



Books for pre-intermediate level

Looking for a good book, suitable for your level?

We recommend the books below:

Title	Theme	Age	Pages	Intro
Wonder - R.J. Palacio	handicap, bullying, peer pressure, family, friendship, compassion	11-18y	316 pages	<i>'I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.</i> ' August was born with a facial difference that has prevented him from going to school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11387515-wonder
Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone - J.K. Rowling	Fantasy, wizardry	12-14y	331 pages	On his eleventh birthday, Harry Potter discovers that he is no ordinary boy. Hagrid tells Harry that he is a wizard and has a place at Hogwarts. A school of Witchcraft and Wizardry. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/21523103-harry-potter-and-the-philosopher-s-stone
The boy in the striped pyjamas - John Boyne	Historical, World war II	12-14y	215 pages	Bruno is a 9-year-old boy growing up during World War II in Berlin. Bruno's father is promoted to Commandant, and the family has to move to "Out-With" Bruno is upset about leaving his friends, Daniel, Karl and Martin. From the new house, Bruno sees a camp in which the prisoners wear striped pyjamas. One day, Bruno decides to explore the strange wire fence. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/39999.The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Welcome to nowhere - Elizabeth Laird	Family, politics, Syria, refugee	12-16y	352 pages	<p>Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters live in Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes. Before long, bombs are falling, people are dying, and Omar and his family have no choice but to flee their home with what they can carry. Eventually, they attempt the dangerous journey to escape their homeland altogether. But where do you go when you can't go home?</p> <p>https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32504814-welcome-to-nowhere</p>
The rain - Virginia Bergin	Adventure, thriller, death, friendship	12-14y	386 pages	<p>They don't believe it at first. Crowded in Zach's kitchen, Ruby and the rest of the partygoers laugh at Zach's parents' frenzied push to get them all inside as it starts to drizzle. But then the radio comes on with the warning, "It's in the rain! It's fatal, it's contagious, and there's no cure." Two weeks later, Ruby is alone. Anyone who's been touched by rain or washed their hands with tap water is dead. The only drinkable water is quickly running out. Ruby's only chance for survival is a treacherous hike across the country to find her father-if he's even still alive.</p> <p>https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/21116887-the-rain</p>
The golden compass - Philip Pullman	Fantasy, adventure, friendship, magic	11-15y	399 pages	<p>Lyra is rushing to the cold, far North, where clans and armoured bears rule. North, where the Gobblers take the children they steal--including her friend Roger. North, where her fearsome uncle Asriel is trying to build a bridge to a parallel world. Can one small girl make a difference in such great and terrible endeavors? This is Lyra: a savage, a schemer, a liar, and as fierce and true a champion as Roger or Asriel could want--but what Lyra doesn't know is that to help one of them will be to betray the other.</p> <p>https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/119322.The_Golden_Compass</p>
The fault in our stars - John Green	Friendship, love, cancer, death	13-17y	313 pages	<p>Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.</p> <p>https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11870085-the-fault-in-our-stars</p>
The Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky	Growing up, family,	13-16y	213 pages	<p>Charlie goes through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Devastating loss, young love, and life</p>

friendship,
love, drugs

on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22628.The_Perks_of_Being_a_Wallflower

The Secret Diary of
Adrian Mole, Aged
13 ³/₄
- Sue Townsend

Family, drama,
love

12-16y

272 pages

Adrian Mole's first love, Pandora, has left him; a neighbour, Mr. Lucas, appears to be seducing his mother (and what does that mean for his father?); the BBC refuses to publish his poetry; and his dog swallowed the tree off the Christmas cake. "Why" indeed.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/51070.The_Secret_Diary_of_Adrian_Mole_Aged_13_3_4

Man and Boy
- Tony Parsons

Family, single
parent, drama

12-16y

368 pages

Harry had it all: a beautiful wife, an adorable four-year-old son, and a high-paying media job. But on the eve of his thirtieth birthday, with one irresponsible act, he threw it all away. Suddenly he finds himself an unemployed single father trying to figure out how to wash his son's hair the way Mommy did and whether green spaghetti is proper breakfast food.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/47345.Man_and_Boy

Nightshade
- Andrea Cremer

Drama, love,
animals,
magic, right
versus wrong

12-15y

452 pages

Calla Tor has always known her destiny: After graduating, she'll be the wife of Ren Laroche and, side by side, ruling their pack and guarding sacred sites for the Keepers. But when she violates her masters' laws by saving a beautiful human boy out for a hike, Calla begins to question her fate, her existence, and the very essence of the world she has known. By following her heart, she might lose everything--including her own life. Is forbidden love worth the ultimate sacrifice?

