

Bright Wings: Children's Books to Make the Heart Soar

Stories for Strong Boys:

Nota bene: Titles which have an asterisk have some content or style that is mature or challenging and that may need a conversation with a parent. For example, in *The Great Brain*, a character considers suicide. The language and style of *The Dark Frigate* is dense and challenging.

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Picture Books:

All the Places to [Love](#) by Patricia MacLachlan
[Yonder](#) by Tony Johnston and Lloyd Bloom

[The Snowy Day](#) by Ezra Jack Keats
[The Outlaw](#) by Nancy Vo

I Will Love You [Forever](#) by Tatsuya Miyanishi

Sven's [Bridge](#) by Anita Lobel
[Miss Suzy](#) by Miriam Young and Arnold Lobel
[The Fire Cat](#) by Esther Averill
Going to Sleep on the [Farm](#) by Wendy Cheyette Lewison
[Falcon](#) by Tim Jessell

[Arctic Son](#) by Jean Craighead George

The Adventures of Tom Thumb by Marianna Mayer
Androcles and the [Lion](#) by Dennis Nolan
Whispers of the [Wolf](#) by Pauline Ts'o
Clever Jack Takes the [Cake](#) by Candace Fleming
[Brothers at Bat](#) by Audrey Vernick

[The Lonely Giant](#) by Sophie Ambrose
[The Beard Ballad](#) by Harold Cronk
[A Day's Work](#) by Eve Bunting

David the Potter: Artist, Poet, [Slave](#) by Laban Carrik Hill

[The Seven Chinese Brothers](#) by Margaret Mahy
[Pepe the Lamplighter](#) by Elisa Bartone

[Yankee Doodle](#) by Steven Kellog
[Prince Boghole](#) by Erik Haugaard
[Pegasus](#) by Marianna Mayer

[New York's Bravest](#) by Mary Pope Osborne

[Andy and the Lion](#) by James Daugherty

[Pumpkin Island](#) by Arthur Geisert
[The Full Belly Bowl](#) by Jim Aylesworth
[Oxcart Man](#) by Donald Hall
[Mouse Soup](#) by Arnold Lobel
[Frog and Toad](#) by Arnold Lobel

[The Making of a Knight](#) by Patrick O'Brien
[Lobsterman](#) by Dalov Ipcar
[Once Upon an Ordinary School Day](#) by Colin McNaughton

[Hiawatha and the Peacemaker](#) by Robbie Robertson
[Desmond and the Very Mean Word](#) by Desmond Tutu
*[Bad News for Outlaws](#) by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

[Stone Soup](#) by Marcia Brown
[Gilgamesh the King](#) by Ludmila Zeman
[The Revenge of Ishtar](#) by Ludmilla Zeman
[The Last Quest of Gilgamesh](#) by Ludmilla Zeman

[John Henry](#) by Julius Lester
[Paul Bunyan](#) by Steven Kellog
[The Red Bicycle](#) by Jude Isabella

[Postcards from Camp](#) by Sims Tapback
[Frank and Lucky Get Schooled](#) by Lynne Rae Perkins

[A Hole in the Road](#) by Jakki Wood
[Digging a Hole to Heaven: Coal Miner Boys](#) by S.D. Nelson
[Town Is By the Sea](#) by Joanne Schwartz

[The Mysterious Tadpole](#) by Steven Kellogg
[The Extraordinary Mark Twain According to Susy](#) by Barbara Kerley
[Big Anthony: His Story](#) by Tomie de Paola

[My Grandfather's Coat](#) by Jim Aylesworth
[Something From Nothing](#) by Phoebe Gilman
[Solomon and the Ant: And Other Jewish Folktales](#) by Sheldon Oberman and Penninah Schram

[The Man Who Caught a Fish](#) by Walter Lyon Krudup
[Buffalo Woman](#) by Paul Goble
[The Puppy Who Wanted a Boy](#) by Jane Thayer
[What is Love?](#) by Mac Barnett

[The Knight With the Lion: the Story of Yvain](#) by John Howe
[Big Men, Big Country: a Collection of American Tall Tales](#) by Paul Robert Walker
[American Tall Tales](#) by Mary Pope Osborne

