

## Children's Classics A 'Must Read' list for children of all ages



Reading and the love of books is a gift passed down throughout the generations. From birth, children enjoy listening to their parents' voices as they read, and many adults have special memories of being curled up reading with a parent.

There are so many wonderful children's books available. We have compiled a list of classic books for each of the three levels of Primary ages. We are sure many of the books will be ones you loved as a child! At the end you will find a list of wonderful book related activities to do with your child.

### Lower

1. ***Rainbow Fish*** by Marcus Pfister
2. ***The Giving Tree*** by Shel Silverstein
3. ***Possum Magic*** by Mem Fox
4. ***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** by Eric Carle
5. ***Wombat Stew*** by Marcia Vaughan
6. ***The Cat in the Hat*** by Dr Seuss
7. ***Madeline*** by Ludwig Bemelmans
8. ***Fantastic Mr. Fox*** by Roald Dahl
9. ***Charlotte's Web*** by E.B. White
10. ***James and the Giant Peach*** by Roald Dahl
11. ***The Tale of Peter Rabbit*** by Beatrix Potter
12. ***Where the Wild Things Are*** by Maurice Sendak

### Middle

1. ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*** by Roald Dahl
2. ***Black Beauty*** by Anna Sewell
3. ***The Secret Garden*** by Frances Hodgson
4. ***Faraway Tree Collection*** by Enid Blyton
5. ***The Borrowers*** by Mary Norton
6. ***Anne of Green Gables*** by Lucy Montgomery
7. ***Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stevenson
8. ***Robinson Crusoe*** by Daniel Defoe
9. ***Swiss Family Robinson*** by Johann R. Wyss
10. ***Chronicles Of Narnia*** C.S. Lewis





11. **Heidi** by Joanna Spyri
12. **Wind of the Willows** by Kenneth Grahame



### Upper

1. **Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott
2. **Bridge to Terabithia** by Katherine Paterson
3. **The Hobbit** by J.R. Tolkien
4. **Aesop's Fables** illustrated by Fritz Kredel
5. **Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl** by Anne Frank
6. **Came back to tell you I could Fly** by Robin Klein
7. **The Golden Compass** by Phillip Pullman
8. **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain
9. **Playing Beattie Bow** by Ruth Park
10. **A Wizard of Earthsea** by Ursula LeGuin
11. **Sarah Plain and Tall** by Patricia MacLachan
12. **Uncle Tom's Cabin** by Harriet Beecher Stowe

## 10 fantastic activities to do with your child after reading a book

### Diorama

When you have read a book you can create a lasting memory with a diorama.

You will need:

- Shoe box (or similar sized box)
- Paint (go to 4parents2 section for an easy recipe)
- Scissors
- Glue / plasticine
- String
- Drawing materials - pencils, felt pens, crayons
- Small toys that match the story - you may like to use the clay characters from idea No6

Instructions:

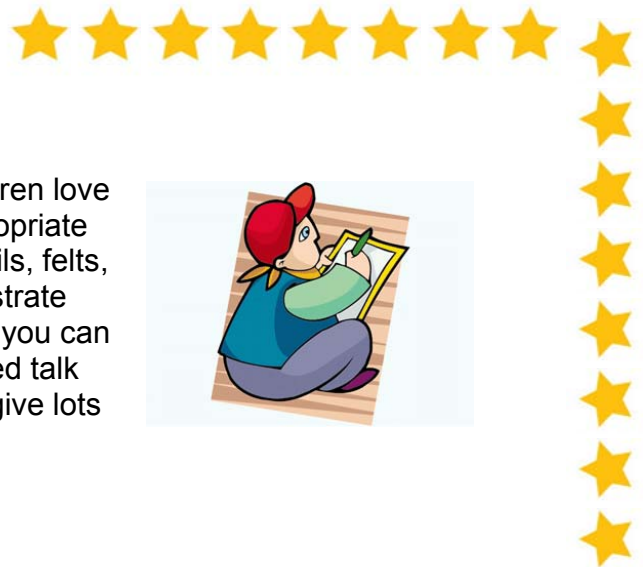
1. Make a background in the box by painting the inside. Your background will match the scene from the book eg inside a house, a park, the beach, a field or a shop.
2. Add the characters and props by gluing, sticking or hanging from string from the top.
3. Write the name and author of the book on top of the box.





