

# Primary-Age Children's Reading List



The following is a suggested reading list. Depending on where you live, you may wish to substitute books that are special to your area, culture, or language, and that illustrate elements of the 7 Habits and the universal principles they represent.

## Habits 1–7

***The 7 Habits of Happy Kids*** by Sean Covey. For the 7 Oaks friends, there is always something to do. Whether they're singing along with Pokey Porcupine's harmonica or playing soccer with Jumper Rabbit, everyone is having fun and learning all sorts of things. These seven stories show how practicing the 7 Habits makes this possible for the whole 7 Oaks community. From learning how to take charge of their own lives to discovering how balance is best, the 7 Oaks friends have tons of adventures and find out how each and every kid can be a happy kid!

### ***Habit 1: Be Proactive\****

***King Bidgood's in the Bathtub*** by Audrey Wood. The King will not get out of the bathtub! Various ideas are tried to get the King out of the bathtub so he can be a leader and rule his kingdom. Finally, the King's helper, the Page, takes the initiative and saves the day.

***Amazing Grace*** by Mary Hoffman. One day the teacher announces that the class is going to put on a play. Grace is so excited! Even after some of her classmates told her she could not play the lead role because she was a girl and black, Grace was a leader. She was proactive and made it happen.

***The Little Engine That Could*** by Watty Piper. Although the Little Engine is not the biggest, the fastest, or the newest, it just keeps trying. When all the other trains refuse to help, the Little Engine is proactive and a leader.

***Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*** by Judith Vorst. Alexander is having a day where it seems like everything bad is happening to him. The children will notice that Alexander is not being the leader of his attitude, something he has control over.

***Mirette on the High Wire*** by Emily Arnold McCully. This book follows a young girl's determination and persistence. She convinces the Great Bellini to teach her the tricks of walking on the high wire. However, the Great Bellini is trying to overcome his newfound fear of the wire. Mirette uses what is in her Circle of Control to help.

### ***Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind\****

***Whistle for Willie*** by Ezra Jack Keats. Peter wants to be able to whistle for his dog but, try as he might, he just can't do it. Throughout the story, Peter is a leader and continues to try to reach his end in mind. Children will relate to the story as they are also acquiring new skills.

***The Very Busy Spider*** by Eric Carle. Throughout the story, the determined spider spins her web. She has an end in mind—to finish her web and catch a fly for dinner.

***Click, Clack, Moo*** by Doreen Cronin. The animals have an end in mind. The cows become leaders and finally get electric blankets for themselves and the chickens. However, Farmer Brown's problems are not over. The ducks now have an end in mind!

***Inch by Inch*** by Leo Lionni. *Inch by Inch* is the story of an inchworm that has an end in mind—to not get eaten! The inchworm becomes a leader by using what is in his Circle of Control to "measure" his way out of danger.

***Galimoto*** by Karen Lynn Williams. A young boy in Africa wants to make a galimoto (a toy vehicle of wires and sticks). However, he doesn't have enough materials. The story provides a good lesson in being a leader: setting a goal and following through to reach an end in mind. The story can prompt discussions about other cultures.

### **Habit 3: Put First Things First\***

**Froggy Gets Dressed** by Jonathan London. In a comical way, Put First Things First is illustrated when Froggy tries to get dressed to play in the snow. Froggy has forgotten to put on the most important things first—his underwear!

**The Little Red Hen** by Paul Galdone (or any version). The Little Red Hen found wheat seeds and wanted help to plant them. No one would help, so the Little Red Hen planted, watered, and weeded the plants by herself. The Little Red Hen Put First Things First and enjoyed the results.

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle. The Very Hungry Caterpillar comes out of his egg and has an end in mind—to eat enough to sustain himself while in his cocoon. He puts first things first and gets busy eating.

**Are You My Mother?** By P.D. Eastman. Baby Bird is separated from his mother and doesn't know what she looks like. He chooses to be a leader and Put First Things First when he goes out to look for her. The baby bird asks various animals/objects he comes across if they are his mother. In the end, he gets put back in the nest just in time for his mother's return.

**The Carrot Seed** by Ruth Krauss. A little boy practices Put First Things First when he plants his carrot seed, waiting patiently and tending to it, even while others tell him "It won't come up." He is rewarded with a prize-winning carrot!