[Greek Gods and Goddesses](#) by Geraldine McCraughreen
[King Midas and the Golden Touch](#) by Charlotte Craft
[The Tortoise and the Hare](#) by Brian Wildsmith

[On A Magical Do-Nothing Day](#) by Beatrice Alemagna

[Grandpa Was a Cowboy](#) by Silky Sullivan
[Wingwalker](#) by Rosemary Wells

[Close to the Wind: the Beaufort Scale](#) by Peter Malone
[The Skies Above My Eyes](#) by Charlotte Guillain
[From Mud Huts to Skyscrapers: Architecture for Children](#) by Christine Paxmann
[Houses and Homes \(See Through History\)](#) by Tim Wood
[If: Mindbending New Way of Looking at Big Ideas and Numbers](#) by David Smith
[Space Explorers](#) by Libby Jackson

[Rocks in his Head](#) by Carol Otis Hurst pictures by James Stevenson
[The Raft](#) by Jim LaMarche
[Last Stop On Market Street](#) by Matt de la Peña

[Nacho's Nachos: the Story Behind the World's Favorite Snack](#) by Sandra Nickel
[One Potato, Two Potato](#) by Cynthia C. DeFelice

[Trying](#) by Kobi Yamada
[The Minstrel and the Dragon Pup](#) by Rosemary Sutcliff
[Fancy That](#) by Esther Hershenhorn

[Philipok](#) by Leo Tolstoy retold by Ann Keay Beneduce

[Good King Wenceslaus](#) by John Wallner
[Rikki-Tikki Tavi](#) by Rudyard Kipling and Jerry Pinkney

[How Many Days to America?: A Thanksgiving Story](#) by Eve Bunting
[The Flyers](#) by Allan Drummond

[Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas](#) by Gwendolyn Hooks
[Mister Doctor: Janus Korczak and the Orphans of the Warsaw Ghetto](#) by Irene Cohen-Janca

[How to Raise and Keep A Dragon](#) by John Topsell

Early Chapter Books, Middle Grade Novels, Mature Reading:

[Henry and Mudge](#) (series) by Cynthia Rylant
[Mr. Putter and Tabby](#) (series) by Cynthia Rylant

[This Can't Be Happening at McDonald Hall](#) by Gordon Korman
[Go Jump in the Pool](#) by Gordon Korman
[Beware the Fish](#) by Gordon Korman

[Finding Langston](#) by Lesa Cline-Ransome
[Leaving Lymon](#) by Lesa Cline-Ransome

[The Castle in the Attic](#) by Elizabeth Winthrop
[The Battle for the Castle](#) by Elizabeth Winthrop
[The Indian in the Cupboard](#) by Lynne Reid Banks

[Mountain Born](#) by Elizabeth Yates
[Banner in the Sky](#) by James Ramsey Ullman
[Stone Fox](#) by John Reynolds Gardiner

[The Shadow of His Wings](#) by Max Temesco
[The Bicycle Spy](#) by Yona Zeldis McDonough
[Twenty and Ten](#) by Claire Huchet Bishop

[By The Great Horn Spoon](#) by Sid Fleischman
[The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane](#) by Kate DiCamillo
[The Princess and the Goblin](#) by George MacDonald

[Brave Like My Brother](#) by Marc Nobleman
[Escape By Night: A Civil War Adventure](#) by Lori Myers

[Henry and the Chalk Dragon](#) by Jennifer Trafton

[Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes](#) by Jonathan Auxier
[Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard](#) by Jonathan Auxier

[War Comes to Willy Freeman](#) by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

[A Week in the Woods](#) by Andrew Clements

[A Wrinkle in Time](#) by Madeleine L'Engle

[Swallows and Amazons](#) by Arthur Ransome
[Peter Duck](#) by Arthur Ransome

[Tuck Everlasting](#) by Natalie Babbitt
[Kneeknock Rise](#) by Natalie Babbitt
[The Water Castle](#) by Megan Frazer Blakemore
[The Golden Hour](#) by Maiya Williams
[The Matchstick Castle](#) by Keir Graff

