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## Fourth Grade Recommended Reading List 2023-2024 | [oppl.org/kids-lists](http://oppl.org/kids-lists)

### Fiction

Baptist, Kelly J. *Eb & Flow*. In this novel in verse, we meet Ebony and De’Kari (aka Flow), who do not get along. How could they when Ebony ruined Flow’s prized sneakers? But after a cafeteria scuffle lands them in a two-week suspension, they have time to see the world with a fresh perspective.

Burnham, Molly B. *The Infinite Questions of Dottie Bing*. Ten-year-old Dottie Bing is a problem-solver and question-asker, but when her grandfather comes to stay he brings the biggest question that Dottie has ever encountered: How do you heal a broken heart?

Fagan, Deva. *The Mirrorwood*. Fable has been cursed by the Blight, a twisted enchantment that leaves her without a face of her own. To stay alive, she has to steal the faces of others, making her an outcast that no one trusts. When a fierce Blighthunter comes to kill her and stop her curse from spreading, Fable narrowly escapes by fleeing into the thorny woods surrounding her small village.

Glaser, Karina Yan. *A Duet for Home*. It’s June’s first day at Huey House, and as if losing her home weren’t enough, she also can’t bring her cherished viola inside. Can June and her new friend Tyrell work together to oppose the government, or will families be forced out of Huey House before they are ready?

Hargrave, Kiran Millwood. *Julia & the Shark*. Julia loves the mysteries of the ocean and marine biology, just like her scientist mother who is searching for the elusive Greenland shark. Julia sets off on a quest to find the shark herself, but soon realizes that there are some journeys you shouldn’t go on alone.

LaRocca, Rajani. *Midsummer’s Mayhem*. Drawn deep into the woods by a song, aspiring celebrity chef Mimi Mackson discovers enchanted ingredients to use in her recipes, but her plans go awry as her family starts acting strange and causing trouble in town.

Lucido, Aimee. *Emmy in the Key of Code*. In a new city, at a new school, Emmy has never felt more out of tune. Things start to look up when she takes her first coding class, unexpectedly connecting with the material—and Abigail, a new friend—through a shared language: music.

Lukoff, Kyle. *Different Kinds of Fruit*. Annabelle Blake fully expects this school year to be the same as every other, so she’s elated to discover there’s a new kid in town who has a cute smile. However, when she invites her new friend over after school, her parents start acting strangely.

Mian, Zanib. *Planet Omar* (series). Omar and his family have just moved, and he is NOT excited about starting at a new school. What if the work is too hard or the kids are mean or the teacher is a zombie alien?! Luckily, Omar’s enormous imagination and goofy family help him get through life’s ups and downs.

Ortega, Claribel A. *Witchlings*. Every year, Witchlings who participate in the Black Moon Ceremony are placed into covens and come into their powers. Seven Salazar can’t wait, but on the night of the ceremony, in front of the entire town, Seven isn’t placed in one of the five covens. Now what?

Randall, Julian. *Pilar Ramirez and the Escape from Zafa*. Pilar’s cousin disappeared fifty years ago, and Abuela and Mami won’t talk about it. When Pilar digs into her family’s mystery, she gets magically transported to Zafa, an island swarming with demons, shapeshifters, and a sinister magical prison.

Rubin, Adam. *The Human Kaboom: 6 Explosively Different Stories with the Same Exact Name!* A reclusive guest appears to have spontaneously combusted; two kids try to pull off the greatest prank in history; three siblings try to make a life for themselves after the rest of the planet has been decimated by giant rock monsters; a boy stumbles across an ancient curse; a young girl becomes the assistant to a death-defying human cannonball; and one kid with superpowers just can’t seem to find some peace.

Selfors, Suzanne. *Braver: A Wombat’s Tale*. When her parents and the other quiet, shy wombats of the Northern Forest are captured by the traitorous, carnivorous Tassie devils, Lola Budge, a talkative, adventure-seeking young wombat, embarks on a rescue mission, joined by a swamp water rat and a baby penguin.

Smith, Pauline Vaeluaga. *Dawn Raid*. Told through the diary entries of twelve-year-old Sofia, *Dawn Raid* is the story of one ordinary girl living in extraordinary times, learning how to stand up and fight.

