



HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST

2021

About the HAISLN Recommended Reading List

This list of titles has been compiled by librarians at member schools of the Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network (HAISLN). It includes both fiction and nonfiction books by some of the best authors for children and young adults.

Books on the list are evaluated annually by grade-level committees. Committee members rely on recommendations from standard, professionally prepared evaluation aids and on input from students and teachers, as well as the collective HAISLN expertise. A conscious effort is made to appeal to the broad range of interests, maturity levels, and reading abilities of students.

In most cases the number of books by any given author is limited to one or two per grade level list. An older title with superior literary quality may remain on the list despite newer publications by the same author. Before reading a recommended author's book that does not appear on the student's grade list, readers should be aware that authors often write for multiple interest and age levels. Books that are part of a series are also noted, but not all books in a series are necessarily appropriate at the indicated grade level.

Students may find that some titles that are required reading for their classes appear on this list. Be advised that if a book for required reading is selected for independent reading, it may have to be re-read with the class at a later date.

This list is offered as one possible source of reading guidance. Additional lists of award winners and recommended books may be obtained from your school or public librarian. We hope that books from this list bring students many hours of enjoyment and encourage the life-long love of reading.

*Houston, Texas
March 2021*

HAISLN Recommended Reading List 2021

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PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

All book summaries are written by committee members or provided by the publisher.

- Agee, Jon. ***It's Only Stanley***. Dial Books, 2015. The very strange noises that keep awakening the Wimbledon family one night have an even stranger source.
- Antony, Steve. ***I'll Wait, Mr. Panda***. Scholastic, 2016. Mr. Panda is making something, and all of his animal friends are interested—but only Penguin is willing to wait to see what it is. *Series*
- Archer, Micha. ***Daniel's Good Day***. Nancy Paulsen, 2019. When his neighbors give a variety of answers to the question, “What is a good day!,” Daniel writes a poem about the everyday activities that give them joy.
- Barnett, Mac. ***A Polar Bear in the Snow***. Candlewick, 2020. This story follows a polar bear out on a walk, over ice, past animals, near a human, and finally through the water.
- Bates, Amy June, and Juniper Bates. ***The Big Umbrella***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. A spacious umbrella welcomes anyone and everyone who needs shelter from the rain.
- Bee, William. ***Stanley's Garage***. Peachtree, 2014. Friends bring their cars with problems to Stanley, and he knows just how to fix them. *Series*
- Bernstrom, Daniel. ***One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree***. Katherine Tegen, 2016. A large hungry snake gobbles a young boy who is still able to encourage him to keep devouring additional animals, which eventually saves them all.
- Brantley-Newton, Vanessa. ***Grandma's Purse***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018. When Grandma Mimi comes to visit, her granddaughter cannot wait to see what treasures she has hidden in her purse.
- Brett, Jan. ***Armadillo Rodeo***. Putnam's, 1995. Bo, an adventurous, near-sighted armadillo, leaves his mother and brothers to follow a girl wearing red boots, which Bo mistakes for another armadillo, to a rodeo.
- Brown, Monica. ***Waiting for the Biblioburro***. Tricycle Press, 2011. Ana loves books and is excited when a man with two burros brings a movable library to her remote village and then encourages her to write a book of her own.
- Brown, Tameka Fryer. ***My Cold Plum Lemon Pie Bluesy Mood***. Viking, 2013. Jamie describes his moods throughout the day, using colors and rhythmic text, as he changes from an “easy green mood” while drawing a picture for his sister to a “brooding black mood” when he is teased for doing so.
- Burgess, Matthew. ***The Bear and the Moon***. Chronicle Books, 2020. When the gift of a balloon floats into a bear's life, the two companions embark on a journey of discovery as small as a clearing in the forest and as deep as the sky.

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- Cabrera, Cozbi A. ***Me & Mama***. Simon & Schuster, 2020. For a little girl on a rainy day, the best place to be is with Mama. *Caldecott Honor 2021, Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor 2021*
- Campbell, Scott. ***Hug Machine***. Atheneum, 2014. The hug machine is available to hug anyone, any time, whether they are square or long, spiky or soft.
- Carle, Eric. ***The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse***. Philomel, 2011. Rather than use the same old colors, a child paints animals and objects in a variety of unusual hues.
- Cena, John. ***Elbow Grease***. Random House, 2018. Elbow Grease, a small electric truck with a lot of gumption, enters the Monster Truck Grand Prix to prove to his brothers that he is just as capable as they are.
- Cherry, Matthew A. ***Hair Love***. Penguin Random House, 2019. A little girl's daddy helps her arrange her wild hair in a natural, beautiful way.
- Christelow, Eileen. ***Five Little Monkeys Wash the Car***. Clarion, 2000. Five little monkeys wash the family car before trying to sell it, but that is only the beginning of their adventures with the old heap. *Series*
- Crews, Nina. ***The Neighborhood Mother Goose***. Greenwillow, 2004. This collection of nursery rhymes, both familiar and lesser known, is illustrated with photographs in a city setting.
- Cuyler, Margery. ***The Little Ice Cream Truck***. Holt, 2018. Everyone smiles when the little ice cream truck, loaded with tasty treats, shows up at parties, baseball games, parks, and zoos.
- Davis, Katie. ***Who Hops?*** Harcourt, 1998. Creatures that hop, fly, slither, swim, and crawl are listed, inviting kids to learn how different animals move about.
- Dawnay, Gabby. ***If I Had a Dinosaur***. Thames & Hudson, 2017. Although she has considered other pets, a young girl is sure a dinosaur would be the perfect pet and imagines all the things she could do with her dinosaur.
- Dean, Kim. ***Pete the Kitty's First Day of PreSchool***. HarperFestival, 2019. Pete the Kitty has his first day of preschool, where he meets the teacher, sings fun songs, and paints a picture. *Board book*
- Dewdney, Anna. ***Llama Llama Time to Share***. Viking, 2012. Llama finds out it is better to share after playing with a friend leads to tears and broken toys.
- Dopirak, Kate. ***Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Car***. Beach Lane Books, 2018. In this twist on a classic poem, a little red car takes a final cruise around town before going to bed, beeping goodnight to all his vehicular friends.
- Dyckman, Ame. ***Tea Party Rules***. Viking, 2013. A little girl bosses a bear cub at her tea party, making him follow all the rules before she will let him eat any of the cookies.

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PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Elya, Susan Middleton. ***La Princesa and the Pea***. Putnam's, 2017. The classic fairy tale of the princess and the pea is told in rhyme with the addition of some Spanish words in each sentence. *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award 2018*
- Esbaum, Jill. ***Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin, Pie***. National Geographic, 2009. How pumpkins grow, the different varieties of pumpkins, and the many ways people use them are discussed.
- Ferry, Beth. ***Swashby and the Sea***. Houghton Mifflin, 2020. No-nonsense Captain Swashby is used to the sea meeting all of his needs and when, after his retirement, new neighbors disturb his solitary life, the sea helps in just the right way.
- Fitzgerald, Isaac. ***How to Be a Pirate***. Bloomsbury, 2020. Told by the neighborhood boys that she cannot be a pirate, Cece seeks reassurance from her grandfather who knows about boats and has tattoos.
- Fleming, Candace. ***Tippy-tippy-tippy-hide!*** Atheneum, 2007. Mr. McGreeley shared his carrots with three little bunnies during the summer, but he has no intention of letting them share his house during the winter.
- Fleming, Meg. ***Sometimes Rain***. Beach Lane Books, 2018. Illustrations and simple, rhyming text celebrate the seasons of the year and the joy each one brings.
- Fogliano, Julie. ***Just in Case You Want to Fly***. Holiday House, 2019. For children who want to explore, rhyming text offers encouragement and supplies what they might need for their adventures, from a snack and a blanket to a map for finding the way home.
- Franklin, Ashley. ***Not Quite Snow White***. Harper, 2019. Tameika is excited to audition for the school's *Snow White* musical, but when she overhears her classmates say she is too tall, chubby, and brown to play Snow White, she questions whether she is right for the part.
- Genechten, Guido van. ***Little Kangaroo***. Clavis, 2017. Little Kangaroo's mama wants him to explore the wider world, but he wants to stay in her pouch where it is cozy and safe, at least at first ...
- Gerstein, Mordicai. ***The Night World***. Little, Brown, 2015. Sylvie the cat convinces her boy to go out and discover the night where there are shadows of flowers and animals who are all waiting for the beautiful sunrise to appear.
- Gibson, Ginger Foglesong. ***Tiptoe Joe***. Greenwillow, 2013. A bear invites all of the animals to follow him through the trees, on tiptoe, to see a special surprise.
- Gravett, Emily. ***Tidy***. Simon & Schuster, 2017. When a badger tries to tidy up the forest too much, he finds that the unintended consequences can lead to disaster.

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- Harper, Charise Mericle. **Go! Go! Go! Stop!** Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Little Green only knows the word "Go," which is the perfect thing to get the construction site moving, but how will they stop?
- Helmore, Jim. **The Snow Lion.** Peachtree, 2018. Caro is too shy to make friends in her new neighborhood until she meets a mysterious Snow Lion who plays with her and encourages her to meet other children.
- Henkes, Kevin. **A Parade of Elephants.** Greenwillow, 2018. Illustrations and easy-to-read text introduce such basic concepts as adjectives, adverbs, daytime, and nighttime as readers follow five elephants marching from dawn to dusk.
- Higgins, Ryan T. **Bruce's Big Move.** Disney-Hyperion, 2017. Bruce does not want to share his den with the four geese and three mice who have crowded in, so he decides it's time to look for a new home. *Series*
- Hudson, Katy. **The Runaway Egg.** Random House, 2017. Following Mama Hen's request, Chick reluctantly babysits his brother-to-be, an energetic egg.
- James, LeBron. **I Promise.** HarperCollins, 2020. This motivational book reminds readers to do their best, remain positive, and be respectful of both themselves and the people around them.
- Jenkins, Steve. **What Do You Do If You Work at the Zoo?** Houghton Mifflin, 2020. Young children are introduced to the important tasks the zookeeper does to keep all the animals safe and healthy.
- John, Jory. **Giraffe Problems.** Random House, 2018. Edward the giraffe can't understand why his neck is as long and ridiculous as it is until a turtle ambles in and helps him understand that his neck has a purpose and also looks excellent in a bow tie.
- Katz, Karen. **The Colors of Us.** Holt, 2002. Seven-year-old Lena and her mother observe the variations in the colors of their friends' skin, viewed in terms of foods and things found in nature.
- Kerr, Mike. **Crafty Llama.** Bloomsbury, 2018. Llama knits while considering what special thing she wants to do, and soon all her friends have joined her except Beaver, who only likes to make things that are useful.
- Kim, Sang-Keun. **Little Mole's Wish.** Schwartz & Wade, 2019. Little Mole has no friends since moving to a new home, so he molds a snowball into a bear, wishing that it will come to life.
- Klassen, Jon. **This Is Not My Hat.** Candlewick, 2012. A tiny fish thinks he can get away with stealing a blue hat. *Caldecott Medal 2013*
- Klausmeier, Jesse. **Open This Little Book.** Chronicle Books, 2013. Pages of decreasing, then increasing, size open to reveal different animals, each opening a book of a different color and reading about the next.

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- Lang, Suzanne. **Grumpy Monkey**. Random House, 2018. Jim Panzee wakes up in a bad mood one beautiful day, but he keeps denying he is grumpy, even as his friends give advice for feeling better.
- Le, Minh. **Lift**. Disney-Hyperion, 2020. When Iris's elevator button-pushing is disrupted by a new member of the family, she's pretty put out until the sudden appearance of a mysterious new button opens up new worlds.
- Light, Steve. **Black Bird Yellow Sun**. Candlewick, 2018. As a solitary black bird wings its way through the day, readers are treated to a magnificent flight from one vibrant color to another. *Board book*
- Lindstrom, Eva. **My Dog Mouse**. Gecko, 2017. A little girl takes a neighbor's old, very slow dog that she loves for a walk to the park, then brings him home and wishes he were hers.
- Luyken, Corinna. **My Heart**. Penguin, 2019. From moments of great joy and exuberance to necessary times of quiet contemplation, your heart is your guide.
- Markes, Julie. **Shhhhh! Everybody's Sleeping**. HarperCollins, 2005. A young child is encouraged to go to sleep by the thought of everyone else sleeping, from teacher to baker to postman.
- McBratney, Sam. **Will You Be My Friend?** Candlewick, 2020. Little Nutbrown Hare decides to explore and hops all the way to Cloudy Mountain where he finds a new friend.
- McDonald, Megan. **The Hinky-Pink**. Atheneum, 2008. Summoned to the Great Castle to create a special dress for the princess, Anabel, a talented seamstress, is at first delighted but then increasingly despairing as time passes and her efforts at sewing are continually subverted by an unseen sprite.
- McGuirk, Leslie. **If Rocks Could Sing: A Discovered Alphabet**. Tricycle Press, 2011. Photographs of rocks collected by the author that resemble the letters of the alphabet are shown along with objects that represent each letter.
- McNulty, Faith. **If You Decide to Go to the Moon**. Scholastic, 2005. Instructions are given to anyone who wants to go to the moon, including the important information about how to return home!
- Mora, Oge. **Saturday**. Little, Brown, 2019. When all of their special Saturday plans go awry, Ava and her mother still find a way to appreciate one another and their time together.
- Muhammad, Ibtihaj. **The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family**. Little, Brown, 2019. Faizah relates how she feels on the first day her sister, sixth-grader Asiya, wears a hijab to school.

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- Murphy, Stuart J. ***The Greatest Gymnast of All***. HarperCollins, 1998. While performing an energetic gymnastic routine, Zoe demonstrates such spatial opposites as on and off, inside and outside, and over and under. *MathStart series*
- Nelson, Kadir. ***Nelson Mandela***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Text and illustrations present a biography of the former South African president best known for his political activism and fight to end apartheid.
- Oswald, Pete. ***Hike***. Candlewick, 2020. In this nearly wordless adventure, a father and child bond as they hike into the mountains, deal with challenges, experience the magic of nature, and do their small part to help the forest.
- Parr, Todd. ***The Thankful Book***. Little, Brown, 2012. Easy-to-read text encourages the reader to find something for which to be thankful, from underwear that is just the right size to birthday cakes and the wishes they bring.
- Petty, Dev. ***I Don't Want to Be a Frog***. Doubleday, 2015. A frog who yearns to be any animal that is cute and warm discovers that being wet, slimy, and full of bugs has its advantages.
- Pinkney, Jerry. ***The Lion & the Mouse***. Little, Brown, 2009. In this wordless retelling of the Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle. *Caldecott Medal 2010*
- Pumphrey, Jarrett. ***The Old Truck***. Norton, 2020. A beloved, hardworking old truck falls into disrepair until it is rescued and restored by the family's daughter who is now running her own farm.
- Reid, Aimee. ***You Are My Friend: The Story of Mister Rogers and His Neighborhood***. Abrams Books, 2019. Using television to spread his ideas of kindness, compassion, and equality, Fred Rogers changed the lives of many children with this simple message: "There's no person in the world like you, and I like you just the way you are."
- Reidy, Jean. ***Truman***. Atheneum, 2019. He may be slow but Truman the turtle is determined to find his girl Sarah, who has boarded a city bus on her way to preschool.
- Reynolds, Peter H. ***The Dot***. Candlewick, 2003. Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher's encouragement leads her to change her mind.
- Rissi, Anica Mrose. ***Watch Out for Wolf!*** Disney-Hyperion, 2019. While preparing for a party, excitable little piggies have some close calls with Wolf.
- Robinson, Christian. ***You Matter***. Atheneum, 2020. Illustrations and easy-to-read text remind the reader that no matter what happens or how one feels, he or she matters.

