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# Fifth Grade Recommended Reading List 2024-2025 | [oppl.org/kids-lists](https://oppl.org/kids-lists)

## Fiction

Adodo, Edudzi. *Children of Stardust*. Zero dreams of exploring space and hunting for lost treasures. When he becomes the host of a legendary power called the Jupiter, he's recruited for a mission to recover a dangerous artifact.

Alessandri, Alexandra. *The Enchanted Life of Valentina Mejia*. To save their father's life, a brother and sister must journey across a land full of mythical creatures and find the most powerful and dangerous of them all: the madremonte.

Crowder, Tracy. *Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key*. When Monty finds a golden key in Old Lady Jenkins's sunflowers, he decides he's going to unravel the key's mystery all by himself, soon Monty's hunt to determine the origin of the key leads him to discover the rich histor—like famous Black jockeys!

Cuevas, Michelle. *The Dreamatics*. A fantastical theatre and its troupe perform a young girl's dreams, until nightmares take over.

Dairman, Tara. *The Girl from Earth's End*. To save her papa, aspiring botanist Henna is determined to find the last seeds of a legendary, long-extinct plant with miraculous healing powers.

Day, Christine. *We Still Belong*. Wesley is proud of the poem she wrote for Indigenous Peoples' Day—but the reaction from a teacher makes her wonder if expressing herself is important enough. With the help of her family and friends, she comes to embrace her own place within the Native community.

Fitzgerald, María José. *Turtles of the Midnight Moon*. When poachers threaten the island they love, two girls team up to save the turtle—and each other.

Gow, Robin. *Dear Mothman*. After his best friend dies, Noah is determined to prove that Mothman is real for his science fair project.

Hutchinson, David Shaun. *School for Invisible Boys*. After being bullied by his former best friend, Hector Griggs discovers he has the ability to turn invisible. Hector soon meets another invisible boy, Orson Wellington, who has an ominous warning.

Ireland, Justina. *Ophie's Ghosts*. Ophie uses her ability to see ghosts to help Clara, a spirit whose life ended suddenly and unjustly, pass on to the other side, but she soon realizes that the place of Clara's death may hold more secrets than she bargained for.

Kann, Claire. *Harmony and Heartbreak* (series). Rose and Cora Seville, matchmakers-in-training, must perfect their charms and enchantments to pass a test that will determine their future.

Kapit, Sarah. *Get a Grip, Vivi Cohen*. Eleven-year-old knuckleball pitcher Vivi Cohen, who has autism, becomes pen pals with her favorite Major League baseball player after writing a letter to him as an assignment for her social skills class.

Kelkar, Supriya. *That Thing About Bollywood*. Sonali cannot bring herself to share her feelings, but when she wakes up one day and begins to involuntarily burst into Bollywood song and dance routines that showcase her emotions, she realizes she has no choice.

LaRocca, Rajani. *Sona and the Golden Beasts*. Sona's world shifts after discovering an orphaned wolf pup. She believes the pup, with its golden ears, might be related to one of the five sacred beasts of Devia. When someone Sona loves falls ill, she is drawn into a quest with a Devan boy to retrieve the nectar of life.

McCarthy, Cory. *Ace Takes Flight*. Ace Wells's dream has finally come true: he is a new cadet in the B.E.S.T. (Biological Enhancement Systems Technology) Program. Until now, he's been living in the shadow of his superstar brother, Finn—but not for long.

McNicol, Elle. *Like a Charm*. Ramya Knox is used to feeling cursed. People only notice her long enough to call her a troublemaker. Except Grandpa. He sees Ramya and her neurodiversity as enchanting. But when Grandpa dies, Ramya's world loses its charm... until she discovers he left behind one big secret: that magic is real and Ramya can see it.

Piñeiro, Victor. *Time Villains*. When a homework assignment and a magic table summon real and fictional people from history, including the bloodthirsty pirate Blackbeard, sixth-grader Javi, his brawny younger sister Brady, and his brainy best friend Wiki join forces to save the world.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It*. Loretta, Roly, and Aggie B. Little relate their Mississippi family's struggles and triumphs from 1927 to 1968 while struggling as sharecroppers, living under Jim Crow, and fighting for Civil Rights.

