

**BOOK LIST from Ms. Paz
2025**

**Tashi
(Series) by Anna Fienberg**

In the first book of the much-adored Tashi series, children are introduced to Jack's extraordinary imaginary friend Tashi, a gnome-like character from a place far away. Brave Tashi tells adventurous tales of being sold to a warlord and escaping on a swan. This little hero has to be clever to outsmart giants, ghosts, demons, and witches that stand in his way. Young readers will be captivated by Tashi's tall tales of courage and daring. (Description from Amazon)

My older son Lupin loved this series. It was his bridge into reading. There is a huge book that is a compilation of the series, The Great Big Enormous Book of Tashi, which is 996 pages. He begged for it and began his library of beloved books.

**The Box-Car Children
(series) by Gertrude Chandler Warner**

Four young orphans discover an abandoned boxcar and move in, embarking on a life of self-reliance and hard work — but they also enter a world of freedom and adventure. Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny are afraid of the grandfather they've never met, and to escape his custody they set out on their own, working odd jobs to make money for necessities. When Violet falls ill, they're forced to take her to a doctor . . . and risk losing their independence.

Ranked among the all-time "Top 100 Chapter Books" in a *School Library Journal* survey, *The Box-Car Children* is also among the National Education Association's "Teachers' Top 100 Books for Children." (Description from Amazon)

My own gateway into reading book series.

**Ivy and Bean
(Series) by Annie Barrows**

Meet Ivy and Bean, two friends who never meant to like each other: Ivy and Bean are very different. Bean is loud and wild and goofy. She loves to be involved in games and poke her nose in other people's business. Ivy is quiet and full of ideas. She spends most of her time learning how to be a witch. Each girl thinks the other one is weird. Each girl thinks she could never be friends with the other. But sometimes opposites can become the best of friends because they're opposites! (Description from Amazon)

**The Secret of Kells: The Graphic Novel
by Samuel Sattin (Adapter), Tomm Moore (Creator), Nora Twomey (Creator)**

Inspired by Celtic folklore and based on the award-winning film *The Secret of Kells*, this stunning conclusion to the Irish Folklore Trilogy is about a brave boy, his mystical new friend, and the power of imagination against even the darkest of forces. Includes two bonus stories from the film's creator. In the remote Abbey of Kells lives a young monk named Brendan. Brendan and his fellow monks spend their days isolated from the outside world, toiling away under the strict control of Brendan's uncle to build walls that fend off the Vikings. Everything changes when a master illuminator arrives with an extraordinary book containing secret powers. But the book is unfinished, and Brendan's help is needed. As he sets off on a thrilling adventure through the enchanted woods, Brendan encounters wicked creatures lurking in the shadows—but also new friends. With the help of the bold fairy Aisling, can Brendan finish the ancient book and cast light over Kells? (Description from Amazon)

Graphic Novels are a great way to invite active kids into the love of books. The images can support the text in telling a more complex story with fewer words. The hardest part of getting bright kids, who are not yet reading, to love books, is beginner readers are restricted to simple narratives as they build the blocks of phonics and word recognition. I have not read this book, but in research it came up as a suggestion.

Wings of Fire

(Series, both novel and graphic novels!!) by Tui T. Sutherland (Author), Mike Holmes (Illustrator)

Peril has been loyal to Queen Scarlet, who used her fatal firescales to kill countless dragons in the SkyWing arena. Now, Peril is loyal to Clay, the only dragonet who has ever been her friend. So when Scarlet threatens Jade Mountain Academy, Peril sets off to find her former queen, stop her, and save the day, no matter what it takes.

There's just one problem: a strangely persistent SeaWing, Turtle, insists on coming along, too. Turtle is worried about his friends, who left to search for Scarlet and haven't returned. Peril is worried that she might accidentally burn Turtle -- or burn him on purpose, for being so annoying -- and frustrated that she keeps saying and doing the wrong things. She can't escape her firescales, and she can't escape her reputation as the deadliest dragon in Pyrrhia.

So when she's offered a chance to trade everything for a new life, Peril has to decide who she's really loyal to . . . and whether her own scales might actually be worth saving.

The #1 *New York Times* bestselling Wings of Fire series soars to new heights in the eighth graphic novel adaptation, with art by Mike Holmes. (Description from Amazon)

Spirit Animals

Book Series by Brandon Mull

Other authors Maggie Stiefvater, Tui T. Sutherland, Varian Johnson . . .

Four children separated by vast distances all undergo the same ritual, watched by cloaked strangers. Four flashes of light erupt, and from them emerge the unmistakable shapes of incredible beasts - a wolf, a leopard, a panda, a falcon. Suddenly the paths of these children - and the world - have been changed forever. (Description from Amazon)

Lupin would wait outside our local bookstore before it opened on the day the next book in the series was released and due to be on the shelves. He and his classmates were big fans. You guessed it, the series is part of his treasured childhood library.

Choose Your Own Adventure
by R. A. Montgomery

Choose Your Own Adventure books—the 4th bestselling children’s series of all time—are back and as much fun as you remember. Kids and adults agree, these are the books that get 9- to 12-year-olds reading. (Description from Amazon)

I have not read from this series, but do remember how much fun choose your own adventure books were!

Dragon Masters Series
by Tracey West (Author)

The "Dragon Masters" series by Tracey West is a captivating collection of early chapter books designed for newly independent readers. The series combines easy-to-read text, high-interest content, fast-paced plots, and illustrations on every page to boost reading confidence and stamina. (Description from Amazon)

My younger son Escher, who was less interested in reading, loved and read this series.

