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First Grade Recommended Reading List 2022-2023 | oppl.org/kids-lists

Picture Books

Behar, Ruth. *Tia Fortuna's New Home*. Estrella learns about her Cuban and Jewish heritage as she helps her aunt move from her Miami apartment to an assisted living community.

Carranza, Leonarda. *Abuelita and Me*. A girl and her beloved abuelita lean on each other as they contend with racism while running errands in the city.

Chen, Eva. *I Am Golden*. This moving ode to the immigrant experience, as well as a manifesto of self-love for Chinese American children, is a jubilant celebration of accepting who you are.

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.

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.

Giroux, Benjamin. *I Am Odd, I Am New*. Ten-year-old Benjamin Giroux's iconic poem conveys what it's like to live with autism.

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.

Kazemi, Nahid. *Shahzad and the Angry King*. A young girl imagines herself confronting an angry king, telling him countless stories and making him reflect on the kind of leader he wants to be.

Lawson, JonArno. *A Day for Sandcastles*. A wordless picture book that celebrates creative problem-solving, teamwork, and the sun-splashed wonder of a beach day.

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.

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

Ramos, NoNieqa. *Beauty Woke*. Beauty—who is of Taino Indian, African, and Boricua heritage—was taught to be strong and proud, but hatred toward people who look like her bruises her heart until her community opens her eyes.

Romanynshyn, Romana. *How War Changed Rondo*. War has come to the idyllic town of Rondo. Can three gentle but brave friends stop War's destruction and save their beloved home?

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

Sorell, Traci. *Powwow Day*. Because she has been very ill, River cannot join in the dancing at this year's tribal powwow, only watch from the sidelines as her family dance the celebration. But as the drum beats, she finds the faith to believe that she will recover and dance again.

Tomlinson, Rachel. *A Blue Kind of Day*. With poignant text, this book explores how depression might feel in the body and shows us how to support the people we love with patience, care, and empathy.

Wild, Charlotte Sullivan. *Love, Violet*. Sky Violet attempts to show another girl how she feels on Valentine's Day.

Willems, Mo. *Opposites Abstract*. An inquisitive look at opposites. Is this dark? Is this light? Is this soft? Is this hard? Using colors, shapes, lines and textures, Willems invites readers to explore abstract concepts through eye-popping, emotive, and highly-accessible artwork.

Wong-Kalu, Hinaleimoana. *Kapaemahu*. An Indigenous legend about how four extraordinary individuals of dual male and female spirit, or Mahu, brought healing arts from Tahiti to Hawaii.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The World Belonged to Us*. A group of kids celebrate the joy and freedom of summer on their Brooklyn block.

Yoshitake, Shinsuke. *I Won't Give Up My Rubber Band*. A young girl who feels she has nothing of her own rejoices and imagines all the things she will do with the rubber band her mother gives her.

Easy Reader Series

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

Faruqi, Saadia. *Yasmin the Chef* (Level 2, series). 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.

Iwai, Melissa. *Gigi and Ojiji* (Level 2). Gigi can't wait for her Ojiji—Japanese grandpa—to move in. Gigi plans lots of things to do with him, like playing tag, reading books, and teaching Roscoe, the family dog, new tricks. But her plans don't work out quite the way she'd hoped.

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.

LaRochelle, David. *See the Dog* (Level 1, series). Max the dog is sick today, but have no fear, Baby Cakes the cat is happy to take his place! When she is told to dig a hole, fetch a stick, and guard the sheep, the cat responds in very un-doglike ways.

Lyons, Kelly Starling. *Ty's Travels: All Aboard!* (Level 1, series). Ty wishes his family would play with him, but everyone is too busy before dinnertime.

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

Platt, Christine. *Ana and Andrew Summer in Savannah* (Level 2, series). 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.

Thornhill, Samantha. *The Protest* (Level 2). Lily and her friends organize a protest in order to save their neighborhood public garden from being demolished.

Tsurumi, Andrea. *I'm On It* (Level 1). When Frog and Goat turn a simple game into an all-out competition, things get out of hand... until, finally, they're over it.



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Nonfiction

Atinuke. *Africa, Amazing Africa* (960 ATI). A Nigerian storyteller explores the continent of Africa country by country, each showcased on its own bright, energetic page brimming with facts on science, industry, food, sports, music, wildlife, landscape features, even snippets of local languages.

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?

Gehl, Laura. *Who Is a Scientist?* (509.22 GEH). Scientists work hard in the lab and in the field to make important discoveries. But that's not all. They also love to dance, fly drones, eat french fries, and more! Meet fourteen phenomenal scientists who might just change the way you think about who a scientist is.

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.

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.

McDonnell, Christine. *Sanctuary* (362.83 MCD). Relates the story of social activist Kip Tiernan and her efforts to open Rosie's Place, the nation's first homeless shelter for women, in Boston.

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.

Parsons, Karyn. *Saving the Day: Garrett Morgan's Life-Changing Invention of the Traffic Signal* (J B MORGAN). Before he became a successful inventor and saved countless lives with his creations, Garrett was a little boy with a head full of ideas on how to make life better for everyone. At a tumultuous time filled with racism and discrimination, he became a prominent business man and skilled inventor who produced the traffic signal, a gas mask, and others objects still used today.

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 to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Poliquin, Rachel. *The Strangest Thing in the Sea: And Other Curious Creatures of the Deep* (591.77 POL). Budding ocean explorers will delight in learning about twelve bizarre and little-known sea creatures, such as the goblin shark, hairy frogfish, vampire squid and more!

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.

Rockliff, Mara. *A Perfect Fit: How Lena "Lane" Bryant Changed the Shape of Fashion* (B BRYANT). Discover how the Lane Bryant clothing brand changed the way we buy clothes forever by celebrating bodies of all shapes and sizes in this biography of a Lithuanian immigrant with a brilliant eye for fashion and business.

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.

Winkler, Rita. *My Art, My World* (759.11 WIN). Rita Winkler is a young woman living with Down syndrome. *My Art, My World* shows us the world as she sees it: a place full of joy, color, and the delight of life with her family and friends.

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.

Applegate, Katherine. *Doggo and Pupper*.

Arnaldo, Monica. *Are You a Cheeseburger?*

de la Peña, Matt. *Milo Imagines the World*.

DiTerlizzi, Angela. *The Magical Yet*.

Duffield, Katy. *Crossings: Extraordinary Structures for Extraordinary Animals*.

Faruqi, Reem. *Amira's Picture Day*.

Feder, Tyler. *Bodies Are Cool*.

Finison, Carrie. *Don't Hug Doug: (He Doesn't Like It)*.

Fox, J. F. *Friday Night Wrestlefest*.

Grodzicki, Jenna. *I See Sea Food: Sea Creatures That Look Like Food*.

Higgins, Ryan T. *What About Worms!?*

Ho, Joanna. *Eyes That Kiss in the Corners*.

Hunter, Linzie. *What if, Pig?*

Kelkar, Supriya. *The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh*.

LaRochelle, David. *How to Apologize*.

Lê, Minh. *Lift*.

Mora, Oge. *Saturday*.

Saeed, Aisha. *Bilal Cooks Daal*.

Slade, Suzanne. *Swish! The Slam-Dunking, Alley-Ooping, High-Flying Harlem Globetrotters*.

Sturgell, Todd. *Except Antarctica*.