

# Reading Suggestions about Caves and Caving

Most cavers will point to books and movies from their childhood as their inspiration to start caving. Check your library for suggestions. After that you can also get good recommendations from either the National Speleological Society Bookstore ([www.nssbookstore.org](http://www.nssbookstore.org)) or private vendors like Speleobooks ([www.speleobooks.com](http://www.speleobooks.com)). Here are some books that we liked:

## Non Fiction

### **“The Secret Cave: Discovering Lascaux”, by Emily Arnold McCully. Ages 6-9**

Part “Hardy Boys”, part archeology, this book looks at the discovery of the prehistoric cave paintings of Lascaux, and it invites today’s readers to experience the wonder of the event.

### **“Caves”(Nature in Action series), by Stephen Kramer. Ages 9+**

This book is an excellent and nicely illustrated introduction to caves.

### **“The Hidden World of Caves”, by Ron Kerbo. Ages 8+**

This little book is illustrated with color photographs and gives a nice introduction to caves and caving.

### **“Caves and Caverns”, by Gail Gibbons. Ages 6-10**

By presenting the types of caves and how they are formed, this book provides simple, straightforward science in picture-book format.

### **“Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Cave on Earth”, by James M. Tabor. Ages 12+**

This book chronicles two separate expeditions to reach the record for the world’s deepest cave. It provides a gripping account of the nature of modern caving expeditions.

## Fiction

### **“In the Dark Cave”, by Richard A. Watson. Ages 3-7**

This is a rhyming book about a dark cave and the creatures that live happily in it (without light). One day, an explorer ventures down the cave with light and the creatures do not know what to make of it.

### **“Home in the Cave”, by Janet Halfman. Ages 4-9**

Baby Bat loves his cave home and never wants to leave it. While practicing flapping his wings one night, he falls, and Pluribus Packrat rescues him. They then explore the deepest, darkest corners of the cave where they meet amazing animals—animals that don’t need eyes to see or colors to hide from enemies.

### **“StellaLuna”, by Janell Cannon. Ages 4+**

OK, this isn’t about caves and caving but it’s worth mentioning. “Stellaluna” has been charming picture-book readers for years with its moving tale of a lost little bat who learns a big lesson about friendship.

### **“Underground”, by Jean Farris. Ages 12+**

Set in Mammoth Cave in the 1800’s, this historical drama follows a slave girl as she meets Stephen Bishop (A real person from this period. He’s also a slave, and he’s a famous early explorer of Mammoth Cave). In this compelling novel, two young people explore what sorts of freedom they can find, even as slaves.

### **“Tales of Dirt, Danger, and Darkness”, By Paul Jay Steward. Ages 12+? (Mom and Dad – You want to check this first)**

We want to put out a special note mentioning local caver/author, Paul Jay Steward. This book spins a series of short stories, based on both his personal caving experiences and legendary cave stories. But please check the book out before giving to your kids, because the stories can be scary.