

Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) and Florida Teens Read (FTR): 2023-2024 SSYRA Grades 3-5 Book List

This guide includes links to the recent Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program and Florida Teens Read program books.

[Program Descriptions](#)[2023 - 2024 SSYRA Jr. Book List](#)[2023-2024 SSYRA Grades 3-5 Book List](#)[2023-2024 SSYRA Grades 6-8 Book List](#)[2023-2024 Florida Teen Reads Book List](#)

[Links to the 2023-2024 Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books in the St. Lucie County Libraries Catalog](#)



[The Area 51 Files](#) by Julie Buxbaum; Lavanya Naidu (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780593429464

Publication Date: 2022-09-13

Aliens, sassy hedgehogs, and unexplained disappearances . . . Oh, my! Discover the secrets of the universe in this hilarious, highly illustrated middle-grade series from New York Times bestselling author Julie Buxbaum. "Epicly fun!"--Max Brallier, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Kids on Earth* When Sky Patel-Baum is sent to live with her mysterious uncle, she didn't imagine she'd end up here: Area 51. A top-secret military base with a bajillion rules and so classified not even the president knows its secrets. Also, it turns out the place is full of aliens. Lots and lots of aliens. But they prefer to be called Break Throughs, thank you very much. As Sky sets out to explore her extraordinary new home with her pizza-obsessed pet hedgehog Spike, she meets her otherworldly next-door neighbor Elvis and his fluffy pup, Pickles. But something mysterious is afoot in Area 51. Some of the Break Throughs have gone missing... at the exact same time Sky arrived. Where could they be? How can Sky and her uncle convince everyone they had nothing to do with the disappearance? And why does the macaroni and cheese at Area 51 Middle have eyeballs in it? New best friends Sky, Elvis, Spike, and Pickles try to crack the case, but the clock is ticking...



[Bedhead Ted](#) by Scott SanGiacomo (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780062941329

Publication Date: 2021-08-24

Perfect for fans of *Hilo* and *Lunch Lady*, this charming and funny young middle grade graphic novel follows one boy as he discovers that his perceived flaw--wild, red hair--may just be what saves the day. Ten-year-old Ted just wants to fit in. But his wild, red hair is a target for school bullies. Fortunately, he has his best friend, Stacy, to take his mind off all the mean comments. But Stacy needs Ted's help to uncover the truth of a local urban legend--the elusive giant raccoon known as the Brookside Beast! However, after Stacy starts making new friends, Ted feels more alone and weirder than ever...until Ted discovers that he has a superpower! His hair can lift, stretch, and catch anything. For the first time in his life, Ted wonders if his unruly hair is a gift rather than a curse. Could it be the one thing that not only helps solve their town's greatest mystery but also gets his best bud back



[Better with Butter](#) by Victoria Piontek

ISBN: 9781338662191

Publication Date: 2021-07-20

A girl with anxiety disorder finds an unlikely friend -- and emotional support animal -- in the form of an adorable fainting goat. Twelve-year-old Marvel is afraid of absolutely everything -- amusement park rides, food poisoning, earthquakes, and that big island of plastic floating through the ocean. She also obsesses about smaller worries like making friends, getting called on by the teacher, and walking home alone. Her parents and the school therapist call her worries an anxiety disorder, but Marvel calls them armor. If something can happen, it will. She needs to be prepared. But when Marvel stumbles on a group of older kids teasing a baby goat that has mysteriously shown up on the soccer field, she momentarily forgets to be afraid and rescues the frightened animal. Only Butter isn't any old goat. She's a fainting goat. When Butter feels panic, she freezes up and falls over. Marvel knows exactly how Butter feels and precisely what Butter needs--her. Soon, the two are inseparable, and Butter thrives under Marvel's support. But Butter also helps Marvel. Everything is better with Butter by her side, and Marvel starts to imagine a life in which she doesn't have to be so afraid . . . until she's told she might have to give up Butter forever. Will Marvel find a way to fight for her friend? Or will she revert back to the anxious, lonely person she used to be?



