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

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!

Calmenson, 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). Alexia 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 Alexia's neglect to blame?

Heuer, Lourdes. *Esmé's Birthday Conga Line* (Early Chapters). Esmé 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 scorn, 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.

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

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

Perl, Erica S. *Arnold & Louise* (Early Chapters, 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 Chapters, series). Will Jojo's cat Mimi deflate 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 Castle* (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.

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* (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!

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 Anū in Igbo, Aamoo in Ojibwe, Abelha in Portuguese, and Arı 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 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.

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 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.

Soontornvat, Christina. *A Life of Service: The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth* (B DUCKWORTH). 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.

Nonfiction

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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.

David-Sax, Pauline. *Everything in Its Place: A Story of Books and Belonging*. A shy girl gains the courage to extend herself to others when she encounters a group of unique, diverse, inspiring female motorcyclists at her mother's diner.

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.

Higuera, Donna Barba. *The Yellow Handkerchief*. A young girl wishes her family could be more like her friends' families and subconsciously blames her abuela and her yellow handkerchief, but she slowly grows to appreciate and love the language and culture the handkerchief represents.

LaRochelle, David. *100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli*. Our story begins high on a mountain, with 100 mighty dragons all named Broccoli...

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.

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 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 sound like gibberish until a new friend helps him make sense of his new world.

Graphic Novels

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.

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.

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

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!

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*.