



## Classical Literature Badge

(written by Doreen Olson)

The emphasis of this badge is on books that have stood the test of time and contain some sort of recommendation beyond “a good story” or “there’s nothing gross in it,” hence the name “Classical Literature.” To be recommended for this badge, a book needs to: have literary value; uphold the character qualities Frontier Girls hold dear; inspire; nourish the mind; appeal to several age groups; exude warmth, humor, comfort or beauty; hold in high regard those in authority who are deserving of respect; and/or spark the imagination. In other words, we will be holding these books to a higher standard, just as Frontier Girls should hold themselves to a higher standard. If a girl speaks a language other than English and wants to read books in the other language, please evaluate those books with these same criteria in mind.

At all levels, the same credit can be given for listening to a book read aloud as would be given to reading silently. There is merit in both and we want even the hesitant reader to be exposed to great literature. Only unabridged books will count toward this badge.

Keep in mind that most authors write books for more than one age group & not all books by an author are appropriate for the level listed below, hence the words, “& older.” An example would be C.S. Lewis whose Narnia tales are enjoyed by all, but his science fiction would only be appropriate for Butterflies and older girls.

### *For this badge we recommend the following authors:*

**Otters & older**—C.W. Anderson, Clyde Robert Bulla, Thornton Burgess, Natalie Savage Carlson, Frances Cavanah, Ann Nolan Clark, Beverly Cleary, Elizabeth Coatsworth, Alice Dalgleish, Edgar & Ingrid D’Aulaire, Wilma Pitchford Hays, Caroline Haywood, Holling Holling, Lois Lenski, Astrid Lindgren, Maud Hart Lovelace, David Macaulay, Miriam Mason, Robert McCloskey, Ann McGovern, F.N. Monjo, Lucy Fitch Perkins, Maud & Miska Petersham, Beatrix Potter, H.A. & Margaret Rey, Keith Robertson, Glen Rounds, Ruth Sawyer, William O. Steele, Augusta Stevenson, Robert Louis Stevenson, Noel Streatfeild, Ronald Syme, Sanford Tousey, Edwin Tunis, Opal Wheeler, Anne Terry White, E.B. White, & Jay Williams

**Dolphins & older**—Louisa May Alcott, R.M. Ballantyne, L. Frank Baum, Patricia Beatty, Laura Benet, Sonia Bleeker, L.M. Boston, Carol Ryrie Brink, Walter Brooks, John Bunyan, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Lewis Carroll, Rebecca Caudall, Marchette Chute, Charles Coffin, Padraic Colum, Olivia Coolidge, Leonard Cottrell, James Daugherty, Meindert DeJong, Charles Dickens, Mary Mapes Dodge, Arthur Conan Doyle, Jeanette Eaton, Edward Eggleston, Elizabeth Enright, Eleanor Estes, Eleanor Farjeon, Walter Farley, Rachel Field, Martha Finley, Genevieve Foster, Jean Fritz, Leon Garfield, Doris Shannon Garst, Doris Gates, Elizabeth Goudge, Elizabeth Janet Gray, Marguerite Henry, G.A. Henty, James Herriot, V.M. Hillyer, Stewart Holbrook, Gerald Johnson, Clara Ingram Judson, Eric Kelly, Louise Andrews Kent, Rudyard Kipling, Jim Kjelgaard, Jean Latham, Robert Lawson, C.S. Lewis, Hugh Lofting, George MacDonald, Eloise McGraw, May McNeer, Stephen Meader, Enid Meadowcroft, Cornelia Meigs, Earl Schenk Miers, L.M. Montgomery, Ralph Moody, Walt Morey, Edith Nesbit, Sterling North, Mary Norton, Scott O’Dell, Oliver Optic, James Otis, Howard Pyle, Marjorie Quennell, Arthur Ransome, Patricia St. John, Kate Seredy, Anna Sewell, Katherine Shippen, Margaret Sydney, Caroline Snedeker, Elizabeth Speare, Johanna Spyri, Dorothy Sterling, Edward Stratemeyer, Rosemary Sutcliff, Albert Terhune, Geoffrey Trease, John Tunis, Mark Twain, Hendrik VanLoon, Hilda Van Stockum, Louise Vernon, Dr. Paul White, Leonard Wibberley, Kate Douglas Wiggin, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Elizabeth Yates

**Butterflies & older**—Jane Austen, J.R.R. Tolkien, Henry Treece, Jules Verne

**Eagles**—Ann, Charlotte & Emily Bronte, James Fenimore Cooper, Daniel DeFoe, Alexandre Dumas, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Anthony Hope, Gene Stratton Porter

### **Otters: Do four requirements, including those starred.**

\*1. Find out when literature for children started being written. Who is your favorite 'early' children's author? What is the first award created to honor a children's book? When did children's books start having illustrations?

