

Books featuring Homeschool Characters:

I have NOT necessarily read all of these books. Listing them does NOT necessarily mean I am recommending them. Some feature more mature themes than others. Some are about characters who are explicitly homeschooled; others are about school-aged characters that are in extended or extenuating life-learning situations with no mention of school. Some portray homeschooling in a favourable light, others are more stereotypical.

Addie McCormick and the Computer Pirate by Leanne Lucas

"While her school is being repaired following a tornado and she is attending a cooperative homeschool, Addie becomes involved in a mystery surrounding the school's computer software."

(Ages 9-12; this is part of a series but I believe this is the only one that refers to homeschooling).

The Adventures of Bellota, Avellanita, and Castanita by Elsa Bescow

Adventures of Lil' Wolf, Twinkie, Toes, and Flower Girl in the Homeschool Forest, The by Jacqueline R. Campos

"Come and join in all the fun of the Wolf Family as they share their homeschooling adventures with you! It is never a dull day in the Homeschool Forest, with the gentle Flower Girl, lazy Toes, fun loving Lil' Wolf, and the very clever Twinkie." *(NOTE: Religious/Christian)*

Adventures of the Kerrigan Kids, The by Gilbert Morris *(series)*

Book one in the series is called "Painted Warriors and Wild Lions, Travel in Africa."

"Adventures of the Kerrigan Kids Series: After their mother died, photographer Mr. Kerrigan begins taking his natural daughter and adopted children with him on business trips. They're on the move for adventures all over the world. Million-selling author, Gilbert Morris, thrills and educates young readers with these new travel adventures. The Kerrigans learn valuable lessons as everything begins to go wrong on their trip to Australia. Their luggage was misdirected, the girls suffer food poisoning, Mr. Kerrigan loses a contact, and their all-purpose vehicle breaks down on a rural road. The Kerrigans learn the valuable lesson that bad things can happen to good people and that it is critical to trust in God even during difficult circumstances." *(Christian/Religious. Ages 9-12)*

Alabama Moon by Watt Key

"For as long as ten-year-old Moon can remember, he has lived out in the forest in a shelter with his father. They keep to themselves, their only contact with other human beings an occasional trip to the nearest general store. When Moon's father dies, Moon follows his father's last instructions: to travel to Alaska to find others like themselves. But Moon is soon caught and entangled in a world he doesn't know or understand; he's become property of the government he has been avoiding all his life. As the spirited and resourceful Moon encounters constables, jails, institutions, lawyers, true friends, and true enemies, he adapts his wilderness skills and learns to survive in the outside world, and even, perhaps, make his home there." *(Ages 9-12)*

Alice, I Think by Susan Juby

"Life Goals List: 1. Decide on a unique and innovative career path. 2. Increase contact with people outside of immediate family. 3. Learn to drive a car. 4. Some sort of boy-girl interaction? (Possibly best left until after high school. Maybe best left until middle age). 5. Publish paper comparing teenagers and chicken peer groups. 6. Read entire Lord of the Rings series. (Do not dress like characters). 7. Develop new look. (Like career choice, must reflect uniqueness). *(Alice is homeschooled by her hippie mom after a bad experience in first grade. This book contains some mature themes, and may be best suited to teens.)*

Allison's Story, A Book About Homeschooling by Jon Lurie

"Allison is eight years old. She lives in Minnesota with her parents and her little sisters, Gemma and Martha. When Allison goes to school, she doesn't go far. Her classroom is right in the family's kitchen. Allison's mom and dad are her teachers in their homeschool. Allison studies spelling, multiplication, science, and all the other subjects her friends study in school. Allison has lessons most days, but almost every day is different." (*The reader is walked through a "typical" day. Includes photographs.*)

All Mixed Up! (Amy Hodgepodge no. 1) by Kevin Knotts and Kim Wayans

"After years of being home schooled, Amy Hodges is excited to start fourth grade at a "real" school. On Amy's first day, she gets teased not only because she is new, but also because she looks different. Amy is part Asian, Caucasian, and African American. Eventually, Amy meets a group of nice kids and one of them even affectionately gives her the nickname "Amy Hodgepodge" since she's a mix of so many races. But when their teacher announces that the annual talent show is coming up, Amy wonders if her new friends will want to include her, too." (*Ages 9-12*)

The Amber Spyglass by Philip Pullman

Ana on the Farm by Elsa Bescow

And Then Mama Said...It Takes Time To Learn To Read by Gena Suarez

"This endearing book introduces Splish, who longs to read—all by himself. Mama tells Splish to be patient and keep trying, and one day it will happen. Splish wants to believe Mama, but he still sulks and gets frustrated. In the end, perseverance and patience (everyone's) are rewarded! Activity pages & answers, too." (*Ages 4-8; At Least Some Religious Content as an Amazon review mentioned Splish's father reading the bible aloud every night.*)

Are We There Yet? by Alison Lester

Eight year old Grace, her parents, and her two brothers take the winter term off from school, hitch a camper trailer to their car, and set off to explore their country (Australia). Brightly illustrated, written in Grace's voice.

Armageddon Summer by Jane Yolen

Two teenagers, one of whom is homeschooled, meet when their respective parents, for different reasons, drag them to a mountain cult led by Reverend Beelson, who believes the world will end in fire on July 27th. (Young adult.)

Baby Kong by Scott Stroud

"Mom is determined to have a productive day homeschooling the kids but in her way stands Baby Kong! Set on destroying everything in his path, including Mom's sanity, Baby Kong rampages through the house. Thankfully, Mom has a few tricks up her sleeve. " (*Ages 4-8. Based on Christian principals with several references to God.*)

Backstage Pass by Cheryl Crouch (*Chosen Girls Series*)

"Chosen Girls is a dynamic new series that communicates a message of empowerment and hope to Christian youth who want to live out their faith. These courageous and compelling girls stand for their beliefs and encourage others to do the same. When their cross-cultural outreach band takes off, Trinity, Melody, and Harmony explode onto the scene with style, hot music, and genuine, age-relatable content. In Backstage Pass, shy, reserved Melody (Mello), gets her world rocked when a new girl moves in across the street from her best friend, Harmony. Soon downtime---or any time with Harmony at all---looks like a thing of the past as the strong-willed Trinity invades Mello and Harmony's world and insists that the three start a rock band. With a little help from the neighbourhood computer geek, Lamont, the girls are transformed into music-video superheroes that triumph over sin with the power of the Holy Spirit. Somewhere along the way they open their hearts, learning that both old friends and new are important,

and the Chosen Girls band is born." (*Christian/Religious, Ages 9-12*)

Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild

"Narrator Elizabeth Sastre beautifully brings to life the story of three British orphans and their loving caretakers in Noel Streatfield's *Ballet Shoes* (Random, 1937). Pauline, Petrova, and Posie start life off as carefree children, but when their adopted Great Uncle Max (a.k.a. Gum) disappears on a fossil hunting expedition, the young girls find themselves becoming the breadwinners of the family. As stage performers they are able to give back to the only family they have ever known, and have their own adventures while they're at it." (*Also check out *Dancing Shoes* by the same author.*)

Borrowers, The by Mary Norton (*Series*)

This well-known series features a family of tiny people who live in the houses of ordinary people, taking (or "borrowing") the things we thought we'd lost...(Ages 8-12)

Boxcar Children, The by Gertrude Chandler Warner (*Series*)

Four orphaned children run away from their guardian and turn an old abandoned boxcar into their home in this well-known series. I don't believe there is any mention of school in the books (although there are a LOT of books in this series and I haven't read them myself), they learn on their own, solving mysteries in each story. (Geared toward grades 2-6)

Bran Hambric: The Farfield Curse by Kaleb Nation

"What if your mother was a criminal? What if her crime was magic? What if magic ran in the family?" "There's much that 14-year-old Bran Hambric can't explain about his life, beginning with why he has no memories that date before he was found in a bank vault at age six. Although he lives with the Wilomas family in Dunce, where magic is forbidden, Bran discovers that he possesses magical abilities, and with the help of an underground magical community, he begins to learn about his past, including difficult truths about his real family, as well as a dastardly plan that threatens himself and many others he cares for." (*Ages 9-12; I also read that the author of this book was homeschooled and began writing this book when he was a young teen!*)

Carry On, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham

"Readers today are still fascinated by "Nat," an eighteenth-century nautical wonder and mathematical wizard. Nathaniel Bowditch grew up in a sailor's world—Salem in the early days, when tall-masted ships from foreign ports crowded the wharves. But Nat didn't promise to have the makings of a sailor; he was too physically small. Nat may have been slight of build, but no one guessed that he had the persistence and determination to master sea navigation in the days when men sailed only by "log, lead, and lookout." Nat's long hours of study and observation, collected in his famous work, *The American Practical Navigator* (also known as the "Sailors" Bible"), stunned the sailing community and made him a New England hero." (*Young Adult*)

Cheaper by the Dozen by Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr., and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey

The kids in this true story do go to school, but the dad has no use for traditional grade levels and is always teaching the kids really neat things that come across as very homeschoolish.

