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# Eighth Grade Recommended Reading List 2021-2022 | [oppl.org/kids-lists](http://oppl.org/kids-lists)

## Fiction

Alson, B.B. *Amari and the Night Brothers* (series). Amari Peters has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive, not even when the police told her otherwise. So when she finds a ticking briefcase in his closet, containing a nomination for a summer tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain the secretive organization holds the key to locating Quinton--if only she can wrap her head around the idea of magicians, fairies, aliens, and other supernatural creatures all being real.

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, 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* (TEEN). There are no monsters anymore, or so the children in Lucille are taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with the lesson that the city is safe for everyone. But when Jam meets Pet, a creature who emerged from one of her mother's paintings, she must reconsider what she's been told.

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. At night, they jitterbug with sailors, with their zoot suit-wearing younger brother, Ray, as escort. That is, until the night racial violence leads to murder.

Firestone, Carrie. *Dress Coded*. Fed up with sexist dress codes and unfair conduct standards at a school where girls' bodies are considered a distraction, Molly starts a podcast to protest the school's disciplinary inequality before her small rebellion swells into a full-blown empowerment revolution.

Garber, Romina. *Lobizona* (TEEN, series). When her mother is arrested by ICE, sixteen-year-old Argentinian Manu--who thinks she is hiding in a Miami apartment because she is an undocumented immigrant--discovers that her entire existence is illegal.

Johnston, Tony. *Beast Rider: A Boy's Journey Beyond the Border*. Having faced great danger, 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* (series). Alex 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.

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 middle schooler 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.

Schwab, Victoria. *City of Ghosts* (series). Ever since her near-fatal drowning, Cassidy has been able to pull back the "Veil" that separates the living from the dead and see ghosts, not that she wants to. Her parents are going to start filming a TV series about the world's most haunted places, starting with Edinburgh and its graveyards, castles, and restless phantoms. Cass and her personal ghost companion, Jacob, are about to find out that a city of old ghosts can be a very dangerous place indeed.

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.

Walters, Eric. *Broken Strings*. It's 2002. In the aftermath of the twin towers -- and the death of her beloved grandmother -- Shirli Berman is intent on moving forward. The best singer in her junior high, she auditions for the lead role in "Fiddler on the Roof," but is crushed to learn that she's been given the part of the old Jewish mother in the musical rather than the coveted part of the sister. But there is an upside: her "husband" is none other than Ben Morgan, the cutest and most popular boy in the school.

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.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Before the Ever After*. The son of an idolized pro-football star begins noticing the contrast between his father's angry, forgetful behavior and his superhero reputation before adjusting to a new reality involving difficult symptoms stemming from his father's numerous head injuries.

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

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### Nonfiction

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.

Grimes, Nikki. *Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance* (811 GRI). A feminist-forward new collection of poetry celebrating the little-known women poets of the Harlem Renaissance, paired with full-color, original art from today's most talented female African-American illustrators.

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, explore 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. Her inspiring career in "stunt" journalism that followed enthralled her readers as she drew attention to political corruption, poverty, and abuses of human rights.

Obama, Michelle. *Becoming: Adapted for Young Readers* (B OBAMA). An honest and fascinating account of Michelle Obama's life led by example. In telling her story with boldness, she asks young readers: Who are you, and what do you want to become?

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. 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

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.

Gharib, Malaka. *I Was Their American Dream: A Graphic Memoir* (TEEN) 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 and trying to be an all-American kid.

Jamieson, Victoria. *When Stars Are Scattered*. Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother.

Lai, Remy. *Pie in the Sky* (series). When Jingwen moves to Australia, school is torture, making friends is impossible since he doesn't speak English, and he's often stuck looking after his little brother. To distract himself from the loneliness, Jingwen daydreams about making cakes!

Lê, Minh. *Green Lantern Legacy*. When thirteen-year-old Tai Pham inherits his grandmother's jade ring, he soon finds out he has been inducted into a group of space cops known as the Green Lanterns.

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.

Ottaviani, Jim. *Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier* (Nonfiction graphic novel, 629.45 OTT). The U.S. may have put the first man on the moon, but it was the Soviet space program that made Valentina Tereshkova the first woman in space. It took years to catch up, but soon NASA's first female astronauts were racing past milestones of their own.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Pumpkinheads* (TEEN). Deja and Josiah are seasonal best friends; this is their last season at the pumpkin patch. 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.

Smith, Niki. *The Deep & Dark Blue*. When a political coup usurps their noble house, twins Hawke and Grayce flee for their lives and assume new identities, joining an order of magical women. They begin to hatch a plan to avenge their family and retake their royal home.

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.

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!

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.