



❖ 2nd & 3rd Grade ❖

Best Books of 2021



We aim to provide high quality lists featuring books of different genres, interests, maturity levels, and content for children & teens. You and your parents/guardians are the best judge of what's appropriate for you.

Best Books lists from previous years may be obtained by request at the Youth Services desk.

***Additional formats available from other libraries and/or downloadable from OverDrive/Libby.**

Applegate, Katherine – *Doggo and Pupper*

++Applegate, Early Readers; +App, Readalongs

Doggo, an older dog, learns how to welcome and accept a young puppy into the household.

Applegate, Katherine – *Willodeen*

+Applegate, Fiction*

When the annual migration of hummingbirds, a source of local pride and income, dwindles and no one knows why, Willodeen, inspired by a magical birthday gift, speaks up for the animals she loves and vows to uncover this mystery.

Arnold, Elana K. – *Starla Jean: Which Came First, the Chicken or the Friendship?* ++Arnold, Early Readers

Starla Jean is full of moxie, clever as a fox, and obsessed with catching a chicken she finds at the park. Her dad says, "If you can catch it, you can keep it," and Starla Jean is not one to back down from a challenge.

Atinuke – *Too Small Tola*

+Atinuke, Fiction*

Three tales of an endearing and enduring character, Tola, who lives in an apartment in the busy city of Lagos, Nigeria, with her sister, brother, and grandmommy.

Beaty, Andrea – *Aaron Slater, Illustrator*

++Beaty, Picture Books*

When Miss Greer asks each child in the class to write a story, second-grader Aaron, who loves to draw but struggles with reading, creates a story using pictures.

Bowling, Dusti – *Aven Green: Sleuthing Machine*

+Bowling, Fiction*

Third-grader Aven loves solving mysteries, cracking such cases as The Mystery of the Cranky Mom. Fortunately, since Aven was born without arms, all the "arm" cells went to her super-powered brain instead.

Butler, Dori Hillestad – *Mr. Summerling's Secret Code*

+Butler, Fiction

In his will, Marly's neighbor left a treasure for Marly and two classmates, Isla and Sai. They barely know each other, but they have to work together with a series of riddles, puzzles, and clues to find the treasure.

Davies, Jacqueline – *Sydney & Taylor Explore the Whole Wide World*

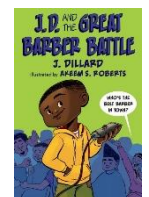
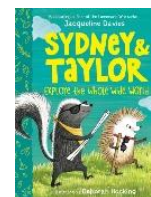
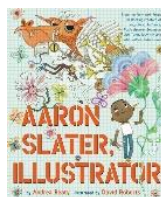
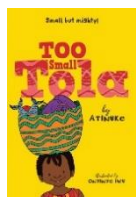
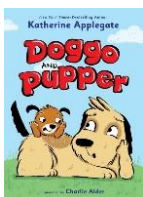
++Davies, Early Readers*

Sydney the skunk and Taylor the hedgehog live happily in their cozy burrow until the day Taylor gets his Big Idea to go see the Whole Wide World. With a map and a dream, they soon discover that the world is bigger than they realized.

Dillard, J. – *J. D. and the Great Barber Battle*

+Dillard, Fiction*

Eight-year-old J.D. turns a tragic home haircut into a thriving barber business in this hilarious new illustrated series.

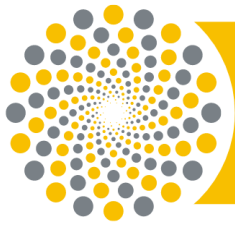


Youth Services
Stevens Point Branch



PORTAGE
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

715-346-1549
www.pocolibrary.org



❖ 2nd & 3rd Grade ❖

Best Books of 2021



Hannah-Jones, Nikole – *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water* **+811 Han, Non-Fiction***
 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 United States.

Harrell, Rob – *When Pigs Fly: A Batpig Book* **+Harrell, Graphic Novels***
 After a bite from his radioactive bat best friend, Gary goes from ordinary pig to high-flying superhero and must juggle his ordinary life and saving the world.

Hodgson, Rob – *When Cloud Became a Cloud* **+551.48 Hod, Non-Fiction**
 Meet Cloud! Follow along as she moves, transforms, precipitates, and more in this charming and humorous portrayal of the water cycle.

Jennings, Terry Catasús – *Definitely Dominguita: Knight of the Cape* **+Jennings, Fiction***
 Judy Moody meets Netflix's *One Day at a Time* in this first book in a new series featuring a Cuban American girl who tries to find adventure based on the classics she read with her beloved abuela. Can Dominguita become a noble knight?

Keating, Jess – *Big as a Giant Snail: Discovering the World's Most Gigantic Animals* **+591.4 Kea, Non-Fiction**
 Meet the biggest weirdos on Earth in this colossally cool collection from the team that brought you *Pink Is For Blobfish*.

Kelly, Erin Entrada – *Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey* **+Kelly, Fiction; +Kel, Digital Audio Players***
 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. Will Marisol find the courage to climb Peppina?

Ketchum, Liza – *Begin with a Bee* **+595.79 Ket, Non-Fiction**
 Looking closely at the life cycle of one bee, this book helps readers of all ages understand and appreciate the contributions and significance of all bees.

Lazar, Ralph – *Monday: Into the Cave of Thieves* **+Lazar, Fiction***
 For Dash Candoo, every day is dangerous! On Monday, before he can even enjoy his cereal and wombat juice, he is attacked by a squad of combat-ready scallywags and the two-tailed Devil Cat. What will happen Tuesday?

