

Story Writing: How to Write a Children’s Book – Picture Books, Readers, Chapter Books, and Middle-Grade Stories (X-21)

Parent Resource: [Book List](#)

Instructions

Each week, students will read the following “Required Reading” books (or excerpts from the books, as stated in the homework descriptions). The Required Reading books do not have to be purchased (although you can purchase the books, if you’d like to do so). Each book can be checked out of a library for FREE! Simply plan your schedule well, to have the books available physically on hand for each week’s homework.

The “OPTIONAL Further Reading” books, though referred to in class, are not required to obtain/have on hand. However, the books *are* helpful for understanding the learning—and they are a joy to read—so though not recommended, OPTIONAL books are a good way to continue learning. Thank you!

Class 1 – What is a Picture Book? (Rhythm, Repetition, Developmental ages, and Read-Aloud Books)

Required Reading:

1. *Goodnight Moon*, by Margaret Wise Brown (Published by Harper & Brothers)
2. *Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle (Published by Henry Holt and Company)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

1. *Each Peach Pear Plum*, by Janet Ahlberg (Published by Puffin Books)
2. *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, by Michael Rosen (Published by Margaret K. McElderry Books)
3. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, by Bill Martin Jr., John Archambault, and Lois Ehlert (Published by Simon & Schuster)

Class 2 – The Structure of Picture Book (Story Arc)

Required Reading:

1. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, by Laura Joffe Numeroff and Felicia Bond (Published by Harper and Row)
2. *Make Way for Ducklings*, by Robert McCloskey (Published by The Viking Press)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

1. *Olivia Helps with Christmas*, by Ian Falconer (Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers)
2. *Madeline*, by Ludwig Bemelmans (Published by Viking Press)
3. *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak (Published by Harper & Row)

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Class 3 – Illustration and Giving Your Story a Unique Style

Required Reading:

1. *Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle (Published by World Publishing Company)
2. *Knuffle Bunny*, by Mo Willems (Published by Hyperion Books)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

1. *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg (Published by Houghton Mifflin)
2. *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A. A. Milne and E. H. Shepard (Published by Dutton)
3. *The Snowy Day*, by Ezra Jack Keats (Published by Viking Press)

Class 4 – Revising and Polishing Your Story

Required Reading:

1. *Strega Nona*, by Tomie dePaola (Published by Prentice Hall)
2. *Cat in the Hat*, by Dr. Seuss (Published by Houghton Mifflin)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

1. *Lief the Lucky*, by Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire (Published by Beautiful Feet Books)
2. *Corduroy*, by Don Freeman (Published by Viking Press)

Class 5 – What are Early Chapter Books?

Required Reading:

Pippi Longstocking, by Astrid Lindgren (Published by Rabén & Sjögren)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

Frog and Toad, by Arnold Lobel (Published by Harper & Row)

Class 6 – The Structure of a Chapter Book

Required Reading:

Charlotte’s Web, by E. B. White and Garth Williams (Published by Harper & Brothers)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

The Magician’s Nephew, by C. S. Lewis (Published by The Bodley Head)

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Class 7 – Illustrations for Older Readers

Required Reading:

Trumpet of the Swan, by E. B. White (Published by Harper & Row)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

Shrek! by William Steig (Published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux)

Class 8 – Editing Early Chapter Books

Required Reading:

Homer Price (excerpts), by Robert McCloskey (Published by Viking Press)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

Little House on the Prairie, by Laura Ingalls Wilder (Published by Harper & Brothers)

Class 9 – Middle Grade Books

Required Reading:

Anne of Green Gables, by Lucy Maud Montgomery (Published by L.C. Page & Co)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

The Mysterious Benedict Society, by Trenton Lee Stewart (Published by Little, Brown, and Company)

Class 10 – The Structure of Middle Grade Chapter Books

Required Reading:

Anne of Green Gables, by Lucy Maud Montgomery (Published by L.C. Page & Co)

OPTIONAL Further Reading:

The Mysterious Benedict Society, by Trenton Lee Stewart (Published by Little, Brown, and Company)

Class 11 – Point of View in Children’s Book Writing

Required Reading:

Huckleberry Finn (excerpts), by Mark Twain (Published by Chatto & Windus)

Class 12 – Editing a Middle School Grade Chapter Book

Required Reading:

The Hobbit, by J. R. R. Tolkien (Published by George Allen & Unwin)