

Classic Literature List

Select one of the following classic novels that falls under your ZPD range as part of your summer reading. **It must be the original version, not an abridge version.**

Novel Title and Author	ZPD	Description
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls	4.9	Author Wilson Rawls spent his boyhood much like the character of this book, Billy Colman, roaming the Ozarks of northeastern Oklahoma with his bluetick hound. A straightforward, shoot-from-the-hip storyteller with a searingly honest voice, Rawls is well-loved for this powerful 1961 classic.
The Two Towers (Lord of the Rings series, 2nd book)	6.3	Frodo and his servant Samwise continue their quest to destroy the Ring of Power in the Mountain of Fire. Book #2
I, Robot by Isaac Asimov	6.1	This is a series of science-fiction stories about robots from their primitive beginnings to the future.
Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes	5.9	Unique because it told the story of the American Revolution through the eyes of a boy, not a leader of the Revolution. "Esther Forbes's power to create, and to recreate, a face, a voice, a scene takes us as living spectators to the Boston Tea Party, to the Battle of Lexington and of North Creek."- <i>The Saturday Review</i> , 1943
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare	5.7	Puritan neighbors regard Kit Tyler with suspicion, fear, and anger when she befriends an old woman accused of witchcraft.
The Fellowship of the Ring (Lord of the Rings series book 1) by J.R.R. Tolkien	6.1	Frodo Baggins, a young hobbit, sets out on a perilous journey with a band of warriors from different kingdoms to the Cracks of Doom to destroy the Dark Lord's Ring of Power. Book #1
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight by Michael Morpurgo	5.9	The Green Knight challenges all the knights in King Arthur's court to play a deadly game. Sir Gawain accepts the challenge and learns a lesson in pride, humility and honor.
Roll of Thunder Hear Me Cry by Mildred Taylor	5.7	The year is 1933 in the heart of the depression. Cassie Logan and her family live in rural Mississippi, where they own and farm 400 acres. Although Cassie and her brothers attend a school for black children, she is unaware of the intense racial hatred and prejudice that exists in the community. As the story unfolds, Cassie is surprised and angered to learn that many white people think she and other black people are inferior. She learns to fear the violence that often accompanies these ugly feelings. Cassie knows how much the Logans value their land and how determined they are not to lose it. Slowly, she becomes aware of how high a price she and her family must pay to fight injustice – and to hold on to not only their land but the independence that it represents

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexander Dumas	8.8	A classic adventure novel, often considered Dumas' best work, and frequently included on lists of the best novels of all time. Completed in 1844, and released as an 18-part series over the next two years, Dumas collaborated with other authors throughout. The story takes place in France, Italy, and the Mediterranean from the end of the rule of Napoleon I through the reign of Louis-Philippe
A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett	6.0	In this children's classic novel, the wealthy and gifted little girl Sara Crewe must adjust to a different life when her father dies penniless.
Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain	8.1	Enjoy the story of Tom Sawyer as a mischievous young boy carries on under the watchful eye of his Aunt Polly. Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer is one part trickster, one escape artist and one part very lucky fellow! The Adventures of Tom Sawyer takes the reader along on a series of entertaining adventures and pranks while Tom's youthful romance with his sweetheart Becky Thatcher blooms in the background. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is one of Mark Twain's most beloved works
The Three Musketeers by Alexander Dumas	11.3	During the reign of France's King Louis XIII, D'Artagnan and three musketeers unite to defend the honor of Anne of Austria against the plots of Cardinal Richelieu.
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery	7.3	Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm, and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. Book #1
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain	6.6	Huck Finn, the son of the town drunk, and Jim, an escaped slave, make a break for freedom down the vast Mississippi River on a raft. The plot contains profanity and racial slurs.
The Hobbit by J.R.R Tolkien	6.6	<i>The Hobbit</i> follows the quest of home-loving hobbit Bilbo Baggins to win a share of the treasure guarded by the dragon, Smaug. Bilbo's journey takes him from light-hearted, rural surroundings into darker, deeper territory. The story is told in the form of an episodic quest, and most chapters introduce a specific creature, or type of creature, of Tolkien's Wilderland.
Journey to the Centre of the Earth by Jules Verne	9.9	A team of explorers makes an expedition into a crater in Iceland, which leads to the center of the earth and to incredible and horrifying discoveries.
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell	5.4	A story of survival, based upon the true story of a girl who was left upon an island near the coast of Southern California. She lived there for 18 years, alone. While she waited for rescue, she kept herself alive by building shelter, finding food, and fighting her enemies—the wild dogs