Chicken Friend by Nicola Morgan

A preteen named Becca is pulled out of school when her family moves to a rural community. Becca exiles herself to the chicken coop ("a good place to sit and think"). She considers her family to be weird, her own personality to be boring, her diabetes and her being homeschooled as obstacles to making friends—which is her main goal. Then she meets two cool and slightly dangerous girls who she wants to impress. Trying to be like them, she finds herself courting disaster. (Mature themes such as older boys, alcohol, etc.)

The Chronicles of Chrestomanci (series) by Diana Wynne Jones

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang by Ian Fleming

"Two children persuade their inventor father to purchase and restore an old car which turns out to have magical powers. When twins Jemima and Jeremy Pott convince their father Caractacus to restore an old car, he and his two children discover that it has some highly unusual and distinctly magical capabilities." *(The kids in this story seem to be unschooled- they learn things from their inventor father, play all day, only go to school when they want to)*

Chronicles of Narnia, The by C.S. Lewis *(Series)*

"On the other side of that wardrobe door lies a world full of magic. A world frozen in the perpetual winter of the White Witch's enchantment. A world where Christmas never comes. Would you have the courage to stand shoulder to shoulder with Aslan, the Great Lion, and fight the Witch to free the land of Narnia? Are you brave enough to share the adventures that change the lives of Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy forever?" *(Ages 8-12)*

Conch Bearer, The by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni *(series)*

"In a dingy shack in the less-than-desirable Indian neighbourhood he calls home, twelve-year-old Anand is entrusted with a conch shell that possesses mystical powers. His task is to return the shell to its rightful home many hundreds of miles away. Accompanying him are Nisha, a headstrong but resourceful child of the streets, and a mysterious man of indeterminate age and surprising resources named Abadhyatta. His quest will take him further from home than he's ever been and will teach him more than he ever imagined- and it will force him to make a poignant decision that will change him forever." *(Ages 8-12)*

Courtship of Sarah McLean, The by Stephen B. Castleberry *(Courtship Series)*

This is about a homeschooling family. Sarah, the oldest is getting anxious for someone to want to court her and is having a hard time trusting the Lord to bring her a young man in his own time.

Cross-Country Treasure Hunt (And the Mystery That Followed) by Gwen Lepkowski

It began with an unexpected letter in the mail. Now Josh Reed and his family are in for the adventure of a lifetime when they agree to go on the ultimate treasure hunt. They must follow the clues which will lead them across the United States to see the wonders of God's creation, including many national parks and national monuments. When challenges arise and dangers threaten, will their faith in God and help from each other be enough? At the end a treasure waits, but will what they find along the way be even more valuable? Josh, an eleven-year-old detective in the making, has a question of his own. Is it his imagination, or is someone following them? Help Josh and his family decipher the clues, record their journey through the states on a map, and solve a mystery as well. *(Christian/Religious)*

Dancing with Dragonflies by Jack Francis Gorfien

Dark Lord of Derkholm by Diana Wynne Jones

Dear Pirate: The Buried Treasure Mystery by Carole Marsh *(Series)*

"Ahoy Matey! A postcard from pen pal pirate? Peter Post can't believe his eyes! When the pirate writes back and invites Peter and his sister Piper down to Key West, the kids jump at the chance! Everywhere they turn- pirates! Gold Teeth! Eye patches! Sword fights! But where is their pirate pen pal? Join the search and join the fun! Arrrrr! Postcard Mysteries: What happens when you mix together curious kids, postcards addressed to mysterious names, and parents that own an RV? These exciting new mysteries will take kids ages 7-14 around the United States in a beat-up RV that is always gassed and ready to go." *(Look for other mysteries by this author. The series appears to be about a relaxed/eclectic homeschooling family.)*

Double Fudge by Judy Blume

In this book, Fudge's family unexpectedly encounters distant relatives from Hawaii while visiting

Washington, D.C. The other family returns with Fudge's to stay with them for a while in New York, and a series of comedic antics follows. The cousins are homeschooled, although homeschooling, in this instance, is portrayed in a more "comical" and stereotypical way rather than a realistic or particularly favourable one. (Ages 8-12. The "Fudge" books are, of course, part of a series but not one generally having anything to do with homeschooling)

Double Trouble Squared: A Starbuck Family Adventure, Book 1 (series) by Kathryn Lasky

"When their father accepts a new job in England, July, Liberty, and their family find themselves exploring the foggy streets of London. The twins try to discover the source of the voice only they can hear--a voice that needs their help. Using telepathy and their individual talents, the twins uncover a long-lost manuscript of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's, along with the ghost of Sherlock Holmes's forgotten twin brother." (Ages 9-12; the twins in this series appear to be homeschooled by their Nanny, a former public school teacher, who travels with the family. Series continues with "Shadows in the Water" and "A Voice in the Wind").

Drift House: The First Voyage by Dale Peck

In this fantasy/adventure, three children are sent to live with their eccentric uncle in the aftermath of September 11. He lives in a strange ship-like home called the Drift House. 12 year old Susan and her two brothers unwittingly set the Drift House adrift into the Sea of Time where they meet fantastic creatures and have fantastic adventures. (Ages 9-12)

Education of Little Tree, The by Forrest Carter

"The Education of Little Tree tells of a boy orphaned very young, who is adopted by his Cherokee grandmother and half-Cherokee grandfather in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee during the Great Depression. "Little Tree," as his grandparents call him, is shown how to hunt and survive in the mountains and to respect nature in the Cherokee way- taking only what is needed, leaving the rest for nature to run its course. Little Tree also learns the often callous ways of the white businessmen and tax collectors, and how Grandpa, in hilarious vignettes, scares them away from his illegal attempts to enter the cash economy. Granma teaches Little Tree the joys of reading and education. But when Little Tree is sent to an Indian boarding school run by whites, we learn of the cruelty meted out to Indian children in an attempt to assimilate them, and of Little Tree's perception of the Anglo world and how it differs from the Cherokee way." (Young Adult)

Eight Cousins by Lousia M. Alcott

"At the age of 13, Rose finds herself orphaned and living with two elderly aunts on "Aunt Hill" where she is treated as delicately as the flower for which she is named. But Rose soon finds her quiet world turned upside down with the arrival of her seven boisterous boy cousins followed by her Uncle Alec, a doctor and a world traveler. Upon meeting Rose, Uncle Alec quickly prescribes fresh air and much activity to help with the girl's poor constitution. Uncle Alec's diagnosis turns out to be an accurate one and Rose, with the help of her cousins, finds herself in the middle of much hijinks and merriment." (Grades 6 and up. There is a sequel to this book, "Rose In Bloom").

Eloise by Kay Thompson (series)

Eloise is the irrepressible 6-year-old resident of New York City's haughty Plaza Hotel. She is raised mainly by a Nanny who believes that the world is the best place to learn. (Ages 4-8)

Elsa Beskow - This author has several "Waldorfy" books with a homeschool/unschool/magical feel geared toward children aged 3-8. Look her up and check out some of her titles such as "The Land of Long Ago," "The Curious Fish," "The Sun Egg," "Children of the Forest," etc.

Emily The Strange: Dark Times by Jessica Gruner and Rob Reger

"Emily's uniquely strange homeschool syllabus includes:

1. Time Travel 101
2. Advanced Spy Photography
3. Bonnet Basics
4. Great Aunts Through the Ages
5. Intro to Germ Theory
6. Care and Feeding of 'Squito Fish
7. Fundamentals of Black Rock
8. Spiderweb Embroidery
9. Historical & Contemporary Felines
10. Pop Quizzes
11. Foodstuffs of the 1780s
12. Thwarting Ancestral Enemies
13. Techniques in Parallel"

(Young Adult. This is the third book in a series; it is in this book that the main character, who is not a fan of school, decides to take on homeschooling herself.)

