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Eighth Grade Recommended Reading List 2020-2021 | oppl.org/kids-lists

Fiction

Cartaya, Pablo. *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*. Arturo's Miami summer is marked by the arrival of poetry enthusiast Carmen, who helps him use the power of protest to fight the plans of a land developer who wants to demolish his abuela's restaurant.

Cervantes, Jennifer. *The Storm Runner*. To prevent the Mayan gods from battling each other and destroying the world, thirteen-year-old Zane must unravel an ancient prophecy, stop an evil god, and discover how the physical disability that makes him reliant on a cane also connects him to his father and his ancestry.

Emezi, Akwaeke. *Pet*. In a near-future society that claims to have gotten rid of all monstrous people, a creature emerges from a painting seventeen-year-old Jam's mother created, a hunter from another world seeking a real-life monster. Then Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood. Pet has come to hunt a monster-- and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?

Engle, Margarita. *Jazz Owls: A Novel of the Zoot Suit Riots* (TWEEN). In early 1940s Los Angeles, Mexican Americans Marisela and Lorena work in canneries all day then jitterbug with sailors all night with their zoot suit wearing younger brother, Ray, as escort until the night racial violence leads to murder.

Johnston, Tony and De Rhoads, *Maria Elena Fontanot*. *Beast Rider: A Boy's Journey Beyond the Border*. Having faced great danger, twelve-year-old Manuel finally succeeds in hopping a train out of Mexico but after reuniting with his brother in Los Angeles, he realizes something is not right.

Love, Damien. *Monstrous Devices*. Alex, nearly thirteen, flees with his grandfather across snowy Europe to escape the human and mechanical assassins that pursue them, trying to retrieve a powerful object.

Magoon, Kekla. *The Rock and the River*. It's 1968, and Chicago teen Sam is torn. He's always looked up to his father, a civil rights leader dedicated to nonviolence. His older brother Stick, however, has left home to join the revolutionary Black Panther Party. At first Sam is skeptical of the Panthers' militant approach to ending racial injustice, but after one of his friends is brutally beaten by the police, Sam starts to question his father's nonviolent beliefs.

Martinez, Victor. *Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida* (TWEEN). Fourteen-year-old Manny Hernandez wants to be more than just a penny. He wants to be a vato firme, the kind of guy people respect. But that's not easy when your father is abusive, your brother can't hold a job, and your mother scrubs the house as if she can wash her troubles away.

Medina, Meg. *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* (TEEN). Informed that a bully she does not know is determined to beat her up, Latin American teen Piddy Sanchez struggles to learn more about the father she has never met, until the bully's gang forces her to confront more difficult challenges.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Ghost Boys*. After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

Sullivan, Tara. *The Bitter Side of Sweet* (TWEEN). Kept as forced labor on a chocolate plantation in the Ivory Coast, Amadou and his younger brother Seydou had given up hope, until a girl arrives at the camp and rekindles the urge to escape.

Tingle, Tim. *Stone River Crossing*. When Martha Tom crosses the Bok Chitto River into the slave-owning plantation in Mississippi territory she meets Lil Mo, an enslaved boy whose mother is about to be sold, so Martha convinces Lil Mo's family to cross the river and be free.

Vrabel, Beth. *The Reckless Club*. Five unrelated pranksters are sentenced to volunteer at an assisted-living home on the last summer day before school starts, a day also marked by revelations about their choices.

Williams, Alicia D. *Genesis Begins Again*. Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

Zoboi, Ibi Aanu. *My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich*. In the summer of 1984, twelve year old Ebony-Grace of Huntsville, Alabama, visits her father in Harlem, where her fascination with outer space and science fiction interfere with her finding acceptance

Nonfiction

Engle, Margarita. *Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir* (811 ENG). As a child of two cultures during the Cold War, Engle's worlds collided in the worst way possible. Her heart was in Cuba, but most of the time she lived in Los Angeles, lonely in the noisy city and dreaming of the summers when she could take a plane through the enchanted air to her beloved island.

Farrell, Mary Cronk. *Standing Up Against Hate: How Black Women in the Army Helped Change the Course of WWII* (940.541 FAR). The stories of the African American women who enlisted in the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in World War II. They quickly discovered that they faced as many obstacles in the armed forces as they did in everyday life. They survived racial prejudice and discrimination with dignity, succeeded in jobs women had never worked before, and made crucial contributions to the military war effort.

Grove, Tim. *First Flight Around the World: The Adventures of the American Fliers Who Won the Race* (910.41 GRO). In 1924 the U.S. Army sent eight young men on a bold attempt to be the first to circumnavigate the globe by flight. Men from five other countries--Great Britain, France, Portugal, Italy, and Argentina--had the same goal, and so the quest became a race. Who would win?

Lowery, Lynda Blackmon. *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March* (323.119 LOW). The story of the youngest person to complete the momentous Selma to Montgomery March, describing her frequent imprisonments for her participation in nonviolent demonstrations and how she felt about her involvement in historic Civil Rights events.



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Nonfiction cont'd.

Miller, Marilyn. *Words That Built a Nation: Voices of Democracy That Have Shaped America's History* (973 MIL). From the Constitution and the Gettysburg Address to the 2015 Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage, the updated collection preserves the documents of the first edition and introduces the landmark statements that are impacting our nation today.

