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Fifth Grade Recommended Reading List 2023-2024 | oppl.org/kids-lists

Fiction

Adodo, Edudzi. *Children of Stardust*. Zero dreams of exploring space and hunting for lost treasures. When he becomes the host of a legendary power called the Jupiter, he's recruited for a mission to recover a dangerous artifact.

Alessandri, Alexandra. *The Enchanted Life of Valentina Mejía*. To save their father's life, a brother and sister must journey across a land full of mythical creatures and find the most powerful and dangerous of them all: the madremonte.

Cartaya, Pablo. *Each Tiny Spark*. Emilia Torres struggles with ADHD, her controlling abuela, her mother's work commitments, her father's distance after returning from deployment, evolving friendships, and a conflict over school redistricting.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Finding Langston* (series). Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in a 1940s Chicago library helps a boy cope with the loss of his mother, moving north, and being bullied.

Dairman, Tara. *The Girl from Earth's End*. To save her papa, aspiring botanist Henna is determined to find the last seeds of a legendary, long-extinct plant with miraculous healing powers.

Day, Christine. *The Sea in Winter*. It's been a hard year for Maisie Cannon, ever since she hurt her leg and could not keep up with her ballet training and auditions. Her family is supportive, but Maisie knows that they can't understand how hopeless she feels.

Draper, Sharon. *Blended*. Piano-prodigy Isabella, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.

Fipps, Lisa. *Starfish*. Ellie has been bullied for her weight, but now a swimming hobby, a kind therapist and an accepting new neighbor help her embrace her true self.

Fitzgerald, María José. *Turtles of the Midnight Moon*. When poachers threaten the island they love, two girls team up to save the turtles-- and each other.

Gow, Robin. *Dear Mothman*. After his best friend dies, Noah is determined to prove that Mothman is real for his science fair project.

Ireland, Justina. *Ophie's Ghosts*. Ophie uses her ability to see ghosts to help Clara, a spirit whose life ended suddenly and unjustly, pass on to the other side, but she soon realizes that the place of Clara's death may hold more secrets than she bargained for.

Jones, Kelly. *Sauerkraut*. H.D. Schenk is cleaning out his uncle's basement to earn money to build his own computer and enter it in the county fair, not expecting to find the ghost of his great-great grandmother haunting an old pickling jar.

Kann, Claire. *Harmony and Heartbreak* (series). Rose and Cora Seville, matchmakers-in-training, must perfect their charms and enchantments to pass a test that will determine their future.

Kapit, Sarah. *Get a Grip, Vivi Cohen*. Eleven-year-old knuckleball pitcher Vivi Cohen, who has autism, becomes pen pals with her favorite Major League baseball player after writing a letter to him as an assignment for her social skills class.

Kelkar, Supriya. *That Thing About Bollywood*. Sonali cannot bring herself to share her feelings, but when she wakes up one day and begins to involuntarily burst into Bollywood song and dance routines that showcase her emotions, she realizes she has no choice.

LaRocca, Rajani. *Mirror to Mirror*. Two once-close twin sisters can't seem to find their rhythm, so they make a bet: they'll switch places at their summer camp, and whoever can keep the ruse going longer will get to decide where they both attend high school.

McCarthy, Cory. *Ace Takes Flight*. Ace Wells's dream has finally come true: he is a new cadet in the B.E.S.T. (Biological Enhancement Systems Technology) Program. Until now, he's been living in the shadow of his superstar brother, Finn—but not for long.

McNicoll, Elle. *A Kind of a Spark*. When she discovers that her small Scottish town used to burn witches simply because they were different, a neurodivergent girl—who sees and hears things others cannot—refuses to let them be forgotten.

Piñeiro, Victor. *Time Villains*. When a homework assignment and a magic table summon real and fictional people from history, including the bloodthirsty pirate Blackbeard, sixth-grader Javi, his brawny younger sister Brady, and his brainy best friend Wiki join forces to save the world.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It*. Loretta, Roly, and Aggie B. Little relate their Mississippi family's struggles and triumphs from 1927 to 1968 while struggling as sharecroppers, living under Jim Crow, and fighting for Civil Rights.