Reed, Dwayne. *Simon B. Rhymin'* (series). Dreaming of becoming a world-famous rapper, Chicago fifth-grader Simon Barnes is forced to confront his shyness and fear of speaking in public to demonstrate his talents during an oral presentation at school.

Sexton, K.H.. *The Fairfleet Affair* (series). When Dr. Alistair Fairfleet disappears on the first day of Alex and Asha's summer vacation, they receive a letter written by the missing millionaire himself inviting them to a game involving complicated clues and puzzles. It is just the sort of case they've been waiting to tackle.

Stamper, Phil. *Eli Over Easy*. Eli finds a stash of instructional cooking videos his late mom made. With the help of the cute new neighbor boy, Mathias, Eli decides to follow his mother's recipes using her videos. If he can re-create his mom's special dishes, then maybe a part of her can stay with him forever.

Varela, Nina. *Juniper Harvey and the Vanishing Kingdom*. Every night, Juniper has the same nightmare about an ancient temple, and a beautiful girl who turns to ivory. After making a desperate wish to meet the girl in real life, Juniper awakens to find the girl in her room... pointing a sword at her throat!

Verstegen, Jeska. *I'll Keep You Close*. Jeska doesn't know why her mother keeps the curtains drawn so tightly every day. What are they hiding from? When Jeska's grandmother accidentally calls her by a stranger's name, she seizes her first clue to uncovering her family's past, and hopefully to all that's gone unsaid.

Wilson, Lakita. *Sparkle*. After twelve-year-old aspiring social media influencer, Sparkle Moore, is diagnosed with alopecia, she must navigate family, friends, and her own self-esteem with the added challenge of losing her hair.

Yee, Lisa. *The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum*. When a notorious thief is out for priceless treasure (gems! cats!)—who're you gonna call? An elite team of crime-fighting underdogs, that's who! But if they can't solve this mystery, their beloved school may have to shut down.

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### Nonfiction

Caldwell, S. A. *Pride: An Inspirational History of the LGBTQ+ Movement* (306.76 CAL). The LGBTQ+ community is so much more than rainbow flags and the month of June. Learn about historic pushes for equality around the world, and queer icons from ancient times to the present.

Florance, Cara. *The Science Spell Book: Magical Experiments for Kids* (507.8 FLO). Have you ever wished you could cast a spell with the wave of a magic wand? Have you ever wanted to mix a real color-changing potion? Embrace your inner alchemist with 25 wondrous science experiments.

Grossman, Emily. *What Breathes Through Its Butt? Mind-Blowing Science Questions Answered* (500 GRO). Why is your elbow called your funny bone? How could you escape the grip of a crocodile's jaw? This book uncovers the amazing scientific explanations behind all sorts of questions that can pop into our heads.

Jones, Dan C. *Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters: Chilling American Indian Stories* (398.2 JON). Short tales chosen from the tradition of ghost stories from American Indian cultures across North America, featuring witches, walking dolls, skinwalkers, and other beings.

McAnulty, Stacy. *Where are the Aliens?: The Search for Life Beyond Earth* (576.839 MCA). Scientists haven't discovered life beyond Earth, not even a teeny-tiny organism. But there's a whole lot of outer space, and humans have searched only a fraction of it. Do you believe in the possibility of life out there? Or do you think Earth is perfectly unique in its ability to grow organisms?

Rice, Eleanor S. *Unseen Jungle: The Microbes that Secretly Control Our World* (579 SPI). Microbes are everywhere: outside, indoors, on your body, in your body. In fact, only about half of our bodies' cells are human cells—the rest are microbes.

Rodgers, Allison K. *We Need to Talk about Vaginas* (612.628 ROD). Learn all about bodies with vaginas in this guide to anatomy, puberty, periods, and consent. The more you know, the better equipped you'll be to deal with your body in the future.

Sabic, Amra. *Three Summers: A Memoir of Sisterhood, Summer Crushes, and Growing Up on the Eve of War* (B SABIC). Five young cousins grow closer as ethnic tensions escalate over three summers in 1980s Bosnia. When finally confronted with the harsh truths of the adult world around them, their bond gives them the resilience to discover their true selves.

