



TIMBERDOODLE



TIMBERDOODLE'S
CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

2020-2021 Nonreligious Edition



WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Congratulations on choosing to homeschool this year! Whether this is your first year as a teacher or your tenth, we're confident you'll find that there is very little that compares to watching your child's learning take off. In fact, teaching can be quite addictive, so be forewarned!

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

Preparing for your first school day is very easy. Peruse this guide, look over the typical schedule, browse the introductions in your books, and you will be ready to go.



GET SUPPORT

Are you looking for a place to hang out online with like-minded homeschoolers? Do you wonder how someone else handled a particular science kit? Or do you wish you could encourage someone who is just getting started this year? Join one or more of our Facebook Groups.

Timberdoodlers of all ages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Timberdoodle/>

Timberdoodlers with 5th- to 8th-grade students:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UpperElementaryTimberdoodle>

Timberdoodlers using nonreligious kits

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SecularTimberdoodle>

SCHEDULE CUSTOMIZER

Your 2020–2021 Eighth-Grade Nonreligious Curriculum Kit includes access to our Schedule Customizer, where you can not only adjust the school weeks but also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want on your schedule. To get started, just click the link in your access email and visit the scheduling website!

www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com

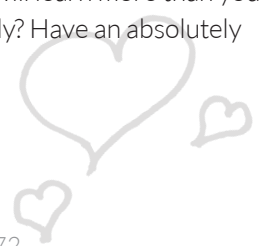
If you ordered through a charter school or don't have that link for some other reason, just email schedules@Timberdoodle.com and we'll get that sorted out ASAP. (Including your order number will really speed up that process for you.)

WE WILL HELP

We would love to assist you if questions come up, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns. Whether you contact us by phone, email, or live online chat, you will get a real person who is eager to serve you and your family.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS!

This year you and your student will learn more than you hoped while having a blast. Ready? Have an absolutely amazing year!



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MEET YOUR HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO YOUR TEACHING TOOLBOX!

Simple Is Better

We really believe that, so your guide is as simple as we could make it.

1. The Planning

First up are all the details on planning your year, including your annual planner and sample weekly checklists, the absolute backbones of Timberdoodle's curriculum kits. More on those in a moment.

2. Reading Challenge

Next up is the reading challenge, complete with book ideas to give you a head start.

3. Item-by-Item Details

We include short bios of each item in your kit, ideal for refreshing your memory on why each is included or to show off exactly what your eighth-grader will be covering this year. This is where we've tucked in our tips or tricks to make this year more awesome for all of you.

4. Teacher Resources

In this section you'll find our favorite articles and tidbits amassed in our more-than-30 years of homeschool experience.

5. Items With Special Instructions

Here you'll find a week-by-week schedule for *Mosdos Press Literature* to make planning super-easy.

6. Book Suggestions

Finally, we conclude with specific book ideas for your reading challenge this year.

All the Details Included

This Timberdoodle curriculum kit is available in two different standard levels: Complete or Elite. This allows you to choose the assortment best suited to your child's interest level, your family's schedule, and your budget. In this guide, you'll find an overview and any tips for each of the items included in the Elite Curriculum Kit. If you purchased a Complete kit, or if you customized your kit, you chose not to receive every item, so you'll only need to familiarize yourself with the ones which were included in your kit.

Don't Panic—You Didn't Order Too Much Stuff!

We know you. OK, maybe not you personally, but we have yet to meet a homeschooler who doesn't have other irons in the fire. From homesteading or running a business to swimming lessons or doctor's appointments, your weeks are not dull. As you unpack your box, you may be asking yourself how you'll ever fit it all in.

We'll go in-depth on schedules momentarily, but for now, know that most of the items in your kit feature short lessons, not all of them should be done every day, and your checklist is going to make this incredibly manageable. Really!