The Curse on Spectacle Key by Chantel Acevedo

ISBN: 9780063134812

Publication Date: 2022-09-06

A sweetly spooky ghost story about a Cuban American boy who befriends a pair of spirits and tries to break the curse on his island home . . . only to discover a seemingly lost piece of his family's history in the process. This new middle grade standalone mystery from the author of the Muse Squad series is perfect for fans of Doll Bones and The Girl and the Ghost! Frank Fernandez's family never stays in one place for long. His parents renovate unusual buildings and turn them into homes, which means the family moves--a lot. This makes it hard for bookish Frank to make friends. So when his parents announce they're moving to Spectacle Key, Florida, to live in a lighthouse--this time for good!--Frank is thrilled. But Spectacle Key isn't the perfect forever home they'd imagined. The lighthouse is falling apart. There are knocks on the door--but no one is there--and mysterious sighs and sniffles from nowhere. There's even a creepy doll that seems to move on its own. Could Spectacle Key be haunted? Then one day while exploring, Frank meets a girl in old-fashioned clothes, with no memory of who she is. What she does know, though, is that the island is under a curse--and she needs Frank's help to figure out how to lift it. But what if learning the truth about Spectacle Key means losing the first real friend he's ever had?

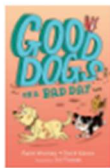


Glitch by Laura Martin

ISBN: 9780062894359

Publication Date: 2020-06-09

From the critically acclaimed author of Float comes a new whirlwind adventure about a pair of kids who must break all the rules of time travel, perfect for fans of Gordon Korman and John David Anderson. Regan Fitz and Elliot Mason have been enemies since they started training to become Glitchers--people who travel through time to preserve important historical events. But everything changes when they find a letter from Regan's future self, warning them about an impending disaster that threatens them and everyone they know. Will they be able to set aside their past in order to save the future?



Good Dogs on a Bad Day by Rachel Wenitsky; David Sidorov; Tor Freeman (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780593108444

Publication Date: 2021-03-16

The Secret Life of Pets meets Toy Story in a new illustrated series about a group of Very Good doggie day care buddies who follow a few of their wilder instincts, leading to hilarious chaos. Do good dogs have to be good all the time? Hugo, Lulu, and King love going to doggy day care together. The super-friendly dogs there are very good listeners, and they always follow the rules, even at the park. But then a new dog comes to town. Napoleon jumps on people, dives into fountains, and will do anything (really!) to get human food. The Good Dogs are shocked to see such canine chaos, but they also notice something else- Napoleon seems to be having a ton of fun. That gets them thinking- Could being a little bit bad be a good idea? Find out directly from Hugo, Lulu, and King as they tell you all about it!



Honestly Elliott by Gillian McDunn

ISBN: 9781547606252

Publication Date: 2022-03-01

Schneider Family Book Award: Best Middle Grade Honor Book! Highly-acclaimed author of Caterpillar Summer, Gillian McDunn explores boyhood in a funny, big-hearted story about a kid trying to find the best way to be his best self. Elliott isn't sure where he fits in. Ever since his best friend moved away and his dad and stepmom announced the arrival of their new baby, he's been feeling invisible. Plus his dad just doesn't seem to understand what having ADHD really feels like, or why cooking is the one activity where Elliott's mind clicks into place. When he's paired with the super smart and popular Maribel for a school project, Elliott worries she'll be just another person who underestimates him. But Maribel is also looking for a new way to show others her true self and this project could be the chance they've both been waiting for. Sometimes the least likely friends help you see a new side to things . . . and sometimes you have to make a few mistakes before you figure out what's right. Acclaim for Caterpillar Summer An Indies Introduce Pick A Texas Bluebonnet Selection A Parents Best Book of the Year A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year An Amazon Best Book of the Year



The Haunted Mustache by Joe McGee; Teo Skaffa (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9781534480889