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7402393-nightshade>

Die for me
- Amy Plum

Drama,
fantasy,
adventure,
love,
vampires.

13-16y

341 pages

When Kate Mercier's parents die in a tragic car accident, she lives with her grandparents in Paris. For Kate, the only way to survive her pain is escaping into the world of books and Parisian art. Until she meets Vincent. Mysterious, charming, and devastatingly handsome, Vincent threatens to melt the ice around Kate's guarded heart. As she begins to fall in love with him, Kate discovers that he's a revenant--an undead being whose fate forces him to sacrifice himself over and over again to save the lives of others. Vincent and those like him are bound in a centuries-old war against a group of evil revenants who exist only to murder and betray. Kate soon realizes that if she follows her heart, she may never be safe again.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9462812-die-for-me>

The maze runner - James Dashner	Adventure, monsters, fantasy, friendship	12-18y	384 pages	When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive. Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying.
				https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6186357-the-maze-runner
Haunting Violet - Alyxandra Harvey	Fantasy, family, death, murder	12-15y	342 pages	Violet Willoughby doesn't believe in ghosts. But they believe in her. After spending years participating in her mother's elaborate ruse as a fraudulent medium, Violet is about as sceptical as they come in all matters supernatural. Now that she is being visited by a very persistent ghost, one who suffered a violent death, Violet can no longer ignore her unique ability. She must figure out what this ghost is trying to communicate, and quickly because the killer is still on the loose.
				https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8685644-haunting-violet
Holding up the universe - Jennifer Niven	Love, friendship, loneliness, eating disorder	12-16y	391 pages	Everyone thinks they know Libby Strout, "America's Fattest Teen." But no one's takes the time to look past her. Following her mom's death, she's been picking up the pieces, dealing with her heartbroken father and her own grief. Now, she's ready: for high school, new friends, love, and every possibility life has to offer. She wants to be the girl who can do anything. Everyone thinks they know Jack Masselin. Yes, he's got swagger, but he's also mastered the impossible art of giving people what they want, of fitting in. What no one knows is that Jack has a newly acquired secret: he can't recognize faces. Even his own brothers are strangers to him. He's the guy who can re-engineer and rebuild anything, but he can't understand what's going on with the inner workings of his brain. So he tells himself to play it cool:
				https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/28686840-holding-up-the-universe
The never list - Koethi Zan	Abduction, trauma, trust, loneliness, fear	14-18y	303 pages	For years, best friends Sarah and Jennifer kept what they called the "Never List": a list of actions to be avoided, for safety's sake, at all costs. But one night, against their best instincts, they accept a cab ride with grave, everlasting consequences. For the next three years, they are held captive with two other girls in a dungeon-like cellar by a connoisseur of sadism. Ten years later, at thirty-one, Sarah is still struggling to resume a normal life, living as a virtual recluse under a new name, unable to come to grips with the fact that Jennifer didn't make it out of that cellar. Now, her abductor is up for parole and Sarah can no longer ignore the twisted letters he sends from jail.
				https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16158525-the-never-list

Counting by 7's - Holy Goldberg Sloan	Orphan, foster, death, loneliness.	13-16y	380 pages	Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life...until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15937108-counting-by-7s
Book scavenger - Jennifer Chambliss Bertman	Thriller, puzzles, friendship, trust.	12-15y	354 pages	Twelve-year-old Emily is on the move again. Her family is relocating to San Francisco, home of her literary idol: Garrison Griswold, creator of the online sensation Book Scavenger, a game where books are hidden all over the country and clues to find them are revealed through puzzles. But Emily soon learns that Griswold has been attacked and is in a coma, and no one knows anything about the epic new game. Then Emily and her new friend James discover an book from Griswold that leads to a valuable prize. But there are others on the hunt for this book, and Emily and James must race to solve the puzzles . https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22718727-book-scavenger
Nancy Drew series - Carolyn Drew	Detective, adventure	12-15y	+ - 200 pages	Nancy Drew is a student and detective. Without anyone knowing, she solves all kinds of mysteries. https://www.goodreads.com/series/40642-nancy-drew
The warriors series - Erin Hunter	Animals, fantasy, war.	12-14y	+350 pages	The wild cats of the forest have lived in peace and harmony for many moons but a doom that will change everything is coming. Strange messages from their warrior ancestors speak of terrifying new prophecies, danger, and a mysterious destiny. All the signs point to young warrior Brambleclaw as the cat with the fate of the forest in his paws. But why would the son of wicked cat Tigerstar be chosen to be a hero? And who are the other cats mentioned in the prophecy? All Brambleclaw knows for sure is that the strength and courage of the greatest warriors will be needed now, as the quest to save the Clans begins. https://www.goodreads.com/series/41183-warriors-the-new-prophecy
The legend of Korra series - Michael Dante DiMartino	Airbenders, fantasy, adventure, friendship	12-15y	+80 pages	Relishing their newfound feelings for each other, Korra and Asami leave the Spirit World . . . but find nothing in Republic City but political hijinks and human vs. spirit conflict! https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/33161035-the-legend-of-korra

