

Orlando Science Elementary School

Blast Off with Books 21-22 Sunshine State Reading Incentive Program



"We shouldn't teach great books; we should teach a love of reading." -B.F. Skinner, Inventor

Our primary goal of implementing this reward program is so that each student at Orlando Science Elementary School feels encouraged and challenged to read. The “Blast Off with Books” program was created to encourage student reading through a rewards program and unite readers and the school.

Readers are rewarded for the number of Accelerated Reader (AR) and Sunshine State Books they read within a specific time period. Every time a student reads an AR book and takes and passes an AR test (on their specific reading level), they will earn points.

Students can use their OSES Connect login to access the AR program [here](#).

Students who **read 8 or more** of the Sunshine State Books within their grade level range (K-2, 3-5, 6-8), AND **pass the AR tests** for those books, will be eligible for an end of the year celebration that will be held on May 20th.

Students must read these books and take/pass the AR tests before May 6th.

Grades K-2 Sunshine State Book List:



SSYRA Jr. 2021-2022 Annotated List



***The One and Only Dylan St. Claire* by Kamen Edwards Illustrated by Jeffery Ebbeler** Full of laughs and a one-of-a-kind character, you will cheer for, this hilarious story is a celebration of individuality, persistence, overcoming disappointment, and what it takes to be a true star.



***The Yawns are Coming* by Christopher Eliopoulos** Two best friends have big plans for their sleepover. They aren't going to go to bed at all - they'll stay up playing all night long. But then it happens: The YAWNS show up! And as much as they try to outrun and hide from them, it's no use: The Yawns catch them. Maybe they could keep going anyway, but then a DOZE arrives . . . followed by the dreaded SNORES. Will our heroes escape the SLEEPPIES?



***The Barnabus Project* written and illustrated by the Fan Brothers.** In a world built for Perfect Pets, Barnabus is a Failed Project, half mouse, half elephant, kept out of sight until his dreams of freedom lead him and his misfit friends on a perilous adventure. Will Barnabus and his friends find freedom? Read and find out!



***How to be a Pirate* by Issac Fitzgerald** What does it take to really be a pirate? CeCe dreams of being a pirate. When the neighborhood boys tell her that she can't, she wonders where to begin. Luckily, she suspects her grandpa must know something about being a pirate--why else would he have all those tattoos? As he shares each tattoo, Grandpa and CeCe are transported from adventure to adventure, and CeCe discovers that there are all kinds of ways to be a pirate.



***Federico and the Wolf* by Rebecca J. Gomez Illustrated by Elisa Chavarri** Clever Federico outsmarts el lobo in this fresh and funny Mexican-American take on Little Red Riding Hood.



***Kamala and Maya's Big Idea* by Meena Harris** Kamala and Maya live in a place where there is no playground. They have a big idea that they should make a playground. They keep hearing grownups tell them their big idea won't work. Can they make it work?



***Fussy Flamingo* by Shelley Vaughan James** This adorable fictional tale about a baby flamingo named Lola that doesn't want to eat shrimp. Instead, her feathers turn green from eating avocados and pink-red from eating dragonfruit. Eventually, she tries shrimp and finds that she loves it!



You Matter by Christian Robison In this beautiful picture book, many different perspectives around the world are explored—from a pair of bird-watchers to the pigeons they're feeding. Young readers will be drawn into the luminous illustrations inviting them to engage with the world in a new way and see how everyone is connected, and that everyone matters.



Roy Digs Dirt by David Shannon Roy REALLY digs dirt, he likes everything about it. See how many different ways there are to enjoy dirt, right along with Roy!



Unicorns are the Worst by Alex Willan Magic is serious business, but all unicorns do is frolic around, have tea parties, and leave glitter all over the place! They're nothing like goblins—practical and hard-working, who can put magic to good use! Unicorns aren't helpful at all. Or are they?



The Shark Report by Derek Anderson When Benny learns about sharks at school, he immediately feels worried. He definitely can't go in the ocean, because sharks live there. But even simply staying out of the water isn't enough, because a shark named Mr. Chompers follows him home! What will Benny do?



