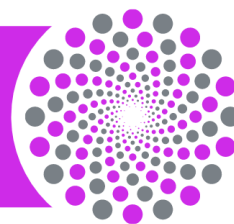


❖ 4th & 5th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2023



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 Libby.*

Anderson, M. T. – *Elf Dog & Owl Head*

+Anderson, Fiction*

Quarantined with his family as a global plague ravages the world, Clay retreats to the woods where he meets a special little dog who leads him on adventures where choosing the wrong path could cause them both to lose their way forever.

Annable, Graham – *Eerie Tales from the School of Screams (Series)*

+Annable, Graphic Novels

Davis and Emily are not scared of school because of tough tests or merciless vice-principals. No, they're scared because their teacher wants her students to present the class with the spookiest, most chilling stories they can think of.

Applegate, Katherine – *Dogtown (Series)*

+Applegate, Fiction*

In Dogtown, a shelter for unwanted canine and robot dogs, an extraordinary bond develops between Chance, a longing three-legged dog, Metalhead, an empathetic robot, and Mouse, their friendly ally, as they strive to find forever homes.

Arbuthnott, Gill – *From Shore to Ocean Floor*

+551.46 Arb, Non-Fiction

Marvel at incredible scientific discoveries, be dazzled by some of the most exciting new species, and admire the incredible people who took the very first steps below the surface.

Bow, Erin – *Simon Sort of Says*

+Bow, Fiction*

Simon is the only survivor of a school shooting. That story has followed him everywhere—everywhere except his new home in the National Quiet Zone, where the internet is banned so radio astronomers can listen for signs of life in space.

Chantler, Scott – *Squire & Knight*

+Chantler, Graphic Novels

Staying behind to catch up on some reading while his inept boss, Sir Kelton, rides off to slay a demonic dragon, Squire soon notices something isn't quite right about this cursed village and seeks to uncover its secrets.

Clark, P. Djèlí – *Abeni's Song (Series)*

+Clark, Fiction

Abeni, a reluctant magical apprentice, and a team of spirit kids set out to save their village from the evil Witch Priest who captured and marched off everyone toward ghost ships bound for distant lands.

Davies, Jacqueline – *The International House of Dereliction*

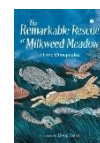
+Davies, Fiction

Quirky, tool-wielding Alice Cannoli-Potchnik begins to repair the dilapidated mansion next door—only to discover the old house is home to ghosts, and they need mending, too.

Dimopoulos, Elaine – *The Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow*

+Dimopoulos, Fiction

Butternut is a young, anxious rabbit and master storyteller who makes friends outside her burrow—even though she was cautioned not to—and now must decide whether she will remain loyal to her family or help other animals in need.

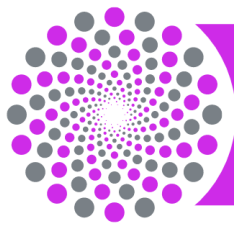


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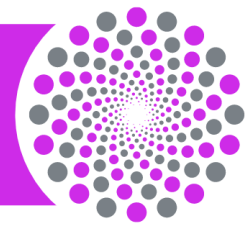
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❖ 4th & 5th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2023



Donovan, Gail – *Sparrow Being Sparrow*

+Donovan, Fiction

Sparrow blames herself for her elderly neighbor's accident, so she promises to take care of Mrs. LaRose's seven cats, all while trying to adjust to a new school. Things become complicated when she has to find new homes for all of the cats.

Drimmer, Stephanie Warren – *How to Survive in the Age of Dinosaurs*

+567.9 Dri, Non-Fiction

Packed with tips, tricks, and helpful maps, this is the ultimate handbook for dinosaur fans who want to know what life on Earth was really like when dinos ruled.

Dyckman, Ame – *How Dinosaurs Went Extinct*

++Dyckman, Picture Books

When a child in a museum asks how dinosaurs became extinct, Dad comes up with a list of silly answers.