Noyes, Deborah. *Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original Girl Reporter Nellie Bly* (B BLY). In 1887, twenty-three-year-old Nellie Bly tricked New York City's top doctors into deeming her incurably insane and committed her to Roosevelt Island's infamous asylum. She was ready to write and publish the most sensational expose of the clinic's horrific treatment of its patients. Nellie succeeded in her quest and skyrocketed to fame. Her inspiring career in "stunt" journalism that followed enthralled her readers as she drew attention to political corruption, poverty, and abuses of human rights.

Schatz, Kate. *Rad American History A-Z: Movements & Moments that Demonstrate the Power of the People.* (TEEN 303.484 SCH) Each letter of the alphabet tells the story of a significant moment in America's progressive history--one that isn't always covered in history classes--A is for Alcatraz, and the Native occupation of 1969; C is for the Combahee River Raid, a Civil War action planned in part by Union spy Harriet Tubman; Z is for Zuccotti Park, and the Occupy movement that briefly took over the world. There are tales of triumph, resilience, creation, and hope. Each engaging, fact-filled narrative illustrates an eye-opening moment that shows us how we got to now--and what we need to know about our histories to create a just and sustainable future.

Sheff, David and Nic Sheff. *High: Everything You Want to Know About Drugs, Alcohol, and Addiction* (362.29 SHE). All the information teens and tweens need to know about drugs, alcohol, and addiction. This book tells it as it is, with testimonials from peers who have been there and families who have lived through the addiction of a loved one, along with the cold, hard facts about what drugs and alcohol do to our bodies.

Wood, H.P. *Fakers: An Insider's Guide to Cons, Hoaxes, and Scams* (364.163 WOO). An overview of some of the funniest, weirdest, and most influential cons, scams, and deceptions in history, looking at how the fakers do it, why people can be so easy to fool, and how readers can avoid becoming a sucker.

Graphic Novels

Broskol, Vera. *Anya's Ghost* (TWEEN). Anya has given up on fitting in, but falling down a well and befriending a ghost just may be worse.

Carroll, Emily. *Through the Woods* (TWEEN). A collection of five spine-tingling short stories with dark, atmospheric art to match!

Colfer, Eoin. *Illegal*. Ebo's brother, Kwame, has disappeared and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life, the same journey their sister set out on months ago. Refusing to be left behind in Ghana, Ebo sets out alone.

Gharib, Malaka. *I Was Their American Dream: A Graphic Memoir* (TEEN) The daughter of parents with unfulfilled dreams themselves, Malaka navigated her childhood chasing her parents' ideals, learning to code-switch between her family's Filipino and Egyptian customs, adapting to white culture to fit in, crushing on skater boys, and trying to understand the tension between holding onto cultural values and trying to be an all-American kid.

Lee, Jen. *Garbage Night*. An unlikely gang—a dog named Simon and his two best friends: a raccoon and a deer—spend their days looting the supermarket and waiting for the hallowed garbage night, but day after day, the bins remain empty and the humans missing.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Pumpkinheads* (Teen). Deja and Josiah are seasonal best friends. Every autumn, all through high school, they've worked together at the best pumpkin patch in the whole wide world. This is their last season at the pumpkin patch. Their last shift together. Their last good-bye. Josiah's ready to spend the whole night feeling melancholy about it, but Deja isn't ready to let him. She's got a plan for adventure.

Samanci, Özge. *Dare to Disappoint* (TWEEN). As a child in Turkey in the 1980s and '90s, the author watched as her country struggled between its traditional religious heritage and the new world of brand-name products and TV stars. In her own family, she struggled to figure out the place where she belonged, too.

Takei, George. *They Called Us Enemy* (TEEN). A graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Long before he braved new frontiers in "Star Trek," he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's -- and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future.

Tamaki, Mariko. *This One Summer* (TWEEN). Since she was a little girl, Rose and her parents have been going to Awago Beach. But this summer is different, full of secrets and heartache, and it's a good thing Rose and her friend Windy have each other.

Various. *Maker Comics: Fix a Car! And Bake Like a Pro!* (nonfiction graphic novel series). First titles in a new series that combines stories with lots of useful realworld tips. What are the advantages of a fullsize spare tire? How does chemistry affect your cookies?

Whitley, Jeremy. *The Unstoppable Wasp* (TWEEN series). Nadia spent the entire first half of her life a captive of The Red Room, but now this teenage super scientist is on her own for the first time, and she's ready to spread her wings! Hank Pym's daughter has a lot of time to make up for and she's determined to change the world.

Williams, Lily. *Go With The Flow* (TWEEN). Abby, Brit, Christine, and Sasha are fed up. Hazelton High never has enough tampons. Or pads. Or adults who will listen. Sick of an administration that puts football before female health, the girls confront a world that shrugs -- or worse, squirms -- at the thought of a menstruation revolution. They band together to make a change, until one of the girls goes rogue, testing the limits of their friendship and pushing the friends to question the power of their own voices.

Yang, Gene Luen. *The Shadow Hero* (TWEEN). Teenager Hank just wants a quiet life working in his parents' Chinatown grocery store, but the criminal underground disrupts it all and he dons a mask as the Green Turtle.