Publication Date: 2021-08-31

From the author of Junior Monster Scouts comes new spooky and silly series perfect for fans of Goosebumps and Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark. In this first book, things get hairy for two fifth graders who take on a haunted mustache! Wolver Hollow is not a normal town. The adults are too busy shuffling off to work at the old coffin factory to notice or care, but the kids know all about monsters, ghosts, and strange lights in the sky. Strange things happen in Wolver Hollow. Creepy things. But fifth graders Parker and Lucas are determined to debunk one of Wolver Hollow's legends: Over a hundred years ago, Bockius Beauregard was vaporized in an unfortunate accident and all that remained was his magnificent mustache. People say it returns every year, on the anniversary of Bockius's death, seeking a lip to claim as its own! When the boys try to prove the story is fake, they find more than they bargained for.



Odder by Katherine Applegate; Charles Santoso (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9781250147424

Publication Date: 2022-09-20

Now a #1 New York Times bestseller! A touching and lyrical tale about a remarkable sea otter, from Newbery Medalist Katherine Applegate, author of Wishtree. Meet Odder, the Queen of Play: Nobody has her moves. She doesn't just swim to the bottom, she dive-bombs. She doesn't just somersault, she triple-doughnuts. She doesn't just ride the waves, she makes them. Odder spends her days off the coast of central California, practicing her underwater acrobatics and spinning the quirky stories for which she's known. She's a fearless daredevil, curious to a fault. But when Odder comes face-to-face with a hungry great white shark, her life takes a dramatic turn, one that will challenge everything she believes about herself--and about the humans who hope to save her. Inspired by the true story of a Monterey Bay Aquarium program that pairs orphaned otter pups with surrogate mothers, this poignant and humorous tale told in free verse examines bravery and healing through the eyes of one of nature's most beloved and charming animals.



The Raven Heir by Stephanie Burgis

ISBN: 9781547606375

Publication Date: 2021-09-14

Perfect for fans of Robert Beatty and Shannon Hale comes a magical new middle grade fantasy series about a young shapeshifter trying to save her family. Deep within an enchanted forest lies a castle where a set of triplets and their sorceress mother have lived for years--safe from the decades-long war for the Raven Throne that rages in the kingdom. Cordelia, one of the triplets, has the power to become any animal with just a thought, and she yearns to discover more about the world outside her castle. But one day, the world comes to her, when the eldest of the triplets becomes the newest heir to the throne. Knowing that being named heir means certain death, Cordelia's mother hid the truth about which child is the eldest when she hid them in the forest. When her family is captured, it's up to Cordelia to use her powers to keep her siblings hidden and discover the truth about the Raven Heir--before it's too late. From the author of The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart comes a thrilling new fantasy full of magic, adventure, and the power of family. Acclaim for The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart A Kids' Indie Next List Pick An Amazon Best Book of the Month A Mighty Girl Best Book of the Year A Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year A VOYA Top Shelf Pick



Secondhand Dogs by Carolyn Crimi

ISBN: 9780062989185

Publication Date: 2021-07-06

A heartwarming--and heart-tugging--middle grade novel about love, loyalty, and what it means to be part of a family--from author Carolyn Crimi, with adorable illustrations by Melissa Manwill. Perfect for fans of A Dog's Life and Because of Winn-Dixie. Miss Lottie's home was for second chances. When she adopted Gus, Roo, Tank, and Moon Pie, Miss Lottie rescued each member of the pack--including herself, her helper, Quinn, and her reclusive cat, Ghost--and turned them into a family. But when a new dog, Decker, arrives and tries to hoard Miss Lottie's heart and home for himself, the pack's future is threatened. At first, Gus, the insecure pack leader, only notices little things, like tiny Moon Pie being kicked out of the bed and Ghost acting spooked (then again...Ghost is a cat). But things soon go from bad to worse as Decker's presence causes disharmony in the group. When Decker convinces Moon Pie to embark on an impossible journey, it's up to Gus to gather his courage, rally his splintered pack, and bring the little dog home. And with coyotes and cars on the loose, the pack must push through obstacles and dangers to reunite with Moon Pie before he can get hurt--or, nearly as bad, get his heart broken.



