

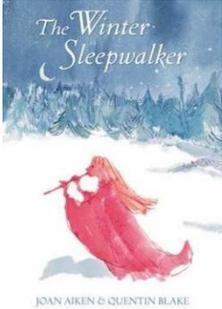
# Year 4 reading list

**Joan Aiken**

**Interest age: 8+**

## **The Winter Sleepwalker**

**Reading age:9+**



This beautiful volume brings together a selection of unusual and whimsical fairy-tales by classic children's author Joan Aiken, perfectly illustrated by Quentin Blake. Featuring everything from princesses and witches to sea kings, giant pink snakes and celestial football players, these are truly magical tales: sometimes funny, sometimes dark and frightening, but always thought-provoking and told in Aiken's distinctive storytelling voice. Witty and original, this is an enjoyable short story collection that would make a great Christmas gift, and is perfect for reading aloud on cold winter nights.

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## **Tony Bradman** **Young Merlin**

**Interest age: 8+**

**Reading age:7+**



Merlin has always felt different from other boys. Firstly, he has dreadful nightmares full of fighting and death. Secondly, he and his mother are treated as outcasts because Merlin has no father. One day some of king Vortigern's soldiers fetch Merlin from his village and take him to the king. He discovers that the king is building a fortress that keeps falling down, so he wants to make a human sacrifice of a fatherless boy to appease his pagan gods. Luckily, Merlin escapes - and then meets a dragon who shows him the meaning of his nightmares and the important destiny that awaits him.

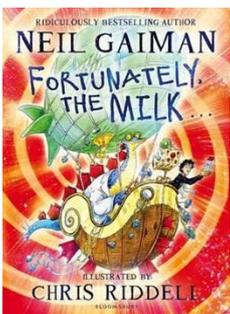
The first of a trilogy, this action-packed story is ideal for reluctant and dyslexic readers who enjoy magic and fantasy.

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## **Neil Gaiman** **Fortunately The Milk**

**Interest age: 6+**

**Reading age:7+**



Mum's gone away on business, leaving Dad in charge. She's left him a long list of what he's got to do, but the most important is DON'T FORGET THE MILK. Unfortunately Dad forgets and the next morning he has to go to the corner shop and get some. This is the story of why it takes him a very long time to get back again - a story which features a time-travelling stegosaurus, aliens, vampires, dinosaur police and the Queen of the Pirates, as well as a whole host of other completely unexpected adventures.

There's a hint of *Dr Who* about this wacky and inventive 'shaggy dog' story from best-selling author Neil Gaiman, Although the story itself is slight.

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**Sibéal Pounder**

**Interest age: 7-11**

**Bad Mermaids**

**Reading age: 9-11**



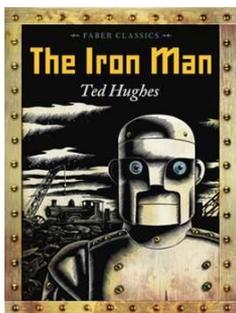
Mermaids Beattie, Mimi and Zelda are making the most of visiting land for the first time when a mysterious message urges them to get back to Swirlyshell at once. With their leader Arabella Cod mysteriously missing, evil piranhas acting as spies and new queen The Swan's sidekick Ommy Pike up to no good, can our three unlikely heroines - and a talking seahorse called Steve who lives in some false teeth - save the day?

**Ted Hughes**

**Interest age: 7+**

**The Iron Man**

**Reading age: 8+**



The Iron Man is a fearsome figure, wreaking terrible destruction wherever he goes. He cannot be stopped - but it takes a child to realise that he is not simply a hostile monster, but could even be a friend. Then, when a monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet and its people, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save them.

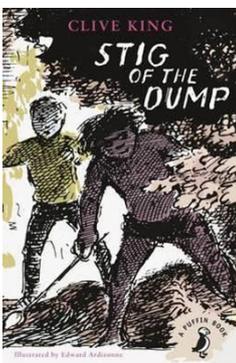
Subtitled 'a children's story in five nights' this powerful, moving and beautifully-written fable from poet Ted Hughes is a true modern classic.

**Clive King**

**Interest age: 8+**

**Stig of the Dump**

**Reading age: 8+**



Barney is a solitary little boy who often wanders off by himself in the countryside. Exploring an old chalk pit, he finds himself in a cave where he meets a strange boy who wears a rabbit skin and speaks in grunts. His grandparents don't believe Barney when he tells them about his new cave boy friend - but nevertheless, the two enjoy plenty of fun together.

