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

### Early Chapters / Series

Calmenson, Stephanie. *Allie and Amy* (Early Chapter series). Best friends Amy and Allie do absolutely everything together and can't wait for summer to begin. But when Allie learns she's being sent to sleep-away camp, they fear all their plans are ruined!

Castillo, Lauren. *Our Friend Hedgehog: The Story of Us*. Living on a tiny island with only a stuffed animal for company, a lonely Hedgehog embarks on a quest.

Citro, Asia. *Zoey and Sassafras: The Pod and the Bog* (Early Chapter series). Zoey, Sassafras, and Pip must work together to discover what this mysterious rare magical plant needs to grow before all the seeds crumble to purple dust!

Davick, Linda. *It's Not Easy Being Mimi* (Early Chapter series). Mimi's adventurous antics offer a rollercoaster story filled with humor, good lessons and friendships.

Dougherty, John. *Stinkbomb and KetchupFace and the Badness of Badgers* (J Fiction). Stinkbomb and his sister, Ketchup-Face, fulfill a quest to find the Magic Porcupine in hopes of capturing the escaped rascally badgers.

English, Karen. *Carver Chronicles: The New Kid* (Early Chapter series). Gavin and his friends aren't sure what to make of the new boy in their class, Khufu. He doesn't look or act like other kids. When Gavin's bike goes missing, they think Khufu stole it, but did he?

Florence, Debby M. *My Furry Foster Family* (Series). Eight-year-old Kaita Takano and her family foster animals rescued by a local animal rescue group. Kaita loves animals, but sometimes the zoo in her house gets out of control!

Kirby, Lee. *Super Turbo Gets Caught* (Early Chapter series). Super Turbo and Boss Bunny are trapped! Could the key to their freedom lie with Whiskerface, their worst enemy?

Lyons, Kelly Starling. *Sleepover Scientist* (Early Chapter series). Jada is hosting her first sleepover, and she has lots of cool scientific activities planned. But when her friends get tired of the lessons and just want to hang out, can Jada figure out the formula for fun and save the sleepover?

Lysiak, Matthew. *Tornado Hits!* (Early Chapter series). Hilde and her sister/photographer Izzy set out to uncover a tornado's path and report on the damage. No one is hurt, but the sisters find a strange clue: There are fish flopping all over Orange Street! Where did the fish come from? Hilde is about to discover something WILD.

Kuipers, Alice. *Polly Diamond* (Early Chapter series). When a magic book appears on Polly's doorstep that can make everything she writes happen in real life, she is certain all of her dreams are about to come true. However, Polly soon learns that what you write and what you mean are not always the same thing.

May, Kyla. *Diary of a Pug* (Early Chapter series). Baron von Bubbles is the self-proclaimed cutest pug on the planet! He loves fashion, peanut butter, and his human, Bella. This early chapter book series is a treat for anyone who loves furry friends.

Nuurali, Siman. *Sadiq* (Early Chapter series). Meet Sadiq, fun-loving Somali-American third grader who finds fun and friendship in this delightful series.

Peel, Erica S. *Arnold & Louise* (Early Chapter series). Unlikely best friends Arnold, a large black bear, and Louise, a sassy chipmunk, have exciting adventures in this charming series.

Watson, Tom. *Trouble at Table 5* (Early Chapter series). From the author of *Stick Dog* comes this illustrated early chapter book series about three best friends whose plans, missions, and schemes are sure to shake up their school.

West, Kara. *Mia Mayhem* (Series). Mia Macaroonery is a regular eight-year-old girl who discovers she's actually a superhero! It's up to Mia to balance her regular everyday life and maintain her secret identity as she learns how to navigate her new role.

West, Tracey. *Dragon Masters* (Early Chapter series). 8-year old Drake is snatched up by King Roland's soldier and taken to the castle to be trained as a Dragon Master. He is joined by three other young Dragon Masters-in-training: Ana, Rori, and Bo. But does Drake have what it takes to be a Dragon Master?

### Nonfiction

Alexander, Kwame. *The Undeclared* (811 ALE). An ode to Black American triumph and tribulation, this poem is a love letter to Black life in the United States, highlighting the trauma of enslavement, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes.

Burcaw, Shane. *Not So Different* (362.43 BUR). Shane Burcaw answers the questions young children ask about his wheelchair and life with spinal muscular atrophy with equal parts optimism, humor, and empathy.

Eggers, David. *Her Right Foot* (973 EGG). Take a look at America's most famous statute and its powerful message of acceptance, essential to our country's creation and continuation.

Fleming, Candace. *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera* (595.799 FLE). Get up close and personal with Apis as she embarks on her journey through life.

Gladstone, James. *Earthrise* (629.454 GLA). 1968 was a year of unrest. People marched for peace, fairness, and freedom. At the same time, the Apollo 8 crew was about to go farther into space than anyone had gone before, to the moon.