\*2. Become well acquainted with four children's authors. Read a biography (even if it's just one page in a reference work) of each author. Read a minimum of two books by each author and for at least one author, read books in more than one category such as fiction, nonfiction, poetry, historical fiction, and folktales. For one of the authors:

a) watch a movie made from one of the books you read, being sure to read the book *before* watching the movie. How did it compare with the book?

or

b) choose a passage from one of the books and present it as a dramatic reading.

3. Go to a play based on a book of classical literature or create your own play & help perform it. You can act in the play or direct it.

4. Draw a series of illustrations for a classical book you've read. They need to illustrate parts of the book that are not illustrated in your copy. Do at least four pictures.

5. Make a poster promoting the books of one of your favorite authors.

6. Donate some books of classical literature to a charity that serves children. They may be second hand books, but make sure they are still strong and clean.

7. Play a game, read a poem, sing a song, or prepare a dish mentioned in one of the books you read.

### **Dolphins: Do five requirements, including those starred.**

\*1. Do Otter #1 and meet in person or watch a documentary about a children's author. What different kinds of art materials are used when illustrating books? Do you think it takes less time for an author to write a book now that there are computers?

\*2. Same as Otter #2, except become acquainted with five children's authors and read at least three books by each. If you are repeating this badge, you must choose all new authors.

3. Go to a play or musical based on a classical children's book or write and help perform your own. You may also write a song based on the book and perform it for an audience of at least five people.

4. Do a series of at least six illustrations from one of the books you read. They need to illustrate parts of the story not illustrated in your copy.

5. Make a poster promoting the books of one of your favorite authors.

6. Donate some classical books to a charity that will use them rather than just sell them.

7. Play a game, read a poem, sing a song, visit a historical site, or prepare a dish mentioned in one of the books you read.

8. Wear a costume for a day that is based on a character in one of the books you read. Have some historical information prepared that you can give other people who ask about your costume or memorize an

interesting paragraph that you can recite for others.

**Butterflies: Do six requirements including those starred.**

\*1. Do Dolphin #1 and find out how authors are paid. How many books do you think a person would need to write in order to have the money be enough to live on? How much are illustrators paid?

\*2. Same as Dolphin #2, except become acquainted with six children's authors and read at least four books by each. If you are repeating this badge, you must choose all new authors except one and all the books need to be new books.

3. Go to a play or musical based on a classical children's book or write and help perform your own (you may act, direct, or provide some other supporting role). You may also write a song based on the book and perform it for an audience of at least five people.

4. Do a series of at least six illustrations from one of the books you read. They need to illustrate parts of the story not illustrated in your copy.

5. Make a poster promoting the book so of one of your favorite authors.

6. Donate some classical books to a charity or institution that will use the books, rather than just sell them.

7. Play a game, read a poem, sing a song, visit a historical site, or prepare a dish mentioned in one of the books you read. Reading the biography of a person referred to in one of the books can also count.

8. Wear a costume for a day that is based on a character in one of the books you read. Have some historical information or an interesting paragraph memorized that you can recite for people who ask about your costume.

9. Attend a party with a literary theme based on an author's work(s).

10. Read one of your books to your family or a friend's family to introduce them to an author new to them.

11. Join a book club that is discussing a classical book and attend at least six meetings.

12. Read books onto tapes for the visually impaired, read to children at a childcare facility, or do a story time at a library for a minimum of two hours.

13. Design a wall mural or some curtain fabric based on a book series. If you choose curtain fabric, the panels need to be at least 12" wide.

**Eagles: Do seven requirements including those starred.**

\*1. If this is your first time earning this badge, do Butterfly #1. If you have previously earned this badge, write an essay about what makes a good children's book, citing specific books as examples for your points OR find out about the tours authors take—who pays for promoting the books, how many cities do authors visit in a tour, how many books does an author typically sign in one day?

\*2. Same as Butterfly #2, except one author must be from the Butterflies or Eagles lists (or have books in one of those categories in addition to some easier ones), see the very top of the badge.

3. Same as Butterfly #3 or write a poem about your favorite book and read it to an audience of at least five

people.

4. Same as Butterfly #4 or write a critique of the illustrations in one of your books (minimum five illustrations).
5. Same as Butterfly #5.
6. Same as Butterfly #6.
7. Same as Butterfly #7.
8. Same as Butterfly #8 or make the costume for a younger girl to wear to fulfill her requirement.
9. Same as Butterfly #9, but you must also help put the party together.
10. Same as Butterfly #10.
11. Same as Butterfly #11.
12. Same as Butterfly #12.
13. Same as Butterfly #13.
14. After reading one of your books, read a condensed version. Did they do a good job condensing the story? What aspects did the condensers do best and which ones did you dislike the most? Why?
15. If you were to do a major research project on your favorite author, where would you go to find original documents? What would you have to do to gain permission to look at the documents? If your author is no longer living, is there a relative with whom you can talk?