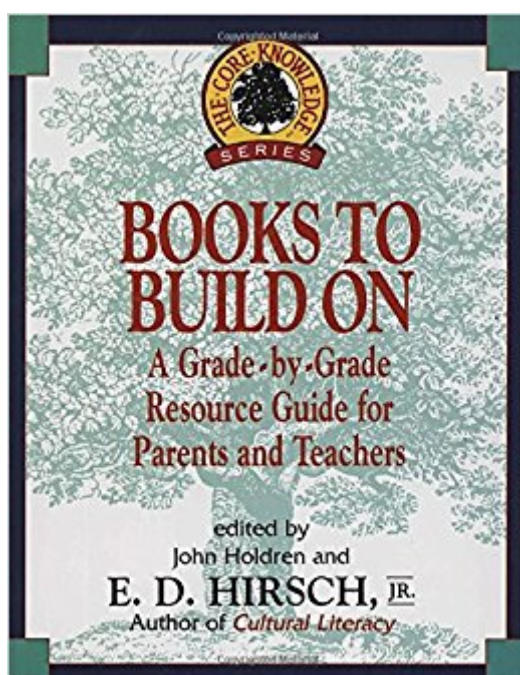


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# Books To Build On: A Grade-by-Grade Resource Guide For Parents And Teachers (Core Knowledge Series)



## Synopsis

A companion volume to the highly successful series of textbooks for grades one through six, *Books to Build On* lists books and other print resources--organized by topic--related to the material covered in the textbooks, designed to encourage further study.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although this work is designed as a supplement to the Core Knowledge series (*What Your Kindergartener Should Know*, etc.), it could serve as a useful, accessible annotated bibliography for both parents and teachers. Hirsch is the author of *Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know*, which was the impetus for the Core Knowledge movement. The arrangement is simple. There are seven main curricular areas: Language Arts, World History and Geography, American History and Geography, Visual Arts, Music, Science, and Math. Each of these areas is divided by grade levels (K<sup>^</sup>-6) and then by other topical subdivisions, under which are annotated 5 to 10 books and other media, such as software or recordings. The topics do not remain constant across all the grade levels, so it could not be used to find books at all grade levels on dinosaurs or Roman history. Each entry notes the publisher and date of publication. There is no indication of ISBN, binding, or whether the item is available in another format or medium. The reading level is not indicated for any of the titles. Items that the authors "admire most" are designated "CC," or Core Collection. The book begins with an essay by Hirsch and Holdren that details their philosophy and rationale. Each of the seven

main subject areas begins with an introduction that lays a curricular foundation and sketches the scope and sequence for the subject. These introductory essays also contain information about the philosophy of Core Knowledge schools that would be helpful to people who are interested in school reform and the elementary canon. The book has a single subject, title, author, and illustrator index. The addresses of some special vendors are included in appropriate annotations. Like *The New York Times Parent's Guide to the Best Books for Children*, this is a popular rather than a professional tool, but libraries that serve Core Knowledge communities or schools of education will find it useful.

E. D. Hirsch, Jr., is an emeritus professor at the University of Virginia and the author of *The Knowledge Deficit*, *The Schools We Need*, and the bestselling *Cultural Literacy and the Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*. He and his wife, Polly, live in Charlottesville, Virginia, where they raised their three children.

This book presents a bibliography of classical children's books, catalogued by subject and grade. It gives information about the content of each book, where to obtain the book, and how the book might be used. I love this collection. It is so inspiring I want to go out and buy the books described. I do know of other books that I think are wonderful and that would fit the categories that are not listed, so I'm not sure I would say this is comprehensive, but it is helpful and inspiring in leading a parent or teacher to some wonderful books for our children.

Really makes you think about the books we read to, or buy for our children to read. Nice guide.

This book is a must-have for teachers, librarians, and parents who want a culturally literate child. As a teacher, I like the Core Knowledge Series by the same author. This book is a comprehensive listing of resources for every age and every subject. As parents, we can't rely on any school to teach our child all they need to know and we are ultimately responsible for their education. Schools are sometimes overly focused on politically correct topics at the expense of the many great lessons in history. This could be used to find appropriate books for home schooling or to help parents supplement their child's education. You may want to get the "What your K/1st/2nd...6th grader Needs to Know" books, too. You will be amazed at how much these books enrich your child's education, and ultimately their life.

Great reference book for our school library.

Some of the books recommended are hard to find but *Books to build on* is a good guide for those working with the core knowledge curriculum.

It's good.

I've been on a children's book and/or education kick, which has meant discovering for the first time the world of book guides for children. My intention is to only \*buy\* books of lasting home-library value; everything else, and there must be so much, can come from the public library. This book has exceeded all others in advising on what references, storybooks and educational resources belong in the home of a child who loves learning. I recommend the *NYTimes Books for Children* and the *The Read-Aloud Handbook* book as well, but it's the Hirsch book, specifically the "Core Collection" recommendations, that has led me to the most interesting learning materials! I also love that he's not afraid to refer to or at least mention quality out-of-print materials. What good is the Internet's vast book culture if not to find out-of-print materials that are wasting away on a back shelf in some store across the country? For example, he mentions a history series by Olive Beaupre Miller. I found a woman in Texas who was selling her set, they came yesterday, and man am I ever jealous! How come I didn't get to read those when \*I\* was younger? Another example of why I think OOP book should not be ignored in these kind of guides is a treasure I stumbled upon in a used bookstore the other day. "A Classical Storybook" by Morris Bishop is a treasure trove of Greek and Roman stories from the histories and poetry of the era. Enchanting! I went online, and as it turns out Morris Bishop was BFF with Vladimir Nabokov, was a hugely important Romantic literature scholar and apparently an altogether lovely man. Suffice it to say, I have ordered the medieval, Renaissance and Romantic storybooks for my children as well. If more reader guides mentioned these treasures of the past, I believe the spike in demand by interested parents would lead many of them to be reprinted. God love the profit motive! Anyway, back to Hirsch: I'm relatively comfortable when it comes to identifying quality resources in the humanities, social sciences and liberal arts, but I'm a little foggier when it comes to most kinds of science and mathematics. I was thrilled to see that Hirsch gives those subjects their due as well, and I've already been thrilled to discover through him H.A. "Curious George" Rey's amazing books about constellations, astronomy and the night sky (*The Stars: A New Way to See Them, Find the Constellations*). What a treat! I've been scribbling all over this book, taking notes, starring items and dog-earring pages. I can't say that's the case for most of the booklist books I've read, although expositionalish :) introduction to the *Read-Aloud\** guide will

definitely been getting multiple reads from me. Anyway, this book is highly admirable, and I hope it, itself, has many printings, revisions, expansions and future editions to come. Invaluable.

This book, edited by John Holdren and E.D. Hirsch, is a list and description of books for children who are participating in the "Core Knowledge" based curricula. The basis is simply "knowledge builds on knowledge". By having children read and think about these books, they develop a stronger and more versatile educational framework. The book is divided into 5 main sections: Language Arts, History and Geography, Visual Arts, Music and Science. Each section is then organized into a series of conceptual topics. In each section, the editors summarize the curriculum by grade. They then include a set of recommended books and stories, organized by grade, with a paragraph description and explanation why. These books assume a sophisticated reading level (Canterbury Tales for Grade 4, for example). However, even reading a subset of these books will result in a better understanding of each of these critical subjects.

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