

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Aldrin, Buzz. ***Look to the Stars***. Putnam's, 2009. Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin traces the history of air and space exploration from Isaac Newton to the International Space Station and Mars using personal insights and conversational text.
- Anderson, Matthew T. ***Handel, Who Knew What He Liked***. Candlewick, 2001. A man who would later compose some of the world's most beautiful music is shown as a stubborn little boy with a mind of his own.
- Barton, Chris. ***The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors***. Charlesbridge, 2009. Brothers Bob and Joe Switzer had different interests and ambitions but worked together on the dazzling creation of fluorescent colors.
- Beard, Darleen Bailey. ***Annie Glover is Not a Tree Lover***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Fourth grader Annie is torn between supporting her "tree hugging" grandmother who is trying to save a historic tree and her desire for the new community swimming pool which would mean cutting down the tree.
- Becker, Bonny. ***The Magical Ms. Plum***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Each of the students in Ms. Plum's third grade classroom receives a visit from a magical creature that comes out of her supply closet just for them.
- Bidner, Jenni. ***Is My Dog a Wolf?: How Your Pet Compares to its Wild Cousin***. Lark, 2006. Examines the differences and similarities between dogs and wolves with descriptions of how both have descended from the ancient wolf and how they have evolved into two diverse species.
- Bishop, Nic. ***Forest Explorer: A Life-Size Field Guide***. Scholastic, 2004. Enjoy up close views of the wildlife in a deciduous forest through breathtakingly beautiful photography and informative text.
- Brown, Don. ***A Wizard From the Start: The Incredible Boyhood and Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. This picture book shows that young Thomas Edison was a hard worker who was curious about everything, read a lot of books, studied diligently for years, and was passionate about inventing.
- Bruel, Nick. ***Happy Birthday Bad Kitty***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Bad Kitty's birthday party seems to be going well until her presents begin to disappear. Is one of the guests stealing them? *Series*
- Buckley, Carol. ***Tarra and Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends***. Putnam's, 2009. This book shares the true story of an elephant named Tarra who befriends a dog, Bella, at an elephant sanctuary.
- Cheshire, Simon. ***The Curse of the Ancient Mask: And Other Case Files***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Become a detective and see if you can solve each mystery from the clues Saxby gives as he works three cases in this fast-paced chapter book. *Series*

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- Cleary, Beverly. **Ribsy**. First published 1964. When Ribsy gets lost from his family at the shopping center, he begins a series of humorous escapades and wanderings in his quest to find his family. *Series*
- Clements, Andrew. **No Talking**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. The noisy fifth grade class of Laketon Elementary becomes suspiciously quiet when the boys challenge the girls to a “no talking” contest.
- Coombs, Kate. **The Secret-Keeper**. Atheneum, 2006. Kalli is entrusted with everyone’s secrets until the potter’s son reveals the best secret of all.
- Corey, Shana. **Mermaid Queen: The Spectacular True Story of Annette Kellerman, Who Swam Her Way to Fame, Fortune, & Swimsuit History!** Scholastic, 2009. This brightly illustrated picture book biography of Annette Kellerman details how she overcame physical difficulties to become a world famous swimmer, water ballerina, and swimsuit innovator.
- Coville, Bruce. **The Monster's Ring**. Harcourt, 2002. Russell Crannaker's magic ring enables him to turn into a monster on Halloween and ward off the class bully once and for all. *Series*
- Cowley, Joy. **Snake and Lizard**. Kane/Miller, 2008. Snake and Lizard's friendship grows as they learn more about each other in this humorous chapter book of likable desert characters.
- Creech, Sharon. **Hate That Cat**. Joanna Cotler, 2008. Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous works and how they relate to his life.
- Crisp, Marty. **Titanicat**. Sleeping Bear Press, 2008. Every ship had a cat, and in this historical fiction picture book, the story of the Titanic's cat is told; but just where is the cat's luck during the Titanic's doomed voyage?
- Dahl, Roald. **Matilda**. Viking, 1988. Matilda applies her mental powers to rid the school of the evil headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore Miss Honey, her nice teacher, to financial security.
- Davies, Nicola. **Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures on Earth**. Candlewick, 2006. This amazing natural history book reveals how animals adapt to and survive the harshest of conditions that would kill any human.
- Demi. **Marco Polo**. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Travel with the legendary explorer, Marco Polo, through colorful, exotic lands, experiencing the dangers and adapting to strange cultures over his 24-year, 3,000-mile journey through the Far East.
- Dennis, Brian. **Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle**. Little, Brown, 2009. Heartwarming true tale of a United States Marine and his canine friend as they met and bonded in Iraq, and how Nubs came to America.
- Eilenberg, Max. **Beauty and the Beast**. Candlewick, 2006. This beautifully illustrated version of the classic tale includes such interesting family members as Beauty’s two spoiled sisters and her proud, adoring father.