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne	10.0	In the mid-nineteenth century, a French professor and his two companions, trapped aboard a fantastic submarine as prisoners of the deranged Captain Nemo, come face to face with exotic ocean creatures and strange sights hidden from the world above
Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling	8.0	An American son of a millionaire is saved from drowning by a New England fishing schooner and forced to prove his worth to the captain and crew.
The Time Machine by H.G Wells	7.4	The Time Traveller journeys 800,000 years into the future and discovers two bizarre races at war on the Earth, the ethereal Eloi and the subterranean Morlocks.
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain	9.2	Nineteenth-century mechanic Hank Morgan suffers a blow to the head and wakes up in King Arthur's Court where he tries to introduce modern technology and political ideas to the inhabitants. The plot contains mild profanity.
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	7.0	Dr. Watson chronicles here some of the more interesting detective cases that he and his good friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, have encountered during their association. We see the cases unfold as he does, scratch our heads as does he while the evidence is collected, and then marvel at the impeccable observations, remarkable insight, and doggedness which Holmes displays as he teases apart the tangled clues
Anne Frank: A Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank	6.5	A Jewish girl and only 13 years old when she was forced to go into hiding during the Holocaust, she and her family, along with four others, spent 25 months during World War II in an annex of rooms above her father's office in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, before they were found by the Nazis and sent to concentration camps. Although Anne did not survive, her diary did. Through this diary we see Anne's life, set against a background of unbelievably horrific world events
The Mysterious Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	7.9	Eight intriguing and mysterious adventures from the world's most-famous detective.
The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	8.3	Sherlock Holmes and Watson set out to solve the mystery that had haunted the Baskerville family for years and had recently occurred again.
Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt	6.6	Shots fired far away spark a civil war that will have painful repercussions for an Illinois family. This book shows how war affects ordinary people and changes their lives forever. Effectively exploring the complex issues behind the war [this] well-researched historical tale is captivating and memorable

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson	8.3	An adventure novel, a thrilling tale of “buccaneers and buried gold.” Traditionally considered a coming of age story, it is an adventure tale of superb atmosphere, character and action, and also a wry commentary on the ambiguity of morality—as seen in Long John Silver—unusual for children’s literature then and now.
The Call of the Wild by Jack London	8.0	The story of Buck, a sledge dog in the Klondike, and his journey of transformation.
The Prince and the Pauper	9.5	This is the classic story of two boys, identical except for their clothes and stations in life, who switch identities.
War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells	9.1	Written in response to several historical events. The most important was the unification and militarization of Germany, which led to a series of novels predicting war in Europe, beginning with George Chesney’s <i>The Battle of Dorking</i> (1871). Most of these were written in a semi-documentary fashion; and Wells borrowed their technique to tie his interplanetary war tale to specific places in England familiar to his readers. This attempt at hyper-realism helped to inspire Orson Welles when the latter created his famed 1938 radio broadcast based on the novel
Swiss Family Robinson by Johann Wyss	9.7	When a Swiss family is stranded on a tropical island, they remain optimistic and inventive. With what they salvage from the wrecked ship and the island's resources, they adapt to their new life.
Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs	9.0	Tarzan, abandoned as a baby in the jungle of Africa, is adopted into a tribe of great apes and grows to become Lord of the Jungle until his domain is disturbed by civilized men who cause Tarzan to question his true identity.
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle	8.6	Robin Hood, Maid Marian, and the merry outlaws of Sherwood Forest repeatedly outwit the sheriff of Nottingham and befriend the poor.
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott	7.9	Published in 1868, Little Women follows the lives, loves and tribulations of four sisters growing up during the American Civil War. The story is based on the childhood experiences Alcott shared with her real life sisters, Anna, May and Elizabeth. The novel stars Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy and explores the rich nuances of family and family relationships
The Incredible Journey	7.6	Three house pets migrate through the wilderness to find their family.
Gulliver’s Travels by Johnathan Swift	13.5	The voyages of an Englishman carry him to a land of people six inches high, a land of giants, an island of sorcerers, and a land where horses are masters of human-like creatures.

