

Year 3 – Christmas Reads Ideas – December 2020

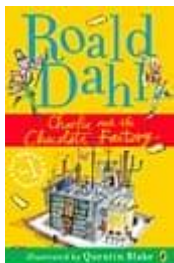
How to Train Your Dragon Cressida Cowell (Hodder)



How to train your dragon by Cressida Cowell Photograph: Hodder

A laugh-out loud romp of a Viking adventure set on the windy Isle of Berk, this is the first in a hugely successful 10-book series and is now being made into a film. Having just passed his dragon initiation programme, Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, a young Viking searching for a way of becoming a hero, sets about the challenge. First, he must catch a dragon; then he will have to train it. Hiccup's attempts are hilarious and charming, and the cold, soggy world of the Vikings provides an endless source of mirth. *Ages 8+*

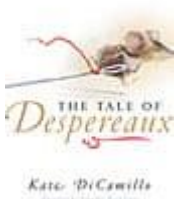
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Roald Dahl (Puffin)



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl Photograph: Puffin

Against all the odds, poor Charlie Bucket finds a golden ticket to a trip of a lifetime to visit Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. The tour round the factory is every child's dream, but too much of a temptation for Charlie's fellow golden ticket winners. A classic, magical, rags-to-riches moral fairytale. *Ages 8+*

The Tale of Despereaux Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering (Walker)



The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo Photograph: Walker

Despereaux the mouse loves reading and music. Maybe as a result of his poetic nature, Despereaux breaks the great mouse taboo by falling in love with a human princess. Banished to a cellar full of rats, Despereaux discovers the rats' plan to capture the princess and bring her down into the darkness and decides to foil it. Full of charm, this is a heroic story of how goodness and courage can outsmart evil. *Ages 8+*

The Arrival

Shaun Tan (Hodder)



The Arrival by Shaun Tan Photograph: Hodder

Experiences familiar to migrants of all kinds are brilliantly told via the stunning illustrations of this poignant and atmospheric graphic novel set against a changing background of landscapes and peoples, through which the man at the centre of the story carries his suitcase. His feelings of confusion and isolation, the problems of communication and misunderstanding, the despair and then the easing of the experience through friendship spill beyond the individual and offer great insights. *Ages 8+*

Matilda

Roald Dahl (Puffin)



Matilda by Roald Dahl Photograph: Puffin

Clever Matilda defies her rotten parents by teaching herself to read and getting herself to school. Here, her prodigious talent propels her beyond her mum, dad and nasty headmistress, supported by her teacher, Miss Honey. Matilda blossoms, but it's not all plain sailing. Roald Dahl's larger-than-life novel is a triumph over bullying. *Ages 8+*

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Book 1

Jeff Kinney (Puffin)



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Book 1 by Jeff Kinney Photograph: Puffin

Now a bestselling phenomenon, Greg Heffley's diary captures the minutiae of his days as he starts middle school. In words and witty illustrations, Greg plots how to improve his life, avoid previous pitfalls – and how to increase his popularity with girls. Easy to read, touching and very entertaining. *Ages 8+*

The Demon Headmaster **Gillian Cross (OUP)**



The Demon Headmaster by Gillian Cross Photograph: OUP

New pupil Dinah finds that all the pupils at her new school are so obedient they mindlessly repeat the headmaster's every word. She starts to ask herself how it is done when it begins to work on her too. An entertaining story that makes good use of familiar school themes about resisting oppression and how innocence can be an advantage. *Ages 8+*

Charlotte's Web **EB White, illustrated by Garth Williams (Puffin)**

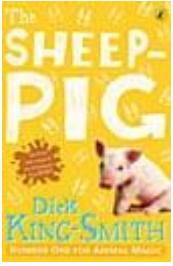


Charlotte's Web by EB White Photograph: Puffin

How do words of praise such as "terrific" keep appearing mysteriously in the spider's web above the pig pen in Farmer Zuckerman's barn? These are the life-saving words that Charlotte the spider spins to save her friend Wilbur the piglet, the runt of a litter that is being reared for one purpose only. Watched over by Fern, a little girl who has adopted the pig as a pet, the interactions of Wilbur, Charlotte, Templeton the rat and the other barn animals as they campaign to save the pig's life is an exceptional story of tenderness and triumph. *Ages 8+*

The Sheep-Pig

Dick King-Smith (Puffin)



The Sheep-Pig by Dick King-Smith Photograph: Puffin

When Farmer Hogget wins a pig at the fete, he takes it home thinking of bacon. But Babe soon shows that he is no ordinary pig. Adopted by Hogget's sheepdog, Fly, Babe quickly picks up the necessary skills of a champion herder. It isn't long before Hogget realises that he has a very special pig on his hands and soon the two of them are on their way to fame and fortune. Turned into the film Babe, The Sheep-Pig is a funny, touching story tinged with wonder. *Ages 8+*