



Winchester Reading Rocks!

2021-2022 List of Titles

All Students
Are Welcome to Participate

	Digital Access	Title	Author	Genre	Theme
Picture Books	Sora	A Sled for Gabo	Emma Otheguy	RF	Fitting in
	Sora	The Proudest Blue	Ibtihaj Muhammad	RF	Identity
	Sora and Epic	Thank You Omu	Oge Mora	RF	Community
		Magic Ramen	Andrea Wang	NF	Persistence
	Sora and Epic	Sofia Valdez, Future Prez	Andrea Beatty	RF	Student Voice
	Sora	We are Water Protectors	Carole Lindstrom	RF	Indigenous voices
	Sora and Epic	We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga	Traci Sorell	RF	Indigenous voices
	Sora	Not so different	Shane Burcaw	NF	Facing Challenges
Short Chapter Books	Sora	The Kid from Planet Z	Nancy Krulik	Sci Fi	Fitting in
		Jasmine Toguchi Mochi Queen	Debbi Florence	RF	Identity
		Monster Heroes	Blake Hoena	Fan	Community
	Sora	J.D. and the Great Barber Battle	J. Dillard	RF	Persistence
	Sora	Stella Diaz Never Gives Up	Angela Dominguez	RF	Student Voice
	Sora	Stargazing	Jen Wang	RF	Facing Challenges
Longer Chapter Books	Sora	The Wonder of Wildflowers	Anna Staniszewski	Fantasy	Fitting in
	Sora	Some Places More Than Others	Renee Watson	RF	Identity
	Epic	Someplace to call home	Sandra Dallas	HF	Community
	Sora	A Wolf Called Wander	Rosanne Parry	RF	Persistence
	Sora	The Homework Strike	Gregory Pincus	RF	Student Voice
	Sora	Song For a Whale	Lynn Kelly	RF	Facing Challenges
	Sora	Race to the Sun	Rebecca Roanhorse	Fantasy	Indigenous Voices



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2021-2022 Book Summaries

The Homework Strike by Greg Pincus

Gregory K. has too much homework. Middle school is hard work. He tries to be a good student. He participates in class, he studies for his tests -- he and his friends even help each other with assignments. But no matter what he does, there's never enough time to finish it all. It just isn't fair he thinks, so he goes on strike. No worksheets, no essays, no projects. His friends think he's crazy. His parents are worried about his grades. And his principal just wants him to stop making trouble. Can Gregory rally his fellow students, make his voice heard, and still pass seventh grade?

Jasmine Toguchi Mochi Queen by Debbi Florence

Eight-year-old Jasmine Toguchi is tired of her big sister always getting to do things first. As the New Year approaches, and the family gathers, Jasmine is jealous her sister gets to make mochi balls with the women. Since her mom insists she is still too young to join, she hatches a plan to help the men pound the mochi rice instead. But pounding mochi is traditionally reserved for boys and the mochi hammer is heavier than it looks. Can Jasmine build her case and her mochi-making muscles in time for New Year's Day?

J.D. and the Great Barber Battle by J.Dillard

J.D. has a big problem--it's the night before the start of third grade and his mom has just given him the worst haircut. When the stream of insults from the entire school becomes too much, he goes into action and discovers he's a genius with clippers. Word of mouth reviews bring enough hair business to open a barbershop from his bedroom. But when the owner of another shop realizes he's losing clients to J.D., he tries to shut him down for good. How will it end? The people get to decide in the great barber battle!

The Kid from Planet Z by Nancy Krulik

When Zeke Zander's spaceship crashes on Earth, he and his family must pretend to be humans until they can fix the ship and return home to Planet Z. But with antennae on their heads and a talking cat named Zeus, fitting in is easier said than done. Discover how this alien struggles through life on Earth in this hilarious story.

Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando by Andrea Wang

Inspiration struck when Momofuku Ando spotted the long lines for a simple bowl of ramen, after World War II. Every day, Momofuku would go to his lab--a small backyard shed, where he dreamed of making a new noodle soup that was quick, convenient, and tasty for the hungry people he saw. Day after day, he experimented and failed but with persistence, creativity, and a little inspiration, succeeded. This is the true story behind one of the world's most popular foods.

Monster Heroes by Blake Hoena

Linda (the witch), Brian (the zombie), Will (the ghost), and Mina (the vampire) are monsters who fight for good. While other monsters try to hurt people, these four Monster Heroes help people. From switching potions to feeding zombies, these monsters will do whatever it takes to stop the monster madness caused by other creatures.

Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask People With a Disability by Shane Burkaw

Shane Burcaw was born with spinal muscular atrophy, a rare disease which hinders muscles' growth. That condition means his body will not grow bigger and become strong but will instead get smaller and weaker. This hasn't stopped him from doing things he enjoys (like eating pizza and playing sports and video games) with the people he loves, but it does mean he routinely relies on friends and family for help with everything.

