

2026–2027 Lower School Classics to Keep

John Senior wrote that “the seminal ideas of Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine and St. Thomas thrive only in an imaginative ground saturated with fables, fairy tales, stories, rhymes and adventures.... Western tradition has given us the thousand good books as a preparation for the great ones—and for all studies in the arts and sciences. Without them all studies are inhumane” (“The Thousand Good Books”).

The list of texts below contains some of the best children’s literature that has ever been written and which Great Hearts has chosen to form the core of our Language Arts instruction in the Lower School. We encourage all our families to purchase the texts for each of their children so that, by the end of their time at Great Hearts, our scholars will graduate with a personal library of literary classics they can keep and return to throughout their lives.

The Lower School is delighted to offer parents the opportunity to purchase your child’s Classics to Keep from our school publisher, MBS. You will be able to find information on how to order through MBS through the school website. When they’re finished with the book, they’ll take it home and it will be theirs to keep forever.

If you choose to shop on your own, please purchase texts with the exact ISBN provided. This will ensure that the text aligns with our curriculum and that the entire class has books with the same content and page numbers. For those families that prefer to purchase each book separately over the course of the school year, the books within each grade level are listed in the order that they will be read.

Kindergarten

Title and Author(s)	Approved ISBN	Cover
<p>Little Bear Boxed Set: <i>Little Bear, Father Bear Comes Home</i>, and <i>Little Bear's Visit</i> by Elsa Holmelund Minarik and Maurice Sendak</p>	<p>9780064441971</p>	
<p><i>Mouse Soup</i> by Arnold Lobel</p>	<p>9780064440417</p>	
<p><i>Grasshopper on the Road</i> by Arnold Lobel</p>	<p>9780064440943</p>	
<p>Optional Purchase for Read Aloud <i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i> By Margery Williams</p>	<p>9780385375665</p>	
<p>Optional Purchase for Read Aloud <i>Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel</i> by Virginia Lee Burton</p>	<p>9780395259399</p>	
<p>Optional Purchase for Read Aloud <i>Mr. Poppers Penguins</i> By</p>	<p>9780316058438</p>	

First Grade

Title and Author	Approved ISBN	Cover
<p><i>Owl at Home</i> by Arnold Lobel</p>	<p>9780064440349</p>	
<p><i>The Frog and Toad Collection (Boxed Set)</i> by Arnold Lobel</p>	<p>9780060580865</p>	
<p><i>A Bargain for Frances</i> by Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban</p>	<p>9780064440011</p>	
<p><i>The Bears on Hemlock Mountain</i> By Alice Dalgliesh</p>	<p>9780689716041</p>	
<p><i>My Father's Dragon</i> by Ruth Stiles Gannett</p>	<p>9780486492834</p>	

Second Grade



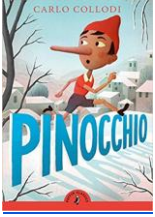
Title and Author	Approved ISBN	Cover
<p><i>The Courage of Sarah Noble</i> by Alice Dalgliesh and Leonard Weisgard</p>	<p>9780689715402</p>	
<p><i>The Borrowers</i> by Mary Norton</p>	<p>9780152047375</p>	
<p><i>The Boxcar Children (No. 1)</i> by Gertrude Chandler Warner and L. Kate Deal</p>	<p>9780807508527</p>	
<p><i>Little House in the Big Woods</i> by Laura Ingalls Wilder and Garth Williams</p>	<p>9780064400015 (Paperback) or 9780060581800 (Full Color Edition)</p>	
<p><i>Charlotte's Web</i> by E.B. White and Garth Williams</p>	<p>9780064400558 (Paperback) or 9780064410939 (Full Color Edition)</p>	
<p><i>The Cricket in Times Square</i> by George Selden and Garth Williams</p>	<p>9780374390402</p>	

Cinderella and Other Stories from "The Blue Fairy Book"
by Andrew Lang

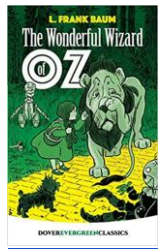


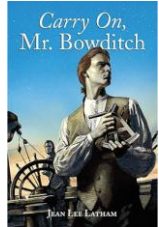
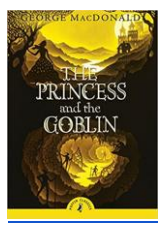
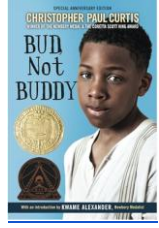
[9780486293899](#)







Third Grade

Title and Author	Approved ISBN	Cover
<p><i>Little House on the Prairie</i> by Laura Ingalls Wilder and Garth Williams</p>	<p>9780064400022 (Paperback) or 9780060581817 (Full Color Edition)</p>	
<p><i>The Trumpet of the Swan</i> by E.B. White and Fred Marcellino</p>	<p>9780064408677</p>	
<p><i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> (can be bought individually or found in <i>The Complete Chronicles of Narnia</i> Boxed Set) by C.S. Lewis and Pauline Baynes</p>	<p>9780064471046 (individually) or 9780064471190 (boxed set)</p>	
<p><i>Pinocchio</i> by Carlo Collodi and Gioia Fiammenghi</p>	<p>9780141331645</p>	
<p><i>Stuart Little</i> by E. B. White</p>	<p>9780064400565</p>	
<p><i>The Little Prince</i> By Antoine de Saint-Exupery</p>	<p>9780156012195</p>	

Fourth Grade

Title and Author	Approved ISBN	Cover
<p><i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum and W.W. Denslow</p>	<p>9780486291161</p>	
<p><i>Prince Caspian</i> (can be bought individually or found in <i>The Complete Chronicles of Narnia</i> Boxed Set) by C.S. Lewis</p>	<p>9780064471053 (individually) or 9780064471190 (boxed set)</p>	
<p><i>The Adventures of Robin Hood</i> by Roger Lancelyn Green</p>	<p>9780141329383</p>	
<p><i>Carry On, Mr. Bowditch</i> by Jean Lee Latham</p>	<p>9780618250745</p>	
<p><i>The Princess and the Goblin</i> by George MacDonald and Ursula K. Le Guin</p>	<p>9780141332482</p>	
<p>Optional Purchase <i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> By Christopher Paul Curtis</p>	<p>9780440413288</p>	

Fifth Grade

Title and Author	Approved ISBN	Cover
<p><i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> by Madeleine L'Engle</p>	<p>9780312367541</p>	
<p><i>The Silver Chair</i> (can be bought individually or found in <i>The Complete Chronicles of Narnia</i> Boxed Set) by C.S. Lewis</p>	<p>9780064471091 (individually) or 9780064471190 (boxed set)</p>	
<p><i>The Secret Garden</i> by Frances Hodgson Burnett and Tasha Tudor</p>	<p>9780064401883</p>	
<p><i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> by Wilson Rawls</p>	<p>9780440412670</p>	
<p><i>Grimm's Fairy Tales</i> by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm and Scott McKowan</p>	<p>9780141331201</p>	