MEET YOUR ONLINE SCHEDULER

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PLANNERS

Use the Customizer

On the next pages, you'll find sample weekly checklists for Complete and Elite kits. Before you photocopy 36 of them, though, take a moment to check out the custom online schedule builder that came free with your kit. You can not only easily adjust the weeks, but you can also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want listed. Plus, you'll be able to print your weekly checklists directly from the schedule builder, so you don't have to do that by photocopying!

www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com

Activate Your Account

Before you can get started, you'll need to activate your

account for the online schedule builder. If you didn't get an activation email (perhaps you ordered through a charter school so we don't have your email address), shoot us a quick email at schedules@Timberdoodle.com, and we'll get that straightened out ASAP. Including your order number really speeds up that process, but our team is skilled at finding your activation info with whatever order data you have.

What's Your Dream Schedule?

Now that you're ready, you'll want to know two things:

1. How Many Weeks Do You Want to Do School?

A standard school year is 36 weeks plus breaks. Some families prefer to expedite and complete the entire year in

fewer weeks—a great option for those of you who'd like to get all this year's school done before a baby arrives, for instance. Or perhaps your family, like ours, prefers to school year-round and keep that brain sharp.

2. What Breaks Do You Want?

Thanksgiving, Christmas, winter break, spring break... you could also add weeks off that you're traveling, have guests, baby is coming, or...



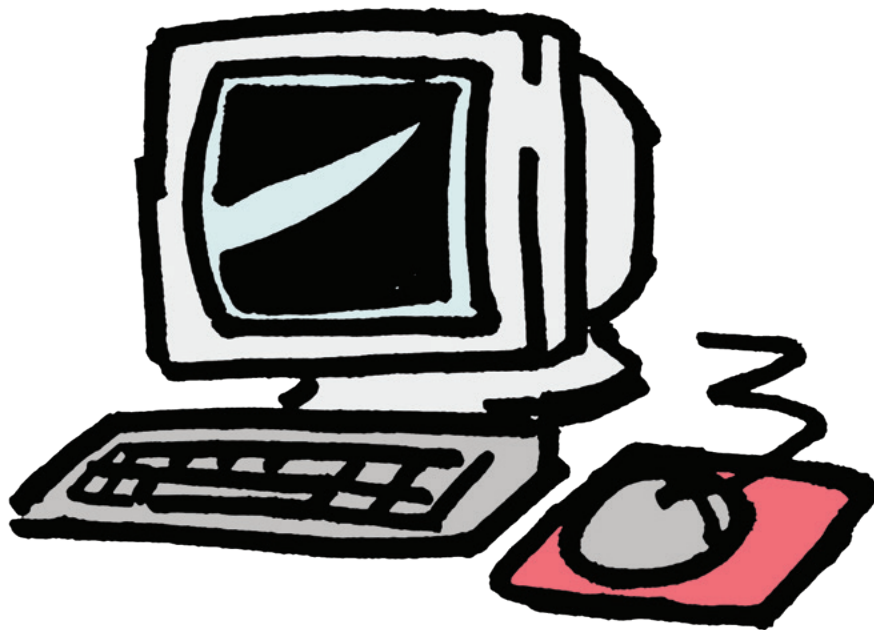
Typically you'll be adding full-week breaks only, so unless you're traveling to Disneyland® for little Johnny's birthday, you don't need to add that to the calendar. For single-day breaks, you'll likely prefer to just shuffle the work to earlier/later in the same week and keep on task otherwise. If you're using a daily schedule (next page) though, you may find it worth your time to enter days off as well.

Choose Your Items

Now just pop that data into the online schedule and scroll down to see the items you might have in your kit. Unchecking the boxes for any items you don't have removes them from your list. You'll also see "Alternative Items" listed under each subject. This usually includes all of our most popular customizations for this grade so that you can simply check a box and switch the scheduler to geometry, for instance.

Add Custom Courses

Your course list is limited only by your imagination. Perhaps your friend wrote you a custom curriculum you'd like to include, your family makes up a band and you'd like to have practice on this list, or you need to list ballet since that's P.E.



this year. At the very bottom of the page, you'll find a place to add as many courses as you'd like. Just walk through the prompts on-screen to get it all set up.

Tweak It to Perfection

Do you have everything set? On the next screen you'll have some fun options.

