

## 1

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

## Picture Books

Cherry, Matthew A. *Hair Love*. A little girl's daddy helps her do her curly hair into styles that allow her to be her natural, beautiful self.

Cordell, Matthew. *Wolf in the Snow*. When a wolf cub and little girl are lost in a snowstorm they must find their way home.

Cunnane, Kelly. *Deep in the Sahara*. An Arab girl of the Sahara who wants to wear a malafa, the veiled dress worn by her mother and older sister, learns that the garment represents beauty, mystery, tradition, belonging, and faith.

Deedy, Carmen Agra. *Rita and Ralph's Rotten Day*. Rita and Ralph live on neighboring hills and they are best friends, until a silly accident while goofing around ends up with both of them angry and unhappy.

Denos, Julia. *Windows*. Walking his dog at dusk, one boy catches glimpses of the lives around him in this lovely ode to autumn evenings, exploring your neighborhood, and coming home.

Gonzalez, Raúl. *¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market*. Little Lobo and Bernabe, his dog, deliver supplies to vendors at the Mercado, a busy border town market.

Guidroz, Rukhsanna. *Leila in Saffron*. Shy and unsure of herself, Leila discovers all the things that make her special with the loving help of her Naani.

Heder, Thyra. *Alfie: The Turtle That Disappeared*. The story of what happens when Nia's pet turtle, Alfie, disappears on the eve of her seventh birthday, as told from both human and turtle perspectives!

Heos, Bridget. *Stegothosaurus*. Stegothosaurus has little in common with his fellow dinosaurs until he meets an allosaurus that seems as hungry for synonyms as he is.

Lê, Minh. *Drawn Together*. A boy and his grandfather cross a language and cultural barrier using their shared love of art, storytelling, and fantasy.

Marshall, Linda Elovitz. *Rainbow Weaver/Tejedora del Arcoiris*. Ixchel, a young Mayan girl who is not allowed to use her mother's thread to weave, exercises her ingenuity and repurposes plastic bags to create colorful weavings.

McKissack, Patricia C. *What Is Given From the Heart*. Despite their own poverty since Daddy died, Mama tells nine-year-old James Otis they need to help Sarah, whose family lost everything in a fire.

Mora, Oge. *Thank You, Omu!* When the aroma of Omu's homemade stew fills the air, her neighbors arrive, one by one, for a taste until all is gone except for her generous spirit.

Pizzoli, Greg. *The Book Hog*. This pig loves books! But, will he ever learn to read them, too?

Santat, Dan. *After the Fall*. After falling off the wall, Humpty Dumpty is very afraid of climbing up again, but is determined not to let fear stop him from being close to the birds.

Scott, Jordan. *I Talk Like a River*. When a boy who stutters feels isolated, alone, and incapable of communicating in the way he'd like, it takes a kindly father and a walk by the river to help him find his voice.

Slade, Suzanne. *Astronaut Annie*. When Annie has a career day at her school, each member of her family wonders if she will choose their career path—her grandfather the news photographer, her father the mountain climber or her mother the basketball player—until she reveals a dream that is all her own.

Sullivan, John. *Kitten and the Night Watchman*. As he makes his rounds, a night watchman hears birds calling, insects buzzing, and vehicles roaring by, while a stray kitten keeps him company.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Day You Begin*. Other students laugh when Rigoberto, an immigrant from Venezuela, introduces himself but later, he meets Angelina and discovers that he is not the only one who feels like an outsider.

Yoshitake, Shinsuke. *Still Stuck*. At bath time, a boy who believes he is ready to dress and undress himself gets stuck in his clothes, then imagines what life will be like if he remains that way forever.

## Easy Reader Series

Bell, Cece. *Chick and Brain: Smell My Foot*. (Level 1). Chick and Brain's friendship is tested by miscommunications and misunderstandings about good manners.

Faruqi, Saadia. *Yasmin the Chef* (Level 2). Yasmin's family is hosting a big party, but Yasmin is worried that the traditional food will be too spicy—so her family challenges Yasmin to come up with a dish of her own.

Higgins, Ryan T. *What About Worms!?* (Level 1). A big, tough tiger who is riotously afraid of worms sends a letter to readers warning them that worms are everywhere and might even be inside the book.

Hillestad Butler, Dori. *King & Kayla and the Case of the Lost Tooth* (Level 2). Kayla places her tooth in a Tooth Fairy pillow, but it disappears before the Tooth Fairy has a chance to visit. Can her dog King help Kayla find the missing tooth?

Jules, Jacqueline. *Sofia Martinez: Abulea's Birthday* (Level 2). Sofia and her cousins are making a piñata for their grandmother's birthday party, but when Bella the cat gets involved, chaos ensues.

Kügler, Tina. *Snail and Worm* (Level 1). Snail and Worm are best friends who support each other during a silly game of tag, through Snail's adventure up a flower stalk, and when Worm's pet goes missing.

Meisel, Paul. *I See a Cat* (Level 1). A dog enjoys barking at a cat, a bee, and especially squirrels in this easy-to-read book.

