



2026 - 2027

Our Redimere Family Bookshelf

At Redimere, we prioritize literature, seeking to cultivate quality family time, a love of books, and an appreciation for reading as a lifelong delight. Below you will find suggested titles that correspond with our studies each quarter.

The first title listed in each section (marked with an *) is one that all Redimere families will read together on home days.

The remaining titles are simply recommendations. Feel free to choose additional family read-alouds from the list, assign books for independent reading, or select other worthy stories that best suit your family's interests and needs.





FIRST QUARTER

* **Ben and Me** (6–12) Benjamin Franklin's story told by his mouse, Amos. Funny, underrated, and a perfect palate cleanser after heavier history.

Dangerous Journey (7–14) An illustrated adaptation of *Pilgrim's Progress* that introduces children to Bunyan's classic. A Christian family favorite that pairs beautifully with the Colonial era.

George Washington's World (10–16) Genevieve Foster's unique format places Washington's life alongside events happening around the world. Fascinating as a companion rather than a cover-to-cover read.

Johnny Tremain (8–14) One of the great American historical novels, following a silversmith's apprentice swept into Revolutionary Boston. Gripping and surprisingly accessible for younger listeners. An early hand injury and wartime casualties are present.

The Burgess Bird Book for Children (6–12) Bird identification and natural history are woven into gentle stories featuring familiar feathered friends. Old-fashioned, wholesome, and wonderfully suited to nature study.

The Courage of Sarah Noble (6–10) A gentle story of a young girl traveling into the Connecticut wilderness with her father. Short, wholesome, and full of quiet courage.

The Sign of the Beaver (8–14) A boy left alone in the Maine wilderness befriends a Native American boy. Survival, friendship, and frontier life make this one a perennial favorite. Contains respectful portrayals of Native American spirituality and culture.

The Trumpet of the Swan (7–13) E.B. White's charming tale of a trumpeter swan combines humor, adventure, and a love of the natural world.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond (8–14) Colonial Connecticut comes alive in this Newbery-winning story of a young girl who doesn't quite fit in. One of the finest historical novels ever written for children. Accusations of witchcraft appear, though there is no occult content.



SECOND QUARTER

* **Any book from The Little House Series** (6–14) A beloved series and perhaps the closest thing America has to a literary time machine. Rich in family life, hard work, and frontier history, each book offers a different glimpse into nineteenth-century American life. Some depictions of Native Americans reflect the attitudes of the period and can provide opportunities for thoughtful family discussion.

By the Great Horn Spoon! (7–12) A hilarious adventure during the California Gold Rush. Lighthearted, fast-paced, and irresistible for many boys.

Caddie Woodlawn (8–14) A spirited Wisconsin pioneer girl brings plenty of adventure and personality to frontier life. A delightful counterpart to the Little House books.

Little Britches (8–16) Warm, funny, and deeply rooted in family life and responsibility. One of the most beloved homeschool read-alouds for good reason.

Old Yeller (8–14) A Texas frontier family and a loyal dog create one of the most memorable stories in children's literature. Heartbreaking, but unforgettable. Contains themes of death and loss.

Oregon Trail Choose Your Own Adventure Series (7–12) Interactive adventures place readers in the shoes of pioneers heading west. Full of buffalo hunts, river crossings, and difficult decisions, these books make a delightful addition to studies of westward expansion. Some endings involve injury, illness, and death, reflecting the honest hardships of pioneer life.

Streams to the River, River to the Sea (9–14) Scott O'Dell's beautifully written telling of Sacagawea's story during the Lewis and Clark expedition. A wonderful companion to studies of exploration. Native spiritual beliefs are referenced naturally within the story.

Tall Tales (6–12) Stories of Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, Johnny Appleseed, John Henry, and Davy Crockett capture the humor and spirit of America. Perfect for winter evenings and younger listeners.



