









Finding Asset-Building Books for Kids






Young people are more likely to read if they have great books to choose from. Good reading material is one of the best educational investments a parent can make. Fortunately, libraries, book stores, and other sources offer an enormous range of choices. Here are things to keep in mind about where to find books for kids and how to choose them:

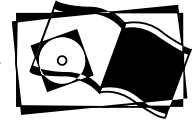
Where to Find Books for Kids

-  **Make a trip to the library part of your regular routine.**
-  Look for books at garage sales, rummage sales, and second-hand stores. Sometimes families will sell all of their children's books at once.
-  **Find out if there is a used-book exchange in your neighborhood. These resale stores can be great places to find inexpensive books as well as recycle some of your own.**
-  Check whether your community has an early childhood education program; they may have a "lending library" as part of their services.
-  **Trade books with other families with children about your children's ages.**
-  Shop at a children's bookstore. Ask your local bookseller about what's hot in children's literature.
-  **Get on the mailing list for a reputable catalog. Chinaberry provides in-depth profiles of every featured book. Books are grouped by maturity level from infancy through the teen years. You can order through the catalog or their Web site. For more information, go to www.chinaberry.com.**
-  Surf the Internet. For example, The Children's Book Council has a helpful Web site (www.cbcbooks.org) with fea-

tures such as "75 Authors and Illustrators Everyone Should Know," "Not Just for Children Anymore" (citing picture books for older readers and adults), and "Children's Choices" (an annual review of books chosen by thousands of U.S. school children).

How to Choose Books for Kids

-  **Choose books with female and male characters of different races, genders, cultures, or abilities as one way to introduce children to the multicultural society in which they live.**
-  Look for art. Give children books that are works of beauty.
-  **Look for books that play with language using rhythm, repetition, rhyme, and memorable phrases that are fun to read over and over again.**
-  Do not equate the number of words with quality or value. Simple yet powerful writing such as in James Marshall's *George and Martha: The Complete Stories of Two Best Friends* (Houghton Mifflin, 1997) can be short on text but long on wisdom. Similarly, a wordless book like *ZOOM* by Istvan Banyai (Puffin Books, 1995) appeals to people of all ages.
-  **When choosing books, concentrate on the interests and maturity level of a specific child or class rather than basing your selection on age. In a first-grade classroom alone, reading levels**



can span six or more years. Not every 40-year-old likes books on golf or angels. Likewise, not every 6-year-old cares about dinosaurs or riddles. Even a book that deserved its prestigious award will not appeal to everyone.



Hang out at the library. Ask for pamphlets published by The American Library Association that include recommended reading for various age-groups, such as *ALA Notable Books for Children*, *Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers*, and *Best Books for Young Adults*. Choose from lists of Newbery Medal winners (awarded annually for the most distinguished contribution to children's literature), Caldecott Medal books (for the artist of the most distinguished picture book), and the Michael L. Printz Award winners (given for excellence in young adult literature). Ask the librarian for other suggestions.



Check out the *Bibliography Series of the National Council of Teachers of English*. It lists more than a thousand books, published in the span of a few

years, in each volume. The volumes are: *Kaleidoscope* (multicultural literature, grades K through 8), *Adventuring with Books* (pre-K through grade 6), *Your Reading* (middle school/junior high), and *Books for You* (senior high).



Buy or borrow a book about books. Look for one that was published recently so it includes newer books as well as classics. Examples include: *100 Best Books for Children* by Anita Silvery (Houghton Mifflin, 2004); *Read to Me: Raising Kids Who Love to Read* by Bernice E. Cullinan (Scholastic, 2000); *The Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease (Penguin, 2001); *Comics to Classics: A Guide to Books for Teens and Preteens* by Arthea J. S. Reed (Penguin, 1994). Also, scan issues of *The Horn Book Magazine*, devoted to reviews and articles about books for children and young adults.



Trust your instincts. If you think your child will love a certain book, give it a try.