



## 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 Barbara 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