Every Soul A Star by Wendy Mass

"The lives of three young people intersect and transform against the backdrop of a total solar eclipse. Homeschooled Ally has grown up at the remote Moon Shadow Campground, which her family runs. An eclipse, which can be viewed only from this site, is approaching, and ahead of it come Bree, an aspiring model obsessed with popularity, and Jack, a reclusive artist and avid sci-fi reader. Ally's sheltered world is about to open up as she discovers that her parents plan to cede management of the campground to Bree's parents after the event. Neither Ally nor Bree is excited about the prospect, but as the teens interact they come to terms with the changes they face. Meanwhile, introverted Jack finds himself making friends and becoming a leader. As they go their separate ways, all three approach the future with a newfound balance between their internal and their external lives." *(Young Adult; Ally is 13).*

Feed by M.T. Anderson

Teen narrator Titus grows up in a futuristic world where parents select their baby's attributes and televisions and computers are plugged into peoples' brains when they are babies. They live in a consumer society, the kids are barely articulate, and kids learn to employ the corporation dominated information stream, or "feed," more efficiently in School. Things change when Titus and his friends travel to the moon for Spring Break and Titus meets homeschooled Violet, who thinks for herself. (Young Adult)

Ferret Chronicles, by Richard Bach (series)

Freya and Heath Are Home Educated by Kim Holding

"Adventures of the Homeschoolers: The Genie in the Teapot"

For preschoolers (age 2-5), no religious content, UK Children.

From The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg

Claudia knew that she could never pull off the old-fashioned kind of running away. That is, running away in the heat of anger with a knapsack on her back. She didn't like discomfort; even picnics were untidy and inconvenient: all those insects and the sun melting the icing on the cupcakes. Therefore, she decided that her leaving home would not be just running from somewhere but would be running to somewhere. To a large place, a comfortable place, an indoor place, and preferably a beautiful place. And that's why she decided upon the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City." *(Ages 9-12)*

Game, The by Diana Wynne Jones

"I swear not to say a word about what we do in this game to anyone outside." Hayley's parents disappeared when she was a baby. Since then, she has been raised and homeschooled by her grandparents. Granddad is overworked and travels a lot; Grandma is much too strict, and never lets her meet any children her own age. When Hayley does something wrong- she is not quite sure what- her

grandmother packs her off to her aunts in Ireland. To Hayley's shock, her family is much bigger than she thought; to her delight, the children all play what they call "the game," where they visit a place called "the mythosphere." And while she plays the game, Hayley learns more about her own place in the world than she could have expected." (*Young Adult*)

Gawgon and the Boy, The by Lloyd Alexander

"Give me the boy. These words have the ring of a death sentence to eleven year old David as elderly, tough-minded Aunt Annie says them. He's recovering from an illness so serious that he almost died. And now this? But arrangements are quickly made- the aged woman, who seems as frightening as a monstrous, snake-haired Gorgon, will become his tutor. But in no time David changes his mind about The Gawgon, his secret nickname for her. He has always been a dreamer, making up and losing himself in imaginary adventures. Soon, she begins to co-star in his fantasies- The Gawgon and The Boy can do anything, go anywhere. Together, they rescue King Tut's treasure, scale mountains, outwit master criminals, and fool the gods. Lloyd Alexander has been enthralling young readers for nearly fifty years, but this is his most personal book yet. Introducing us to a wild and eccentric cast of family members, he mixes fantasy, raucous humour, and splendid shenanigans. Just as Alexander has inspired scores of young readers, The Gawgon changes David forever. In a year, the old woman with the bright heart of a girl gives him a lifetime's worth of memories as well as the most important gift of all: belief in himself and the confidence to be whatever he wants to be."

Girl Who Could Fly, The by Victoria Forester

"In this terrific debut novel, readers meet Piper McCloud, the late-in-life daughter of farmers. Her parents revel in conformity, so it's disconcerting at best when Piper shows a talent for flying. Homeschooled and kept away from outsiders, Piper is lonely. Finally, her parents let her go to a community picnic, where she thinks she'll meet new friends. Instead, she terrifies the neighbours by flying up to catch a ball during a kids' game. In no time, the McCloud farm is besieged. Then, out of a helicopter comes the empathetic Dr. Letitia Hellion, who whisks Piper off to a secret school for kids with special talents. But are things there what they seem to be? No." (*Ages 9-12*)

Giver, The by Lois Lowry

In a strangely sensible and Utopian world, where everything is perfect and everyone strives for sameness, 12-year-old Jonas is chosen to be the community's Receiver of Memories. Under the tutelage of the Elders and an old man known as the Giver, he gradually discovers the disturbing truth about his world and decides to take a stand. (*Young adult, mature/disturbing themes*)

Gunrunner Moon by Ed Ditto

"Two homeschooled teenagers run afoul of an international crime ring as they race to discover what became of a Confederate smuggler's lost fortune."

Hannah's Island Series by Eric Wiggin

This series features Hannah and her family, who are fundamentalist Christians. They run a tourist lodge on a small island, apart from outside influences. Hannah is 12 or 13 and usually solving a mystery in each of the various books in the series. (*Ages 9-12; Christian/Religious*)

Happy Hedgehog, The by Marcus Pfister

(There's no cover description on this one, but I'll do my best. It's a beautifully illustrated picture book about Mikko, a young hedgehog, who loves spending time in his garden, something he is very knowledgeable about. His grandfather feels that he is merely wasting time "doing nothing" and that he should "do something" and "Go and take a look how others lead their lives!" so that he can be happy. He doesn't understand that Mikko IS happy. Mikko heads out and meets all sorts of other animals, deciding each time that their life is not for him. There's a part where a hare announces he is going to school. "School? What's that?" Mikko asks, and the hare brings him along to school to show him. Mikko doesn't understand anything the teacher says and at recess he asks the hare if he understood the things the

teacher was talking about. The hare replies: "Are you kidding? I understood absolutely nothing. I just memorize everything. My head will be so full when I have finished. Maybe one day I will be the most brilliant hare of all, and then I will certainly be happy." In the end, Mikko returns to his garden. When his healing herbs help his Grandfather, his grandfather sees how much Mikko really has learned right there in his garden). (*Good for preschoolers/Young Children*)

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (*Series*)

"When the pilot of a small, two-person plane has a heart attack and dies, Brian has to crash land in the forest of a Canadian wilderness. He has little time to realize how alone he is, because he is so busy just trying to survive. And learning to survive, to plan on food not just for a day but until and if he is rescued, only begins when he stops pitying himself and understands that no one can help him. He is on his own, without his divorced father, whom he was to visit, or his mother, whom Brian saw kissing another man before the divorce. This is a heart-stopping story: it seems that at every moment Brian is forced to face a life-and-death decision." (*Young Adult. The other books in this series are called "The River," "Brian's Winter," "Brian's Return," and "Brian's Hunt."*)

Heidi by Johanna Spyri

"What happens when a little orphan girl is forced to live with her cold and frightening grandfather? The heart-warming answer has engaged children for more than a century, both on the page and on the screen. Johanna Spyri's beloved story offers youngsters an endearing and intelligent heroine, a cast of unique and memorable characters, and a fascinating portrait of a small Alpine village." (*Ages 9-12*)

Henley and the Book of Heroes by Dr. Jane H. Smith (*The Living Tale Series*)

"A hero needs a heart so he can do extraordinary things. Remember, Henley, every good story needs a hero...and a hero needs a heart.' Nine-year-old Henley Banks dreams of being a hero, but it's not until he receives a mysterious book from his grandpa that his hero's heart is awakened. As Henley dives--literally--into the Living Tale, he discovers a world beyond anything he ever imagined--full of amazing lands, an unexpected gardener, powerful glones, and an evil that lurks behind Henley's every step. Jump into the first book of The Living Tale Series with young Henley Banks in Henley and the Book of Heroes, as new author Jane H. Smith leads readers of all ages on a supernatural adventure into a battle for Henley's heart. In the midst of this battle, Henley's beloved grandpa is rushed to the hospital, and it seems that only Henley can save him. Not only that, but the Banks family is also struggling to hold together until their father returns from war. There are creatures that seek to overpower the boy before this can happen. How will Henley ignite his hero's heart in time?" (*Ages 9-12; can't quite tell if this one has a strong religious message or not. The author's blurb does say "...she hung up her stethoscope to spend more time with God and family. She desires to write excellent stories of value and honour..." But the "battle" in the story seems to be for "Henley's heart" rather than "Henley's soul"- who knows. You decide!*)

Hiawatha by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"The classic American poem *The Song of Hiawatha* is developed into a tale covering the childhood of Hiawatha and telling the story of his early years, when he first learned the Native American way of life from his grandmother." (*I include this Puffin Book after coming across a review by a homeschool mom that said "His education is more outdoor ed, but clearly non-school." Ages 4-8*).