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- Franco, Betsy. ***A Curious Collection of Cats: Concrete Poems.*** Tricycle Press, 2009. Full of humor and colorful illustrations, this book of concrete poems about cats is a delight.
- Franco, Betsy. ***Messing Around on the Monkey Bars: And Other School Poems for Two Voices.*** Candlewick, 2009. Find a partner and enjoy reading poems about life at school from this entertaining collection of poetry for two voices.
- French, Jackie. ***How to Scratch a Wombat: Where to Find It ... What to Feed It ... Why It Sleeps All Day.*** Clarion, 2009. This book tells you all you need to know about caring for and living with wombats -- how to scratch their backs, how to sing to them, and how to keep the "hairy brown rocks with legs" from breaking your door down -- based on the author's thirty years of experience in her Australian home.
- Friedman, Laurie. ***Red, White & True Blue Mallory.*** Carolrhoda Books, 2009. On a class trip to Washington, D.C., Mallory keeps a journal in which she writes about sites she visits, her bothersome loose tooth, the lack of attention from her best friend, Mary Ann, and getting lost in a museum. *Series*
- Gardiner, John Reynolds. ***Stone Fox.*** First published 1980. Willy hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.
- Gibbons, Gail. ***Hurricanes!*** Holiday House, 2009. Informative text and drawings present an overview of how hurricanes are formed, their categories, the destruction they can cause, and how they are forecasted and tracked.
- Giovanni, Nikki. ***The Grasshopper's Song: An Aesop's Fable Revisited.*** Candlewick, 2008. It is the alleged "frivolous" grasshopper's day in court as he tries to prove his case against the industrious ants who did not share their food with him through the long, cold winter.
- Goldstone, Bruce. ***Great Estimations.*** Holt, 2006. This book will show you how to train your eyes and your mind to make really great estimations using photographs and easy-to-follow text.
- Greene, Stephanie. ***Happy Birthday, Sophie Hartley.*** Clarion, 2010. Sophie, who is looking forward to her tenth birthday, has many ups and downs growing up in a family with five kids.
- Grindley, Sally. ***Dear Max.*** McElderry Books, 2006. Written in letter format between a nine-year-old boy and a published author, this book deals sensitively with loss within a family, disease, and bullying.
- Gutman, Dan. ***Nightmare at the Book Fair.*** Simon and Schuster, 2008. Fifth-grader Trip Dinkleman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the head by a bookfair case and becomes a character in a series of different books including a horror story, an adventure, and a fantasy.
- Hamilton, Virginia. ***The Girl Who Spun Gold.*** Blue Sky Press, 2000. This beautifully illustrated folktale is a West Indian variant of the Rumpelstiltskin story.

