



# Gayhurst Junior School

## Recommended Reading List

Reading with your child at home is an extremely valuable way in which you can support your child's language development, whilst encouraging them to foster a love of books.

Gayhurst Staff and the National Literacy Trust have chosen the books in this reading list, and it will provide you and your child with a wide range of reading material.

The listed books are widely available. Not only should most bookshops stock them, but your local library will also be an excellent place to find many of them.

It is also worth finding out which authors and titles have been shortlisted in annual competitions such as the summer's UKLA Children's Book Awards and the Red House Children's Book Award.

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Title	Author	Synopsis
Funnybones	Ahlberg A	A family of little skeletons live in a dark cellar. A comically illustrated story for the younger reader. Try his many other stories for younger readers.
The Woman Who Won Things	Ahlberg A	A delightfully illustrated first chapter book about a lady who has all the luck until... More confident readers should try the others in this series.
The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch	Armitage D and Armitage R	Mr Grinling has his lunch sent over daily on a zip wire. But one day the seagulls get to it first. The first in a delightful series of illustrated stories.
101 Ways to Save the Earth	Bellamy D	You too can help save the world! Conservationist David Bellamy and the friendly whale show you how.
Claw the Giant Monkey	Blade A	One of a popular series for newly confident readers. Tom journeys into the dark jungle to battle a giant monkey and an evil wizard.
Give Me My Yam	Blake J	An African tale.
Another Fine Mess	Bonning T	Fox is in a terrible panic. Where will he put his rubbish? An illustrated tale to encourage us to look after our environment.
Letters from a Mouse	Breenan H	A mystery needs to be solved by a little mouse and he needs some help. For confident readers.
Flat Stanley	Brown J	Stanley Lambchop is an ordinary boy with an extraordinary problem. One night a giant pin board falls on top of him... One in a series.
A Dark Dark Tale	Brown R	The suspense builds and builds until... A firm favourite with younger readers who will want this tale again and again!
Handa's Surprising Day	Browne E	Handa keeps losing things, or does she? What's that creeping up behind her? Just one in super series of "Walker Stories" for the younger reader.
Get off our Train!	Burningham J	Endangered animals try to join a little boy on his train, but will he let them on? A book with an environmental message.
The Bad Tempered Ladybird	Carle E	A classic illustrated tale for younger readers. Try "The Mixed Up Chameleon" too.
Mr Majeika	Carpenter H	When Class 3's new teacher flies in on a magic carpet, life is never the same again! A chapter book, and one in a popular series.
One Child, One Seed	Cave K	A counting book with stunning photos of South Africa.
Imagine you're a pirate	Clibbon M and Clibbon L	How to become the wickedest pirate on the high seas! One in a series that includes books about cowboys, fairies, mermaids, princesses and wizards.
Revenge of the Fang	Cole S	One in a series following the adventures of dinosaurs in their spaceship. A fun read with colourful illustrations.
Legend of Spud Murphy	Colfer E	During the holidays, Will and his brother are packed off to the library, but all is not as it seems!

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Fly by Night	Crebbin J	All day long Blink waits to fly for the very first time.
The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems	Crebbin J	A super, highly readable collection of poetry.
BFG	Dahl R	This Big Friendly Giant doesn't seem all that friendly at first as he creeps around looking through bedroom windows, but things soon change.
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Dahl R	Willy Wonka's confectionary inventions are out of this world. A classic.
Dirty Beasts	Dahl R	Hilarious poems about animals. A good companion to his other collection, "Revolting Rhymes".
Fantastic Mr Fox	Dahl R	Can Mr Fox outwit three nasty farmers?
The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me	Dahl R	A charming tale about three unusual friends who outwit a burglar and open a sweet shop.
The Magic Finger	Dahl R	A tale about a little girl who changes her world one zap at a time.
The Twits	Dahl R	Mr and Mrs Twit are extremely nasty, so the muggle-wump monkeys and the roly-poly bird plan their own revenge!
Ferris Fleet, Wheelchair Wizard	Dalton A	An exciting adventure featuring a young boy and a magician in a wheelchair. A good first chapter book.
Happy Birthday, Jamela	Daly N	It's Jamela's birthday and she's off to choose a present. A lively story set in Africa.
The Playful Puppy	Daniels L	A good first chapter book for animal lovers. This Little Animal Ark story will introduce readers to a very popular series of books set in a veterinary surgery.
Prita goes to India	Das P	7 year old Prita has come to India for the first time. A story of discovery with vibrant photos.
The Gruffalo	Donaldson J	A popular rhyming story, with big illustrations about a clever little mouse and a monster. Try this author's other books too. For younger readers.
Horse	Doyle M and Rinaldi A	This book follows a foal's development. A hit with all pony lovers.
An African Princess	Edmonds L	Lyra has been told that she is a princess, but her friends don't believe her. A vibrant tale about self-esteem.
Olivia	Falconer I	Younger children will identify with this little mouse as she goes through her daily routines.
Mr Wolf's Pancakes	Fearnley J	Mr Wolf fancies some pancakes, but he needs some help. One of a colourfully illustrated series.
The Diary of a Killer Cat	Fine A	Ellie's cat Tuffy keeps bringing her presents, unfortunately they're dead animals! An entertaining first chapter book.
A Very First Poetry Book	Foster J	This collection makes poetry fun and accessible.
Mrs Hippo's Pizza Parlour	French V and Scruton C	Business is bad, but William thinks he can save the day. One of many in the "I am reading" series.
Wolves in the Walls	Gaiman N	When Lucy hears noises in the walls, she tries to warn her family that something is afoot, but nobody listens. A spooky, but fun picture book for older readers.
Eat your Peas	Gray K	Pea-hating Daisy and her mum battle it out. A fun read with humorous illustrations.

