

## **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*