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- Hansen, Rosanna. ***Caring for Cheetahs: My African Adventure.*** Boyds Mills, 2007. Pounce into this colorful photo-essay about protecting endangered cheetahs at a nature reserve owned by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa.
- Harley, Avis. ***African Acrostics: A Word in Edgeways.*** Candlewick, 2009. Entertaining acrostic poems about African animals provide readers information both about the animals as well as the various forms of acrostic poems.
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***Just Grace Walks the Dog.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Grace hopes to prove to her parents that she can be dependable and responsible enough to have a real dog, not just the cardboard dog she has been pulling around. *Series*
- Helman, Andrea. ***Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts.*** Walker, 2008. This beautifully photographed book takes the reader to ecosystems around the world to show how animals camouflage themselves for protection in each unique habitat.
- Hicks, Betty. ***Track Attack.*** Roaring Brook, 2009. Superfast Jazz, a budding track star, is embarrassed by her overly enthusiastic father and his meddling at her track meets and practices.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***Piper Reed Gets a Job.*** Holt, 2009. Piper starts a party-planning business in order to earn enough money to buy a clubhouse for their Gypsy Club members, but she discovers the job is not nearly as easy as she had thought. *Series*
- Hopkins, Jackie Mims. ***The Gold Miner's Daughter: A Melodramatic Fairytale.*** Peachtree, 2006. In trying to pay her debt to mean ole Mr. Bigglebottom, Gracie Pearl meets many fairytale characters along the way who have had their own problems with the money hungry banker in this entertaining, melodramatic fairytale.
- Hopkins, Jackie Mims. ***Joe Bright and the Seven Genre Dudes.*** Upstart Books, 2010. Stella, the master storyteller of a storybook kingdom, is threatened by Joe Bright's ability to tell stories and sends him deep into the dark forest, where Joe meets the Seven Genre Dudes, brothers who care for various types of books at the local library.
- Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Keep On!: The Story of Matthew Henson, Co-Discoverer of the North Pole.*** Peachtree, 2009. Well-researched text and striking drawings portray the courage and determination of explorer Matthew Henson as he traveled with Admiral Peary to the North Pole in 1909.
- Hunt, Elizabeth Singer. ***The Escape of the Deadly Dinosaur: USA.*** Weinstein, 2007. Nine-year-old Jack Stalwart works for the GPF, the Global Protection Force, and travels to New York City in search of a genetically mutated flesh-eating dinosaur. *Series*

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- Jenkins, Emily. ***Toy Dance Party: Being the Further Adventures of a Bossyboots Stingray, a Courageous Buffalo, and a Hopeful Round Someone Called Plastic.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2008. Buffalo, Stingray, and Plastic are worried when the Girl starts spending time with Barbie dolls and at sleepovers. Throughout their adventures in the house, they will learn if they can keep the Girl's love. *Series*
- Jenkins, Steve. ***Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Incredible cut paper illustrations highlight eighteen creatures whose weapons of teeth, claws, spines, and venom make them dangerous to humans, while the captivating text explains what you should never do if you encounter one of these animals.
- Judge, Lita. ***One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II.*** Hyperion, 2007. The author relates the story of her grandparents' efforts after World War II to send packages of food, clothing, and shoes to their friends in Germany and others in Europe who suffered from the after-effects of the war.
- Klimo, Kate. ***The Dragon in the Driveway.*** Random House, 2009. Cousins, Jesse and Daisy, along with their pet dragon, continue their battle against the evil scientist who has plans to destroy the forest in order to find the magical golden pickax that is buried there. *Series*
- Klise, Kate. ***Stand Straight, Ella Kate: The True Story of a Real Giant.*** Dial Books, 2010. The life of Ella Kate Ewing, an eight foot tall giant born in 1872, is presented in this illustrated fictionalized biography.
- Krosoczka, Jarrett. ***Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. In this graphic novel, the Lunch Lady and her sidekick, Betty, secretly fight forces of evil when they uncover a plot hatched by a villainous teacher to overrun the school with cyborg substitutes. *Series*
- Krull, Kathleen. ***The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. As a young boy in the early 1900's, Philo Farnsworth's curiosity about how things work eventually led him to develop the idea of how television could work.
- La Fevers, R. L. ***Flight of the Phoenix.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Ten-year-old Nate is sent to live with a family cousin, the world's last beastologist, after his parents are declared lost at sea, but danger mounts when he is brought on an expedition to the Arabian desert, gets lost, and must protect a newly hatched phoenix egg and rescue his guardian. *Series*
- Lane, Kathleen. ***Nana Cracks the Case!*** Chronicle Books, 2009. Not your ordinary grandma, Nana is aided by her grandchildren Eufala and Bog in nabbing a candy thief for the Crispy County Police Department.
- Larsen, C. S. ***Crust & Spray: Gross Stuff in Your Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat.*** Millbrook, 2010. Prepare to be both grossed out and educated by the wacky descriptions and graphic close up pictures of the fluids and ooze generated by the human body.