Moss, Marissa. *Kate Warne: Pinkerton Detective* (B WARNE). When Kate Warne applied for a job with the Pinkerton Agency, Mr. Pinkerton assumed she wanted to cook or clean, but she had bigger dreams-- she became a detective instead!

Renauld, Laura. *Fred's Big Feelings* (B ROGERS). Fred Rogers was a quiet boy with big feelings. Sometimes, he felt scared or lonely; at other times, he was playful and joyous. But when Fred's feelings felt too big, his Grandfather McFeely knew exactly what to say to make him feel better.

Weatherford, Carole B. *Freedom in Congo Square* (976.335 WEA). This poetic story about a little-known piece of African American history captures a human's capacity to find hope and joy and demonstrates how New Orleans' Congo Square was truly freedom's heart.



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### Picture Books

Barnes, Derrick. *Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut*. Celebrate the magnificent feeling that comes from walking out of a barber shop with newly cut hair.

Bernstrom, Daniel. *Big Papa and the Time Machine*. When a little boy is feeling afraid to go to school one day, his grandfather, Big Papa, takes him away in his time machine—a 1952 Ford—back to all of the times when he was scared of something life was handing him.

Chen, Eva. *Juno Valentine and the Magical Shoes*. Juno embarks on an epic journey through time and space, stepping into the shoes of female icons from Frida Kahlo and Cleopatra to Lady Gaga and Serena Williams.

Fan, Terry. *The Barnabus Project*. In a world built for Perfect Pets, Barnabus is a Failed Project. Half mouse, half elephant, he's kept out of sight until his dreams of freedom lead him and his misfit friends on a perilous adventure.

Flood, Nancy Bo. *I Will Dance*. A young girl with cerebral palsy pursues her dream of dancing in a class for students of all abilities.

Jeffers, Oliver. *Here We Are*. A celebration of people, all shapes and sizes, and of the beauty and mystery of our Earth.

Matula, Christina. *The Shadow in the Moon*. Two sisters and their grandmother celebrate a popular Chinese holiday. Their favorite part? Mooncakes, of course—along with Ah-ma's story of the ancient Chinese tale of Hou Yi, a brave young archer, and his wife, Chang'E.

Phi, Bao. *A Different Pond*. Carrying a tackle box, a boy helps his Dad catch the family's dinner, and a father helps his child begin to understand the long journey their family has taken.

Sanders, Joshunda. *I Can Write the World*. Ava explores her vibrant South Bronx neighborhood's street art and music, finding delight in the diversity of the people of New York City.

Saeed, Aisha. *Bilal Cooks Daal*. Bilal introduces his friends to his favorite dish—daal!—in this charming picture book that highlights the value of patience, teamwork and sharing.

Yang, Kao Kalia. *A Map into the World*. A young Hmong girl moves into a new home with her family and encounters both the joy of new life and the challenge of endings.

### Graphic Novels

Annable, Graham. *Peter and Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths* (series). Peter loves their tree and never wants to leave, while Ernesto loves the sky and wants to see it from every place on Earth, so he leaves to have a grand adventure. Will their separation tear these friends apart...or can it bring them together?

Cathon. *Poppy & Sam and the Leaf Thief*. It's a beautiful day in the garden when Poppy and her friend Sam (a panda bear) hear a commotion nearby. Basil is crying, for someone has nibbled the leaves of his crown! But not to worry—Poppy is on the case.

Ellis, Joey. *Wolfie Monster and the Big Bad Pizza Battle*. Three monsters have to save their family's pizza parlor when some evil new competition moves into town.

Green, John Patrick. *Kitten Construction Company* (series). Marmalade, a trained architect who also happens to be an adorable kitten, teams up with other construction-trade cats to build the mayor's new mansion.

Hakkola, Kalle. *Livi and Nate*. Each night when their mom turns out the light, siblings Livi and Nate adventure far beyond their snowy yard.

McCloskey, Kevin. *Something's Fishy*. Science, art, and comedy blend to reveal the true story behind the common goldfish.

Nordling, Lee. *Belinda the Unbeatable* (series). Belinda and her best friend compete to become the champion of musical chairs.

Shaskhan, Stephen. *Pizza and Taco* (series). Best friends Pizza and Taco agree on nearly everything until Pizza declares himself the best of all, leading to debating, voting, competing, and finally defining what being the best means.

Song, Mika. *Donut Feed the Squirrels*. Belly and Norma are the best of squirrels... or so they think! After discovering donuts for the first time, they are determined to get some for themselves, even if they have to outsmart the food truck driver to do it!

Tetri, Emily. *Tiger vs. Nightmare*. While Tiger sleeps, Monster scares all of her nightmares away. Thanks to her friend, Tiger has nothing but good dreams. But waiting in the darkness is a nightmare so big and mean that Monster can't fight it alone. Only teamwork and a lot of bravery can chase this nightmare away.

### 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!*