



# **2025 RECOMMENDED READING LIST**

## **AGES 13–17**

While we have made an effort to suggest titles on this list with few, if any, objectionable elements, BJU Press does not hold an exclusivist position on objectionable elements in books. Instead, we evaluate their presence based on the criteria of gratuitousness, explicitness, and moral tone. As we read, we ask ourselves: does the objectionable element serve a purpose within the story; is the description more detailed than is necessary; and does the author condemn, shrug off, or promote sinful actions? Each title on this list has been reviewed according to these guidelines; however, we believe that parents/guardians are the best judges of what is appropriate for their children. We encourage everyone to use discernment when selecting reading material. If you'd like a more thorough explanation of our position, please see chapter four of [Handbook of Christian Education](#).

Some of the titles below may be out of print. Look for them in your local library or request them through an interlibrary loan service. You may also find some titles in used bookstores or online. A good online resource for out-of-print books is [bookfinder.com](http://bookfinder.com).

---

### **ABBREVIATION KEY**

**B** Biography   **ER** Early Reader   **F** Fiction   **GN** Graphic Novels   **NF** Nonfiction   **P** Poetry   **PB** Picture Books

Titles in green are published by JourneyForth.

## ***Abraham Lincoln: God's Leader for a Nation*** (B)

DAVID R. COLLINS

This biography of Abraham Lincoln focuses on his spiritual life.

## ***The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*** (F)

DANIEL DEFOE

Robinson Crusoe, the sole survivor of a shipwreck, must survive on a deserted island.

## ***Ambushed!: The Assassination Plot Against President Garfield*** (NF)

GAIL JARROW

A riveting account of the events leading up to and, more importantly, following the July 2, 1881, shooting of President James Garfield.

## ***Anne of Green Gables*** (F)

LUCY M. MONTGOMERY

This is the heart-warming story of the orphan, Anne, who finds a home with an elderly brother and sister.

## ***An Autobiography*** (B)

FANNY CROSBY

Crosby shares her life story and devotion to God.

## ***Autobiography of George Mueller***

(B)

GEORGE MUELLER

Using excerpts from his diary, Mueller tells of struggles and triumphs as he establishes orphan homes to care for thousands of English orphans.

## ***Avery's Battlefield*** (F)

DEANNA K. KLINGEL

Follow Avery Bennett and his dog Gunner as they journey through the battle-torn towns and countryside of Civil War America. What begins

as a quest to find his uncle becomes a search for purpose and peace amid the chaos and violence of war. The story continues in *Avery's Crossroad*.

## ***Betty Greene: Wings to Serve*** (B)

JANET and GEOFF BENGE

A thrilling biography of the first missionary pilot. It follows Greene through her childhood, her service in the WASPs, the founding of Missionary Aviation Fellowship, and her sixteen years as a MAF pilot.

## ***Captains Courageous*** (F)

RUDYARD KIPLING

A series of unexpected events forces a pampered American youth to work for his living. The experience, though difficult, proves to be invaluable in helping the boy mature into manhood.

## ***Careful Enough?*** (F)

DILLON FORBES

As a missionary kid in China, Daniel discovers that there is a fine line between being cautious and being ashamed of his faith.

## ***A Chance to Die*** (B)

ELISABETH ELLIOT

Elliot vividly portrays the life of Amy Carmichael, missionary to India.

## ***Children of the Storm*** (B)

NATASHA VINS

An autobiographical account of the persecution Christians faced in the Soviet Union

## ***The Choctaw Code*** (F)

BRENT ASHABRANNER and RUSSEL G. DAVIS

A boy learns the art of living in the forest from a wise Native American friend with a mysterious past.

---

### ABBREVIATION KEY

**B** Biography   **ER** Early Reader   **F** Fiction   **GN** Graphic Novels   **NF** Nonfiction   **P** Poetry   **PB** Picture Books

Titles in green are published by JourneyForth.

### ***The Count of Monte Cristo*** (F)

ALEXANDER DUMAS

Edmond Dantes, unknowingly betrayed by his best friend, escapes prison and gains a fortune. His transformation into the Count of Monte Cristo is only the beginning of his quest for revenge.