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- Lin, Grace. ***The Year of the Dog: A Novel.*** Little, Brown, 2006. Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese-American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog to her own life. *Series*
- Low, Alice. ***The Fastest Game on Two Feet and Other Poems About How Sports Began.*** Holiday House, 2009. This book contains funny poems about various sports as well as a brief paragraph about the sport's origin.
- Lowry, Lois. ***The Birthday Ball.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Princess Patricia Priscilla is not looking forward to her birthday when she has to choose a suitor, so she switches places with her chambermaid so she can attend school with the commoners.
- Lubar, David. ***Punished!*** Darby Creek, 2006. Because he was playing tag in the reference section of the library, Logan is punished by Professor Wordsworth, who puts a spell on him that is broken only by finding anagrams, palindromes, and oxymorons.
- MacDonald, Alan. ***Trolls United.*** Bloomsbury, 2007. In this silly story about an endearing troll family, Ulrik has to deal with his father coming to school, worrying about making the soccer team, and hoping for a new pair of soccer cleats. *Series*
- MacDonald, Betty. ***Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle.*** First published 1947. Loved by children and their parents, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle always knows just the right way to solve any problem. *Series*
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***Sarah, Plain and Tall.*** First published 1985. This sweet prairie tale of a family's experiences with Sarah, a mail-order bride from Maine, begins with children Anna and Caleb worried that their new mother might not like being away from the sea. *Series*
- Markle, Sandra. ***Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories.*** Millbrook, 2009. Nine riveting tales share examples of animals saving humans, along with photos and extra information and insights into animal behavior.
- McCully, Emily Arnold. ***Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse.*** Holt, 2010. Bill "Doc" Key, who was a former slave, trains his horse, Jim Key, to recognize letters and numbers and perform around the country, ultimately teaching others to treat animals humanely.
- Mitchell, Barbara. ***The Graffiti Mystery.*** Stone Arch Books, 2009. Getting in a few scrapes himself, Supersleuth Damian uses his smarts to solve the mystery of who has been painting graffiti on the walls of the boys' bathroom and the principal's car. *Series*
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Shiloh.*** Atheneum, 1991. Marty must make some painful decisions about returning a dog to his abusive owner. Newbery Honor Book 1992. *Series*
- Nivola, Claire A. ***Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. This beautifully illustrated biography tells how Wangari Maathai encouraged the people of Kenya to plant trees in an effort to restore their depleted land.

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- Nolan, Lucy. ***Bad to the Bone***. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Neighboring dogs, Down Girl and Sit, are discovering that their owners are very hard to train. *Series*
- O'Malley, Kevin. ***Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude***. Walker, 2005. Cooperatively writing a fairytale for school, a girl imagines a beautiful princess whose beloved ponies are being stolen by a giant, and a boy conjures up the muscular biker who will guard the last pony in exchange for gold.
- Otfinoski, Steven. ***All in the Family: A Look-It-Up Guide to the In-Laws, Outlaws, and Offspring of Mythology***. Franklin Watts, 2009. Greek mythology hall of famers meet the modern age in a new series that brings the superstars of Greek mythology to life. *Series*
- Pennypacker, Sara. ***Clementine's Letter***. Hyperion, 2008. After learning that her favorite teacher will be leaving for a trip to Egypt and will be absent for the remainder of the year, Clementine devises a plan to get rid of the substitute and get Mr. D'Matz to stay. *Series*
- Petersen, P. J. ***Wild River***. Delacorte, 2009. When their kayak hits a log and his older brother is seriously hurt, Ryan must overcome his fears and go for help.
- Polacco, Patricia. ***The Keeping Quilt***. First published 1988. Follow the author's family's quilt through several generations, from its creation by the first generation immigrant family all the way to the present generation.
- Rappaport, Doreen. ***Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt***. Disney-Hyperion, 2009. Well-researched and powerfully presented, this biography of Eleanor Roosevelt chronicles her life from a quiet, reserved child to an outspoken champion for the rights of all individuals.
- Root, Phyllis. ***Paula Bunyan***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Paula Bunyan is a rough, tough lady with a singing voice that cracks windows, a live bear for a foot warmer, and a heart for the environment in this fun folk tale set in the North Woods.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***The Wonder Book***. Harper, 2010. Silly poems, puns, and jokes are illustrated with happy line drawings in this humorous book full of word play.
- Ryder, Joanne. ***Panda Kindergarten***. Collins, 2009. Simple text and enticing color photographs follow sixteen giant panda cubs as they eat, play, and nap during the day at the Wolong Nature Preserve in China.
- Scieszka, Jon. ***Spaceheadz***. Simon & Schuster, 2010. Michael moves to a new school and learns that some of his friends are really aliens who have come to Earth in order to convince millions of kids to be Space Heads. *Series*
- Scott, Elaine. ***When is a Planet Not a Planet?: The Story of Pluto***. Clarion, 2007. This book takes the downgrading of Pluto from planet to dwarf planet as a teachable moment for discussing questions such as how the number of planets has changed through the centuries, what can be called a planet, and how scientists come to conclusions—and occasionally change their minds.

