***Some Types of Reading, and Value of each***

History and historical fiction

History gives us our STORY. History helps us understand whence we have come; how we fit; where we are going.

Nonfiction

Investigates the world in which we live: adventure, happenings, natural world, language, math…

Good **nonfiction** causes us to see the real around us with heightened perception.

Poor **nonfiction** narratives tend to focus on the exotic, unusual or abnormal to attract attention.

Literature & Stories

Literature enables us to see *truths lived out* in everyday life.

In fantasy, we see our world mirrored in another world. (Such as *Pilgrim’s Progress* or Lewis’ Narnia series.)

Distance and parallels and allegories give insight through perspective.

Good **fiction** needs to be true to life to be believable. It calls us to see the significance in the ordinary.

Poor **fiction** titillates or stimulates without substance.

Biography

Biography enables us to travel with real people through their life story and see how life “worked” for them.

Poetry

Uses language artistically to help us experience what cannot be described or storied.

*“In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.”* --Rossetti

*“New occasions teach new duties.”*  --Lowell

Reading provides…

1. Breadth🡪 looking “over the fence” to other & distant places.
2. Connection with the past🡪 awareness of people who walked the earth before us.
3. Depth🡪 material with which to ponder and meditate.

***A Short Book List***

--**Books about choosing books, with annotated book lists**

*Best Books for Kindergarten Through High School*

Hess includes 10 pages on guidelines for choosing books

*Books That Build Character* Kilpatrick 60 pages about value of good reading; 240 pages of annotated titles

*Honey for a Child’s Heart* Hunt Describes value of various types of books: fiction, poetry, Bible stories

*The Book Tree: A Christian Reference for Children’s Literature*

McCallum pre-school through high school literature & biography recommendations

--**History or historical fiction:**

*The Story of Mankind*van Loon First Newberry award winner, history written on child’s level.

*All of a Kind Family* Taylor Learn about Jewish family customs in lower east side Manhattan in early 1900’s.

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Taylor Interaction between Blacks and Whites in Deep South in 1930’s.

*The Bronze Bow*Speare Young Jewish Zealots in Galilee living for revenge gives up his hate for Christ.

*The Earth is Round* Epp Russian Mennonites emigrate to Manitoba.

*Three Months Under the Snow*Grandfather and grandson are snowed under on Swiss mountain; elder dies.

*Thrilling Escapes by Night* Lee William Tyndale, Bible translator, is hunted down by authorities.

*Valley of My Heart* Yoder A family shifts toward nonresistance during War Between the States.

Little House on the Prairie books Wilder Pioneer times on the prairie. Use discretion in reading aloud.

*Coals of Fire* Bauman Stories demonstrating love and nonresistance.

*In the Whale’s Belly*Lowry Stories re-told from the *Martyr’s Mirror.*

--**Literature & Stories:**

*War for Mansoul*Barrett Retelling of Bunyan’s *Holy War*. Mansoul, taken by Satan, is won back by Christ.

*Treasures of the Snow* St. John Lesson of guilt and forgiveness associated with serious childhood injury.

*Sarah Whitcher’s Story*Yates Lost little girl is protected by she-bear until she’s found.

*The Story About Ping*Flack Home is best.

*Caddie Woodlawn* Brink Frontier life.

*Black Beauty* Sewell A horse experiences many kinds of treatment through life under various owners.

*Heidi* Spyri Child grows up in the Swiss mountains.

*Lassie Come-Home* Knight Dog demonstrates incredible loyalty to the family who owns him.

*North to Freedom* Holm Innocent boy from prison camp learns real life as he wanders home across Europe.

*Opal: The Journey of an Understanding Heart*Whitely A precocious five year old’s fascinating journal insights.

*The Bishop’s Shadow* I. T. Thurston

*Mountain Born* Elizabeth Yates (and others by Elizabeth Yates)

*Carry on, Mr. Bowditch* Jean Lee Latham Spoiled rich boy falls overboard from luxury liner; becomes man on fishing boat.

**--Science and Mathematics:**

*Exploring the World of Mathematics* Tiner Mathematical discoveries from ancient record keeping to modern computers.

*Marvels of Math* Haven A collection of stories of discoveries and intriguing issues in mathematics.

*Marvels of Science* Haven Fascinating stories of scientists’ discoveries and work.

*Insect Adventures* Fabre Captivating stories of a naturalist who studied and wrote about lives of insects.

*The Way Things Work* Macaulay Illustrated explanations of the world of physical science

*Back to Basics* Reader’s Digest Traditional skills

**Biography:**

*Amos Fortune: Free Man*Yates Slave boy captured in Africa lives full Christian life in New England; buys freedom.

*Abe Lincoln Grows Up*Sandburg Boyhood and development of a great man.

*David Livingstone* Explorer in Africa.

*Jim Elliot* Martyred missionary to Auca Indians of Ecuador.

*Gifted Hands* Ben Carson Disadvantaged city boy becomes skilled surgeon.

*The Story of My Life* Helen Keller Deaf and blind child learns under masterful teaching of Anne Sullivan.

**Poetry:**

*Poems for Memorization*Variety of poems in the public domain.

*Poems Teachers Ask For* Hundreds of memorable poems.

**Miscellaneous:**

*Instant Quotation Dictionary*Bolander Ready quotes grouped by subject on hundreds of topics.