

HOME IS CALLING: THE JOURNEY OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Katherine Pryor & Ellie Peterson
Join the monarch butterflies as they search for food and fly through storms during their annual migration.

THE WORLD'S BEST CLASS PLANT

Liz Garton Scanlon, Audrey Vernick, & Lynnor Bontigao
Deciding to name the class plant Jerry, Arlo and his classmates learn to take of care Jerry and it soon becomes clear that something amazing has taken root in their classroom.

CLAUDE: THE TRUE STORY OF A WHITE ALLIGATOR

Emma Bland Smith & Jennifer Potter
Follow Claude, the famous white alligator from the California Academy of Sciences, in this nonfiction picture book.

HOMEGROWN

DeAnn Wiley
A young Black girl, with the help of her Mama and Granny, learns that home isn't just a place but rather a reflection of people who support and love one another.

STUDENT'S INFORMATION – PLEASE PRINT

First & Last Name _____

Phone Number _____

School _____ Grade _____

Book Selection (1st choice) _____

Book Selection (2nd choice) _____



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STAFF ONLY

Returned Forms:
Date, Initials _____
Order Date _____
Date Received _____
Date Called _____
Pick-Up Date _____

Lexile N/A Grade K-3

AD 710L K-2

AD 600L PreK-3

N/A K-3



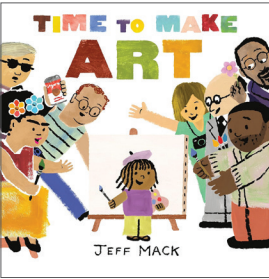
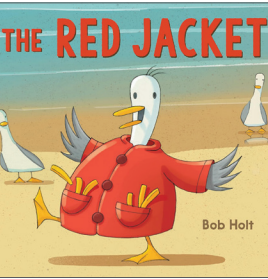
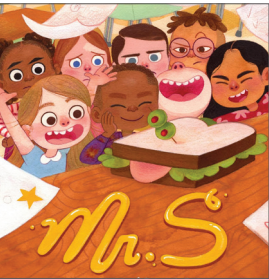
FOR GRADES K-3

The Monarch Young Readers' Book Award is an annual award given to the author of the book voted most outstanding by students in grades K-3 in participating Illinois schools and libraries.

CHOOSE A CHALLENGE:

Read or listen to all 20 Monarch books, vote for your favorite in February 2026, and receive a free paperback book from the current list or a past Monarch list. Ask your parent or teacher to put their initials on this flier next to the title of each book you read or listen to. Return your initialed Monarch Challenge form to the 2nd floor desk by March 16, 2026.

The Monarch Young Reader's Book Award is sponsored by the IPPL Foundation & Friends.



MR. S Monica Arnaldo

It was the first day of school. But even the kindergarteners of room 2B could tell something was seriously wrong . . . Where was the teacher? Who left this sandwich on the desk? The only clue, written on the chalkboard, were three simple letters: Mr. S.

NEGATIVE CAT Sophie Blackall

Max the cat’s behavior doesn’t win any raves, except from the boy who believes in him and finds a way to turn a negative into a positive

YOSHI, SEA TURTLE GENIUS: A TRUE STORY ABOUT AN AMAZING SWIMMER Lynne Cox & Richard Jones

Follow Yoshi, a sea turtle, on her journey as she swims farther than any animal in recorded history to return to the beach where she first hatched, to lay her own eggs.

SYDNEY AND TAYLOR EXPLORE THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD* Jacqueline Davies & Deborah Hocking

Taylor, a hedgehog, and his friend Sydney, a skunk, set out from their comfortable burrow under Miss Nancy’s potting shed on an adventure to see more of the “Whole Wide World.”

KNIGHT OWL Christopher Denise

A determined owl builds strength and confidence in this medieval picture book about what really makes a hero: wits, humor, and heart.

BENEATH Cori Doerrfeld

Agreeing to take a hike with Grandpa, grumpy Finn explores nature and discovers that things--and people--are often more than they first appear.

THUNDER AND CLUCK: FRIENDS DO NOT EAT FRIENDS Jill Esbaum & Miles Thompson

In this funny beginner graphic novel about friendship, two dinosaurs who are polar opposites become unlikely friends.

WE ARE DEFINITELY HUMAN X Fang

When three mysterious visitors from “Europe” crash–land in Mr. Li’s field, he does what any good neighbor would: he invites them in and offers to fix their “car”. No, there’s nothing strange about these guests, who “make business”, “play sportsball”, and “wear hat.”

*Denotes that we have an eBook available through Hoopla or eMediaLibrary.

Lexile	Grade	Lexile	Grade
AD 540L	K–1	N/A	PreK–3
AD 500L	PreK–2	AD 350L	PreK–2
N/A	K–3	N/A	1–3
N/A	1–3	AD 760L	K–3
N/A	PreK–2	N/A	1–2
N/A	PreK–2	AD 340L	PreK–K
GN 290L	PreK–2	AD 510L	PreK–1
AD 530L	PreK–2	AD 450L	PreK–K
THE RED JACKET Bob Holt		Bob loves his red jacket. The red jacket makes him feel swanky cool. The red jacket makes other seagulls notice him and even speak to him. But when a wave washes it away, will Bob lose his cool and his newfound friends, too?	
HAMSTERS MAKE TERRIBLE ROOMMATES Cheryl Klein & Abhi Alwar		Henry the hamster, who hasn’t had any peace and quiet since Marvin has become his roommate, must find a way to compromise in order to live together in peace.	
THE FLOWER GARDEN* Renée Kurilla		After planting a seed packet in the backyard, best friends Anna and Tess wake up to blooms as tall as buildings! The girls meet May, a garden gnome whose magic is responsible for the transformation, and follow her to her underground gnome home—discovering new things about their world and themselves along the way.	
BUTT OR FACE? A HILARIOUS ANIMAL GUESSING GAME FOR KIDS* Kari Lavelle		Close-up photos of animals like Cuban Dwarf Frogs and Mary River Turtles will have children guessing if they’re seeing the animals faces or their bottoms.	
TIME TO MAKE ART Jeff Mack		When a little girl asks questions about creating art, she’s answered by a diverse group of artists throughout time and history, encouraging young readers to see the artist in themselves.	
BATHE THE CAT* Alice B. McGinty & David Roberts		It’s cleaning day, but the family cat will do anything to avoid getting a bath. So instead of mopping the floor or feeding the fish, the family is soon busy rocking the rug, vacuuming the lawn, and sweeping the dishes.	
WHO’S AFRAID OF THE LIGHT? Anna McGregor		Fergus lives down in the deepest, darkest depths of the sea and is scared of just one thing...the light! He hides from a parade of sea creatures that use bioluminescence to find their way in the dark. At least, we think he is hiding.	
JUST SNOW ALREADY!* Howard McWilliam		When the forecast calls for snow, one little boy is thrilled. He keeps peeking outside to see if it’s snowing – but he only looks up! Looking at the sky makes him miss the chaos happening outside his door, which includes a monster truck, a firetruck, escaped monkeys, and carousing clowns.	