

Recommended Books for AGATE Book Projects

For plot and setting papers, and for character and theme papers, you must do a novel.

For the images, sound, and figures of speech papers, you may do a novel, or you may do a book of poetry, a collection of short stories, or a nonfiction book.

Remember the qualities I am looking for:

insightful analysis
insightful use of literary vocabulary
fluent and engaging style

For each project, pick a book at the AGATE reading level. My recommended books include those from the Johns Hopkins list of recommended books for gifted students, Newbury award books, and the Oxford list of the 100 best books. Do not use a book twice in the 6/7 class.

Fantasy

Lloyd Alexander
Prydain Chronicles

Alan Armstrong
Whittington

Lucy M. Boston
The Children of Green Knowe

Ursula Le Guin
Earthsea Trilogy

J.R.R. Tolkien
The Hobbit
The Lord of the Rings Trilogy

Classic Literature

Adwin Abbott

Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions

Aesop's Fables

<http://www.bartleby.com/17/1/>

John Bunyan

The Pilgrim's Progress

Padraic Colum

The Golden Fleece and The Heroes Who Lived Before Achilles

Paul Creswick

Robin Hood

Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire

Book of Greek Myths, Norse Gods and Giants

Miguel de Cervantes

Don Quixote de la Mancha

Daniel Defoe

Robinson Crusoe

A Journal of the Plague Year

There is a related book by Jim Murphy

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793

Alexandre Dumas

The Three Musketeers

Edith Hamilton

Mythology

Virginia Hamilton

Creation Stories from Around the World

Howard Pyle

The Story of King Arthur and His Knights

Sir Walter Scott

Ivanhoe

William Shakespeare
The Merchant of Venice
A Comedy of Errors

(It is a great idea to get together with friends and read a play out loud together.)

Jonathan Swift
Gulliver's Travels

T.H. White
The Once and Future King

Historical Fiction

Avi
Crispin: The Cross of Lead

Nancy Bond
A String in the Harp

Olivia Coolidge
Men of Athens

Karen Cushman
The Midwife's Apprentice
Catherine, Called Birdy

Marguerite de Angeli
A Door in the Wall

Elizabeth Borton de Treviño
I, Juan de Pareja

Eric Kelly
The Trumpeter of Krakow

Eloise Jarvis McGraw
The Golden Goblet

Linda Sue Park
A Single Shard

Elizabeth Marie Pope
The Perilous Gard

Kate Seredy
The White Stag

Zilpha Keatley Snyder
The Egypt Game

Elizabeth George Spreare
The Bronze Bow

Megan Whalen Turner
The Thief

Nonfiction

David Attenborough
The First Eden: The Mediterranean World and Man

William Blackwell
Geometry in Architecture

Sara C. Bisel
The Secrets of Vesuvius: Exploring the Mysteries of an Ancient Buried City

Martha Boles and Rochelle Newman
The Golden Relationship: Art, Math, and Nature

Polly S. Brooks
Beyond the Myth: The Story of Joan of Arc

Julia Diggins
String, Straightedge, and Shadow: The Story of Geometry

Michael Hurd
The Oxford Junior Companion to Music

H.W. Janson
History of Art for Young People

Nancy Larrick
Crazy to Be Alive in Such a Strange World

Thomas Metos
The Human Mind: How We Think and Learn

David Peters
From the Beginning: The Story of Human Evolution

Garth Runion
The Golden Section

Frances Stonaker
Famous Mathematicians

Dirk Stuijk
A Concise History of Mathematics

Erika Uitz
The Legend of Good Women: Medieval Women in Towns and Cities

Other Good Books Kids Have Chosen for Projects

Jane Austen:
Pride and Prejudice

L. Frank Baum:
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Lewis Carroll
Alice in Wonderland
Through the Looking Glass

Suzanne Collins:
The Hunger Games

Jack London:
Call of the Wild
White Fang

Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin:
Three Cups of Tea

Gary Paulsen:
Hatchet

J.K. Rowling:
Harry Potter series

Betty Smith:
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn