Readers / Early Chapters

Auxier, Jonathan. The Fabled Stables: Willa the Wisp (Early Chapters, series). Eight-year-old Auggie Pound, the caretaker of the rare animals in the Fabled Stables, ventures into the swamp to save a new rare creature, the wisp.

Brallier, Max. Beneath the Bed and Other Scary Stories (Readers Level 2, series). Five scary stories with unexpected twists!

Calhoun, Stephanie. Allie and Amy (Early Chapters, 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 (Early Chapters, series). Living on a tiny island with only a stuffed animal for company, a lonely Hedgehog embarks on a quest.

Gutman, Dan. My Weird School: Class Pet Mess! (Readers Level 2, series). Alexa is delighted when Mr. Cooper brings in Bob, a hognose snake, as class pet, but when Bob keels over, is Andrea’s toy poodle or Alexa’s neglect to blame?

Heuer, Lourdes. Esme’s Birthday Conga Line (Early Chapters). Esme is off to plan her own birthday party with the help of the eclectic neighbors who reside in her apartment building.

John, Jory. The Bad Seed Goes to the Library (Readers Level 2, series). The Bad Seed is in a good mood because there’s a really cool book at the library available for checkout! But what will happen when his time is up and he has to return it?

Lambert, Megan Dowd. April & Mae and the Tea Party (Readers Level 2, series). April and Mae are best friends (and so are their pets). One day angry words are exchanged and they must find a way to apologize and save their friendship.

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

May, Kyla. Diary of a Pug (Early Chapters, series). Baron von Bubbles is the self-proclaimed cutest pug on the planet! He loves fashion, peanut butter, and his human, Bella.

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


Perl, Erica S. Arnold & Louise (Early Chapters, series). Unlike best friends Arnold, a large black bear, and Louise, a sassy chimpunk, have exciting adventures in this charming series.

Quigley, Dawn. Jojo Makos: The Used-to-Be Best Friend (Early Chapters, series). Will Jojo’s cat Mimi deflake when she gets her vaccinations? And why is her school best friend, Fern, not eating lunch with her anymore?

Romito, Dee. Fort Builders Inc.: The Birthday Cake (Early Chapters, series). Caleb and his best friend Jax are excited to start their own fort-building business. Can they finish the fort in time for Analise’s big birthday bash?

Thomas, Jan. Even Robots Aren’t Perfect! (Readers Level 2, series). In three stories, best friends Red Robot and Blue Robot learn about how sometimes they can make mistakes or say the wrong things, yet still be friends with each other.

Watson, Tom. Trouble at Table 5 (Early Chapters, 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 the school.

Nonfiction

Chin, Jason. The Universe in You: A Microscopic Journey (571.6 CHI). A book exploring the world of the very small, delving deep into the microscopic spaces just beneath our skin!

Fleming, Candace. Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera (355.799 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!

Heck, Ellen. A is For Bee: An Alphabet Book in Translation (411 HEC). What letter does the word bee start with? It’s “B” in English, but in many languages, it actually starts with “A.” Bee is Añ in Igbo, Aamoo in Ojibwe, Abelha in Portuguese, and Añi in Turkish!

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

Montgomery, Heather L. What’s In Your Pocket? Collecting Nature’s Treasures (508 MON). This book honors children’s curiosity and pockets full of “stuff” by introducing nine scientists who collected natural treasures when they were young.

Moss, Marissa. Kate Warner: Pinkerton Detective (B WARN). When Kate Warner 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 ROG). 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.

Soontornvat, Christina. A Life of Service: The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth (B DUCKWR). Senator Tammy Duckworth has logged a long list of “firsts” during her tenure as the first Thai American woman elected to Congress, including being the first woman with a disability to serve in the House and Senate. But while she dreamed of serving her country from a young age, Tammy’s path was not without its challenges.

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.

Learn more: oppl.org/kids-lists
Saeed, Aisha. *Bilal Cooks Daal*. Bilal introduces his friends to his favorite dish in this book that highlights the value of patience, teamwork and sharing.

Snyder, Laurel. *Endlessly Ever After*. Follow Rosie down many possible paths to save herself and her fellow fairy tale characters.

Vo, Young. *Gibberish*. When Dat starts school in a country where he does not speak the language, everything around him sounds like gibberish until a new friend helps him make sense of his new world.

**Graphic Novels**


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

Ellis, Joey. *Wolfe 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.

Guojing. *The Flamingo*. A little girl arrives excited for a beachy vacation with her Lao Lao. When the girl finds an exquisite flamingo feather in her grandmother’s living room, her vacation turns into something fantastical.

Hakkola, Kalle. *Livi and Nate*. Each night when their mom turns out the light, siblings Livi and Nate adventure far beyond their snowy yard.

Kolomycka, Berenika. *Tiny Fox and Great Boar*. (series). One beautiful fall day, as Tiny Fox relaxes under his favorite tree, he meets a new friend: Great Boar!

**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!*


Ferry, Beth. *Swashby and the Sea.*

Franklin, Ashley. *Not Quite Snow White.*

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

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


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

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

Nyang’o, Lupita. *Sulwe.*


Shea, Bob. *Chez Bob.*

Tabor, Corey R. *Mel Fell.*

Underwood, Deborah. *Ogilvy.*


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