Puppy Problems by Paige Braddock Crackers (the dog) and Butter (the cat) are leading a pretty great life as rescue pets. Until a new puppy shows up. Crackers and Butter are annoyed by all his puppy antics, but when Peanut gets out, Crackers and Butter know how awful it feels to be on your own and work hard to bring Peanut back home.



See the Cat written by David LaRochelle and Illustrated by Mike Wahnoutka See Max. Max is not a cat--Max is a dog. But much to Max's dismay, the book keeps instructing readers to "see the cat." How can Max get through to the book that he is a *DOG*?



Geeger the Robot by Jarrett Lerner Geeger the Robot is going to school. But not *robot* school... a school with kids, the *human* kind! Geeger isn't used to human ways, and his zany misunderstandings and overly literal responses to instructions lead to quite a few mishaps. He's starting to wonder if he can even make it until snack time!



Ready for School by Bob McMahon New best friends Cookie and Broccoli are as different as peanut butter and cheese, but that doesn't stop them from helping each other through the first day of school! Together they find the classroom and concoct silly secret greetings. When Broccoli discovers that Cookie is also nervous to meet new classmates, the two of them come up with the perfect solution.

Grades 3-5 Sunshine State Book List:



Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2021-2022 List for Grades 3-5



***Amelia Six* by Kristin L Gray**

Eleven-year-old Amelia (Millie) doesn't realize just how much adventure awaits her when she's given the opportunity of a lifetime: to spend the night in Amelia Earhart's childhood home with five other girls. Once at Amelia's house in Atchison, Kansas, Millie stumbles upon a display of Amelia's famous flight goggles. But her luck changes quickly when the goggles disappear, and Millie was the last to see them. It's up to the Amelia Six to find the culprit and return the goggles to their rightful place.



***Black Brother, Black Brother* by Jewell Parker Rhodes**

As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, most of the students don't look like Donte. They don't like him either. When an incident leads to his arrest and suspension, he knows the only way to get even is to beat the king of the school at his own game: fencing. Donte embarks on a journey to carve out a spot on Middlefield Prep's fencing team and maybe learn something about himself along the way.



***Charlie & Frog* by Karen Kane**

Charlie heads into the village where an old woman gives him a desperate message in sign language, then suddenly disappears. All Francine (aka Frog) wants is to be the world's greatest detective. Frog, who is Deaf, would jump at the chance to tackle a real-life case. Together, Charlie and Frog set out to decipher a series of clues and uncover the truth behind the missing woman's mysterious message.



***The Disaster Days* by Rebecca Behrens**

Hannah loves living on a tiny island. It's a little disconnected from the outside world, but she's always felt completely safe there. Which is why when she's asked one day to babysit after school, she thinks it's no big deal. Then the shaking begins. The terrifying earthquake only lasts four minutes but it changes everything, damaging the house, knocking out the power, and making cell service nonexistent. Hannah and the youngsters are stranded and alone with Hannah in charge, as things go from bad to dangerous.



***A Field Guide to Getting Lost* by Joy McCullough**

Sutton is having robot problems. She must have gotten something wrong in the coding. Luis spends his days writing thrilling stories about brave kids, but there's only so much inspiration you can find when you're stuck inside all day—allergic and afraid. Sutton and Luis couldn't be more different from each other. Except now that their parents are dating, these two have to find some common ground. Will they be able to navigate their way through life?



***Following Baxter* by Barbara Kerley**

Jordie has been waiting forever for someone to move in next door, so she is thrilled when Professor Reece arrives: she has a laboratory in her basement and an extraordinary dog named Baxter—who seems to understand everything Jordie says. She begins walking Baxter and helping Professor Reece in the lab. But being lab assistant ends up being more than Jordie bargained for and leads her to an unexpected secret. When Professor Reece goes missing, it is up to Jordie to use her smarts and Baxter's magical powers to find her. Will they be able to save Professor Reece before it's too late?



