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Third Grade Recommended Reading List 2021-2022 | oppl.org/kids-lists

Early Chapters / Series

Atinuke. *Too Small Tola*. Three tales of an endearing and enduring character, Tola, who lives in an apartment in the busy city of Lagos, Nigeria, with her sister, brother and grandmommy.

Barnaby, Hannah. *Monster and Boy* (Early Chapter series). The riotous misadventures of a boy and a monster, who forge a remarkable friendship when the surprised boy encounters the monster under his bed and is promptly swallowed up.

Bidania, V.T. *Astrid and Apollo and the Fishing Flop* (Series). It's the twins' first time fishing. Astrid and Apollo can't wait to ride on their Uncle Lue's fast boat and get goofy pictures with all the fish they catch, but Apollo keeps catching things that are not fish!

Blakemore, Megan Frazer. *Frankie Sparks and the Class Pet* (Early Chapter 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* (Early Chapter 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* (Early Chapter series). 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.

Fisinger, Barbara. *Wedgie & Gizmo* (Early Chapter 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* (Early Chapter 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 a New Year's celebration.

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

Griffith, Theanne. *The Magnificent Makers* (Series). Science-loving best friends Violet and Pablo discover a riddle that opens a magic portal.

McGee, Joe. *Junior Monster Scouts* (Early Chapter 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* (Early Chapter 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.

Sheth, Kashmira. *Nina Soni: Former Best Friend* (Early Chapter 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 her best friend Jay.

Tashjian, Janet. *Sticker Girl Rules the School* (Early Chapter 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.

Watson, Tom. *Trouble at Table Five* (Early Chapter series). Molly gets things stuck in her head sometimes. When she sees a jar of candy on Principal Shelton's desk, she absolutely needs to know how many candies are in that jar! Luckily, her two best friends, Simon and Rosie, are ready to help her find the answer- even if it means detention for all of them!

Falatko, 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.

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...

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.

Sachar, Louis. *Wayside School Beneath the Cloud of Doom* (series). Wayside School is back in session! But what's with the large, gloomy cloud hanging around?

Soundar, Chitra. *Mangoes, Mischief, and Tales of Friendship: Stories From India*. In stories 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*. Nine-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.

Timberlake, Amy. *Skunk and Badger*. The last thing Badger wants is a roommate, and certainly not Skunk, but since the house does not belong to him, he does not have a choice. Soon everything in Badger's quiet and ordered life is turned upside down (and where on earth did all the chickens come from?)--but after he drives Skunk and his chickens away, Badger starts to miss his roommate and sets out to find him and make amends.

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.



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Nonfiction

Einhorn, Kama. *Welcome Wombat* (599.24 EIN, "True Tales of Rescue" series). This photo-packed series explores the stories and science behind animal sanctuaries. Here's 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.

Gallagher, John. *Max Meow: Cat Crusader* (series). After taking a bite of a radioactive space meatball, Max, a regular cat living in Kittyopolis, gains superpowers and begins to fight crime alongside his scientist friend, Mindy.

Gravel, Elise. *The Mushroom Fan Club*. Forage the forest for nature's more alien creatures and learn all the wildest fungus facts!

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.

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.

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.

Vandorn, Kaeti. *Crabapple Trouble*. Callaway just wants to help her friends, but the pressure of an upcoming contest is giving her anxiety.

Ying, Victoria. *City of Secrets*. Since his father's death, Ever Barnes has secretly been in charge of an amazing mechanical building but now, ruffians are after him and his new friend Hannah, the building owner's spunky daughter.

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!*