

# GRAPHIC NOVELS READING LISTS

grades 3 - 5

## **The Accursed Vampire**

**Madeline McGrane**

QUILL TREE, 2021

9780062954350

Nonbinary vampire child Dragoslava has been tasked with returning a stolen spell book for an unkind witch and learns to rely on their friends, fellow vamp children Eztli and Quintus, for help along the way.

## **The Adventures of Team Pom: Squid Happens**

**Isabel Roxas**

FLYING EYE BOOKS, 2021

9781912497256

Offbeat pals competing for a synchronized swimming championship find something fishy at their swim club, where an enormous squid hides out.

## **Allergic**

**Megan Wagner Lloyd, illust. by Michelle Mee Nutter**

GRAPHIX, 2021

9781338568912

While learning to live with an allergy, Maggie searches for a pet she can safely love and questions her friendship with her next-door neighbor, who just got a puppy.

## **Blancaflor, the Hero with Secret Powers: A Folktale from Latin America**

**Nadja Spiegelman, illust. by Sergio García Sánchez**

TOON BOOKS, 2021

9781943145553

In an updated retelling of this folktale, Blancaflor uses her powers to help a prince with a challenge set by her ogre father, in hope of having a happily ever after.

## **Can You Hear a Penguin Fart on Mars? And Other Excellent Questions (Jop and Blip Wanna Know #1)**

**Jim Benton**

HARPERALLEY, 2021

9780062972927

Robots Jop and Blip work through the logic of whether you can hear a penguin fart on Mars and other silly questions, while sharing hilarious jokes and interesting facts.

## **Complete the Quest: The Poisonous Library**

**Brian McLachlan**

MACMILLAN, 2021

9781250268297

Choose your characters and navigate maps on a perilous quest to save Queen Evergreen from the evil plot to destroy this imaginary world's books.

## **The Fifth Quarter**

**Mike Dawson**

FIRST SECOND, 2021

9781250244178

In the fifth quarter of basketball, points don't count. That doesn't stop Lori, though, from playing her favorite sport and working to improve at it. Now if only she could feel like she fit in with her friends, things would be good on and off the court.

## **The First Case (Pup Detectives #1)**

**Felix Gumpaw, illust. by Walmir Archanjo**

LITTLE SIMON, 2021

9781534474956

Four young pup detectives join together to solve the crimes at their school, like missing pencils and a lunchtime bandit who keeps stealing the cafeteria's food.

## **Fred & Marjorie: A Doctor, a Dog, and the Discovery of Insulin**

**Deborah Kerbel, illust. by Angela Poon**

OWLKIDS, 2021

9781771474115

A Canadian doctor's research in the 1920s led to the discovery of life-saving insulin but raises ethical issues about animal experimentation.

## **Garlic and the Vampire**

**Bree Paulsen**

QUILL TREE, 2021

9780062995094

With talking veggies and a reclusive vampire who only drinks beet juice, this graphic novel explores themes of anxiety, bravery, and believing in yourself!

## **The Golden Hour**

**Niki Smith**

LITTLE, BROWN, 2021

9780316540377

After a traumatic event, Manuel is paired with Sebastian and Caysha for a group project. The three become fast friends, working together to prepare for the local county fair.

## **Just Roll with It**

**Lee Durfey-Lavoie, illust. by Veronica Agarwal**

RANDOM HOUSE GRAPHIC, 2021

9781984897008

Maggie's starting middle school, and her worries have begun to control her life in a way that doesn't feel healthy or sustainable. A thoughtful exploration of anxiety and OCD, aided by supportive relationships.

## **Katie the Catsitter**

**Colleen AF Venable, illust. by Stephanie Yue**

RANDOM HOUSE, 2021

9780593306321

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The Graphic Novels Reading List was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association. Titles on this list were selected and annotated by members of ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

For more booklists, please visit:  
[ala.org/alsc/booklists](http://ala.org/alsc/booklists)

grades  
3 - 5

When Katie starts watching her neighbor's cats—all 217 of them!—to earn extra money, she notices a wave of crimes happen only when her neighbor is out. It's up to Katie—and the cats—to stop the crimes before they get out of control!

