



Book Recommendations

Compiled with help from
Relief Teaching Ideas' Facebook Followers

<https://www.facebook.com/ReliefTeachingIdeas>

<http://reliefteachingideas.wordpress.com>

Book Recommendations

Compiled with the help of **Relief Teaching Ideas'** Facebook followers.

Thank you to all of those who contributed their favourite books that they like to use in the classroom. I have only added a few lesson ideas for these books. There are so many more learning opportunities that can be inspired by these pieces of literature!

Disclaimer: These are recommendations only. It is important to read these books first yourself, to determine if the content is appropriate for the needs of your students and your lesson objectives. The age recommendations are only a guide. I sometimes use junior picture books for older grades too, depending on the lesson's objective.

Picture Books

Junior Primary (P-2)

- **Wanted: The Perfect Pet** by Fiona Robertson
Depending on the age of the student here are some ideas for activities...
 - Create a class graph showing the pets they have
 - Create an ad for their idea of a perfect pet
 - Write up a T Chart comparing a dog to a different type of pet
 - Write a persuasive piece of text, stating why an unusual animal would make a good pet (eg: a crocodile)
 - Good for exposition writing. Students can write to the boy, as the duck, to persuade him that he is the perfect pet.
 - Draw & label an animal disguised as another animal
 - If you have access to craft supplies have students create an imaginary animal that would make an ideal pet
 - Play 'Dog, dog, goose!' (same as 'duck, duck, goose')
 - Discuss how everyone has their own strengths & weaknesses and the importance of being true to yourself.
 - Have students draw a self-portrait & then list their strengths underneath. Alternatively have them pass their portraits around the room for their classmates to list what they think their strengths are.
- **Giraffe's Can't Dance** by Giles Andreae
 - In small groups come up with an animal dance to show the rest of the class (eg – giraffe dance, elephant dance, lion dance, monkey dance).
 - Warthogs waltzing is an example of alliteration. Can they come up with other animal alliterations?
 - Reread the story & write a list of the rhyming words. Brainstorm other rhyming words to add to the list.
 - Retell the story from Gerald the giraffe's point of view.
 - Design a poster advertising the Jungle Dance.
- **Wombat Stew** by Marcia K Vaughan
 1. As a class search for & list all the words that end in 'y' (gooey, brewy, chewy, yummy, crunchy, munchy, etc)
 - Brainstorm more 'y' ending words
 - Create their own verses by following this outline:
Wombat Stew,
Wombat Stew,
_____, _____
_____, _____
Wombat Stew!
OR
Create a verse for a different concoction like Kangaroo Cake, Platypus Pudding or Emu Soup.
 2. Students write up a recipe for an unusual soup, stew or pudding. Create a class example first so students know how to set out a recipe.
 3. As you read it out loud again, have a group of students act it out.
- **Windblown** by Edouard Manceau
 - have students create their own pictures using the 7 scraps of paper from the book (there is a link at the back of the book to download & print the shapes)
- **The Very Cranky Bear** by Nick Bland
- **The Terrible Plop** by Ursula Dubosarsky
- **Just Another Ordinary Day** by Rod Clement
- **Wobbly Jim** by Kate Toon
- **Supermarket Zoo** by Carly Hart
- **Magic Beach** by Allison Lester
 - rhyming, creative narrative

