



# Across the Street & Around the State

with the Homeschool Iowa Facebook Discussion Group

## All About Books!

**E**ach Monday in the Homeschool Iowa Discussion Group on Facebook we have a feature we call "Across the Street & Around the State." We ask questions and seek to learn more about each other. Our discussions over the past few months have varied from what our members' favorite read-alouds are to what they are trying new in their homeschool this year to what their current concerns and struggles are. We've talked about curriculum and shared ideas on allowances and chores.

We know that not everyone sees those posts on Facebook, so we decided to bring that discussion to the magazine, choosing some of our most popular topics to share and expand on. For this issue, we're talking about one of a home-schooler's favorite topics - books! Check out our questions and the answers we received from the group members and let us know if you end up adding some books to your home library! Email [editor@homeschooliowa.org](mailto:editor@homeschooliowa.org) with any additional book suggestions you have, and you may see your suggestions included in an upcoming blog post on the Homeschool Iowa website!

### "I'm looking for a book series for my 16-year-old daughter. She enjoys mysteries."

"Try Ranger's Apprentice. It's more medieval adventure, but most books contain some mystery as Rangers are kind of like the CIA of the time. They are very clean and enjoyable to read, and women have equal footing to the men. The main characters start at 15 years old and age through the series. The kids pestered me to read them, and I did this past summer. They were quite good." - *Brooke*

"*Father Brown Mysteries* by G. K. Chesterton, *Brother Cadfael* by Ellis Peters, *The Lord Peter Wimsey* series (or others) by Dorothy Sayers, *Sherlock Holmes* by Arther Conan Doyle. These have all been enjoyed by my daughter (16) and me." - *Tamara*

"The Circle C Andie books by Susan K. Marlow. She has a new series for older girls. Another series that may be for younger girls is the *Camp Club Girl* series." - *Rachel*

"*The Ted Scott Adventures* series by Franklin W. Dixon (best known for the Hardy Boys) is about a pilot who gets into and out of scrapes all the time. They are out of print now, but I've been able to buy them from AbeBooks.com and other used book resellers. If she doesn't mind a little fantasy, we've enjoyed the Brian Jacques *Redwall* series." - *Jenn*

### What is your favorite family read-aloud?

"That's like trying to choose a favorite child! Some of our family favorites were: *A Lion to Guard Us*; *Pilgrim Kate*; *Witch of Blackbird Pond*; *Sign of the Beaver*; *Calico Captive*; *Johnny Tremain*; *Early Thunder*; *Amos Fortune*; *Free Man*; *Carry on, Mr Bowditch*; *Of Courage Undaunted*; *Daniel Boone* by Daugherty; and *Caddie Woodlawn*." - *Cathy*

"The Bible" - *Julie*

"*Across Five Aprils*; *Freedom Train*, and hands down, almost all of the wonderful Landmark books!" - *Brady*

"Ah, too many to choose from! My kids are 2, 4, and 6, and their favorites from this past year have been *Little Pilgrim's Progress*; *Chronicles of Narnia*; *Tales of the Kingdom*; and *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*." - *Abigail*

"Impossible to pick just one, but I did really enjoy reading *The Wingfeather Saga* books aloud." - *Danna*

"*The Cross and the Switchblade* was wonderful for us when the kids were a little bit older. I think they were 9 and 13. We read this as one of our Christian biographies. The other was *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom. They were both very inspiring!" - *Krista*

"Our favorite summer read-aloud years ago was *The Penderwicks*. My kids laughed so hard! We had fun reading that one!" - *Mindy*

"*The Green Ember*; *The Penderwicks*; *Henry Huggins*; *A Year with Miss Agnes*; *Little House*, and so many more." - *Kystal*

"*Hardy Boys* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*!" - *Kathryn*

"We love listening to the Focus on the Family Radio Theatre book dramatizations, especially of the *Narnia* series." - *Jenn*

"*The Ransom of Red Chief* and *Owls in the Family*" - *Julie*

### "Any recommendations for good, wholesome picture books for our little girl?"

"My girls love *The Little House on the Prairie* picture books. They do wear fun dresses, even if they aren't quite princesses! I also recommend *Boxes for Katje*." - *Alicia*

"*Princess Grace and the Little Lost Kitten* is a great book, and there is a whole series available." - *Jennifer*

"A cute book is *Goodnight Princess* by Michelle Robinson" - *Janis*

"We used a lot of nature books also. Butterflies are a wonderful study for younger children" - *Laura*

"The *Every Cowgirl Needs a Horse* series is cute and has good messages about friendship and perseverance. And it's very pink and attractive to little girls. (FYI: This little cowgirl doesn't actually get a horse. She gets a bike, so it's accessible for folks who will never give their little girls a horse!)" - *Laurie*