### **Living with Viola**

**Rosena Fung**  
ANNICK PRESS, 2021  
9781773215488

Livy deals with being the new kid on top of hiding her recurring anxiety from her parents and family. This story tackles tough topics in an easy-to-understand way.

### **Monster Friends**

**Kaeti Vandorn**  
RANDOM HOUSE GRAPHIC, 2021  
9781984896827

Shape-shifting monster Reggie is happy to spend a quiet summer house-sitting for his cousins. Reggie's solitude is interrupted by Emily, an energetic and enthusiastic young monster who is determined to be his friend.

### **The Mystery Monster (Paige Proves It #1)**

**Amy Marie Stadelmann**  
ALADDIN, 2021  
9781534451612

Paige has just moved to Evergreen Street, where she uses her favorite things—logic and facts—to investigate a supposed monster that also lives on the street.

### **Otto: A Palindrama**

**Jon Agee**  
DIAL, 2021  
9780803741621

When his pet Pip goes missing, Otto goes on a wild mission to find his missing pup. This inventive graphic novel is written entirely in palindromes.

### **Pawcasso**

**Remy Lai**  
HENRY HOLT, 2021  
9781250774484

A story about missing your family, the ups and downs of friendship, and how a lie can snowball but forgiveness is still possible.

### **Power Up**

**Sam Nisson, illust. by Darnell Johnson**  
ETCH/CLARION, 2021  
9780358325659

Taking place in both the real world and in a video game, this story examines themes of friendship and bullying.

### **Roar of the Beast (Cardboard Kingdom #2)**

**Chad Sell and others, illust. by Chad Sell**  
KNOPF, 2021  
9780593125540

The Cardboard Kingdom is threatened by bullies and monsters, and the neighborhood friends must work together to save the Kingdom before Halloween.

### **Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear**

**Trang Nguyen, illust. by Jeet Zdung**  
DIAL, 2021  
9780593353639

A young conservationist attempts to reintegrate a sun bear into the wild in this beautifully illustrated translation from Vietnam.

### **The Secret Garden on 81st Street**

**Ivy Noelle Weir, illust. by Amber Padilla**  
LITTLE, BROWN, 2021  
9780316459655

This retelling of Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel places a racially diverse cast of characters in modern-day New York City.

### **Secrets of Camp Whatever**

**Chris Grine**  
ONI PRESS, 2021  
9781620108628

Stuck at her dad's old summer camp, Willow is sucked into mystery after mystery. Soon, she must come to terms with family secrets—and her own.

### **The Sleepover**

**Michael Regina**  
RAZORBILL, 2021  
9780593117347

Grieving the sudden death of his beloved nanny, Ruby, Matt believes Ruby's voice is calling to him, and he suspects his new nanny hides an evil secret.

### **Student Ambassador: The Missing Dragon**

**Ryan Estrada, illust. by Axur Eneas**  
IRON CIRCUS COMICS, 2021  
9781945820601

Joseph, eight-year-old student ambassador, gets sent on a special mission by the president to talk an eight-year-old king of another country out of going to war.

### **Sunny Makes a Splash (Sunny #4)**

**Jennifer L. Holm, illust. by Matthew Holm**  
SCHOLASTIC, 2021  
9781338233186

Sunny is relieved to get a job at the local swimming pool, which not only gets her out of babysitting her little brother but also brings new friends.

### **A Tale as Tall as Jacob: Misadventures with My Brother**

**Samantha Edwards**  
ANDREWS MCMEEL, 2021  
9781524865047

A fictional tale based on the author's experiences growing up with a younger brother with ADHD.

### **Wingbearer**

**Marjorie Liu, illust. by Teny Issakhanian**  
QUILL TREE, 2022  
9780062741165

Young orphan Zuli leaves the safety of her magic-tree haven for a world she has no memory of to discover what is interfering with the avian cycle of rebirth. An epic fantasy quest full of colorful characters, big action, plenty of humor, and a big heart.