

**24 THE BORROWERS***Mary Norton*

This is a story about the Clock family - tiny people who live beneath the floor of an old house and "borrow" the things they need from the humans who live above them. This is whimsical fantasy in a real life setting, and it has deservedly become a modern classic.

**25 THE LITTLE PRINCE***Antoine de Saint Exupery*

This tells the story of a little boy who leaves the safety of his own tiny planet to travel the universe, learning the vagaries of adult behaviour through a series of extraordinary encounters. It has become a timeless classic, and speaks strongly to a spiritual element in readers, regardless of age.

**26 THE HOBBIT***J.R.R. Tolkien*

Whisked away from his comfortable hobbit-hole by Gandalf the wizard and a band of dwarves, unsuspecting Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of a fearsome dragon. Fantasy at its finest!

**27 THE RAILWAY CHILDREN***E. Nesbit*

When their father is taken away unexpectedly, three children and their mother move to the countryside where the children spend a lot of time at the nearby railway, waving to trains. Little do they know that the kindly old gentleman passenger who waves back holds the key to their father's disappearance.

**28 THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE***Enid Blyton*

Enid Blyton's stories continue to entertain new generations of readers, and when Joe, Beth and Frannie discover the Faraway Tree, it proves to be the beginning of many magical adventures.

**29 THE SECRET GARDEN***Frances Hodgson Burnett*

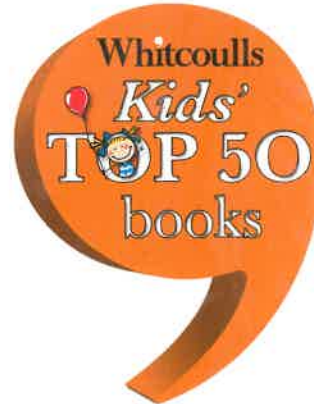
A troubled, unhappy orphan is sent to live with an uncle she's never met, where her life is lonely and strange. She discovers that there's a "secret" garden attached to the house which changes her world. This book explores themes of isolation and belonging and is a genuine modern classic.

**30 THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH***Norton Juster*

When Milo finds a Genuine Turnpike Tollbooth, he leaps into his pedal car and sets off on a magical journey which introduces him to some amazing places and people. But is it real - and will it still be there when he gets home from school?

**31 ASTERIX THE GAUL***R. Goscinny & A. Uderzo*

The first title in the classic graphic novel series. This visual imagery can be an easy way for some readers to absorb the information, and with a blend of history and humour thrown in, these are captivating stories.



Check out the  
**Whitcoulls Kids' TOP 50!**

This is a list of the most loved children's books, as voted for by New Zealand readers. These are books which thousands of young readers have discovered and loved, and may assist you with your selection.

## Independent Readers 8-10 Years

# Whitcoulls Reading Guides

Books for Independent Readers



## The Magic of Words

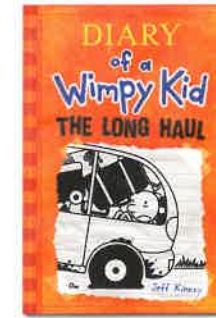
At this age most children have started reading fluently by themselves and are developing their own taste in books. They are ready for longer novels with complex plots and a wide range of subjects. They will start noticing authors and series, and will hunt out a particular range of books that they have enjoyed. This is an exciting time for children who enjoy reading.

Now that they are no longer struggling with print, they can start exploring the huge range of wonderful stories that are available to them.

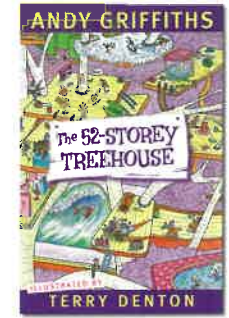
*This Whitcoulls Reading Guide will help you choose the age appropriate book for your Independent Reader, to ensure you have enjoyable and educational reading time together!*

**1 THE WITCHES***Roald Dahl*

The story of a young boy and his Norwegian grandmother, who tells him about child-hating evil witches who can make young boys' lives a misery. This is typical of Dahl's black humour and comic fantasy.

**2 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL***Jeff Kinney*

This is number eight in a series of hilarious books which chronicle the comic adventures of Greg Heffley, his family and his friends, in diary form. This series has a huge following throughout the world.

**3 THE 52-STOREY TREEHOUSE***Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton*

Andy and Terry have an amazing treehouse that keeps on getting bigger - just like their zany stories! There are now a number of books in this series, and they're all wildly popular.

## Fiction

## 4 DAVID WALLIAMS

David Walliams is one of the fastest growing authors in the world, and is often compared to Roald Dahl. The humour in his books touches on a range of social issues which give them depth beyond the merely comic, and kids will find much to relate to. All his books are very highly recommended!