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family by Ibtihaj Muhammad

With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school will be special. It's the start of a new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day wearing a hijab of beautiful blue fabric. Not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong. This is a universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond between siblings, and of being proud of who you are.

Race to the Sun by Rebecca Roanhorse

Lately, seventh grader Nizhoni Begay has been able to detect monsters. Her dad's boss at the oil and gas company, is alarmingly interested in Nizhoni, her brother Mac, their Navajo heritage, and the legend of the Hero Twins. Nizhoni knows he's a threat, but her father won't believe her. When Dad disappears the next day, leaving behind a message that says, "Run!", the siblings and Nizhoni's best friend go on a rescue mission. If the trio can reach the House of the Sun, they will be given what they need to defeat the ancient monsters. It will take more than weapons for Nizhoni to become the hero she was destined to be.

A Sled for Gabo by Emma Otheguy

On the day it snows, Gabo sees kids tugging sleds up the hill, then coasting down, whooping all the while. Gabo wishes he could join them, but his hat is too small, and he doesn't have boots or a sled.

But he does have warm and welcoming neighbors in his new town who help him solve the problem in the sweetest way possible!

Sophia Valdez, Future Prez by Andrea Beaty

Every morning, Abuelo walks Sofia to school until one day, he hurts his ankle at a local landfill and has to stop. Sofia misses her Abuelo and wonders what she can do about the dangerous Mount Trashmore. Then she gets the idea to turn the slimy mess into a park. She works up the courage to go to City Hall, only to be told she can't do it because she's just a kid. Sofia does not give up, and sets out to prove what one kid can do.

Stargazing by Jen Wang

Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic . . . and though they both grew up in the same Chinese-American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known. But after Moon moves next door, these unlikely friends are soon *best* friends. Moon even tells Christine her deepest secret: that she has visions, sometimes, of celestial beings, who speak to her from the stars and reassure her that earth isn't where she *really* belongs. Moon's visions begin to come true, however, and soon she is in the hospital, fighting for her life. Can Christine be the friend Moon needs, now, when the sky is falling?

Stella Diaz Never Gives Up by Angela Dominguez

Stella gets a big surprise when her mom plans a trip to visit their family in Mexico! Stella loves marine animals, and she can't wait to see the ocean for the first time . . . until she arrives and learns the sea and its life forms are in danger due to pollution. Stella wants to save the ocean, but she knows she can't do it alone. It's going to take a lot of work and help from old and new friends to make a difference, but Stella Díaz never gives up!

Some Place More Than Others by Renee Watson

All Amara wants for her birthday is to visit her father's family in New York City. She can't wait to finally meet Grandpa Earl and her cousins. Maybe this will help her understand her family--and herself. But New York City is crowded, with confusing subways, suffocating sidewalks, and now her father is too busy to spend time with her and too angry to spend time with Grandpa Earl. As she explores, and learns about her father and his family history, she realizes how she connects with it all.

Someplace to Call Home by Sandra Dallas

In 1933, what's left of the Turner family--twelve-year-old Hallie and her two brothers--finds itself driving the back roads of rural America. The children have been swept up into a new migratory way of life. America is facing two devastating crises: the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Hundreds of thousands of people in cities across the country have lost jobs. As the Turner children move from searching for work and a roof, they are met with hostility and viewed as outsiders in their own country. Will they ever find a place to call home?

Song For a Whale by Lynne Kelly

From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be .When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him! But he's three thousand miles away. How will she play her song for him? Full of heart and poignancy, this story shows how a little determination can make big waves.

Thank You Omu by Oge Mora

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent and one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous she has nothing left for herself? This is a heartwarming story of sharing and where a generous woman is rewarded by her community.

We Are Grateful: Otsali by Traci Sorell

The word *otsaliheliga* (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences with a book that was written by a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom

When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend the Earth's most sacred resource. Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, *We Are Water Protectors* issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption.

A Wolf Called Wander by Roseanne Parry

Swift, a young wolf cub, lives with his pack in the mountains learning to hunt, competing with his brothers and sisters for hierarchy, and watching over a new litter of cubs. Then a rival pack attacks, and Swift and his family scatter. Alone and scared, Swift must flee and find a new home. His remarkable one thousand mile journey across the Pacific Northwest is full of peril, as he encounters forest fires, hunters, highways, and hunger before he finds his new home. Inspired by the extraordinary true story of a wolf named OR-7, this tale of survival helps readers imagine what it would be like as one of the most misunderstood animals on earth.

The Wonder of Wildflowers by Anna Staniszewski

Ten-year-old Mira must balance the loyalty she feels towards her family with the desire to be accepted by her new classmates in this powerful coming-of-age story about identity, community, and finding a place to call home.