Everett, Sarah – *The Probability of Everything*

+Everett, Fiction*

When an asteroid has an 84.7% chance of colliding with the Earth in four days, Kemi, who loves scientific facts and probability, assembles a time capsule to capture her family's truth as she tries to come to terms with saying goodbye.

Harrold, A. F. – *The Worlds We Leave Behind*

+Harrold, Fiction

After an accident in the woods involving a young girl, eleven-year-old Hex meets a mysterious woman who offers him a deal to change his world, which sets off a ripple effect that Hex's best friend Tommo must rectify.

Hatke, Ben – *Things in the Basement*

+Hatke, Graphic Novels

A boy's search for a sock leads him to discover a portal to a secret world in his basement. A journey of loss both intimate and fantastical, swept along by flowing, emotive illustrations.

Healy, Christopher – *No One Leaves the Castle*

+Healy, Fiction

Dungeons & Dragons meets Clue in this stand-alone murder mystery set in the Hero's Guide world. Lilac has set her goals on becoming a bounty hunter when a priceless artifact goes missing from the home of famed monster hunter.

Higuera, Donna Barba – *Alebríjes*

+Higuera, Fiction

Leandro and his sister, Gabi, brave the harsh reality of a segregated settlement in post-apocalyptic California. This heartfelt adventure signals hope for humanity, even in the aftermath of darkness.

Kawamura, Taku – *My Clueless First Friend (Series)*

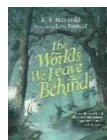
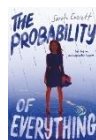
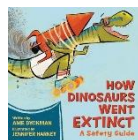
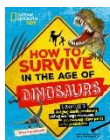
+Kawamura, Graphic Novels

A lonely girl is the target of her classmates' bullying, until a new kid arrives on the scene. Friendly Takada is as clueless as he is well-meaning, but somehow he possesses the magic ability to start drawing Nishimura out of her gloomy shell.

LaCour, Nina – *The Apartment House on Poppy Hill (Series)*

+LaCour, Fiction*

Ella considers herself the official greeter, tour guide, and is generally in charge of 1106 Wildflower Place, but the elusive Robinsons who live on the top floor are a mystery—one which Ella is determined to solve.

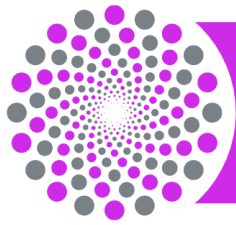


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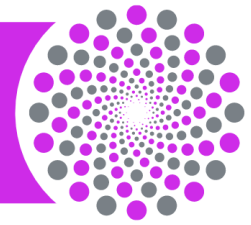
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❖ 4th & 5th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2023



Lam, Michelle – *Meesh the Bad Demon (Series)*

+Lam, Graphic Novels*

The odd girl out, or rather demon, forms an unlikely group of friends who band together to save her community and celebrate each other's differences.

Mara, Maddy – *Dragon Games: The Thunder Egg (Series)*

+Mara, Fiction*

One fateful afternoon, classmates stumble upon a strange-looking rock called a geode in one of the rooms at school. To their surprise, a touch of this geode transports them to a magical land. The geode is actually a dragon egg!

Maunakea, Malia – *Lei and the Fire Goddess*

+Maunakea, Fiction*

Anna must dig deep into her Hawaiian roots in order to save her best friend and her island from an angry fire goddess.

McDunn, Gillian – *When Sea Becomes Sky*

+ McDunn, Fiction

As Pelican Island's history-making drought wears on, the water level on Bex and Davey's beloved marsh reveals the hand of a statue that has been underneath the water for a very long time, and the siblings are determined to find out more.

McMann, Matt – *Monsterious: Escape from Grimstone Manor (Series)*

+McMann, Fiction

When a ride breaks down before closing, friends Mateo, Taylor, and Zari find themselves stuck inside the haunted house for the night and discover a hidden staircase leading to a dark crypt.

Monsef, Kiyash – *Once There Was*

+Monsef, Fiction*

When Iranian American Marjan discovers her murdered father was secretly a veterinarian to magical creatures, she realizes she must take up his mantle, despite the many dangers.

