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## Fourth Grade Recommended Reading List 2020-2021 | [oppl.org/kids-lists](http://oppl.org/kids-lists)

### Fiction

Applegate, Katherine. *Wishtree*. An old red oak tree tells how he and his animal friends help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

Brahmachari, Sita. *Corey's Rock*. Ten-year-old Isla moved from Edinburgh to the Orkney Islands with her parents to start a new life after the death of her younger brother. As her family members grieve, Isla finds her own way to acceptance through the old Orcadian legend of selkies.

Creech, Sharon. *Saving Winslow*. When his father brings home an ailing, newborn donkey, Louie names the animal Winslow and takes care of him, but everyone thinks Winslow is not going to survive.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures*. Rescuing a squirrel after an accident, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

Dominguez, Angela. *Stella Diaz Has Something to Say* (series). Stella Diaz wants to be able to speak in front of the class and to be friends with the new boy in class, but sometimes she accidentally speaks Spanish instead of English, which makes her turn roja.

Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House* (series). Omakayas, a 7-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Fleming, Candace. *Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom!* (series) When 10-year-old Nolan and his little sister, Olive, find Ben Franklin in their kitchen, they do their best to guide Ben through the new world he helped form.

Fleming, Candace. *Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen*. A German Shepherd is transformed from a police dog in Berlin to a silent movie star accused of attacking a girl, a crime he didn't commit.

Frazier, Sundee T. *Cleo Edison Oliver in Persuasion Power* (series). When a website invites "kidpreneurs" to upload ads for their businesses, Cleo and her friend Caylee are sure this is their big break to get funding for their personalized barrettes, but Cleo is distracted by her desire to find her birth parents.

LaRocca, Rajani. *Midsummer's Mayhem*. In this retelling of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, aspiring celebrity chef Mimi Mackson enters a contest at a new bakery. Drawn deep into the woods by a song, Mimi discovers enchanted ingredients to use in her recipes, but her plans go awry as her family starts acting strange and causing trouble in town.

Lucido, Aimee. *Emmy in the Key of Code*. In a new city, at a new school, twelve-year-old Emmy has never felt more out of tune. Things start to look up when she takes her first coding class, unexpectedly connecting with the material--and Abigail, a new friend--through a shared language: music.

Meriano, Anna. *A Dash of Trouble* (series). Wanting to be a part of her family's Dia de los Muertos preparations, Leonora sneaks out of school to discover her mother, aunt, and older sisters have been keeping a secret.

Stohl, Margaret. *Cats vs. Robots: This is War* (series). The longstanding war between cats and robots escalates when two kittens come into the lives of twin siblings on Earth.

Sullivan, Kyle. *Hobgoblin and the Seven Stinkers of Rancidia* (series). Faraway in the land of Rancidia, where it's good to smell bad and bad to smell good, a stinky Hobgoblin flees the jealous wrath of a monstrous, ogre tyrant named Fiddlefart. Along the way, Hobgoblin joins forces with the Seven Stinkers (an outcast band of foul-smelling creatures), barking spiders, and a mysterious squirrel known only as The Huntress.

Teague, David. *How Oscar Indigo Broke the Universe (and Put It Back Together Again)*. Oscar is nervous when he has to fill in for his team's injured all-star, Lourdes. So he uses a mysterious gold watch to stop time and fake a game-winning home run...but you can't just steal time without any consequences.

Villanueva, Gail. *My Fate According to the Butterfly*. When a black butterfly lands on Sabrina's locket, she knows it's a harbinger of death. Plans to complete her bucket list and reunite her estranged family for her eleventh birthday push Sab outside of her sheltered community in an adventure across Manila.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground*. Clayton is devastated when his grandfather dies and his mother forbids him from playing music, losses that compel him to run away to join bluesmen on the road.

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk* (series). English is not Mia Tang's first language, but she wants to be a writer. That's not her only secret either--her family lives and works in a motel where they are hiding other immigrant families like theirs in the empty rooms under the nose of the mean motel owner.

### Nonfiction

Barton, Chris. *Dazzle Ships: World War I and the Art of Confusion* (940.459 BAR). When the British Royal Navy grew desperate to protect their ship from German U-Boat attacks, they created Dazzle ships in order to confuse the enemy of their location and destination.

Boyce, Jo Ann Allen. *This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality* (B BOYCE). In 1956, one year before federal troops escorted the Little Rock 9 into Central High School, fourteen year old Jo Ann Allen was one of twelve African-American students who broke the color barrier and integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee. Jo Ann found herself called on as the spokesperson of the group. But what about just being a regular teen?

Bruchac, Joseph and Liz Amini-Holmes. *Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story* (B NEZ). As a boy, Chester Nez was taught his native language and culture were useless, but he was later called on to use his Navajo language to help create an unbreakable military code during WWII.

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### Nonfiction

Harris, Chris. *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming: And Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature GrownUps* (811 HAR). An illustrated collection of comically irreverent rhyming poems for readers of all ages, ranging in topic from avocados and anacondas to zombies and zebras.

Haskins, Jim and Eric Velasquez. *Champion: The Story of Muhammad Ali* (B ALI). A biography of Muhammad Ali, from his childhood in Louisville, Kentucky, his legendary boxing career, and his conversion to Islam and opposition to the war in Vietnam, to his appearance at the 1996 summer Olympics.

