



Where Students Come First

1700 S. O'Plaine Rd, Green Oaks, IL 60048 • (847) 367.4120 • www.ogschool.org

Dear Families,

Summer provides a wonderful opportunity for students to find time to read! The goal of our summer reading program is to *foster a love of reading*. Reading over the summer can also help students maintain or even improve their reading skills. In order to meet the needs of each students' reading skills and interests, the *Oak Grove Summer Recommended Reading Lists* (grades 4-8) contain a variety of genres at various reading levels. Students are encouraged to read at least one book from their grade level list. Some students might prefer to listen to the audiobook version, but we suggest they also follow along with the text. Students could also choose to read the same title as a friend or family member and engage in ongoing discussions about the book.

Cook Memorial Library in Libertyville (as well as Aspen Library in Vernon Hills) has multiple copies of all of these books and allows patrons with library cards from other local libraries (ex. Waukegan, Lake Bluff, North Chicago) to check out books once they've registered at Cook. Additionally, Oak Grove students can log into the Sora app and read eBook (and some audiobook) versions of many of these titles.

Happy Reading!

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OGS Summer Recommended Reading Lists 2023

4th and 5th Grade



Barakah Beats by Maleeha Siddiqui

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Award List: Caudill 2024

It's Nimra Sharif's first time going to public school. Nimra's nervous, but as long as she has her best friend, Jenna, by her side, she figures she can take on just about anything. Unfortunately, middle school is hard. The teachers are mean, the schedule is confusing, and Jenna starts giving hijab-wearing Nimra the cold shoulder around the other kids. Desperate to fit in and save her friendship with Jenna, Nimra accepts an unlikely invitation to join Barakah Beats, a band made up of popular eighth-grade boys. The only problem is, Nimra was taught that music isn't allowed in Islam, and she knows her parents would be disappointed in her. So she devises a plan: join the band just until she wins Jenna back, then quit before her parents find out. But Nimra's lies quickly start to unravel. And as she grows to care about her bandmates, Nimra has to decide whether to betray her new friends or herself.



A Game of Fox and Squirrels by Jenn Reese

Genre: Fantasy

Award List: Caudill 2024

After an incident shatters their family, eleven-year old Samantha and her older sister Caitlin are sent to live in rural Oregon with an aunt they've never met. Sam wants nothing more than to go back to the way things were... before she spoke up about their father's anger. When Aunt Vicky gives Sam a mysterious card game called 'A Game of Fox & Squirrels,' Sam falls in love with the animal characters, especially the charming trickster fox, Ashander. Then one day Ashander shows up in Sam's room and offers her an adventure and a promise: find the Golden Acorn, and Sam can have anything she desires. But the fox is hiding rules that Sam isn't prepared for, and her new home feels more tempting than she'd ever expected. As Sam is swept up in the dangerous quest, the line between magic and reality grows thin. If she makes the wrong move, she'll lose far more than just a game.



Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom by Matthew Swanson

Genre: Humor

Award List: Bluestem 2024

Live each day as if it were your last.

When Ben reads his fortune-cookie fortune, he's alarmed and inspired. Immediately, he begins drafting a bucket list of unfinished tasks and lifelong dreams (finish his 1000-piece model of the Taj Mahal, eat an entire cake, etc....). As Ben marches himself in and out of trouble, takes useful risks, and helps both his parents to see the bigger picture, readers discover how something that seems scary can instead be empowering—leading to friendships that might never have been made, neighbors that might never have been known, and apple pies that might otherwise never have been baked.



New from Here by Kelly Yang

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Award List: Bluestem 2024

When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, ten-year-old Knox Wei-Evans's mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California. At his new school in California, Knox struggles with being the new kid. His classmates think that because he's from Asia, he must have brought over the virus. As racism skyrockets during COVID-19, Knox tries to stand up to hate, while finding his place in his new country. Sometimes when the world is spinning out of control, the best way to get through it is to embrace our own lovable uniqueness.