Nayeri, Daniel – *The Many Assassinations of Samir, Seller of Dreams*

+Nayeri, Picture Books*

A servant boy attempts to win his freedom by repeatedly saving his master as they travel the Silk Road. An enticing taste of a rich historical world.

Oh, Ellen – *Haru Zombie Dog Hero*

+Oh, Fiction

A spooky novel about the friendship between a Korean American boy and his dog, Haru—who becomes a zombie! Fans of Frankenweenie will enjoy this scary yet heartwarming read.

Pennypacker, Sara – *Leeva at Last*

++Pennypacker, Picture Books*

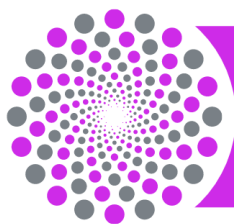
What are people for? With the help of an orphaned badger, a risk-averse boy in a hazmat suit, and the town's librarians, Leeva sets off to discover her own answer—setting off a chain of events that will change Nutsmore forever.

Perkins, Mitali – *Hope in the Valley*

+Perkins, Fiction

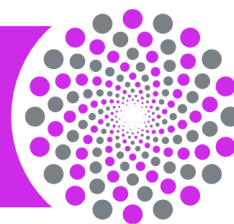
Pandita, a budding poet, reluctantly attends summer drama camp, meets a talented new boy, reconciles with her former best friend, and struggles with family changes.





❖ 4th & 5th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2023



Rex, Adam – *The Story of Gumluck the Wizard (Series)*

+Rex, Fiction

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.

Selznick, Brian – *Big Tree*

+Selznick, Fiction

Sycamore seed siblings must use their wits and imaginations to navigate a mysterious and often dangerous world, filled with monsters, meteors, and the fear of never finding the right conditions to set down roots and become big trees.

Shearer, Wendy – *Spooky Stories of the World (Series)*

+398.25 She, Non-Fiction

This spook-tacular collection features more than 20 fright-filled stories from around the globe. Retold with ghoulish relish, these hair-raising tales are sure to send shivers down your spine.

Shusterman, Neal – *N.O.A.H. Files – I Am the Walrus (Series)*

+Shusterman, Fiction

A middle schooler must outrun a cadre of strange individuals while puzzling out the truth of what he is in this science-fiction offering. A fun, if messy, thriller that's not afraid to go straight over the top.

Smith, Mac – *Scurry*

+Mac, Graphic Novels

The humans are gone, the sun is rarely seen, and a cold, dark rain befouls everything it touches. The mice, long dependent on humans for food, cling to their old ways, looting the nearby abandoned houses for any scraps they find.

Soontornvat, Christina – *Legends of Lotus Island: The Guardian Test (Series)*

+Soontornvat, Fiction*

Young Plum is shocked to discover that she's been accepted to the Guardian Academy, an elite school where kids learn how to transform into Guardians, magical creatures who are sworn to protect the natural world.

Ralphs, Matt – *Transported: 50 Vehicles That Changed the World*

+629 Ral, Non-Fiction

From ancient chariots and Viking longships to racing cars, rockets, and solar-powered airplanes, our world has been changed by the pioneering development of many incredible vehicles.

Rivera, Lilliam – *Barely Floating*

+Rivera, Fiction*

Natalia's dream of becoming a synchronized swimmer is in jeopardy when her parents decide they are against a sport that emphasizes looks, but Nat is determined to change their minds.

Royce, Eden – *Conjure Island*

+Royce, Fiction

A family emergency sends a tween to live with a relative she didn't know existed and who holds the secret to her beloved grandmother's past. A rich window into a unique cultural community.

Wilgus, Benjamin A. – *Grace Needs Space!*

+Wilgus, Graphic Novels

Grace's excitement to accompany her mom on Titan turns to frustration when her mom is too preoccupied with her mission to spend time together, yet when their ship stops working on their return home it is up to Grace to save the day.