***From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks**

What does a girl say to the father she's never met and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Even if it means hiding his letters and her investigation from the rest of her family. With bakery confections on one part of her mind, and her father on the other, this is one recipe Zoe doesn't know how to balance. The only thing she knows to be true: Everyone lies.

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2021-2022 List for Grades 3-5, Page 2



***The Great Pet Heist* by Emily Ecton**

Butterbean knew she wasn't always a good dog. Then her owner, Mrs. Food, fell in the hallway. Now Butterbean and her fellow pets (Oscar the mynah bird, Walt the cat, and rats Marco and Polo), have to come up with a plan to support themselves. When they discover a mysterious man in their building who seems to have lots of loot, they plan a heist. Can these animal friends pull off the heist of the century?



***How to Test a Friendship* by Theanne Griffith**

Violet and Pablo are best friends who love science! So when they discover a riddle that opens a magic portal in the Science Space at school, they can't wait to check it out! Along with their new classmate, Deepak, the friends discover a magical makerspace called the Maker Maze. It's a laboratory full of robots, 3D printers, an antigravity chamber, and more. Doors line the walls of the makerspace, with a new science adventure waiting behind each one.



***The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter* by Aaron Reynolds**

Rex Dexter is itching to have a dog but ends up with a pet chicken. One hour and fourteen minutes later, the chicken is dead, Rex is cursed, and wild animal ghosts are haunting Rex's room. Rex's uninvited ghostly guests are a chatty, messy bunch. And they need Rex to solve their mysterious deadly departures from the Middling Falls Zoo before it happens again. But how?



***Midnight at the Barclay Hotel* by Fleur Bradley**

When JJ's mom accepts an invitation to a weekend getaway at the Barclay Hotel, he never imagined that he'd find himself in the midst of a murder mystery. When he arrives at the Barclay Hotel and his mother is blamed for the hotel owner's death, he realizes his weekend is going to be anything but ordinary. Now he must track down a killer, clear his mother's name, and maybe even meet a ghost or two along the way.



***The Newspaper Club* by Beth Vrabel**

There are rumors of vandalism and attacks at the only park in town. Something is happening at the park, but what? All of the fake online news and rumors are clouding the truth. Nellie wants to break the story — and break free from the front yard — but she can't do it alone. She needs a whole club if she's going to start the *Cub Report*, the town's first independent newspaper. Creating a newspaper from scratch is going to be tough; but for Nellie, making friends is even harder.



***Roll With It* by Jamie Sumner**

Ellie's a girl who tells it like it is. That surprises some people, who see a kid in a wheelchair and think she's going to be all sunshine and cuddles. The thing is, Ellie has big dreams: one day she's going to be a professional baker. But when Ellie and her mom move so they can help take care of her grandpa, Ellie has to start all over again in a new town at a new school. Except she's not just the new kid—she's the new kid in the wheelchair who lives in the trailer park on the wrong side of town.



***The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez* by Adrianna Cuevas**

Nestor doesn't want anyone find out his deepest secret: that he can talk to animals. But when the animals in his new town start disappearing, Nestor's grandmother becomes the prime suspect. Nestor learns that they are being seized by a *tule vieja*—a witch who can absorb an animal's powers by biting it during a solar eclipse. And the next eclipse is just around the corner...Now it's up to Nestor's extraordinary ability and his new friends to catch the *tule vieja*—and save a place he might just call home.

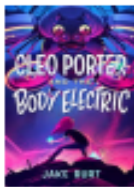


***Wish Upon a Sleepover* by Suzanne Selfors**

Leilani is planning to host the best sleepover in the history of the world. But her grandmother accidentally sends the invitations to the "do NOT invite" list and now Leilani is stuck hosting a group of kids she can't stand. This is sure to be the worst sleepover in the history of the world. Or...maybe the unexpected will happen.

