

ENGLISH · K–Y2

Recommended Books: Ages 5–7

KS1 reading list — 30 titles

Books and early fiction

For reading aloud and independent

- The Snail and the Whale — Julia Donaldson (adventure, rhyme, scale and wonder)
- The Tiger Who Came to Tea — Judith Kerr (classic, imaginative, warm)
- Where the Wild Things Are — Maurice Sendak (emotion, imagination, belonging)
- Dogger — Shirley Hughes (loss, kindness, family — makes adults cry)
- The Gruffalo — Julia Donaldson (rhyme, repetition, prediction — superb for reading aloud)
- Mog the Forgetful Cat — Judith Kerr (empathy, gentleness, classic storytelling)
- Peepo! — Janet and Allan Ahlberg (historical settings, simple rhyme, perfect for youngest)
- Rosie's Walk — Pat Hutchins (perspective, prepositions, funny — brilliant for EAL too)
- Not Now, Bernard — David McKee (dark humour for children, parent stress)
- Each Peach Pear Plum — Ahlberg (nursery rhyme links, eye-spy, for the very youngest)
- Elmer — David McKee (difference, belonging, diversity)
- Harry and the Dinosaurs — Ian Whybrow (early readers, adventure, popular with boys)
- The Magic Roundabout — Serge Danot (TV tie-in but excellent for vocabulary)



- Paddington — Michael Bond (culture, kindness, outsider perspective)
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt — Rosen/Oxenbury (rhythm, repetition, performance)

Fiction and poetry

KS1 curriculum-linked titles

- Superworm — Julia Donaldson (minibeasts, science link, rhyme)
- Zim Zam Zoom (poetry anthology — ed. James Carter, brilliant for performance)
- What Is a Nose For? — Kay Woodward (body/senses, simple non-fiction)
- You Choose — Nick Sharratt (imagination, discussion, talking activity)
- Traction Man Is Here — Mini Grey (humour, imaginative play, award-winner)
- Handa's Surprise — Eileen Browne (diversity, Africa, prediction — gorgeous illustrations)
- Lost and Found — Oliver Jeffers (friendship, quiet emotion, beautiful design)
- The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark — Jill Tomlinson (chapter book, early novel reading)
- Horrid Henry — Francesca Simon (series fiction, great for reluctant readers)
- Happy Families series — Allan Ahlberg (decodable stories, warm humour)