Marlin, Jen – *Rescue on Turtle Beach* **+Marlin, Fiction**
 After discovering Wind Rider, an abandoned magical sailboat, Max and Sofia arrive on a beach in Hawaii where, with new friend Laila, they rescue newly-hatched sea turtles. Includes facts about sea turtles.

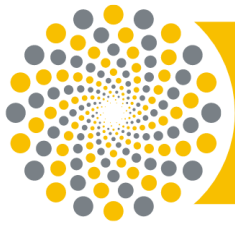


Youth Services
 Stevens Point Branch



PORTAGE
 COUNTY
 PUBLIC
 LIBRARY

715-346-1549
www.pocolibrary.org



❖ 2nd & 3rd Grade ❖

Best Books of 2021



McAnulty, Stacy – *Mars!: Earthlings Welcome*

+523.43 McA, Non-Fiction*

Meet Mars! The red planet. Planet Marvelous. Favorite sibling of Earth (or so he claims). Sometimes they're close (just 34.5 million miles apart). He is home to the largest volcano in the whole solar system. He's, well, Mars-velous!

McCann, Jacqueline – *If the World Were 100 People*

+304.6 McC, Non-Fiction*

With almost 7.8 billion people sharing the earth, it can be a little hard to picture what the human race looks like all together. But if we could shrink the world down to just 100 people, what could we learn about the human race?

Mone, Gregory – *Strange Nature: The Insect Portraits of Levon Biss*

+595.7 Mon, Non-Fiction

A unique photographic study of insects in mind-blowing magnification that celebrates the wonders of nature and science. Levon Biss's photographs capture in breathtaking detail the beauty of the insect world.

Nguyen, Trang – *Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear*

+Nguyen, Graphic Novels

After hard work and determination, 12-year-old Chang is finally accepted as a rescue center volunteer and is faced with her toughest challenge yet: returning the sun bear she raised from infancy to the wild.

Quigley, Dawn – *Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-To-Be Best Friend*

++Quigley, Early Readers; +Qui Digital Audio Players*

Jo Jo Makoons Azure is a spirited seven-year-old who moves through the world differently than anyone else on her Ojibwe reservation. She loves her #1 best friend Mimi (a cat), but worries that she needs to make more friends.

Reynolds, Jason – *Stuntboy, in the Meantime*

+Reynolds, Fiction*

Portico Reeves' secret identity as Stuntboy allows him to use his superpower to keep everybody safe, but when his superhero parents start fighting a lot he feels the responsibility to save them.

Rubin, Adam – *Gladys the Magic Chicken*

++Rubin, Picture Books

In Ancient Times, Gladys the dancing chicken goes on an epic adventure when she is taken for a magical chicken who grants wishes to those she encounters.

Sandri, Barbara – *Chickenology: The Ultimate Encyclopedia*

+636.5 San, Non-Fiction

With a playful tone and irresistibly charming illustrations by rising star Camilla Pintonato, this lively visual encyclopedia presents chickens in all of their feathered glory.

Schmidt, Gary D. – *One Smart Sheep*

+Schmidt, Fiction

Wilson is a curious sheep, and accidentally ends up alone in the big city, far from the farm. But he is also smart, and soon he's finding his way home by recognizing the sounds that he heard while trapped in the truck.



Youth Services
Stevens Point Branch



PORTAGE
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

715-346-1549
www.pocolibrary.org



❖ 2nd & 3rd Grade ❖

Best Books of 2021



Soundar, Chitra – *Sona Sharma, Very Best Big Sister?*

+Soundar, Fiction

Can Sona be the best big sister ever when she's not sure she even *wants* a baby sister or brother? Brimming with warmth and charm, this story set in India is elevated by exceptional characterization and appealing art.

Sturgell, Todd – *Except Antarctica!*

++Sturgell, Picture Books

Turtles are found on every continent EXCEPT Antarctica. But not for long! When a David Attenborough-esque narrator explains that turtles are found everywhere except Antarctica, one determined turtle sets out to prove him wrong.

Talbott, Hudson – *A Walk in the Words*

++Talbott, Picture Books*

Through a story from his own childhood, Hudson Talbott shares the challenges, and ultimately the rewards, of being a non-mainstream kind of learner.

Thermes, Jennifer – *Horse Power: How Horses Changed the World*

+636.1 The, Non-Fiction

Tackles the history of the horse when they worked and played side by side with humans and, ultimately, explores the shift from "horse power" to "horsepower," when humans traded manure in the street for pollution in the air.

Thomas, Isabel – *Fox: A Circle of Life Story*

++Thomas, Picture Books

Fox teaches her cubs to survive in the wild, until one day she dies. Her body goes back to earth and grass and air, nourishing the world around her, showing that death is also a beginning.

Valério, Geraldo – *My Book of Butterflies*

+595.78 Val, Non-Fiction

A stunning exploration of butterflies from around the world, including fascinating information about each species, from familiar Monarchs and Giant Swallowtails, to dazzling Blue Morphos and tiny Snowflakes.

Vandorn, Kaeti – *Monster Friends*

+Vandorn, Graphic Novels*

Despite their differences, monster neighbors Reggie and Emily make the perfect explorers, and with a beach party to plan and a sea monster to find, Reggie needs to learn to talk about his feelings and let new friends in.

Venable, Colleen A. F. – *Katie the Catsitter*

+Venable, Graphic Novels

Twelve-year-old Katie is dreading the boring summer ahead until she realizes the mysterious neighbor who hired her to catsit is one of the city's greatest supervillains.