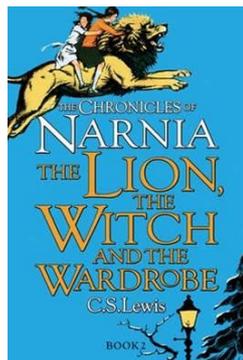
This lovely story about the unlikely friendship between Barney and stone-age Stig has stood the test of time. Although it is now over 50 years old, contemporary children will love reading about the pair's lively adventures.

**C S Lewis**

**Interest age: 9+**

## **The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe**

**Reading age:9+**



When the Pevensie children - Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy - step through a wardrobe door in the strange country house where they are staying, they find themselves in the land of Narnia. Frozen in eternal winter, Narnia is a land of snow and pine forests, and its creatures are enslaved by the terrible White Witch.

Tempted by the promise of endless Turkish Delight, Edmund becomes the White Witch's servant - and its up to his brother and sisters to release him from his enchantment and to rid Narnia of the witch. But just when it seems that all hope is lost, the Great Lion Aslan returns to help the children to save Narnia.

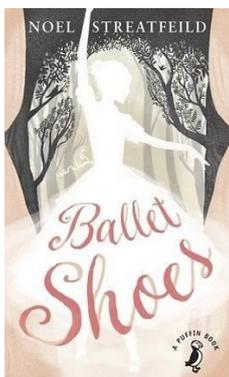
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## **Noel Streatfield**

**Interest age: 8+**

### **Ballet Shoes**

**Reading age:9+**



Pauline, Petrova and Posy are orphans adopted by eccentric fossil collector and explorer Gum ('Great Uncle Matthew'). Leaving them in the care of his niece Sylvia, and Nana, her old nurse, at his London home on the Cromwell Road, Gum goes off to continue his exploring, saying he'll be back in five years time. But after five years come and go, and there is no sign of Gum, Sylvia's money begins to run out. When the family take in an engaging collection of lodgers to help make ends meet, one of them suggests that the three girls should attend Madame Fidolia's Children's Academy of Dancing and Stage Training, so that they can learn to support themselves and earn money on the stage. After some excitement, intense competition, occasional disappointments and some hard lessons, Posy proves herself a gifted ballet dancer and Pauline discovers a talent for acting, but Petrova - who loathes dancing and acting - remains true to her passion for mechanics and her dream to become a pilot.

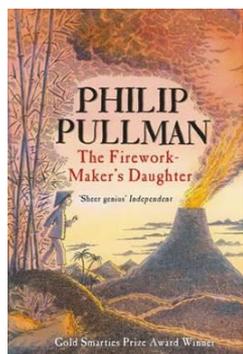
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## **Philip Pullman**

**Interest age: 7+**

### **The Firework Maker's Daughter**

**Reading age:7+**



What Lila wants to be more than anything else in the world is . . . a Firework-Maker!

But firework-making is not just about being able to make Crackle-Dragons and Golden Sneezes. There is also one special secret: every Firework-Maker must make a perilous journey to face the terrifying Fire-Fiend!

Not knowing that she needs special protection to survive the Fire-Fiend's flames, Lila sets off alone. Her friends, Chulak and Hamlet - the King's white elephant - race after her. But can they possibly reach her in time

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## **Sibéal Pounder**

**Interest age: 7-11**

### **Bad Mermaids**

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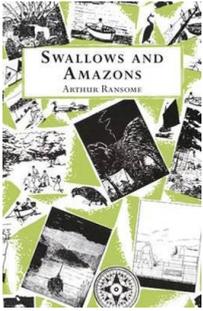


Mermaids Beattie, Mimi and Zelda are making the most of visiting land for the first time when a mysterious message urges them to get back to Swirlyshell at once. With their leader Arabella Cod mysteriously missing, evil piranhas acting as spies and new queen The Swan's sidekick Ommy Pike up to no good, can our three unlikely heroines - and a talking seahorse called Steve who lives in some false teeth - save the day?

## Arthur Ransome *Swallows and Amazons*

**Interest age: 8+**

**Reading age: 9+**



It's the summer holidays, and the Walker children - otherwise known as Captain John, Mate Susan, Able-Seaman Titty and Ship's Boy Roger - are excited to set sail on their boat *Swallow* and camp on Wild Cat Island. Exploring their new territory, camping in the open skies, swimming in the lake and fishing for their dinner would be adventure enough - but then they meet two fierce Amazon pirates who challenge them to a war.

Arthur Ransome's classic *Swallows and Amazons* stories begin with this first book, a delightful evocation of a wonderful summer of adventure, discovery and friendship. Inspired by the author's own real-life sailing adventures in the Lake District as a child, this enchanting story is accompanied by Ransome's simple but characterful black and white illustrations.

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