The Secret Garden	6.3	Mary moves to a huge estate to live with her mysterious uncle, his ailing son, the servants, and a secret garden.
Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass	7.8	By falling down a rabbit hole and stepping through a mirror, Alice experiences unusual adventures with a variety of nonsensical characters.
<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> by Madeleine L'Engle	4.7	Meg Murry, her little brother Charles Wallace, and their mother are having a midnight snack on a dark and stormy night when an unearthly stranger appears at their door. She claims to have been blown off course, and goes on to tell them that there is such a thing as a "tesseract," which, if you didn't know, is a wrinkle in time
<i>National Velvet</i> by Enid Bagnold	5.5	The timeless story of spirited Velvet Brown and her beloved horse has thrilled generations of readers. And now the republication of this classic story in a fresh, up-to-date package will charm confirmed fans while captivating new ones. Fourteen-year-old Velvet is determined to turn her untamed horse into a champion and personally ride him to victory in the world's greatest steeplechase, the Grand National (brightkidsworld.com).
<i>The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood</i> by Howard Pyle	8.6	The author takes you back to Merry Olde England and a Robin Hood that is nothing like the tv or recent movie versions at all. You are transported through the language and descriptions of the land, so that you feel part of that magical era. The love Robin had for his men and for his King, and for Sherwood Forrest itself, will reach into your soul. It's more than a classic, it makes you feel you were there, wishing you could run to the call of those three bugle blasts...
<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> by Frederick Douglass	7.9	Frederick Douglass is one of the most celebrated writers in the African American literary tradition, and his first autobiography is the one of the most widely read North American slave narratives. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave was published in 1845, less than seven years after Douglass escaped from slavery (docsouth.unc.edu). Douglass's narrative of his life as a slave lets readers feel the fear he has as a small child separated from his mother, allows us to experience with him the pain inflicted by undeserved whippings and weakness caused by too little food and too much physical exertion, and helps us understand not only the hate of the slave for the master but the sickness of hate that allowed human beings to keep other human beings as chattel.

<i>The Red Pony</i> by John Steinbeck	6.1	<i>The Red Pony</i> is divided into four stories. Each story centers on a boy named Jody; the four together show him in a critical time of his childhood. In the first story, Jody is ten years old. The stories are close together in chronological time; indeed, Steinbeck is careful to remind readers that Jody is a “little boy” at the start of each story.
<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> by Daniel Defoe	5.8	Daniel Defoe’s <i>The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe</i> was published as a fictional memoir in 1719. Today <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> remains a popular adventure narrative. In fact, the book gave rise to the “Robinsonade,” adventure tales that rework the structural elements of Crusoe’s island tale. Moreover, the character of <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> is recognized as a literary and cultural icon, like Don Quixote, Don Juan, and Faust; the story of a man stuck on a deserted island has become familiar to nearly everyone in the Western world.
<i>The Yearling</i> by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings	5.0	Set in the wild and beautiful interior of the Florida scrublands in the late 1800s, <i>The Yearling</i> follows one year in the life of young Jody Baxter and the young pet he has so desperately longed for, a fawn he names Flag. Throughout this tale of Jody’s love for his pet, the reader encounters rich descriptions of the natural beauty and thrilling accounts of adventure and danger. In the end, however, harsh reality requires Jody to make the most difficult decision of his young life (glencoe.com).