Continued on the next page.

| | CURRICULUM | LESSONS OR PAGES | = PER WEEK |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| Language Arts | Mosdos Gold | 65 subsections | 2 subsections |
| | Creative Writing Book | 31 chapters | 1 chapter |
| | Shakespeare Graphic Novel | 191 pages | 5-6 pages |
| | Easy Grammar Ultimate | 180 lessons | 5 lessons |
| | Word Roots Level 2 | 48 lessons/reviews | 1- 2 portions |
| Math | Math-U-See | 30 lessons | a 6-worksheet lesson |
| | Ultimate Dot-to-Dot Animals | 30 puzzles | 1 puzzle |
| Thinking Skills | <h1>SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</h1> | | |
| History & Social Studies | | | |
| Science | | | |
| STEM | | | |
| Art | | | |
| Etc. | | | |

| Language Arts | Math | Thinking Skills | History & Social Studies | Science | STEM | Art |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|------|-----|
| Mosdos Gold | 2 subsections | | | | | |
| Creative Writing Book | 1 chapter | | | | | |
| Shakespeare Graphic Novel | 5–6 pages | | | | | |
| Easy Grammar Ultimate | 5 lessons | | | | | |
| Word Roots Level 2 | 1– 2 portions | | | | | |
| Math-U-See | a 6-worksheet lesson | | | | | |
| Ultimate Dot-to-Dot: Animals | 1–2 a week | | | | | |

SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART



THE READING CHALLENGE

BASED ON THE READING CHALLENGE FOR KIDS FROM REDEEMEDREADER.COM

The Reading Challenge for Kids will get you and your child reading a broader variety of books this year and perhaps discovering new favorites. This reading challenge is heavily adapted by us and used with permission from the fine folks at RedeemedReader.com. Check out their website for more information about this reading challenge and for great book reviews and book suggestions for your kids.

Reading Solo and Together

At this grade level, it is entirely appropriate that most of these books are titles he will read independently. However, we highly recommend keeping a read-aloud time, too, as long as it's possible. Many sources recommend that parents continue reading to their children well past the time their children become accomplished readers, and we agree!

THE LIGHT READER

| The Challenge | The Book You Chose | Date Completed |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. An inspirational book | | |
| 2. A book about the world | | |
| 3. A biography | | |
| 4. A classic novel/story | | |
| 5. A book your grandparent (or other relative) says was his/her favorite at your age | | |
| 6. A book about ancient history | | |
| 7. A book about something that makes you happy | | |
| 8. A book based on a true story | | |
| 9. A book someone at least twice your age recommends | | |
| 10. A book more than 100 years old | | |
| 11. A book about families | | |
| 12. A book about relationships or friendship | | |
| 13. A book featuring someone of a different ethnicity than you | | |



MATH-U-SEE

If you are looking for a curriculum that ensures you will be able to fully understand each mathematical concept before moving on to another one, you have found it. For more than 20 years, Math-U-See's renowned mastery-based, student-paced program has been the answer for countless families. If your child regularly feels overwhelmed when mathematical topics are introduced, you need Math-U-See's systematic, precept-upon-precept math program.

MATH-U-SEE

COMPLETE ~ ELITE

Welcome to Algebra 1! Are you ready? With simple, uncluttered pages, Math-U-See is mastery-oriented, clear, to the point, and effective. In Math-U-See, new ideas are introduced step by step in a logical order, while concepts that have been mastered are reviewed periodically.

Math-U-See's teacher guide and supplemental DVD will teach more than just how to solve a math problem. They will also show why the problem is solved in this manner and when to apply the concept. On the DVDs, each lesson is demonstrated with kind-hearted enthusiasm. DVDs can be played on a DVD player or computer; however, Windows 10 users will need to download a separate video player.

While Math-U-See requires some parental

involvement, by this grade your child will be able to work more independently. The instruction manual can be read by your child, and of course, he will want to watch the DVD presentation before beginning each lesson. The instruction manuals also include complete answers with step-by-step solutions for all the exercises and tests, and there is extra instruction for the enrichment problems.



Math-U-See is laid out with step-by-step procedures for introducing, practicing, mastering, and reviewing concepts. How do you know when your child has "mastered" a math concept? Not just when he gets the answers right, but when he can teach the concept back, especially if he is able to do so with a word problem. Math-U-See will show you how.