### ***David Copperfield*** (F)

CHARLES DICKENS

A coming-of-age tale based largely on Dickens's own life.

### ***Don Quixote*** (F)

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

This humorous story about a bumbling Spanish knight is a classic satire on chivalry.

### ***Eight Cousins*** (F)

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

In this engaging story, one girl and her seven boy cousins find plenty of adventure and a good deal of mischief to keep them occupied.

### ***Ellenor's Exchange*** (F)

LINDA HAYNER

Ellenor Fitzhugh goes to London hoping to make a grand debut into society and marry a nobleman. Instead, she becomes a pawn in a game of political intrigue.

### ***Emma*** (F)

JANE AUSTEN

After successfully promoting the marriage between her governess and a local widower, Emma turns her matchmaking skills to her best friend and the vicar.

### ***False Coin, True Coin*** (F)

LOIS HOADLEY DICK

The plague, the London fire, and a tinker called John Bunyan point Cissy Nidd to God.

### ***Great Expectations*** (F)

CHARLES DICKENS

An unknown benefactor provides Pip with the means to become a gentleman.

### ***Gunner's Run*** (F)

RICK BARRY

Nineteen-year-old Jim Yoder is an ocean away from his childhood home in Elkhart, Indiana; he is serving in the United States Air Corps as a waist gunner flying on a B-24. Through a strange chain of events, Jim is trapped behind enemy lines. As Jim is running across Nazi Germany to reach the safety of Allied soil, he discovers that to survive he will have to trust the God he once rejected.

### ***The Hawk that Dare Not Hunt by Day*** (F)

SCOTT O'DELL

Tom Barton and his uncle are smugglers who have managed to make a comfortable living through illicit trade. And then William Tyndale asks them to carry English Bibles along with their usual cargo. As enemy after enemy rises to oppose Tyndale's Bible translation, Tom is confronted with a choice between what he wants and what he knows to be true.

### ***The Hobbit*** (F)

J. R. R. TOLKIEN

The unassuming Bilbo Baggins finds himself the unwilling warrior in the fight between good and evil.

### ***The Holy War*** (F)

JOHN BUNYAN

In this allegory of spiritual warfare, the city of Mansoul has been captured by Diabolus.

---

#### ABBREVIATION KEY

**B** Biography   **ER** Early Reader   **F** Fiction   **GN** Graphic Novels   **NF** Nonfiction   **P** Poetry   **PB** Picture Books

Titles in green are published by JourneyForth.



### ***The House of Seven Gables*** (F)

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

A troubled family in Puritan New England deals with an inherited curse.

### ***How to Read a Book*** (NF)

MORTIMER ADLER

Mortimer Adler's classic guide to intelligent reading will help you glean more from the books you read.

### ***The Human Body*** (NF)

ANSWERS IN GENESIS

Scientists show how the amazing design of the human body points to a Divine Creator.

### ***In Search of Honor*** (F)

DONNALYNN HESS

A young craftsman searches for truth in the middle of the terror of the French Revolution.

### ***India's Street Kids series*** (F, 3 books)

KIMBERLY RAE

Sold into slavery when she was ten, Jasmina dreams of escape and reunion with her mother. Her rocky path to freedom takes an unexpected turn when she meets a strange group of praying women.

### ***Jane Eyre*** (F)

CHARLOTTE BRONTË

Jane Eyre works as a governess for Mr. Rochester and falls in love with him. But he is not who he appears to be.

### ***Jewel Cases*** (F)

NANCY LOHR, ED.

A collection of five short stories involving jewel thefts

### ***The Journeyman*** (F)

ELIZABETH YATES

As a young boy, Jared Austin was apprenticed

to an itinerant painter. When he finally returns home, he hoped to brighten his neighbors' drab farmhouses with his art. Instead he becomes a scapegoat for the superstitious farmers looking for someone to blame for their troubles. Jared's story continues in *Hue & Cry*.