- Possum Magic by Mem Fox
Mapping the Australian capital cities
Sequencing the main parts of the story
Discussing, listing & illustrating Australian animals, landmarks, food & cities
- The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka
- Stellaluna by Janell Cannon
- Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
- Louise Builds a Boat by Louise Pfanner
- The Incredible Book Eating Boy by Oliver Jeffers
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Any Eric Carle books
- Pocket Dogs by Margaret Wild
- The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
- Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox
- The Crayon Box that Talked by Shane DeRolf
- The Wrong Book by Nick Bland
- Feathers for Phoebe by Rod Clement
- The Terrible Suitcase by Emma Allen
- One is a Snail, Ten Is a Crab by Jeff Sayre & April Pulley Sayre
One is a Snail, Ten Is a Crab is great for adding - students can record different ways to make 10
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
- Where is the Green Sheep? By Mem fox
- Any Mem Fox books
- Grumpy Cat by Britta Teckentrup
- The Wonky Donkey by Craig Smith
- The Paperbag Princess by Robert Munsch
- The Littlest Refugee by Anh Do
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
Great for persuasive writing. Students write a piece stating whether or not the pigeon should drive the bus, stating their reasons, why or why not.
- Mixed Up Fairy Tales by Hilary Robinson
- My Place in Space by Joan Sweeney
- 'Wait! No Paint!' by Bruce Whatley
A clever spin on the 3 little pigs. Good to read to lower primary to introduce colour mixing in art. Read to middle primary as inspiration for creating their own spin on a well-known fairy tale.
- It's a Book by Lane Smith
- The Aussie A to Z by Heath McKenzie
Create their own A to Z of Australian icons, animals, landmarks, people, foods, etc
- Dr Seuss books
- Animalia by Graeme Base
- Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg
Hand out paper with precut large holes in the middle. Have students create a piece of artwork with this page.
Students create a mark/splat/tear on a page & then swap with a partner to create artwork from each other's 'oops.'
- Press Here
- The Dot by Peter H Reynolds
Create an art piece, inspired by The Dot.
- Don't Forget the Bacon by Pat Hutchins
- Albie by Andy Cutbill
- Looking for Crabs by Bruce Whatley
- Yes We Can! by Sam McBratney
- Mutt Dog by Stephen Michael King
- I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen
- The Night Pirates by Peter Harris
- The Fidgety Itch by Lucy Davey
- Moody Cow Meditates by Kerry Lee MacLean

Discuss with students different ways they can calm down when they are angry or have had a bad day. Have students make their own glitter calm down jar.

- **My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks** by Hanoch Piven
Have students draw their own family portraits, using similes to describe & draw each person.
- **Where the Wild Things Are** by Maurice Sendak
Talk about reality vs dreams
Create/draw/paint monsters and write 3 words or a description of their monster depending on their age & time restrictions
- **Hairy Maclary** books by Lynley Dodd
- **Pamela Allen** books
- **Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsely** by Aaron Blabey
As a group create a Venn diagram of the main characters. Discuss what their main differences were & what similarities they shared. Students can then do a Venn diagram of them and their best friend.

Middle (3-5)

- **Wanted: The Perfect Pet** by Fiona Robertson
Depending on the age of the student here are some ideas for activities...
 - Create a class graph showing the pets they have
 - Create an ad for their idea of a perfect pet
 - Write up a T Chart comparing a dog to a different type of pet
 - Write a persuasive piece of text, stating why an unusual animal would make a good pet (eg: a crocodile)
 - Good for exposition writing. Students can write to the boy, as the duck, to persuade him that he is the perfect pet.
 - Draw & label an animal disguised as another animal
 - If you have access to craft supplies have students create an imaginary animal that would make an ideal pet
 - Play 'Dog, dog, goose!' (same as 'duck, duck, goose')
 - Discuss how everyone has their own strengths & weaknesses and the importance of being true to yourself.
 - Have students draw a self portrait & then list their strengths underneath. Alternatively have them pass their portraits around the room for their classmates to list what they think their strengths are.
- **Giraffe's Can't Dance** by Giles Andreae
 - In small groups come up with an animal dance to show the rest of the class (eg – giraffe dance, elephant dance, lion dance, monkey dance).
 - Warhogs waltzing is an example of alliteration. Can they come up with other animal alliterations?
 - Reread the story & write a list of the rhyming words. Brainstorm other rhyming words to add to the list.
 - Retell the story from Gerald the giraffe's point of view.
 - Design a poster advertising the Jungle Dance.
- **Windblown** by Edouard Manceau
 - have students create their own pictures using the 7 scraps of paper from the book (there is a link at the back of the book to download & print the shapes)
- **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs** by Jon Scieszka
- **Owl Moon** by Jane Yolen
- **The Wrong Book** by Nick Bland
- **The Incredible Book Eating Boy** by Oliver Jeffers
- **Piggy Book** by Anthony Browne
- **The Great Fairy Tale Disaster** by David Conway
 - Comparison chart of different fairy tales
 - What do most fairy tales have in common?
 - Write a mixed up fairy tale (eg Little Red riding hood goes to a ball & loses her slipper & the 3 little pigs have to find her.)
 - Point of view - Write a fairy tale through the eyes of one of the "bad guys"
- **It's a Book** by Lane Smith
- **Hairy Nose Itchy Butt** by Elizabeth Frankel
 - This is not only an entertaining book but it also covers the serious issue of sustainability/ environment. After reading the book have students research an Australian habitat & the animals that live there. Come up with ways to conserve those areas & protect the endangered species that live there.
- **The Crayon Box that Talked** by Shane DeRolf
- **Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge** by Mem Fox
- **Miss Nelson is Missing** by James Marshall
- **Window** by Jeannie Baker
 - Highlights the concept of change
 - Students create their own collage, using similar techniques seen in the book
- **Students create their own story from their interpretation of the illustrations**