You will want to decide as you start the year whether your student will be completing the optional "Application and Enrichment" section on each lesson—sometimes considered the honors portion. If these challenges overwhelm your student, you should skip them or offer generous assistance. Otherwise, embrace them for the opportunity they provide to help him learn more skills and train his brain to think logically.

It's worth mentioning that there are other reasons your child may not need to complete every one of these pages. At the risk of oversimplifying, the practice worksheets (A and B) are to be used with the manipulatives until your child reaches an "aha!" moment and grasps the lesson. He may then move to the review pages (C, D, E) and should at least complete worksheet C in its entirety. If he's breezing through the pages, you have a couple of great options. One would be to have him complete every other problem or to skip D or E or both. (You do want to be sure he's not rusty on any of those problems before skipping though—many students will do

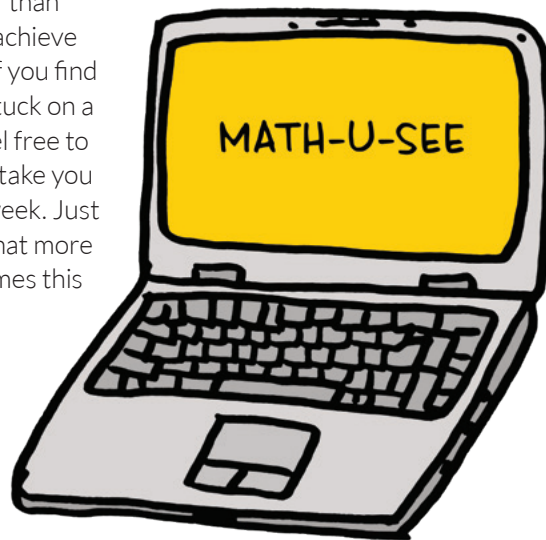
best completing all or most of the C, D, and E worksheets.)

Worksheet F is that honors/application/enrichment/extra-credit page. It's ok to skip but valuable to complete.

Scheduling

You have 30 lessons to complete, so we suggest planning on one lesson a week, including the DVD as well as the textbook/workbook portions and any relevant tests.

However, as Mr. Demme points out, some lessons will take you longer than others to achieve mastery. If you find yourself stuck on a lesson, feel free to allow it to take you an extra week. Just don't do that more than six times this year!



ULTIMATE DOT-TO-DOT

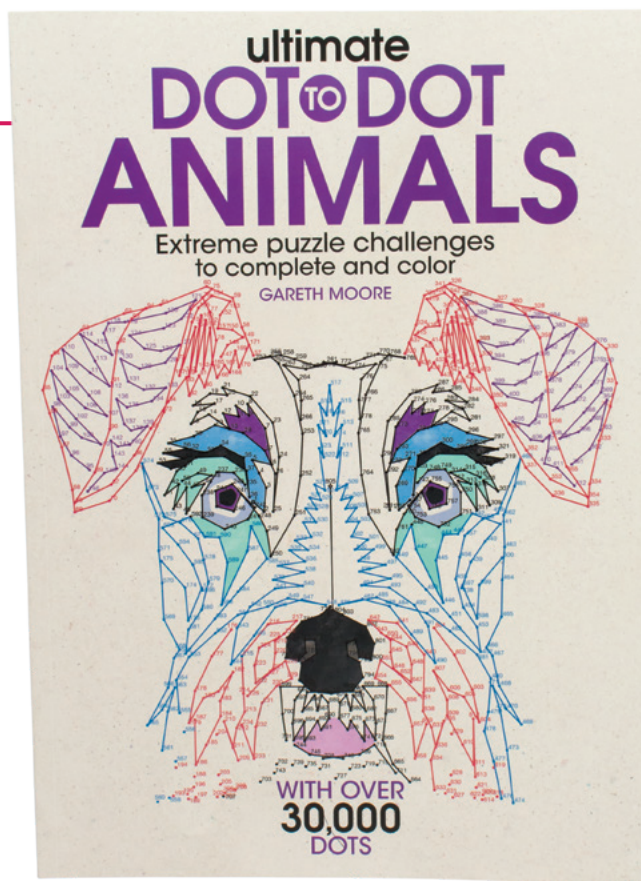
COMPLETE → ELITE

Kick-start your student's mental focus with the amazing *Ultimate Dot-to-Dot Animals*. Unlike conventional dot-to-dot puzzles, this book includes dots of different colors to connect. Most students will opt to complete them with a pen of the same color for a vibrant end result that begs to be completely colored in.

