Despite changes in each new generation, certain books have an enduring quality. These books become classics. This list contains masterpieces of contemporary children’s literature, published since 1950. Many of these timeless books are ideal for families to read aloud or listen to together; most are available in audio book format.

**Paterson, Katherine. Bridge to Terabithia. 1977. Newbery Award.**
Jess becomes a close friend of Leslie, a new girl in school. JFIC, JPBJ, JLP, CD, PLAYAWAY

**Pearce, Philippa. Tom’s Midnight Garden. 1958.**
When the clock strikes thirteen, Tom is able to enter an old fashioned garden to meet Hatty, a mysterious girl who grows older after each visit. JFIC, JPBJ

A young boy teaches his two dogs to become champion hunters. JFIC, JPBJ, E-book, Playaway

**Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone. 1997.**
Rescued from a miserable life with his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The series continues with six more adventures. JFIC, JPBJ, JFP, JLP, CD, E-book

**Sachar, Louis. Holes. 1998. Newbery Award.**
Stanley Yelnats ends up in a juvenile detention center where he must dig huge holes in the earth everyday as punishment. JFIC, JPBJ, JSPANISH, CD

**Spenere, Elizabeth. The Witch of Blackbird Pond. 1958. Newbery Award.**
Kit Tyler, born and raised in Barbados, flees to the Connecticut Colony in search of her aunt and finds fear and religious bigotry. JFIC, JPBJ, CD

**Spinelli, Jerry. Maniac Magee. 1990. Newbery Award.**
Maniac, skilled at untwisting knots, playing sports and running fast, is looking for a place where he belongs. JFIC, JPBJ, JLP, CD

During the Depression, a black family struggles to keep their land in Mississippi. JFIC, JPBJ, CD

**Taylor, Sydney. All-of-a-Kind Family. 1951. (series)**
The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York during the early 20th century. JFIC, JPBJ, CD

A blind American boy and an elderly West Indian native are stranded on a Caribbean reef. JFIC, JPBJ, CD

**White, E.B. Charlotte’s Web. 1952. Newbery Honor.**
The story of Wilbur the pig and his good friend Charlotte the spider who saves his life. JFIC, JPBJ, JSPANISH, JLATIN, JLP, CD, PLAYAWAY

We have listed the original publication date; however, many of the books are available in various editions. Your librarian can help you select an appropriate edition.

For a comprehensive listing of classics we recommend that you visit The Horn Book Magazine at:

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MODERN CLASSICS (1950 – PRESENT)

Rabbits journey across the English downs in search of a new home and a better society. JFIC, JPBK, PLAYAWAY

On a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte is accused of murder. JFIC, JPBK, PLAYAWAY

Winnie is kidnapped when she stumbles upon the Tuck family’s secret, a magic spring that provides eternal life. JFIC, JPBK, JSPANISH, CD

Eleven-year-old Margaret must deal with many issues as she grows up, including entering a new school, physical maturation and choosing a religion. JFIC, JPBK, CD

A siamese cat, a labrador and a terrier travel through the Canadian wilderness to return home. JFIC, JPBK, CD

Fourteen-year-old Sara’s life changes when her mentally disabled younger brother disappears. JFIC, JPBK, JSPANISH, CD

Tim Meeker recounts the tragedy that affected his family and so many others during the Revolutionary War. JFIC, JPBK

Charlie and four disobedient children tour Willy Wonka’s extraordinary chocolate factory. JFIC, JPBK, JSPANISH, CD, PLAYAWAY

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni moves to Florida with her father and adopts an amazing dog, Winn-Dixie, who helps out when India Opal needs it most. JFIC, JPBK, JSPANISH, JSPANISH, CD, PLAYAWAY

Fitzhugh, Louise. *Harriet, the Spy*. 1964. (series)
Harriet spends part of every day “observing” and writing down everything that interests her. JFIC, JPBK, CD

Fourteen-year-old Jessie is kidnapped and forced aboard an American slave ship. JFIC, JPBK, JSPANISH, CD

A boy spends a winter alone in the mountains. JFIC, JPBK, CD

Adventures of a boy and his dog in the Texas hill county. JFIC, JPBK, CD

Unhappy with his life, thirteen-year-old Aremis Slake takes refuge in a subway station where he lives for 121 days. JFIC, JPBK, CD

Milo receives a turnpike tollbooth as a gift. When he drives his small car through it, he finds that it takes him to a land full of many adventures. JFIC, JPBK, JSPANISH, CD

A brother and sister run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. JFIC, JPBK, JSPANISH, CD

With the help of three mysterious strangers, Meg, her friend Calvin and her younger brother set out on a dangerous journey through the 5th dimension to rescue their father. JFIC, JPBK, CD, PLAYAWAY

Caleb and Anna hope that Sarah, their father’s mail-order bride, will decide to remain with them in their prairie home. JFIC, JPBK, JSPANISH, CD

Marty tries to hide a lost beagle from its mean-spirited owner who is known to mistreat dogs. JFIC, JPBK, CD

A group of rats given human intelligence, escape from their laboratory to set up their own community. JFIC, JPBK, CD

O’Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. 1960. Newbery Award. (series)
A young Indian girl stranded on an island off the coast of California in the early 1800’s lives alone for 18 years. JFIC, JPBK, JSPANISH, CD, PLAYAWAY