Morris, J.E. *Flubby is Not a Good Pet!* (Level 1). Although Flubby the cat refuses to do tricks, he proves his pet worthiness during a scary situation.

Platt, Christine. *Ana & Andrew Summer in Savannah* (Level 2). Ana and Andrew travel to visit their grandparents in Savannah, Georgia where they learn that Grandma and Grandpa's church was built by enslaved people.

Tabor, Corey R. *Fox the Tiger* (Level 2). Fox decides to become a tiger because they are fast and sneaky. Soon, his friends are joining in, too.

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### Nonfiction

Becker, Helaine. *Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13* (B JOHNSON). As a child, Katherine Johnson loved to count everything! Boundless, curious, and excited by calculations, young Katherine longed to know as much as she could about math and about the universe.

Chin, Jason. *Your Place in the Universe* (530.8 CHI). Explore the mind-boggling scale of the known Universe. Most eight-year-olds are about five times as tall as this book . . . but only half as tall as an ostrich, which is half as tall as a giraffe . . . twenty times smaller than a California Redwood! How do they compare to the tallest buildings? To Mt. Everest? To stars, galaxy clusters, and . . . the universe?

Herrera, Juan Felipe. *Imagine* (811.6 HER). When he was very young, Juan Felipe Herrera picked chamomile flowers in windy fields and let tadpoles swim across his hands in a creek. He went to school and taught himself to read and write English. When he grew up, he became the United States Poet Laureate and read his poems aloud on the steps of the Library of Congress.

Hubbard, Rita Lorraine. *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read* (B WALKER). The inspirational story of Mary Walker, a woman whose long life spanned from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement, and who, through perseverance and dedication, learned to read at age 116, proving that it's never too late to learn new things.

Kenskey, Jessica and Patrick Downes. *Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship* (636.70886 KEN). When he is paired with a human who has lost her legs, Rescue worries that he isn't up to the task of being her service dog.

LaMothe, Matt. *This Is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids From Around the World* (305.23 LAN). Follow one day in the real lives of seven kids from countries around the world: Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia.

McCarthy, Meghan. *Firefighters' Handbook* (628.925 MCC). See the tools firefighters use, the kinds of trucks they drive, and the many things they need to learn in order to help others.

Meadows, Michelle. *Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins* (B COLLINS). The story of a remarkable pioneer, Janet Collins, who was the first African American prima ballerina in the Metropolitan Opera, during a time when racial segregation was widespread in the United States.

Pimentel, Annette Bay. *All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything* (B KEELAN). Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, Jennifer Keelan grew up battling-and overcoming-the limitations others set for her. After discovering the world of disability rights activism, she knew she had to use her voice to change things. When Jennifer was just eight years old, she crawled up the steps of Capitol Hill with other activists. Her image went viral and helped pressure Congress into passing the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Portis, Antoinette. *Hey, Water!* (553.7 POR). Water is everywhere, but it doesn't always look the same or feel the same, and it even shows up in lots of different shapes.

Rosenstock, Barb. *The Streak: How Joe DiMaggio Became America's Hero* (796.357 ROS). In the summer of 1941, Yankee center fielder Joe DiMaggio and his favorite bat, Betsy Ann, begin the longest hitting streak in baseball history. But when Betsy Ann goes missing, will DiMaggio keep hitting?

Sorrell, Traci. *We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* (970.3 CHE). Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations, experiences and opportunities to express gratitude.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Danza! Amalia Hernandez and El Ballet Folklorico de Mexico* (B HERNANDEZ). A celebration of Amalia Hernandez's life and of the rich history of dance in Mexico.

Valdez, Patricia. *Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles* (B PROCTER). The inspiring story of a pioneering female scientist who loved reptiles and hoped to protect them.

Wallace, Sandra Neil. *The Teachers March: How Selma's Teachers Changed History* (323.119 WAL). Demonstrating the power of protest and standing up for a just cause, here is an exciting tribute to the educators who participated in the 1965 Selma Teachers' March, featuring evocative illustrations and eyewitness testimonies.

### 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.

Annable, Graham. *Peter & Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths*.

Barnes, Derrick. *I am Every Good Thing*.

Biedrzycki, David. *SumoKitty*.

Burach, Ross. *The Very Impatient Caterpillar*.

Cherry, Matthew A. *Hair Love*.

Deenihan, Jamie L. B. *When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree*.

Fleming, Candace. *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera*.

Gomez, Rebecca J. *Federico and The Wolf*.

Keller, Laurie. *Potato Pants!*

Levis, Caron. *This Way, Charlie*.

Maillard, Kevin Noble. *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*.

Mann, Jennifer A. *The Camping Trip*.

Meddour, Wendy. *Lubna and Pebble*.

Muhammad, Ibtihaj. *The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab & Family*.

Perkins, Mitali. *Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border*.

Sanders, Rob. *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*.

Sorrell, Traci. *We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*.

Sotomayor, Sonia. *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You*.

Wang, Andrea. *Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuko Ando*.

West, Kara. *Mia Mayhem is a Superhero!*