

Gentle Fiction

for
Middle Readers
9-12 years old

All of a Kind Family by *Sidney Taylor*

Five young daughters raised in a Jewish family in New York City just prior to World War I share stories of their daily life.

Anne of Green Gables by *L.M. Montgomery*

An eleven-year-old orphan named Anne comes to Green Gables by mistake, but soon steals the hearts of middle-aged brother and sister, Matthew and Marilla, while she excels in school and finds a new friend named Diana.

Ballet Shoes by *Noel Streatfeild*

The classic story of three young orphans who are adopted by a world-traveling fossil collector and taken to London where they go to acting school.

A Bear Called Paddington by *Michael Bond*

Mr. and Mrs. Brown discover a cuddly bear sitting on a suitcase one day at Paddington Station and take him home, where he adds much adventure to their lives.

Betsy-Tacy by *Maud Lovelace*

The first title in the classic series introduces the friendship between two young girls when Tacy moves into the house across the street from Betsy and the two become inseparable pals.

Emily's Runaway Imagination by *Beverly Cleary*

Emily dreams of having a library in her small town in Oregon in the 1920's and hopes to convince the Ladies' Civic Club to help make her dream come true.

The Enchanted Castle by *E. Nesbit (Bland)*

Three children – Jerry, Jimmy, and Kathleen – discover an enchanted castle and a magical ring that launches them on many exciting adventures.

Gone Away Lake by *Elizabeth Enright*

A young sister and brother travel to visit their cousin, Julian, one summer and make many discoveries in the wooded area surrounding his house – including a deserted mansion.

Half Magic by *Edward Eager*

Four children have an unusual adventure one summer when they find a magical coin that grants their wishes – with one hitch – they get half of their wish.

Little House in the Big Woods by *Laura Ingalls Wilder*

The experiences and adventures of a pioneer family —the Ingalls family -- living in Wisconsin in the late 1800s.

Mary Poppins by *P.L. Travers*

Mary Poppins, the new nanny for the Banks family, blows in with the east wind and brings adventure to the entire family.

The Moffats by *Eleanor Estes*

The story of two brothers and two sisters living in a small town in Connecticut with their widowed mother who share the many adventures of their daily life.

The Mouse and the Motorcycle by *Beverly Cleary*

A mouse named Ralph meets a new friend named Keith at the inn where he lives. When Keith gives a small motorcycle to Ralph, he has many adventures on his new toy.

Mr. Popper's Penguins by *Richard Atwater*

A house painter named Mr. Popper has always loved reading about polar explorations. When he receives a surprise package from Antarctica containing a penguin from Admiral Drake, his ordinary life changes drastically.

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy by *Jeanne Birdsall*

Four sisters go on a vacation to the Berkshire Mountains and stay in a lovely cottage on the property of a large estate. While there, they befriend the boy who lives in the mansion and have many delightful experiences together.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by *Kate Wiggin*

A ten-year-old girl is sent away from her large family in the country to live with two aunts in a small town in Maine where her charm helps her to adjust to her new surroundings.

Sarah, Plain and Tall by *Patricia MacLachlan*

Anna and Caleb's mother died the day Caleb was born. Several years later, their father places an ad for a mail-order bride to come and live with him and his family.

Secret Garden by *Frances Hodgson Burnett*

A young orphan girl named Mary moves to a lonely country estate to live with her uncle and discovers a wondrous garden, which she brings back to life.

Thimble Summer by *Elizabeth Enright*

A young girl living on a farm in Wisconsin in the early part of the 20th century finds a thimble in the sand one day and many good things begin to happen. She is convinced that the thimble is magical.

The Trumpet of the Swan by *E.B. White*

When it is discovered that a young trumpeter swan named Louie has no voice, his father gets a trumpet for him, which leads the swan to many adventures far from his home.

The Wheel on the School by *Meindert De Jong*

A young girl writes a short composition about storks and ponders why the lovely birds never visit her small town in Holland anymore. She invents a way to bring the storks back to her town.

The Wind in the Willows by *Kenneth Grahame*

The story of four animal friends – Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad – as they have many adventures along their riverbank home.

Winnie-the-Pooh by *A.A. Milne*

The adventures of Christopher Robin and his lovable bear, Winnie the Pooh, and friends.

Yang the Youngest and his terrible ear by *Lensey Namioka*

Yingtao, newly immigrated from Shanghai to Seattle, is coerced into playing the violin for his musically-talented parents to bring in more music students for their new business all while he would rather be playing baseball – his true talent.