Sullivan, Kyle. *Hobgoblin and the Seven Stinkers of Rancidia* (series). Faraway in the land of Rancidia, where it’s good to smell bad and bad to smell good, a stinky Hobgoblin flees the jealous wrath of a monstrous, ogre tyrant named Fiddlefart.

Thompson, Lin. *The House That Whispers*. Simon and his siblings are staying the week at their grandmother’s century-old house. Simon becomes convinced that his grandmother’s house is haunted... this is not their usual summer vacation trip!

Villanueva, Gail. *My Fate According to the Butterfly*. When a black butterfly lands on Sabrina’s locket, she knows it’s a harbinger of death. Plans to reunite her estranged family for her eleventh birthday push Sab outside of her sheltered community in an adventure across Manila.

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk* (series). English is not Mia Tang’s first language, but she wants to be a writer. That’s not her only secret. Her family lives and works in a motel and in the empty rooms, they hide other immigrant families like theirs.

### Nonfiction

Balfe, Abigail. *A Different Kind of Normal* (618.928 BAL). In this illustrated memoir, Abigail Balfe recounts her journey growing up autistic. Abigail details her experiences and explains some crucial information about autism and neurodiversity—a word that celebrates the importance of all brain types!

Boyce, Jo Ann Allen. *This Promise of Change: One Girl’s Story in the Fight for School Equality* (B BOYCE). In 1956, one year before federal troops escorted the Little Rock Nine into Central High School, Jo Ann Allen was one of twelve African American students who broke the color barrier and integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee. Jo Ann found herself called on as the spokesperson of the group. But what about just being a regular teen?

Habinger, Esperanza. *Your Brain is Amazing: How the Human Mind Works* (612.82 HAB). With detailed illustrations and activities to challenge your brain, this guide explores the inner workings of the most complex organ on Earth and how it makes you you!

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### Nonfiction cont.

Hollihan, Kerrie Logan. *Mummies Exposed!* (393.3 HOL, "Creepy and True" series). *Mummies Exposed!* goes beyond what you expect and uncovers both old favorites and recent discoveries; among them a Moche princess in Peru, bog people of England and Ireland, and a Buddhist monk found within a sculpture!

Jenkins, Steve. *Disasters by the Numbers* (363.34 JEN). An in-depth look at the world's natural disasters, broken down into four distinct categories: earth, weather, life, and space.

Levy, Dana Alison. *Breaking the Mold: Changing the Face of Climate Science* (509.22 LEV). Sixteen profiles of environmental scientists, each making science more equitable and working to make life better for future generations through their research.

López, Silvia. *Selena: Queen of Tejano Music* (B SELENA). Selena Quintanilla's music career began at the age of nine when she started singing in her family's band. But Selena faced a challenge in an industry dominated by male performers and she was determined to succeed.

Nogués Otero, Alex. *One Million Oysters on Top of the Mountain* (551.7 NOG). Come closer and look at these rocks: they're not normal stones at all! They're thousands of mollusks, fossilized together in the sediment. But how did a million oysters ever land on top of a mountain?

Ross, Ailsa. *The Girl Who Rode a Shark and Other Stories of Daring Women* (920.72 ROS). Biographical vignettes highlight exciting adventures and innovative contributions of women and girls from a wide variety of countries and historical periods.

Roy, Katherine. *Making More: How Life Begins* (571.8 ROY). A basic guide to reproduction among plants and animals—from attracting mates and making gametes to creating external seeds and eggs leading up to birth.

Schutten, Jan Paul. *Inside In* (591 SCH). Using incredible X-ray techniques, *Inside In* displays creatures and their natural habitats in a never-before-seen way.

Schwartz, Ella. *Is it Okay to Pee in the Ocean?* (612.461 SCH). This book is all about pee: from why and how we do it, to its effects on our world. Explore the human systems that make pee happen, tackle environmental questions about the impacts of human waste, and discover surprising uses of urine throughout history.

Slade, Suzanne. *Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks* (B BROOKS). Before Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize, she was a young girl who loved poetry.

