



Tips on finding books your reader will love ...

(excerpts from “How to Raise a Reader” by Regan McMahon)

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/how-to-raise-a-reader>

1. Savor the series. It's common for kids to become book lovers for life after getting hooked on a series. And there are lots of good ones that keep kids hungry for the next installment.

(Judy Moody, Junie B. Jones, Bad Guys, Series of Unfortunate Events, Harry Potter, Wings of Fire, Amulet)

2. Grab onto a genre. Kids go through phases of genres they're passionate about. Don't get hung up on whether it's considered great literature (or one of your favorites). Be happy that your kid is devouring books one after the other.

(girl detectives, science fiction, historical fiction, spies, pets, fantasy, etc.) *most popular for ages 8-12*

3. Feed the favorite author addiction. Once your kids find a writer they love, they may want to read all of his or her books. This is a great excuse for a trip to the library or an opportunity for book swapping among friends and classmates.

(Dave Pilkey – Captain Underpants, Raina Telgemeier – Smile)

4. Count on the classics. Books are called classics because they continue to engage readers generation after generation. There are no guarantees, but you could try introducing your kids to books you loved as a kid and see which ones click.

(Narnia, Charlotte's Web, The Secret Garden, James and the Giant Peach)

5. Funny is fine. Some parents wrestle with letting their kids read edgy humor books about kids getting in trouble. Talk to your kids about the content, but keep in mind that kids like these books not because they want to imitate the characters' actions but because they can live vicariously through their bad behavior. Humor is a great pathway to book loving!

(Captain Underpants, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Dogman, Dork Diaries, Lunch Lady, etc.)

6. Comics/Manga are OK. Some children prefer visual books. Stories and characters remain rich and well developed, and children still learn reading skills. Graphic novels are among the hottest trends in children's publishing, and they can get kids hooked on reading and provide access to complex storylines..

(Babymouse, El Deafo, Smile, Amulet, Babysitter's Club, Cleopatra in Space)

7. Don't forget non-fiction. Some reluctant readers are fact-gatherers, who may be more inspired by reading nonfiction. If presented in a highly visual format, all the better for conveying even more kinds of information.

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