Mapping and concentration are just two of the educational benefits of solving these dot-to-dot puzzles. Both your student's left and right brain will be exercised as he works to complete these giant puzzles - definitely not for the faint-hearted. Recommended for ages 8 and older, these dot-to-dots are not just for children. Many adults, myself included, find these books both provoking and relaxing, a treat for sluggish minds and weary bodies. 32 puzzles per book.

Scheduling

With 30 intricate animal puzzles to finish, you'll want your student to complete about 1 a week—that is, if he can stand to spread them out that far!



MOSDOS GOLD WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

A SAMPLE DETAILED SCHEDULE

Here's one way to break down your assignments to flow easily through a 36-week schedule.

The page numbers refer to the current Student Reader as of this printing.

You'll notice that some weeks have more titles assigned than others. We've taken into account the number of corresponding workbook pages and the length of the readings to come up with these weekly assignments, but you should always feel free to rearrange in whatever fashion works for you. The surrounding content (e.g., introductory

matter or sidebars) varies too, and your mathematically inclined student will quickly notice that no two weeks have identical page counts. Remind him that this is a good time to learn how to be flexible and persistent. After all, he may even find that the longer stories end up being his favorite!

Please note that you need to complete only as many of the corresponding Any assignments as you determine to be appropriate for your reader. Our family would have chosen to answer the Studying the Selection questions in the readers orally rather than in writing. We would also likely skip the writing assignments since you'll be covering writing systematically with *Wordsmith*.



SUGGESTED WEEK-BY-WEEK PLAN

UNIT 1

Short Stories

Week 1

The Sea Devil — page 16

Any assignments

Week 2

Accounts Settled — page 30

Any assignments

Week 3

The Last Leaf — page 42

A Man Who Had No Eyes — page 52

Any assignments



484 BOOK SUGGESTIONS

So you love the idea of the reading challenge, but you'd like a boost to get you started? You've come to the right place!

Customize This!

You'll find a few ideas here for each challenge, but don't forget that you're not bound to our list. There are literally hundreds more options that may be even better for your family. Use these pages as starter ideas and not as your final list.

Will I See the Same Books Over and Over?

No, not on this list! However, you can expect to see some of these books appear on the lists for more than one grade (so if you have an eighth- and a ninth-grader, some parts of the list will match) since books are often appropriate for more than one grade level.

Many books could easily fit into more than one category, but we only put each in one place on your list for your

484 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.

1. AN INSPIRATIONAL BOOK

The Book of Virtues for Young People by William J. Bennett
Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul by Jack Canfield
Random Acts of Kindness by the Editors of Conari Press
Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change by Garth Sundem

2. A BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD

Eyewitness: Wonders of the World (DK)
Eyewitness: Earth (DK)
Where on Earth? Atlas (DK)
Usborne Encyclopedia of Planet Earth
Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne



3. A BIOGRAPHY

Pathfinders by Tonya Bolden
Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes by Juan Felipe Herrera
Who Was? series
The Story of Emma Lazarus by Erica Silverman
Magellan's World by Stuart Waldman
Alexander Graham Bell: An Inventive Life by Elizabeth Macleod

We Were There, Too: Young People in U.S. History by Phillip M. Hoose

4. A CLASSIC NOVEL/STORY

Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
Betsy-Tacy series by Maud Hart Lovelace
The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss
The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis
Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates by Mary Mapes Dodge
Anne of Green Gables and others by L.M. Montgomery
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

5. A BOOK YOUR GRANDPARENT (OR OTHER RELATIVE) SAYS WAS HIS/HER FAVORITE AT YOUR AGE

Ask your grandparents or other relatives. Or, if that's not possible, ask an older friend for a recommendation.

