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Third Grade Recommended Reading List 2024-2025 | oppl.org/kids-lists

Early Chapters / Series

Ahn, Angela. *Swimming into Trouble* (Early Chapters, series). Julia Nam's always in the pool with her swim team, and can't wait to qualify for the big meet. But when a sharp pain in Julia's ear reveals an infection and she's forbidden to swim for ten days, Julia has to find a way to qualify anyway.

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!

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Puppets of Spelhorst*. Shut up in a trunk, five puppet friends—a king, a wolf, a girl, a boy, and an owl—bicker, boast, and comfort one another in the dark. Individually, they dream of song and light, freedom and flight, purpose and glory, but they all agree they are part of a larger story. When at last their shared fate arrives, landing them in the home of two little girls, the truth is more astonishing than they have imagined.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

Ramadan, Ahmad Danny. *Salma Makes a Home* (Early Chapters). After a year, eleven months, and six days apart, Salma's dad is finally joining her family in their new home. Salma is so happy to see her baba, but she's also worried. What if he misses Syria so much that he leaves them again? Can they make space in their hearts for two homes?

Rex, Adam. *The Story of Gumluck the Wizard* (Early Chapters). Gumluck, a young, naïve wizard, does his best to help the local townspeople (and a small friendly ghost) with his sometimes critical raven sidekick, Helvetica.

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.

Tan, Susan. *My Kingdom of Darkness* (Early Chapters, series). For Ember, a rescue Chihuahua and the newest pet in the Chin family, the first step in fulfilling his destiny to rule the world is to defeat the evil neighborhood squirrel, Masher.

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.

Winston, Sherri. *Catastrophe* (Paperback Series) Wednesday and her service dog, Woof, are the best detectives in the whole world—or at least their neighborhood. But can they find Mrs. Winters's missing cat before her big trip? Or will the case of the cat-napped kitty be their first unsolved mystery?

Fiction

Ayoade, Richard. *The Book No One Wanted to Read*. The life of a book isn't easy, especially when people judge you by your cover (not every book can be adorned with sparkly unicorns!). And this narrator should know—it's the book itself, and it has a lot of opinions to share.

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.

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.

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?

Shepard, Sara. *Penny Draws A Friend* (series). Penny, who doodles to cope with anxiety, worries that her best friend is drifting away.

Steinhofl, 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?

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Mr. Whiskers and the Shenanigan Sisters*. Streetwise stray dog Mr. Whiskers and human sisters Misty and Zeldia follow clues through the streets of San Francisco in their search for the sibling's kidnapped father.



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Nonfiction

Barton, Chris. *Glitter Everywhere: Where It Came From, Where It's Found, and Where It's Going* (745.5 BAR). Glitter is surprisingly scientific—from the way it sparkles to how it got so small, learn the various ways human ingenuity has helped us all to shine.

Brew-Hammond, Nana Eku. *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!

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.

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.

Sorrel, Traci. *Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series* (796.357 SOR). The true story of John Meyers and Charles Bender, who in 1911 became the first two Native American pro baseball players to face off in a World Series.

Wittenstein, Barry. *The Day the River Caught Fire: How the Cuyahoga River Exploded and Ignited the Earth Day Movement* (363.7 WIT). The true story of how a 1969 fire in one of the most polluted rivers in America helped foster awareness of water pollution and how the river's fate contributed to the environmental movement.

Yolen, Jane. *In and Out the Window* (811 YOL) This brilliant collection of more than 100 poems from the legendary author celebrates childhood, showing just how wonderful it is to be a kid.

Graphic Novels

Blabey, Aaron. *Cat on the Run: Cat of Death*. What happens when the world's biggest cat video star gets accused of a crime she didn't commit? She becomes a cat on the run! But how do you avoid capture and prove your innocence when you are the most famous feline on the planet? It won't be easy, that's for sure.

Frost, Maddie. *Wombats! Go Camping* (series). Best friends Albert and Pickles are going cat camping for the first time and Albert must find a way to help Pickles enjoy the wilderness while they reunite a lost baby koala with its mother.

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. *Bunnicola: 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.

Reynolds, Jason. *Stuntboy, In the Meantime* (series). 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!

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.

Stein, David Ezra. *Beaky Barnes: Egg On the Loose*. Beaky Barnes, a no-nonsense chicken who is determined to save her desirable egg, must outwit a hungry inspector, a desperate chef, and an entrepreneurial woman on her tail, to make her escape.

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

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!*