

M.G. King's Books for Boys (by Weight)

My boys, ages 10 and 12, love to read, and they usually judge a book by its heft.

As struggling early readers, they demanded skinny, picture-filled books. They progressed into thin, chapter-filled volumes. Now, neither of them will touch a book unless it's three inches thick and heavy enough to wield as a weapon against anyone who tries to get them to turn out their lights at a reasonable bedtime.

These are some of their favorites. Check content for age appropriateness – at times maturity level and weight are unrelated.

Feather Weight

Dog Shark Readers sets, by Robert Wurzburg (beginning readers)

Supertwins series, by B.J. James (Scholastic level 2)

Nate the Great, by Marjorie Weinmann Sherman

Flat Stanley, by Jeff Brown

Danny and the Dinosaur series, by Syd Hoff

The Alphabet Adventure, by Audrey Wood

Fly Guy series, by Tedd Arnold

Frog and Toad, by Arnold Lobel

Where the Wild Things Are, by Maurice Sendak

Little Bear series, by Elsie Homelund Minirik, illustrated by Maurice Sendak

Lego Knights Kingdom Reader series, by Daniel Lipkowitz

Sam and the Firefly, by P.D. Eastman

Because a Little Bug Went Ka-Choo, by Rosetta Stone

Anything by Dr. Seuss

Librarian on the Roof! A True Story, by M.G. King

Light Weight (under 150 pages)

Origami Yoda series, by Tom Angelberger
The Mouse and the Motorcycle series, by Beverly Cleary
Guardians of Ga'hoole series, by Karen Lasky
Magic Tree House series, by Mary Pope Osborne
Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant, by Jack Prelusky (poetry, at its finest)
Dragon Slayer Academy series, by Kate McMullan
Tales of the Kingdom, by David & Karen Mains (Christian allegory)
Encyclopedia Brown, by Donald J. Sobol
100 Deadliest Things on the Planet, by Anna Claybourne
Frindle, by Andrew Clements
Sideways Stories from the Wayside School, Louis Sachar
Lego Star Wars, The Visual Dictionary
The Secrets of Droon series, by Tony Abbot

Mid-Weight (150-300 pages)

Fizz & Peppers at the Bottom of the World, by M.G. King
The Warriors Series, by Erin Hunt
Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen
Here Lies the Librarian, by Richard Peck
On the Wings of Heroes, by Richard Peck
Wednesday Wars, by Gary Schmidt
Okay for Now, by Gary Schmidt
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
Gecko and Sticky series, by Wendelin van Draanen
The Chronicles of Prydain, by Lloyd Alexander
When You Reach Me, by Rebecca Stead
Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, by Jeff Kinny
Chronicles of Narnia, by C.S. Lewis
Little House Series, by Laura Ingalls Wilder (I know, girl protagonist, but my boys loved the detailed, factual descriptions of pioneer life)
Pippi Longstocking (another girl protagonist, but Pippi is one cool character)
Wonder, by R.J. Palacio (required reading in the King house)
Holes, by Louis Sachar
The Lego Ideas Book, by Daniel Lipkowitz
James and the Giant Peach, by Roald Dahl
The BFG, by Roald Dahl

Weapons-grade (300+ pages)

Ranger Apprentice series, by John Flanagan

Harry Potter series, by J.K. Rowling

Percy Jackson series, by Rick Riordan

Mysterious Benedict Society series, by Trenton Lee Stewart

Eragon series, by Christopher Paolini

The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings, By J.R.R.Tolkien

Gregor the Overlander series, by Suzanne Collins (of Hunger Games fame)

Redwall series, by Brian Jacques

The New Way Things Work, by David McCaulay and Neil Ardley

They Way We Work, by David McCaulay

Watership Down, By Richard Adams

The Invention of Hugo Cabret, by Brian Selznick

The Dragon Rider, by Cornelia Funke

The Thief Lord, by Cornelia Funke

<http://mgkingbooks.com>