Title	Author	Synopsis
Traction Man	Grey M	Hurray for Traction Man, the toy hero, and his faithful side kick, Scrubbing Brush. One in a series.
The Usborne Book of Poems for Young Children	Hawthorne P	This delightful anthology introduces young readers to some of our finest poets, both modern and traditional. Beautifully illustrated and highly accessible.
Baby Elephant	Hellard S	The baby elephant with the biggest ears never listens! For younger readers.
Old Bear	Hisey J	Join in the fun with these adorable cuddly toys as they come alive at night.
Amazing Grace	Hoffman M	Grace wants the part of Peter Pan in the school play, but classmates say she can't. What will be the outcome? A good companion book to "Princess Grace".
Dogger	Hughes S	A little boy loses his favourite toy. A heart-warming tale with beautiful illustrations for the younger reader.
The Iron Man	Hughes T	Mankind must put a stop to the terrible destruction caused by the Iron Man, so a trap is set. For readers aged 7 and over.
Dragons are Different	Jeffs S	Wanted! Friend for a lonely dragon. Dragons only need apply.
Actual Size	Jenkins S	A visually stunning book. Children have fun and learn about measurement.
Unbearable!	Jennings P	Weird and wonderful addictive fantasy for the older reader. One in a series.
The Tiger who came to Tea	Kerr J	What would you do if a tiger came to tea? An illustrated story for younger children.
A Narrow Squeak and other Animal Stories	King-Smith D	Heart-warming animal tales for confident readers. Try some of his other award winning stories. There are about 400 to choose from, so we can't list them all!
The Hodgeheg	King-Smith D	Can Max solve the problem of how to reach the park which lies on the other side of a busy road? For older readers.
Bats	L'Hommedieu A J	A large fold-out book about these fascinating creatures. Detailed 3D illustrations.
Ruby Rogers: Get a Life	Limb S	Fans of Clarice Bean and Judy Moody will love this book about Ruby's school adventures.
Mud! (Dirty Bertie)	MacDonald A	Bertie faces a barrage of footballs as the school's new goalie. Lots of fun!
Judy Moody Gets Famous	McDonald M	Meet Judy Moody, she's a real character. Like everybody, she has good and bad days at school. One in a series of chapter books.
Elmer	McKee D	This patchwork elephant shows that it's fine to be different. Suitable for the younger reader and one in a series.
Jolly Roger	McNaughton C	Climb aboard "The Golden Behind" for a pirate adventure. A highly amusing tale for the more confident reader.
Gemma and the Gymnastic Fairy	Meadows D	It's time for the Fairy Olympics, but Jack Frost is up to no good. Popular formulaic fiction, aimed at newly confident readers. One in a series.