Home School by Charles Webb (*This is a follow up book to The Graduate by the same author, which was also a movie*)

"At the end of Charles Webb's first novel, *The Graduate*, Benjamin Braddock rescues his beloved Elaine from a marriage made not in Heaven, but in California. For over forty years, legions of fans have wondered what happened to the young couple after *The Graduate's* momentous final scene. The wait is over. Eleven years and three thousand miles later, Benjamin and Elaine live in Westchester County, a suburb of New York City, with their two sons, whom they are educating at home. A continent now stands between them and the boys' surviving grandparent, now known as Nan, but who in former days

answered to Mrs. Robinson. The story opens with the household in turmoil as the Westchester School Board attempts to quash the unconventional educational methods the family is practicing. Desperate situations call for desperate remedies- even a cry for help to the mother-in-law from @#!*% , who is only too happy to provide her loving services- but at a price far higher than could be expected." (*Not geared toward children*)

Homeschool Detectives, The by John Bibee (*Series*)

I believe the first book in the series is called: "The Mystery of the Homeless Treasure."

"Follow the fast-paced adventure of Billy, Rebecca, Josh, Emily and the rest, as the Home School Detectives overcome false leads and follow clues to the exciting conclusion in one of John Bibee's adventures for young readers." (*May have at least some Christian/Religious content as one Amazon reviewer said: "I love the Christian values and the positive homeschool references as well." Ages 9-12*)

Homeschool Liberation League, The by Lucy Frank

"After an awesome summer at Wilderness Discovery Camp, eighth-grader Katya dreads going to public school, which she finds "stupefying." She convinces her parents to homeschool her so she can enjoy her newfound interests in science and nature. Their idea of homeschooling is very different from hers. She spends most of her days working in her mother's beauty shop and doing lessons from the incredibly boring DIM (Daily Instructional Matrix) instead of wandering the area examining plants and animals. She begins dating Milo, a violin prodigy who is homeschooled as well and hates it, and they form the Homeschool Liberation League in order to change their parents' approach to education. With the help of Katya's friend Francesca, a reporter for the school paper, Katya and Milo work to achieve the outcome that they desire. Various local residents assist with Katya's schooling. " (*Ages 9-12*)

Hooray for Diffendooper Day by Dr. Seuss, Jack Prelutsky and Lane Smith

Brainstormed by Dr. Seuss before his death and finished afterward, this book IS about a school...but not an ordinary one! These teachers don't just teach rote facts like they do at ordinary schools. It's a fun story of how children SHOULD be learning in public schools. (Ages 4-8)

How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff

Daisy, a fifteen year old girl from Manhattan, is sent to live at her aunt's country farmhouse in London for the summer. With her aunt frequently traveling, Daisy spends a lot of time with her cousins- one of whom she falls in love with. When terrorists invade and occupy England, and soldiers come to the farm sending the boys and girls off to separate places, Daisy is determined to keep herself and her youngest cousin alive. (Young Adult)

I Am A Home Schooler by Julie Voetberg

(A nine year old homeschooler who lives on a small family farm walks the reader through a "typical" day in her life. Includes photographs.)

I Am Learning All The Time by Rain Perry Fordyce

"When a man at the bus stop asks, "Why are you boys not in school today?" five and a half year old Huge begins to wonder that same question. While he thinks about that... he tells the story about homeschool life with his friends, his big brother Chas, and his mom and dad." (*Very sweet, beautifully illustrated, "unschoolish," compares and contrasts homeschooled Hugh with his public-schooled friends in a positive manner.*)

Ida B... and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World by Katherine Hannigan

"Ida B. Applewood believes there is never enough time for fun. That's why she's so happy to be homeschooled and to spend every free second outside with the trees and the brook. Then some not-so-great things happen in her world. Ida B has to go back to that Place of Slow but Sure Body-Cramping, Mind-Numbing, Fun-Killing Torture- school. She feels her heart getting smaller and smaller and

hardening into a sharp, black stone. How can things go from righter than right to a million miles beyond wrong? Can Ida B put together a plan to get things back to just-about perfect again?" (*Ages 9-12*)

I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have To Kill You by Ally Carter (*Gallagher Girls series*)

Fifteen year old Cammie is not actually homeschooled. She is a genius who attends an all-girl boarding school for spies-in-training, where her mother is headmistress. When she falls for a local boy who has no clue about her true identity and has to keep her school a secret from him and his friends, she invents a cover story- she's homeschooled. (*Young Adult*)

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke (*series*)

"Meggie, 12, has had her father to herself since her mother went away when she was young. Mo taught her to read when she was five, and the two share a mutual love of books. Things change after a visit from a scarred man who calls himself Dustfinger and who refers to Mo as Silvertongue. Meggie learns that her father has been keeping secrets. He can "read" characters out of books. When she was three, he read aloud from a book called Inkheart and released Dustfinger and other characters into the real world. At the same time, Meggie's mother disappeared into the story. Mo also released Capricorn, a sadistic villain who takes great pleasure in murdering people. He has sent his black-coated henchmen to track down Mo and intends to force him to read an immortal monster out of the story to get rid of his enemies. Meggie, Mo, Dustfinger, and Meggie's great-aunt Elinor are pursued, repeatedly captured, but manage to escape from Capricorn's henchmen as they attempt to find the author of Inkheart in the hope that he can write a new ending to the story." (*Ages 9-12*)

Islander, The by Cynthia Rylant

"When Daniel's parents die, he goes to live with his grandfather on a remote gray island off British Columbia. Together they live a lonely life, hardly talking to anyone. But the loneliness lifts from Daniel when he meets a mermaid. He returns to the shore hoping to find her again, but instead sees a sea otter, which tosses him a shell. Daniel discovers a very old key inside the shell and is certain it's a gift from the mermaid. What will this magical key unlock?" (*Ages 10 and up*)

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

"Far off the coast of California looms a harsh rock known as San Nicolas Island. Blue dolphins splash in the water surrounding it, sea otters play in the kelp beds, and seabirds roost in its crags. Once, Indians also lived on the island- until one day they decided to leave and sail to the east. A young girl was left behind. Karana is that girl. Year after year, she waits for the ship to come back. But it never does. Finally she realizes she must make a fateful choice- follow her people on her own or remain alone on the island for the rest of her life." (*Ages 9-12*)

Jack and Jill by Louisa May Alcott

"This charming, old-fashioned children's story begins by mirroring the nursery rhyme. Two friends, Jack and Jill, go up a hill to go sledding. They come tumbling down, and Jack breaks his leg while Jill injures her back more seriously. The book tells the tale of their recuperation and also of their and their friends' journey into young adulthood. The book is slightly moralistic, in the way that *Little Women* is; the young people earnestly want to become "good" and to help their friends become "good". Although this style is not in fashion now, it still makes for a sweet, hope-filled story. Very enjoyable." (*I've been told that although the kids in this book start off in school, in the end their moms switch to homeschooling*).

Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson

"Esau have I hated . . . Sara Louise Bradshaw is sick and tired of her beautiful twin Caroline. Ever since they were born, Caroline has been the pretty one, the talented one, the better sister. Even now, Caroline seems to take everything: Louise's friends, their parents' love, her dreams for the future. For once in her life, Louise wants to be the special one. But in order to do that, she must first figure out who she is . . . and find a way to make a place for herself outside her sister's shadow. " (*Ages 9-12; the heroine has been described as having "homeschooled herself."*)

Jess by Mary Casanova (*an American Girl Today book*)

"Meet Jess McConnell. With her first step off the airplane and into bright tropical sunlight, Jess begins an adventure. She and her parents are spending five months at an archeological dig of ancient Maya ruins in the Central American country of Belize. It's Jess's first time out of the United States. It's her first time being home-schooled. And it's her first trip without her older brother and sister to keep her company. But Jess is excited to explore a new place all on her own. She's ready for adventure and anxious to discover just who Jess is. When Jess meets a new friend and goes on an eco-adventure, she makes some real discoveries- about the dangers of the Belizean jungle, about the people who lived there long ago, and about herself." (8+; main character is a ten year old girl)

Joey Pigza by Jack Gantos (*Series*)

In one of the later books in this series, Joey ends up being homeschooled. He is not homeschooled in the first book in the series, which is called Joey Pigza Swallowed The Key: "Joey Pigza can't sit still. He can't pay attention, he can't follow the rules, and he can't help it- especially when his meds aren't working. Joey's had problems ever since he was born, problems just like his dad and grandma have. And whether he's wreaking havoc on a class trip or swallowing his house key, Joey's problems are getting worse. In fact, his behaviour is so off the wall that his teachers are threatening to send him to the special-ed center downtown. Joey knows he's really a good kid, but no matter how hard he tries to do the right thing, something always seems to go wrong. Will he ever get anything right?" (Ages 10 and up)

Josefina an American Girl (*American Girls Collection*) by Valerie Tripp, Jean-Paul Tibbles, and Susan McAliley

Journey by Cynthia Rylant

Kandoo Kangaroo Hops Into Homeschool by Susan Ratner

"When a young kangaroo asks a lot of questions, her parents know it's time to homeschool. The little 'roo thinks there's too much to learn, but her doubt turns into delight when she uses her driveway for a blackboard and learns she "Kandoo" all things through Christ who gives her strength."
(*Christian/Religious; Ages 4-8*)