Hirsch, Rebecca E. *When Plants Attack: Strange and Terrifying Plants* (581.659 HIR). In the wild, it's eat or be eaten. Get a close-up look at meat-eating plants that trap unsuspecting mammals, African trees that enlist armies of biting ants as bodyguards, and an Australian shrub with prickly, poison-filled leaves that have landed unsuspecting humans in the hospital.

Hollihan, Kerrie Logan. *Creepy and True: Mummies Exposed!* (series, 393.3 HOL). *Mummies Exposed!* goes beyond what you expect and uncovers both old favorites and recent discoveries; among them a Moche princess in Peru, the bog people of England and Ireland, and a Buddhist monk discovered within a sculpture!

Innosanto, Nagara. *The Wedding Portrait* (303.61 NAG). Here are stories of direct action from around the world that are bookended by the author's wedding story.

Nobleman, Marc and Melissa Iwai. *Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story* (940.542 NOB). In this important and moving true story of reconciliation after war, a Japanese pilot bombs the continental U.S. during WWII--the only enemy ever to do so--and comes back 20 years later to apologize.

Ross, Ailsa. *The Girl Who Rode a Shark & Other Stories of Daring Women* (920.72 ROS). Biographical vignettes highlight exciting adventures and innovative contributions of women and girls from a wide variety of countries and historical periods.

Sayre, April Pulley. *The Slowest Book Ever: Surprising Facts About Anything and Everything Slow* (509 SAY). Discover surprising facts about anything and everything slow.

Wilson, Jamia. *Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes From Past and Present* (920 WIL). This book brings together 52 iconic talents from the past and present and celebrates their inspirational achievements. Meet figureheads, leaders and pioneers such as Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks, as well as cultural trailblazers and sporting heroes, including Stevie Wonder, Oprah Winfrey and Serena Williams.

Wohlleben, Peter. *Can You Hear the Trees Talking?: Discovering the Hidden Life of the Forest* (577.3 WOH). *Can You Hear the Trees Talking?* shares the mysteries and magic of the forest with young readers, revealing what trees feel, how they communicate, and the ways trees take care of their families.

### Graphic Novels

Alvarez, Lorena. *Nightlights* (series). Every night, Sandy catches tiny stars and creates wonderful creatures to play with until she falls asleep. When a mysterious new girl appears at school, Sandy's special talent gets some sinister attention.

Boothby, Ian & Nina Matsumoto. *Sparks!* (series) August is a brilliant inventor, and Charlie is an awesome pilot. Together these pals save lives every day. They also happen to be cats who pilot a powerful, mechanical dog suit!

Brooks, Molly. *Sanity & Tallulah* (series). Sanity and Tallulah live in a space station at the end of the galaxy. When Sanity's illegally-created three-headed kitten escapes, the girls have to turn their home upside down to find her.

Brown, Don. *Rocket to the Moon!* (series, 629.454 BRO). It wasn't just one man who got us to the moon. Explore the history of rocket building: from ancient Chinese rockets, to "bombs bursting in air" during the War of 1812, to Russia's Sputnik program, to the moon landing.

Harrell, Rob. *Monster on the Hill*. In a fantastical 1860s England, every quiet little township is terrorized by a ferocious monster--much to the townsfolk's delight! Each town's unique monster is a source of local pride, not to mention tourism. Each town, that is-- except for one. Unfortunately, for the people of Stoker-on-Avon, their monster isn't quite as impressive. In fact, he's a little down in the dumps. Can the morose Rayburn get a monstrous makeover and become a proper horror?

Morse, Scott. *Dugout: the Zombie Steals Home*. Twins Stacy and Gina Cavallaro are on rival little league teams. When Gina accidentally unleashes a curse that wakes the dead, Stacy's misfit team gets coached by a baseball-playing zombie!

O'Neill, Katie. *Aquicorn Cove*. Unable to rely on the adults in her storm-ravaged seaside town, a young girl must protect a colony of magical seahorse-like creatures she discovers in the coral reef.

Riess, Natalie. *Space Battle Lunchtime* (series). *Space Battle Lunchtime* is a hit show broadcast all over the universe, and the new season is about to start! When one of the competing chefs drops out, an aspiring baker from Earth is offered the chance to compete for fame, glory, and a 20,000 Solarbuck prize.

Sell, Chad. *Cardboard Kingdom* (series). The adventures of a group of neighborhood children who make costumes from cardboard and use their imagination to create adventures with knights, robots, and monsters.

Steinke, Aron Nels. *Mr. Wolf's Class: The First Day of School* (series). Mr. Wolf has just started teaching fourth grade at Hazelwood Elementary. He wants the first day of school to go well, but he's got his hands full with his new class.

Weing, Drew. *The Creepy Case Files of Margo Maloo*. After moving to Echo City, Charles finds himself at the mercy of the town's monsters, but lucky for him there is Margo Maloo to help him navigate.

Wicks, Maris. *Science Comics: Coral Reefs, Cities of the Ocean*. (series GN 577.789 WIC) Not just a pretty picture, coral reefs are essential parts of the ocean and filled with fascinating creatures.