

**Fifth Grade Reading List 2020**  
**Akron-Summit County Public Library**

**Fiction:**

Brown, Peter **The Wild Robot** 2016. JFIC BROWN Wild Lexile 740; AR BL 5.1

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there. Her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa **Finding Langston** 2018. Lexile 760; AR BL 4.7

Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration and being bullied.

Gemeinhart, Dan **Some Kind of Courage** 2016. Lexile 760; AR BL 4.8

In 1890 Washington the only family Joseph Johnson has left is his half-wild Indian pony, Sarah, so when she is sold by a man who has no right to do so, he sets out to get her back--and he plans to let nothing stop him in his quest.

Gino, Alex **George** 2015. Lexile 790; AR BL 5

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

Kelly, Erin Entrada **Hello Universe** 2017. Lexile 690; AR BL 4.7

Told from four intertwining points of view--two boys and two girls--the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner bayani (hero).

Martin, Ann M **Rain Reign**, 2014. Lexile 720; AR BL 4.3

Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein) which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, or the other things that make her different--not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father.

O'Hara, Mo **My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish** 2013. JFIC O'HARA My Lexile 740; AR BL 5

Told in two separate stories, Tom's big brother becomes an evil scientist and his first experiment is on Tom's goldfish Frankie. To save Frankie, Tom zaps him with a battery to bring him back to life, but something is not quite right.

**Non-Fiction:**

Shetterly, Margot Lee **Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race** 2018. JNF 510.9252 Sh554h Lexile 980

Explores the previously uncelebrated but pivotal contributions of NASA's African American women mathematicians to America's space program, describing how Jim Crow laws segregated them despite their groundbreaking successes.

Lender, Ian, **The First Dinosaur: How Science Solved the Greatest Mystery on Earth** 2019. JNF 560.9 L564F Lexile 1000  
The First Dinosaur tells the story of the idea of dinosaurs, and the chain of fossil discoveries and advances in science that led to that idea. Be prepared to meet eccentric men and overlooked women who uncovered the pieces to a puzzle so much bigger than themselves, a puzzle far stranger and more spectacular than they could have ever imagined.

Stone, Tanya Lee, **Pass Go and Collect \$200: The Real Story of How Monopoly Was Invented** 2018. JNF 794 St881p Lexile 930

We all love Monopoly but do you know who the true inventor of this brilliant game really is or how many “players” it took to get Monopoly where it is today? This clever book takes the reader on an incredible journey of invention, change, and “borrowed” ideas. Features back matter that includes “Monopoly Math” word problems and equations. Excellent STEM connections and resources.

Hudson, Cheryl Willis **Brave. Black. First: 50+ African American Women Who Changed the World** 2020

JNF 920.7208 H885b No level yet

This illustrated biography compilation captures the iconic moments of fifty African American women whose heroism and bravery rewrote the American story for the better.

Kamkwamba, William & Brian Mealer, **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind** 2012. JBIO KAMKWAM, W K15b Lexile 860

In this memoir adapted for young readers, William Kamkwamba describes the drought that struck his tiny village in Malawi, his subsequent interest in science, and his idea to build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

Tonatiuh, Duncan, **Soldier for Equality : José de la Luz Saénz and the Great War** 2019, JBIO Saenz, J T663s (Lexile 860)

Jose de la Luz Saenz (1888-1953)--or Luz--believed in fighting for what was right. Although he was born in the United States, he and his family experienced prejudice because of their Mexican heritage. When World War I broke out, Luz volunteered to join the fight. Because of his ability to quickly learn languages, he became part of the Intelligence Office in Europe. However, despite his hard work and intellect, Luz often didn't receive credit for his contributions. Upon his return to the US, he joined other Mexican-Americans whom he had met in the army to fight for equality.

### Graphic Novels:

Craft, Jerry, **New Kid**, 2019. JGN NEW KID Lexile 320; AR BL 2.9; Interest Level 9-12

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

O'Connor, George, **Zeus: King of the Gods**, 2010. JGN 741.5973 Oc18o (**Series**) Lexile 640

In OLYMPIANS, O'Connor draws from primary documents to reconstruct and retell classic Greek myths. But these stories aren't sedate, scholarly works. They're action-packed, fast-paced, high-drama adventures, with monsters, romance, and not a few huge explosions. O'Connor's vibrant, kinetic art brings ancient tales to undeniable life, in a perfect fusion of super-hero aesthetics and ancient Greek mythology.

O'Neill, Katie, **The Tea Dragon Society**, 2017. JGN TEA DRAGON SOCIETY (**Series**) Lexile 440; AR BL 3.3

After discovering a lost tea dragon in the marketplace, Greta learns about the dying art form of tea dragon care-taking from the kind tea shop owners, Hesekeiel and Erik. As she befriends them and their shy ward, Minette, Greta sees how the craft enriches their lives—and eventually her own.