6. A BOOK ABOUT ANCIENT HISTORY

Mara, Daughter of the Nile by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
The Trojan War by Olivia Colidge
The Story of the World: Ancient Times by Susan Wise Bauer
Eyewitness: Ancient Civilizations (DK)
Eyewitness: Ancient Egypt (DK)
Eyewitness: Ancient Greece (DK)
Eyewitness: Ancient China (DK)
Eyewitness: Mesopotamia (DK)
Hatshepsut: The Girl Who Became a Great Pharaoh by Ellen Galford

7. A BOOK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY

What do you love to learn about? Are you interested in coin collecting? This is the perfect time to read a book on that. Would you rather be outside? How about a book on adventures? Hiking, gaming, religion, friends, crafts...nothing is off the table for this book!

8. A BOOK BASED ON A TRUE STORY

January's Sparrow by Patricia Polacco
Call of the Klondike by David Meissner and Kim Richardson
Red Scarf Girl by Ji-li Jiang
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
Royal Diaries series from Scholastic
The Story of the Trapp Family Singers by Maria Augusta Trapp
Gentle Annie by Mary Francis Shura

484 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.

73. A BOOK BY YOUR FAVORITE AUTHOR

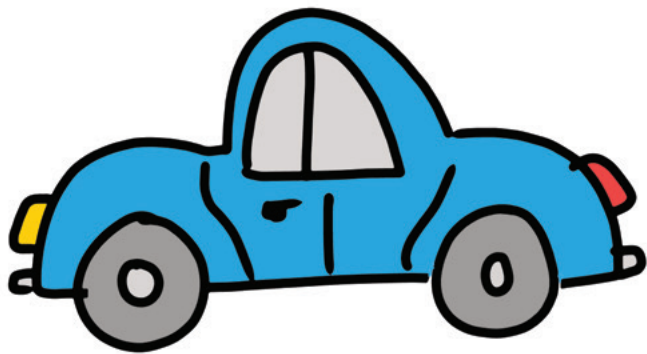
If you've already read everything by your favorite author, feel free to reread one of the books. Or choose a book by another author you like.

74. A BOOK YOU'VE READ BEFORE

Here's your chance to reread one of your all-time favorite books! Or maybe one you know you've read but you don't remember what happened.

75. A BOOK WITH AN UGLY COVER

Have fun looking for an interesting book with a super-ugly cover!



76. A BOOK ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S FAVORITE SUBJECT

Does you have a sibling who loves math or painting? A friend enthralled with laws or construction? Or perhaps a grandparent who serves as a police officer or NICU nurse? Find a book about this subject to enjoy—and maybe even share with your friend or relative who inspired this selection!

77. A BOOK ABOUT TRAVEL OR TRANSPORTATION

Twelve Days in May by Larry Dane Brimner
Lonely Planet Kids: The Travel Book
Sisters by Raina Telgemeier
Betsy and the Great World by Maud Hart Lovelace
The Red Trailer Mystery by Julie Campbell
Henry Reed's Journey by Keith Robertson
On the Way Home by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Eyewitness: Car (DK)

78. A BOOK ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD

Wild Animals I Have Known by Ernest Thompson Seton
Living Forest series by Sam Campbell
Nature Anatomy by Julia Rothman
Jackie's Wild Seattle by Will Hobbs
Incident at Hawk's Hill by Allan Eckert

79. A BIOGRAPHY OF AN AUTHOR

Noah Webster's Fighting Words by Tracy Nelson Maurer
Who Was J.R.R. Tolkien? by Pam Pollack
Who Was Charles Dickens? by Pam Pollack
Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Biography by William Anderson

80. A BOOK PUBLISHED IN 2020-2021

Your librarian should be able to point you toward the new releases that are age-appropriate, or you can watch to see what's being featured in your favorite bookseller's email or storefront. Of course, you could also expand this category to be any brand-new book or new-to-your-library title.

81. A HISTORICAL FICTION BOOK

Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink
A Family Apart by Joan Lowery Nixon