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Second Grade Recommended Reading List 2024-2025 | 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!

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.

Curran-Bauer, Christee. *The Case of the Poached Painting* (Early Chapters, series). When a thief steals the prized painting from the Museum of Food Art, Pigeon Private Detectives take the case.

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 a class pet, but when Bob keels over, is Andrea's toy poodle or Alexia's neglect to blame?

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

Hopkins, Deborah. *Trim Saves the Day* (Readers, Level 2, series). Trim loves being a ship's cat and looking for ways to help his crew. When there's a problem on the ship, it is all hands on deck!

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?

Klassen, Jon. *The Skull* (Early Chapters). In this old Tyrolean folktale, young Otilia, lost in a snowy forest after running away, stumbles upon a mansion inhabited by a talking skull.

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.

Lubner, Susan. *Drag and Rex: Forever Friends* (Readers Level 2). Best friends Drag (a dragon) and Rex (a T-Rex) could not be more different, but together they find joy and adventure in the simplest places.

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!

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?

Rose, Susan. *José and Feliz Play Fútbol* (Readers Level 2, series). When José is selected for the school soccer team, his dog Feliz eagerly helps him practice.

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.

Greenwood, Alison. *A Little Dose of Nature* (508 GRE). A gentle, interactive guide to the benefits that being outdoors can have on our mental health, featuring fun and simple, science-based activities.

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 Ari in Turkish!

McAnulty, Stacy. *Mars! Earthlings Welcome* (523.43 MCA). Meet Mars, the red planet, favorite sibling of Earth (or so he claims). 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.

Pinkney Barlow, Charnelle. *Little Rosetta and the Talking Guitar* (B Tharpe). A small girl gets a big guitar... and the rest is history. This picture book biography tells the musical story of Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the woman who invented Rock and Roll.

Rubin, Sean. *The Iguanodon's Horn* (567.9 RUB). In lavish visual detail, this book chronicles our changing perceptions of what dinosaurs were like. It looks at fossil spikes that were thought by early discoverers to go on Iguanodon's nose, until later studies proved differently.

Soontrornvat, Christina. *A Life of Service: The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth* (B DUCKWORTH). Senator Tammy Duckworth, the first Thai American woman elected to Congress and the first woman with a disability to serve in the House and Senate, dreamed of serving her country from a young age.

Stewart, Melissa. *Whale Fall: Exploring an Ocean-Floor Ecosystem* (577.79 STE). When a whale dies, its body sinks to the ocean floor, and for the next 50 years continues to provide nourishment to a series of deep-sea creatures.

Thermes, Jennifer. *The Indestructible Tom Crean: Heroic Explorer of the Antarctic* (B CREAN). The tale of a courageous sailor who upon agreeing to join a voyage destined for Antarctica, survived challenge after challenge.

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!

Gardner, Kate. *How to Find a Fox* (599.775 GAR). Taking kids on an imaginary trek through different landscapes and seasons, this book celebrates one of our planet's most graceful and enchanting creatures: the red fox.

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Picture Books

Anatol, Giselle. *Small-Girl Toni and the Quest for Gold*. In this tale inspired by the life of author Toni Morrison, young Toni sets out on a quest for gold with her siblings, but when things do not go as planned, she realizes that finding the perfect ending is all about how you tell the story.

Cordell, Matthew. *Evergreen*. To deliver her mother's delicious soup to her sick Granny Oak, Evergreen the squirrel must face her fears and make the journey, during which she meets other forest dwellers, including some who want to get their hands on her soup!

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!

Emenanjo, Bunmi. *I'll See You in Ijebu*. A young girl growing up in the busy city of Lagos, Nigeria takes a trip to the countryside town of Ijebu to celebrate Eid with her family.

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.

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

Luby, Brittany. *When the Stars Came Home*. An Anishinaabe boy named Ojiig struggles to adapt to his new home in the city, saddened by all that he has left behind, until his family helps him find his North Star.

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

Sterling, Michelle. *Maribel's Year*. New country, new school, new friends. A lot can happen in a single year. But one thing's for certain: Maribel won't forget her Papa, even when he's 8,000 miles away in the Philippines

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. *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.

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.

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.

Liniers. *Wildflowers*. Three sisters embark on an adventure of the imagination through the jungles of a mysterious island after a plane crash, which reveals the unbreakable bond they share.

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). After discovering donuts for the first time, squirrels Belly and Norma are determined to outsmart the food truck driver and get some for themselves!

Watt, Melanie. *Scaredy Squirrel Gets a Surprise* (series). Scaredy Squirrel opens a mysterious crate containing a pool and as his friends try to help him enjoy the pool, Scaredy Squirrel learns that not all surprises are bad.

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.

Biedrzycki, David. *Invasion of the Unicorns*.

Carzoo, Breanna. *Lou*.

Cordell, Matthew. *Cornbread & Poppy*.

Eady, Antwan. *Nigel and the Moon*.

Engle, Margarita. *Destiny Finds Her Way: How a Rescued Baby Sloth Learned to Be Wild*.

Higgins, Ryan T. *Norman Didn't Do It!: (Yes, He Did.)*

Hirsch, Rebecca E. *Rise to the Sky: How the World's Tallest Trees Grow Up*.

Holub, Joan. *I am the Shark*.

Jeffers, Oliver. *There's a Ghost in this House*.

López-Alt, J. Kenji. *Every Night is Pizza Night*.

Marsh, Sara Glenn. *Dragon Bones: The Fantastic Fossil Discoveries of Mary Anning*.

McAnulty, Stacy. *Our Planet!: There's No Place Like Earth*.

Moore, Katrina. *Grandpa Grumps*.

Park, Jane. *Hidden Animal Colors*.

Rex, Michael. *Facts vs. Opinions vs. Robots*.

Rovin-Murphy, Deborah. *Jackie and the Mona Lisa*.

Thompson, Dan. *Tig and Lily: Tiger Trouble*.

Van Dusen, Chris. *Big Truck, Little Island*.

Vo, Young. *Gibberish*.

Wolff, Ashley. *Wildfire!*