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

"Washed up on an island in the Pacific with his dog, Stella, Michael struggles to survive on his own. He can't find food. He can't find water. But just when things are at their worst, Michael realizes that he and Stella are not alone. His fellow castaway, Kensuke, keeps his distance at first, but slowly, he lets the boy into his world. The two teach and learn from each other until, inevitably, they must talk about escape."
(*Ages 9-12*)

Laddie, A True Blue Story by Gene Stratton-Porter

A homeschooling forum friend summed this one up as being "about a little girl who is very bright and is pulled out of school after she starts for the first time and the new teacher slaps her in the face. The parents allow her to study at home and enjoy nature." (*On Amazon it says "Young Adult" but going by the reviews, at least one person mentioned reading it with their 10 and 11 year olds, and other reviewers mentioned how they had loved this book "as a child."*)

Lexie's Homeschool Diary by Cheryl and MacKenzie Moeller

"This **E-Book** is one of the first to feature modern-day homeschooled characters as the central figures. It's an 85 page heart-warming account of Lexi and her homeschool family told through the perspective of her colourful and imaginative diary entries. Lexi is a young girl that finds joy, adventure, and even mystery in each new day. This new approach to homeschool fiction offers parents a valuable bonus: chapter by chapter curriculum sheets including vocabulary and comprehension questions. Lexi's Homeschool Diary is filled with fun, faith, and friends, and an ideal book to read with your homeschool

child and use as part of your daily curriculum." (*Lexie is a 6 year old girl; NOTE: This is an E-Book*)

Libby on Wednesday by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

"It's no wonder that Libby McCall has trouble adjusting to Morrison Middle School. She is smaller, younger and brighter than most of the other seventh graders, and she has received the majority of her education at home from the eccentric adults at her grandfather's mansion. From the first day of school, Libby feels like an outcast. After winning first prize in a literary contest, she joins a writers' workshop and finally finds her niche. In the intimate setting of a small class, she gains confidence, develops friendships and eventually helps a boy who has been physically abused." (*Ages 9-12. Okay, this one doesn't seem like it will depict homeschoolers very well but may still be an entertaining book*).

Linnets and Valerians by Elizabeth Goudge

"What do the four Linnet children do when they are sent to live with Grandmama, a woman who hates dogs and thinks that children should be seen and not heard? They run away, of course. Then their adventures begin! The Linnets meet a bevy of peculiar characters as they journey through the English countryside, charming the gruff but lovable Uncle Ambrose and his jovial gardener, Ezra. When they stumble upon the eccentric Lady Alicia, who seems to have lost her family, the real fun begins, and the Linnets start their search for the missing Valerians. But will the search be thwarted by the witch Emma Cobley and her magic cat? (*Ages 8-12*)

Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder (*Little House on the Prairie series*) "Laura Ingalls's story begins in 1871 in a little log cabin on the edge of the Big Woods of Wisconsin. Four-year-old Laura lives in the little house with her Pa, her Ma, her sisters Mary and Carrie, and their trusty dog, Jack. Pioneer life is sometimes hard, since the family must grow or catch all their own food as they get ready for the cold winter. But it is also exciting as Laura and her folks celebrate Christmas with homemade toys and treats, do the spring planting, bring in the harvest, and make their first trip into town. And every night they are safe and warm in their little house, with the happy sound of Pa's fiddle sending Laura and her sisters off to sleep." (*Ages 9-12. In the first few books of this series, the kids do not go to school*).

Littles, The by John Peterson (*Series*)

"What's better than a cat to scare away mice? "Why don't we try taming the cat?" said Tom Little. Uncle Pete looked from Mrs. Little to Mr. Little. "Do you hear what the boy is saying? He's gone soft in the head. A cat has never been a friend to a Little. I can tell you that." (*Ages 4-8. The Littles are little people with tails who live in the walls of the home of The Biggs.*)

Little White Horse, The by Elizabeth Goudge

"When orphaned young Maria Merryweather arrives at Moonacre Manor, she feels as if she's entered Paradise. Her new guardian, her uncle Sir Benjamin, is kind and funny; the Manor itself feels like home right away; and every person and animal she meets is like an old friend. But there is something incredibly sad beneath all of this beauty and comfort- a tragedy that happened years ago, shadowing Moonacre Manor and the town around it- and Maria is determined to learn about it, change it, and give her own life story a happy ending. But what can one solitary girl do?" (*Ages 8-12*)

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

"In picturesque nineteenth-century New England, tomboyish Jo, beautiful Meg, fragile Beth, and romantic Amy come of age while their father is off to war. " (*Ages 9-12*)

Love Lessons by Margaret Daley (*Helping Hands Homeschooling Series*)

"Homeschooling his daughter is new to devoted single father Ian Ferguson. To ensure his child gets a good education, the busy CPA hires a temporary tutor. Twenty-three-year-old college student Alexa Michaels is too young--and too pretty--to be right for the job. Yet his daughter is coming out of her shell *and* learning. Still, Ian is traditional, and sweet Alexa--who graduated from the school of hard knocks--is challenging some of his old-school ways. Can this dad learn some valuable lessons about love, family and

faith from the least likely teacher?" *(Not geared toward children)*

Magic Tree House, The by Mary Pope Osborne *(Series)*

The main characters of these stories, Jack and Annie, found a magic tree house in the woods which takes them to different places and times where they have many a historical adventure. These chapter books are geared toward younger children, and while the main characters DO go to school, school is rarely (if ever) mentioned. The kids are always off on their own having amazing adventures and making discoveries. (Ages 4-8)

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Meet Felicity: An American Girl *(American Girls Collection)* by Valerie Tripp

Meet Kaya: An American Girl *(American Girls Collection)* by Janet Beeler Shaw, Bill Farnsworth, and Susan McAliley

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman

Momo by Michael Ende

Momo is orphaned, but living in a lively community with lots of friends - until the time thieves come and steal the adults' time. The adults start working overtime and creating schools for the kids in order to get more time for their work. Momo is able to resist the time thieves and starts to fight for her friends' freedom.

Monster of the Month Club by Dian Curtis Regan *(Series)*

Book 1: Monster of the Month Club

"When the first package arrived, Rilla thought it was a joke. But then the box started moving. And when it opened, the thing that came out was definitely not a joke. It was a real, live monster- with an attitude! Now Rilla has a problem: She's got a seven-eyed monster, named Icicle, who will only eat frozen yogurt and iced lemonade. And that's the good news. The bad news is that she's supposed to receive a new monster on the first of every month- for twelve months! How do you stop monsters from arriving in the mail? Do they eat weird stuff? And who gave Rilla a free membership to such a strange club anyway? Rilla's got to find the answers to these questions- fast- or her bedroom will become the very first monster motel!" *(RL4, 8-12. Rilla is a 12 year old homeschooled girl who lives in a bed and breakfast her mother and aunt run).*

Moomin by Tove Jansson *(series)*

"Moomin's stories begin simply (he needs to rid his home of freeloaders, or goes on a family vacation) and snowball into a series of amusing, whimsical misadventures, which can involve elements of the fantastic, like magic, monsters and ghosts. Although Moomin, his parents and his girlfriend, Snorkmaiden, are trolls, they look like friendly hippopotamuses." *(unschoolish comic strip type books)*

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

"When the Durrell family can no longer endure the damp, grey English climate, they do what any sensible family would do: sell their house and relocate to the sun-soaked Greek island of Corfu. Through glorious silver and green olive groves and across brilliant tusk white beaches, ten year old Gerry, the youngest of the four Durrell children, pursues his interest in natural history with a joyful passion, revealing the engrossing hidden world of the islands fauna. Many hilarious mishaps ensue as each of Gerry's new animal friends is installed in the family villa. Watersnakes recuperate from heatstroke in the bathtub, matchboxes are filled with scorpions, and a pair of rowdy magpies makes short order of everything from elaborate dinner spreads to Gerald's brother Lawrence's prized manuscript to the patience of the family's puppies, Widdle and Puke. Toads and tortoises, bats and butterflies, scorpions and geckos, ladybugs, praying mantises, octopuses, pigeons and gulls are only some of the animals

lovingly described in Durrell's classic tale of his childhood island home."