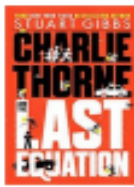


Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2021-2022 List for Grades 6-8



***Cleo Porter and the Body Electric* by Jake Burt**

A woman is dying. Cleo Porter has her medicine. And no way to deliver it. Like everyone else, twelve-year-old Cleo and her parents are sealed in an apartment without windows or doors. They never leave. They never get visitors. Their food is dropped off by drones. So they're safe. Safe from the disease that nearly wiped humans from the earth. Safe from everything. The trade-off? They're alone. Thus, when they receive a package clearly meant for someone else—a package containing a substance critical for a stranger's survival—Cleo is stuck. As a surgeon-in-training, she knows the clock is ticking. But people don't leave their units. Not ever. Until now.



***Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation* by Stuart Gibbs**

The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.



***When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed**

Omar Mohamed was a child when soldiers attacked his village in Somalia. Separated from his parents, he and his younger brother, Hassan, eventually made their way to Dadaab. Living in this crowded refugee camp in Kenya, Omar spends his days scrambling for food and taking care of Hassan, who is nonverbal and suffers from debilitating seizures. A chance to attend school is a dream come true, but the opportunity weighs heavily on Omar; school is a selfish choice when you have no parents and a brother who needs constant care.



***The Unteachables* by Gordon Korman**

The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks. Like Aldo, with anger management issues; Parker, who can't read; Kiana, who doesn't even belong in the class—or any class; and Elaine (rhymes with pain). The Unteachables have been removed from the student body and isolated in room 117. Their teacher is Mr. Zachary Kermit, the most burned-out teacher in all of Greenwich. He was once a rising star, but his career was shattered by a cheating scandal that still haunts him. After years of phoning it in, he is finally one year away from early retirement. But the superintendent has his own plans to torpedo that idea—and it involves assigning Mr. Kermit to the Unteachables. The Unteachables never thought they'd find a teacher who had a worse attitude than they did. And Mr. Kermit never thought he would actually care about teaching again. Over the course of a school year, though, room 117 will experience mayhem, destruction—and maybe even a shot at redemption.



***Me and Banksy* by Tanya Lloyd Kyi**

A Banksy-style protest against cameras in classrooms brings a group of middle-grade students together. Dominica's private school is covered in cameras, and someone is hacking into them and posting embarrassing moments for the whole school to see. Like Ana picking her nose. When Dominica quickly changes her shirt from inside out in what she thinks is the privacy of a quiet corner in the library, she's shocked -- and embarrassed -- to discover a video has captured this and is currently circulating amongst her school-mates. So mortifying, especially since over the past three years, they've had a half-dozen school talks about social media safety. Who has access to the school security cameras and why are they doing this? Dominica and her best friends, Holden and Saanvi, are determined to find out, and in the process start an art-based student campaign against cameras in the classroom.



***The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* by Stacy McAnulty**

If you can survive a bolt of lightning, you can survive middle school...right? Lucy was struck by lightning when she was eight; turning her into a math savant with genius level math skills and some quirky OCD issues. Now that Lucy is twelve, she's technically ready for college. Except Lucy's grandma wants her to survive just one year of middle school. Lucy must: Go to middle school for 1 year. Make 1 friend. Join 1 activity. And read 1 book (that's NOT a math textbook.)



***Jinxed* by Amy McCulloch**

Lacey Chu is a girl who codes. She has always dreamed of working as an engineer for MONCHA, the biggest tech firm in the world and the company behind the "baku"—a customizable "pet" with all the capabilities of a smartphone. But when Lacey is rejected by the elite academy that promises that future, she's crushed.

One night, Lacey comes across the broken form of a highly advanced baku. After she repairs it, the cat-shaped baku she calls Jinx opens its eyes and somehow gets her into her dream school. But Jinx is different from any other baku she's ever seen... He seems real. As Lacey settles into life at school, competing with the best students in a battle of the bakus that tests her abilities, she learns that Jinx is part of a dangerous secret. Can Lacey hold on to Jinx and her dreams for the future?

