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

### Early Chapters

Blakemore, Megan Frazer. *Frankie Sparks and the Class Pet* (series). Frankie Sparks, the self-proclaimed "best inventor in the third grade," does research and creates a tool to try to persuade her classmates that a rat would make the best class pet.

Colton, Nicola. *Jasper and Scruff: The Cool Cat Club* (series). Jasper is desperate to impress the "Sophisticat" society members, and doesn't want Scruff bounding into his life creating chaos. But sometimes, friends know exactly what you need.

Elliott, Zetta. *Dragons in a Bag*. Nine-year-old Jax joins Ma, a curmudgeonly witch who lives in his building, on a quest to deliver three baby dragons to a magical world, and along the way discovers his true calling.

Fagan, Cary. *Wolfie & Fly* (series). Wolfie reluctantly befriends Fly and together they navigate through deep water in a submarine made from a cardboard box.

Fisinger, Barbara. *Wedgie & Gizmo* (series). Gizmo, an evil genius guinea pig, is constantly thwarted in his plans for world dominance by the lovable Corgi, Wedgie.

Florence, Debbi Michiko. *Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen* (series). Eager to do something her big sister has not done first, Jasmine Toguchi, decides to pound mochi with the men and boys when her family gets together for New Year's.

Griffin, Sammy. *Mighty Meg and the Magical Ring* (series). 8-year-old Meg's life is turned upside-down when the ring she received from her Aunt Nikki, an archaeologist, gives her superpowers.

Hamburg, Jennifer. *Hazy Bloom and the Tomorrow Power* (series). Hazel "Hazy" Bloom begins having visions of trouble that will come within twenty-four hours.

LaReau, Kara. *The Infamous Ratsos* (series). Every time, the Rat brothers try to show how tough they are, they end up accidentally doing good deeds instead.

Mass, Wendy. *Space Taxi: Archie Takes Flight* (series). It's not every day a regular kid like Archie gets to wake up at midnight. But today is Take Your Kid to Work Day, and Archie is allowed to ride along in his dad's taxi cab.

McGee, Joe. *Junior Monster Scouts* (series). Although Wolfy, Franky, and Vampyra are children of classic monsters, all they want to do is help those in need and make friends, so they join the Junior Monster Scouts with the hopes of helping their community.

Pearce, Jackson. *Ellie, Engineer* (series). When Ellie, who loves to invent and build things, decides to build a doghouse as a gift, she needs to get past the boys-against-the-girls neighborhood feud and ask for help.

Reeve, Philip. *Pugs of the Frozen North* (series). Two kids and their 66 pugs enter a magical dog-sled race.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. *Princess Cora and the Crocodile*. Princess Cora is sick of boring lessons. But when she writes to her fairy godmother for help, she doesn't expect that help to come in the form of a crocodile—a crocodile who does not behave properly.

Sheth, Kashmira. *Nina Soni: Former Best Friend* (series). Organized but sometimes forgetful Nina has a lot to keep track of as she rushes to complete a school project, help with little sister Kavita's birthday party, and make up with best friend Jay.

Tashjian, Janet. *Sticker Girl Rules the School* (series). Mia and Bev find a sheet of magical stickers, and soon Mia finds herself running for class president but worrying that she is losing her new friend.

### Fiction

Greenfield, A.B. *Ra The Mighty: Cat Detective* (series). In ancient Egypt, the Pharaoh's pampered cat Ra and his scarab-beetle sidekick question the royal palace's animal inhabitants, solve a crime, and exonerate a servant girl falsely accused of theft.

Falatk, Julie. *Two Dogs in a Trench Coat: Go to School* (series). Sassy and Waldo are good dogs. Every day their boy, Stewart, leaves for a scary place: School! Sassy and Waldo need to save Stewart. But they don't let dogs into school, so Sassy and Waldo put on a trench coat and get to work.

Horvath, Polly. *Mr. and Mrs. Bunny--Detectives Extraordinaire* (series). Madeline's hippy parents have been kidnapped by foxes. Upon discovering that she can understand animal languages, she hires two rabbit detectives to find them.

Khan, Hena. *Zayd Saleem, Chasing the Dream: Power Forward* (series). Zayd yearns to play basketball on the Gold Team, but when he skips orchestra rehearsal to practice, his parents forbid anything basketball-related, and tryouts are coming soon.

Lia, Simone. *They Didn't Teach THIS in Worm School*. Marcus is a worm, and a bird named Laurence is about to eat him for breakfast. So what does Marcus do? He strikes up a conversation, of course! But even after talking his way out of being eaten, Marcus's troubles are just beginning...

Krishnaswami, Uma. *Book Uncle and Me*. When the mayor tries to shut down the Book Uncle's free lending library, nine-year-old Yasmin, decides to take action.

Manternach, Karla. *Meena Meets Her Match*. Third-grader Meena Zee navigates the triumphs and challenges of family, friendship, and school while being diagnosed with epilepsy.

Soundar, Chitra. *Mangoes, Mischief, and Tales of Friendship: Stories From India*. In tales inspired by traditional Indian folktales, 10-year-old Prince Veera and his best friend Suku are given the opportunity to preside over the court of his father, King Bheema, and outwit the kingdom's greediest, wiliest subjects.

Steinhofl, Andreas. *If My Moon Was Your Sun*. 9-year-old Max sneaks his grandfather and Miss Schneider out of their nursing home to enjoy a walk in the country, where he admits he is afraid Grandfather will soon forget to love him.

Patterson, James. *Word of Mouse*. The journey of a very special mouse, and the unexpected friendships he makes along the way.