## 5 MILLIONS

Frank Cottrell Boyce

A marvellous book about brothers who stumble on a bag stuffed full of cash, but they only have 17 days to spend the money before it becomes worthless. Meantime the thieves who stole it in the first place are hard on their heels....this is clever, funny and a great read.



## 6 JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

Roald Dahl

This is the first book Roald Dahl ever wrote - about a peach tree which magically grows to accommodate a young boy, who finally finds a place where he feels as though he belongs.

## 7 PRIVATE PEACEFUL

Michael Morpurgo

Thomas Peaceful, too young to enlist, has followed his older brother into war. From his position on the front lines he remembers his childhood, and the family left behind - and every moment he spends thinking about his life means another moment closer to danger. This is a truly wonderful book, from one of the great modern childrens' writers.

## 8 THE STORY OF TRACY BEAKER

Jacqueline Wilson

Ten year old Tracy lives in an orphanage but she is desperate to have a real home and a real family to call her own. This novel is both funny and touching, in typical Jacqueline Wilson fashion.

## 9 TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

Judy Blume

Judy Blume's books, where the characters' lives often reflect those of their readers, have struck a chord with literally millions of young people. This is the first in the series about Peter and his little brother Fudge who causes trouble wherever he goes, leaving Peter to sort out the mess.

## 10 CORALINE

Neil Gaiman

Coraline finds a secret corridor that takes her into a house very similar to her own. However, this other house is inhabited by counterfeit parents with buttons for eyes and they don't intent to let Coraline escape from them.

## New Zealand Books

## 11 THE ISLAND OF LOST HORSES

Stacy Gregg

The combination of a thrilling real life story combined with horses will be irresistible to many.



## 12 TALE OF A TAIL

Margaret Mahy & Tony Ross

A charming, magical story about the joy that can be experienced from the ordinary things in life - and with a message : be careful what you wish for!

## Popular Series

## 13 ONCE UPON A DORK

Rachel Renee Russell

After a bump on the head, Nikki has a wild dream - but, this being *Dork Diaries*, it's more likely to become a nightmare!



## 14 SPIRIT ANIMALS BOOK 5: AGAINST THE TIDE

Tui T Sutherland

As children come of age in Erdas, they learn if they have a spirit animal - a rare bond which can unlock incredible power.

## 15 TOM GATES #6: EXTRA SPECIAL TREATS (NOT)

L. Pichon

Tom Gates is a master of excuses, expert doodler (the books are full of his doodles) and a very funny young man. Great for kids who like some humour in their books, and for reluctant readers.



## 16 ARTEMIS FOWL

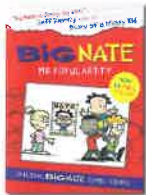
Eoin Colfer

Artemis Fowl is 12 years old and a criminal genius, with a dastardly plan. This is really fast paced action for readers who love thrills, with eight books in the series.

## 17 BIG NATE: MR POPULARITY

Lincoln Peirce

Perfect for reluctant readers, this is a comic compilation in full colour, graphic novel format, about the king of detention and cartooning genius Nate Wright!



## 18 ZAC POWER

H. I. Larry

The Zac Power series is based on the adventures of 12 year old Zac, and his 15 year old brother Leon. Zac is a secret agent for the fictitious intelligence agency GIB, and he frequently saves the world! There are loads of titles in this series.



## 19 THE FAMOUS FIVE: FIVE ON A TREASURE ISLAND

Enid Blyton

The very first *Famous Five* adventure, featuring Julian, Dick, Anne, not forgetting tomboy George and her beloved dog, Timmy! This series has endured for more than 70 years and is still as popular today as it was back then.



## 20 THE SECRET SEVEN

Enid Blyton

The Secret Seven are Peter and his sister Janet; Jack, Colin, George, Pam and Barbara. They meet every holiday in the shed at the bottom of Peter and Janet's garden - and solve mysteries, and eat lots of delicious food. But no one can enter the shed without whispering the secret password! These books are still great!

## Timeless Classics

## 21 THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

C. S. Lewis

First published in 1950, this magical book introduces us to the world of Narnia and the fantastic creatures that live there, waiting to be saved from the cruel White Witch and her evil supporters.



## 22 THE WOLVES OF WILLOUGHBY CHASE

Joan Aiken

The first - and most famous - book in a series about two young girls left in the care of an evil governess, then sent to a school for orphans. It ticks all the right boxes for young readers with a sense of adventure, with its secret passages, mean grown ups, and loads of twists and turns.

## 23 GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM

Michelle Magorian

A true classic, perfect for this age group. Set during WW2 when a young evacuee from London is sent to live with an elderly and unsociable widower in the countryside. The child blossoms and finds a life he had never imagined possible - set against the beautiful and profound relationship that develops between them.