

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

Picture Books

Asim, Jabari. *Me and Muhammad Ali*. A little boy's joyous encounter with his hero, Muhammad Ali, is everything he's dreamed of—and more!

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.

Brown, Keah. *Sam's Super Seats*. Sam, who has cerebral palsy, goes back-to-school shopping with her best friends. When she feels tired, she needs to find a super seat to make things better!

Buitrago, Jairo. *Ways to Make Friends*. What's the best way to make friends? Toad has the most magnificent ideas! Sometimes they don't go according to plan... but that's okay.

Chang, Vivienne. *This is not My Home*. Lily is upset when her mother announces they will be moving back to Taiwan to care for her Ah Ma, but when her mother explains Taiwan is her home, Lily comes to agree that it is her home, too.

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.

Fan Brothers. *Lizzy and the Cloud*. It's a little out of fashion to buy a pet cloud, but Lizzy doesn't mind. She's not looking for a big one or a fancy one, just one that's right for her.

Gibeault, Stephanie. *Toby Tootles*. When Toby toots at his birthday party, he is teased by friends and family, but he learns how to get over embarrassment when his grandmother gives him a lesson on how to handle life's hiccups.

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.

Hassani, Mojdeh. *Mama Shamsi at the Bazaar*. Mama Shamsi is off to the market, and today, Samira gets to go with her! As the pair get closer to the market, Samira is worried about getting lost in the crowded streets of Tehran.

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.

Newman, Jeff. *The Greedy Worm*. The greedy worm has his eye on a big apple and does NOT want to share. But when a bird starts eyeing the plump worm, he'll need those bugs he snubbed to keep the feaster from becoming the feast.

Petrus, Junauda. *Can We Please Give the Police Department to the Grandmothers?* Based on a viral poem, this is a joyously radical vision of community-based safety and mutual aid. It is optimistic, provocative, and centered in fierce love.

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.

Romanyshyn, 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.

Slater, Dashka. *Wild Blue: Taming a Big-Kid Bike*. Kayla loves riding her tricycle, but then Daddy announces that it's time for a big-kid bike. Can she tame this intimidating set of wheels?

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.

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

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 Hawai'i.

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

Easy Readers

Calmenson, Stephanie. *STOMP!* (Level 1). When Ziggy and Zak run into one obstacle after another on their way to a big city show, Ziggy becomes stomping mad! But with help, he calms down and gets to enjoy the surprise waiting just around the corner.

Iwai, Melissa. *Gigi and Ojiji* (Level 2, series). 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.

Heim, Alastair. *Big Bub, Small Tub* (Level 1). Big Bub the monster needs a bath, but his bathtub is too small. What will he do? He will try everything!

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.

Litwin, Megan. *Dirt and Bugsy: Bug Catchers* (Level 1, series). Dirt and Bugsy are neighbors, best friends, and bug catchers. They love bugs, but when it begins to rain one day, their brains buzz with a plan: they will build a bug barn to keep the bugs dry!

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.

Raul the Third. *El Toro and Friends: Tacos Today!* (Level 1, series). The luchadores take a break and head into town to eat. When they count their lunch money and discover they don't have enough for tacos, they will have to work together on a creative solution to earn dinero!

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

Ben-Barak, Idan. *We Go Way Back* (576.8 BEN). Peer back in time—way back in time—to the story of how life began...

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?

Faruqi, Reem. *Miloo's Mind* (B FARUQI). Miloo lives in a time when school is considered unnecessary for girls, but to Miloo, education is essential. When she reads, her thoughts dance. When she's married, Miloo's husband tells her to stay home, but she does not let that stop her.

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.

Ignatow, Amy. *Symphony for a Broken Orchestra* (784.19 IGN). What happens when musical instruments can't make the sounds we expect them to make? Is music still possible? Musicians young and old volunteered, and their captivating performance showed that even something broken can sing—and that great music is always possible.

Kim, Diana. *The Yawn Book* (612.2 KIM). Why do we yawn? Do animals yawn? And why are yawns so CONTAGIOUS?

Lee, Chiquita Mullins. *You Gotta Meet Mr. Pierce!* (B PIERCE). "Creeeeee!" goes the screen door to self-taught artist Elijah Pierce's barbershop art studio. A young boy walks in for an ordinary haircut and walks out having discovered a lifetime of art.

Mack, Jeff. *Marcel's Masterpiece: How a Toilet Shaped the History of Art* (709.04 MAC). This is the story of Marcel Duchamp and how the Dada art movement changed the way people thought about what art could be... and what could be art. People were amused and confused, and that was just the way Marcel Duchamp liked it.

McDonnell, Christine. *Sanctuary* (362.83 MCD). 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.

Neruda, Pablo. *Book of Questions* (821 NER). Where is the center of the sea? Why do the waves never break there? An English/Spanish bilingual book containing unanswerable, fantastical questions, inviting us to be curious, while embracing what we cannot know.

Parsons, Karyn. *Saving the Day: Garrett Morgan's Life-Changing Invention of the Traffic Signal* (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.

Pizzoli, Greg. *PIZZA! A Slice of History* (641.824 PIZ). Did you know that in the United States we eat 350 slices of pizza every second? Or that in Sweden they serve pizza with bananas and peanuts? All over the world, people love pizza, but where did it come from?

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!

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.

Abe, Momoko. *Avocado Asks: What Am I?*

Ben-Barak, Idan. *There's a Skeleton Inside You!*

Castillo, Lauren. *Our Friend Hedgehog: The Story of Us.*

Ferry, Beth. *Swashby and the Sea.*

Franklin, Ashley. *Not Quite Snow White.*

Frost, Maddie. *Capybara is Friends with Everyone.*

Gardner, Kate. *How to Find a Fox.*

Guojing. *Stormy: A Story About Finding a Forever Home.*

Keating, Jess. *Set Your Alarm, Sloth: More Advice for Troubled Animals from Dr. Glider.*

Morris, J.E. *Ducks Run Amok!*

Nyong'o, Lupita. *Sulwe.*

Percival, Tom. *Meesha Makes Friends.*

Pizzoli, Greg. *Pizza: A Slice of History.*

Prahn, Andrew. *Ship in a Bottle.*

Rubin, Sean. *This Very Tree: A Story of 9/11, Resilience, and Regrowth.*

Shea, Bob. *Chez Bob.*

Tabor, Corey R. *Mel Fell.*

Underwood, Deborah. *Ogilvy.*

Wheeler, Lisa. *Someone Builds the Dream.*

Zhang, Kat. *Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao.*