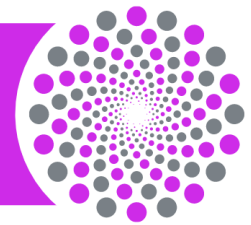


❖ 4th & 5th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2020



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.*

America's Test Kitchen – *The Complete DIY Cookbook for Young Chefs* +641.5 Com, Non-Fiction
100+ simple recipes for making absolutely everything from scratch.

Anderson, Sophie – *The Girl Who Speaks Bear* +Anderson, Fiction
Longing to know who she really is after being discovered in a bear cave as a baby, 12-year-old Yanka begins a remarkable transformation that forces her to leave a loving foster home in search of a place where she truly belongs.

Andrews, Christiane M. – *Spindlefish and Stars* +Andrews, Fiction; +And, Digital Audio Players
When Clo's father goes missing, she takes the mysterious items he left behind and journeys across the sea to find him, but is stranded on a strange island and must learn to spin fish into yarn to unravel the secret of all that has happened.

Aster, Alex – *Curse of the Night Witch* +Aster, Fiction*
After changing the fate he has known since birth, 12-year-old Tor Luna, accompanied by his friends Engle and Melda, must visit the notorious Night Witch to break the curse he now faces.

Bachmann, Stefan – *Cinders & Sparrows* +Bachmann, Fiction; +Bac, CD-Audio Books
When a 12-year-old orphan unexpectedly becomes the mistress of a seemingly abandoned castle, she is thrust into a mysterious plot involving murderous spells, false identity, and a magical battle of wills between the living and the dead.

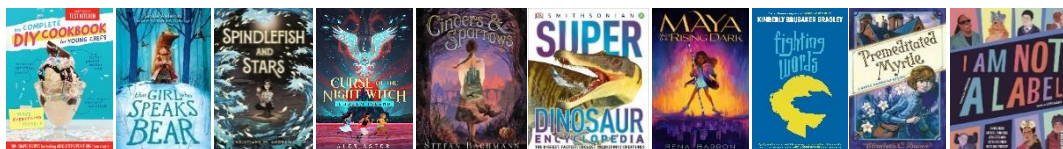
Barker, Chris – *Super Dinosaur Encyclopedia* +567.9 Bar, Non-Fiction
Detailed color illustrations and informative text provide readers with facts about dinosaurs.

Barron, Rena – *Maya and the Rising Dark* +Barron, Fiction*
12-year-old Maya's search for her missing father puts her at the center of a battle between our world, the Orishas, and the mysterious and sinister Dark world.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker – *Fighting Words* +Bradley, Fiction*
Depending on an older sister who protected her when their mother went to prison and their mother's boyfriend committed a terrible act, 10-year-old Della tries to figure out what to do when her older sister attempts suicide.

Bunce, Elizabeth C. – *Premeditated Myrtle* +Bunce, Fiction; +Bun, Digital Audio Players
When 12-year-old aspiring detective Myrtle Hardcastle learns her neighbor in quiet Swinburne, England, a breeder of rare flowers, has died, she is certain it was murder and that she must find the killer.

Burnell, Carrie – *I Am Not a Label* +920 Bur, Non-Fiction
In this stylishly illustrated biography anthology, meet 34 artists, thinkers, athletes, and activists with disabilities, from past and present.

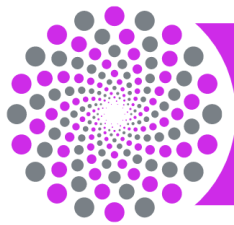


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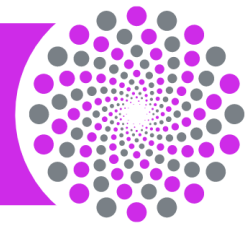
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❖ 4th & 5th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2020



Callender, Kacen – *King and the Dragonflies*

+Callender, Fiction*

In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself.

Chewins, Hayley – *The Sisters of Straygarden Place*

+Chewins, Fiction

Seven years ago, the Ballastian sisters' parents left them in a magical house surrounded by sinister silver grass. Now Winnow has ventured outside, and everything Mayhap thought she knew about her home, family, and herself unravels.

