPRING BOOKS

NEW LIFE, BABIES, GARDENS, ANIMALS & EASTER

1. The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse — *Beatrix Potter*
2. The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes — *Beatrix Potter*
3. The Tale of Little Pig Robinson — *Beatrix Potter*
4. The Tale of Ginger and Pickles — *Beatrix Potter*
5. The Tale of Pigling Bland — *Beatrix Potter*
6. The Tale of Mr. Tod — *Beatrix Potter*
7. The Very Hungry Caterpillar — *Eric Carle*
8. The Tiny Seed — *Eric Carle*
9. The Very Busy Spider — *Eric Carle*
10. The Carrot Seed — *Ruth Krauss, illustrated by Crockett Johnson*
11. The Curious Garden — *Peter Brown*
12. The Little Gardener — *Emily Hughes*
13. Planting a Rainbow — *Lois Ehlert*
14. Growing Vegetable Soup — *Lois Ehlert*
15. A Seed Is Sleepy — *Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long*
16. Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt — *Kate Messner*
17. The Caterpillar and the Polliwog — *Jack Kent*
18. The Rain Came Down — *David Shannon*
19. Rain — *Robert Kalan, illustrated by Donald Crews*
20. The Three Billy Goats Gruff — *Traditional Tale (Ladybird Book)*
21. The Princess and the Pea — *Hans Christian Andersen*
22. The Frog Prince — *Traditional Tale (Ladybird Book)*
23. The Tale of Three Trees — *Angela Elwell Hunt*
24. The Easter Story — *beautifully illustrated children's edition*
25. The Dandelion Seed — *Joseph Anthony*



SUMMER BOOKS

MEADOWS, PICNICS, SEASIDE, FRIENDSHIP & ADVENTURE

1. Winnie-the-Pooh — *A.A. Milne, illustrated by E.H. Shepard*
2. The House at Pooh Corner — *A.A. Milne, illustrated by E.H. Shepard*
3. A Bear Called Paddington — *Michael Bond*
4. Madeline — *Ludwig Bemelmans*
5. The Story of Babar — *Jean de Brunhoff*
6. Blueberries for Sal — *Robert McCloskey*
7. Make Way for Ducklings — *Robert McCloskey*
8. The Little Island — *Margaret Wise Brown*
9. The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch — *Ronda Armitage*
10. The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher — *Beatrix Potter*
11. A House in the Woods — *Inga Moore*
12. A Boy, His Dog and the Sea — *Anthony Browne*
13. The Sea Saw — *Tom Percival*
14. The Sand Horse — *Ann Turnbull*
15. The Sea — *Corinne Demas, illustrated by Stephanie Laberis*
16. The Storm Whale — *Benji Davies*
17. The Snail and the Whale — *Julia Donaldson*
18. The Owl and the Pussy-cat — *Edward Lear, illustrated edition*
19. The Queen's Handbag — *Steve Antony*
20. The Tiger Who Came to Tea — *Judith Kerr*
21. Mog the Cat — *Judith Kerr*
22. Each Peach Pear Plum — *Janet & Allan Ahlberg*
23. Elmer — *David McKee*
24. The Velveteen Rabbit — *Margery Williams*
25. The Elephant and the Bad Baby — *Elfrida Vipont*



A LITTLE NOTE FROM ME

I put this list together because I really believe it is important to surround our children with good, beautiful literature. When they are little, children take in everything – the words they hear, the pictures they look at, the stories they listen to. Before they can even read for themselves, books are quietly shaping their imagination, their vocabulary, their understanding of the world and even their sense of what is beautiful!

These 100 books are a little collection of the of books I love to read my children and would recommend to other parents.

I've deliberately chosen books that are beautiful to look at and lovely to read aloud. You'll find traditional fairy tales and folk stories alongside much-loved children's classics as well books about nature and the changing seasons, because I want our children to recognise the world outside and to be curious about it. And, of course, I've included several Catholic books too, in addition to faith-related stories you may already read them.

You'll notice that this isn't a list of books that a child is expected to read independently before their fifth birthday. These are books to read together. Some children will sit and listen to a whole story and others will wander off halfway through and come back five minutes later. Some will ask you to read the same book every single night for three weeks and others might never quite capture their imagination. That's all completely fine, there is no need to rush through the list. In fact, I hope you don't!

I've also tried to keep this list away from the pressure that can so easily creep into home education. The early years aren't a race to get children reading, writing and working as quickly as possible. They are a precious opportunity to give them wonder and feed their imaginations.

I hope this list is helpful to you and that some of these wonderful books become firm family favourites in your home. Happy reading. ❤️

Eden McCourt



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www.hiddenlife.uk