

5

Fifth Grade Recommended Reading List 2025-2026 | 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.

Behling, Steve. *The Monstrous Adventures of Mummy Man and Waffles*. Spending the summer with his grandpa, a former Hollywood makeup and special effects artist for classic horror films, Wen (aka Waffles) accidentally brings his props to life and must stop an all-out monster invasion with the help of Mummy Man and his pet turtle, Frank.

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 leads him to discover the rich history of his South Side Chicago community.

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.

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 part of her social skills class.

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 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.

McNicoll, 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, Javi, his brawny younger sister Brady, and his brainy best friend, Wiki, join forces to save the world.

Robertson, David. *The Kodiaks: Home Ice Advantage*. After Alex's father accepts a new job, his family moves to the city and for the first time in his life, Alex doesn't fit in. Things begin to look up after he proves himself as one of the best on the local hockey team, but then he becomes a target because he's Indigenous. Can Alex trust his teammates and stand up to the jerks on other teams?

Royce, Eden. *The Creepening of Dogwood House*. At night, Roddie still dreams of sitting at his mother's feet while she braids his Afro down. But that's a memory from before. Before his mom died in a tragic accident. Before he was taken in by an aunt he barely knows. Before his aunt brought him to Dogwood House, the creepiest place Roddie has ever seen.

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. If he can recreate his mom's dishes, then maybe a part of her can stay with him forever.

Tubb, Kristin O'Donnell. *Fowl Play*. Chloe Alvarez has never been to the reading of a will before, but she hopes it is just like the movies. Lies! Intrigue! Everything is standard, until Uncle Will's gift for Chloe is announced: his African grey parrot, Charlie. The parrot has a vast vocabulary, and soon Chloe hears her say something odd: It was murder! Was Uncle Will's death foul play?

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!

Venkatraman, Padma. *Safe Harbor*. Moving from India to the US is difficult for Geetha, but things start to get better when she and a new friend help rescue a stranded seal.

Wilson, Lakita. *Sparkle*. After aspiring social media influencer Sparkle Moore is diagnosed with alopecia, she must navigate family, friends, and her own self-esteem while losing her hair.

Yee, Lisa. *The Misfits* (series). 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.

continued on back



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5

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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.

Mata, Niña. *Girls to the Front: 40 Asian American Women Who Blazed a Trail* (973.049 MAT). The true stories of forty trailblazing Asian American women in American history. From the big stage to the US Navy, from laboratories to the board room, from the Olympics to the pages of books, these women lead us!

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?

Naumburg, Carla. *How to Stop Freaking Out: The Ultimate Guide to Keeping Cool When Life Feels Chaotic* (155.419 NAU). This book provides the tips, tricks, and tools to guide readers through understanding what's happening in their bodies as big emotions take over.

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.

Savage, Candace. *How to Know a Crow: The Biography of a Brainy Bird* (598.864 SAV). Crows are all around us, shouting from roofs, poking around on lawns, and generally taking a bright-eyed interest in everything that moves. But most of us don't know much about their lives. Learn more about the fascinating world of these big, brash, and surprisingly brainy birds.

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 Toshiers 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

Bolden, Tonya. *Black Lives: Great Minds of Science* (Graphic Novel Non-Fiction 920.073 BOL). An introduction to some of the greatest scientists in history—doctors, engineers, mathematicians, and biologists. Each of them faced challenges as they rose to the top of their professions, but they didn't back down.

Burgess, Sarah. *Skip!* When Jay joins a Double Dutch team, they finally feel like they have a place to belong. Jay's new friendship with Beah is especially 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.

Fong, Debbie. *Next Stop*. Pia is on the biggest adventure of her life. The final destination for this bus: a mysterious underground lake. The locals say it has magical powers. Could the waters hold the answer to mending a broken family?

Garcia, Kami. *Mixed-Up*. Stella knows fifth grade will be the best year ever, with her closets friends and the teacher they wanted. Then their favorite television show announces a new guidebook and an online game! But when the classwork starts piling up, Stella struggles to stay on top of it. Why does it take her so long to read?

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.

Judd, Steven Paul. *The Rez Detectives*. This summer, Tasembo just wants to chill. But that's not an option when it's a scorching day and the Ice Cream Man is a no-show. In an attempt to impress his crush by solving the mystery, Tasembo joins forces with his neighbor, Nuseka, and his dog, Billy Jack, to take on their first case as the Rez Dog Detectives.

Lai, Remy. *Chickenpox*. All big sister Abby wants is to spend more time with her friends, far away from the sticky fingers and snooping eyes of her annoying brothers and sisters. But when a case of the chickenpox leaves the Lai kids covered in scratchy red spots and stuck at home together for two weeks of nonstop mayhem, Abby thinks this might be the end...of her sanity.

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

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.

Soontornvat, Christina. *The Tryout* (series). 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?

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