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- Roeder, Vanessa. ***The Box Turtle***. Dial Books, 2020. Born without a shell, Terrance the turtle uses a cardboard box instead, but after looking for other possible shells, he decides that his familiar box is the best for him.
- Rogers, Fred. ***A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: The Poetry of Mister Rogers***. Quirk Books, 2019. This illustrated collection of the lyrics to 75 songs highlights the diversity of the characters featured and the topics addressed on the well-known Mr. Rogers television program.
- Rosen, Michael. ***We're Going on a Bear Hunt***. McElderry Books, 1989. Brave bear hunters go through grass, a river, mud, and other obstacles before the inevitable encounter with the bear forces a headlong retreat.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***Yes Day!*** HarperCollins, 2009. A little boy gets everything he asks for on Yes Day, a special day that only comes once a year.
- Sayre, April Pulley. ***Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet***. Greenwillow, 2018. A love letter to the Earth which helps us understand all the things that our world provides us and for which we should be thankful.
- Schertle, Alice. ***Good Night, Little Blue Truck***. Houghton Mifflin, 2019. When a storm is forming, Little Blue Truck and his friend Toad are soon joined by other friends who are afraid of the thunder and lightning since it is easier to be brave together. *Series*
- Shea, Susan A. ***Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?*** Blue Apple Books, 2011. With die-cut and gatefold pages, rhyming questions are posed about what grows and what does not.
- Soman, David. ***Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy***. Dial Books, 2009. Lulu, dressed as Ladybug Girl, goes to the playground and makes new friends, including Bumblebee Boy. *Series*
- Stewart, Melissa. ***Under the Snow***. Peachtree, 2019. This book describes a journey through the fields, forests, ponds, and wetlands to see how animals survive in the snowy winter months, and when the sun's rays grow stronger, we see them get ready for springtime.
- Strasser, Susanne. ***So Light, So Heavy***. Charlesbridge, 2018. With an elephant on one end of a teeter-totter, it takes a lot of animals on the other side—and one child—before the teeter-totter will start to move up and down. *Board book*
- Sullivan, Mary. ***Ball***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. While searching for someone to play ball with him, a dog dreams of fantastical adventures he could have with his ball. *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book 2014*
- Sutton, Sally. ***Construction***. Candlewick, 2014. Lively illustrations and sound words (BING! POW! THUD!) show big machines and busy workers as they construct a library.

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- Tafari, Nancy. ***The Big Storm: A Very Soggy Counting Book***. Simon & Schuster, 2009. Ten animals find shelter one by one in a hill hollow, but when the storm is over, a rumbling tells them there is still danger afoot.
- Teckentrup, Britta. ***Don't Wake Up the Tiger***. Nosy Crow, 2016. Tiger is asleep, but Frog figures out how all the animals carrying balloons can get past him without waking him up and spoiling the surprise.
- Thong, Roseanne. ***Round is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes***. Chronicle, 2013. Children discover a world of shapes in their everyday lives, many of them Latino in origin but universal in appeal.
- Underwood, Deborah. ***Outside In***. Houghton Mifflin, 2020. This thought-provoking picture book poetically underscores our powerful and enduring connection with nature, even when lives are spent indoors.
- Walsh, Melanie. ***My Nose, Your Nose***. Houghton, Mifflin, 2002. The close-up and lively illustrations of kids will invite readers to tell what's unique about themselves, and at the same time, children will see that there's so much they have in common.
- Wan, Joyce. ***The Bear in My Bed***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018. A child faces the challenging task of putting a bear to bed.
- Wellington, Monica. ***Pizza at Sally's***. Dutton, 2006. Using vegetables from her own garden and other fresh ingredients, Sally mixes them all together and bakes hot and bubbly pizzas for her customers to take home or eat in her pizzeria.
- Willems, Mo. ***The Thank You Book***. Hyperion, 2016. Gerald is afraid Piggie will forget someone when he finds out she is determined to thank everyone she knows. *Series*
- Wilson, Karma. ***Bear Feels Scared***. McElderry Books, 2008. Bear's animal friends come to his rescue when he becomes lost and frightened in the woods. *Series*
- Wong, Janet S. ***Apple Pie 4th of July***. Harcourt, 2002 (paperback). A Chinese American child fears that the food her parents are preparing to sell on the Fourth of July will not be eaten.
- Yolen, Jane. ***How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You?*** Blue Sky Press, 2009. Illustrations and rhyming text present some of the different ways dinosaurs can express their love, from cleaning up after making a mess to smiling sweetly instead of roaring. *Series*
- Zosienka. ***The Moon Keeper***. Harper, 2020. Emile enjoys his new job making certain that the moon has everything it needs to shine for the night creatures, but he is puzzled when the moon begins to change and slowly disappear.

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Kelli Robertson (Chair), *Westbury Christian School*

Christopher Gray, *St. John's School*

Erika Grove, *St. Thomas' Episcopal School*

Jennifer Jaeger, *St. Martin's Episcopal Preschool*

Layne Mason (retired), *The Center for Hearing and Speech*

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Grade 1 and Grade 2

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Alexander, Kwame. ***Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band***. Sleeping Bear Press, 2011. Acoustic Rooster forms a jazz band with Duck Ellington, Bee Holliday, and Pepe Ernesto Cruz to compete in the annual Barnyard Talent Show against such greats as Thelonius Monkey, Mules Davis, and Ella Finchgerald. Includes glossary, notes on the characters and songs, and jazz timeline.
- Archer, Micha. ***Daniel Finds a Poem***. Nancy Paulsen, 2016. When Daniel sees a sign for poetry in the park on Sunday, he spends the week asking animals he encounters in the park, “What is poetry?” and has his poem to share on Sunday.
- Arnold, Tedd. ***Fly Guy Presents: Bats***. Scholastic, 2015. Learn all about bats with Fly Guy! *Series*
- Aureliani, Franco. ***Dino-Mike and the Lunar Showdown***. Stone Arch Books, 2016. Mike and Shannon take to space to face off against their archnemesis, Mr. Bones, in a lunar showdown of dino-sized proportions, finally realizing that Mr. Bones isn't at all what he seems to be! *Series*
- *Barton, Chris. ***Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions***. Charlesbridge. You know the Super Soaker. It's one of the top twenty toys of all time. And it was an accidental discovery that brought it into being. Trying to create a new cooling system for refrigerators and air conditioners, inventor Lonnie Johnson instead created the mechanics for the iconic toy. A love for rockets, robots, inventions, and a mind for creativity were present in Lonnie Johnson's early life. Growing up in a house full of brothers and sisters, Lonnie demonstrated persistence and a passion for problem solving that became the cornerstone of his career as an engineer and his work with NASA. But it is Lonnie's invention of the Super Soaker water gun that has made the most memorable splash in popular culture.
- Beaty, Andrea. ***Ada Twist, Scientist***. Abrams Books, 2016. Ada Twist is a very curious girl who shows perseverance by asking questions and performing experiments to find things out and understand the world.
- Bell, Cece. ***Rabbit & Robot and Ribbit***. Candlewick, 2016. Rabbit is excited to surprise Robot with a visit, but Robot already has his friend Ribbit over to play, and Rabbit is not so sure about Ribbit. *Series*
- Blabey, Aaron. ***The Bad Guys***. Scholastic, 2016. They sound like bad guys, they look like bad guys . . . and they even smell like bad guys. But Mr. Wolf, Mr. Piranha, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Shark are about to change all of that... Mr. Wolf has a daring plan for the Bad Guys' first good mission. They are going to break two hundred dogs out of the Maximum Security City Dog Pound. Will Operation Dog Pound go smoothly? Will the Bad Guys become the Good Guys? And will Mr. Snake please stop swallowing Mr. Piranha?! *Series*

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Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Blabey, Aaron. ***Thelma the Unicorn***. Scholastic, 2017. Told in rhyme, Thelma the pony wants to be a unicorn--but when her wish comes true she discovers that there is a downside to fame and realizes that she was happier at home with her friend.
- Bottner, Barbara. ***Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don't)***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. A first-grade girl--who does not like to read--stubbornly resists her school librarian's efforts to convince her to love books until she finds one that might change her mind.
- Broach, Elise. ***The Miniature World of Marvin & James***. Henry Holt, 2015. When his best friend, a human boy named James, goes away on vacation, Marvin the beetle worries that their friendship may end. *Series*
- Brown, Don. ***A Wizard from the Start: The Incredible Boyhood and Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Introduces young children to the life and inventions of Thomas Edison.
- Burks, James. ***Bird and Squirrel On the Run!*** Graphix, 2012. Bird and Squirrel outwit Cat and become best friends in this zany adventure. Squirrel is afraid of his own shadow. He teams up with Bird, who is fearless but grounded by a wounded wing, to head south for the winter. Bird doesn't have a care in the world. And Cat wants to eat Bird and Squirrel. Of course, he'll have to catch them first, and that's not going to be easy. Join this trio as they head south for the winter in a hilarious road trip. But watch out! Cat is waiting around every bend, and he's one pesky feline. *Series*
- *Byers, Grace. ***I Am Enough***. Balzer + Bray. This gorgeous, lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another comes from *Empire* actor and activist Grace Byers and talented newcomer artist Keturah A. Bobo. *We are all here for a purpose. We are more than enough. We just need to believe it.*
- Chabon, Michael. ***The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man***. Balzer + Bray, 2011. A young superhero describes his awesome powers, which he then demonstrates as various foes arrive on the scene.
- Chin, Jason. ***Gravity***. Roaring Brook, 2014. Minimal text and enthralling illustrations provide an introduction to the concept of gravity and explain what would happen without gravity. Additionally, specific and easy to understand information is included in the afterward.
- *Choi, Yangsook. ***The Name Jar***. Dragonfly Books. The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she? Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. But

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while Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning. On the day of her name choosing, the name jar has mysteriously disappeared. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it—*Yoon-Hey*.

Clanton, Ben. ***Narwhal and Jelly: Unicorn of the Sea***. Tundra Books, 2016.

Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky narwhal. Jelly is a no-nonsense jellyfish. The two might not have a lot in common, but they do they love waffles, parties and adventures. Join Narwhal and Jelly as they discover the whole wide ocean together. *Series*

Clinton, Chelsea. ***She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World***. Philomel, 2018. A nonfiction picture book compilation of the stories of thirteen American women who persisted in overcoming obstacles and changing the world.

*Collier, Bryan. ***It's Shoe Time!*** Disney, 2017. Tie your laces. Zip your zippers. And tap your toes. It's...SHOE TIME! This lyrical beginning-reader by multi award-winning artist Bryan Collier turns the closet on its heel and redefines what it means to be a pair. Beautifully rendered art paired with rich, rhyming dialog creates a powerful reading experience.

Cornwall, Gaia. ***Jabari Jumps***. Candlewick, 2017. With his father's support and encouragement, Jabari overcomes his fear, musters up his courage, and jumps off the swimming pool diving board.

Coy, John. ***Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball***. Carolrhoda Books, 2013. In 1891 James Naismith invented basketball as a game of skill to keep the unruly students in his gym class engaged.

Davis, Jill. ***Orangutans Are Ticklish: Fun Facts from an Animal Photographer***. Schwartz & Wade, 2010. Provides interesting facts about animals and explores what it takes to photograph them, with animal photographer Steve Grubman sharing some of his favorite, and scariest, encounters.

Daywalt, Drew. ***The Day the Crayons Came Home***. Philomel, 2015. One day, Duncan is happily coloring with his crayons when a stack of postcards arrives in the mail from his former crayons, each of whom has run away or been left behind, and all of whom want to come home.

Dempsey, Kristy. ***A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream***. Philomel, 2014. A young girl growing up in Harlem in the 1950s dreams of becoming a prima ballerina one day and is thrilled to see a performance by Janet Collins, the first "colored" prima ballerina.

Diggs, Taye. ***Mixed Me!*** Feiwel and Friends, 2015. Mike, a mixed-race boy, answers all the questions about being mixed with lots of energy and joy.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Egan, Tim. ***Dodsworth in Tokyo***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Dodsworth and his misbehaving duck continue their journeys with a trip to Tokyo. Again, Dodsworth must come to the rescue of the duck as he causes a series of mishaps. *Series*
- Elliott, Rebecca. ***Eva's Treetop Festival***. Scholastic, 2015. Having a Bloomtastic Festival at school to celebrate spring is a great idea - but Eva Wingdale, a young owl, discovers that it is also a lot of work, and there is nothing wrong with asking her friends for help. *Series*
- Elya, Susan Middleton. ***Little Roja Riding Hood***. Putnam's, 2014. A rhyming twist on the classic fairy tale in which a little girl saves her grandmother from a wolf. Includes a glossary of Spanish words.
- *Flintam, Thomas. ***Press Start: Game Over, Super Rabbit Boy!*** Scholastic, 2016. Uh-oh, Animal Town is in trouble! Meanie King Viking has created a dreaded robot army to spread No Fun across the land. On top of that, he has stolen the happiest and most fun animal ever, Singing Dog. There is only one person who can save the day: Super Rabbit Boy! Super Rabbit Boy is super fast and super brave, but he's also a video game character living in a video game world. What will happen when Sunny, the boy playing the game, loses each level? Will it be game over for Super Rabbit Boy and all his friends? *Series*
- *Florian, Douglas. ***Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings***. Harcourt, 2007. Blast off with Douglas Florian's new high-flying compendium, which features twenty whimsical poems about space. From the moon to the stars, from the Earth to Mars, here is an exuberant celebration of our celestial surroundings that's certain to become a universal favorite among aspiring astronomers everywhere.
- *Funk, Josh. ***Dear Dragon: A Pen Pal Tale***. Viking, 2016. A sweet and clever friendship story in rhyme, about looking past physical differences to appreciate the person (or dragon) underneath. George and Blaise are pen pals, and they write letters to each other about everything: their pets, birthdays, favorite sports, and science fair projects. There's just one thing that the two friends don't know: George is a human, while Blaise is a dragon! What will happen when these pen pals finally meet face-to-face?
- *Greenawalt, Kelly. ***I Am Super Girl!*** Scholastic, 2019. Meet Princess Truly! With the help of her rocket boots and her magical, sparkly curls, she becomes a super girl and uses her smarts and strength to save the day. But when her friend Lizzie has a rescue mission of her own, Lizzie doesn't feel so super. Can Truly help her friend believe in herself and find her confidence? *Series*
- Gutman, Dan. ***My Weird School: Teamwork Trouble***. Harper, 2018. Ryan wants to form a curling team at school with A.J. and Andrea, but soon trouble amongst his teammates threatens to end their season early. *Series*

HASLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Haas, Jessie. ***Bramble and Maggie: Horse Meets Girl***. Candlewick, 2012. Maggie, a little girl who longs for a horse of her own, finds her match in Bramble, a horse who has grown tired of riding lessons and walking in circles. *Series*
- Hale, Shannon. ***The Princess in Black Takes a Vacation***. Candlewick, 2016. Even monster-battling princesses get tired sometimes, but a peaceful time away is hard to find! *Series*.
- Hernandez, Laurie. ***She's Got This***. Harper, 2018. This is a beautiful story of a young girl who learns that hard work and perseverance are worth it, especially when accompanied by the encouragement and support of her family.
- Hoberman, Mary Ann, ed. ***Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart***. Little, Brown, 2012. A collection of more than 120 poems for children to learn, including selections from classic and contemporary poets, with tips and tricks from former Children's Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman on memorization and recitation.
- Holm, Jennifer. ***Super Amoeba***. Random House, 2011. The young amoeba Squish, inspired by his favorite comic book hero, Super Amoeba, tries to navigate his way through school to save his friends, and the world, from the evils that lurk in the halls. *Series*
- Jamieson, Victoria. ***The Great Pet Escape***. Holt, 2016. A young graphic novel chapter book about the escape escapades of class pets at Daisy P. Flugelhorn Elementary School.
- John, Jory. ***The Good Egg***. HarperCollins, 2019. When the other eggs in his carton behave badly, the good egg feels like he needs to be perfect.
- *Juster, Norton. ***The Hello, Goodbye Window***. Hyperion. This is a love song devoted to that special relationship between grandparents and grandchild. The kitchen window at Nanna and Poppy's house is, for one little girl, a magic gateway. Everything important happens near it, through it, or beyond it. Told in her voice, her story is both a voyage of discovery and a celebration of the commonplace wonders that define childhood, expressed as a joyful fusion of text with evocative and exuberant illustrations. The world for this little girl will soon grow larger and more complex, but never more enchanting or deeply felt.
- Kelly, Scott. ***My Journey to the Stars***. Crown, 2017. A picture book memoir about NASA astronaut Scott Kelly that takes readers on a journey through his ordinary childhood to his record-breaking year commanding the International Space Station.
- Levine, Sara. ***Tooth by Tooth: Comparing Fangs, Tusks, and Chompers***. Millbrook, 2016. This nonfiction book explains the similarities and differences of teeth in humans and animals. It includes more information about mammals, a glossary, further reading suggestions, and websites.
- Lin, Grace. ***Ling & Ting: Twice as Silly***. Little, Brown, 2014. Identical twins Ling and Ting like to be silly, tell jokes, and laugh together. *Series*

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Mallery, Sydra. ***A Most Unusual Day***. Greenwillow, 2018. Something is unusual about today, from the time Caroline wakes up, throughout her day at school, until her parents greet her with an unusually perfect surprise.
- McMullan, Kate. ***Pearl and Wagner: Five Days Till Summer***. Penguin Press, 2012. Pearl and her friend Wagner, on the verge of moving up to Ms. Bean's first grade class, worry about their new teacher being "mean" until something surprising changes their minds... *Series*
- *Miller, Rhet. ***No More Poems: A Book in Verse that Just Gets Worse***. Little, Brown, 2019. Acclaimed singer-songwriter Rhett Miller teams up with Caldecott Medalist and bestselling artist Dan Santat in a riotous collection of irreverent poems for modern families. In the tradition of Shel Silverstein, these poems bring a fresh new twist to the classic dilemmas of childhood as well as a perceptive eye to the foibles of modern family life. Full of clever wordplay and bright visual gags—and toilet humor to spare—these twenty-three rhyming poems make for an ideal read-aloud experience. Taking on the subjects of a bullying baseball coach and annoying little brothers with equally sly humor, renowned lyricist Rhett Miller's clever verses will have the whole family cackling.
- Murray, Carol. ***Cricket in the Thicket***. Holt, 2017. Over 30 common insects are described in a variety of amusing poems combined with interesting facts and collage illustrations.
- *Penn, Audrey. ***The Kissing Hand***. Tanglewood. To help ease Chester's fears, Mrs. Raccoon shares a family secret called The Kissing Hand to give him the reassurance of her love any time his world feels a little scary. Since its first publication in 1993, this heartwarming book has become a children's classic that touches the lives of millions of children and their parents, especially at times of separation, whether starting school, entering daycare, going to camp. It is widely used by kindergarten teachers on the first day of school. Stickers at the back will help children and their parents keep their Kissing Hand alive.
- Petty, Dev. ***I Don't Want to be a Frog***. Doubleday, 2015. A frog who yearns to be any animal that is cute and warm discovers that being wet, slimy, and full of bugs has its advantages.
- *Pilkey, Dav. ***The Hallo-wiener***. Blue Sky Press, 1999. When is a hot dog not a hot dog? When he becomes a hero sandwich! Pilkey delivers a hilarious Halloween treat in this story about Oscar, a dachshund doomed to wear a hot dog costume on Halloween. When he saves the day -- and night -- Oscar proves that while he may be short on height, he's long on heart. A tale trick-or-treaters will relish.
- Potter, Alicia. ***Miss Hazeltine's Home for Shy and Fearful Cats***. Albert A. Knopf, 2015. Miss Hazeltine opens her home to cats needing courage, and their new learned skills are put to use when she finds herself in trouble.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Raczka, Bob. ***Niko Draws a Feeling***. Carolrhoda Books, 2017. A young boy draws his feelings, but no one seems to understand what he is drawing until he meets Iris, the new girl who moves in next door.
- Rex, Adam. ***XO, OX: A Love Story***. Roaring Brook, 2017. This is the hilarious tale of an ox who is in love with a gazelle, told in series of letters.
- Reynolds, Peter H. ***The Dot***. Candlewick, 2003. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." This sage advice, offered by her teacher, sets the young heroine on a journey of self-expression, artistic experimentation, and success.
- Rylant, Cynthia. ***The Old Woman Who Named Things***. Harcourt, 1996. An old woman who has outlived all her friends is reluctant to become too attached to the stray dog that visits her each day.
- Santat, Dan. ***After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again***. Roaring Brook, 2017. After his famous fall, Humpty Dumpty summons his courage to get back up and is rewarded with something amazing.
- Santat, Dan. ***Harold & Hog Pretend for Real!*** Hyperion, 2019. Can the friendship of best friends Harold and Hog, a carefree elephant and a careful hog, survive a game of pretending to be Mo Willems's Elephant and Piggie?
- Schlitz, Laura Amy. ***Princess Cora and the Crocodile***. Candlewick, 2017. Princess Cora is sick of boring lessons, exercising in the dungeon gym, and especially taking three baths a day. But when she writes to her fairy godmother for help, she doesn't expect that help to come in the form of a crocodile--a crocodile who does not behave properly.
- Selznick, Brian, and David Serlin. ***Baby Monkey, Private Eye***. Scholastic Press, 2018. Baby Monkey, private eye, will investigate stolen jewels, missing pizzas, and other mysteries – if he can manage to figure out how to put his pants on.
- Snyder, Laurel. ***Charlie and Mouse***. Chronicle Books, 2017. Charlie and Mouse, two young brothers, enjoy a day out together, attending an imaginary party and collecting rocks.
- Sotomayor, Sonia. ***Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You***. Philomel Books, 2019. A group of children with different abilities and strengths come together to build a community garden. *Schneider Family Book Award 2020*
- Spires, Ashley. ***The Most Magnificent Thing***. Kids Can Press, 2014. A little girl has creative ideas to build the 'most magnificent thing,' and despite set-backs and problems, she perseveres and is very pleased with the finished product.
- Steig, William. ***Sylvester and the Magic Pebble***. First published 1969. In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock, but then he cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again! *Caldecott Medal 1970*
- Stein, David Ezra. ***Because Amelia Smiled***. Candlewick, 2012. As she skips down the street in New York, a little girl's smile inspires a neighbor to send cookies to her grandson in Mexico, and the goodwill soon spreads around the world.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Stockdale, Susan. ***Stripes of All Types***. Peachtree, 2013. Using vivid illustrations and snappy verse, nineteen animals with stripes are described to show the importance of animals' stripes.
- Tabor, Corey R. ***Fox the Tiger***. Balzer + Bray, 2018. Fox decides to become a tiger because they are fast and sneaky, and soon, his other animal friends are joining in the fun.
- Vail, Rachel. ***A is for Elizabeth***. Feiwel and Friends, 2019. Elizabeth, the second-grade sister of Justin Case, is excited about her first homework assignment, but it leads her to start a protest of alphabetical order. *Series*
- *Van Dusen, Chris. ***If I Built a School***. Dial Books. If Jack built a school, there would be hover desks and pop-up textbooks, skydiving wind tunnels and a trampoline basketball court in the gym, a robo-chef to serve lunch in the cafeteria, field trips to Mars, and a whole lot more. The inventive boy who described his ideal car and house in previous books is dreaming even bigger this time. *Series*
- *Verde, Susan. ***I Am Love: A Book of Compassion***. Abrams Books. Love means showing kindness, living with gratitude, and taking care of our minds and bodies. Letting our hearts lead the way can help move us closer to a better world. From the bestselling team that created *I Am Yoga*, *I Am Peace*, *I Am Human*, and *I Am One* comes a celebration of love in all its forms. Grounded in mindfulness and wellness, *I Am Love* asks readers to look inward when they feel afraid, angry, hurt, or sad. When a storm is brewing inside us and the skies grow dark, the transformative power of love lets the light back in. Includes heart-opening yoga poses and a guided meditation.
- Vernick, Audrey. ***First Grade Dropout***. Clarion, 2015. Humor and empathy abound when an embarrassed first grader decides to quit school.
- Watkins, Rowboat. ***Rude Cakes***. Chronicle Books, 2015. A rude cake learns a valuable lesson from a Cyclops in a simple story of etiquette and kindness found in the most unlikely place.
- West, Tracey. ***Dragon Masters: Rise of the Earth Dragon***. Scholastic, 2014. Eight-year-old Drake is snatched up by King Roland's soldier and taken to the castle. He is to be trained as a Dragon Master. At the castle, he is joined by three other young Dragon Masters-in-training: Ana, Rori, and Bo. The Dragon Masters must learn how to connect with and train their dragons--and they must also uncover their dragons' special powers. Does Drake have what it takes to be a Dragon Master? What is his dragon's special power? *Series*
- *Willems, Mo. ***We Are in a Book!*** Hyperion. Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald and Piggie are best friends. In *We Are in a Book!* Gerald and Piggie discover the joy of being read. But what will happen when the book ends? Using vocabulary perfect for beginning readers (and vetted by an early-learning specialist), Mo Willems has crafted a mind-bending story that is even more interactive than previous *Elephant & Piggie*

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Grade 1 and Grade 2

adventures. Fans of the Geisel Award-winning duo won't be able to put this book down—literally! *Series*

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***The Day You Begin***. Nancy Paulsen. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

Yamada, Kobi. ***What Do You Do With a Chance?*** Compendium, 2017. Feeling disappointed and unhappy after not taking a chance, a child overcomes fears and ultimately takes a chance. *Series*

Young, Amy. ***A Unicorn Named Sparkle***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. Lucy wants a unicorn, and although when he arrives he is not at all what she imagined, she warms up to him and realizes he is special after all.

*All book summaries are from provided by the publisher or
written by committee members.*

Compiled by:

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 3 and Grade 4

All book summaries are written by committee members or provided by the publishers.

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Alexander, Kwame. ***Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets.*** Candlewick, 2017. From Maya Angelou to Naomi Shihab Nye, Robert Frost to Walter Dean Myers – this multicultural collection of original poems celebrates renowned poets from across the globe and across centuries of shared stories.
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Endling: The Last.*** Harper, 2018. Byx, believed to be the last dairne, goes on a quest to search for more of her species and is joined by various allies as they uncover many secrets in this exciting series opener. *Series*
- Arnold, Elana K. ***A Boy Called Bat.*** Walden Pond Press, 2017. When his veterinarian mom brings home a stray baby skunk that needs rehabilitation before it can be placed in a wild animal shelter, Bat, who has autism, resolves to prove that he is up to the challenge of caring for the skunk permanently.
- Aston, Dianna Hutts. ***A Beetle Is Shy.*** Chronicle Books, 2016. From flea beetles to bombardier beetles, an incredible variety of these beloved bugs are showcased in this carefully researched, visually striking book that is poetic in voice and elegant in design, perfect for sparking children's imaginations.
- Barton, Chris. ***What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?*** Beach Lane Books, 2018. A picture book biography about the life of Houston native Barbara Jordan, who was best known for her work as a lawyer, politician and civil rights leader.
- Becker, Helaine. ***Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13.*** Holt, 2018. From Katherine's early beginnings as a gifted student to her heroic accomplishments as a prominent mathematician at NASA, this is the story of a groundbreaking American woman who not only calculated the course of moon landings but, in turn, saved lives and made enormous contributions to history.
- Boothby, Ian. ***Sparks!*** Graphix, 2018. Two cats, August and Charlie, wear a dog suit and attempt to save humans while their arch nemesis, Princess, tries to conquer the world. *Graphic novel*
- Brooks, Molly. ***Sanity & Tallulah.*** Hyperion, 2018. In this rollicking graphic novel, Sanity and Tallulah, who live in a space station, search the galaxy for Sanity's three-headed kitten. *Graphic novel*
- Brown, Don. ***Older Than Dirt: A Wild but True History of Earth.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2017. In this one-of-a-kind, wild, but true history of Earth, Sibert Honor medalist Don Brown takes on big concepts with humor and ease.
- Brown, Jeffrey. ***Lucy and Andy Neanderthal.*** Crown, 2016. Lucy and her brother Andy, two Neanderthal siblings living 40,000 years ago, take on a wandering baby sibling, bossy teens, cave paintings and a mammoth hunt, but the real adventure begins when they encounter a group of humans. *Series*

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Bryan, Ashley. ***Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life***. Atheneum, 2016. Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents and his own bold and vivid illustrations, the author creatively contrasts the monetary value of a slave with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams that a slave owner could never take away.
- Cleary, Beverly. ***Beezus and Ramona***. HarperTrophy, 2006. Four-year old Ramona has an imagination that makes her a menace to everyone around her, particularly her older sister, Beezus. *Series*
- Clements, Andrew. ***The Losers Club***. Random House, 2017. Alec, a sixth grade bookworm always in trouble for reading instead of listening and participating in class, starts a book club solely to have a place to read and discovers that real life, although messy, can be as exciting as the stories in his favorite books.
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. ***Before She Was Harriet: The Story of Harriet Tubman***. Holiday House, 2018. An evocative poem and opulent watercolors come together to honor a woman of humble origins whose courage and compassion make her larger than life.
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. ***Finding Langston***. Holiday House, 2018. Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.
- Colfer, Chris. ***The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell***. Little, Brown, 2012. Through the mysterious power of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy-tale characters they grew up reading about. *Series*
- Creech, Susan. ***Saving Winslow***. HarperCollins, 2018. When Louis' dad brings home a scrawny and sickly newborn donkey, their connection is instant; while the adults around him say that Winslow might not survive, Louis finds the faith and courage to believe in his donkey and himself.
- Dahl, Roald. ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***. Puffin, first published in 1964. Delicious and mysterious adventures await our hero, Charlie Bucket, and four other lucky winners of the Golden Ticket contest on their private tour of Willy Wonka's infamous Chocolate Factory.
- Davies, Jacqueline. ***The Lemonade War***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Evan and his younger sister, Jessie, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade, and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. *Series*

