

CLASSIC CHILDREN'S BOOKS

By

Michael Sajkowicz

After learning to walk and learning to talk, the most important developmental step in a child's life is the ability to read. And the path to literacy begins even before those first two challenges are mastered. Of course, I don't even remember being read to as I sat in my parent's laps as an infant, but it laid the groundwork for inspiring my lifelong love affair with books. I realized early on that books could deliver just as much, if not more, entertainment value as toys, cartoons and video games. Luckily, I had no idea at the time that I was actually learning as I had my fun.

Getting your kids interested in books at an early age just might be one of the most important lessons you ever teach them. Reading is not only fundamental but will inspire their imaginations, improve their performance in school and introduce them to the entire world of ideas that await them.

Here are ten classic books that you can share with your children:

THE CAT IN THE HAT by Dr. Seuss

GREEN EGGS AND HAM by Dr. Seuss

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO by Dr. Seuss

If anyone has earned multiple places on a list of must-read children's classics, it is Dr. Seuss, whose works mix masterful wordplay with pure entertainment. You just might have as much fun reading these stories to your child as they will have hearing them.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE by Maurice Sendak

With Wild Things, writer and illustrator Sendak created a surrealistic tale following the late night adventures of a little boy, sent to bed early without supper, whose imagination creates a jungle-filled bedroom teeming with wild creatures.

WINNIE THE POOH by A.A. Milne

There will always be a place on any child's bookshelf for the tender, heartwarming tales of Pooh and his friends Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger and Christopher Robin.

GOODNIGHT MOON by Margaret Wise Brown

The phrase multi-tasking would not be invented for another fifty years or so at the time Brown wrote this bedtime story but it certainly could have inspired it. Teach your kids to read, to recognize and to go to bed when they are supposed to in one fell swoop!

THE COMPLETE ADVENTURES OF CURIOUS GEORGE by H.A. Rey

A monkey in the city! When you're a toddler, can it get any better than that?

TIKKI TIKKI TEMBO by Arlene Mosel and Blair Lent

To this day, after so many years past reading it as a child, I am able to recite the tale of sibling rivalry between the simple named second son Chang and his first-born brother Tikki tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip peri pembo (who, by the way, has fallen into the well).

MADELINE by Ludwig Bemelmans

For a bit of international flair, explore the adventures of the mischievous Madeline as she explores Paris with her boarding school classmates and challenges Miss Clavell, her teacher, with her spirited strength and independence.

BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE? By Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle

Combining fun rhymes and illustrations with a lesson plan on animals and colors, Brown Bear will entertain young listeners with both sight and sound and is likely to become a bedtime favorite. “Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?” Probably a smile.