My Mommy, My Teacher by Johannah Bluedorn

"A delightful children's picturebook which tells the story of a young girl and her family as they learn and work together on their farm. Her mother teaches her at home along with her three brothers and her baby sister. The story is illustrated with beautiful watercolor paintings. Every page is in full color."
(Christian/Religious)

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

"Sam Gribley is terribly unhappy living in New York City with his family, so he runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live by himself. With only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel, he intends to survive on his own. Sam learns about courage, danger, and independence during his year in the wilderness, a year that changes his life forever." *(Ages 9-12)*

The Nature of the Beast by Jan Carr

Neverending Story, The by Michael Ende

"Bastian embarks on a wild adventure when he enters the magical world of Fantastica, a doomed land filled with dragons, giants, and monsters, and risks his life to save Fantastica by going on a very dangerous quest." *(Ages 9-12. Bastian DOES go to school, but after being badly bullied there, he escapes and hides in a book store where a magical book takes him to a fantasy world where he has amazing adventures, and where there are no schools).*

Nim's Island by Wendy Orr

"Nim lives on the most beautiful island in the world (its location is a closely guarded secret) with a marine iguana, a sea lion, and her scientist dad, Jack. When he goes off to explore the world of plankton, the child occupies herself with typical Swiss Family Robinson-like chores and keeping her dad's batteries charged so she can check his e-mail on the laptop computer. When his boat becomes disabled, Nim's link to humanity becomes Alex Rover, the author of the novel she's reading, who has e-mailed Jack with some scientific questions. They correspond frequently, Nim giving Alex advice on building a raft out of coconuts, and Alex uncannily picturing spots on the island in her current book. A violent storm and volcanic eruption toward the end result in Nim saving the day, and the three characters set up life together on their paradise. And all of this occurs amid a clever plan to divert evil tourists from ever finding the island." *(Ages 9-12. There is a second book, "Nim At Sea.")*

No More School by Meg Harper

"An adventure of a young girl which also revolves around her dislike of school and the possibilities of home schooling. Flora lives with her mother on a boat, near to her best friend Joss. When newcomers arrive to live in a big house nearby, Joss soon makes friends with Tan, who is schooled at home by his father. Flora's new friendship causes problems between herself and Joss, but it seems that Joss has far greater problems that she can't discuss. There is something more sinister going on." *(Ages 9-12)*

Nurse Matilda by Christianna Brand *(series)*

The "Nanny McPhee" movie was based on these books. The naughty Brown children are homeschooled.

Olympus: It's Not Just a Game by Scott W. Somerville

Operation Typhoon Shore by Joshua Mowll *(series)*

Operation Red Jericho

"Excerpts from 15-year-old Becca's diary interspersed with third-person narrative combine to produce a tale of high adventure, intrigue, and science fiction along the China coast in 1920. Following their parents' mysterious disappearance in the remote Sinkiang region, Becca and her younger brother, Doug, are sent from their home in India to live with their sea-captain uncle, whose research vessel they board in Shanghai. Through their inquisitiveness and spying, they learn of a secret society that may have had

something to do with their parents' fate and of a very volatile substance called zoridium that their uncle is trying to retrieve from an evil warlord. Their curiosity leads to their capture and captivity on his island fortress—the site of a rousing showdown that sets the stage for the second volume in this trilogy." (*Young Adult*)

People in Pineapple Place, The by Anne Lindberg "Feeling alone and friendless in a new town, August Brown discovers a wondrous fantasy street and experiences thrilling adventures with his new playmates." (*Ages 8-12. This is a street that magically travels around the world, and everyone who lives on it stays the same age eternally. All of the children are taught by one of the kid's mothers in her cottage. There is also a second book called "The Prisoner of Pineapple Place"*).

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

"All children except one grow up. In 1904, Peter Pan first flew across a London stage and into the bedroom of Wendy, John, and Michael Darling. Ever since, this perpetual youth has continued to delight children of all ages. Young readers will happily soar with him and his friends to enchanted Neverland, where they'll meet Tinkerbell, the Lost Boys, and the "dark and sinister" Captain Hook." (*Ages 9-12*)

Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren (*Series*)

"Tommy and his sister Annika have a new neighbor, and her name is Pippi Longstocking. She has crazy red pigtails, no parents to tell her what to do, a horse that lives on her porch, and a flair for the outrageous that always seems to lead to one adventure after another!" (*Ages 9-12*)

Railway Children, The by Edith Nesbit

"When Father goes away unexpectedly, Roberta, Peter, Phyllis and their mother have to leave their happy life in London to go and live in a small cottage in the country. The children seek solace in the nearby railway station, and make friends with Perks the Porter and the Station Master himself. But the mystery remains: where is Father, and will he ever return?" (*Ages 8-12*)

Real Lives: Eleven Teenagers Who Don't Go to School by Grace Llewellyn "In 1993, eleven homeschooled teenagers described their lives in rich detail, and *Real Lives* quickly became a homeschooling classic. Erin's favourite teacher was her horse Nick, blind in one eye. Kyla flew to South America in September of what would have been her senior year—alone, except for her mountain bike. Jeremiah and his sister Serena published a newsletter on peace issues. Patrick, who hoped someday to design video games, had spent the past few years compiling portfolios of his writing and artwork. Rebecca worked at homeless shelters and, through Habitat for Humanity, built houses for people in need. Anne tended honeybees and plucked a bluegrass banjo. Ayanna kept pace with 50 pen-pals—mostly in Africa—while Kevin talked with people all over the world on his ham radio. Amanda performed with a violin quintet and worked through the mail with her writing mentor. Vallie answered questions at a marine science center; Tabitha answered the phone at a crisis line, and helped midwives at births....Now those eleven homeschoolers have grown up and engaged the territory of adulthood, college, and career—and the new edition of *Real Lives* includes updates from all of them. From gaining admission to an Ivy League institution without taking the SAT to crafting a simple life centered on writing and gardening, they tell where life has taken them and where they have taken life, and offer hindsight and advice for others choosing to learn outside of school."

Red Pyramid, The by Rick Riordan (*Book 1 of the Kane Chronicles series*)

"Since their mother's death, six years ago, 12-year-old Sadie Kane has lived in London with her maternal grandparents while her older brother, 14-year-old Carter, has traveled the world with their father, a renowned African American Egyptologist. In London on Christmas Eve for a rare evening together, Carter and Sadie accompany their dad to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone in summoning an Egyptian god. Unleashed, the vengeful god overpowers and entombs him, but Sadie and Carter escape. Initially determined to rescue their father, their mission expands to include understanding their hidden magical powers as the descendants of the pharaohs and taking on the

ancient forces bent on destroying mankind. The first-person narrative shifts between Carter and Sadie, giving the novel an intriguing dual perspective made more complex by their biracial heritage and the tension between the siblings, who barely know each other at the story's beginning." (*Ages 9-12*)

Reluctant Dragon, The by Kenneth Grahame

"When a dragon is discovered up on the Downs, the Boy is not in the least surprised. He's always known the cave there was a dragon cave, so it seems only right for a dragon to be living in it. The Boy decides to pay a visit to the cave, and he thinks he knows just what to expect. But this particular dragon is not a bit like the ones in fairy tales!" (*Ages 7-11; the boy in the book appears to be unschooled*)

Ronia, The Robber's Daughter by Astrid Lindgren

"Ronja, who lives with her father and his band of robbers in a castle in the woods, causes trouble when she befriends the son of a rival robber chieftain. " (*Ages 9-12*)

Ruby Slippers School by Stacy Towle Morgan (*series*)

"Eight-year-old Hope Brown and her little sister, Annie, love to travel, and because of their dad's job, the two home-schooled girls have lots of opportunities. Join the fun as they visit exciting countries and meet inspiring Christians from all over the world!" (*Christian/Religious, ages 9-12*)

Sarah, Plain and Tall (series) by Patricia MacLachlan

Savvy by Ingrid Law

"For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a "savvy" -a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, her older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity . . . and now it's the eve of Mibs's big day. As if waiting weren't hard enough, the family gets scary news two days before Mibs's birthday: Poppa has been in a terrible accident. Mibs develops the singular mission to get to the hospital and prove that her new power can save her dad. So she sneaks onto a salesman's bus . . . only to find the bus heading in the opposite direction. Suddenly Mibs finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make sense of growing up -and of other people, who might also have a few secrets hidden just beneath the skin." (*Ages 9-12*)

Schooled by Gordon Korman

"Capricorn Anderson had never watched a television show before. He'd never tasted a pizza. He had never even heard of a wedgie. And he had never, in his wildest dreams, thought of living anywhere but Garland Farm commune with his hippie caretaker, Rain. Capricorn (Cap for short) had lived every day of his life on Garland Farm growing fruits and vegetables. He was homeschooled by Rain, the only person he knew in the world. Life was simple for Cap. But when Rain falls out of a tree while picking plums and is hospital-ridden, he has to attend the local middle school and live with his new guidance counselor and her irritable daughter. While Cap knew a lot about Zen Buddhism, no amount formal education could ready him for the trials and tribulations of public middle school. Cap doesn't exactly fit in at Claverage Middle School (dubbed C Average by the kids). He has long, ungroomed hair, wears hemp clothes, and practices Tai Chi out on the lawn. His weirdness basically makes him biggest nerd in school. This is great news for Zach Powers, big man on campus. He can't wait to instate the age-old tradition in C-Average School: The biggest nerd is nominated for class president--and wins. So when Cap becomes president, he is more puzzled than ever. But as Cap begins to take on his duties, the joke starts to turn on Zach. Will Cap turn out to be the greatest President in the history of C-Average School? Or the biggest punchline? (*Ages 9-12; Cap is a 13 year old boy*)

Schoolroom in the Parlor by Rebecca Caudill (*Series*)

NOTE: This is actually the fourth and LAST book in "The Fairchild Family" series. I believe the first book in the series is called "Happy Little Family."

