

8

EIGHTH GRADE RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2019-2020 | OPPL.ORG/KIDS

FICTION

Alexander, Kwame. **Booked**. Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Ashes**. As the Revolutionary War rages on, Isabel and Curzon are reported as runaways, and the awful Bellingham is determined to track them down. With purpose and faith, Isabel and Curzon march on, fiercely determined to find Isabel's little sister Ruth, who is enslaved in a southern state.

Cartaya, Pablo. **The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora**. Arturo's Miami summer is marked by the arrival of poetry enthusiast Carmen, who helps him use the power of protest to fight the plans of a land developer who wants to demolish his abuela's restaurant.

Cervantes, Jennifer. **The Storm Runner**. To prevent the Mayan gods from battling each other and destroying the world, thirteen-year-old Zane must unravel an ancient prophecy, stop an evil god, and discover how the physical disability that makes him reliant on a cane also connects him to his father and his ancestry.

Elliott, Laura. **Suspect Red**. In 1950s Washington, D.C., teenager Richard, a bookworm whose father works for the FBI, experiences effects of McCarthyism, beginning with book banning and ending with a threat to his half-Czech friend.

Engle, Margarita. **Jazz Owls: A Novel of the Zoot Suit Riots** (TWEEN). In early 1940s Los Angeles, Mexican Americans

Marisela and Lorena work in canneries all day then jitterbug with sailors all night with their zoot suit wearing younger brother, Ray, as escort until the night racial violence leads to murder.

Love, Damien. **Monstrous Devices**. Alex, nearly thirteen, flees with his grandfather across snowy Europe to escape the human and mechanical assassins that pursue them, trying to retrieve a powerful object.

Magoon, Kekla. **The Rock and the River**. It's 1968, and Chicago teen Sam is torn. He's always looked up to his father, a civil rights leader dedicated to nonviolence. His older brother Stick, however, has left home to join the revolutionary Black Panther Party. At first Sam is skeptical of the Panthers' militant approach to ending racial injustice, but after one of his friends is brutally beaten by the police, Sam starts to question his father's nonviolent beliefs.

Manzano, Sonia. **The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano**. It is 1969 in Spanish Harlem, and 14-year-old Evelyn Serrano is trying hard to break free from her conservative Puerto Rican surroundings, but when her activist grandmother comes to stay and the neighborhood protests start, things get a lot more complicated—and dangerous.

Martinez, Victor. **Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida** (TWEEN). Fourteen-year-old Manny Hernandez wants to be more than just a penny. He wants to be a vato firme, the kind of guy people respect. But that's not easy when your father is abusive, your brother can't hold a job, and your mother scrubs the house as if she can wash her troubles away.

Medina, Meg. **Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass** (TEEN). Informed that a bully she does not know is determined to beat her up, Latin American teen Piddy Sanchez struggles to learn more about the father she has never met, until the bully's gang forces her to confront more difficult challenges.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. **Ghost Boys**. After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

Sullivan, Tara. **The Bitter Side of Sweet** (TWEEN). Kept as forced labor on a chocolate plantation in the Ivory Coast, Amadou and his younger brother Seydou had given up hope, until a girl arrives at the camp and rekindles the urge to escape.

Vrabel, Beth. **The Reckless Club**. Five unrelated pranksters are sentenced to volunteer at an assisted-living home on the last summer day before school starts, a day also marked by revelations about their choices.

Williams, Alicia D. **Genesis Begins Again**. Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **After Tupac & D Foster** (TWEEN). In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.



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8

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NONFICTION

Doeden, Matt. *A Marked Man: The Assassination of Malcolm X* (B MALCOLM).

Farrell, Mary Cronk. *Standing Up Against Hate* (940.541 FAR).

Miller, Marilyn. *Words That Built a Nation: Voices of Democracy That Have Shaped America's History* (973 MIL).

Noyes, Deborah. *Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original Girl Reporter Nellie Bly* (B BLY).

Sheff, David and Nic Sheff. *High: Everything You Want to Know About Drugs, Alcohol, and Addiction* (362.29 SHE).

Wood, H.P. *Fakers: An Insider's Guide to Cons, Hoaxes, and Scams* (364.163 WOO).

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Broskol, Vera. *Anya's Ghost* (TWEEN). Anya has given up on fitting in, but falling down a well and befriending a ghost just may be worse.

Carroll, Emily. *Through the Woods* (TWEEN). A collection of five spine-tingling short stories with dark, atmospheric art to match!

Colfer, Eoin. *Illegal*. Ebo's brother, Kwame, has disappeared and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life, the same journey their sister set out on months ago. Refusing to be left behind in Ghana, Ebo sets out alone.

Lee, Jen. *Garbage Night*. An unlikely gang—a dog named Simon and his two best friends: a raccoon and a deer—spend their days looting the supermarket and waiting for the hallowed garbage night, but day after day, the bins remain empty and the humans missing.

Samanci, Özge. *Dare to Disappoint* (TWEEN). As a child in Turkey in the 1980s and '90s, the author watched as her country struggled

between its traditional religious heritage and the new world of brand-name products and TV stars. In her own family, she struggled to figure out the place where she belonged too.

Tamaki, Mariko. *This One Summer* (TWEEN). Since she was a little girl, Rose and her parents have been going to Awago Beach. But this summer is different, full of secrets and heartache, and it's a good thing Rose and her friend Windy have each other.

Various. *Maker Comics: Fix a Car! And Bake Like a Pro!* (series, nonfiction graphic novels). First titles in a new series that combines stories with lots of useful real-world tips. What are the advantages of a full-size spare tire? How does chemistry affect your cookies?

Whitley, Jeremy. *The Unstoppable Wasp* (series, TWEEN). Nadia spent the entire first half of her life a captive of The Red Room, but now this teenage super scientist is on her own for the first time, and she's ready to spread her wings! Hank Pym's daughter has a lot of time to make up for and she's determined to change the world.