



Books to Grow Your Heart

First Things First

- This list is divided into challenging books and more challenging books. Maybe you could alternate reading a hard book and an easier book.
- Many of these books have great audio versions available. Read along while you listen! Most of these books also make great read-alouds.
- Many of these books are the first in a series...lots more to read! These books are marked with a **

Challenging

1. *****Haven* by Philip and Erin Ulrich**

A story about a girl bear named Ember who is growing up and ready for adventure; every chapter leaves you wanting to read more. (You can borrow our copy!)

2. *****Little Britches* by Ralph Moody**

An old fashioned story about a boy and his family moving out West to be ranchers. There are lots of horses!

3. ***Benjamin West and His Cat Grimalkin* by Marguerite Henry**

The wonderful story of the first great American painter who has to mix his own paints and make his own brushes.

4. ***Farmer Giles of Ham* by J.R.R. Tolkien**

A medieval fable about the noble dragon slayer named Farmer Giles

5. *****On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness* by Andrew Peterson**

Fantasy novel about three siblings and their ex-pirate grandfather living in a land controlled by the Fangs and Gnag the Nameless.

6. *****The Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. LeGuin**

The tale of a young boy becoming a powerful sorcerer

7. *****Juniper* by Monica Furlong**

The excellent tale of a young girl becoming a powerful sorcerer

More Challenging

1. ***Black Fox of Lorne* by Marguerite de Angeli**

The story of twin teenaged Viking raiders who land in the British Isles and must make their way in a new land

2. ***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**

The Bennett family has five daughters who might be in search of husbands with good fortunes

3. *****Swallows and Amazons* by Arthur Ransome**

Four siblings messing about in boats in the English Lake District. There are pirates and adventures and boats and lots of tea and chocolate

4. ***Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare**

(Read the Folger edition--great notes--while listening along) Viola is shipwrecked and must make her way in the world disguised as a boy

5. *****Little Men* by Louisa May Alcott**

Jo March from *Little Women* raises and educates a houseful of boys

Closing Thoughts

After reading a book, it's always fun to think a little more about it. You spent all the time and effort reading, you might as well spend a little more! [The Quickstart Guide](#) is a great way to start thinking...and eventually writing...about what you've read. Journaling about one of the questions can help you understand who the bravest or funniest or obnoxious character was--and why that's important to the story.