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

Early Chapters / Series

Atinuke. *Too Small Tola* (Early Chapters, series). Three tales of an endearing and enduring character, Tola, who lives in an apartment in the busy city of Lagos, Nigeria, with her sister, brother and grandmommy.

Barnaby, Hannah. *Monster and Boy* (Early Chapters, series). The riotous misadventures of a boy and a monster, who forge a remarkable friendship when the surprised boy encounters the monster under his bed and is promptly swallowed up.

Bidania, V.T. *Astrid and Apollo and the Fishing Flop* (Paperback Series). It's the twins' first time fishing. Astrid and Apollo can't wait to ride on their Uncle Lue's fast boat and get goofy pictures with all the fish they catch, but Apollo keeps catching things that are not fish!

Blakemore, Megan Frazer. *Frankie Sparks and the Class Pet* (Early Chapters, series). Frankie Sparks, the self-proclaimed "best inventor in the third grade," does research and creates a tool to try to persuade her classmates that a rat would make the best class pet.

Bowles, David. *13th Street: Battle of the Bad-Breath Bats* (Early Chapters, series). Cousins Malia, Ivan, and Dante are visiting their aunt for the summer. But on their way to the water park, they get lost on 13th Street. Only it's not a street at all. It's a strange world filled with dangerous beasts!

Bowling, Dusti. *Aven Green: Sleuthing Machine* (Early Chapters, series). Aven is a spunky third grader who was born without arms, loves gross humor, joking around with her friends, and solving mysteries!

Dillard, J. J.D. *The Kid Barber: J.D. and the Great Barber Battle* (Early Chapters, series). Eight-year-old J.D. turns a tragic home haircut into a thriving barber business!

Elliott, Zetta. *Dragons in a Bag* (Early Chapters, series). Nine-year-old Jax joins Ma, a curmudgeonly witch who lives in his building, on a quest to deliver three baby dragons to a magical world, and along the way discovers his true calling.

Griffith, Theanne. *The Magnificent Makers: How to Test a Friendship* (Paperback Series). With the help of an odd scientist, third graders Violet, Pablo, and Deepak embark on an adventure in the Maker Maze, a magical laboratory full of robots, an antivgravity chamber, 3D printers, and more.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey* (Early Chapters, series). Marisol, who has a big imagination and likes to name inanimate objects, has a tree in her backyard named Peppina, but she's way too scared to climb it.

Faruqi, Saadia. *Marya Khan and the Incredible Henna Party* (Early Chapters, series). With her eighth birthday coming up, Marya claims she is having an epic henna party, so now she must convince her family to make it happen and work to pull it off, but everything Marya does seems to end in disaster.

Lyons, Kelly Starling. *Miles Lewis: King of the Ice* (Paperback Series). Miles loves sports and science! He has a loving family who encourage him to try new things, like ice skating.

McGee, Joe. *Junior Monster Scouts* (Early Chapters, series). Although Wolfy, Franky, and Vampyra are children of classic monsters, all they want to do is help those in need and make friends, so they join the Junior Monster Scouts with the hopes of helping their community.

O'Donnell, Liam. *West Meadows Detectives: The Case of the Snack Snatcher* (Early Chapters, series). Meet Myron: a third-grade detective who loves logic, facts and solving mysteries. When the school kitchen is burgled, leaving the morning snacks nowhere to be found, Myron gets his chance to crack the case with help from his classmates.

Sheth, Kashmira. *Nina Soni: Former Best Friend* (Early Chapters, series). Organized, but sometimes forgetful, Nina has a lot to keep track of as she rushes to complete a school project, help with little sister Kavita's birthday party, and make up with her best friend Jay.

Watson, Renée. *Ways to Share Joy* (Early Chapters, series). Ryan is in the middle with an older brother and baby sister, but with the help of her grandmother, she works her way through school and shares joy along the way.

Fiction

Ewing, Eve L. *Maya and the Robot*. A forgotten homemade robot comes to life just when aspiring scientist Maya needs a friend—and a science fair project.

Falatko, Julie. *Two Dogs in a Trench Coat: Go to School* (series). Sassy and Waldo are good dogs. Every day their boy, Stewart, leaves for a scary place: school. Sassy and Waldo need to save Stewart!

Kane, Karen. *Charlie and Frog: A Mystery* (series). Charlie heads into his grandparents' local village where a frightened old woman gives him a desperate message in American Sign Language. Charlie needs to learn ASL fast to keep up with quick-witted Frog, and Frog needs to gather her detective know-how to break the case before it's too late.

Khan, Hena. *Zara's Rules for Record-Breaking Fun* (series). Zara's nickname is "Queen of the Neighborhood" because she organizes the other children, sets the rules, and generally makes sure everyone has fun. But Naomi, the new girl across the street, has her own plans!

