

PRAEDITUS

Latin praeditus adj. I cl. meaning gifted

A publication of Allen ISD Gifted and Talented Services

Gifted Kids Book Recommendations

This week are picture book recommendations, next week are chapter books.

- *Thelma the Unicorn* by Aaron Blabey
- *Return of Thelma the Unicorn* by Aaron Blabey
- *Penelope Perfect* by Shannon Anderson
- *Archibald Frisby* by Michael Chesworth
- *The Big Orange Splot* by Marcus Pinkwater
- *Eggbert, the Slightly Cracked Egg* by Tom Ross
- *What Do You Do With an Idea?* by Kobi Yamada
- *Odd Velvet* by Mary Whitcomb
- *Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty
- *Rosie Revere, Engineer* by Andrea Beaty
- *Too Much Glue* by Jason LeFebvre
- *Ish* by Peter Reynolds
- *Zig Zag* by Robert San Souci
- *Violet: The Pilot* by Steve Breen
- *The Little Cupcakes* by Anthony King
- *Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell
- *Frederick* by Leo Lionni
- *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig
- *Wilford Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox
- *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman
- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- *Wilma Unlimited* by Kathleen Krull
- *The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane* by Russell Freedman



Bibliotherapy- It's Real!

Feeling stressed out? Who isn't! Bibliotherapy is a real therapeutic approach that uses literature to support good mental health. Advocates of bibliotherapy suggest that mild to moderate symptoms of mood-related conditions can be successfully treated with reading activities. Bibliotherapy can be practiced as a solo activity or as a group (family reading).

Reading, storytelling and creative writing are healing experiences. This is not a new discovery. In fact, the early Egyptians called libraries the "drugstores for the soul". In ancient Greece, the inscription over a library entrance read, "The Healing Place of the Soul". During World Wars I and II, bibliotherapy was used to help returning soldiers deal with both physical and emotional concerns.

In the 1950s, Caroline Shrodes developed a theoretical model based on the idea that people are greatly influenced by the characters they identify with in stories. Her model included three stages: identification (reader aligns with story), catharsis (reader able to release emotions), and insight (reader experiences integration of thoughts, emotions and own processes).

Gifted children often struggle with issues such as anxiety, perfectionism, making friends, and feeling different. The sidebar includes a list of great books designed to address some of these issues. AIM teachers use many of these books in their classrooms and are a source of many other great titles (reach out to your teacher for suggestions). So, open up a book and get started!



Why Play Chess?

Search the Internet for information on how playing chess benefits kids. There are thousands of links. However, here are five *scientifically proven* ways chess helps kids.

Improves Concentration and Memory

Children who play chess significantly improve their visual memory, attention span, and spatial-reasoning ability.

Enhances Math and Reading

Focus on problem solving and the process of thinking through move variables are important traits that help improve children's math skills. In addition, chess requires children to use cognitive processes such as decoding, analysis, thinking, and comprehension, which greatly improves their reading skills.

Helps Develop Thinking and Creativity

"If-then" logical analysis and "what-if" scenarios are all necessary ingredients for developing logical and critical thinking. In addition, the process of imagining all the possible move alternatives trains the mind to play with possibilities and improves creativity.

Encourages and Rewards Hard Work

Playing chess provides immediate feedback. Lose your focus, lose a piece; study the game and practice, win more games.

Thinking Through and Solving Complex Problems

Chess helps kids learn and practice thinking through and finding solutions to complex problems.

Passion Projects at Home... An Antidote to Boredom

A passion project is a challenge that you joyfully take on because you hope to gain something from it. The benefits of embarking on a passion project include fostering creativity, using your talents and having fun. In AIM, children are often able to do passion projects. These photos show kids doing them at home.



One AIM teacher explained about a second grade passion project which occurred during at home learning.

A second grader felt that the weekly math assignment was not challenging so she created a way to teach others. She learned how to create and edit a video and then shared it with her 2nd grade teacher to help others that might be having trouble with the math concept. After her first success, she is now developing a workout video for students in conjunction with the PE coach because she is passionate about working out. Let's all pursue our passions while we're at home!



Family Fun Challenges

- Build a sculpture with recycled materials and then film a commercial to encourage people to use recycled materials to make art. Please send your AIM teacher a photo of your art.
- It is really easy to build musical instruments. Start by learning all you can about the different types of musical instruments and listen to them. Once you find an instrument that you enjoy, build your own. Next you could write a song and perform it for your family!
- Build a stable airplane. This is a cool project that will fly around your bedroom for ages. Use this link for instructions: <https://lifestyle.howstuffworks.com/crafts/seasonal/aviation-activities-for->

We'd love to hear from you! Share your challenges, questions, and success stories at <https://forms.gle/UAvu1Q5JzCRzMVye8>