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

### Fiction

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.

Dominguez, Angela. *Stella Díaz Has Something to Say* (series). Stella Díaz 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 barrettes, but Cleo is distracted by her desire to find her birth parents.

LaRocca, Rajani. *Midsummer's Mayhem*. 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 Día de los Muertos preparations, Leonora sneaks out of school to discover her mother, aunt, and older sisters have been keeping a secret.

Mian, Zanib. *Planet Omar* (series). Omar and his family have just moved, and he is NOT excited about starting at a new school. What if the work is too hard or the kids are mean or the teacher is a zombie alien?! Luckily, Omar's enormous imagination and goofy family help him get through life's ups and downs.

Selfors, Suzanne. *Braver: A Wombat's Tale*. When her parents and the other quiet, shy wombats of the Northern Forest are captured by the traitorous, carnivorous Tassie devils, Lola Budge, a talkative, adventure-seeking young wombat, embarks on a rescue mission, joined by a swamp water rat and a baby penguin.

Stohl, Margaret. *Cats vs. Robots: This is War* (series). The long-standing 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 in order to join familiar 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. In the empty rooms, they hide other immigrant families like theirs, trying to avoid detection by 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 ships 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. *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 cont.

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. *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. *Mummies Exposed!* (393.3 HOL, "Creepy and True" series). *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!

López, Silvia. *Selena: Queen of Tejano Music* (B SELENA). Selena Quintanilla's music career began at the age of nine, when she started singing in her family's band. She went from using a hairbrush as a microphone to traveling from town to town to play gigs. But Selena faced a challenge: people said that she would never make it in Tejano music, which was dominated by male performers. Selena was determined to prove them wrong.

Nobleman, Marc. *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). An astounding variety of information about all things slow--in nature, geology, art, outer space, etc. Throughout, the book playfully encourages readers to slow down and savor everything.

Slade, Suzanne. *Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks* (B BROOKS). Before Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize, she was a young girl who loved poetry.

Wohlleben, Peter. *Can You Hear the Trees Talking?: Discovering the Hidden Life of the Forest* (577.3 WOH). Share the mysteries and magic of the forest and learn what trees feel, how they communicate, and the ways in which 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.

Angleberger, Tom. *The Sewer Rat Stink: Geronimo Stilton* (series). Geronimo and his private detective best friend, Hercule, visit the underground sewer world of Mouse Island to investigate the spread of a stinky smell throughout New Mouse City.

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!* (nonfiction graphic novel 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.

Estrada, Ryan. *Student Ambassador: The Missing Dragon*. A student ambassador is sent on a high-stakes diplomatic mission to a far away land, where he and a newly crowned boy king are thrust into a globe-trotting action-adventure mystery.

Farina, Katy. *Song of the Court*. To buy seeds for her beautiful garden, Arietta plans to sell her treasured family violin--until Princess Cassia spots the instrument and begs Arietta to perform at her birthday party. Although she has never played, Arietta decides to learn a special song for the occasion.

Goerz, Gillian. *Shirley and Jamila Save Their Summer*. When ten-year-olds Shirley and Jamila meet, Jamila is simply hoping for a friend in her new neighborhood, but Shirley is a detective and together they seek a missing gecko.

Graley, Sarah. *Donut the Destroyer*. Donut has a heart of gold and incredible strength. She lives in a world where everyone is born with a special ability and can choose whether to develop it for good or evil. Donut has just received the best news of her life -- she's been accepted to Lionheart School for Heroes! But her parents are the most infamous villains around, and her best friend, Ivy, can't understand why Donut would choose a life of boring heroism and ruin their plans to cause chaos.

Hale, Nathan. *Blades of Freedom* (nonfiction graphic novel series, 972.94 HAL). "Hazardous Tales" takes on the story of the Haitian Revolution and its role in Napoleon's decision to sell Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe the whole Louisiana Territory, when they sought to buy only New Orleans.

Knisley, Lucy. *Stepping Stones*. Reluctantly joining her mom, stepfather and stepsisters on a farm far from her city home, Jen practices new skills and navigates private insecurities before finding acceptance in unexpected places.

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.

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 has his hands full with his new class.