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. ***Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folk Tale***. Roaring Brook, 2013. On her way to visit her daughter on the other side of the jungle, Grandma encounters a hungry fox, bear, and tiger, and although she convinces them to wait for her return trip, she still must find a way to outwit them all.
- Eggers, Dave. ***Her Right Foot***. Chronicle Books, 2017. This beautifully illustrated book looks at the significance of the Statue of Liberty's right foot.
- Engle, Margarita. ***Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln***. Atheneum, 2019. Teresa was a child prodigy at the piano, and as her fame spread in the United States after her family emigrated from Venezuela, she received an invitation from President Lincoln to play at the White House. *Pura Belpré Illustrator Award 2020*
- Engle, Margarita. ***The Flying Girl: How Aida de Acosta Learned to Soar***. Atheneum, 2018. This beautifully illustrated picture book tells the inspirational story of Aida de Acosta, the first woman to fly a motorized aircraft.
- Eszterhas, Suzi. ***Sea Otter Rescue***. Owlkids, 2016. A visit to the Alaska SeaLife Center explores, through engaging text and striking photography, how sea otters have become orphaned or hurt by a range of threats and how the dedicated teams at the clinic help them heal and rehabilitate.
- Farley, Walter. ***The Black Stallion***. Random House, first published in 1941. Set in the 1940s, a young boy and a wild stallion build a relationship of trust and a lifelong friendship after being shipwrecked and surviving on a deserted island together.
- Fleming, Candace. ***Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom***. Schwartz & Wade, 2017. When ten-year-old Nolan and his little sister, Olive, find Ben Franklin in their kitchen, they do their best to guide Ben through the new world he helped form. *Series*
- Fleming, Candace. ***Giant Squid***. Roaring Brook, 2016. A nonfiction picture book exploring the mysterious life of the elusive giant squid.
- Fleming, Candace. ***Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen***. Schwartz & Wade, 2018. In the 1920s, movie director Larry Trimble travels to Berlin where he meets Etzel, an intelligent but fierce German Shepherd, who then returns to Hollywood with Larry and is transformed into the silent screen movie star, Strongheart, with Larry's love and care. Based on real events.
- Florence, Debbi Michiko. ***Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017. Eager to do something her big sister has not done first, Jasmine Toguchi, eight, decides to pound mochi with the men and boys when her family gets together for New Year's. *Series*

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Fulton, Kristen. ***Flight for Freedom: The Wetzel Family's Daring Escape from East Germany.*** Chronicle Books, 2020. Set in 1979, this is the true story of Peter Wetzel and his family who made the daring escape over the Berlin Wall in their handmade hot air balloon, succeeding where others had failed, making freedom a reality and inspiring hope for their fellow East Berliners.
- Gibbs, Stuart. ***Spaced Out.*** Simon & Schuster, 2016. In 2041 twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is a resident of Moon Base Alpha, and at the moment he is faced with a number of problems: coping with the nasty Sjoberg twins, finding out how the commander of the base has managed to disappear from a facility no bigger than a soccer field, and dealing with the alien Zan who communicates with him telepathically from afar--and who is hiding a secret which may threaten the whole Earth. *Series*
- Giovanni, Nikki. ***I am Loved.*** Atheneum, 2018. This collection of poems and art celebrates individuality, personal histories, diversity, and the universal and powerful value of love on all levels for everyone.
- Grabenstein, Chris. ***Home Sweet Motel: Welcome to Wonderland.*** Random House, 2016. P.T. and his friend Gloria must solve a mystery at the world's wackiest motel: The Wonderland. *Series*
- Gratz, Alan. ***Ban This Book.*** Tom Doherty, 2017. Amy Anne, who never gets in trouble, finds herself in the battle of a lifetime when a concerned parent in her school has her favorite book taken off the library shelf.
- Griffiths, Andy. ***The 13-Story Treehouse.*** Feiwel and Friends, 2013. Under pressure by their publisher to finish their next book, two young authors graphically describe all the extraordinary distractions they face living in their 13-story treehouse. *Series*
- Hale, Nathan. ***Alamo All-Stars.*** Amulet Books, 2016. Hale recounts the story of the Alamo, featuring the exploits of historical legends Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett. *Graphic novel series*
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***The Amazing Crafty Cat.*** First Second, 2017. A new graphic novel trilogy for elementary-age readers about a little girl who can craft her way out of any situation. Each volume includes fun and simple instructions for do-it-yourself crafting activities. *Series*
- Harris, Chris. ***I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-ups.*** Little, Brown, 2017. In the vein of Shel Silverstein, this collection of poems is filled with humor, nonsensical language, rhyme, wordplay, and even codes to crack.
- Henry, Marguerite. ***Misty of Chincoteague.*** Aladdin, first published in 1947. Paul's and his sister Maureen's determination to own a pony from the herd on Chincoteague Island, Virginia, is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among the ponies rounded up for the yearly auction.

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Holub, Joan. ***Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom***. Aladdin, 2012. When ten-year-old Zeus is kidnapped, he discovers he can defend himself with a magic thunderbolt. *Series*
- Humphrey, Anna. ***Megabat***. Tundra Books, 2018. When Daniel moves into a new house in a new town, he thinks it might be haunted, but he is surprised to find a new friend who happens to be a fruit bat in need of some help to make the long journey back home. *Series*
- Jenkins, Steve. ***The Frog Book***. Harcourt, 2019. An introduction to an assortment of the world's frog species, discussing a myriad of topics such as their colors, shapes and sizes to their various habitats to how they find food, escape danger and attract a mate.
- Johannes, Shelley. ***Beatrice Zinker, Upside Down Thinker***. Disney-Hyperion, 2017. When third grade begins, Beatrice fears she is losing her best friend, so she uses her topsy-turvy ways of thinking to get things looking up. *Series*
- Khan, Hena. ***Power Forward***. Salaam Press, 2018. Fourth-grader Zayd yearns to play basketball on the Gold Team, but when he skips orchestra rehearsals to practice, his parents forbid anything basketball related, and tryouts are coming soon. *Series*
- Krull, Kathleen. ***Fly High, John Glenn: The Story of an American Hero***. Harper, 2020. John Glenn was the first American astronaut to orbit Earth; he was also a devoted family man, a U.S. Senator, and a national hero, who for 95 years never lost his love of flying.
- Lamothe, Matt. ***This Is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World***. Chronicle Books, 2017. An illustrated take on how seven real kids from different countries go about a typical day.
- Latham, Irene, and Charles Waters. ***Can I Touch Your Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship***. Carolrhoda Books, 2018. Two students, one black and one white, learn to communicate, relate, and celebrate differences in this collection of poems in conversation.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***The Truth of Me: About a Boy, His Grandmother, and a Very Good Dog***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Robbie and his dog, Ellie, spend the summer at his grandmother Maddy's house, where Robbie learns many things about his emotionally distant parents and himself.
- McCarthy, Meghan. ***The Wildest Race Ever: The Story of the 1904 Olympic Marathon***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. The exciting and bizarre true story of the 1904 Olympic marathon, which took place at the St. Louis World's Fair.
- McKissack, Patricia C. ***What is Given from the Heart***. Schwartz & Wade, 2019. James Otis and his family live in poverty, yet his mother insists they need to help seven-year-old Sarah, whose family lost everything in a fire.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- McMullan, Kate. ***Have a Hot Time, Hades!*** Stone Arch Books, 2012. In this story with a modern twist, Hades tells his own version of how he became King of the Underworld and Zeus became King of the Gods. *Series*
- McNamara, Margaret. ***The Dinosaur Expert.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2018. When a classmate tells Kimmy, who dreams of being a paleontologist, that “girls aren’t scientists,” their teacher Mr. Tiffin teaches them otherwise.
- Messner, Kate. ***The Next President: The Unexpected Beginnings and Unwritten Future of America’s Presidents.*** Chronicle Books, 2020. Explore our nation’s presidents, learn what they were doing before they were president, and imagine what the next president could be doing right now – it could be you!
- Newman, Lesléa. ***Gittel’s Journey: An Ellis Island Story.*** Abrams Books, 2019. When it’s time for nine-year-old Gittel and her mother to leave their homeland and immigrate to America to start a new life, a health inspection forces Gittel to find the courage within to leave her family behind; based on true stories told by the author’s grandmother.
- Nobleman, Marc Tyler. ***Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot’s World War II Story.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2018. In this important and moving true story of reconciliation after war, beautifully illustrated in watercolor, a Japanese pilot bombs the continental U.S. during WWII—the only enemy ever to do so—and comes back 20 years later to apologize.
- Nolan, Janet. ***Seven and a Half Tons of Steel.*** Peachtree, 2016. This powerful story reveals how seven and a half tons of steel that had once been a beam in the World Trade Center became a navy ship’s bow showing how something remarkable can emerge from a devastating event.
- Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. ***Dogs on Duty: Soldiers’ Best Friends on the Battlefield and Beyond.*** Walker, 2012. Explains the many ways that dogs are used in the military and describes how they are cared for and trained.
- Patterson, James. ***Jacky Ha-Ha.*** Little, Brown, 2016. Twelve-year-old Jacky "Ha-Ha" Hart is a class clown with a penchant for pranking, and when she's required to act in the school play to appease her frustrated teachers, she must conquer her stutter. *Series*
- Patterson, James and Kwame Alexander. ***Becoming Muhammad Ali.*** Little, Brown, 2020. This biographical novel tells the story of Cassius Clay, the determined boy who would one day become Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest boxers of all time.
- Pearson, Luke. ***Hilda and the Stone Forest.*** Nobrow, 2016. Hilda is hardly at home anymore, seeking days filled with excitement, and her mother can't help but worry... In a moment of tension, the pair find themselves flung far away into a mysterious, dark forest--the land of the trolls! Can they work together to escape the clutches of these sinister stone creatures? *Graphic novel series*

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Phelan, Matt. ***Knights vs. Dinosaurs***. Greenwillow, 2018. Merlin sends the Knights of the Round Table on their most exciting and dangerous quest to date -- to face dinosaurs! *Series*
- Pipe, Jim. ***You Wouldn't Want to Be Cleopatra! : An Egyptian Ruler You'd Rather Not Be***. Franklin Watts, 2017. Humorous illustrations and facts combine to provide a portrait of what life might be like as Cleopatra in Ancient Egypt. *Series*
- Pizzoli, Greg. ***The Quest For Z: The True Story of Explorer Percy Fawcett and a Lost City in the Amazon***. Viking, 2017. The true story of the British explorer Percy Fawcett, an adventurer who set out on a doomed expedition to find a lost city in the Amazon jungle.
- Raczka, Bob. ***Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems***. Roaring Brook, 2016. A collection of concrete poetry written and shaped in surprising ways.
- Robinson, Sharon. ***The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend***. Scholastic, 2017. Eight-year-old Steve Satlow is thrilled when Jackie Robinson moves into his Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn in 1948, although many of his neighbors are not, and when Steve actually meets his hero he is even more excited--and worried that a misunderstanding over a Christmas tree could damage his new friendship.
- Rockliff, Mara. ***Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic***. Candlewick, 2016. Traces the story of dancer-turned-magician's assistant Adelaide Herrmann, placing her achievements against a backdrop of period conventions about women in the arts and her determination to continue her work after the death of her husband.
- Russell-Brown, Katheryn. ***A Voice Named Aretha***. Bloomsbury, 2020. From a shy girl with a big voice to the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin touched millions across generations, not only with her songs but with her exemplary life, inspiring hope, respect, and freedom.
- Ruurs, Margriet. ***The Elephant Keeper: Caring for Orphaned Elephants in Zambia***. Kids Can Press, 2017. Documents the story of a devoted advocate for elephant conservation who, as a child in Zambia, rescued a baby elephant and reevaluated his beliefs about elephants as violent predators while visiting a wildlife sanctuary.
- Sachar, Louis. ***Wayside School Beneath the Cloud of Doom***. Harper, 2020. The kids and teachers of Wayside School are back, but the looming Cloud of Doom has them all in a tizzy as they race to collect toenail clippings and prepare for the Ultimate Test. *Series*
- Stabler, David. ***Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood from Sports Legends***. Quirk Books, 2015. Hilarious childhood biographies and full-color illustrations show how Tiger Woods, Gabby Douglas, Bruce Lee, Billie Jean King, and other budding sports champions faced kid-sized challenges growing up. *Series*

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Stanley, Diane. ***Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer.*** Simon & Schuster, 2016. This is the story of how an important but little-known woman – a brilliant scientist and mathematician - envisioned the computer-driven world we know today.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Pass Go and Collect \$200: The Real Story of How Monopoly Was Invented.*** Holt, 2018. This exciting nonfiction picture book tells the bold and fascinating story behind one of the world's most beloved board games.
- Tarshis, Lauren. ***I Survived the Hindenburg Disaster, 1937.*** Scholastic, 2016. Eleven-year-old Hugo, his parents, and his sister Gertie are making the thrilling four thousand mile journey across the Atlantic in a zeppelin as big as the Titanic when disaster strikes and fire consumes the ship. *Series*
- Tavares, Matt. ***Crossing Niagara: The Death-Defying Tightrope Adventures of the Great Blondin.*** Candlewick, 2016. An illustrated account of the daredevil of Niagara Falls, the Great Blondin, who walked from America to Canada across the Niagara River on a rope.
- Temple, Bob. ***The Golden Age of Pirates: An Interactive History Adventure.*** Capstone, 2016. Describes the people and events of the Golden Age of Piracy. The reader's choices reveal historical details from the perspectives of a pirate, a navy sailor, and a merchant ship crewmember. *Series*
- Tonatiuh, Duncan. ***Soldier for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War.*** Abrams Books, 2019. Sáenz, a Mexican-American World War I war hero, fought for equality and created the oldest Latino civil rights organization in the United States.
- Turk, Evan. ***You are Home: An Ode to the National Parks.*** Atheneum, 2019. The beauty of all living things, animals, plants, and people is celebrated in rich verse and art in a coast to coast tour of the United States, emphasizing the precious nature of all life and experience.
- Vande Velde, Vivian. ***Three Good Deeds.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Caught stealing some goose eggs from a witch, Howard is cursed for his heartlessness and turned into a goose himself, and he can only become human again by performing three good deeds.
- Vernick, Audrey. ***The Kid from Diamond Street: The Extraordinary Story of Baseball Legend Edith Houghton.*** Clarion, 2016. A historical picture book about Edith Houghton, a female baseball phenomenon who joined the professional women's team the Bobbies in 1922 at the age of 10.
- Walker, Sally M. ***Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up.*** Candlewick, 2018. A collection of haiku poems that celebrates the planet Earth, including such topics as rocks, earthquakes, fossils, volcanoes and the water cycle. Factual information about each topic is included.