"School in the Kentucky hills goes from August to the last Friday before Christmas. After that the snows

are too high, and later, the thawing rivers too full, for the Fairchild children, and their neighbours, the Wattersons, the Sawyers, and the Huffs to make it safely to the little school house in the woods. Now that Althy is fourteen, Mr. Fairchild has other plans for the long winter months. Learn, along with Bonnie, Debbie, Chris and Emmy, what it is like to have school at home in the early 1900's." (*Ages 8-12 or so, perhaps younger if you read aloud to them*).

Sea Chest, The by Toni Buzzeo

"As they waited for the arrival of a long-awaited stranger, Maita tells her great-grandniece the story of her remarkable childhood. Living sheltered on a lighthouse island with only her parents for company, Maita would bake pumpkin pies, tend to the hens, spin stories and long for a time when she might not be the only child the ragged island knew. And then one icy night, howling winds blew wave after wave against the shore, and from that fearsome storm came a sea chest- a gift that would change Maita's life forever. (*Ages 4-8*)

Secret Garden, The by Frances Hodgson Burnett

"When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwait Manor to live with her uncle, everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. So begins one of the world's favourite children's stories. Published in 1911, this timeless classic tells of an orphaned girl brought to a Yorkshire mansion on the edge of a vast lonely moor. At first, she is frightened by the gloomy place. Then the local boy, Dickon, who earns the trust of the moor's wild animals with his honesty and love, and the spoiled, unhappy invalid Colin help Mary discover in a strange, abandoned garden the beautiful mysteries of life- its birth and renewal, its love and joy." (*Ages 9-12*)

Secret of the Lost Colony, The by Rebecca Price Janney

"Lindsey Skillman, her brother Andrew, and their cousin Ben Tyler are just starting home schooling, with an exciting new tutor named Thomas Jefferson Wakesnoris, when they find themselves transported back in time to Roanoke Colony. " (*Ages 9-12. This is part of the "Impossible Dreamers" series, so there are others in the series. At one point I saw a review refer to one of these books as being about " a group of Christian homeschool students," so may have some religious content*)

Shouldn't You Be In School? by Angelina Hart

"We all choose to homeschool for a variety of reasons. Some for religious reasons, some political, some of us use curricula and others unschool. Yet the one thing we all have in common is that when we move through our day during what most people consider to be "school hours" we are faced with the same question: "Shouldn't you be in school?" This book strikes a humorous chord with all of us that attempt to find creative ways of answering, ignoring, overlooking, informing, defending or explaining our situation when that inevitable question comes our way. Follow two young girls as they are faced with this question many times throughout the day and watch all that they learn while not in school."

Skellig by David Almond

(Michael is a boy whose family moves to a new neighbourhood. His parents are distracted by his baby sister's serious illness, and Michael is isolated and lonely. Then he meets Mina, a homeschooled girl who quotes William Blake and knows everything there is to know about birds. Their lives change forever when Michael wanders into the shed in his backyard and finds a mysterious, near-dead creature who could be a man or a beast or an angel...) (*Some places have this listed as being for ages 8-12, others say 10+*)

Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (*biography*)

"This beautiful biography, winner of the 1999 Caldecott Medal, tells the true story of a Vermont farm boy who was mesmerized by snowflakes. Wilson Bentley was fascinated by the six-sided frozen phenomena, and once he acquired a microscope with a camera, his childhood preoccupation took on a more scientific leaning. Bentley spent his life taking countless exquisite photographs (many that are still used in nature photography today)." (*Ages 4-8; Bentley's mother taught him at home until he was 14*)

years old).

Society of S, The by Susan Hubbard

Ariella is a young teen whose mother disappeared when she was born. She was raised, homeschooled, and sheltered by an overprotective scientist father. She then discovers that her father is a vampire, and now she has a choice to make- whether to become a vampire like her father or remain a mortal, like her mother. This sets her off on a trip to find her mother and to come to a better understanding of her lifestyle and her family. (*Age Range not specifically mentioned but seems to be suitable for middle school on up*).

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

"She was homeschooling gone amok." "She was an alien." "Her parents were circus acrobats." These are only a few of the theories concocted to explain Stargirl Caraway, a new 10th grader at Arizona's Mica Area High School who wears pioneer dresses and kimonos to school, strums a ukulele in the cafeteria, laughs when there are no jokes, and dances when there is no music. The whole school, not exactly a "hotbed of nonconformity," is stunned by her, including our 16-year-old narrator Leo Borlock: "She was elusive. She was today. She was tomorrow. She was the faintest scent of a cactus flower, the flitting shadow of an elf owl." (*Young Adult. There is a follow-up book called Love, Stargirl*)

Storm, The by Cynthia Rylant (*The Lighthouse Family Series*)

"Life with only the sea can be lonely. Just ask Pandora and Seabold. They've lived most of their lives with the sea- Pandora in a lighthouse and Seabold on a boat- and they're each quite used to being alone. Or they were. But one day, the sea did something extraordinary: It brought Pandora and Seabold together! And even better, the sea gave them the ingredients for an adventure that neither of them had considered before- an adventure called "Family." (*Ages 4-8; these animal characters are not schooled*).

The Subtle Knife by Philip Pullman

Summer at Steller's Creek by Anne C. Cernyar

"A spunky twelve year old homeschooler. A remote cabin in the Rocky Mountains. An older brother's secret. A lively wolf pup and dogsled dreams. A dangerous visitor. A hostile neighbor with unsettling questions. Is Jessica ready? (*Christian/Religious. Ages 9-12*)

Summer with the Moodys, A by Sarah Maxwell (*Series*)

"Novel that celebrates the adventures of everyday life in a Christian family." (*Christian/Religious. This book follows a fictional, Christian, homeschooling family through one summer- other books in the series include Autumn with the Moodys, and Winter with the Moodys. One reviewer described it as "an excellent read aloud chapter book and is interesting and engaging enough to hold the attention of a 6 year old and yet still be enjoyed by older children and momma as well."*)

Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie S. Tolan

"Jake Semple is notorious. Rumor has it he burned down his old school and got kicked out of every school in his home state. Only one place will take him now, and that's a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists. The only one who doesn't fit the Applewhite mold is E.D.- a smart, sensible girl who immediately clashes with the unruly Jake. Jake thinks surviving this one will be a breeze... but is he really as tough or as bad as he seems?" (*Note: Some mature themes, such as Jake's parents being in jail for growing marijuana in their basement, smoking, etc.*)

Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome

Swiss Family Robinson, The by Johann D. Wyss

"One of the world's best-loved stories of shipwreck and survival, *The Swiss Family Robinson* portrays a family's struggle to create a new life for themselves on a strange and fantastic tropical island. Blown off

course by a raging storm, the family—a Swiss pastor, his wife, their four young sons, plus two dogs and a shipload of livestock—must rely on one another in order to adapt to their needs the natural wonders of their exotic new home." (*Ages 9-12*)

Tarragon Island by Nikki Tate

Ten P's in a Pod: A Million-Mile Journal of the Arnold Pent Family by Arnold Pent III

"They journeyed across North America as a family---Arnold and Mrs. Pent and their eight children. Their goal was to share the Gospel and share their passion for God's Word to all those who would hear them. Piling in their old Packard and Pierce Arrow "horseless carriages" along with guitar and banjo, they rambled through town and city singing the songs of the faith and reciting large passages from Old and New Testaments to groups both large and small. Theirs was a family mission. They served Christ together. With great fervor and conviction, they shared their lives and hearts with the world."
(*Christian/Religious*)

Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos by R.L. LaFevers (*Series*)

