



SPARK THE IMAGINATION BOOK LIST

189 Great Books for Catholic Kids

One of the goals of Word on Fire Spark is to form the child's imagination to love what is true, good, and beautiful through stories. We know that parents, grandparents, godparents, teachers, and catechists often struggle to find high quality books for children that will spark a love of reading. As we develop our line of Word on Fire Spark children's books, we've crafted this list of classics (and a few new titles) to enjoy with the young readers in your life.

The books are organized according to genre/age group: board books, picture books, early readers, chapter books, and graphic novels. Whether these books explicitly communicate truths about our Catholic faith or merely delight the young reader, these are stories with merit. (But please keep in mind that you know *your* young reader best and each book may not be the right fit for every child.)

Happy reading! And stay tuned for our new Word on Fire Spark titles launching in late 2023.

Board Books

Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman
Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson
Can You See a Little Bear? by James Mayhew
The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss
A Child's Book of Prayers by Michael Hague
Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You? by Jan Yolen
I Love You, Little One by Nancy Tafuri
Jamberry by Bruce Degan
Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle
The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear by Audrey and Don Wood
Room for a Little One by Martin Waddell
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear by Michael Hague
Tomie dePaola's Mother Goose by Tomie dePaola
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
We Go to Mass by George Brundage
We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Helen Oxenbury

Picture Books and Storybooks

Aesop's Fables for Children illustrated by Milo Winter
Angel in the Waters by Regina Doman
Beauty and the Beast by Jan Brett
Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
Brave Irene by William Steig
Bright April by Marguerite de Angeli
Brigid's Cloak by Bryce Milligan

Picture Books and Storybooks

Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie by Robbin Gourley

Brother Francis of Assisi by Tomie dePaola

Brother Hugo and the Bear by Katy Beebe

Brother Sun, Sister Moon by Katherine Paterson

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

Cendrillon by Robert D. San Souci

Chanticleer and the Fox by Barbara Cooney

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojchiewski

The Clown of God by Tomie dePaola

The Clubhouse by Joy and Nathan Clarkson

The Complete Brambly Hedge by Jill Barklem

Corduroy by Don Freeman

D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

D'Aulaire's Book of Norse Myths by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

David and Goliath by Tomie dePaola

The Donkey's Dream by Barbara Helen Berger

The Easter Story by Brian Wildsmith

The Fox and the Star by Coralie Bickford-Smith

Giant Treasury of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Jan Brett

Good Night, Fairies by Kathleen and Michael Hague

Grandfather Buffalo by Jim Arnosky

Grandfather Twilight by Barabara Helen Berger

Hildegard of Bingen by DEMI

A Hole Is to Dig by Ruth Krauss

The Holy Twins by Kathleen Norris

The Important Book by Margaret Wise Brown

Joan of Arc by DEMI

John Ronald's Dragons by Caroline McAlister

The Kitchen Knight by Margaret Hodges

The Legend of the Poinsettia by Tomie de Paola

The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush by Tomie dePaola

The Little Fir Tree by Margaret Wise Brown

The Little House by Virginia Lee Burton

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

Mary by DEMI

Mary, the Mother of Jesus by Tomie dePaola

Max and the Tag-Along Moon by Floyd Cooper

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton

The Miracles of Jesus by Tomie de Paola

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney

Moon Plane by Peter McCarty

Mozart: Gift of God by DEMI

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe

Noah and the Ark by Tomie dePaola

An Orange for Frankie by Patricia Polacco

Owl Moon by Jan Yolen

Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall

Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland by Tomie dePaola

Petook: The Rooster Who Met Jesus by Caryll Houselander

All the Places to Love by Patricia MacLachlan

Possum Magic by Mem Fox

Queen Esther by Tomie dePaola

The Rough-Faced Girl by Rafe Martin

Roses in the Snow by Dessi Jackson

Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip and Erin Stead

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Song of the Swallows by Leo Politi

Saint Bernadette and the Miracles of Lourdes by DEMI

Saint Francis and the Nativity by Myrna A. Strasser

Saint George and the Dragon by Margaret Hodges

Saint Valentine by Robert Sabuda

Shakespeare Stories for Young Readers by E. Nesbit

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight by Selina Hastings

Something from Nothing by Phoebe Gilman

Sonya's Chickens by Phoebe Wahl

St. Conrad and the Wildfire by Maura Roan McKeegan

Stellaluna by Janell Canon

Stories of the Saints by Carey Wallace

The Story of Holly and Ivy by Rumer Godden

The Story of Saint John Paul II: A Boy Who Became Pope by Fabiola Garza

Strega Nona by Tomie de Paola

Take It to the Queen by Josephine Nobisso

The Tale of Three Trees by Angela Elwell Hunt

The Tasha Tudor Book of Fairy Tales by Tasha Tudor

Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco

Picture Books and Storybooks

Tomie de Paola's Book of Bible Stories by Tomie dePaola
Tomie de Paola's Favorite Nursery Rhymes by Tomie dePaola
Town Mouse, Country Mouse by Jan Brett
Trouble with Trolls by Jan Brett
The Twelve Days of Christmas by Jan Brett
The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle
We Are Brothers by Yves Nadon
Wee Gillis by Munro Leaf
The Weight of a Mass by Josephine Nobisso
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
Yonder by Tony Johnson
Yonie Wondernose by Marguerite de Angeli

Early Readers

26 Fairmont Avenue by Tomie DePaola
Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish
Bread and Jam for Frances by Lillian and Russell Hoban
Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel
Little Bear by Elise Minarak
Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo
Mouse Tales by Arnold Lobel
Mouse Soup by Arnold Lobel
Owl at Home by Arnold Lobel

Chapter Books, Classics, and Beyond

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
The Adventures of Robin Hood by Roger Lancelyn Green
The American Girl books (Felicity, Josefina, Kirsten, Addy, Samantha, and Molly series)
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild
A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson
The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich
The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warren
Brilliant: 25 Catholic Scientists, Mathematicians, and Super Smart People by David Warren

Bunnicula by James and Deborah Howe
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg
Five Children and It by E. Nesbit
The Great Cake Mystery by Alexander McCall Smith
The Green Ember series by S.D. Smith
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Hundred and One Dalmatians by Dodie Smith
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Mara, Daughter of the Nile by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
Mary Poppins by P.L. Travers
Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle by Betty MacDonald
My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannet
The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall
Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald
The Railway Children by E. Nesbit
Redwall by Brian Jacques
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Stuart Little by E.B. White
Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome
The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White
Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
Tuesdays at the Castle by Jessica Day George
Watership Down by Richard Adams

Chapter Books, Classics, and Beyond

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

The Wingfeather Saga by Andrew Peterson

Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A. Milne

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (and entire
Time Quintet)

Graphic Novels

The Adventures of Loupio by Jean-Francois Kieffer

Anne of Green Gables adapted by Maria Marsden

Catechism of the Seven Sacraments by Kevin and
Mary O'Neill

The Hobbit adapted by Charles Dixon

Queen of the Sea by Dylan Meconis

The Secret Garden adapted by Maria Marsden

Zita the Space Girl by Ben Hatke