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Wallace, Sandra Neil. ***Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery.*** Simon & Schuster, 2018. The true story of NFL star Ernie Barnes, a man who pursued his lifelong dream of being an artist after his football career ended.
- Wang, Jen. ***Stargazing.*** First Second, 2019. "Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness." *Graphic novel*
- Watson, Renée. ***Ways to Make Sunshine.*** Bloomsbury, 2020. Ten-year old Ryan is learning that life means lots of changes, like moving, her father's new job, a frustrating older brother, and her best friend moving away, but Ryan makes sunshine out of it all, shining it back on those around her.
- Weeks, Sarah, and Gita Varadarajan. ***Save Me a Seat.*** Scholastic, 2016. Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class. Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems. When their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade, they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.
- Winick, Judd. ***Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth.*** Random House, 2016. When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world. *Series*
- Winter, Jonah. ***Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2015. As an elderly woman, Lillian recalls that her great-great-grandparents were sold as slaves in front of the courthouse where only rich white men were allowed to vote, then remembers the long fight that led to her right--and determination--to cast her ballot since the Voting Rights Act gave every American the right to vote.
- Woods, Brenda. ***Zoe in Wonderland.*** Nancy Paulsen, 2016. Because Zoe has such an active imagination, she does not think that her real life will ever be as interesting as her make-believe life.
- Yep, Laurence. ***A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans.*** Crown, 2015. Feisty dragon Miss Drake's new pet human, precocious ten-year-old Winnie, not only thinks Miss Drake is her pet, she accidentally brings to life her "sketchlings" of mysterious and fantastic creatures hidden in San Francisco, causing mayhem among its residents. *Series*
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HASLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 3 and Grade 4

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 5

All book summaries are provided by the publisher or written by committee members.

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Applegate, Katherine. ***Wishtree***. Feiwel and Friends, 2017. Red, the neighborhood “wishtree,” and her crow friend, Bongo, comfort an immigrant family who is threatened by others.
- Barnes, Derrick. ***Who Got Game?: Baseball: Amazing But True Stories!*** Workman Publishing, 2020. Chapters will cover pivotal players such as Rube Foster, Hank Greenberg, Lizzie Murphy, Sadaharu Oh, and many others as well as a variety of sensational stories, radical records, and colossal comebacks.
- Barr, Jennifer R. ***Goodbye, Mr. Spalding***. Calkins Creek, 2019. In 1930’s Philadelphia, best friends, and loyal Philadelphia Athletics fans, Jimmy Frank and Lola try to keep the owners of Shibe Park from building the “Spite Wall” to preserve the neighborhood’s view of the baseball stadium from their rooftops, but their schemes go awry and their friendship is put to the test.
- Behar, Ruth. ***Lucky Broken Girl***. Nancy Paulsen, 2017. It’s 1960 and Ruthie, a recent Cuban immigrant, is finally showing confidence in her English and hopscotch abilities when a horrific car accident shrinks her world, causing her to rely on her inner strength, the love of family and neighbors, and a new love of art.
- Bell, Cece. ***El Deafo***. Amulet Books, 2014. This empowering graphic novel memoir of the author/illustrator’s childhood struggle with being accepted and finding friends with her severe deafness received a 2015 Newbery Honor. *Graphic novel*
- Brown, Peter. ***The Wild Robot***. Little, Brown, 2016. Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try and learn about her new environment from the island’s hostile inhabitants. *Series*
- Calejo, Ryan. ***Charlie Hernández & the League of Shadows***. Aladdin, 2018. The chase is on after Charlie Hernández wakes up mysteriously sporting horns and feathers which leads him to reexamine his *abuela’s* “tall tales” of Latin American ghouls and monsters in order to solve an ancient mystery that might be at the heart of his parents’ disappearance. *Series*
- Chanani, Nidhi. ***Pashmina***. First Second, 2017. Eager to learn more about her cultural identity and family history, teenaged Priyanka, a budding cartoon artist, is transported to India after finding a magical scarf. *Graphic novel*
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. ***Finding Langston***. Holiday House, 2018. Discovering a book of Langston Hughes’ poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.

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- Cowell, Cressida. ***The Wizards of Once***. Little, Brown, 2017. Young wizard prince Xar, who has no magic, and warrior princess Wish, an outcast, team up on an adventure that brings them to witches long believed to be extinct. *Series*
- Craft, Jerry. ***New Kid***. Harper, 2019. In this Newbery Medal winner, Jordan Banks navigates his way through seventh grade as a new African American student at a prestigious, non-diverse school, making friends along the way. *Graphic novel*
- DeKeyser, Stacy. ***The Rhino in Right Field***. McElderry Books, 2018. Twelve-year-old Nick wants to win the 1948 Batboy Contest for the local Milwaukee minor league team, but the contest is on Saturday when he works in his father's shop, and he's lost confidence in his fielding ability ever since he had to retrieve his missed ball that went into Tank's (the 2,000-pound rhino) pen—what is Nick going to do to save face and uphold his responsibilities?
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***Beverly, Right Here***. Candlewick, 2019. Resolved to leave her home for good, a young runaway finds a job and a place to live before forming connections that alter her perspectives about life and herself.
- Draper, Sharon. ***Blended***. Atheneum, 2018. Eleven-year-old piano-prodigy Isabella, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.
- Fletcher, Susan. ***Journey of the Pale Bear***. McElderry Books, 2018. Twelve-year-old Arthur forms a bond with a polar bear given by King Haakon IV of Norway to King Henry III of England in 1252 while traveling as her handler.
- Gemeinhart, Dan. ***The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise***. Holt, 2019. Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished.
- Hale, Nathan. ***Blades of Freedom***. Amulet Books, 2020. This 10th installment from the Hazardous Tales series tells the story of the Haitian Revolution and the Louisiana Purchase. *Graphic novel series*.
- Harrell, Rob. ***Wink***. Dial Books, 2020. After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can push him through treatment and survive middle school.
- Hiranandani, Veera. ***The Night Diary***. Dial Books, 2018. Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

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Grade 5

- Holm, Jennifer L. ***The Lion of Mars***. Random House, 2021. A smart and curious boy named Bell is living on Mars with a small group of kids and adults, and when the adults start getting sick mysteriously, it is up to the kids to figure out how to help.
- Hood, Susan. ***Lifeboat 12***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. In 1940, a group of British children escaping the bombing of London, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed by the Germans. This novel in verse includes historical notes.
- Janowitz, Jessie. ***The Doughnut Fix***. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2018. When his family moves to tiny Petersville, eleven-year-old Tris stops focusing on his perfect sister, Jeanine, by using his cooking expertise to revive a town tradition of chocolate cream doughnuts. *Series*
- Johnson, Varian. ***Twins***. Graphix, 2020. Best friends and twin sisters Maureen and Francine are starting 6th grade and they are trying to figure out what is important to each of them and who they are as individuals.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. ***Saucy***. Atheneum, 2020. When eleven-year-old Becca, a quadruplet, finds a sick pig on the side of the road, her life is changed forever.
- Kane, Karen. ***Charlie & Frog: A Mystery***. Disney-Hyperion, 2018. While staying with his grandparents in Castle-on-the-Hudson, Charlie stumbles upon a mystery but must learn American Sign Language to keep up with Frog, a deaf girl who wants to help solve it.
- Kelly, Erin Entrada. ***Hello, Universe***. Greenwillow, 2017. The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him. *Newbery Medal*
- Khan, Hena. ***Amina's Voice***. Salaam Press, 2017. Pakistani-American Amina is torn between her traditional Muslim family's culture and her American friends as she struggles to find her place after a tragedy in the community.
- Kim, Jessica. ***Stand Up, Yumi Chung!*** Kokila, 2020. Comedy-loving Yumi Chung is faced with a moral dilemma when a case of mistaken identity grants her an exciting opportunity.
- Marks, Janae. ***From the Desk of Zoe Washington***. Katherine Tegen, 2020. Aspiring baker Zoe Washington reconnects with her father through writing letters to him in prison.
- Marshall, Joseph. ***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse***. Amulet Books, 2015. Jimmy McClean is a part white and part Native American boy who embarks on a journey with his grandfather to learn more about his Lakota heritage while visiting places significant in the life of Crazy Horse, the 19th century Lakota leader and warrior.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

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- Medina, Meg. ***Merci Suárez Changes Gears***. Candlewick, 2018. Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suárez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between with moving authenticity and humor. *Newbery Medal*
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***Words on Fire***. Scholastic, 2019. While Audra is on the run from Cossack soldiers and in search of her missing parents, she realizes the importance of the mission to save the Lithuanian language and culture, and puts herself in danger to become part of the resistance in 1893 Russian-controlled Lithuania.
- Pennypacker, Sara. ***Pax***. Balzer + Bray, 2016. Driven by love and loss, Peter must travel hundreds of miles through wilderness, impending war, and injury in search of the pet fox he was forced to abandon, while loyal Pax searches for him.
- Reeves, Jordan, and Jen Lee Reeves. ***Born Just Right***. Aladdin, 2019. Jordan Reeves may have been born with a “little (left) arm,” yet her positive attitude and determination sparked her invention of a prosthetic arm at a STEM summer camp, and, along with her mother, she has established the Born Just Right foundation to help others like herself to fully engage in life – an inspiring memoir for all.
- Reynolds, Jason. ***Ghost***. Atheneum, 2018. Can a talented sprinter from a rough neighborhood push past his troubles to keep his place on an elite track team? *National Book Award Finalist, Series*
- Riordan, Rick. ***The Lost Hero***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for “bad kids,” find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. *Series*
- Robinson, Sharon. ***Child of the Dream: A Memoir of 1963***. Scholastic, 2019. A memoir by Jackie Robinson’s daughter who was a teenager during the height of the civil rights movement.
- Rundell, Katherine. ***The Explorer***. Simon & Schuster, 2017. Left stranded in the Amazon jungle when their plane crashes on their way back to England from Manaus, Brazil, four children struggle to survive for days until one of them finds a map that leads them to a ruined city and a secret hidden among the vines.
- Scott, Elaine. ***Our Moon: New Discoveries About Earth’s Closest Companion***. Clarion, 2016. Highlighting the latest thrilling discoveries about the moon, this comprehensive book for kids covers the moon’s history, scientific findings, and fun facts, interspersed with informative color photos.
- Selznick, Brian. ***Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures***. Scholastic, 2011. Rose and Ben are deaf children living fifty years and worlds apart, yet both marvel and connect with the world around them. The American Museum of Natural History links their separate stories – one narrated in text and the other through cinematic illustrations.

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Grade 5

- Slader, Erik, and Ben Thompson. ***The Wright Brothers: Nose-Diving into History.*** Roaring Book, 2018. Describes the lives of the two American brothers who designed, built, and flew the first heavier-than-air aircraft successfully, detailing the many mishaps and misadventures that preceded it. *Series*
- Stoddard, Lindsey. ***Brave Like That.*** HarperCollins, 2020. Eleven-year-old Cyrus knows he is not cut out to be a football hero or fireman like his adoptive father, but it takes a skittish stray dog to teach him that he, too, can be brave.
- Sweet, Melissa. ***Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2016. This biography of the beloved children's author is an inviting, colorful collage of photos, art, letters, and snippets of E. B. White's writing.
- Tingle, Tim. ***How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story.*** RoadRunner, 2013. A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe's removal from the only land its people had ever known, and how their journey to Oklahoma led him to become a ghost—one with the ability to help those he left behind. *Series*
- Townsend, Jessica. ***Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow.*** Little, Brown, 2017. Since birth, cursed Morrigan Crow has known she will die the night before her eleventh birthday; however, with only minutes remaining until her impending doom, Morrigan is whisked from her parents' gloomy house by an eccentric man and taken to the magical land of Nevermoor. There she must compete in trials which will determine whether she is allowed to stay in Nevermoor or return home to face her fate. *Series*
- Turnage, Sheila. ***The Law of Finders Keepers.*** Kathy Dawson, 2018. The Desperado Detectives, Mo LoBeau and her best friends Dale and Harm, tackle two huge cases in Tupelo Landing – the hunt for Blackbeard's buried treasure and the search for Mo's Upstream Mother – in this heart-warming series conclusion. *Series*
- Valise, Kim Perez. ***The Orca Scientists.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2018. Follow the majestic orca whales along with the scientists who tirelessly work to save this species from extinction. *Series*
- Viola, Jason. ***Polar Bears: Survival on the Ice.*** First Second, 2019. Through the humorous antics of two inquisitive polar bear cubs learning all they need to know to survive in the Arctic, we learn bear biology and behavior, as well as what all polar bears are facing because of global warming. *Graphic novel, series*
- Wolf, Allan. ***The Day the Universe Exploded My Head: Poems to Take You into Space and Back Again.*** Candlewick, 2019. With dynamite illustrations by Anna Raff, and opportunities for readers to perform multi-part poems with peers, this book of clever, funny, informative poetry about our solar system truly sparkles as it puts a variety of poetry forms on display.

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Yang, Kelly. **Front Desk**. Arthur A. Levine, 2018. Recent immigrants from China and desperate for money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California for skinflint Mr. Yao, whose son is the only other Chinese American in Mia's class. *Series*

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Judann Luening, *retired The Kinkaid School*

Marie Mater, *St. John's School*

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

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 6

*All book summaries are provided by the publisher or written by committee members.
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- Anderson, John David. ***Ms. Bixby's Last Day***. HarperCollins, 2016. When Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she is very sick and won't be able to finish the school year, three students come up with a hilarious and heart-warming plan to tell her how much she means to them.
- Arce, Julissa. ***Someone Like Me: How One Undocumented Girl Fought for Her American Dream***. Little, Brown, 2018. Autobiography of a bright, hard-working young girl's struggle to overcome everyday problems of making the cheer squad while keeping the mean girls at a distance as she fears her legal status will be discovered and her family destroyed.
- Bausum, Ann. ***Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I's Bravest Dog***. National Geographic, 2014. Smuggled onto a naval ship heading to battle in France by his faithful human friend, Stubby earns his place in World War I history by warning troops of gas attacks, killing rats that plagued the soldiers' barracks, and even capturing a German soldier by biting the seat of his pants.
- Behar, Ruth. ***Letters from Cuba***. Nancy Paulsen, 2020. In 1938, eleven-year-old Esther joins her father in tropical, multicultural Cuba, where they toil together to rescue the rest of their Jewish family from persecution in Poland.
- Bragg, Georgia. ***Caught!: Nabbing History's Most Wanted***. Crown, 2019. A gripping, hilarious, nonfiction read, with brilliant illustrations, for even your most reluctant of readers, these brief (and factually accurate!) profiles of notorious criminals throughout history will have your readers pulling others over to read the stories and look at the pictures with them.
- Burgan, Michael. ***Olympic Gold 1936: How the Image of Jesse Owens Crushed Hitler's Evil Myth***. Capstone, 2017. Track star Jesse Owens won multiple gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games—his performance crushed Hitler's view of Aryan superiority in every way, showing the world that personal character and skill have nothing to do with race.
- Burt, Jake. ***Greetings from Witness Protection!*** Feiwel and Friends, 2017. Thirteen-year-old Nikki Demere is an orphan and a kleptomaniac, making her the perfect girl to portray the Trevors' daughter in witness protection; but she soon learns that the biggest threat to her new family's security comes from her own past.
- Cherrix, Amy. ***Eye of the Storm: NASA, Drones, and the Race to Crack the Hurricane Code***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. From the acclaimed series *Scientists in the Field*, this first contribution solely about weather covers a program using drones to learn more about hurricanes, plus a poignant narrative from Hurricane Sandy. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 6