"A combination of Nancy Drew and Indiana Jones, Theo Throckmorton is in big trouble. The 11-year-old lives in London in 1906 and spends most of her time in an antiquities museum headed by her father and filled with objects from her mother's archaeological expeditions to Egypt. Bossy, clever, and learned in the lore of ancient Egypt, the girl constantly worries that the work-obsessed parents who ignore and neglect her will be destroyed by virulent ancient curses that only she can detect. When her mother returns from her latest trip with an amulet inscribed with curses so powerful they could unleash the Serpents of Chaos and destroy the British Empire, Theo finds herself caught up in a web of intrigue and danger..." (*Ages 9-12. This is the first in a series of Theodosia Books.*)

The Tide Knot by Helen Dunmore

Time To Fly Free, A by Stephanie S. Tolan

"Josh has had enough of school. Teachers always want to teach him things he already knows. Kids mistreat other kids on the playground, and no one seems to value the living creatures he cares about. One day he simply walks out, determined never to go back. He wants to be free to spend his time in his boat with his dog, rowing up and down the Virginia waterways, watching the herons and gulls. Walking home from school, Josh comes upon the house where Rafferty lives and in which he runs his "hospital" for sick and injured birds. Until now it hasn't occurred to Josh that anyone could share his fascination for birds. Best of all, Rafferty invites Josh to work with him. "You're one lucky bird," Josh tells a recuperating gull. "And so am I." Some of Rafferty's birds are healed; some are not. It's the failures that haunt Josh and lead him on the lone, courageous adventure that teaches him a lot about birds, about freedom, and even more about himself." (*Josh is a fifth grade boy.*)

Tonia of Trelawney by Jacqueline C. Grant

"In the charming novel Tonia of Trelawney, two young girls set sail upon treacherous and pirate-infested seas to escape the tyranny of an angry slave master. Author Jacqueline C. Grant paints a vivid picture of life on a sugar plantation in seventeenth-century Jamaica." (*Ages 9-12*)

Too Smart Jones by Gilbert Morris (*Too Smart Jones Series*)

The first book in the series is called: Too Smart Jones and the Pool Party Thief.

Juliet Jones and her homeschooler friends have various mysteries to solve. (Says ages 9-12 although some reviewers think this series is a bit "younger" than that).

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

"Within Cole Matthews lie anger, rage and hate. Cole has been stealing and fighting for years. This time he caught Peter Driscall in the parking lot and smashed his head against the sidewalk. Now, Peter may have permanent brain damage- and Cole is in the biggest trouble of his life. Cole is offered Circle Justice: A system based on Native American traditions that attempts to provide healing for the criminal

offender, the victim, and the community. With prison as his only alternative, Cole plays along. He says he wants to repent, but in his heart, Cole blames his alcoholic mom, his abusive dad, wimpy Peter- everyone but himself- for his situation. Cole receives a one year banishment to a remote Alaskan island. There, he is mauled by a mysterious white bear of Native American legend. Hideously injured, Cole waits for death. His thoughts shift from anger to humility. To survive, he must stop blaming others and take responsibility for his life. Rescuers arrive to save Cole's body, but it is the attack of the Spirit Bear that may save his soul. *(Young Adult)*

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

"Young Jim Hawkins and his friends set sail to find the buried loot of Captain Flint, fiercest of all the pirates. But the crew of their own ship, unknown to them, is made up of Flint's former men. Led by the evil one-legged pirate, Long John Silver, the pirates desperately race Jim and his friends to see who can find the treasure first." *(Ages 9-12. No mention of school in this book. Jim lived at the Inn his father owned, went on his pirate adventure after his father died, and eventually returned to the inn to help his mother. In the end, he inherits the inn from her.)*

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

"Is eternal life a blessing or a curse? That is what young Winnie Foster must decide when she discovers a spring on her family's property whose waters grant immortality. Members of the Tuck family, having drunk from the spring, tell Winnie of their experiences watching life go by and never growing older. But then Winnie must decide whether or not to keep the Tucks' secret- and whether or not to join them on their never-ending journey." *(Ages 9-12)*

Van Gogh Cafe, The by Cynthia Rylant

"Miracles are made-to-order at the Van Gogh Cafe in Flowers, Kansas. At least that is what Clara and her father Marc, the cafe's owner, believe. Every day, they fill coffee cups, serve meals, and wait for the magic to happen. Which it always does...maybe because the cafe was once a theater, and some of the old theater magic is left in the walls. Whatever the reason, word is spreading of a place where broken hearts mend and dreams come true." *(Ages 9-12; Clara is 10 years old and spends all her time at the cafe with her father; no mention of school)*

Wanderer, The by Sharon Creech

"Thirteen year old Sophie hears the sea calling, promising adventure and a chance for discovery as she sets sail for England with her three uncles and two cousins. Sophie's cousin Cody isn't sure he has the strength to prove himself to the crew and to his father. Through Sophie's and Cody's travel logs, we hear stories of the past and the daily challenges of surviving at sea as The Wanderer sails toward its destination- and its passengers search for their places in the world." *(Ages 8-12)*

Weslandia by Paul Fleischman

This fantastical picture book, like its hero, is bursting at the seams with creativity. Wesley's imagination sets him apart; not only does he sport purple sneakers and glasses, he thinks football is stupid and refuses to shave half his head like all the other boys. "He sticks out," says his mother. "Like a nose," bemoans his father. Ironically, a banal aside from his father gives Wesley an idea for a summer project: he establishes a new civilization in his own backyard, eventually attracting his former tormentors and befriending them. *(Ages 4-8. This book is not technically about a homeschooled child but will appeal to homeschoolers anyway).*

What To Do About Alice?: How Alice Roosevelt Broke The Rules, Charmed The World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy! by Barbara Kerley

"Theodore Roosevelt had a small problem. Her name was Alice. Alice Lee Roosevelt was hungry to go places, meet people, and do things. Father called it running riot. Alice called it eating up the world. Whether she was entertaining important White House visitors with her pet snake or traveling the globe, Alice bucked convention and turned every new experience into an adventure! Brimming with affection

and wit, this spirited biography gives readers a peek family life inside the White House. Prose and pictures spring, gambol, and two-step across the pages to celebrate a maverick American heroine. "
(Ages 4-8)

What would Joey do? by Jack Gantos

Whipping Boy, The by Sid Fleischman

"Jemmy, once a poor boy living on the streets, now lives in a castle. As the whipping boy, he bears the punishment when Prince Brat misbehaves, for it is forbidden to spank, thrash, or whack the heir to the throne. The two boys have nothing in common and even less reason to like one another. But when they find themselves taken hostage after running away, they are left with no choice but to trust each other."
(Ages 8-12)

Williwaw! by Tom Bodett

"Ivan and September have two rules to obey while their fisherman father is delayed at sea: stay off the bay and don't hook up their video game to the radio batteries. But when Ivan goes against his father's orders, he breaks the shortwave radios- the one link to the outside world from their remote Alaskan home. Their only choice is to get the radios fixed before their father finds out. And that means sneaking back and forth across moody Bag Bay in their tiny boat. But autumn is an unpredictable season in Alaska, when clear skies can give way to sudden violent storms. And heading their way is the kind they fear the most- a williwaw!" (RL 4.5, 10-13)

Wise Child by Monica Furlong

"In a remote Scottish village, a girl called Wise Child is abandoned by her parents and taken in by Juniper, a sorceress. Under Juniper's kind but stern tutelage, Wise Child thrives. She learns reading, herbal lore, and even the beginnings of magic. Then Wise Child's natural mother, the "black" witch Maeve, reappears, offering the girl a life of ease and luxury. Forced to choose between Maeve and Juniper, Wise Child comes to discover both her true loyalties and her growing supernatural powers. By this time, though, Maeve's evil magic, a mysterious plague, and the fears of the superstitious villagers combine to place Wise Child and Juniper in what may be inescapable danger." (Ages 9-12)

Wright on Time by Lisa M. Cottrell-Bently (*Series*)

"Discover all 50 states with Nadia and Aidan!"

Book 1: Arizona "First stop, Arizona! The Wright's homeschooling RV adventure starts with exploring a desert cave. Nadia can't wait to find minerals and see rock formations. Aidan wants to see bats. He finds something mysterious buried in the rock- what could it be? What is that glowing thing on the wall? Where are those voices coming from? What do you do with toilet paper in a cave? And just what is a stale egg mite anyway?" (This is a series featuring an 11 year old girl and a 7 year old boy who go on a homeschooling RV tour of the USA with their parents. Each chapter book features a different state and a fun mystery. At the time I'm writing this, I believe the first three books in the series are available).

Year I Didn't Go To School, The by Giselle Potter

"These are the best things that happened to me the year I didn't go to school: Traveled around Italy with my family's theater troupe. Performed in a theater outside (I was a monkey, a panda, and a lion!). Ate spaghetti with a fried egg on top. Slept in a truck. Wore cowboy boots. Ciao! (I spoke Italian). Kept a journal to remember everything that happened." (Ages 4-8)