

Grades K-5 Realistic Fiction Reading List
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Early Readers:

*Faruqi, Saadia. **Yasmin the Librarian**, 2021. JRDR

It is library day and helper Yasmin is busy shelving books, but suddenly she discovers that her own special book is missing, prompting her to calmly retrace her steps.

*Lyons, Kelly Starling. **Ty's Travels: Beach Day!**, 2021. JRDR

Ty turns an ordinary day in the sandbox into a fun beach day. He wiggles his toes in the sand, finds seashells, builds a castle, and splashes in the ocean. When his neighbor's beach ball flies into his backyard, Ty learns that a beach day is even better with a friend.

Graphic Novels and Fiction:

Cisneros, Ernesto. **Efrén Divided**, 2020. JFIC

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.

Colbert, Brandy. **The Only Black Girls in Town**, 2020. JFIC

In a predominately white California beach town, the only two black seventh-graders, Alberta and Edie, find hidden journals that uncover family secrets and speak to race relations in the past.

Craft, Jerry. **Class Act**, 2020. JGN

Eighth grader Drew Ellis recognizes that he isn't afforded the same opportunities, no matter how hard he works, that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted, and to make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids and is finding it hard not to withdraw, even as their mutual friend Jordan tries to keep their group of friends together.

Frost, Helen. **Blue Daisy**, 2020. JFIC

Friends Sam and Katie try to help a stray dog and, in the process, bring their neighbors closer together.

Harrell, Rob. **Wink**, 2020. JFIC

After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can push him through treatment and survive middle school.

Knisley, Lucy. **Stepping Stones**, 2020. JGN

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.

*Miller, Kayla. **Act**, 2020. JGN

Olive is excited to start sixth grade: new teachers, new experiences, and a field trip to the big city with her best buds! But when Olive finds out that a school policy is keeping some kids from going on the trip, she decides to act. She's prepared to do whatever it takes to be heard--even if it means running against Trent and Sawyer, two of her closest friends, in the student council election! With intense campaign competition and emotions running high, can Olive make a big change and keep her friends?

*Platt, Jason. **Middle School Misadventures 2, Operation: Hat Heist**, 2020. JGN

Get ready for the show of the year, as Garfield Middle's best and brightest display their awe-inspiring talents in front of the whole town! One problem with the program, though... Newell signed up as a last-ditch effort to show a positive attitude, school spirit--and most important, avoid summer school--but doesn't really have a talent to show.

Reed, Dwayne. **Simon B. Rhyming**, 2021. JFIC

Chicago fifth-grader Simon, an aspiring rapper who lacks self-confidence, uses his rhymes to help bring his community together.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. **Black Brother, Black Brother**, 2020. JFIC

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.

*Scrivan, Maria. **Forget Me Not**, 2020. JGN

Natalie has never felt that she's enough -- athletic enough, stylish enough, or talented enough. And on the first day of middle school, Natalie discovers that things are worse than she thought -- now she's not even cool enough for her best friend, Lily! As Natalie tries to get her best friend back, she learns more about her true self and natural talents. If Natalie can focus on who she is rather than who she isn't, then she might realize she's more than enough, just the way she is.

Stone, Nic. **Clean Getaway**, 2020. JFIC

For the life of him, William "Scoob" Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble--and now the run-ins at school have led to lockdown at home. So when G'ma, Scoob's favorite person on Earth, asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he's in the RV faster than he can say FREEDOM. With G'ma's old maps and a strange pamphlet called the 'Travelers' Green Book' at their side, the pair takes off on a journey down G'ma's memory lane. But adventure quickly turns to uncertainty: G'ma keeps changing the license plate, dodging Scoob's questions, and refusing to check Dad's voice mails. And the farther they go, the more Scoob realizes that the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem--G'ma included.

Sumner, Jamie. **Tune it Out**, 2020. JFIC

Twelve-year-old Lou Montgomery's life has been centered on her mother's terrifying plan to make her a singing star, but a crisis reveals Lou's sensory processing disorder and people determined to help her address it.

*Watson, Renee. **Ways to Grow Love**, 2021, JFIC

In the summer before fifth grade, Ryan Hart continues to grow through changes and challenges, such as waiting for a new baby sister to be born, a summer camp trip, and more.

*Yang, Kelly. **Three Keys**, 2020. JFIC

Mia Tang thinks she's going to have the best year ever. She and her parents are the proud owners of the Calivista Motel, Mia gets to run the front desk with her best friend, Lupe, and she's finally getting somewhere with her writing! But as it turns out, sixth grade is no picnic.

*= part of a series.

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