Reed, Dwayne. *Simon B. Rhymin'* (series). Dreaming of becoming a world-famous rapper, Chicago fifth-grader Simon Barnes is forced to confront his shyness and fear of speaking in public to demonstrate his talents during an oral presentation at school.

Reynolds, Aaron. *The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter*. Receiving a pet chicken instead of the dog he has wished for all his life, Rex is cursed by the Grim Reaper in the wake of his chicken's untimely demise and becomes haunted by a chatty, messy bunch of dead animal ghosts from the local zoo.

Stone, Nic. *Clean Getaway*. Scoob is grateful for the chance to go on a roadtrip with his grandmother, but adventure quickly turns to uncertainty: G'ma keeps changing the license plate, dodging Scoob's questions, and refusing to check Dad's voice mails.

Torres, Jennifer. *The Fresh New Face of Griselda*. After her father's landscaping business fails and the family loses their house, Griselda Zaragoza follows her sister's example and begins selling Alma cosmetics while hiding her changed circumstances from friends.

Varela, Nina. *Juniper Harvey and the Vanishing Kingdom*. Every night, Juniper has the same nightmare about an ancient temple, and a beautiful girl who turns to ivory. After making a desperate wish to meet the girl in real life, Juniper awakens to find the girl in her room...pointing a sword at her throat!

Verstegen, Jeska. *I'll Keep You Close*. Jeska doesn't know why her mother keeps the curtains drawn so tightly every day. What are they hiding from? When Jeska's grandmother accidentally calls her by a stranger's name, she seizes her first clue to uncovering her family's past, and hopefully to all that's gone unsaid.

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Nonfiction

Beccia, Carlyn. *Monstrous: The Lore, Gore, and Science Behind Your Favorite Monsters* (001.944 BEC). Discover the origins of eight scream-worthy monsters, find out how major historical events shaped their creation, and delve into the science behind these fearful beasts.

Caldwell, S. A. *Pride: An Inspirational History of the LGBTQ+ Movement* (306.76 CAL). The LGBTQ+ community is so much more than rainbow flags and the month of June. Learn about historic pushes for equality around the world, and queer icons from ancient times to the present.

Chambers, Veronica. *Resist: 35 Profiles of Ordinary People who Rose Up Against Tyranny and Injustice* (303.484 CHA). You may only be one person, but you have the power to change the world. These remarkable figures show us what it means to take a stand and say "no" to injustice, even when it would be far easier to stay quiet.

Florance, Cara. *The Science Spell Book: Magical Experiments for Kids* (507.8 FLO). Have you ever wished you could cast a spell with the wave of a magic wand? Have you ever wanted to mix a real color-changing potion? Embrace your inner alchemist with 25 wonderful science experiments.

Grossman, Emily. *What Breathes Through Its Butt? Mind-Blowing Science Questions Answered* (500 GRO). Why is your elbow called your funny bone? How could you escape the grip of a crocodile's jaw? This book uncovers the amazing scientific explanations behind all sorts of questions that can pop into our heads.

Jones, Dan C. *Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters: Chilling American Indian Stories* (398.2 JON). Short tales chosen from the tradition of ghost stories from American Indian cultures across North America, featuring witches, walking dolls, skinwalkers, and other beings.

Rodgers, Allison K. *We Need to Talk about Vaginas* (612.628 ROD). Learn all about bodies with vaginas in this guide to anatomy, puberty, periods, and consent. The more you know, the better equipped you'll be to deal with your body in the future.

Stelson, Caren. *A Bowl Full of Peace* (940.542 STE). The story of Sachiko Yasui, a young survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bombing who cherishes a single, daily meal bowl that survived the attack and how that bowl became a family symbol of hope, peace and new traditions.

