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Fourth Grade Recommended Reading List 2024-2025 | 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.

Burch, Ciera. *Finch House*. When Micah's grandfather goes missing, her instincts lead her to the off-limits Finch House, but when a boy named Theo invites her in, Micah realizes she cannot leave and must convince the house to let her go.

Burnham, Molly B. *The Infinite Questions of Dottie Bing*. 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?

Eldredge, Jan. *Nimbus*. Nimbus had a rough start as a kitten, but her fortunes changed the day she met Fletcher. When Fletcher's superstitious aunt secretly abandons Nim at a dump, she learns to harness her magical powers, so she can find her way home.

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 and 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.

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.

Netz, Mo. *The Lumbering Giants of Windy Pines*. Ever since her dad died, Jerry and her mom have bounced between rundown motels, but the Slumbering Giant motel is different. People disappear into the woods, never to be seen again. When her mom goes missing, Jerry and her friends venture into the forbidden woods to save her mother.

Ortega, Claribel A. *Witchlings* (series). 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.

Rellihan, Anne. *Not the Worst Friend in the World*. Lou wishes she could turn back time to mend her friendship with Francie after a terrible fight, so when Lou befriends Cece she is eager to prove herself. As she uncovers the truth about Cece's family, she grapples with what being a good friend means.

Rubin, Adam. *The Human Kaboom: 6 Explosively Different Stories with the Same Exact Name!* A reclusive hotel guest appears to have spontaneously combusted; two kids attempt the greatest prank in history; three siblings try to make a life for themselves after their planet was destroyed; a boy stumbles across an ancient curse; a girl becomes the assistant to a human cannonball; and one kid with superpowers 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 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.

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!

Ursu, Anne. *Not Quite a Ghost*. When Violet and her family move into an old house, Violet falls mysteriously ill. As days turn into weeks, she spends more time in her attic bedroom surrounded by shadows, and old yellow wallpaper covered in a faded tangle of twisting vines. Soon, Violet suspects she might not be alone in the room at all.

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!

Brown, Aly. *The Last Unexplored Place on Earth: Investigating the Ocean Floor with Alvin the Submersible* (J 623.82 BRO). Alvin Submersible, a deep-sea vessel that can sink miles below the surface, takes readers on a tour of the ocean floor where they will explore underwater volcanoes, discover lost hydrogen bombs, hear about storied shipwrecks, and meet hundreds of new species living far beneath the waves.

Clarkson, Giselle. *The Observologist: A Handbook for Mounting Very Small Scientific Expeditions* (J 508 CLA). A playful field guide for natural scientists and curious observers of the world right under our noses.

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Nonfiction cont.

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!

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.

Nickum, Nora. *This Book Is Full of Holes: from Underground to Outer Space and Everywhere In Between* (J 500 NIC). Holes are investigated by scientists, used by artists, designed by engineers, and fixed by problem-solvers. Many are important to our everyday lives, whether we give them credit or not.

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?

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.

Williams, Molly. *How to Speak Flower: A Kid's Guide to Buds, Blooms, and Blossoms* (J 582.13 WIL). This is not your typical gardening book with step-by-steps to prepping soil, planting seeds, etc... Channel your inner horticulturist and learn the language of flowers!

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.

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.

Roman, Dave. *Unicorn Boy*. The first few years of Brian's life were unremarkable—nothing weird about this kid, no sir. Then, one day, a bump appeared on his head, and it grew... and grew... and grew until it was a full-blown, sparkling, singing unicorn horn. That's absolutely the last thing a shy kid like Brian wants, but destiny waits for no unicorn boy.

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.