### ***Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*** (P)

PAUL FLEISCHMAN

In this book of poetry, Fleischman uses vivid imagery and wonderful imaginative comparisons to recreate the "joyful noise" of a myriad of insects.

### ***Kidnapped*** (F)

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

David Balfour was on his way to America—against his will—when a collision with another ship sets him on a new course in Scotland.

### ***Kiriath's Quest*** (F)

RICK BARRY

When King Jekoniah of Xandria is kidnapped by evil Grishnaki, the royal family searches for a way to save him.

### ***The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*** (F)

WASHINGTON IRVING

Ichabod Crane vies with Brom Bones for the hand of Katrina Van Tassel and encounters the headless horseman.

### ***Lincoln's Grave Robbers*** (NF)

STEVE SHEINKIN

After the arrest of their engraver threatens to put a team of counterfeiters out of business, they plot to steal the body of Abraham Lincoln and hold it for ransom.

---

#### **ABBREVIATION KEY**

**B** Biography   **ER** Early Reader   **F** Fiction   **GN** Graphic Novels   **NF** Nonfiction   **P** Poetry   **PB** Picture Books

Titles in green are published by JourneyForth.

***Little Women*** (F)

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Four sisters, each having her own struggles, grow up in New England during the Civil War.

***Margaret Thatcher: Britain's Prime Minister*** (B)

DOROTHY HOLE

This intriguing biography provides a glimpse into Britain's system of government and its whirlwind politics.

***Moose*** (F)

DEB BRAMMER

High school student Moose is a new Christian and pretty rough around the edges when he joins his friend Cody in the Montana wilderness for an unforgettable week at Moose Creek Bible Camp.

***My Side of the Mountain*** (F)

JEAN CRAIGHEAD GEORGE

Sam learns self-reliance and wilderness survival skills living in the woods on his grandfather's abandoned farm.

***Nothing Daunted: The Story of Isobel Kuhn*** (B)

GLORIA REPP

This book traces the life of intrepid missionary Isobel Kuhn and her extensive ministry in China.

***The Old Man in the Corner*** (F)

BARONESS ORCZY

Journalist Polly Burton is fascinated by an elderly gentleman she just met in a tea shop who explains to her the solutions to several baffling murders and robberies. But is the old man hiding a mystery of his own?

***Out of Darkness*** (F)

ALICIA PETERSEN

A blind Roman friend and a dying mother spur Elhanan to search for the healer Jesus.

***The Paper Daughters of Chinatown: Adapted for Young Readers*** (F)

HEATHER B. MOORE and

ALLISON HONG MERRILL

After young Tien Fu is sold by her father, she is smuggled into San Francisco, where she lives in squalor and is abused by her masters. Until one day she is rescued by women running a mission home for girls like her. Based on true events

***Persuasion*** (F)

JANE AUSTEN

Persuaded by her family's disapproval, Anne Elliot ended her engagement to Frederick Wentworth seven years ago. Now, to get his finances in order, her extravagant, but cash-strapped father rents their home to none other than Wentworth's sister and her husband. When dashing Capt. Wentworth returns to the neighborhood, he seems to have eyes for anyone but Anne.

***Pride and Prejudice*** (F)

JANE AUSTEN

Mr. Darcy is the last man in the world whom Elizabeth could ever be prevailed on to marry. Or is he?

***Professor Van Dusen: The Thinking Machine*** (F)

JACQUES FUTRELLE

Ten short stories that prove that logic can solve many problems

---

**ABBREVIATION KEY**

**B** Biography   **ER** Early Reader   **F** Fiction   **GN** Graphic Novels   **NF** Nonfiction   **P** Poetry   **PB** Picture Books

Titles in green are published by JourneyForth.



## ***The Red House Mystery*** (F)

A. A. MILNE

When the body of Mark Ablett's brother Robert is discovered in the study of the Red House, Antony Gillingham and his friend Bill decide to investigate. As they hunt for clues, Antony realizes that the murderer is still in the house, and it could be anyone. (Note: The JourneyForth edition of this title has been abridged to remove profanity.)