Thimmesh, Catherine. *Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild* (599.789 THI). Despite poaching, pollution, habitat destruction, human overpopulation, and global climate change, the pandas of China are making a comeback. How? By humans teaching baby pandas how to be wild and stay wild.

Virnig, Christine. *Waist-Deep in Dung: A Stomach-Churning Look at the Grossest Jobs Throughout History* (331.7 VIR). From the ancient Egyptian mummy makers to the 19th century Toshers who hunted for treasure deep in the London sewers, to modern day forensic entomologists who study crawlies that live on human corpses, we'll learn about jobs that deal with poop, pee, blood, medicine, and dead bodies.

### Graphic Novels

Burgess, Sarah. *Skip!* When Jay joins a Double Dutch team, they finally feel like they have a place to belong and friends to confide in. But Jay's new friendship with Beah is intense, both in and out of Double Dutch. As Beah and Jay help each other grow into the people they will become, it challenges their friendship and their own identities.

Chanani, Nidhi. *Jukebox*. A jukebox, old vinyl records, and cryptic notes on music history are Shaheen's only clues to her father's disappearance. When the jukebox starts glowing, Shaheen and her cousin Tannaz are pulled into another time!

Cooke, Pan. *Puzzled* (Graphic Novel BIO COOKE). Pan Cooke is ten years old when anxious thoughts begin to take over his brain like pieces of an impossible puzzle. This is his story of living with and eventually learning about OCD.

Cooke, Stephanie. *ParaNorthern and the Chaos Bunny A-Hop-Calypse*. A witch named Abby and her three friends—a wolf-girl, a ghost, and a pumpkinhead—band together to try and save their supernatural town from an invasion of rabid chaos bunnies.

Elliot, Victoria Grace. *Yummy: A History of Desserts* (Nonfiction graphic novel, 341.86 ELL). Food sprite Peri is excited to show you the delicious history of sweets while taking you around the world and back, with recipes.

Fong, Debbie. *Next Stop*. Pia is dealing with grief as she finds herself on the biggest adventure of her life—a bus tour. The final destination: a mysterious underground lake. The locals say it has magical powers; She's holding on to hope that the waters may hold the answer to mending her broken family.

Hahn, Mary Downing. *Took*. Daniel doesn't believe the stories about the ghost witch or Bloody Bones, her man-eating razorback hog. But when his little sister disappears into the woods one day, he knows something is terribly wrong.

Magoon, Kekla. *Blue Stars: The Vice Principal Problem* (series). Two cousins, Riley Halfmoon and Maya Dawn, who embrace their different strengths to become a superhero duo in their school and in their community.

Mannaert, Wauter. *Chef Yasmina and the Potato Panic*. A young chef is the only one who can protect her town from an onslaught of scientifically enhanced, highly-addictive potatoes.

O'Neill, Kay. *The Moth Keeper*. When Anya finally becomes a Moth Keeper, she is excited to prove her worth, but soon she discovers that the job isn't exactly what she thought it would be.

Ostertag, Molly. *D&D Dungeon Club: Roll Call*. Middle school is a dungeon! Luckily, Jess and Olivia know how to escape into their own imaginations. When Olivia wants to add new players to their Dungeons & Dragons group, Jess struggles to share their game—and her best friend.

Smith, James Otis. *Black Heroes of the Wild West* (Nonfiction graphic novel, 978.02 SMI). The extraordinary true tales of three black historical figures in the Old West: Mary "Stagecoach" Fields, a cardplaying coach driver; Bass Reeves, the first black Deputy Marshall west of the Mississippi; and Bob Lemmons, a cowboy famous for his ability to tame mustangs.

Soontornvat, Christina. *The Tryout*. When cheerleading tryouts are announced, Christina and her best friend, Megan, literally jump at the chance to join the squad. But will the girls survive the terrifying tryouts, with their whole grade watching? And will their friendship withstand the pressures of competition?

Tankard, Jeremy. *Yorick and Bones*. Yorick is a skeleton just dug up after a few hundred years of sleep. He speaks like it too. 'Forsooth, my joy, I barely can contain!' Bones is the hungry dog who did the digging. Though he cannot speak, he can chomp. What will become of these two unlikely companions?

Underhill, Scott. *DnDoggos: Get the Party Started*. Four adorable dogs have picked their characters and favorite dice and are ready to save the day!