

TAAS Book Selection Guide

Fifth Grade



Dear Parents,

Reading books is a great way to learn new ideas and information, to encourage imagination, to expand vocabulary, and to improve English skills. We encourage students to read lots of books. But what kinds of books are appropriate for school? We've created this book selection guide to help answer that question and to give suggestions of some books we like and think your child would like, too!

Questions to Ask When Choosing a Book

1. Does this book have an uplifting or positive theme?
2. Does this book uphold Christian standards like truth, purity, doing the right thing, and respecting others and their property?
3. Does this book have offensive or inappropriate language?
4. Does this book dwell on or glorify death and violence?
5. Does this book contain witches, vampires, or other mythical or spiritual beings? Does it contain sorcery, magic, or spells?

Remember...

Whatever is true,
whatever is noble,
whatever is right,
whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,
whatever is admirable—
if anything is excellent or
praiseworthy—think
about such things.

Philippians 4:8

Here is a list of some books that have been popular recently but would not be acceptable for school reading.

1. *Artemis Fowl* series by Eoin Colfer
2. *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling
3. *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer
4. *Maze Runner* series by James Dashner
5. *Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins
6. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series by Rick Riordan
7. *Divergent* series by Veronica Roth
8. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney
9. *Dork Diaries* by Rachel Renee Russell

Inappropriate Books

A lot of popular books these days contain spiritual elements like witches, spells, and magic.

Other books take things like vampires and witches, which have traditionally been seen as bad, and turn them into the good guys or just "misunderstood" by society. In this way popular media blurs the line between good and evil and makes evil seem acceptable.

Other books, like the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, do not have positive themes. The main character is not respectful of others and is not a good role model for our students.

Teachers' Picks

Here is a list of some books that we have enjoyed. We think your child would like them, too!

Fiction

Historical Fiction

1. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr
2. *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
3. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne
4. *The Trailblazer Books* by Dave and Neta Jackson

Fiction

5. *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
6. *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery
7. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
8. *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
9. *Ramona Books* by Beverly Cleary
10. *Dumpling Days* by Grace Lin
11. *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
12. *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks
13. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg
14. *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies
15. *Frindle* by Andrew Clements

Adventure and Survival

16. *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George
17. *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
18. *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
19. *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

Mystery

1. *Detective Zach Mystery Books* by Jerry D. Thomas
2. *Boxcar Children Mystery* series by Gertrude Chandler Warner
3. *Shadow Creek Ranch Mystery* books by Charles Mills
4. *Encyclopedia Brown* books by Donald J. Sobol

Understanding Learning Disabilities

20. *Summer of the Swans* by Betsy Byar
21. *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
22. *Wonder* by Rael J. Palacio
23. *My Name is ~~Brian~~ Brian* by Jeanne Betancourt

Poetry

24. *Where the Sidewalk Ends: The Poems and Drawings of Shel Silverstein* by Shel Silverstein
25. *The New Kid on the Block* by Jack Prelutsky



Nonfiction

History

1. *The Great Molasses Flood* by Deborah Kops
2. *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
3. *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* by Ji-li Jiang
4. *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown
5. *Radioman: An Eyewitness Account of Pearl Harbor and World War II In the Pacific* by Carol Edgemon Hipperson
6. *I Survived* series
7. *The Horrible History* series

Biography

8. *Gifted Hands* by Ben Carson
9. *My Life with the Chimps* by Jane Goodall
10. *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom
11. *The Man Who Couldn't Be Killed* by Stanley M. Maxwell
12. *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew, John Sherrill, and Elizabeth Sherrill
13. *The First Woman Doctor* by Rachel Baker
14. *Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window* by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi and Chihiro Iwasaki
15. *Who Was?* Biography book series

Science

16. *Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion* by Loree Griffin Burns
17. *Eyewitness Books* series
18. *The Horrible Science* series

Mission Stories/Christian Literature

19. *Curse-Proof!* by Eric B. Hare
20. *More than Mountains: The Todd Huston Story* by Todd Huston with Kay D. Rizzo
21. *Nyla and the White Crocodile* by Norma R. Youngberg
22. *Miracle in Borneo* by Norma R. Youngberg
23. *Jungle Thorn* by Norma R. Youngberg
24. *Heroes of the Faith* book series
25. *Case for...* book series by Lee Strobel



Tip!

Better World Books is a great website that offers free international shipping on all books. It's a great place to buy books.