

PRAEDITUS

Latin praeditus adj. 1 cl. meaning gifted

A publication of Allen ISD Gifted and Talented Services

Gifted Kids Book Recommendations

This week are are chapter books. These vary in complexity and maturity level. Please make sure they meet your child's reading level and interest.

- Hoot by Carl Hiassen
- Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien
- A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck
- Any of the mythology series by Rick Riordan Percy Jackson (Greek), Heroes of Olympus (Roman), Chase Mangu (Norse), The Kane Chronicles (Egyptian) Aru Shah– written by Roshani Chokshi (Hindu).
- A Long Way From Chicago by Richard Peck
- Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine
- Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
- Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
- The Eleventh Hour by Graeme Base
- Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling
- The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
- Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett
- The Calder Game by Blue Balliett
- The Wright Three by Blue Balliett
- Frindle by Andrew Clements
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
- Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner
- The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
- The View from Saturday by E.L.



Setting Goals to Inspire Achievement

Now that the novelty of at home learning has probably worn off, you may find yourself dealing with an unmotivated student. If you told any gifted teacher your problem, the teacher wouldn't be surprised.

Underachievement of gifted students is an ongoing challenge. And given the at home learning setting, it is likely to be rearing its ugly head now.

Today, we are going to focus on how goal setting impacts performance. Children's goals influence how they approach achievement tasks. Researchers report that underachieving high school gifted students were able to reverse underachievement by developing goals that were both personally motivating and directly related to academic success.

It is essential that children set goals that are their own--with personal meaning--rather than assume the goals of teachers or parents. Goals will not be effective if they are not personal. In early grades, gifted students should be encouraged to set simple, clear, specific goals that move them toward getting something accomplished. As the child ages, goal setting can become more complex.

Goals with *utility value* occur when students may not enjoy an activity but they may value a later reward or outcome it produces. These goals require teachers and parents to help students see beyond the immediate activity to the long-term benefits it produces.

Goals with *intrinsic value* result from the enjoyment an activity produces for the student. Students bring a variety of interests to the classroom, and learning becomes personally meaningful when their prior knowledge and diverse experiences are connected with the present experiences.

Gifted Kids Books Continued

- The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
- James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
- The BFG by Roald Dahl
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
- Matilda by Roald Dahl
- Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein
- Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh
- The Borrowers by Mary Norton
- The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler by E.L Konigsburg
- The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
- The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
- The Pushcart War by Jean Merrill
- Rules by Cynthia Lord
- The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles by Julie Andrews Edwards
- The 39 Clues Series by Rick Riordan
- The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B White
- Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
- Mandy by Julie Andrews Edwards
- Bloomability by Sharon Creech
- The Candy Shop War by Brandon Mull
- The Candymakers by Wendy Mass
- The Giver (Giver Quartet) by Lois Lowry
- Wonder by R.J Palacio
- The Trouble Begins: A Box of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
- Greenglass House by Kate Milford
- The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place by E.L Konigsburg
- The Great Brain by J.D. Fitzgerald
- My Side of the Mountain by Jean Geroqe
- A Wrinkle in Time (and sequels) by Madeleine L'Engle
- Come Sing, Jimmy Jo by Katherine Paterson
- Encyclopedia Brown: Boy Detective by Donald J. Sobol

Please note this book list was developed from a series of book lists for gifted kids. Some of them deal specifically with

Convergent versus Divergent Thinking: Let's Get Creative!

Divergent thinking is the process of coming up with new ideas and possibilities—without judgment, without analysis, without discussion. Think about a brainstorming session. People are throwing out all sorts of suggestions—even ones you know at first glance are unfeasible. That's divergent thinking.

Convergent thinking is associated with analysis, judgment, and decision-making. It is the thinking process to strategically weed through ideas to find a solution.

Everybody is capable of both convergent and divergent thinking, depending on the situation. However, it's natural to lean more toward one or the other when approaching problems and projects.

In AIM many lessons are focused on divergent thinking where there is likely to be more than one answer. Students discover that thinking of many potential answers allows them to then evaluate and determine the very best answer.

To work with your child on divergent thinking don't use yes and no questions. Use questions like: how would you... when should we... how could we... what happens if... These question stems allow for maximum creative thinking and problem solving. In all honesty, most AIM teachers rarely answer questions from students without first probing. Generally they ask more questions until the student has decided on an answer they want to use. This is true at all ages. Many times the answers are not what you would choose. This is the good thinking!

So, with all that said, there is no one right answer. The more answers the better. Some will be silly. Some will be thoughtful, and others will be inspired. It is all good, because it is ALL about the thinking!

Divergent Family Fun Challenges

Check out these links for three fun divergent thinking challenges:

[Visual Thinking Strategies](#)

[What Could It Be?](#)

[What is the Question?](#)

We'd love to hear from you! Share your challenges, questions, and success stories at [Praeditus Feedback](#)