### **Habit 4: Think Win-Win\***

**Rainbow Fish** by Marcus Pfister. The Rainbow Fish believes he is the most beautiful fish in the ocean, so he won't play with the other fish. Once he has no friends, he seeks out advice and is told to give away some of his beautiful scales. While he initially refuses, he decides to be a leader and Think Win-Win. He gives away just one scale, but when he realizes how good it makes everyone (including himself) feel, he shares even more scales and has never been happier.

**The Doorbell Rang** by Pat Hutchins. Sam and Victoria can't wait to eat the cookies Ma made. Then the doorbell rings. Friends arrive and Sam and Victoria share their cookies until there are so many friends that they only have one cookie each. Sam and Victoria are great examples of being leaders—thinking win-win.

**Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse** by Leo Lionni. Two mice become friends, even though they are very different. Alexander, the real mouse, thinks that Willy, the wind-up mouse, has a better life and wants to be like him. Alexander finally has a chance to be like Willy, but chooses to Think Win-Win and help his friend. Along the way, Alexander discovers that he wins too!

**The Very Clumsy Click Beetle** by Eric Carle. The little beetle is working on being able to flip over if he lands on his back. He is a leader and persists and, with the encouragement of his friends and the advice of a wise old beetle, he masters the new skill. Good discussion of how his friends were thinking win-win with their encouragement.

**Let's Be Enemies** by Janice May Udry. James and John are best friends—or at least they used to be. Now James isn't being a good friend or leader; he stopped thinking win-win and wants to be the boss. John doesn't want to be friends anymore, but something unexpected happens when he goes to James' house to tell him.

### **Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood\***

**The Runaway Bunny** by Margaret Wise Brown. *The Runaway Bunny* follows the thoughts of the little bunny who thinks he would like to run away. By seeking first to understand, Mother Rabbit truly listens to her little bunny. She then seeks to be understood by offering assurance that she will always come and find him.

**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!** by Jon Scieszka. *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* gives children the traditional story from the wolf's point of view (paradigm). Seeking to understand the wolf's paradigm gives us a much different take on the story.

**Stellaluna** by Janell Cannon. Stellaluna is a bat but is being raised with birds. Stellaluna has to seek to understand the birds' habits in order to survive. As the story continues, the birds begin to understand why bats do things differently. They realize they can be friends, even though they are different.

**Jamaica's Find** by Juanita Havill. Jamaica is a little girl who finds a stuffed toy at the park and wants to keep it very much. However, her guilt is growing as she thinks the toy may belong to another child.

**Alejandro's Gift** by Richard E. Albert. Alejandro lives alone in the desert, so he is very appreciative when small animals visit to drink from a small pond near his house. Alejandro, determined to provide water for the larger desert animals, digs a water hole for them, but they do not come. He seeks first to understand and realizes that the water hole is too close to his home, so he digs another hole farther away. The animals come to visit, understanding that he will not cause them harm.

### **Habit 6: Synergize\***

**Swimmy** by Leo Lionni. Swimmy is a little fish swimming alone in the ocean. He finds a school of fish like him and encourages them to come with him to see the other amazing ocean animals—but they are too scared. Swimmy uses synergy and leadership to come up with a plan.

**Ox-Cart Man** by Donald Hall. *Ox-Cart Man* is the story of how one family used synergy to survive in the early 1800s.

**A Chair for My Mother** by Vera B. Williams. Although a fire destroys all of their furniture, the family slowly fills a large jar with coins—enough to buy a comfortable, wonderful chair. Synergy and persistence are at the heart of the story, teaching children that working together and sometimes having to wait for things makes them even more special.

**Clifford's Spring Clean-Up** by Norman Bridwell. Clifford and Emily Elizabeth use synergy to clean the house and yard in preparation for Earth Day. Clifford takes a leadership role by shaking out rugs and digging up weeds.

**How the 2nd Grade Got \$8205.50 to Visit the Statue of Liberty** by Nathan Zimelman. The children in the second-grade class have lots of ideas and energy for how to make enough money to visit the Statue of Liberty. They take on leadership roles by synergizing on collaborative projects, earning plenty of money to cover their trip.

### **Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw\***

**Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!** By Mo Willems. *Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* is about a very persistent pigeon that tries everything to be allowed to stay up late. The story will make it easy to talk about how getting enough sleep is a very important part of being a leader of you.

**Owl Moon** by Jane Yolen. The story of *Owl Moon* follows a young child and his father as they go into the woods to find an owl. The words and pictures are quiet and peaceful and lend themselves to discussing Sharpen the Saw by spending time in nature and with people we care about.

