



Over the years, several families have asked me to help them build their home library. They didn't want to just buy books - which we all love to do - but they wanted help systematically building a library filled with the very best books!

This list is the culmination of that process, and I am so glad I get to share it with *you*!

Building a library isn't something we do for ourselves only. We fill our shelves for our children and grandchildren too! For these are the books they will remember all their lives.

Before we get to the book list, I want to remind you of something very important:
a bad book is a big thief!

There is not enough time, bookshelf space, or money to waste on mediocre books when there are so many wonderful books in the world. My motto is *so many books, so little time!* So why would we waste our time reading something that isn't wonderful?

The good is always the enemy of the best.

The books children grow up with have an incredible impact on them for the rest of their lives. There's no room for mediocrity. We want the very best of the best for our kids!

That is what this list is. The very best of the best.

You'll find a full range of books here from nursery rhymes and picture books to Christian biographies and well known classics.

These are the books I would take to a desert island, and I hope this helps you build your own home library!

Blessings,

Carole Joy Seid

Building a Home Library

WITH HOMESCHOOL MADE SIMPLE

A

YOUNGER YEARS

Robert Louis Stevenson
A Child's Garden of Verses

A.A. Milne
Winnie the Pooh books

Kenneth Grahame
Wind in the Willows
(illustrated by Ernest Shepherd)

Beatrix Potter
The Tale of Peter Rabbit
(along with her full collection)

Marguerite de Angeli
Nursery Rhymes

Taro Yashima
Crow Boy
Umbrella

Marjorie Flack
The Story of Ping

Ezra Jack Keats
The Snowy Day
Whistle for Willie

Ella Lindvall
Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol 1

Riki Levinson
Watch the Stars Come Out

Uri Shulevitz
The Treasure

Rachel Field
Prayer for a Child

Lois Lenski
The Small Books

Patricia Polacco
Just Plain Fancy

Tomie dePaola
Now One Foot, Now the Other

CHILDREN'S CLASSICS

Robert Louis Stevenson
Kidnapped
David Balfour
The Black Arrow

Louisa May Alcott
Little Women
Little Men



Building a Home Library

WITH HOMESCHOOL MADE SIMPLE

B

Frances Hodgson Burnett

A Little Princess

Lucy Maud Montgomery

Anne of Green Gables

Charles and Mary Lamb

Tales from Shakespeare

Mark Twain

The Prince and the Pauper

Johanna Siri

Heidi

James Barry

Peter Pan

Rudyard Kipling

Just So Stories

The Jungle Book

Daniel Defoe

Robinson Crusoe

Grimm's Fairy Tales

Anderson's Fairy Tales

A Child's Book of Stories

illustrated by Jessie Wilcox Smith

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths

CHAPTER BOOKS

Laura Ingalls Wilder

The Little House books

Eric Knight

Lassie Come Home

Phillipa Pearce

Tom's Midnight Garden

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Understood Betsy

Edith Nesbit

The Railway Children



Building a Home Library

WITH HOMESCHOOL MADE SIMPLE

C

MORE BOOKS!

Oliver Hunkin

Dangerous Journey

David and Karen Mains

Tales of the Kingdom

Ibi Lepscky

Children of Genius series

Marguerite de Angeli

Thee, Hannah!

Arthur Ransome

Swallows and Amazons

Patricia MacLachlan

Skylark

Carol Ryrie Brink

Caddie Woodlawn

Noel Streatfeild

The Shoe Books

Meindert DeJong

Far Out the Long Canal

Genevieve Foster

George Washington's World

Rosemary Sutcliff

Black Ships Before Troy

The Wanderings of Odysseus

Howard Pyle

Otto of the Silver Hand

Mildred D. Taylor

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Patricia St. John

Star of Light

Sydney Taylor

All of a Kind Family books

Kate Seredy

The Good Master

James Daugherty

Of Courage Undaunted

FOUNDATIONAL CLASSIC BOOKS

Complete Works of Shakespeare

John Bunyan

Pilgrim's Progress

Jane Austen

Emma

Persuasion

Charles Dickens

David Copperfield

Building a Home Library

WITH HOMESCHOOL MADE SIMPLE

D

C.S. Lewis

The Great Divorce

Til We Have Faces

Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on
Prayer

George MacDonald

The Parish Papers

Wee Sir Gibbie of the Highlands

Gifts of the Child Christ

At the Back of the North Wind

Princess and the Goblin

Princess and Curdie

Dorothy Sayers

Lord Peter Whimsy novels

G.K. Chesterton

Father Brown crime stories

Thackeray

Vanity Fair

E.M. Forster

Howards End

Willa Cather

My Antonia

Oh Pioneers!