- Draper, Sharon. ***Out of My Mind***. Atheneum, 2010. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient, young girl with cerebral palsy discovers a way for her to speak for the first time.
- Farrell, Mary C. ***Standing Up Against Hate: How Black Women in the Army Helped Change the Course of WWII***. Abrams Books, 2019. True stories of the African American women who enlisted as part of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps to help with the World War II effort while fighting racism in the country they were helping to protect.
- Forde, Patricia. ***The List***. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2017. Letta, charged with collecting and saving words, uncovers a sinister plan to suppress language, robbing the people of Ark of the power of speech, and she realizes she must also save the culture itself.
- Fox, Janet. ***The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle***. Puffin, 2017. In 1940 during the London Blitz, Katherine, Robbie and Amelie Bateson are sent north to a private school at Rookskill Castle in Scotland, a brooding place, haunted by dark magic from the past--but when some of their classmates disappear, Katherine has to find out if the cause is hidden in the past or very much in the present.
- Gemeinhart, Dan. ***Good Dog***. Scholastic, 2018. Brodie was a good dog. And good dogs go to heaven. Except Brodie can't move on. Not just yet.
- Gibbs, Stuart. ***Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation***. Simon & Schuster, 2019. 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. *Series*
- Green, Tim. ***The Big Game***. Harper, 2018. Danny Owens is dedicating his seventh-grade football season to his recently-deceased father, an NFL legend, but the pressure to succeed is magnified by his inability to read.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Under Their Skin***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. Twelve-year-old twins Nick and Eryn investigate why their mother and new stepfather are keeping secrets; why they are forbidden to meet their stepsiblings; and most importantly, why their lives are in danger. *Series*
- Hale, Nathan. ***Lafayette!*** Amulet Books, 2018. At age 19, Major General Marquis de Lafayette left the luxuries of French nobility for adventure overseas, where he joined the American Revolution and fought alongside Alexander Hamilton and George Washington. *Graphic novel, Series*
- Heiligman, Deborah. ***Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship."*** Holt, 2019. The harrowing true story of the SS *City of Benares*, which was attacked while transporting children to safety during WWII.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 6

- Hernandez, Carlos. ***Sal & Gabi Break the Universe***. Disney-Hyperion, 2019. In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes. *Series*
- Hicks, Deron R. ***The Van Gogh Deception***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. When a young boy is discovered in Washington, DC's National Gallery of Art without any recollection of who he is, he must piece together the disjointed clues of his origins while using his limited knowledge to stop one of the greatest art frauds ever attempted.
- Jamieson, Victoria. ***All's Faire in Middle School***. Dial Books, 2017. In her quest to train as an official squire for the Renaissance Faire (her parents' passion), homeschooled Impy takes on the challenge of public middle school and discovers that fitting in is harder than she imagined. *Graphic novel*
- Jamieson, Victoria, and Omar Mohamed. ***When Stars are Scattered***. Dial Books, 2020. Brothers Omar and Hassan live together in a Kenyan refugee camp in this moving graphic memoir of education, family, and resilience. *Graphic novel, Schneider Family Honor winner*
- Johnson, Katherine. ***Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson***. Atheneum, 2019. Katherine Johnson's account of helping to launch Apollo 11 with NASA during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Johnson, Terry Lynn. ***Dog Driven***. Houghton Mifflin, 2019. McKenna, fourteen, is losing her vision to Stargardt's disease, but that will not stop her from competing in a rigorous new sled dog race through the Canadian wilderness.
- Johnson, Varian. ***The Parker Inheritance***. Arthur A. Levine, 2018. Twelve-year-old Candice, who is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, finds herself caught up in the mystery of a lost inheritance; tries to exonerate her grandmother who had the city tennis courts dug up looking for this treasure; and exposes an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert.
- Kelly, Lynne. ***Song for a Whale***. Delacorte, 2019. Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales.
- Kennedy, Caroline, ed. ***Poems to Learn by Heart***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. A wonderful selection of poems -- some old favorites, some new -- arranged by everyday subjects like school, family, self, sports, etc., accompanied by watercolor illustrations charmingly painted by Jon J. Muth. A book to treasure and share!

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 6

- LeZotte, Ann Clare. ***Show Me a Sign***. Scholastic, 2020. It is 1805, and Mary Lambert has grown up in a community on Martha's Vineyard where sign language is widely used and being deaf is not unusual when she is kidnapped by a misguided scientist and thrust into a world she does not know.
- Lupica, Mike. ***Strike Zone***. Philomel, 2019. Twelve-year-old Nick Garcia dreams of winning MVP of his summer baseball league, of finding a cure for his sister, of meeting his hero, Yankee pitcher Michael Arroyo, and of no longer living in fear of the government and ICE agents.
- Magras, Diane. ***The Mad Wolf's Daughter***. Kathy Dawson, 2018. When her Scottish war-lord father and cherished brothers are taken captive by invading knights, twelve-year-old Drest ignores her father's command to hide and courageously sets off to rescue them, taking a wounded knight along to ransom for her family. *Series*
- Marsh, Katherine. ***Nowhere Boy***. Putnam's, 2018. A story of second chances as thirteen-year-old American expat Max, living abroad in Belgium with his family, discovers a fourteen-year-old Syrian refugee hiding in his basement.
- McAnulty, Stacy. ***Millionaires for the Month***. Random House, 2020. Seventh-graders Benji and Felix are challenged to spend five million dollars in thirty days by a famous billionaire.
- Messner, Kate. ***The Exact Location of Home***. Bloomsbury, 2017. Believing his long-absent father is missing and leaving clues behind through geocaching, thirteen-year-old Zig, relies on his love of electronics, a garage sale GPS unit, and his best friend Gianna to search for answers.
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***The Mark of the Thief***. Scholastic, 2015. In this fast-paced historical fantasy, Nic is a slave in the Roman mines who finds a magical amulet that once belonged to Julius Caesar. He learns very quickly that there are others who seek the amulet who want to use its powers to overthrow the Emperor and control Rome. *Series*
- Nobel, Julia. ***Mystery of Black Hollow Lane***. Sourcebooks, 2019. Twelve-year-old Emmy investigates the connection between her father's disappearance and a secret society at her prestigious English boarding school. *Series*
- O'Connor, George. ***Apollo: The Brilliant One***. FirstSecond, 2016. This retelling of the classic Greek myth about the god of the sun, this most human of all the gods, so charming yet flawed, educates as well as entertains. *Graphic novel, series*
- Paterson, Katherine. ***My Brigadista Year***. Candlewick, 2017. A historical novel about a young Cuban teenager who volunteers for Fidel Castro's national literacy campaign that taught those throughout the impoverished countryside to read.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 6

- Pearsall, Shelley. ***The Seventh Most Important Thing***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. An angry encounter with the local Junk Man leads Arthur on a redemptive journey that ultimately allows him to come to terms with his loss and create art. Based on the work of folk artist James Hampton.
- Ramée, Lisa Moore. ***A Good Kind of Trouble***. Balzer + Bray, 2019. After attending a powerful protest, Shayla starts wearing an armband to school to support the Black Lives Matter movement, but when the school gives her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose between her education and her identity.
- Reynolds, Jason. ***Patina***. Atheneum, 2017. Patina needs more than blinding speed to thrive when diabetes disables her mom, leaving her to juggle big sister duties at her aunt and uncle's house, elite track team practices, and adjustments to a private school as best as she can. *Series*.
- Saeed, Aisha. ***Amal Unbound***. Nancy Paulsen, 2018. In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.
- Safina, Carl. ***Beyond Words: What Elephants and Whales Think and Feel***. Roaring Brook, 2019. An interesting look at the differences and similarities between humans and elephants and humans and killer whales.
- Schmidt, Gary D. ***Pay Attention, Carter Jones***. Clarion, 2019. In true Gary D. Schmidt fashion, this story is filled with humor, heart, endearing characters, and indelible life lessons, as the reader is exposed to loss and what it means to be family, all through the eyes of a 6th-grade boy whose family recently inherited a British butler.
- Sheinkin, Steve. ***Born to Fly: The First Women's Air Race Across America***. Roaring Brook, 2019. You will learn about the early women pilots and their stories as they dared to fly across America in 1929 for the Women's Air Derby.
- Shusterman, Neal, and Eric Elfman. ***Tesla's Attic***. Disney-Hyperion, 2014. Nick and his friends must thwart the secret society of Accelerati from getting Tesla's mysterious inventions in this sci-fi action thriller. *Series*
- Sloan, Holly Goldberg. ***Short***. Dial Books, 2017. Very short for her age, Julia grows into her sense of self while playing a Munchkin in a summer regional theater production of *The Wizard of Oz*.
- Stevens, Robin. ***Poison is Not Polite***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. In 1930s England, schoolgirl detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are at Daisy's home for the holidays when someone falls seriously, mysteriously ill at a family party. No one present is what they seem--and everyone has a secret or two--so the Detective Society must do everything they can to reveal the truth . . . no matter the consequences. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 6

Thuras, Dylan, and Rosemary Mosco. ***The Atlas Obscura Explorer's Guide for the World's Most Adventurous Kid***. Workman, 2018. This nonfiction adventure takes the reader to 47 countries with facts and illustrations of 100 world wonders.

Williams, Alicia D. ***Genesis Begins Again***. Atheneum, 2019. Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is. *Newbery Honor Book, Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe for New Talent Author Award Winner, Morris Award Finalist*

Wolk, Lauren. ***Echo Mountain***. Dutton, 2020. When twelve-year-old Ellie and her family lose their livelihood and move to a mountain cabin in 1934, she quickly learns to be an outdoors woman and, when needed, a healer.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Before the Ever After***. Nancy Paulsen, 2020. ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career. *Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner*

Compiled by:

Christa Pryor (Chair), *River Oaks Baptist School*

Judann Luening, *retired The Kinkaid School*

Marie Mater, *St. John's School*

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HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
Grades 7 and 8

All book summaries are provided by the publisher or written by committee members.

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Alexander, Kwame. ***The Crossover***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Twins Josh and Jordan, both of whom love basketball, begin to grow apart in adolescence at the same time as their father, a former basketball star, begins to experience health issues. *Written in verse. Newbery Medal 2015*
- Anderson, John David. ***Posted***. Walden Pond Press, 2017. Eighth graders thwart a phone ban at their school with a creative use of post-it notes, until the messaging gets harmful and a group of outsider teens take a stand to promote inclusiveness and kindness.
- Anderson, M. T. ***The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge***. Candlewick, 2018. This is a collaboration between Anderson and Eugene Yelchin about an inept and unlikely pair, an elf and a goblin, in which the stiff and snobby historian elf is catapulted into the goblin kingdom as a spy/unknowing assassin, and is hosted by a goblin archivist, who is anxious for cultural exchanges.
- Anthony, Lawrence. ***The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild (Young Readers' Edition)***. Holt, 2017. Lawrence Anthony reflects on his decision to accept a group of hard-to-manage wild elephants onto his South African game reserve in an effort to ensure their survival.
- Asimov, Isaac. ***The Stars, Like Dust***. First published 1951. At the death of his father, Biron Farrill becomes involved in the plot to rebel against the Tyranni who have conquered many worlds. *Series*
- Bascomb, Neal. ***The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi***. Arthur A. Levine, 2013. Recounts how sixteen years after the end of World War II, a team of undercover Israeli agents captured the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in a remote area of Argentina and brought him to trial in Israel for crimes committed during the Holocaust.
- Berry, Julie. ***Lovely War***. Viking, 2019. The Greek goddess Aphrodite recounts two tales of tragic love during WWI at the height of World War II. She seeks to answer the age-old question: 'Why are Love and War eternally drawn to one another?' but her quest for a conclusion that will satisfy her jealous husband uncovers a multi-threaded tale of prejudice, trauma, and music revealing that War is no match for the power of Love. *The audiobook version is highly recommended.*
- Bowling, Dusti. ***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus***. Sterling, 2017. New friends, a mystery, and a lot of humor help Aven, thirteen, adjust to middle school and life at a dying western theme park, where her being born armless presents many challenges.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
Grades 7 and 8

- Bracken, Alexandra. ***The Dreadful Tale of Prosper Redding***. Disney-Hyperion, 2017. A modern New England boy must rid himself of the ancient demon inhabiting his body and break his family's curse.
- Brody, Jessica. ***A Week of Mondays***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. Sixteen-year-old Ellison Sparks keeps reliving that terrible Monday when her boyfriend, Tristan, breaks up with her; and no matter how hard she tries, she cannot seem to set things right.
- Brown, Daniel James. ***The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers' Adaption): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics***. Viking, 2015. Adapted for young readers by Gregory Mone, this is the remarkable story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, defeating elite rivals first from eastern and British universities before challenging the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936.
- Brown, Don. ***Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. The tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage -- and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. *Graphic novel*
- Budhos, Marina. ***Watched***. Wendy Lamb, 2016. Naeem, a senior in high school and an immigrant from Bangladesh, doesn't feel at home anywhere - at home, at school, or with his friends. Tricked into shoplifting by one "friend," he is arrested by NYPD and given a choice--go to jail or become an informant, spying on his own Muslim community.
- Cameron, Sharon. ***The Forgetting***. Scholastic, 2016. Seventeen-year-old Nadia lives in Canaan, a quiet city in an idyllic world, but every twelve years the people of Canaan undergo a collective Forgetting after which the people are left without any trace of memory of themselves, their families, or their lives--except for Nadia, who does not forget. *The audiobook version is highly recommended. Series*
- Carriger, Gail. ***Etiquette & Espionage***. Little, Brown, 2013. In an alternate England of 1851, spirited fourteen-year-old Sophronia is enrolled in a finishing school where she is surprised to learn that lessons include not only the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette, but also diversion, deceit, and espionage. *The audiobook version is highly recommended. Series*
- Connor, Leslie. ***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle***. Katherine Tegen, 2018. Mystery surrounds the death of Mason's friend, and when a second friend goes missing, Mason falls under suspicion. Mason struggles at school with learning and is bullied, but he has a steadfast heart that allows the truth about Mason Buttle to be revealed.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
Grades 7 and 8

- Cooney, Caroline B. ***No Such Person***. Delacorte, 2015. One of the Allerton sisters has been charged with a pre-meditated killing, so when Lander says she did not do it, Miranda, who wants to believe her sister, finds that the evidence is pointing to Lander's guilt.
- Crossan, Sarah. ***The Weight of Water***. Bloomsbury, 2013. Told in verse, this story is about twelve-year-old Kasienka who immigrates to England from Poland with her mother in search of Kasienka's father. Sadly, everyone is not friendly except for one neighbor and a cute boy she meets at the swimming pool, which is her only refuge from bullies and an unfamiliar society.
- Culbertson, Kim. ***The Wonder of Us***. Point, 2017. Riya and Abby were best friends in their small California town, but Riya and her family moved to Berlin for Riya's junior year, and it was hard to stay in touch. Now that the year has passed, Riya proposes that they take a two-week Grand Tour and travel around Europe to reconnect--but they have both been hiding secrets, and those secrets threaten to push them apart forever.
- Dashner, James. ***The Eye of Minds***. Delacorte, 2013. Kaine, a cyberterrorist, has been holding players hostage in the VirtNet, a total mind/body virtual reality immersion. Michael and his friends, skilled gamers, are hired to go off the grid to track him down. *Series*
- Davies, Linda. ***Longbow Girl***. Chicken House, 2016. Sixteen-year-old expert archer Merry Owen is desperate to save her family's farm in Wales. When she finds a buried chest containing an ancient and possibly valuable Welsh text, she hopes it will be the key to a fortune -- and so it is, but not in the way she expected, for it sends her and her friend James de Courcy into the past.
- Dee, Barbara. ***Maybe He Just Likes You***. Aladdin, 2019. Mila isn't sure if the boys at school asking her for hugs are just flirting like her friend says, but it doesn't seem that way and makes her uncomfortable. When the boys won't leave her alone, Mila needs to find a solution before things get even worse.
- Deuker, Carl. ***Swagger***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Jonas' future looks bright with a college basketball scholarship within reach, but a team member is dead and Jonas knows who is responsible. Should he keep his head down or confront the killer and put his future in jeopardy?
- Donnelly, Jennifer. ***Stepsister***. Scholastic, 2019. Ella's stepsister Isabelle is deemed ugly, wicked, and doomed to a life of misery, until she decides to take action to change her fate.
- Eagar, Lindsay. ***Hour of the Bees***. Candlewick, 2016. Twelve-year old Carolina spends the summer with her aging grandfather in New Mexico and starts to connect more deeply with her family and her Mexican-American heritage in this novel of magical realism.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
Grades 7 and 8