Wohlleben, Peter. *Can You Hear the Trees Talking? Discovering the Hidden Life of the Forest* (577.3 WOH). Share the mysteries and magic of the forest and learn what trees feel, how they communicate, and the ways in which trees take care of their families.

### Graphic Novels

Agarwal, Veronica. *Just Roll With It*. Starting middle school is hard enough when you're shy and don't know anyone. As long as Maggie rolls the right number on her twenty-sided dice, nothing can go wrong...right?

Angleberger, Tom. *The Sewer Rat Stink: Geronimo Stilton* (series). Geronimo and his private detective best friend, Hercule, visit the underground sewer world of Mouse Island to investigate the spread of a stink throughout New Mouse City.

Barnett, Mac. *The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza* (series). When rats from another galaxy begin devouring the moon, Earth's smartest scientists dispatch a cybernetically enhanced cat—the First Cat in Space—to deal with the threat.

Brown, Don. *Rocket to the Moon!* (Nonfiction graphic novel series, 629.454 BRO). It wasn't just one man who got us to the moon. Explore the history of rocket building: from ancient Chinese rockets, to the War of 1812, to Russia's Sputnik program, to the moon landing.

Case, Jonathan. *Little Monarchs*. In the twenty-second century, a sun shift has made it impossible for mammals to survive in the daylight. Ten-year-old Elvie is studying the migration route of monarch butterflies, hoping that something in the butterflies' wing scales can be used to protect people from the sun and save humanity from extinction.

Estrada, Ryan. *Student Ambassador: The Missing Dragon*. A student ambassador is sent on a high-stakes diplomatic mission to a far away land, where he and a newly-crowned boy king are thrust into a globe-trotting action-adventure mystery.

Farina, Katy. *Song of the Court*. To buy seeds for her garden, Arietta plans to sell her treasured family violin—until Princess Cassia spots the instrument and begs Arietta to perform at her birthday party. Although she has never played, Arietta decides to learn a special song.

Goerz, Gillian. *Shirley and Jamila Save Their Summer* (series). When ten-year-olds Shirley and Jamila meet, Jamila is simply hoping for a friend in her new neighborhood, but Shirley is a detective and together they seek a missing gecko.

Graley, Sarah. *Donut the Destroyer*. Donut has just received the best news of her life—she's been accepted to Lionheart School for Heroes! But her parents are the most infamous villains around, and her best friend, Ivy, can't understand why Donut would choose a life of boring heroism and ruin their plans to cause chaos.

Hale, Nathan. *Blades of Freedom* (Nonfiction graphic novel series, 972.94 HAL). "Hazardous Tales" takes on the story of the Haitian Revolution and its role in Napoleon's decision to sell Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe the whole Louisiana Territory, when they sought to buy only New Orleans.

Knisley, Lucy. *Stepping Stones* (series). Reluctantly joining her mom, stepfather and stepsisters on a farm far from her city home, Jen practices new skills and navigates private insecurities before finding acceptance in unexpected places.

Lloyd, Megan. *Allergic*. Ten-year-old Maggie is having a rough time. Her twin brothers are pests, her parents are focused on getting ready for the new baby, and she's had to switch schools. Worse, she's finally convinced her parents to let her get a dog, only to find out that she's extremely allergic to animals with hair or feathers.

Nicholas, Jamar. *Leon the Extraordinary* (series). In a world filled with superpowers, regular kid Leon can't help but feel a little ordinary. But that won't stop him from trying as he attempts to not only be a hero without any abilities, but also navigate the difficulties of middle school.

Rex, Michael. *Your Pal, Fred*. In a brutal world far in the future, where only the savage survive, a life-size toy named Fred suddenly activates. Determined to make the world a better place, Fred has the bright idea to talk the two most powerful and battle-hungry warlords, Lord Bonkers and Papa Mayhem, into being friends.

Xu, Wendy. *Tidesong*. Sophie is a young witch whose mother and grandmother pressure her to attend the Royal Magic Academy—the best magic school in the realm—even though her magic is shaky at best. To train for her entrance exams, Sophie is sent to relatives she's never met.