Cisneros, Ernesto – *Efrén Divided*

+Cisneros, Fiction; +Cis, CD-Audio Books*

While his father works two jobs, seventh-grader Efrén Nava must take care of his twin siblings, kindergartners Max and Mia, after their mother is deported to Mexico. Includes glossary of Spanish words.

Córdova, Zoraida – *The Way to Rio Luna*

+Córdova, Fiction

Believing that his runaway sister is waiting for him in the enchanted fairy-tale realm of their childhood, this 11-year-old foster child discovers a mysterious library book that provides a direct map to his imaginary world.

Cullum, Jared – *Kodi*

+Cullum, Graphic Novels*

After a chance accident befriends Katya to a Kodiak bear, the two are torn apart when Katya must leave Alaska to return to Seattle, leaving Kodi to do whatever it takes to reunite with his human companion.

Dorling Kindersley (DK) – *Space: A Visual Encyclopedia*

+520.3 Spa, Non-Fiction

The most up-to-date images from space agencies such as NASA and ESA combine with info panels, timelines, interviews, diagrams, and activities you can do at home to help you understand the majesty and wonder of space.

Goerz, Gillian – *Shirley & Jamila Save Their Summer*

+Goerz, Graphic Novels

When 10-year-olds Shirley and Jamila meet, Jamila is simply hoping for a friend in her new neighborhood, but Shirley is a detective and together they seek a missing gecko.

Hale, Shannon – *Diana: Princess of the Amazons*

+Wonder Woman, Graphic Novels*

11-year-old Diana, the gangly, sometimes clumsy, only child on the island of Themyscira, struggles to live up to the high Amazonian standards and longs for someone her own age whom she can talk to.

Jamieson, Victoria – *When Stars are Scattered*

+Jamieson, Graphic Novels*

This remarkable graphic novel is about growing up in a refugee camp, as told by a former Somali refugee.

Jung, Mike – *The Boys in the Back Row*

+Jung, Fiction*

Best friends Matt and Eric are hatching a plan for one big final adventure together before Eric moves away.

Kassner, Heather – *The Forest of Stars*

+Kassner, Fiction

After her mother dies, 12-year-old Louisa LaRoche is awaiting the return of her father when she finds a ticket to the Carnival Beneath the Stars and is drawn toward a magical but dangerous fate.

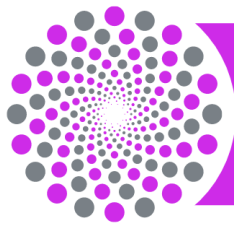


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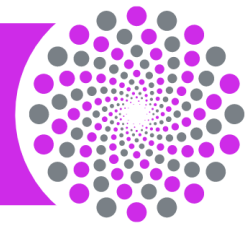
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❖ 4th & 5th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2020



Keller, Tae – *When You Trap a Tiger*

+Keller, Fiction*

When Lily, her sister Sam, and their mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily traps a tiger and makes a deal with him to heal Halmoni.

Kelly, Erin Entrada – *We Dream of Space*

+Kelly, Fiction; +Kel, CD-Audio Books*

Newbery Medal-winning Kelly contemplates space exploration and sibling bonds in her latest captivating novel.

Knisley, Lucy – *Stepping Stones*

+Knisley, Graphic Novels*

Jen moves out to the country and has to put up with her mom and her mom's new boyfriend, as well as his kids. Suddenly, part of a larger family in a new place, Jen isn't sure there is a place for her in this different world.

Lai, Remy – *Fly On the Wall*

+Lai, Fiction

12-year-old Henry Khoo embarks on a forbidden journey from Australia to Singapore to prove his independence to his overprotective family, while working out some problems with friends. Told in comics and prose.

Layne, Aliza – *Beetle & the Hollowbones*

+Layne, Graphic Novels*

12-year-old goblin and witch-in-training Beetle enlists her former best friend, Kat Hollowbones, to help stop Kat's sorceress aunt from demolishing the mall where Beetle's friend Blob Ghost is trapped.

Leyh, Kat – *Snapdragon*

+Leyh, Graphic Novels

Befriending an eccentric but savvy older woman, who suggests that they help each other while raising a litter of orphaned baby opossums, a girl discovers that the woman may possess real magic and a connection to her family.