4th and 5th Grade



The Unforgettable Logan Foster by Shawn Peters

Genre: Adventure

Award List: Bluestem and Caudill 2024

Logan Foster has pretty much given up on the idea of ever being adopted. It could have something to do with his awkward manner, his photographic memory, or his affection for reciting curious facts, but whatever the cause, Logan and his “PP’s” (prospective parents) have never *clicked*. But it doesn’t take Logan long to notice some very odd things about his new PP’s. They are out at all hours, they never seem to eat, and there’s a part of the house

that is protected by some pretty elaborate security. His PP’s are actually superheroes, and they’re being hunted down by dastardly forces. Logan’s found himself caught in the middle in a massive battle and the very fate of the world may hang in the balance.



City Spies by James Ponti

Genre: Mystery

Award List: Caudill 2024

Sara Martinez is a hacker. Enter Mother, a British spy who not only gets Sara released from jail but also offers her a chance to make a home for herself within a secret MI6 agency. Operating out of a base in Scotland, the City Spies are five kids from various parts of the world. When they’re not attending the local boarding school, they’re honing their unique

skills, such as sleight of hand, breaking and entering, observation, and explosives. Before she knows what she’s doing, Sara is heading to Paris for an international youth summit, hacking into a rival school’s computer to prevent them from winning a million euros, dangling thirty feet off the side of a building, and trying to stop a villain...all while navigating the complex dynamics of her new team.



The List of Things That Will Not Change by Rebecca Stead

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Award List: Bluestem 2024

After her parents' divorce, Bea's life became different in many ways. But she can always look back at the list she keeps in her green notebook to remember the things that will stay the same. The first and most important: Mom and Dad will always love Bea, and each other. When Dad tells Bea that he and his boyfriend, Jesse, are getting married, Bea is thrilled.

Bea loves Jesse, and when he and Dad get married, she'll finally (finally!) have what she's always wanted--a sister. Even though she's never met Jesse's daughter, Sonia, Bea is sure that they'll be "just like sisters anywhere." As the wedding day approaches, Bea will learn that making a new family brings questions, surprises, and joy.



Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year by Nina Hamza

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Award List: Bluestem and Caudill 2024

Ahmed Aziz is having an epic year—epically *bad*. After his dad gets sick, the family moves from Hawaii to Minnesota for his dad’s treatment. He’s one of the only brown kids in his school. Ahmed surprises himself by actually reading the assigned books for his English class. Shockingly, he doesn’t hate them. Ahmed also starts learning about his uncle, who

died before Ahmed was born. Getting bits and pieces of his family’s history might be the one upside of the move, even as his dad’s health hangs in the balance and the school bully refuses to leave him alone.



Maya and the Robot by Eve L. Ewing

Genre: Sci-fi

Awards: Bluestem 2024

Maya's nervous about fifth grade. For the first time since kindergarten, her best friends Jada and MJ are placed in a different class without her, and introverted Maya has trouble making new friends. Just when too much seems to be changing, she finds a robot named Ralph in the back of Mr. Mac's convenience store closet. Once she uses her science skills to get him

up and running, a whole new world of connection opens up as Ralph becomes a member of her family and Maya begins to step into her power.

6th-8th Grade



Red, White, and Whole by Rajani LaRocca

Genre: Realistic Fiction (free verse)

Award List: Caudill 2024

Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their strict expectations. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma, although their names are linked—Reha means 'star' and Punam means 'moon'—but they are a universe apart. Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick. Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can't stomach the sight of blood, is determined to make her Amma well again. She'll be the perfect daughter, if it means saving her Amma's life.



Daughter of the Deep by Rick Riordan

Genre: Fantasy

Award List: Caudill 2024

In this story inspired by Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," Ana Dakkar, a freshman at Harding-Pencroft Academy, a five-year high school that graduates the best marine scientists, naval warriors, navigators, and underwater explorers in the world, makes astounding discoveries about her heritage and puts her leadership skills to the test against deadly enemies from a rival school.