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When We Were Very Young	Milne A A	A much loved classic book of poems to read aloud to your child. Try the sequel, "Now We Are Six".
Six Dinner Sid	Moore I	This cheeky cat gets six dinners everyday. An amusing short story with lovely illustrations.
Cool!	Morpurgo M	An inspiring story of a boy in a coma – victim of a car accident. A chapter book for confident readers.
Dancing Bear	Morpurgo M	A bear cub arrives at a French village, and is adopted by the orphaned Roxanne. A chapter book for confident readers.
The Butterfly Lion	Morpurgo M	A young boy who rescues a white lion from the African bush. A great story for fluent readers.
Bad Spell for the Worst Witch	Murphy J	A new term for Mildred as she learns bewitching skills. Full of fun, and just one of a great series.
Captain Underpants	Pilkey D	This series of comic-like chapter books are highly popular amongst less keen older readers. It's just pant-tastic!
It's Raining Pigs and Noodles	Prelutsky J	Lots of fun! Prelutsky is the master of mischievous rhyme.
I was a Rat!	Pullman P	A small boy turns up on a doorstep unable to say much except, "I was a rat".
The World came to my Place.	Readman J	An entertaining story told by George, as he learns how the world contributes to his everyday life, from the orange in his juice, to the wood in his toys.
Sweetieraptors- A Book O Scots Dinosaurs	Rennie S	A humorous picture-poetry book on Scottish dinosaurs.
Emperor of Absurbia	Riddell C	Join one small boy as he tumbles out of bed into a world of wardrobe monsters, monsters, dragons and more. A great read with super illustrations.
Mixed up Fairy Tales	Robinson H	This clever flap book allows you to mix and match fairy tales, creating your own sensible (or silly!) stories. Great fun for children aged 6 or over.
Green Fingers	Rodda E	Could you grow a daisy bush? This lady can! One of many in the popular "Solo" series for younger readers.
The Boy, the Bear, the Baron, the Bard	Rogers G	A wordless tale of adventure and friendship. Children will enjoy using their imagination and narrative power to tell the story through pictures.
A Spider bought a Bicycle and other poems for young children	Rosen M	A marvellous anthology compiled by award winning poet, Michael Rosen.
Don't put Mustard in the Custard and other poems	Rosen M	A firm favourite with many children.
We're Going on a Bear Hunt	Rosen M	A wonderful read, and a true classic. Age 4 and over.
Sideways Stories from Wayside School	Sachar L	Meet the eccentric and gifted pupils of Wayside School, where strange things always seem to be happening. Great for newly fluent readers.
Green Eggs and Ham	Seuss Dr	Sam pesters the grumpy grouch to eat a plate of green eggs and ham and his perseverance pays off.
Hop on Pop	Seuss Dr	This book introduces young children to words that rhyme. A classic book that stands the test of time.

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The Cat in the Hat	Seuss Dr	This cat always gets up to mischief! A classic rhyming tale.
Shark in the Park	Sharratt N	A fun first picture book telling the story of Timothy and his telescope.
Horrid Henry Robs the Bank	Simon F	The characters in the Horrid Henry series are great favourites with children. In this story Henry is annoyed when Perfect Peter steals his birthday party theme. Try all the others too.
Stage School: Bethany's Song	Skeet H	Join Bethany in the ups and downs of her dance and drama school. Good for strong readers.
Charlie Small: Gorilla City	Small C	Charlie's battered journal is full of wild adventures. Surely no 8-year old can have this much excitement? Gripping fun for reluctant readers.
Rama and the Demon King	Souhasmi J	This 3,000-year old story retells the tale of Rama's daring rescue of his wife from the demon king. Colourful illustrations.
You're a Bad Man Mr Gum	Stanton A	Mr Gum is a nasty old man who meets a nice little girl called Polly, and a dog called Jake. Enjoy this funny story for ages 6 and over.
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	Steptoe J	An African tale, where Mufaro's two daughters react in different ways to the king's search for a wife. One is aggressive and selfish; the other is kind and dignified. The king soon learns their true nature.
Fergus Crane	Stewart P	A flying box appears at the window and Fergus is plunged headlong into a world of adventure. An illustrated tale suitable for all ages.
Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House	Stilton G	A mouse called Indiana Jones is lost in a dark and spooky forest. A chapter book with colourful pictures.
Laugh Your Socks Off Joke Book	Strong J	This book is jam-packed with jokes, quizzes, puzzles, games and short stories. Perfect for ages 6 and over.
Winnie the Witch	Thomas V	A humorous story about a funky witch. Eye-catching pictures. One in a popular series.
The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark	Tomlinson J	Plop is a baby barn owl, but he is afraid of the dark. A first chapter book for newly confident readers.
Frog is a Hero	Velthuijs M	When the rain comes, frog saves the day. An illustrated storybook for ages 5 and over.
Can't You Sleep Little Bear?	Waddell M	Little bear just can't sleep. What will he do?
The Pig in the Pond	Waddell M	When the farmer leaves town, something extraordinary happens. Try others by this award-winning author.
Laugh out Loud	Waters F	A collection of hilarious poems.
How to Draw Animals	Watt F	From thumbprint lions to life-like animals, this book is a hit with budding young artists.
A Footballer Called Flip	Whybrow I	An action-packed easy read for reluctant readers. A humorous read with eye-catching illustrations.
Big Eyes, Scary Voice	Wignall E	A scary voice is heard at sunset. Two children embark upon an adventure to find the owner of the voice isn't scary at all. A lovely book to share with younger readers.