Manternach, Karla. *Meena Meets Her Match* (series). Third-grader Meena Zee navigates the triumphs and challenges of family, friendship, and school while being diagnosed with epilepsy.

Sachar, Louis. *Wayside School Beneath the Cloud of Doom* (series). Wayside School is back in session! But what's with the large, gloomy cloud hanging around?

Steinhof, Andreas. *If My Moon Was Your Sun*. Nine-year-old Max sneaks his grandfather and Miss Schneider out of their nursing home to enjoy a walk in the country, where he admits he is afraid Grandfather will soon forget to love him.

Timberlake, Amy. *Skunk and Badger* (series). The last thing Badger wants is a roommate, and certainly not Skunk, but he does not have a choice. Soon everything in Badger's quiet and ordered life is turned upside down.

Tsang, Katie. *Sam Wu Is Not Afraid of Ghosts* (series). After an embarrassing incident on a school trip, Sam wants to prove that he is not afraid of ghosts. Except...he totally is. Can he conquer his fear by facing the ghost in his house?

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Nonfiction

Brew-Hammond, Nana Ekua. *Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky* (701.85 BRE). An informative and beautiful look at the history of the color blue. No wonder the color blue was for royalty only! Pin a blue ribbon on this book!

Cocca-Leffler, Maryann. *Fighting for Yes! The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann* (B HEUMANN). When an important disability rights law was waiting to be signed, Judy Heumann and other disability rights activists fought for YES! They held a sit-in until Section 504 was signed into law, laying the foundation for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Davids, Sharice. *Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman* (B DAVIDS). The remarkable story of one of the first Native American women elected to Congress and the first LGBTQ congressperson to represent Kansas.

Hannah-Jones, Nikole. *Born on the Water*. (306.362 HAN). Stymied by her unfinished family tree assignment for school, a young girl seeks Grandma's counsel and learns about her ancestors, the consequences of slavery, and the history of Black resistance in the U.S.

Keating, Jess. *Gross as a Snot Otter: Discovering the World's Most Disgusting Animals* (590 KEA, "World of Weird Animals" series). Slippery, slimy snot otters, gulls that projectile-vomit on command, fish that communicate via flatulence, and chipmunks that roll in snake urine... sometimes it's the very things that make us gag that allow these animals to survive in the wild.

Mahin, Michael. *When Angels Sing: Carlos Santana* (B SANTANA). Carlos Santana sought a sound that filled the world with magic and love and feeling and healing. With his guitar, he took the soul of the Blues, the brains of Jazz, the energy of Rock and Roll, and added the slow heat of Afro-Cuban drums and the sway of the music he'd grown up with in Mexico.

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix* (B CHOI). For Chef Roy Choi, food means love. It also means culture, not only of Korea where he was born, but the many cultures that make up the streets of Los Angeles, where he was raised. Now he brings a world of flavors to his popular food truck!

Martins, Dino. *You Can Be an Entomologist* (595.702 MAR). There are more than one million different kinds of insects in the world! Learn how scientists observe insects, capture them to study, and release them back into the wild.

Riley, Scott, Nguyen Quang and Kim Lien. *The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field* (796.334 RIL). On a tiny Thai island without room for a soccer field, a group of resourceful teen boys gathers scraps and works together to build a floating field so they can play the game they love.

Graphic Novels

Gallagher, John. *Max Meow: Cat Crusader* (series). After taking a bite of a radioactive space meatball, Max, a regular cat living in Kittyopolis, gains superpowers and begins to fight crime.

Howe, James. *Bunnica: The Graphic Novel*. Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

Nguyen, Mai K. *Pilu of the Woods*. Willow, who has been struggling with her emotions since her mother's death, runs away into the woods and meets Pilu, a lost tree spirit who cannot find her way back home.

Nguyen, Trang. *Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear*. Twelve-year-old Chang is accepted as a rescue center volunteer and is faced with her toughest challenge yet: returning the sun bear she raised from infancy to the wild where it belongs.

Reynolds, Jason. *Stuntboy, In the Meantime*. Portico Reeves's superpower is making sure all the other superheroes—like his parents and two best friends—stay super and super safe. No one in his civilian life knows he's actually Stuntboy!

Roselló, Jarod. *Red Panda and Moon Bear* (series). Red Panda and Moon Bear are used to handling lost cats and bullies, but they will need some new friends to deal with ghosts, robots, and alien invaders.

Sell, Chad. *Doodleville* (series). Drew, whose animated doodles rarely stay on the page of her sketchbook, must rein them in while on a trip to the Art Institute of Chicago.

Vandorn, Kaeti. *Crabapple Trouble*. Callaway just wants to help her friends, but the pressure of an upcoming contest is giving her anxiety.

Ying, Victoria. *City of Secrets* (series). Since his father's death, Ever Barnes has secretly been in charge of an amazing mechanical building but now, ruffians are after him and his new friend Hannah, the building owner's spunky daughter.

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*.