A to Z Mysteries Boxed Set: Every Mystery from A to Z!
by Ron Roy (Author)

Help Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose hunt down clues in their hometown as they search for missing persons, catch thieves, save neighborhood pets and more! With more than 10 million copies in print, the A to Z Mysteries® have been hooking chapter book readers on mysteries and reading for 25 years. This giftable 26-book boxed set is the complete series and perfect for young detectives. Join the adventure and crack every case from A to Z! (Description from Amazon)

Small Flames
Book Series by A.M. Luzzader

Small Flames which is an illustrated set of fantasy adventure chapter books that can be read in any order. Recommended for ages six to ten.

Welcome to the Dragon Realm of Savra, where young dragons, known as Small Flames, compete in the yearly Fire Ridge Tournament to become Valor Dragons. Who will win? Who will be defeated? Each Small Flame has a different story!

Zuri the Gold is a great dragon fighter, just like her mother was. In fact, Zuri has never lost a fight—she fights almost perfectly. But when she finally loses a fight in the tournament, she starts to worry that she won’t be able to follow in her mother’s footsteps. Will Zuri figure out that she doesn’t have to be perfect? Or will she be dismissed from the Fire Ridge Tournament? (Description from Amazon)

The House at the Edge of Magic
Book Series by Amy Sparkes

Orphan Nine can’t believe her eyes when a beautiful ornament that she has pickpocketed transforms into an enormous house; then she steps inside and meets Flabberghast, High Wizard

and World Hopscotch Champion 1835, who informs her that the house is under a curse that only she can break. Age 8+ (Description from Amazon)

The Secret Seven

By Enid Blyton

The Secret Seven or Secret Seven Society is a fictional group of child detectives created by Enid Blyton and based on the publisher's children. They appear in one of several adolescent detective series which Blyton wrote. The Secret Seven consists of Peter, Janet, Pam, Barbara, Jack, Colin and George. ([Wikipedia](#))

Enid Blyton is one of the most popular children's authors of all time. Her books have sold over 500 million copies and have been translated into other languages more often than any other children's author.

Enid Blyton adored writing for children. She wrote over 700 books and about 2,000 short stories. The Famous Five books, now 75 years old, are her most popular. She is also the author of other favourites including The Secret Seven, The Magic Faraway Tree, Malory Towers and Noddy.

Born in London in 1897, Enid lived much of her life in Buckinghamshire and loved dogs, gardening and the countryside. She was very knowledgeable about trees, flowers, birds and animals. Dorset - where some of the Famous Five's adventures are set - was a favourite place of hers too.

Enid Blyton's stories are read and loved by millions of children (and grown-ups) all over the world. (Amazon)

The Hobbit: A Graphic Novel

by Chuck Dixon (Adapter), J. R. R. Tolkien (Author), David Wenzel (Illustrator)

Fun for a classic to be accessible in this format.

The Academy: The Academy Series

T.Z. Layton (Author), James Fouhey (Narrator), First Touch Media (Publisher)

FROM THE PLAYGROUND TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE

An inspiring series perfect for young listeners ages eight to 13-years-old, and for sports fans of all ages.

Born and raised in a small town, Leo K. Doyle has never seen the ocean or stepped foot on a plane. But Leo is a star soccer player with big dreams in life.

Rock-star, Olympic gold, dragon-slaying dreams.

While Leo has a pet lizard named Messi and longs to make the pros one day, he has no idea how to achieve this goal—until a professional scout pays a chance visit to one of Leo's games and extends an invitation to try out for the London Dragons youth squad, known as The Academy.

Leo is stunned. The London Dragons isn't just any old soccer team. It's a world-famous English Premier League team.

Soon Leo is off to a whole new country, embarking on the greatest adventure of his life. The downside? Only 11 players can make the team.

Eleven out of 200 of the very best youth players on the planet.

Along with the grueling competition, Leo must also face a bully intent on torpedoing his summer, a roomie who doesn't know how to have fun, a terrifying camp director, and, most of all, Leo's own lack of formal training and the fear he'll never succeed. By the end of the summer, Leo will become a much better player, being forever changed by his experience.

But will he be good enough to make the Academy?
(Amazon)

For Family read-aloud or for more advanced readers

The Penderwicks Paperback by Jeanne Birdsall

When *The Penderwicks* burst into the world, they quickly became a beloved family and a modern classic. (Description from Amazon)

3 Book Series By Grace Lin

This stunning fantasy series is inspired by Chinese folklore

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

Grace Lin, author of the beloved *Year of the Dog* and *Year of the Rat*, returns with a wondrous story of adventure, faith, and friendship. A fantasy crossed with Chinese folklore, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* is a timeless story reminiscent of *The Wizard of Oz* and Kelly Barnhill's *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*. Once again, she has created a charming, engaging book for young listeners.

Starry River of the Sky

The moon is missing from the remote Village of Clear Sky, but only a young boy named Rendi seems to notice! Rendi has run away from home and is now working as a chore boy at the village inn. He can't help but notice the village's peculiar inhabitants and their problems. But one day, a mysterious lady arrives at the Inn with the gift of storytelling, and slowly transforms the villagers and Rendi himself.

As she tells more stories and the days pass in the Village of Clear Sky, Rendi begins to realize that perhaps it is his own story that holds the answers to all those questions.

When the Sea Turned to Silver

Pinmei's gentle, loving grandmother always has the most thrilling tales for her granddaughter and the other villagers. However, the peace is shattered one night when soldiers of the Emperor arrive and kidnap the storyteller. Everyone knows that the Emperor wants something called the Luminous Stone That Lights the Night. Determined to have her grandmother returned, Pinmei embarks on a journey to find the Luminous Stone alongside her friend Yishan, a mysterious boy who seems to have his own secrets to hide. Together, the two must face obstacles usually found only in legends to find the Luminous Stone and save Pinmei's grandmother - before it's too late.

(All three Descriptions from Amazon)