My Life in a Fish Tank by Barbara Dee

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Award List: Caudill 2024

When twelve-year-old Zinnia Manning's older brother Gabriel is diagnosed with a mental illness, the family's world is turned upside down. Mom and Dad want Zinny, her sixteen-year-old sister, Scarlett, and her eight-year-old brother, Aiden, to keep Gabriel's condition "private"—and to Zinny that sounds the same as "secret." Which means she can't talk about it with her two best friends, who don't understand why Zinny keeps pushing them away, turning everything into a joke. How did Zinny get stuck in this weird club, anyway? She certainly doesn't have anything in common with these kids—and even if she did, she'd never betray her family's secret. The only good thing about school is science class, where cool teacher Ms. Molina has them doing experiments on crayfish. How can Zinny move forward when Gabriel—and, really, her whole family—still needs her help?



Alone by Megan E. Freeman

Genre: Adventure/Dystopia

Award List: Caudill 2024

When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone-left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned. With no one to rely on, no power, and no working phone lines or internet access, Maddie slowly learns to survive on her own. Her only companions are a Rottweiler named George and all the books she can read. After a rough start, Maddie learns to trust her own ingenuity and invents clever ways to survive in a place that has been deserted and forgotten. As months pass, she escapes natural disasters, looters, and wild animals. But Maddie's most formidable enemy is the crushing loneliness she faces every day.



Frankie and Bug by Gayle Forman

Genre: Realistic Fiction/Historical Fiction

Award List: Caudill 2024

It's the summer of 1987, and all ten-year-old Bug wants to do is go to the beach with her older brother and hang out with the locals on the boardwalk. But Danny wants to be with his own friends, and Bug's mom is too busy, so Bug is stuck with their neighbor Philip's nephew, Frankie. Bug's not too excited about hanging out with a kid she's never met, but they soon find some common ground. And as the summer unfolds, they find themselves learning some important lessons about each other, and the world. Like what it means to be your true self and how to be a good ally for others. That family can be the people you're related to, but also the people you choose to have around you. And that even though life isn't always fair, we can all do our part to make it more just.



***Turtle Boy* by Evan M. Wolkenstein**

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Award List: Caudill 2024

Seventh grade is not going well for Will Levine. Kids at school bully him because of his funny-looking chin. And for his bar mitzvah community service project, he's forced to go to the hospital to visit RJ, an older boy struggling with an incurable disease. The boys don't get along, but then RJ shares his bucket list with Will. Among the things he wants to do: ride a roller coaster, go to a school dance, swim in the ocean. To Will, happiness is hanging out in his room, alone, preferably with the turtles he collects. But as RJ's disease worsens, Will realizes he needs to tackle the bucket list on his new friend's behalf before it's too late. It seems like an impossible mission, way outside Will's comfort zone. But as he completes each task with RJ's guidance, Will learns that life is too short to live in a shell.



***Ophie's Ghosts* by Justina Ireland**

Genre: Horror/Historical Fiction

Award List: Caudill 2024

Ophelia Harrison used to live in a small house in the Georgia countryside. But that was before the night in November 1922, and the cruel act that took her home and her father from her. Which was the same night that Ophie learned she can see ghosts. Now Ophie and her mother are living in Pittsburgh with relatives they barely know. In the hopes of earning enough money to get their own place, Mama has gotten Ophie a job as a maid in the same old manor house where she works. Daffodil Manor, like the wealthy Caruthers family who owns it, is haunted by memories and prejudices of the past—and, as Ophie discovers, ghosts as well. Ghosts who have their own loves and hatreds and desires, ghosts who have wronged others and ghosts who have themselves been wronged. And as Ophie forms a friendship with one spirit whose life ended suddenly and unjustly, she wonders if she might be able to help—even as she comes to realize that Daffodil Manor may hold more secrets than she bargained for.



***Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee**

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Award List: Caudill 2024

Maizy has never been to Last Chance, Minnesota . . . until now. Her mom's plan is just to stay for a couple weeks, until her grandfather gets better. But plans change, and as Maizy spends more time in Last Chance (where she and her family are the only Asian Americans) and at the Golden Palace—the restaurant that's been in her family for generations—she makes some discoveries. The more Maizy discovers, the more questions she has. Like, why are her mom and her grandmother always fighting? Who are the people in the photographs on the office wall? And when she discovers that a beloved family treasure has gone missing—and someone has left a racist note—Maizy decides it's time to find the answers.



***A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat**

Genre: Fantasy/Dystopia

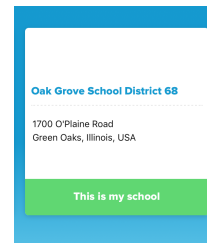
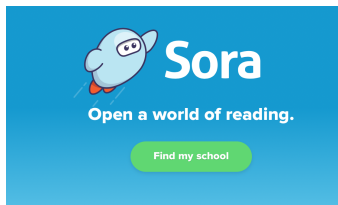
Award List: Caudill 2024

All light in Chattana is created by one man--the Governor, who appeared after the Great Fire to bring peace and order to the city. For Pong, who was born in Namwon Prison, the magical lights represent freedom, and he dreams of the day he will be able to walk among them. But when Pong escapes from prison, he realizes that the world outside is no fairer than the one behind bars. The wealthy dine and dance under bright orb light, while the poor toil away in darkness. Worst of all, Pong's prison tattoo marks him as a fugitive who can never be truly free. Nok, the prison warden's perfect daughter, is bent on tracking Pong down and restoring her family's good name. But as Nok hunts Pong through the alleys and canals of Chattana, she uncovers secrets that make her question the truths she has always held dear.

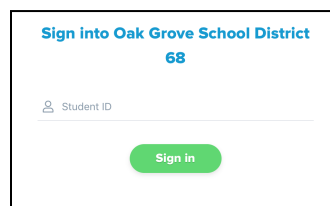
How to log into the Sora app (ebooks and audiobooks):



1. Download the **Sora app** from the app store on your device.
2. Select **Oak Grove School** when prompted for your school name



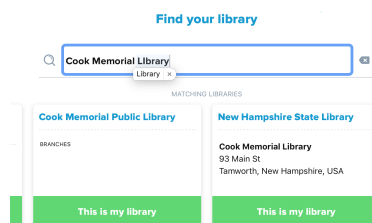
3. **Student ID:** use your seven-digit OGS student ID number (ex. 202----)
 - a. you can find this on Powerschool or email Mrs. Osterman for help **osterman@ogschool.org**



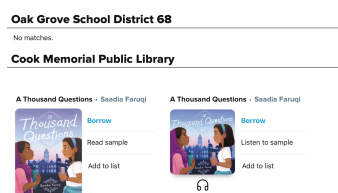
How to add Cook Memorial Library to your Sora account:

This adds their entire collection of ebooks and audiobooks!

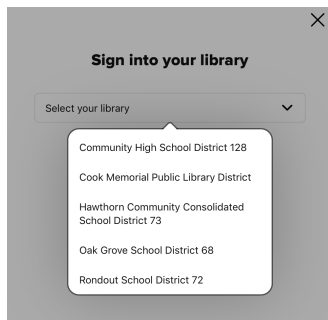
1. In the Sora app, click the 3-bar menu (top-right) and click “Add a public library”.
2. Enter Cook Memorial PL to locate the public library.



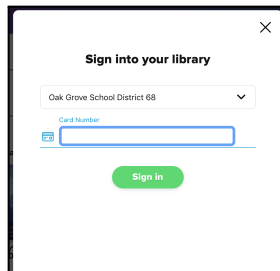
3. Find a public library title and click on “Borrow” and then “Sign in”.



4. Select your own **school district** (not the library) from the drop down.



5. Instead of a “card number”, enter the same credentials used to sign into Sora.
(OGS Student ID number)



Email Mrs. Osterman with any questions! osterman@ogschool.org

Happy Reading!