### **Draw**

No matter what the skill level, most children love to draw. Set your child up with age appropriate art supplies (white paper, crayons, pencils, felts, paint, pastels, chalk...). Ask them to illustrate their favourite part of the story. Perhaps you can also draw yours! When they have finished talk about their masterpiece and be sure to give lots of positive feedback!



### **Change the Ending**

When you have finished reading discuss how the ending could change.

- What would the characters do instead?
- What's another way to solve the problem in the book?

This will encourage your child's imagination and also further their understanding of the concepts in the book.

This activity can be written or done orally.

### **What Happens Next?**

When the book has finished ask your child what could happen next to the characters. Answers will be quite short in younger children at first (e.g. they had dinner) but with encouragement they will be able to extend the story to the characters having new adventures. This activity encourages imagination and is easily done orally but could be written by older children

Some of the books listed have sequels written by the author (for example *The Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale*) and others have sequels written by other people (for example *Heidi's Children*). Perhaps you could read the sequels next!

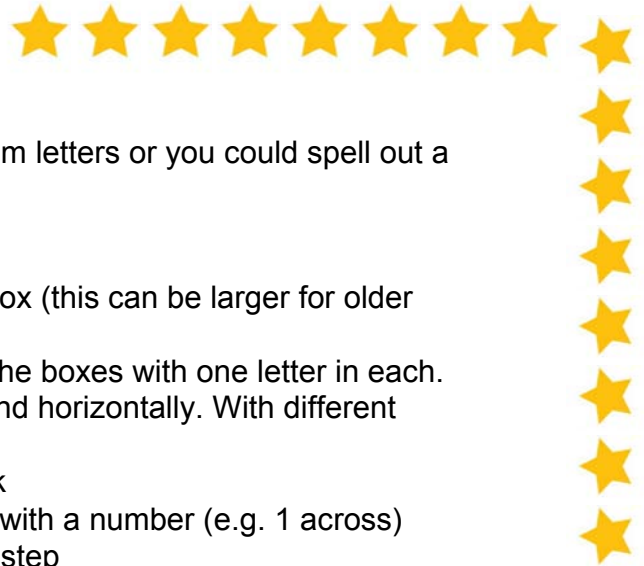
### **Crossword/Find-a-Word**

This is a fun activity for you and your child to do together. They could make the puzzle for you to solve or you can do one for them or you could do one for each other.

#### **Find-a-Word**

- Draw a 10 square by 10 square box (this can be larger for older children)
- Using words from the book (characters names, places, title of book) fill in the boxes with one letter in each square. Words can run forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally
- Each time you write a word in the boxes, record that word at the side so the person solving the puzzle knows which words to look for





- Fill in the empty boxes with random letters or you could spell out a message to your child

### Crossword

- Draw a 10 square by 10 square box (this can be larger for older children)
- Using words from the book fill in the boxes with one letter in each. Words should only run vertically and horizontally. With different words sharing common letters
- Colour any unused boxes in black
- Label the first letter of each word with a number (e.g. 1 across)
- Draw a new square as in the first step
- Copy the black boxes onto the new square
- Copy the numbers onto the new square (do not copy the words)
- At the side of the square you now need to think of a clue for each word and write the clue (e.g. if the word was compass the clue could be north, south, east and west are found here)
- Give your crossword to someone to solve. Use the first square to check their answers

### Cyber Mentor version

**Software** – Eclipse Crossword Freeware

Download the free crossword maker

<http://www.eclipsecrossword.com/> and install.

Before you open the program you need to have a list of 10 words related to the book and their clues.

#### *“Eclipse” Instructions:*

Open Eclipse Crossword Maker and follow the instructions for making a new crossword.

Add your words with their matching clues one at a time.

After each word and clue, click ‘add word to list’.

Click “next” when you have finished.

