Is there a Goodreads for kids? What a child under 13 can use instead

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Goodreads is for 13 and up. A free bookshelf for younger readers instead: every book they've read, a tap to say what they thought, and their reading year to print.

Goodreads asks its members to be 13 or older, and the other big reading apps are built for teens and adults, so a younger reader who wants to keep a shelf of what they've read has very little to use. Peabody's bookshelf is built for them: every book a child logs lands on one shelf, they tap to say what they thought, and they can print their reading year. It is free, like the rest of Peabody through the end of 2026, it needs no account, and nothing on the shelf leaves the device.

Why the grown-up apps don't fit

An app for adults is built around other people: following friends, reviews anyone can read, messages, groups. For a child that is exactly the part to leave out. The other kids' options we looked at have either closed (one big publisher's free summer tracker shut down in November 2025 and deleted its users' data), stopped being updated, or need a school to sign up.

What a child actually wants is smaller: to see the books they've read, to remember which ones they loved, and to show someone.

What the bookshelf does

- Every book, once. Books logged in any of Peabody's reading challenges or the family reading log land on one shelf, however many challenges they were in. A favourite read ten times says so.
- A tap to say what you thought. Loved it, it was OK, or not for me, and one word: funny, exciting, sad, scary, true, or made me think. Nothing typed.
- My reading year. Books by month, by kind, and the ones read again and again, printed on one page for the fridge, a teacher or a homeschool record.
- "I recommend" cards. Three taps (the stars, who would like it, print) make a card for the class wall or a library display, signed with the reader's animal, never a name.
- For the record. A year of titles by date, printed or saved as a spreadsheet.

What it keeps, and where

Each reader picks an animal face; brothers and sisters each have their own shelf on one device. The shelf is kept in that browser on that device. There are no friends, no messages, no public reviews and no account. A grown-up can clear one reader's shelf without touching

anyone else's.

When a child rates one of Peabody's own stories, Peabody counts the story and the tap (loved it, OK, or not), with nothing about the reader, so the Book Club can show the week's most-loved stories. That's the only thing that leaves the device.

The books to fill it with

The shelf fills from whatever a child reads: Peabody's free stories at nineteen levels in the library, books from the kids' lists, series read in order, and books from home or the library, typed or scanned by a grown-up.

A reading journal on paper, too

Some children want to write, and that's worth keeping. A notebook with a line for each book, a date and a word about it is the oldest reading journal there is, and it works beside the shelf: the screen keeps the count and the ratings, the notebook keeps the sentences a child wants to keep. The Book Club's printable logs and the bookmark with a reading log on its back are ready for the child who would rather hold a pencil than a tablet, and a teacher can pin the "I recommend" cards beside them.

Questions parents ask

Can my child share their shelf with a friend?

Not online, on purpose. They can print it, or make an "I recommend" card and hand it over.

What happens if we clear the browser?

The shelf goes with it. Print the reading year, or save the record as a spreadsheet, from time to time.

Is there an age limit?

No. The read-aloud challenge starts at birth, and older readers keep the same shelf as they grow.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/goodreads-for-kids-alternative