- Jeannie Baker books
- The Rabbits by John Marsden
- The Littlest Refugee by Anh Do
- My Hiroshima by Junko Morimoto
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
Great for persuasive writing. Students write a piece stating whether or not the pigeon should drive the bus, stating their reasons, why or why not.
- My Place by Nadia Wheatley
...great for HSIE with Year 3 & 4
- Mixed Up Fairy Tales by Hilary Robinson
- 'Wait! No Paint!' by Bruce Whatley
A clever spin on the 3 little pigs. Good to read to lower primary to introduce colour mixing in art. Read to middle primary as inspiration for creating their own spin on a well-known fairy tale.
- The Violin Man by Colin Thompson
- The Last Alchemist by Colin Thompson
- Falling Angels by Colin Thompson
- The Paradise Garden by Colin Thompson
- The Aussie A to Z by Heath McKenzie
Create their own A to Z of Australian icons, animals, landmarks, people, foods, etc
- Parts/Even More Parts by Tedd Arnold
- Animalia by Graeme Base
- Dream of the Thylacine by Margaret Wild & Ron Brooks
- The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein
This is the story of tightrope artist Phillipe Petit who walked between the twin towers during their construction in 1974. It is beautifully illustrated and is a really unusual topic that grasps student's attention. It is excellent as a persuasive writing task using students ideas about the positives and negatives of Phillipe's actions. It is also a great inspiration for art activities.
- Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg
*Hand out paper with precut large holes in the middle. Have students create a piece of artwork with this page.
Students create a mark/splat/tear on a page & then swap with a partner to create artwork from each other's 'oops.'*
- The Dot by Peter H Reynolds
Create an art piece, inspired by The Dot.
- The Stinky Cheese Man by Jon Scieszka
- My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks by Hanoch Piven
Have students draw their own family portraits, using similes to describe & draw each person.
- The Nelly Gang by Stephen Axelsen
- Moody Cow Meditates by Kerry Lee MacLean
Discuss with students different ways they can calm down when they are angry or have had a bad day. Have students make their own glitter calm down jar.
- Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
*Talk about reality vs dreams
Create/draw/paint monsters and write 3 words or a description of their monster depending on their age & time restrictions*
- Grandad's Gifts by Paul Jennings
- Memorial by Shaun Tan
- The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan
- The Peasant Prince by Li Cunxin
- The Paperbag Princess by Robert Munsch
- Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr
- Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne
- particularly good for SEAL/PSHE & conversations about different points of view
- Into the Forest by Anthony Browne
- The Tunnel by Anthony Browne
- Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsely by Aaron Blabey
As a group create a Venn diagram of the main characters. Discuss what their main differences were & what similarities they shared. Students can then do a Venn diagram of them and their best friend.