Thimmesh, Catherine. *Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild* (599.789 THI). Despite poaching, pollution, habitat destruction, human overpopulation, and global climate change, the pandas of China are making a comeback. How? By humans teaching baby pandas how to be wild and stay wild.

Tyson, Neil DeGrasse. *Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry* (523.01 TYS). Building on the wonder inspired by outer space, Tyson introduces an exciting field and the principles of scientific inquiry.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom* (B BROWN). A lyrical tale about the cost and fragility of freedom follows the life of Henry "Box" Brown, an enslaved man and abolitionist who was separated from his family before he mailed himself to freedom.

Wilson, Janet. *Our Future: How Kids Are Taking Action* (361.2 WIL). These young people from across the globe are raising awareness about what issues matter to them most. From oil pipelines to cyber bullying, from gun violence to animal protection, they won't let their youth stop them from being heard.

Graphic Novels

Chanani, Nidhe. *Jukebox*. A jukebox, old vinyl records, and cryptic notes on music history are Shaheen's only clues to her father's disappearance. When the jukebox starts glowing, Shaheen and her cousin Tannaz are pulled into another time!

Cooke, Stephanie. *ParaNorthern and the Chaos Bunny A-Hop-Calypse*. A witch named Abby and her three friends—a wolf-girl, a ghost, and a pumpkinhead—band together to try and save their supernatural town from an invasion of rabid chaos bunnies.

Elliot, Victoria Grace. *Yummy: A History of Desserts* (Nonfiction graphic novel, 341.86 ELL). Food sprite Peri is excited to show you the delicious history of sweets while taking you around the world and back, with recipes.

Escabasse, Sophie. *Witches of Brooklyn* (series). Effie moves to Brooklyn to live with her strange aunt and soon discovers that she might be a witch.

Hahn, Mary Downing. *Took*. Daniel doesn't believe the stories about the ghost witch or Bloody Bones, her man-eating razorback hog. But when his little sister disappears into the woods one day, he knows something is terribly wrong.

Levy, Deborah. *Becoming RBG* (Graphic novel, B GINSBURG). A child who questioned unfairness became a student who persisted, who became an advocate who resisted injustice, who became a judge who revered the rule of law.

Mannaert, Wauter. *Chef Yasmina and the Potato Panic*. A young chef is the only one who can protect her town from an onslaught of scientifically enhanced, highly-addictive potatoes.

O'Neill, Kay. *The Moth Keeper*. When Anya finally becomes a Moth Keeper, she is excited to prove her worth, but soon she discovers that the job isn't exactly what she thought it would be.

Ostertag, Molly. *D&D Dungeon Club: Roll Call*. Middle school is a dungeon. Luckily, Jess and Olivia know how to escape into their own imaginations. When Olivia wants to add new players to their Dungeons & Dragons group, Jess struggles to share their game—and her best friend.

Smith, James Otis. *Black Heroes of the Wild West* (Nonfiction graphic novel, 978.02 SMI). The extraordinary true tales of three black historical figures in the Old West: Mary "Stagecoach" Fields, a cardplaying coach driver; Bass Reeves, the first black Deputy Marshall west of the Mississippi; and Bob Lemmons, a cowboy famous for his ability to tame mustangs.

Soontornvat, Christina. *The Tryout*. When cheerleading tryouts are announced, Christina and her best friend, Megan, literally jump at the chance to join the squad. But will the girls survive the terrifying tryouts, with their whole grade watching? And will their friendship withstand the pressures of competition?

Tankard, Jeremy. *Yorick and Bones*. Yorick is a skeleton just dug up after a few hundred years of sleep. He speaks like it too. 'Forsooth, my joy, I barely can contain!' Bones is the hungry dog who did the digging. Though he cannot speak, he can chomp. What will become of these two unlikely companions?

Wang, Jen. *Stargazing*. Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness.

Yee, Reimena. *Séance Tea Party*. After watching her circle of friends seemingly fade away, Lora is determined to still have fun on her own, so when a tea party leads Lora to discovering Alexa, the ghost that haunts her house, they soon become best friends.