- Elliott, Kate. ***Court of Fives***. Little, Brown, 2015. When a scheming lord tears Jess's family apart, she must rely on her unlikely friendship with Kal, a high-ranking Patron boy, and her skill at Fives, an intricate, multi-level athletic competition that offers a chance for glory, to protect her Commoner mother and mixed-race sisters and save her father's reputation. *Series*
- Esplin, J.L. ***96 Miles***. Tom Doherty, 2020. Brothers John and Stewart find themselves on their own in a desert with no food or water after a massive blackout creates a crisis that tests their determination to survive.
- Fantaskey, Beth. ***Buzz Kill***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Seventeen-year-old Millie joins forces with her classmate, gorgeous but mysterious Chase Colton, to try to uncover who murdered head football coach "Hollerin' Hank" Killdare . . . and why.
- Fleming, Candace. ***Presenting Buffalo Bill: The Man Who Invented the Wild West***. Roaring Brook, 2016. Buffalo Bill's rise as a mythic figure looms large in this entertaining and well-researched story of how Buffalo Bill popularized the legend of the West with his Wild West shows in the US and Europe.
- Freedman, Russell. ***Vietnam: A History of the War***. Holiday House, 2016. The author offers a presentation of American involvement in the Vietnam War with a good selection of primary source photos and quotes from public officials as well as diary accounts and viewpoints of veterans of the war.
- Friedman, Laurie B. ***Love or Something Like It***. Darby Creek, 2015. As summer approaches, April is conflicted about going to camp and missing time with new boyfriend Matt and her friend Sophie, who will be visiting. Is her flame with Matt strong enough to survive a long absence? *Series*
- Gerber, Alyson. ***Braced***. Arthur A. Levine, 2017. Rachel's plans to start as a forward on her school's soccer team become endangered when she learns that scoliosis, a spinal condition, requires her to wear a back brace; however, friends and family rally to support her as she rises to the challenge to lead a full life on the field and at school.
- Gidwitz, Adam. ***The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog***. Dutton, 2016. On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children whose adventures take them on a chase through medieval France.
- Gier, Kerstin. ***Ruby Red***. Translated from the German by Anthea Bell. Holt, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Gwyneth Shepherd unexpectedly travels through time to the eighteenth century where she discovers a mystery about her real birth date and finds to her dismay that she must work with Gideon -- another time traveler who hates her! *Series*
- Gratz, Alan. ***Refugee***. Scholastic, 2017. In this action-packed story, three kids from three time periods on three journeys of survival fight for their lives, and ultimately, their stories converge in the end.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
Grades 7 and 8

- Grimes, Nikki. ***Planet Middle School***. Bloomsbury, 2011. A series of poems describes all the baffling changes at home and at school in twelve-year-old Joylin's transition from tomboy basketball player to not-quite-girly girl.
- Hale, Nathan. ***One Dead Spy: The Life, Times, and Last Words of Nathan Hale, America's Most Famous Spy***. Amulet Books, 2012. After being swallowed by a giant history book moments before his own execution, Nathan Hale is given the chance to tell his own story as well as many other stories from American History.
Graphic novel series
- Halpern, Jake, and Peter Kujawinski. ***Nightfall***. Putnam's, 2015. On a distant island where day and night exist on fourteen-year cycles and the islanders migrate south each sunset, three children get left behind and must find a way off the island before the Night finds them.
- Hardinge, Frances. ***A Face Like Glass***. Amulet Books, 2017. In a subterranean society, a young girl named Neverfall becomes immersed in plots, poisonings, and a rising revolt; humor and intrigue fill this story of Neverfall's victory over a society that masks true emotions.
- Harrington, Kim. ***The Dead and Buried***. Point, 2012. High school senior Jade is horrified to learn her father and stepmother have bought the house of a girl who was mysteriously killed the year before they moved to town. She is even more horrified to realize that the house is being haunted by the dead girl's very mean-spirited ghost.
- Henkes, Kevin. ***Sweeping Up the Heart***. Greenwillow, 2019. Amelia's vacation looks bleak with her dad insisting they stay home over spring break instead of traveling. As boredom looms, she turns to the clay studio in town where she meets a boy named Casey who has a campaign going to keep his divorcing parents together.
- Henry, April. ***The Girl I Used to Be***. Holt, 2016. Fourteen years ago, everyone believed Olivia's mother had been killed by her father, but recently his remains were found in the same woodsy area where her mother died. Who killed them? Olivia means to find out.
- Hilton, Marilyn. ***Full Cicada Moon***. Dial Books, 2015. Mimi grapples with society in this novel written in verse about a half-black, half-Japanese seventh grader who moves to a new town and struggles to find her identity.
- Hoose, Phillip. ***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015. Deeply ashamed of Denmark's failure to resist the Nazi regime, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis themselves.
- Howard, Tim. ***The Keeper: The Unguarded Story of Tim Howard (Young Readers' Edition)***. Harper, 2015. Tim Howard's uplifting memoir about how he grew from being a hyperactive kid from New Jersey with Tourette syndrome to becoming one of the world's premier soccer goalkeepers.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
Grades 7 and 8

- Hutton, Keely. ***Secret Soldiers***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2019. It is the height of WWI, and although teenager Thomas Sullivan isn't old enough to enlist as a soldier, he finds himself participating in a secret mission in the brutal trenches of the Western Front, all the while seeking his brother who is missing in action.
- Jarrow, Gail. ***Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds and Disease***. Calkins Creek, 2000. Would you want to be a Civil War surgeon? Before modern medicine, injuries during the war were a grisly, life-and-death matter. Read about the heroes, leaders, and technology of the time in this colorful and surprising nonfiction title.
- Jarrow, Gail. ***Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America***. Calkins Creek, 2018. Orson Welles led a group of talented performers in a 1938 radio production of *The War of the Worlds*, which created a panic across the nation. The story of this faked "alien invasion" is a fascinating mix of theater, history, and psychology.
- Johnson, Steven. ***How We Got to Now: Six Innovations that Made the Modern World***. Viking, 2018. This fun survey describes how innovations, such as air conditioning and eye-glasses, evolved over time; these stories provide an appreciation of how ideas build upon each other.
- Kelly, Erin Entrada. ***Blackbird Fly***. Greenwillow, 2015. Bullied at school, eighth-grader Apple, a Filipino American who loves the music of the Beatles, decides to change her life by learning how to play the guitar.
- Kelly, Scott. ***Endurance: My Year in Space and How I Got There***. Crown, 2018. Ever wonder what it is like to live in space? NASA astronaut, Scott Kelly details his journey from problem student to fighter pilot, Space Shuttle commander, and year-long inhabitant of the International Space Station.
- Khoury, Jessica. ***Kalahari***. Razorbill, 2015. Five teens must try to survive in the Kalahari Desert with limited supplies while evading mercenaries and a strange silver lion.
- Kincaid, S.J. ***Insignia***. Katherine Tegen, 2012. Tom, a fourteen-year-old genius at virtual reality games, is recruited by the United States Military to begin training at the Pentagon Spire as a Combatant in World War III, controlling the mechanized drones that do the actual fighting off-planet. *The audiobook version is highly recommended. Series*
- Klass, David. ***Losers Take All: A Novel***. Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2015. At a sports-crazy New Jersey high school where all kids must play on a team, a group of rebels start a soccer team designed to undermine the jock culture of the school.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
Grades 7 and 8

- Klise, James. ***The Art of Secrets***. Algonquin, 2014. When a piece of quirky art donated to a school fundraising effort to help a Pakistani American family, victims of a possible hate crime, is revealed to be a valuable unknown work by a famous outsider artist, adults and teenagers alike debate who should get the money and begin to question each other's motivations.
- Landman, Tanya. ***Hell and High Water***. Candlewick, 2017. In 1750s London, young Caleb's life is upended when his father is accused of theft and shipped to America as a laborer; meanwhile, Caleb journeys to a rough seafaring town to live with his father's estranged sister, and he begins to discover murderous plots and a smuggling operation.
- Lee, Stacey. ***The Downstairs Girl***. Putnam's, 2019. Jo is a Chinese girl living during the 1890s in Atlanta, a time in which the fight for women's rights is on the rise while segregation laws are also beginning to restrict the rights of Blacks and Asians. Jo masks her identity to become a popular and controversial "advice columnist" for the local paper, and she becomes immersed in the fight for rights.
- McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. ***Under the Mesquite***. Lee & Low, 2011. Lupita, a budding actor and poet in a close-knit Mexican American immigrant family, comes of age as she struggles with adult responsibilities during her mother's long illness.
- McNeal, Tom. ***Far Far Away***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. When Jeremy Johnson Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate, Ginger Boultinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown.
- Messner, Kate. ***Tracking Pythons: The Quest to Catch an Invasive Predator and Save an Ecosystem***. Millbrook, 2020. Wade through south Florida with scientists dedicated to finding and controlling the Burmese python population, an invasive species from Southeast Asia. This nonfiction title is full of photos and fascinating facts for snake and nature lovers as well as the just plain curious.
- Meyer, Marissa. ***Heartless***. Feiwel and Friends, 2016. Cath wants most of all to open her own bakery to sell her tarts and other goodies, but in this prequel to Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, she has caught the eye of the goofy King of the Hearts Kingdom, as well as the eye of Jest, the court jester who is a very intriguing person!
- Miller, Sarah. ***The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century***. Schwartz & Wade, 2016. Examines the Borden murders, using newspaper articles to recreate the events and the trial and acquittal of Lizzie Borden and exploring Lizzie's story to theorize on what might have really happened.
- Moriarty, Jaclyn. ***A Corner of White***. Arthur A. Levine, 2013. Fourteen-year-old Madeleine of Cambridge, England, struggling to cope with poverty and her mother's illness, and fifteen-year-old Elliot of the Kingdom of Cello in a parallel world, begin exchanging notes through a crack between their worlds and find they can be of great help to each other. *Series*

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
Grades 7 and 8

- Muhammad, Ibtihaj. ***Proud: Living My American Dream***. Little, Brown, 2018. The inspiring and critically acclaimed all-American story of faith, family, hard work, and perseverance by Olympic fencer, activist, and one of *Time Magazine's* "100 Most Influential People," Ibtihaj Muhammad.
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. ***Dairy Queen***. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. *Series*
- Nelson, Marilyn. ***How I Discovered Poetry***. Dial Books, 2014. Looking back on her childhood in the 1950s, the author tells the story of her development as an artist and young woman through fifty eye-opening poems that also offer a larger view of the world around her: racial tensions, the Cold War era, and the first stirrings of the feminist movement.
- Nielsen, Susin. ***We Are All Made of Molecules***. Ember, 2016. Thirteen-year-old brilliant but socially-challenged Stewart and mean-girl Ashley must find common ground when, two years after Stewart's mother died, his father moves in with his new girlfriend--Ashley's mother--whose gay ex-husband lives in their guest house in the backyard.
- Nix, Garth. ***Frogkisser!*** Scholastic, 2017. Princess Anya has big problems. Duke Rikard, her step-stepfather, is an evil wizard who wants to rule the kingdom and has a habit of changing people into frogs, and her older sister Morven, the heir, is a wimp. With the help of the librarian Gotfried (who turns into an owl when he is upset) and the Royal Dogs, she must find a way to defeat Rikard, save her sister, and maybe even turn Prince Denholm back into a human being.
- Nunn, Malla. ***When the Ground is Hard***. Putnam's, 2019. At Swaziland's Keziah Christian Academy, where the wealth and color of one's father determines one's station, once-popular Adele bonds with poor Lottie over a book and a series of disasters.
- Odhiambo, Eucabeth A. ***Auma's Long Run***. Carolrhoda Books, 2017. When AIDS devastates thirteen-year-old Auma's village in Kenya during the 1980s, Auma must choose between staying to help her family and working toward a track scholarship that will take her away from home.
- Okorafor, Nnedi. ***Akata Witch***. Viking, 2011. Twelve-year-old Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has latent magical powers which she and three similarly gifted friends use to catch a serial killer. *Series*
- Oliver, Mary. ***Dog Songs: Thirty-five Dog Songs and One Essay***. Penguin, 2013. A collection of poems and one essay about dogs and their relationships with their owners.

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- Oppel, Kenneth. ***The Nest***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. Steve is an anxious boy who is visited in his dreams by wasps who say they want to save his sickly baby brother but can only do it with his help. But do they really want to help, and is he actually dreaming, and can he really help?
- Peet, Mal. ***Keeper***. Candlewick, 2005. An enthralling story of a poor and gawky Brazilian child who mysteriously becomes the world's greatest goalkeeper -- a seamless blend of magical realism and exhilarating soccer action.
- Phelan, Matt. ***Snow White: A Graphic Novel***. Candlewick, 2016. This darkly stylized, noir adaptation of the classic story is set against a backdrop of Depression-era Manhattan and depicts, in vibrant graphic-novel detail, the story of a beleaguered girl who finds shelter with seven street urchins after the sudden death of her father, a former Wall Street king, and suffers cruelty at the hands of her Queen of the Follies stepmother. *Graphic novel*
- Preus, Margi. ***West of the Moon***. Amulet Books, 2014. Norwegian folktale and myth are woven into the story of Astri, a young girl whose evil aunt sells her to a goat herder. Astri plots to make a daring escape, rescue her younger sister, and embark on a quest to find their father.
- Priest, Cherie. ***I Am Princess X***. Arthur A. Levine, 2015. Years after writing stories about a superheroine character she created with a best friend who died in a tragic car accident, sixteen-year-old May is shocked to see stickers, patches, and graffiti images of the superheroine appearing around Seattle.
- Raffin, Michele. ***The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic and the Endangered***. Algonquin, 2014. Pandemonium, the home and bird sanctuary that Raffin shares with some of the world's most remarkable birds, is a conservation organization dedicated to saving and breeding birds at the edge of extinction, with the goal of eventually releasing them into the wild. Their stories teach us volumes about the interrelationships of humans and animals.
- Reynolds, Jason. ***Long Way Down***. Atheneum, 2017. Fifteen-year-old Will faces questions of morality and justice as he considers murdering the man who shot his brother in this powerful, gripping novel-in-verse that takes place in sixty crucial seconds.
- Reynolds, Jason, and Ibram X. Kendi. ***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You***. Little, Brown, 2020. Preeminent author Jason Reynolds provides an exploration of what it means to be antiracist in this fast-paced, conversational nonfiction title.
- Rhodes, Jewell Parker. ***Black Brother, Black Brother***. Little, Brown, 2020. Biracial Donte and his brother attend Middlefield Prep, and Donte presents as black while his brother Trey presents as white. Their school experiences couldn't be more different, especially when Donte gets unjustly arrested.