Watson, Tom. *A Tail of Two Kitties* (series). For Stick Cat and his best friend, Edith, there are treasures to hunt, songs to sing, pigeons to catch, and naps to take. But way up on the twenty-third floor, danger lurks.

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### Nonfiction

Einhorn, Kama. *Welcome Wombat* (599.24 EIN, "True Tales of Rescue" series). Photopacked series explores the stories and science behind animal sanctuaries. A up-close look at what life is like at a real wombat sanctuary in Australia.

Hood, Susan. *Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay* (784.206 HOO). A town built on a landfill. A community in need of hope. A girl with a dream. A man with a vision. An ingenious idea.

Keating, Jess. *Gross as a Snot Otter: Discovering the World's Most Disgusting Animals* (590 KEA, "World of Weird Animals" series). Slippery, slimy snot otters, gulls that projectile-vomit on command, fish that communicate via flatulence, and chipmunks that roll in snake urine... sometimes it's the very things that make us gag that allow these animals to survive in the wild.

Mahin, Michael. *When Angels Sing: Carlos Santana* (B SANTANA). Carlos Santana sought a sound that filled the world with magic and love and feeling and healing. With his guitar, he took the soul of the Blues, the brains of Jazz, the energy of Rock and Roll, and added the slow heat of Afro-Cuban drums and the sway of the music he'd grown up with in Mexico.

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix* (B CHOI). For Chef Roy Choi, food means love. It also means culture, not only of Korea where he was born, but the many cultures that make up the streets of Los Angeles, where he was raised. Now he brings a world of flavors to his popular food truck!

Martins, Dino. *You Can Be an Entomologist* (595.702 MAR). There are more than one million different kinds of insects in the world! Learn how real scientists observe insects, capture them to study up close, and release them back into the wild.

Shetterly, Margaret Lee. *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race* (920.72 SHE). Explores the pivotal contributions of NASA's African-American women mathematicians to America's space program.

Vermond, Kira. *Why Don't Cars Run on Apple Juice? Real Science Questions from Real Kids* (500 VER). Answers to the real questions kids asked at the Ontario Science Centre, plus how to look at things using scientific theory and plenty of mysteries we still wonder about.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *The Legendary Miss Lena Horne* (B HORNE). Describes the life of the actress, singer, and civil rights activist including her childhood, early years in vaudeville, and achievements in Hollywood.

### Graphic Novels

D.G., Gigi. *Cucumber Quest* (series). The seven kingdoms of Dreamside need a hero. Instead, they have to settle for Cucumber, a nerdy magician, and his way more heroic sister, Almond.

Gravel, Elise. *The Mushroom Fan Club*. Forage the forest for nature's more alien creatures and learn all the wildest fungus facts! Hale, Shannon. *Real Friends*. Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with a circle of new friends called The Group.

Hernandez, Jaime. *The Dragon Slayer: Folktales From Latin America* (non-fiction graphic novels 398.2 HER). A collection of three classic folktales retold as comics.

Kim, Julie. *Where's Halmoni?* A young Korean girl and boy search for their missing grandmother in a world complete with mischievous goblins, a greedy tiger, a clever rabbit, and a wily fox.

Lupano, Wilfrid. *The Wolf in Underpants*. After living in fear of the wolf with wild eyes and fangs like ice picks, a forest community is stunned when he shows up looking calm and wearing striped underpants, leaving them wondering why they were so afraid of him.

Nguyen, Mai K. *Pilu of the Woods*. Willow, who has been struggling with her emotions since her mother's death, runs away into the woods and meets Pilu, a lost tree spirit who cannot find her way back home.

Roselló, Jarod. *Red Panda and Moon Bear*. Red Panda and Moon Bear are used to handling lost cats and bullies, but they will need some new friends to deal with ghosts, robots, and alien invaders.

Rubin, Sean. *Bolivar* (series). Living a quiet life in New York City, Bolivar, a dinosaur, finds his life complicated when the girl next door tries to prove his existence.

Torres, J. *How to Spot a Sasquatch*. On a camping trip with the Junior Rangers, Jay feels like the odd one out. He's determined to get a photo of Bigfoot—but none of his friends believe Bigfoot exists.

### Monarch Award Titles

The Monarch Award is Illinois' K-3 Readers' Choice Award. The name Monarch was chosen because of its familiarity to children and to symbolize the growth, change and freedom that becoming a reader brings. The Monarch is designed to encourage children to read critically and become familiar with children's books, authors and illustrators.

Adamson, Ged. *Douglas, You're a Genius*.

Alexander, Kwame. *The Undeclared*.

Berger, Samantha. *What If...*

Butler, Dori Hillestad. *King & Kayla and the Case of the Missing Dog Treats*.

Clark-Robinson, Monica. *Let the Children March*.

Cummings, Troy. *Can I Be Your Dog?*

Denise, Anika. *Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré*.

John, Jory. *The Good Egg*.

Keating, Jess. *Cute as an Axolotl*.

Khan, Hena. *Under My Hijab*.

Lê, Minh. *Drawn Together*.

Miller, Pat Zietlow. *Be Kind*.

Mora, Oge. *Thank You, Omu!*

Morales, Yuyi. *Dreamers*.

Quintero, Isabel. *My Papi has a Motorcycle*.

Seluk, Nick. *The Sun is Kind of a Big Deal*.

Steele, K-Fai. *A Normal Pig*.

Thomas, Jan. *What is Chasing Duck?*

Williams, Lily. *If Sharks Disappeared*.

Winstanley, Nicola. *How to Give Your Cat a Bath in Five Easy Steps*.