CHRISTMAS

* **A Christmas Carol (8-Adult)** Dickens' masterpiece remains one of the greatest Christmas stories ever written. Reverent, joyful, and worth revisiting every December. Read the original or find an abbreviated adaptation.

Henry Huggins (6-12) Beverly Cleary's lovable Portland boy gets into scrapes with his dog Ribsy. Norman Rockwell in novel form.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (7-14) Funny, chaotic, and surprisingly moving, with a clear emphasis on the true meaning of Christmas. The Herdman children use mild crude language and behave badly, though redemption and the meaning of Christmas are central themes. The Herdmans are unforgettable.



THIRD QUARTER

* **Carry On, Mr. Bowditch** (8–14) The inspiring true story of self-taught mathematician and navigator Nathaniel Bowditch. Though set before the Civil War, its themes of perseverance, navigation, and life at sea make it a fitting companion to our studies of Winslow Homer. Deeply American and one of the finest biographies written for young readers.

Amos Fortune, Free Man (10–16) Based on the life of a formerly enslaved man who built a life marked by dignity and faithfulness. Quietly powerful and beautifully written. Slavery and racial prejudice are part of the story.

Behind Rebel Lines (9–15) The true story of Union spy Emma Edmonds reads like an adventure novel. Especially appealing to children who enjoy daring exploits.

Minn of the Mississippi (7–12) A snapping turtle's travels reveal the beauty and diversity of the American landscape. Geography, ecology, and river systems come alive through story.

My Side of the Mountain (8–14) A boy survives in the Catskills using observation and naturalist skills. A perennial favorite for children who dream of living in the wild.

Paddle-to-the-Sea (6–12) A carved canoe journeys from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, teaching geography and watersheds almost accidentally. One of the hidden treasures of children's literature.

Rifles for Watie (10–16) Perhaps the most underrated Civil War novel for young readers. Richly detailed and difficult to put down. War themes and some violence, though appropriate for older readers.

Steal Away Home (9–14) Two modern children discover a hidden room connected to the Underground Railroad and the story of a runaway slave. A gripping blend of history and mystery. Brief references to Quaker beliefs and Underground Railroad themes.



FOURTH QUARTER

* **Cheaper by the Dozen** (9–Adult) The true and often hilarious story of the Gilbreth family and their twelve children in the early twentieth century. Full of lively family dynamics, ingenuity, hard work, and an unforgettable father. Includes some dated attitudes and occasional mild language.

All-of-a-Kind Family (7–14) Five sisters in an immigrant Jewish family experience life in New York around 1900. Warm, delightful, and full of family life. Jewish family traditions are woven throughout, providing opportunities to appreciate our shared Old Testament heritage.

Betsy-Tacy (7–13) Warm, humorous stories following Betsy Ray and her friends in small-town Minnesota around the turn of the twentieth century. Rich in family life, friendship, and ordinary American childhood. The first three books are especially well-suited for younger readers and make a delightful family read-aloud.

Hitty, Her First Hundred Years (8–14) A small wooden doll recounts a century of adventures as she travels around the world and passes from one owner to another. Beautifully written and rich in history, geography, and old-fashioned domestic life. Includes peril, references to folk beliefs, and a few culturally dated portrayals.

Homer Price (6–12) Small-town American life at its funniest. Warm, episodic stories that feel like Norman Rockwell paintings.

Soup (7–13) Two boys in rural Vermont get into one scrape after another. Hilarious and endlessly quotable. Occasional childish mischief and bathroom humor.

Strawberry Girl (8–14) Life in early twentieth-century Florida is vividly portrayed in this Newbery winner. A wonderful glimpse into regional American culture. Features a family feud and some folk beliefs common to the region.

The Wright Brothers (10–Adult) David McCullough brings the story of two ordinary men who changed the world vividly to life. A fitting end to an American history year.

Understood Betsy (7–13) A timid girl blossoms after moving to rural Vermont. Underrated, wholesome, and wonderfully written.