

# TAAS Book Selection Guide

For Middle School



Dear Parents,

Reading books is a great way to learn new ideas and information, to encourage imagination, to expand vocabulary, and to improve English skills. We encourage students to read lots of books. But what kinds of books are appropriate for school? We've created this book selection guide to help answer that question and to give suggestions of some books we like and think your child would like, too!

## Questions to Ask When Choosing a Book

1. Does this book have an uplifting or positive theme?
2. Does this book uphold Christian standards like truth, purity, doing the right thing, and respecting others and their property?
3. Does this book have offensive or inappropriate language?
4. Does this book dwell on or glorify death and violence?
5. Does this book contain witches, vampires, or other mythical or spiritual beings? Does it contain sorcery, magic, or spells?

## Remember...

Whatever is true,  
whatever is noble,  
whatever is right,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely,  
whatever is admirable—  
if anything is excellent or  
praiseworthy—think  
about such things.

Philippians 4:8

Here is a list of some books that have been popular recently but would not be acceptable for school reading.

1. *Artemis Fowl* series by Eoin Colfer
2. *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling
3. *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer
4. *Maze Runner* series by James Dashner
5. *Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins
6. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series by Rick Riordan
7. *Divergent* series by Veronica Roth
8. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by
9. *Dork Diaries* by Rachel Renee Russell

## Inappropriate Books

A lot of popular books these days contain spiritual elements like witches, spells, and magic.

Other books take things like vampires and witches, which have traditionally been seen as bad, and turn them into the good guys or just "misunderstood" by society. In this way popular media blurs the line between good and evil and makes evil seem acceptable.

Other books, like the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, do not have positive themes. The main character is not respectful of others and is not a good role model for our students.

# Teachers' Picks

Here is a list of some books that we have enjoyed. We think your child would like them, too!

## Fiction

### Historical Fiction

1. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr
2. *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
3. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne
4. *The Trailblazer Books* by Dave and Neta Jackson

### Fiction

5. *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
6. *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery
7. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
8. *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
9. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl
10. *Dumpling Days* by Grace Lin
11. *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
12. *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks
13. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg
14. *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies
15. *Frindle* by Andrew Clements
16. *No Talking* by Andrew Clements
17. *Room One* by Andrew Clements
18. *The Last Holiday Concert* by Andrew Clements

### Adventure and Survival

19. *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
20. *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
21. *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

### Mystery

1. *Detective Zach Mystery Books* by Jerry D. Thomas
2. *Boxcar Children Mystery series* by Gertrude Chandler Warner
3. *Shadow Creek Ranch Mystery books* by Charles Mills

### Understanding Learning Disabilities

22. *Summer of the Swans* by Betsy Byar
23. *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
24. *My Name is ~~Brian~~ Brian* by Jeanne Betancourt

### Poetry

25. *Where the Sidewalk Ends: The Poems and Drawings of Shel Silverstein* by Shel Silverstein
26. *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech
27. *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* by Paul Fleischman



# Nonfiction

## History

1. *The Great Molasses Flood* by Deborah Kops
2. *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
3. *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* by Ji-li Jiang
4. *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown
5. *Radioman: An Eyewitness Account of Pearl Harbor and World War II In the Pacific* by Carol Edgemon Hipperson
6. *I Survived* series
7. *The Horrible History* series

## Biography

8. *Gifted Hands* by Ben Carson
9. *My Life with the Chimps* by Jane Goodall
10. *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom
11. *The Man Who Couldn't Be Killed* by Stanley M. Maxwell
12. *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew, John Sherrill, and Elizabeth Sherrill
13. *The First Woman Doctor* by Rachel Baker
14. *Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window* by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi and Chihiro Iwasaki
15. *Little House on the Prairie* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
16. *Who Was?* Biography book series

## Science

17. *Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion* by Loree Griffin Burns
18. *Eyewitness Books* series
19. *The Horrible Science* series

## Mission Stories/Christian Literature

20. *Curse-Proof!* by Eric B. Hare
21. *More than Mountains: The Todd Huston Story* by Todd Huston with Kay D. Rizzo
22. *Nyla and the White Crocodile* by Norma R. Youngberg
23. *Miracle in Borneo* by Norma R. Youngberg
24. *Jungle Thorn* by Norma R. Youngberg
25. *Heroes of the Faith* book series
26. *Case for...* book series by Lee Strobel



### Tip!

Better World Books is a great website that offers free international shipping on all books. It's a great place to buy books.