## **Redwall series** (F, 22 books)

BRIAN JACQUES

Redwall Abbey has long stood as a beacon of goodness, friendship, and delicious food to the woodland creatures who live in and near it. But it is often threatened by vermin bent on destruction.

## ***Regina Silsby's Secret War*** (F)

THOMAS J. BRODEUR

Rachel Winslow didn't mean to spark the legend of Regina Silsby. After witnessing the Boston Tea Party, Rachel is chased into a nearby cemetery by British troops; when the spooked soldiers are unable to find her, they claim they were attacked by the ghost of Regina Silsby. The story might have ended there if Rachel hadn't donned the personae to rescue her brother and the Sons of Liberty. With the single-minded Capt. Dudley hunting her down, Rachel's escapades are too dangerous to continue—and too important to stop. More adventures unfold in *Regina Silsby's Phantom Militia*.

## ***Scarhaven Keep*** (F)

J.S. FLETCHER

When a famous actor goes missing, the search leads playwright Richard Copplestone to the seaside town of Scarhaven. But every clue he finds only seems to raise more questions about the town and its leading family.

## ***Sense and Sensibility*** (F)

JANE AUSTEN

Austen's first novel focuses on two sisters impoverished by their father's death as they adjust to their new circumstances and find love in surprising places.

## ***Shoshana's Refuge*** (F)

DONNA FLOWER LAWRENCE

When an accident forces Shoshana to flee to the nearest city of refuge, she struggles to see God's grace in her circumstances. Will she find freedom among God's people? Or will she seek refuge somewhere else?

## ***Silas Marner*** (F)

GEORGE ELIOT

Silas, despairing after being falsely accused of theft, raises a baby girl and through her love becomes a kind man again.

## ***Sonnets from the Portuguese*** (P)

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

Written for her husband, Robert Browning, this collection contains several famous poems on love.

## ***A Sparrow Alone*** (F)

ALICIA PETERSEN

Mala, a young Jewish seamstress, finds hope when she meets Jesus of Nazareth.

## ***Stepping Heavenward*** (F)

ELIZABETH PRENTISS

This epistolary novel details a young woman's spiritual journey.

## ***This Dear-Bought Land*** (F)

JEAN LEE LATHAM

Under the guidance of Capt. John Smith, David Warren comes of age while enduring the brutal conditions of settling Jamestown.

---

### ABBREVIATION KEY

**B** Biography   **ER** Early Reader   **F** Fiction   **GN** Graphic Novels   **NF** Nonfiction   **P** Poetry   **PB** Picture Books

Titles in green are published by JourneyForth.



## ***Through Gates of Splendor*** (B)

ELISABETH ELLIOT

Elisabeth Elliot tells the story of her husband, Jim Elliot, and the other four missionaries who were killed in Ecuador.

## ***Westward, Ho!*** (F)

CHARLES KINGSLEY

A tale of adventure and romance set in sixteenth-century England and South America

## ***What About Cimmaron?*** (F)

LAURINE SNELLING

Sarah must find a way to get back into Toutle Valley to save her horse, Cimmaron, from the eruption of Mount St. Helens.

## ***William Carey: Father of Modern Missions*** (B)

BASIL MILLER

The amazing story of an English cobbler who became a pioneer missionary to India.

## ***The Witch of Blackbird Pond*** (F)

ELIZABETH GEORGE SPEARE

Katherine Tyler, an English girl from Barbados, comes to Connecticut to live with her Puritan uncle and aunt. Her unfettered ways not only make her feel like an outcast, but also place her in grave danger.

## ***Woods Runner*** (F)

GARY PAULSON

After his home is burned and his parents are taken prisoner by British forces, Samuel travels to New York City to rescue them. Interspersed between chapters are passages on Colonial and Revolutionary history.

## ***Zoli's Legacy*** (F)

DAWN L. WATKINS

As Zoli's beloved Hungary is torn apart, he sees the lives of those he loves put back together one by one.

---

### **ABBREVIATION KEY**

**B** Biography   **ER** Early Reader   **F** Fiction   **GN** Graphic Novels   **NF** Nonfiction   **P** Poetry   **PB** Picture Books

Titles in green are published by JourneyForth.