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- Service, Pamela F. ***Alien Expedition.*** Carolrhoda Books, 2009. Alien agent Zack is on a mission to help rescue alien dinosaurs from another planet who have been taken hostage in Mongolia by the Kiapa Kapa Syndicate. *Series*
- Shefelman, Janice. ***I, Vivaldi.*** Eerdmans Books, 2008. This picture book biography describes how Vivaldi grew to be a famous musician, despite his mother's vow for him to become a priest.
- Sidman, Joyce. ***Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Poems about pond life throughout the year and factual annotations are contained in this beautifully illustrated book.
- Sidman, Joyce. ***Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. In fourteen poems, this picture book blends poetry, science, and art in celebrating the earth's most resilient and long-lived species.
- Simon, Seymour. ***Horses.*** HarperCollins, 2006. Horse lovers will enjoy this book of photographs and accompanying text which provides interesting information about horses.
- Sylver, Adrienne. ***Hot Diggity Dog: The History of the Hot Dog.*** Dutton, 2010. The history of the hot dog and how it came to America is discussed in this eye-catching picture book.
- Tavares, Matt. ***Henry Aaron's Dream.*** Candlewick, 2010. In this beautiful picture book biography of Henry "Hank" Aaron, Henry overcomes many obstacles to realize his childhood dream of becoming a major league baseball player.
- Taylor, Sarah Stewart. ***Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean.*** Disney-Hyperion, 2010. In graphic novel format, Amelia Earhart's life is described with a focus on the successful Atlantic crossing in 1928.
- Tolan, Stephanie S. ***Wishworks, Inc.*** Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Third-grader Max copes with his parents' divorce by retreating into an imaginary world complete with an imaginary dog to protect him from the bullies at school until he realizes that one must be careful what one wishes for even at his imaginary Wishworks, Inc.
- Trine, Greg. ***The Curse of the Bologna Sandwich.*** Holt, 2006. After graduating from the Superhero Academy, Melvin Beederman heads for Los Angeles where he unexpectedly teams up with Candace Brinkwater, school play actress, to nab the evil McNasty Brothers. *Series*
- Tunnell, Michael O. ***Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's Chocolate Pilot.*** Charlesbridge, 2010. This is the story of pilot Gail Halvorsen who, after meeting some of the children living in post World War II West Berlin, started dropping candy from his plane when he flew over.
- Vail, Rachel. ***Justin Case: School, Drool, and Other Daily Disasters.*** Feiwel and Friends, 2010. Written in diary form, Justin writes honestly about his worries and observations of life in the 3rd grade.
- Wallace, Rich. ***The Ball Hogs.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. In this beginning chapter book, Mark and Ben, both highly competitive, refuse to pass the soccer ball, but eventually realize that their best chance of winning is working together. *Series*

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- Weeks, Sarah. **Oggie Cooder**. Scholastic, 2008. Oggie, an outcast to his classmates, garners friends and fame by sharing his unique talent of "charving," chewing and carving processed cheese into the shape of states, on a television talent show. *Series*
- Wilson, Karma. **What's the Weather Inside?** McElderry, 2009. This clever collection of original poetry is mostly light, humorous verse about family, friends, and school.
- Winter, Jonah. **Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx**. Atheneum, 2009. Written in both English and Spanish, the life of Sonia Sotomayor is described from her childhood in poverty to how she worked her way up to the top of the United States judicial system.
- Winter, Jonah. **You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!** Schwartz & Wade, 2009. Learn about Sandy Koufax, a powerful left-handed pitcher for the New York Dodgers, a practicing Jew who would not play baseball on High Holy days, and a mystery man who quit baseball after the best season of his career.
- Yee, Lisa. **Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally)**. Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Two long-time best friends' disagreement escalates into a war between the girls and boys of their fourth-grade classroom.
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Compiled by:

Amy Parker (Chair), *The Kinkaid School*

Marjorie Donaruma, *St. John's School*

Mary Lasley, *River Oaks Baptist School*

Laurie Mitchell, *St. Mark's Episcopal School*

Georgene Quirke, *The Fay School*

Cindy Schumacher, *Annunciation Orthodox School*

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