

A few excellent recent fantasy works for children and teens

Terry Pratchett

- *The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents* (Carnegie Medal)
- *The Wee Free Men; A Hat Full of Sky; Wintersmith* (Challenging for some nine-year-olds; will be enjoyed by adults as well.)
- *Only You Can Save Mankind; Johnny and the Dead; Johnny and the Bomb* (earlier works but still available)
- *The Bromeliad: Truckers; Diggers; Wings* (likewise)

Neil Gaiman

- *Coraline*

Garth Nix

- *Sabriel; Lirael; Abhorsen* (YA, i.e. more towards the higher end of the juvenile reading/interest level)
- Keys to the Kingdom series: *Mister Monday; Grim Tuesday; Drowned Wednesday; Sir Thursday*

Diana Wynne Jones

- From the Chrestomanci series: *Charmed Life* (Guardian Award, orig. pub. 1977 but recently reissued); *The Lives of Christopher Chant; The Magicians of Caprona; Conrad's Fate; The Pinhoe Egg*
- *Howl's Moving Castle; Castle in the Air*
- *A Tale of Time City*
- *Archer's Goon*
- *The Ogre Downstairs*
- *The Dalemark Quartet: Cart and Cwiddler; The Spellcoats; Drowned Ammet; Crown of Dalemark*
- *Hexwood* (YA)
- *Time of the Ghost* (YA)
- *The Merlin Conspiracy* (YA)

A Canadian, **O.R. Melling**

- *The Golden Book of Faerie* (YA); *The Hunter's Moon & The Summer King* revised 2nd. edns. from Abrams. (YA)

A couple of excellent fantasy manga series:

Rumiko Takahashi: *Inuyasha* (sometimes *Inu-Yasha*)

Hiromu Arakawa: *Fullmetal Alchemist* (YA)

... me, **K.V. Johansen**

- *Torrie and the Pirate-Queen* (Lilla Sterling Award); *Torrie and the Firebird*
- *The Cassandra Virus*

And finally, the classics, the essentials:

J.R.R. Tolkien

- *The Hobbit* (read it even to quite young children!); *The Lord of the Rings* (YA)

C.S. Lewis

- *The Magician's Nephew; The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe; The Horse and his Boy; Prince Caspian; The Voyage of the Dawn Treader; The Silver Chair; The Last Battle*

Plus a few other classics, still in print:

- Lloyd Alexander: *The Book of Three; The Black Cauldron; The Castle of Llyr, Taran Wanderer; The High King* (Newbery Medal)
- Susan Cooper: *Over Sea, Under Stone; The Dark is Rising; Greenwitch; The Grey King* (Newbery Medal); *Silver on the Tree*
- Alan Garner: *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen; The Moon of Gomerath*
- Robin McKinley: *The Blue Sword* (Newbery Honor); *The Hero and the Crown* (Newbery Medal) (YA)
- E. Nesbit: *Five Children and It; The Phoenix and the Carpet; The Story of the Amulet*
- George MacDonald: *The Princess and the Goblin*
- Rosemary Sutcliff: *King Arthur Stories; Beowulf - Dragonslayer; Black Ships Before Troy; The Wanderings of Odysseus*

"A good vocabulary is not acquired by reading books written according to some notion of the vocabulary of one's age group. It comes from reading books above one." -- J.R.R. Tolkien (Letters, pp. 298-299)