Upper Primary (6-7)

- The Watertower by Gary Crew

- The Viewer by Gary Crew
- Window by Jeannie Baker
Highlights the concept of change
Students create their own collage, using similar techniques seen in the book
- Students create their own story from their interpretation of the illustrations
- Jeannie Baker books
- The Rabbits by John Marsden
- Memorial by Shaun Tan
- The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan
- The Littlest Refugee by Anh Do
- Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne
- particularly good for SEAL/PSHE & conversations about different points of view
- My Hiroshima by Junko Morimoto
- My Place by Nadia Wheatley
- The Arrival by Shaun Tan
- Piggy Book by Anthony Browne
- The Violin Man by Colin Thompson
- The Last Alchemist by Colin Thompson
- Falling Angels by Colin Thompson
- The Paradise Garden by Colin Thompson
- Animalia by Graeme Base
- Dream of the Thylacine by Margaret Wild & Ron Brooks
- The Stinky Cheese Man by Jon Scieszka
- Parts/Even More Parts by Tedd Arnold
- Grandad's Gifts by Paul Jennings
- The Peasant Prince by Li Cunxin
- Hairy Nose Itchy Butt by Elizabeth Frankel
This is not only an entertaining book but it also covers the serious issue of sustainability/ environment. After reading the book have students research an Australian habitat & the animals that live there. Come up with ways to conserve those areas & protect the endangered species that live there.
- Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr
- The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein
This is the story of tightrope artist Phillipe Petit who walked between the twin towers during their construction in 1974. It is beautifully illustrated and is a really unusual topic that grasps student's attention. It is excellent as a persuasive writing task using students ideas about the positives and negatives of Phillipe's actions. It is also a great inspiration for art activities.

Class Novels/Read Alouds

Year 1

- The Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton
- The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton

Year 2

- Mr Popper's Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater
- Charlotte's Web by EB White
- James & the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
- Charlie & the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
"My grade 2s loved Charlie and the chocolate factory and we did a heap of literacy/well-being/art activities that went with it."
- The Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton
- The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton

Year 3

- Matilda by Roald Dahl
- The Witches by Roald Dahl
- The Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl

Year 4

- The Treehouse Series (The 13th Storey Treehouse, the 26th Storey, The 39th Storey...) by Andy Griffiths
"This series has awesome illustrations throughout so we downloaded it on to my iPad, then read it through the smart board so the kids could see too. They loved it! You just need a cable to connect to your iwB."
- The BFG by Roald Dahl
- Matilda by Roald Dahl
- James & the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
- The Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl
- The Twits by Roald Dahl
- The Lion the witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis
"The kids love it when you get to the Part when they eat Turkish delight and drink hot chocolate to match what the characters are doing in the book. Great for winter time!"
- The Key to Rondo by Emily Rodda
- Famous 5 Books by Enid Blyton
"The kids love the different language!"
- Wonder by R.J Palaceo
"One of the best books I have ever read to a class. I've used it from year 4-6. The kids love it & it covers so many issues, bullying, friendships, judging a book by its cover, etc. Can't recommend it highly enough!"
- Toad Rage by Morris Gleitzman
- Frindle by Andrew Clements
- Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
- Storm Boy by Colin Thiele
- Sadako by Eleanor Coerr
- Nanberry by Jackie French
"There is a program for this book aligned with the new English Syllabus and National Curriculum."
- The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks
- Pencil of Doom by Andy Griffiths
- Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- Naughty Stories for Good Boys and Girls (book series) by Christopher Milne
"Funny and silly stories about kids but good themes/messages attached to them."
- Gift of the Gab by Morris Gleitzman
- Girl Underground by Morris Gleitzman