LeZotte, Ann Clare – *Show Me a Sign*

+LeZotte, Fiction

The Deaf librarian and author of T4 draws on the true history of a thriving 19th-century Deaf community in the story of a girl whose proud lineage is threatened by land disputes with the Wampanoag and a ruthlessly ambitious scientist.

Maggs, Sam – *Con Quest!*

+Maggs, Fiction

Cat and Alex are excited to be at the world's most popular comics convention and determined to win the Quest, a huge scavenger hunt run by their favorite nerdy celebrity, even if it means ditching their older sister and parents.

Marks, Janae – *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*

+Marks, Fiction*

Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime.

McKay, Hilary – *The Time of Green Magic*

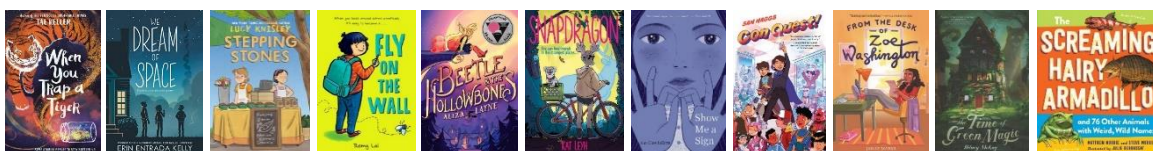
+McKay, Fiction*

When 11-year-old Abi moves with her father and new stepfamily into an eerie old house, something magical makes her books more real and brings a not-so-imaginary friend to stepbrother Louis.

Murrie, Matthew – *The Screaming Hairy Armadillo and 76 Other Animals with Weird, Wild Names*

+590.14 Mur, Non-Fiction

An illustrated compendium of animals with funny, fascinating, or just-plain-weird names.

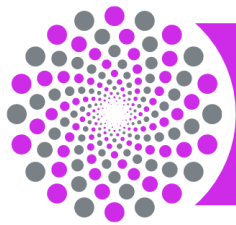


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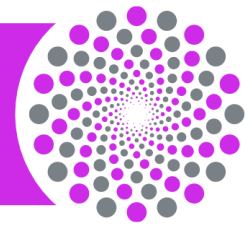
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❖ 4th & 5th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2020



Okorafor, Nnedi – *Ikenga*

+Okorafor, Fiction*

In Nigeria, 12-year-old Nnamdi is determined to avenge his police chief father, who was murdered while trying to rid the town of criminals, but Nnamdi feels powerless until he receives a magical object which gives him superpowers.

Oppel, Kenneth – *Bloom*

+Oppel, Fiction*

When the world is overtaken by monster alien plants that emit toxic pollens and swallow up people, three kids on a remote island look for clues in their unusual allergies to understand their immunity to the invaders.

Park, Linda Sue – *Prairie Lotus*

+Park, Fiction*

In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves. Includes author's note.

Pilkey, Dav – *Cat Kid Comic Club*

+Pilkey, Graphic Novels*

Twenty-one talented baby frogs are introduced to the art of comic making. The story unwinds with mishaps and hilarity, showing the progress, mistakes, and improvements that come with practice and persistence.

Pixley, Marcella Fleischman – *Trowbridge Road*

+Pixley, Fiction*

Struggling with her mother's mental illness after her father's death from complications of AIDS, a girl in the 1983 Boston suburbs befriends an imaginative boy before threats to her safety force her to make a difficult choice.

Ponti, James – *City Spies*

+Ponti, Fiction; +Pon, CD-Audio Books*

Sentenced to juvenile detention after exposing her foster parents' crimes, a talented young hacker is rescued by a British spy who recruits five teen savants from different world regions to become elite agents for MI5.

Reynolds, Aaron – *Fart Quest*

+Reynolds, Fiction; +Rey, CD-Audio Books

After their masters are vaporized in a goblin battle gone badly, Fart, Pan, and Moxie, three lowly apprentices, decide to impersonate their mentors and pick up the mantle as heroes of the realm.