A series of unfortunate events - Lemony Snicket	Fantasy, drama, family, murder, undercover agents	12-16y	179 pages	I'm sorry to say that the book you are holding in your hands is extremely unpleasant. It tells an unhappy tale about three very unlucky children. Even though they are charming and clever, the Baudelaire siblings lead lives filled with misery. From the very first page of this book when the children are at the beach and receive terrible news, continuing on through the entire story, disaster lurks at their heels. One might say they are magnets for misfortune. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/78411.The_Bad_Beginning
Twilight - Stephanie Meyer	Vampires, love, friendship, war, fantasy, adventure	12-18y	498 pages	About three things I was absolutely positive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edward was a Vampire. • There was a part of him—and I didn't know how dominant that part might be—that thirsted for my blood. • I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41865.Twilight
Forever, or a long, lon time - Caella Carter	Foster, loneliness, family, drama,	12-18y	320 pages	Flora and her brother, Julian, don't believe they were born. They've lived in so many foster homes, they can't remember where they came from. And even now that they've been adopted, Flora still struggles to believe in forever. So along with their new mother, Flora and Julian begin a journey to go back and discover their past—for only then can they really begin to build their future. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30531524-forever-or-a-long-long-time
Out of my mind - Sharon M. Draper	Handicap, being different, friendship, dreams, bullying	12-15y	295 pages	Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6609765-out-of-my-mind
Batman, the killing jokes - Alan Moore	Batman, the Joker, adventure, fantasy, superhero,	11-18y	50 pages	After shooting and permanently paralyzing his daughter Barbara (a.k.a. Batgirl), the Joker kidnaps the commissioner and attacks his mind in hopes of breaking the man. But refusing to give up, Gordon maintains his sanity with the help of Batman in an effort to catch the madman. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/96358.Batman

Because of Mr Terupt - Rob Buyea	School, bullying, peer pressure, fear, drama	12-16y	269 pages	It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school. Only Mr. Terupt, their energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them. He makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn't let them get away with much. Until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything and everyone. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7783920-because-of-mr-terupt
The travelling cat chronicles - Hiro Arikawa	Animals, adventure, friendship	12-15y	238 pages	Nana, a cat, is devoted to Satoru, his owner. So when Satoru decides to go on a roadtrip one day to find him a new home, Nana is perplexed. They visit Satoru's old friends from his school days and early youth. His friends may have untidy emotional lives but they are all animal lovers, and they also wonder why Satoru is trying to give his beloved cat away. Until the day Nana suddenly understands a long-held secret about his much-loved owner, and his heart begins to break. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34728079-the-travelling-cat-chronicles
We are the ants - Shaun David Hutchinson	Aliens, adventure, fantasy, friendship, drama	13-16y	455 pages	Henry Denton has spent years being periodically abducted by aliens. Then the aliens give him an ultimatum: The world will end in 144 days, and all Henry has to do to stop it is push a big red button. Only he isn't sure he wants to. After all, life hasn't been great for Henry. His mom is a struggling waitress held together by a thin layer of cigarette smoke. His brother is a jobless dropout who just knocked someone up. His grandmother is slowly losing herself to Alzheimer's. And Henry is still dealing with the grief of his boyfriend's suicide last year. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23677341-we-are-the-ants
Reasons to be alive - Matt Haig	Suicide, friendship, love, dreams	12-18y	266 pages	I want life. I want to read it and write it and feel it and live it. I want, for as much of the time as possible in this blink-of-an-eye existence we have, to feel all that can be felt. I hate depression. I am scared of it. Terrified, in fact. But at the same time, it has made me who I am. And if - for me - it is the price of feeling life, it's a price always worth paying. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23363874-reasons-to-stay-alive