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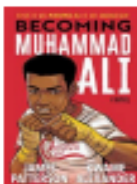
Bloom by Kenneth Oppel

The invasion begins—but not as you'd expect. It begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout—overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom—and release toxic pollens. They bloom—and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. They bloom—everywhere, unstoppable. Or are they? Three kids on a remote island seem immune to the toxic plants: Anaya, Petra, Seth. They each have strange allergies—and yet not to the plants. What's their secret? Can they somehow be the key to beating back this invasion? They'd better figure it out fast, because it's starting to rain, again....



Bouncing Back by Scott Ostler

Thirteen-year-old Carlos Cooper used to be the star of the team. Back in his old basketball league, he took every shot he possibly could - even if he had to steal it from a teammate - and he made every single one of them. But, on his new wheelchair basketball team, he's back to being just one of the players, nothing special. When the city closes down his league's gym, Carlos soon finds himself even more adrift. Without the gym, they can't practice, and if they can't practice, they might as well kiss their dreams of a State Championship win goodbye. It's only by learning to work together that Carlos and his new teammates will be able to save their gym, and Carlos will have to learn what it takes to be a member of the team so he can fully embrace his new friends.



Becoming Muhammad Ali by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing. Readers will learn about Cassius's family and neighbors in Louisville, Kentucky, and how, after a thief stole his bike, Cassius began training as an amateur boxer at age twelve. Before long, he won his first Golden Gloves bout and began his transformation into the unrivaled Muhammad Ali.



Wildfire: A Novel by Rodman Philbrick

Thirteen-year-old Sam Castine is at summer camp while his mother is in rehab, but when the camp is evacuated ahead of a fast moving wildfire, he makes the mistake of going back for his phone. He finds himself left behind, disoriented, and running for his life. Together with a girl, Delphy, from a different camp, they work to survive. Finding an old jeep keeps them going, but in the wilds of Maine, there are only logging roads and the deadly fire is everywhere.



A Wish in the Dark by Christina Soontornvat

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. 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.



Coop Knows the Scoop by Taryn Souder

The whole town is talking about what's buried beneath the playground...

Windy Bottom, Georgia is usually a peaceful place. Coop helps his mom at her café and bookstore, hangs out with his grandpa, bikes around with his friends, Justice and Liberty, and is determined to live up to his dad's legacy. Windy Bottom is full of all kinds of interesting people, but no one has ever caused a problem. Until now. And somehow, Gramps is taking all the blame! It seems like there are a lot of secrets that were buried in their small town after all... Will Coop and his friends get to the bottom of the mystery and clear Gramps's name before it's too late?



Clean Getaway by Nic Stone

How to Go on an Unplanned Road Trip with Your Grandma:

Grab a Suitcase: Packed from the big spring break trip that got CANCELLED. Fasten Your Seatbelt: G'ma's never conventional, so this trip won't be either. Use the Green Book: G'ma's most treasured possession. It holds history, memories, and most important, the way home.

What Not to Bring:

A Cell Phone: Avoid contact with Dad at all costs. Even when G'ma starts acting stranger than usual. Set against the backdrop of the segregation history of the American South, take a trip with this New York Times bestseller with an eleven-year-old boy who is about to discover that the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem—his G'ma included.



The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA by Brenda Woods

Gabriel, twelve, gains new perspective when he becomes friends with Meriwether, a Black World War II hero who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South in South Carolina. As their friendship develops, Gabriel's eyes are opened to new realizations.

Tips for Encouraging Reading

- Let your student choose what to read
- Talk about what your student is reading
- Visit the library or bookstore together
- Model reading
- Have books at home
- Make reading a natural part of the day's activities
- Look for books that broaden your student's horizon. These can be the basis for discussion about different cultures, socioeconomic conditions, and beliefs
- Sit next to your child so you can share the illustrations in a picture book

Teachers will continue to encourage their students to read in class and may offer additional reading incentives.

Students are encouraged to get an OCLS library card:

www.ocls.info

Now Prepare for Blast Off!