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Second Grade Recommended Reading List 2022-2023 | 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.

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.

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?

Lee, Lyla. *Mindy Kim and the Yummy Seaweed Business* (Series). Mindy Kim wants to fit in at her new school, but her favorite lunch leads to scorn, then a thriving business, and finally big trouble.

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.

Miedoso, Andres. *Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol* (Series). Desmond is a fearless 8 year old who runs his own ghost patrol, looking for ghosts, monsters and mischief-makers everywhere!

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

Perl, 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.

Quigley, Dawn. *Jojo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend* (Early Chapter series). Will Jojo's home best friend, Mimi her cat, deflate when she gets her vaccinations? And why is her school best friend, Fern, not eating lunch with her anymore? Join lively Jojo and find out.

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 Macaroney 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.

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.

Gardner, Kate. *How to Find a Fox* (599.775 GAR). This book takes kids on a journey to finding the beautiful Red Fox. You'll love the stunning photographs!

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 before, to the moon.

McAnulty, Stacy. *Mars! Earthlings Welcome* (523.43 MCA). Meet Mars! The red planet. Favorite sibling of Earth (or so he claims). Earth and Mars have a lot in common--clouds, mountains, polar icecaps-- so Mars makes a persuasive case for why people should make the journey to spend time with him.

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

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.

Diaz, Lucky. *Paletero Man*. A book celebrating the strength of community and the tastes of summer. Lime for me, please!

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.

Cathon. *Poppy and 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! Poppy is on the case.

Deas, Mike. *Sueño Bay Adventures: Shadow Island* (series). Four unlikely friends come together in a mystery involving supernatural creatures, a ticking clock and one angry gym teacher to save themselves, the creatures, and Sueño Bay from a darkness that is infecting the island.

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.

Kurilla, Renée. *The Flower Garden*. After planting a seed packet in the backyard, things don't go as expected for best friends Anna and Tess.

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* (series). 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.

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*.