[Schooled](#) by Gordon Korman
[Ungifted](#) by Gordon Korman
[Restart](#) by Gordon Korman
[Operation Do-Over](#) by Gordon Korman
[Masterminds](#) (series) by Gordon Korman

*[The Great Brain](#) by John D. Fitzgerald ([series](#))
[Little Britches](#) by Ralph Moody

[The Sign of the Beaver](#) by Elizabeth George Speare
[My Side of the Mountain](#) by Jean Craighead George
[Cabin on Trouble Creek](#) by Jean Van Leeuwen

[The Beatryce Prophecy](#) by Kate DiCamillo
[The Shakespeare Stealer](#) by Gary Blackwood

[Pax](#) by Sara Pennypacker
[Pax, Journey Home](#) by Sara Pennypacker

[War Horse](#) by Michael Morpurgo
*[Half A Man](#) by Michael Morpurgo

[The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind](#) by William Kamkwamba

[The Bark of the Bog Owl](#) by Jonathan Rodgers

[The Secret of the Swamp King](#) by Jonathan Rodgers
[The Way of the Wilderking](#) by Jonathan Rodgers

[The Forgotten King](#) by Kenneth Padgett and Shay Gregorie

[Carry On, Mr. Bowditch](#) by Jean Lee Latham
[Johnny Tremain](#) by Esther Hoskins Forbes

[Call It Courage](#) by Armstrong Sperry
[Here In The Real World](#) by Sara Pennypacker
[The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs](#) by Betty G Birney

[The Young Man and the Sea](#) by Rodman Philbrick

[21 Balloons](#) by William Penn Du Bois
[Danny, The Champion of the World](#) by Roald Dahl

[Tom Sawyer](#) by Mark Twain
*[The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) by Mark Twain
[Amos Fortune, Free Man](#) by Elizabeth Yates

[The Secret Garden](#) by Frances Hodgson Burnett (It has 2 male MCs!)

[The Hobbit](#) by J. R. R. Tolkien
[The Lord of the Rings](#) by J. R. R. Tolkien
[Watership Down](#) by Richard Adams

*[Dandelion Wine](#) by Ray Bradbury
*[Fahrenheit 451](#) by Ray Bradbury
*[My Name Is Asher Lev](#) by Chaim Potok
[The Old Man and the Sea](#) by Ernest Hemingway
[The Bronze Bow](#) by Elizabeth George Speare
[40 Acres and Maybe a Mule](#) by Harriette Gillem Robinet
*[A Single Shard](#) by Linda Sue Park

[Summer of the Monkeys](#) by Wilson Rawls
[Where the Red Fern Grows](#) by Wilson Rawls
[Trumpet of the Swan](#) by E.B White
[Sunder](#) by William Armstrong
[Rascal](#) by Sterling North
[Old Yeller](#) by Fred Gipson
[Big Red](#) by Jim Kjelgaard

*[The Dangerous Book for Boys](#) by Conn and Hal Iggulden
*[How to Survive Anything](#) by Tim MacWelch

*[Survivors: Extraordinary Tales from the Wild](#) and Beyond by David Long

*[The Once and Future King](#) by T. H. White

*[When the Tripods Came](#) by John Christopher

*[The Tripods: The White Mountains](#) (boxed series) by John Christopher

[The Green Ember \(Series\)](#) by S. D. Smith

[Jack Zulu and the Waylanders Key](#) by S.D. Smith and J.C. Smith

[Mysterious Benedict Society](#) (boxed series) by Trenton Lee Stewart

[The Secret Keepers](#) by Trenton Lee Stewart

[The Door Before](#) by N.D Wilson

[100 Cupboards](#) (series) by N.D Wilson

[The Dragon's Tooth](#) (series) by N.D Wilson

[The Boys of Blur](#) by N.D. Wilson

[Treasure Island](#) by Robert Lewis Stevenson

*[The Dark Frigate](#) by Charles Boardman Hawes

*[One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich: A Novel](#) by Aleksandr

Solzhenitsyn