**The Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats. Peter finds all kinds of imaginative things to do in the snow and even puts some snow in his pocket for later. Peter shows us how playing in the snow, being imaginative, and taking a warm bath afterward are all part of being a leader and sharpening our saw.

**Henry Hikes to Fitchburg** by D. B. Johnson. Two bears want to get to Fitchburg, but decide to take very different routes to get there. One takes on various jobs to buy a train ticket, while Henry decides to walk, enjoying nature along the way. The contrast of their journeys is evident and illustrates what money can and cannot buy. Although both bears eventually arrive in Fitchburg, Henry has sharpened his saw all along the way and is much happier because of it.

**Me, I Am!** by Jack Prelutsky. This book encourages children to find the “special” within themselves. The various poems help children realize that everyone is different. Poetry is one way to Sharpen the Saw, and this book has the added advantage of helping children discover themselves and celebrate differences.



# Upper-Age Children's Reading List



## **Habit 1: Be Proactive\***

**Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher** by Bruce Coville. One day, Jeremy Thatcher runs as fast as he can to get away from Mary Lou Hutton, who is always trying to kiss him. He stumbles into Mr. Elives' Magic Shop and purchases a dragon's egg. He is astonished to realize that he is responsible for hatching the egg. When it hatches, he finds a dragon that only he—and Mary Lou Hutton—can see.

**On My Honor** by Marion Bauer. Before Joel leaves to ride his bike with his friend Tony, he promises his dad, "on his honor," that he will be careful. However, when his friend takes a risk and tragedy strikes, Joel must choose to Be Proactive in spite of his guilty conscience.

**Someone Was Watching** by David Patneaude. Chris' family is haunted by the loss of three-year-old Molly, who went missing and was presumed drowned in the river. To Chris, there is something that doesn't make sense, so he sets out to find his sister. Following a series of clues, Chris and his best friend take responsibility for solving a mystery.

**Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream** by Deloris Jordan. Young Michael is one of the smallest boys in the neighborhood, wanting desperately to play ball with the big boys in the neighborhood. His mama tells him to put salt in his shoes to help him grow taller. His daddy teaches him that the most important things are practice, determination, and giving your best.

**The Real McCoy: The Life of an African-American Inventor** by Wendy Towle. Elijah McCoy is the child of escaped slaves who, as an adult, could only find work as a fireman, despite his training as an engineer. Refusing to be limited by his situation, McCoy went on to invent many devices that are still used in the present day.

## **Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind\***

**Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?** by Jean Fritz. When Christopher Columbus set sail to discover a new route to the Indies, all he got were unfamiliar people, a harsh land, and mosquito bites. However, he kept his sights on his goals and continued to make trips across the ocean.

**Lucy Mastermind** by Alan Feldman. Lucy has many adventures with her friends and family as she tries to restore her family's decrepit boathouse that has a dance floor on the second level. She retains her perspective as she works toward her desired outcome of a double birthday party for her mother and her cat.

**Eddie, Incorporated** by Phyllis Naylor. Twelve-year-old Eddie decides to go into business for himself with two friends and realizes that business is not a simple thing. He quickly has to learn the value of planning and foresight.

**Bobby Baseball** by Robert Kimmel Smith. Bobby Ellis, age 10, loves everything about baseball—he loves it so much that he calls himself Bobby Baseball! He dreams of becoming a major-league pitcher, but his coach plays him at second base. Bobby struggles with pleasing the coach—who happens to be his dad—and following his lifelong desire.

**The School Story** by Andrew Clements. When 12-year-old Natalie writes a story, her friend decides to act as her agent. What follows is an elaborate plot to get the manuscript in the hands of an editor-in-chief.

### **Habit 3: Put First Things First\***

**The Week Mom Unplugged the TVs** by Terry Wolfe Phelan. When a parental ban is placed on all television watching for an entire week, three youngsters must find other things to do with their time.

**Esperanza Rising** by Pam Munoz Ryan. A young immigrant girl from Mexico, Esperanza must learn how to be a worker in her new life in California. Her priorities change as she embarks on a new way of life.

**The TV Kid** by Betsy Byars. Leroy is addicted to television. It seems that the commercials and adventures are more exciting than real life. However, Leroy's daydreams about TV get him into trouble more dangerous than anything he's seen on television.

**Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World** by Mildred Pitts Walter. At 10 years of age, Justin thinks housework is for women, until he goes to his grandfather's ranch. Along with fishing, riding, and going to the rodeo, Justin learns about his African-American cowboy ancestors and that doing "women's work" is one of his responsibilities to himself.