Solimar by Pam Muñoz Ryan

ISBN: 9781484728352

Publication Date: 2022-02-15

On the brink of her Quinceañera and her coronation, Solimar visits the monarch butterflies in the forest. There, the sun pierces through a sword-shaped crevice in a boulder, which shines on her and sends the butterflies humming and swirling around her. She realizes she's been given a gift - and a burden: she can predict the near future, and has become a protector of the butterflies. Tragedy strikes when a neighbouring king invades while her father and brother are away, and the remaining villagers are taken hostage - all except Solimar. Can she save her family, the kingdom, and the future of the butterflies?



Strangeville School Is Totally Normal by Darcy Miller, Brett Helquist (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780593309506

Publication Date: 2021-12-07

This new highly-illustrated series is guaranteed to make you laugh so hard milk will come out of your nose! Strangeville School is the wackiest, most dangerous school you will ever attend...and you'll desperately want to come back for more! Harvey Hill just wants other kids to think he's normal. So he's happy to start fresh as the newest kid at Strangeville Middle School. Except Strangeville is anything but normal. Something sinister swims in the drinking fountain, the cafeteria could swallow you whole, and a giant rat named Cuddles is on the loose. And don't even get the vice principal started on the third-floor supply closet. In fact, don't even think about it. What supply closet? At least Harvey has his guide and sort-of new friend Stella Cho to show him the ropes. School newspaper reporter, first chair flugelhorn, and hiding a secret of her own, Stella shows Harvey that maybe "normal" is overrated. But when Stella goes missing while trying to solve the secret of the supply closet (oh that supply closet!), Harvey must embrace what makes him unique to save his new friend and his new school. Sideways Stories from Wayside School meets Welcome to Nightvale in this wacky new series!



Stuck by Jennifer Swender

ISBN: 9781101932940

Publication Date: 2021-11-09

A coming-of-age story about a boy who is used to flying under the radar, and the classroom of kids determined to help him stand out. This touching friendship tale is the perfect read for fans of Fish in a Tree and Song for a Whale. "Austin's narration is conversational and observant." - Publishers Weekly, Starred Review If Austin picked a color to describe his life, it would be tumbleweed brown. Austin doesn't like standing out. He's always the new kid, and there's no hiding his size. Plus, Austin has a secret: he struggles to read. Then Austin meets Bertie, who is razzmatazz. Everything about Bertie is bursting! But the best part of his newest school is the Safety Squad, with their laser lemon vests. Their easy confidence and leadership stand out in the coolest way. Even when things are not so vibrant and life at home makes Austin feel Pacific Blue, for the first time, he wants to leave a mark. And the more Austin speaks up, the more he finds he may not be that different after all.



Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780063056770

Publication Date: 2022-05-17

"Combines wonderful characters and history to create a story that will make you want to dive right in!" JERRY CRAFT, author of the Newbery Medal-winning New Kid A splashy, contemporary middle grade graphic novel from bestselling comics creator Johnnie Christmas! Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brightha, home to the Mighty Manatees--until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help. With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her swim-crazed community counting on her to turn the school's failing team around. But that's easier said than done, especially when their rival, the prestigious Holyoke Prep, has everything they need to leave the Mighty Manatees in their wake. Can Bree defy the odds and guide her team to a state championship, or have the Manatees swum their last lap--for good? Praise for SWIM TEAM: Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor National Book Award Longlist Kirkus Best Book of the Year Harvey Award Best Children's or Young Adult Book Nominee "A revelation! You'll root for Swim Team--the water is just right." -- JOHN JENNINGS, New York Times bestselling and Eisner Award-winning creator "Swim Team is a beautiful story about trying new things. Johnnie Christmas is a fantastic storyteller and artist." --KAZU KIBUISHI, author of Amulet "Full of charm, heart, and pulse-pounding races. A winner!" --GENE LUEN YANG, author of American Born Chinese and Dragon Hoops