Roanhorse, Rebecca – *Race to the Sun*

+Roanhorse, Fiction*

Guided by her Navajo ancestors, seventh-grader Nizhoni Begay discovers she is descended from a holy woman and destined to become a monsterslayer, starting with the evil businessman who kidnapped her father.

Rocco, John – *How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure*

+629.454 Roc, Non-Fiction*

Ryan, Pam Muñoz – *Mañanaland*

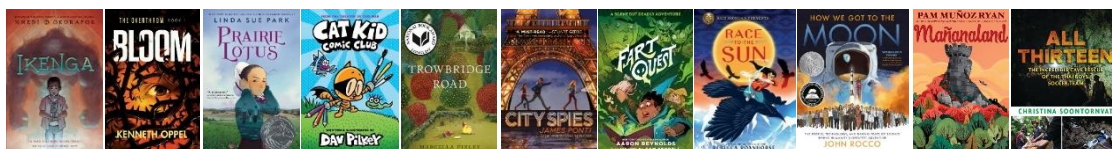
+Ryan, Fiction*

Max, who loves the legend Buelo tells him about a mythical gatekeeper who can guide brave travelers on a journey into tomorrow, sets out on a dangerous quest to discover whether he is true of heart and what the future holds.

Soontornvat, Christina – *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team*

+796.52 Soo, Non-Fiction*

A unique account of the amazing Thai cave rescue told in a heart-racing, you-are-there style that blends suspense, science, and cultural insight.

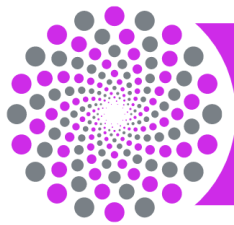


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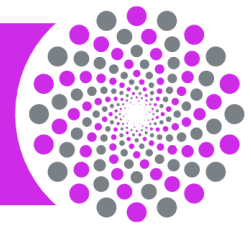
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Best Books of 2020



Soontornvat, Christina – *A Wish in the Dark*

+Soontornvat, Fiction*

Set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world, this twist on Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a dazzling, fast-paced adventure that explores the difference between law and justice -- and asks whether one child can shine a light in the dark.

Stewart, Melissa – *Ick!: Delightfully Disgusting Animal Dinners, Dwellings, and Defenses*

+591.5 Ste, Non-Fiction

Animals--they're cute and fluffy, cuddly, and puffy, and ... sometimes downright disgusting. Get ready to be totally grossed out as you discover the incredibly icky ways animals eat, make their homes, and defend themselves.

Stone, Nic – *Clean Getaway*

+Stone, Fiction; +Sto, CD-Audio Books*

Set against the backdrop of the segregation history of the American South, take a trip with an 11-year-old boy who is about to discover that things aren't always what they seem.

Tarshis, Lauren – *I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916*

I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912

+Tarshis, Graphic Novels*

The bestselling *I Survived* series takes on vivid new life in this high-action graphic novel edition. Includes nonfiction back matter with facts and historical photos.

Watson, Renée – *Ways to Make Sunshine*

+Watson, Fiction*

The Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones.

Weatherford, Carole Boston – *Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom*

+921 Bro, Non-Fiction*

Celebrated poet Carole Boston Weatherford powerfully narrates Henry Brown's story of how he came to ship himself in a box from slavery to freedom.

Williams, Lily – *Go With the Flow*

+Williams, Graphic Novels*

When four best friends notice that the boys have brand-new football uniforms and equipment while the girls bathrooms are still shamefully bereft of feminine hygiene products, they decide to take matters into their own hands.

Wolk, Lauren – *Echo Mountain*

+Wolk, Fiction; +Wol, CD-Audio Books*

When 12-year-old Ellie and her family lose their livelihood and move to a mountain cabin in 1934, she quickly learns to be an outdoors woman and, when needed, a healer.

Woodson, Jacqueline – *Before the Ever After*

+Woodson, Fiction; +Woo, CD-Audio Books*

ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry, and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career.

Woodward, John – *Life Through Time: The 700-Million-Year Story of Life On Earth*

+576.8 Woo, Non-Fiction

Perfect for children and parents to read together and discover the incredible story of life on our planet. Open the book and let the 700-million-year journey begin!



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