**Chasing Vermeer** by Blue Balliett. A pair of 11-year-olds must solve a mystery in a logical sequence in order to find a thief.

### **Habit 4: Think Win-Win\***

**The Butter Battle Book** by Dr. Seuss. *The New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, this Dr. Seuss classic describes the war between the Zooks and the Yooks. The children are taught about the horrible things their enemies do—for instance, Yook children are taught that Zooks eat their bread butter-side down! With no defined resolution at its close, this book cultivates a discussion about practicing Think Win-Win.

**Crash** by Jerry Spinelli. "Crash" Coogan has been tormenting poor Penn Webb since the first grade. Penn puts up with it graciously, as Crash rises to become the star jock at his middle school. When his grandfather has a stroke, Crash starts to change the way he treats his friends, including Penn.

**Wait Till Helen Comes** by Mary Downing Hahn. Molly's stepsister, Heather, has no desire to be friendly with her new brother and sister. When a ghost haunts Heather and Molly, they have no choice but to fight the ghost together. After working against each other, then together, both Heather and Molly are happy with the outcome.

**The View from Saturday** by E.L. Konigsburg. A powerhouse Academic Decathlon team from Epiphany has to work together to win the ultimate prize. Each of the brilliant 12-year-olds cannot succeed without help from their team.

**Hiawatha, Messenger of Peace** by Dennis Brindell Fradin. Hiawatha was a celebrated Iroquois Indian who found strength in himself to forgive those who committed a terrible crime against him. He became a peacemaker between his people's fighting tribes and ensured the survival of his people for 300 years after his own death.

### **Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood\***

**Marrying Malcolm Murgatroyd** by Mame Farrell. Hannah wants to be popular more than anything else, but the son of her parents' closest friends is geeky Malcolm Murgatroyd. She tries to keep their friendship a secret, but when it is revealed to her peers, she is forced to make a decision about her loyalties.

**Witch of Blackbird Pond** by Elizabeth George Speare. Kit is marked by suspicion and disapproval upon arrival in colonial Connecticut in 1687. Kit finds a kindred spirit in Hannah Tupper, who the townspeople believe is a witch. Torn between her heart and her duty, Kit tries to get people to listen and understand.

**Rules** by Cynthia Lord. Catherine has conflicted feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. Despite a slight feeling of neglect from her parents, she loves him and tries to teach him "rules"—rules for behavior, for social situations, etc. When she meets Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic, she realizes that "normal" is difficult to define.

**Veronica Knows Best** by Nancy Robinson. Veronica learns that the best way to make friends is to "take an interest" in people. She determines to test this theory on Kimberly Watson.

**The Bully of Barkham Street** by Mary Stolz. Martin is a bully. This book answers the question of what makes him act the way he does, as he seeks understanding to resolve problems.

### **Habit 6: Synergize\***

**City of Ember** by Jeanne DuPrau. The city of Ember is falling apart! The electric lights—which are the only way to light the city—keep going out, and supplies are running out. Lina and Doon, who are very different from each other, find clues to help them save their city.

**A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeline L'Engle. An unlikely group assembles to travel through time and space to save Meg's father. In order to succeed, they must use each person's strengths.

**Ruby Holler** by Sharon Creech. Dallas and Florida are troubled orphan twins. Foster parents Tiller and Sairy take them in and they learn to create a new family from two very different worlds.

**Gregor the Overlander** by Suzanne Collins. In this action-packed novel, Gregor and his sister fall into an underground world. Both Gregor and his sister use their special abilities to interact with the creatures that reside there and save the human race.

**Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians** by Brandon Sanderson. This humorous story deals with a team of very different individuals who must work together to defeat the evil librarians.

### **Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw\***

**The Mysteries of Harris Burdick** by Chris Van Allsburg. These black-and-white drawings can be admired for artistic quality or used for creative-writing prompts in the classroom.

**Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen** by DyAnne DiSalvo Ryan. A young boy uses his spare time to help Uncle Willie in the city soup kitchen.

**The New Kid on the Block** by Jack Prelutsky. Containing over 100 poems, this ALSC Notable Book is amusing and refreshing.

**A Light in the Attic** by Shel Silverstein. This collection of poems offers a nice break from narrative reading so children can Sharpen the Saw.

**The Chalk Box Kid** by Clyde Robert Bulla. To deal with several upsets in his life, nine-year-old Gregory creates a fantastic chalk garden on the charred walls of a burned-out building behind his house. Through his art, Gregory is able to find his place in the world.