Title your crossword.

Print your crossword.

### Clay Characters

Make your own modelling clay using the instructions found in the 4parents2 part of the website (you may also like to use playdough).

Use the clay to modelling the main character in the story.

Leave the clay character to dry and then paint (recipes in 4parents2).





### **Board Game**

Children can respond to the book (plot) or a character from a novel by making a board game. The easiest form of a board game is a grid/squared board where you have a start and finish and the grid is numbered to 25/50 or 100 and different things happen on specific squares.

When you are more confident you can introduce chance cards or themes similar to Snakes and Ladders.

Encourage children to use a favourite commercially produced board game for ideas and assistance.

- Firstly draft a plan of your game by working on paper
- Purchase materials required
- Create
- Play

### **Make a Kite**

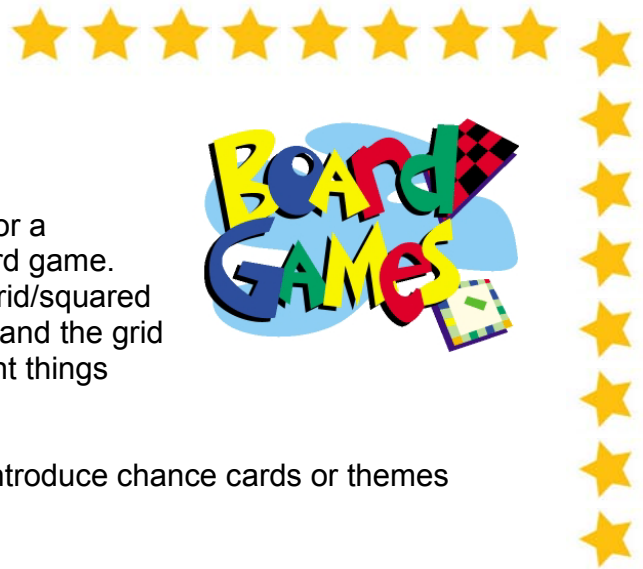
This is a fabulous way for children to respond to reading. There are many forms of Kites with the basic instructions to be found in our 4Parents2 section.

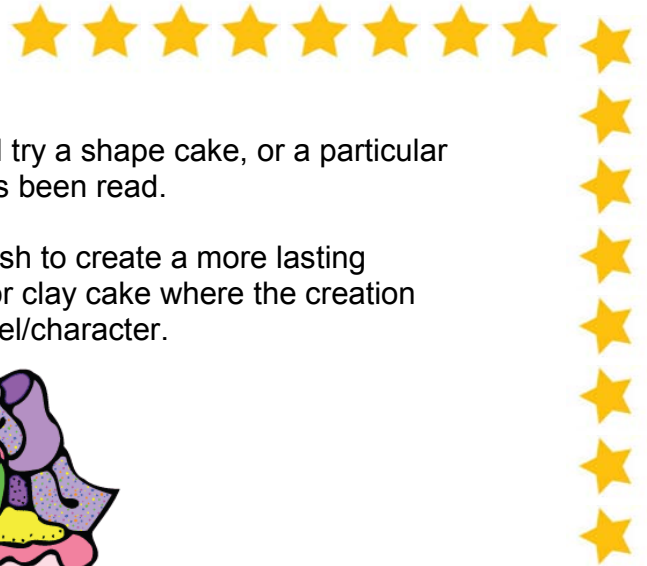
The kites could be a simple diamond kite with a picture of a favourite character on it or it could be an elaborate box kite that takes the form of something from the book.



### **Decorate a Cake**

This is a very novel way for children to respond to what they have read. The cake could just be a basic sponge with icing to depict something from the book.





For the more confident bakers you could try a shape cake, or a particular type of cake/recipe that reflects what has been read.

And for those of us who don't bake or wish to create a more lasting memento you could make a cardboard or clay cake where the creation and the decoration explain the book/novel/character.



### **Reading and Spelling Rules**

If you would like a comprehensive list of reading and spelling rules (and their explanations) to help your child succeed look in the Language section of the PCT2 web site.