Year 5

- Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan

- Happiest Refugee by Ahn Do
- There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar
- Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
- 39 Clues Series: The Maze of Bones by Rick Riordan
"My year 5's have loved the first of the 39 Clues series, The Maze of Bones. I love choosing a class novel that belongs to a series because it encourages the kids to go and read the rest."
- Black Snake: The Daring of Ned Kelly by Carole Wilkinson
- Wonder by R.J Palaceo
"One of the best books I have ever read to a class. I've used it from year 4-6. The kids love it & it covers so many issues, bullying, friendships, judging a book by its cover, etc. Can't recommend it highly enough!"
- Nanberry by Jackie French
"This book fits really well with history curriculum. Read it with my Year 5's as a lead-in to their history topics."
- Harry Potter series by JK Rowling
- Paul Jennings books
- Sadako by Eleanor Coerr
- Hating Alison Ashley by Robin Klein
- Rowan of Rin by Emily Rodda
"You can buy a literature unit to go with it too, from Hawker Brownlow Education."
- The Power of One (Kids version) by Bryce Courtenay
- The Princess Bride by William Goldman
- Thunderwith by Libby Hathorn
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- Once, Then & Now books by Morris Gleitzman
- Holes by Louis Sachar
- Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
"The kids could not get enough of it. There is a lot of visual literacy stuff that goes with it."
- The Key to Rondo by Emily Rodda
- Playing Beattie Bow by Ruth Park
"Set in colonial Sydney. Historical themes – the main character goes back in time."
- The Gizmo Series by Paul Jennings
- Crazy Hair by Neil Gaiman
"...made for a fun, rollicking read, and subsequent art workshop."
- Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman
"This book is wonderful and the refugee issue is a great one to look at with students this age, especially with the news at the moment."
- Naughty Stories for Good Boys and Girls (book series) by Christopher Milne
"Funny and silly stories about kids but good themes/messages attached to them."

Year 6

- Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan
- Blueback by Tim Winton
- Happiest Refugee by Ahn Do
- Wonder by R.J Palaceo
"One of the best books I have ever read to a class. I've used it from year 4-6. The kids love it & it covers so many issues, bullying, friendships, judging a book by its cover, etc. Can't recommend it highly enough!"
- Nanberry by Jackie French
- Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
- Black Snake: The Daring of Ned Kelly by Carole Wilkinson
- Harry Potter series by JK Rowling
- Paul Jennings books
- Hating Alison Ashley by Robin Klein
- Gift of the Gab by Morris Gleitzman
- Girl Underground by Morris Gleitzman
- Rowan of Rin by Emily Rodda
"You can buy a literature unit to go with it too, from Hawker Brownlow Education."
- The Power of One (Kids version) by Bryce Courtenay
- Playing Beattie Bow by Ruth Park
"Set in colonial Sydney. Historical themes – the main character goes back in time."
- The Princess Bride by William Goldman
- Sadako by Eleanor Coerr

- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- Thunderwith by Libby Hathorn
- Once, Then & Now books by Morris Gleitzman
- Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman
- My Australian Story: The Outback by Christine Harris (*part of the "My Australian Story" series*)
- Pookie Aleera is Not My Boyfriend by Steven Herrick
- Uncollected Trilogy by Paul Jennings
"My kids loved listening to the short stories in the uncollected trilogy. It was always great to discuss the plot twist that happens right at the end of every short story."
- Holes by Louis Sachar
- Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman
"This book is wonderful and the refugee issue is a great one to look at with students this age, especially with the news at the moment."
- Naughty Stories for Good Boys and Girls (book series) by Christopher Milne
"Funny and silly stories about kids but good themes/messages attached to them."

• **Year 7**

- Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- Happiest Refugee by Ahn Do
- Black Snake: The Daring of Ned Kelly by Carole Wilkinson
- The Power of One (Kids version) by Bryce Courtenay
- Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman
"This book is wonderful and the refugee issue is a great one to look at with students at this age, especially with the news at the moment."