Elizabeth Gaskell

Wives and Daughters

Chaim Potok

The Chosen

Ray Bradbury

Fahrenheit 451

Richard Llewellyn

How Green Was My Valley

Sidney Lanier

The Boy's King Arthur

James Fenimore Cooper

The Last of the Mohicans

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

The Yearling

Howard Pyle

Robin Hood



Sigrid Undset

Kristin Lavransdatter

Anthony Trollope

The Way We Live Now

Building a Home Library

WITH HOMESCHOOL MADE SIMPLE

E

CHRISTIAN CLASSICS

Strong's Concordance

W.W. Vine

Vine's Expository Dictionary

Book of Common Prayer

Oswald Chambers

My Utmost for His Highest

Phillips Translation of Bible

ESV Bible

Amplified Bible

KJV Bible

Henrietta Mears

What the Bible is All About

Johnstone

Operation World

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Life Together

Hannah Hurnard

Hinds' Feet on High Places

J.I. Packer

Knowing God

Peter Scazzero

The Emotionally Healthy Church

J.B. Phillips

Your God is Too Small

Henri Nouwen

The Way of the Heart

R.A. Torrey

How to Study the Bible

Henry Drummond

The Greatest Thing in the World

Tim Keller

The Prodigal God

Counterfeit Gods

Francois Fenelon

The Seeking Heart

Let Go

CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHIES

Jonathan Aitken

John Newton: From Disgrace to
Amazing Grace

Corrie ten Boom

Father ten Boom

Tramp for the Lord

Building a Home Library

WITH HOMESCHOOL MADE SIMPLE

F

Dr. Helen Roseveare

Give Me This Mountain

Lyle Dorsett

A Passion for Souls

Seeking the Secret Place

And God Came In

Henrietta Mears

Dream Big

Marcus Brotherton

Teacher: The Henrietta Mears Story

Lorry Lutz

When God Says Go: The Amazing

Journey of a Slave's Daughter

Ben Carson

Gifted Hands

Stephen Mansfield

Never Give In: The Extraordinary

Character of Winston Churchill

Sandy Dengler

Susanna Wesley: Servant of God

Chuck Smith Jr.

Chuck Smith: A Memoir of Grace

John Piper

The Hidden Smile of God

The Swans are Not Silent series

FICTION

Jan Karon

The Mitford books

Penelope Wilcock

The Hawk and the Dove series

Gene Stratton-Porter

A Girl of the Limberlost

Laddie

Freckles

Keeper of the Bees

Michael O'Halloran

Emily Kimbrough

How Dear to My Heart

Rumer Godden

In This House of Brede

China Court

The Battle of the Villa Fiorita

The Greengage Summer

An Episode of Sparrows

Elizabeth Goudge

The Heart of the Family trilogy

A City of Bells

The Little White Horse

These High Blue Hills

The Sister of the Angels

The Rosemary Tree

Castle on the Hill

The Scent of Water

Building a Home Library

WITH HOMESCHOOL MADE SIMPLE

G

PARENTING/SELF-EDUCATION

Nicholas Kardaras, PhD

Glow Kids

Susan Schaeffer MaCauley

For the Children's Sake

For the Family's Sake

Edith Schaeffer

What is a Family?

Jane Stuart Smith & Betty Carlson

The Gift of Music

Gladys Hunt

Honey for a Child's Heart

Elizabeth Wilson

Books Children Love

Alice Ozma

The Reading Promise

Raymond & Dorothy Moore

Minding Your Own Business

Better Late Than Early

The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook

Richard Louv

The Last Child in the Woods

Daniel Carter Beard

The American Boys Handy Book

The Field and Forest Handy Book



Sharon Lovejoy

Roots, Shoots, Buckets, and Boots

Claire Walker Leslie

Keeping a Nature Journal

Francis Schaeffer

How Should We Then Live

Cowan and Guinness

Invitation to the Classics

Bernard Grun

The Timetables of History

Winston Churchill

History of the English Speaking Peoples

Peter Marshall and David Manuel

The Light and the Glory

From Sea to Shining Sea

Sounding Forth the Trumpet