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- Roberts, Barbara Carroll. ***Nikki on the Line***. Little, Brown, 2019. Middle schooler Nikki's passion is basketball, and she dreams of making the cut for a competitive club team. However, her non-sporty mom, the secret about her dad, changing friendships, and a new guy on the scene add up to things going not quite the way she planned.
- Ruiz Zafón, Carlos. ***The Prince of Mist***. Little, Brown, 2010. In 1943, in a seaside town where their family has gone to be safe from war, thirteen-year-old Max Carver and his fifteen-year-old sister Alicia, along with new friend Roland, face off against an evil magician who is striving to complete a bargain made before he died.
- Sanderson, Brandon. ***Skyward***. Delacorte, 2018. Branded as the daughter of a coward after her father abandons his team and is killed in battle, young Spensa sets her sights on claiming the stars by becoming a pilot and seeking retribution for her father's death by taking on their age-old enemy, the Krell.
- Sandler, Martin W. ***1919: The Year That Changed America***. Bloomsbury, 2000. Sandler shows the many shockwaves hitting the country in 1919: the end of World War I and the resulting race riots, The Great Molasses Flood, the Red Scare, labor unrest, and the temperance movement all made great changes in American society. He compares those trends with what is happening now to show how history affects the current situation.
- Sandler, Martin W. ***The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found***. Candlewick, 2017. Set sail on the pirate ship Whydah, doomed to sink off the coast of Cape Cod in 1717 with its treasure aboard and Black Sam Bellamy at the helm. Not found until 1984, its artifacts have shed much light on the life of pirates.
- Sands, Kevin. ***The Blackthorn Key***. Aladdin, 2015. In 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, and his best friend Tom try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, pranks, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart. *Series*
- Schlitz, Laura Amy. ***The Hired Girl***. Candlewick, 2015. Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs chronicles her life in a journal when she leaves her family's farm in Pennsylvania to work as a hired girl in Baltimore in the summer of 1911. *Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction 2016*
- Sedgwick, Marcus. ***She Is Not Invisible***. Roaring Brook, 2014. When her father disappears, a blind London teenager kidnaps her younger brother -- her eyes to the world -- and embarks on a quest to find her father and solve the mystery of his disappearance.

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- Sepetys, Ruta. ***Between Shades of Gray***. Philomel, 2011. On a calm, beautiful night in 1941 Lithuania, fifteen-year-old Lina's life is torn apart as she and her family are forced from their home and sent to work in labor camps along the harsh Arctic Circle as part of Stalin's forced relocation program. Also published as *Ashes in the Snow*.
- Sheinkin, Steve. ***Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team***. Roaring Brook, 2017. Tells the fascinating story of the beginning of American collegiate football and the role that coach Pop Warner, football great Jim Thorpe, and the legendary Carlisle Indian Industrial School contributed to the development of the sport.
- Spooner, Meagan. ***Sherwood***. HarperTeen, 2019. When Lady Marian learns that her betrothed, Robin of Locksley, has perished in the Crusades, she is faced with an uncertain future and finds herself caught between helping Will Scarlet, a fugitive, and keeping one step ahead of Sir Guy, the arm of the law. "The lady becomes the legend" is the perfect tagline for this reimagined classic.
- Stead, Rebecca. ***Goodbye, Stranger***. Wendy Lamb, 2015. As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvaceous Em, crusader Tab, and a curious new friend - or more than friend - Sherm, she finds the answer she has been seeking since she barely survived an accident at age eight: "What is my purpose?"
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Treasure Island***. First published 1883. A classic pirate story reproduced in movies and TV shows more than any other, *Treasure Island* tells the tale of the quest for treasure by Jim Hawkins and pirate Long John Silver. The book introduces the now infamous pirate song "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest--Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"
- Stroud, Jonathan. ***The Amulet of Samarkand***. Hyperion, 2003. This story is set in present-day London where Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, calls up the djinni Bartimaeus to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from another magician, and they both get caught up in a vast conspiracy of treason and murder. *Series*
- Sundquist, Josh. ***Love and First Sight***. Little, Brown, 2017. When Will decides to have surgery that can potentially restore his vision, he finds that those he cares about may be keeping secrets.
- Thompson, Holly. ***Orchards***. Ember, 2011. Sent to Japan for the summer after an eighth-grade classmate's suicide, half-Japanese, half-Jewish Kana Goldberg tries to fit in with relatives she barely knows and reflects on the guilt she feels over the tragedy back home.
- Tolkien, J. R. R. ***The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again***. First published 1937. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. *Series*

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- Turner, Megan Whalen. ***The Thief***. Greenwillow, 1996. Eugenides, Gen, who boasts that he can steal anything, is currently languishing in jail when the Magus offers him a choice of coming with him on an undefined quest, where he will be able to exercise his vaunted skills or stay in jail for life. *Series*
- Vail, Rachel. ***Well, That Was Awkward***. Viking, 2017. Gracie has forgotten how to breathe, move, or do anything when confronted with A. J. who is suddenly so good looking! Then to top things off her best friend Sienna wants Gracie to compose texts to send to A. J. as if it was from her... but the replies are weirdly unlike A. J.
- Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***Flipped***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2001. This is a classic romantic comedy of errors told in alternating chapters by two teenagers describing how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.
- Volponi, Paul. ***Game Seven***. Viking, 2015. Julio Ramirez, a sixteen-year-old shortstop in Cuba who dreams of playing with the national team, finds that he must choose between his country and family and his father who long ago defected to the U.S.
- Warga, Jasmine. ***Other Words for Home***. Balzar + Bray, 2019. Jude and her mother flee Syria as violence erupts in neighboring towns. As Jude tries to navigate a new home, school, and friendships, she discovers an inner courage as she becomes her own person.
- Watson, Jude. ***Loot: How to Steal a Fortune***. Scholastic, 2014. When notorious jewel thief Alfie McQuinn is killed on a job, his last words to his son, March, are to "find jewels," and this instruction leads the boy to Jules, the twin sister he never knew he had—and the perfect partner to carry on the family business. *Series*
- Watson, Renée. ***Piecing Me Together***. Bloomsbury, 2017. Tired of being singled out at her mostly white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls. *Coretta Scott King Award 2018*
- Wilson, Kip. ***White Rose***. Versify, 2019. Based on true events, this novel in verse tells the compelling story of Sophie Scholl, an activist in World War II Nazi Germany who refused to be a bystander and instead risked everything to stand up against injustice.
- Wolk, Lauren. ***Wolf Hollow: A Novel***. Dutton, 2016. Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what is right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.
- Yelchin, Eugene. ***Spy Runner***. Holt, 2019. Spy intrigue, FBI agents, Cold War paranoia, some blurry photos, and a sprinkling of wicked wit make this story a unique mystery.

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Compiled by:

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 9 and Grade 10

All book summaries are provided by the publisher or written by committee members.

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Adeyemi, Tomi. ***Children of Blood and Bone***. Holt, 2018. Seventeen-year-old Zelie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy. *Series*
- Ahdieh, Renée. ***Flame in the Mist***. Putnam's, 2017. While journeying to meet her betrothed, the son of the emperor's favorite consort, Mariko barely escapes a sudden and shocking assassination attempt. Disguising herself as a boy, Mariko sets out to discover who tried to kill her and why. Once accepted into the notorious Black Clan, however, Mariko finds herself appreciated and respected for her intellect and alchemical abilities, leading her to start questioning everything she's ever known about her family and her destiny. *Series*
- Anderson, Natalie C. ***City of Saints & Thieves***. Putnam's, 2017. When Tina's mother is murdered in Mr. Grayhill's study in Kenya, Tina believes she knows who did it. She disappears into the streets of Sangui City and begins to train with the Goonda gang, perfecting her thieving skills in order to extract revenge for her mother's death. After four years on the streets, she puts her plan of revenge into action, only to discover that everything may not be what it seems.
- Aveyard, Victoria. ***Red Queen***. HarperTeen, 2015. In a world divided by blood--Red blooded (more common) serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities--seventeen-year-old Mare, a Red, discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. But Mare risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard--a growing Red rebellion--even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. *Series*
- Benedict, Marie. ***Carnegie's Maid***. Sourcebooks, 2018. In this Gilded Age era novel, Clara, an Irish immigrant, takes on a false identity to gain employment as a housekeeper in Andrew Carnegie's grand house. Her relationship with the steel tycoon transforms him into America's first philanthropist.
- Biles, Simone, with Michelle Burford. ***Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance***. Zondervan, 2016. Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles describes how she overcame early difficulties through the help of her family and God to realize her dream of becoming an elite gymnast.

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- Blake, Kendare. ***Three Dark Crowns***. HarperTeen, 2016. On the island of Fennbirn, a set of triplets born to the queen are separated at a young age and trained to use their individual special powers: a naturalist, an elemental, and a poisoner. As tradition dictates, on their sixteenth birthday, the sisters will engage in a battle to the death; the victor gains the right to be Queen. *Series*
- Bowman, Erin. ***Vengeance Road***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. When her father is killed by the notorious Rose Riders for a mysterious journal that reveals the secret location of a gold mine, eighteen-year-old Kate Thompson disguises herself as a boy and takes to the plains looking for answers--and justice. *Series*
- Brody, Jessica. ***The Chaos of Standing Still***. Simon Pulse, 2017. Ryn, eighteen, trapped by a massive blizzard in the Denver airport, meets some unique characters who help her cope with survivor's guilt on the first anniversary of her best friend's death.
- Brown, Jennifer. ***Torn Away***. Little, Brown, 2014. As Jersey copes with her tornado tragedies, the deaths of both mom and sister, as well as the loss of her home, she is further challenged when she is forced to live with her long-estranged father.
- Chokshi, Roshani. ***The Gilded Wolves***. Wednesday Books, 2019. Paris, 1889: In this city, no one keeps tabs on secrets better than treasure-hunter and wealthy hotelier, Séverin Montagnet-Alarie. But when the all-powerful society, the Order of Babel, seeks him out for help, Séverin is offered a treasure that he never imagined: his true inheritance. To find the ancient artifact the Order seeks, Séverin will need help from a band of experts... What they find might change the world, but only if they can stay alive. *Series*
- Cornwell, Betsy. ***Mechanica***. Clarion, 2015. In this retelling of Cinderella, an indomitable inventor-mechanic finds her prince but realizes she doesn't want a fairy tale happy ending after all.
- Crossan, Sarah. ***One***. Greenwillow, 2015. Despite problems at home, sixteen-year-old conjoined twins Tippi and Grace love going to school for the first time and making real friends. In the midst of their happiness, however, they learn that a cardiac problem will force them to have separation surgery, which they have never before considered. *Novel in verse*
- Crouch, Blake. ***Dark Matter***. Crown, 2016. After being knocked out and kidnapped, scientist Jason Dessen wakes up in an unfamiliar world where his wife is not his wife, his son was never born, and someone is out to get him.

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- Crowley, Cath. ***Words in Deep Blue***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2016. Rachel and her brother always loved the ocean, but after he drowns, she cannot bear to be around it. She moves back to the city and finds a job working in a bookstore whose part-owner is a young man she had a crush on years before. The job, school, friends and emotional ups and downs lead Rachel to healing.
- Dayton, Arwen Elys. ***Stronger, Faster, and More Beautiful***. Delacorte, 2018. Six interconnected stories in near-future and far-future settings that explore how far humans will go to stand out while continuing to fit in on the path to perfection.
- Donnelly, Jennifer. ***These Shallow Graves***. Delacorte, 2015. A young woman in nineteenth-century New York City must struggle against gender and class boundaries when her father is found dead of a supposed suicide and she believes there is more than meets the eye, so in order to uncover the truth, she will have to decide how much she is willing to risk and lose.
- Doty, James R. ***Into the Magic Shop: A Neurosurgeon's Quest to Discover the Mysteries of the Brain and the Secrets of the Heart***. Penguin, 2016. James Doty, a distinguished neurosurgeon, reflects on his impoverished childhood, his alcoholic father, and his career in medicine to show readers how it is fundamentally possible to change the thinking patterns in one's brain.
- Ewing, Eve L. ***Electric Arches***. Haymarket, 2017. A visually explosive collection of poetry and narrative prose that explores black girlhood and womanhood. *Alex Award 2018*
- Foxlee, Karen. ***The Midnight Dress***. Ember, 2015. Until almost sixteen-year-old Rose connects with the people of a small, coastal Australian town, she is used to traveling aimlessly with her alcoholic father. Stunning classmate Pearl, reclusive dressmaker Edie, and a magical dress that Rose and Edie sew for the Harvest Festival all contribute to a mystery unfolding around them. *The audiobook is also highly recommended.*
- Gaiman, Neil. ***Norse Mythology***. Norton, 2017. A pleasurable retelling of Norse myths featuring gods who interact with dwarves and giants, animals and humans; the tales end with the violent Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods, and the birth of a new time and people.
- Gervais, Alison. ***The Silence Between Us***. Blink, 2019. Deaf teen Maya Harris must navigate a new life and love in this #OwnVoices novel. When Maya is forced to attend a hearing school, she sets out to prove that her lack of hearing will not stop her from chasing her dreams.

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- Grace, Adalyn. ***All the Stars and Teeth***. Imprint, 2020. Princess Amora Montara has spent her entire life training to be High Animancer—the master of souls. To secure her place as heir to the throne, she must prove her mastery of the monarchy’s dangerous soul magic. She strikes a deal with Bastian, a mysterious pirate: he’ll help her prove she’s fit to rule if she’ll help him reclaim his stolen magic. But sailing the kingdom holds more wonder—and more peril—than Amora anticipated.
- Grolleau, Fabien. ***Audubon: On the Wings of the World***. Nobrow, 2017. In the early 1800s, John James Audubon, an ornithologist, traversed America studying birds. Despite challenging weather and wildlife along the way, he persevered to create beautiful illustrations still admired today. *Graphic novel*
- Hesse, Monica. ***The Girl in the Blue Coat***. Little, Brown, 2016. In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke--a 'finder' of black market goods--is tasked with finding a Jewish girl who has seemingly vanished into thin air, and she is pulled into a web of resistance activities and secrets as she attempts to solve the mystery and save the missing girl.
- Hunter, C. C. ***This Heart of Mine: A Novel***. Wednesday Books, 2018. After a heart transplant, seventeen-year-old Leah is plagued with dreams of the donor’s suicide . . . or was it murder? Leah sets out to unravel the secret with the help of the donor’s twin brother.
- Hitchcock, Bonnie-Sue. ***The Smell of Other People’s Houses***. Wendy Lamb, 2016. In quite possibly the best titled novel in recent years, this redemptive coming of age story is told in four unique teen voices living in 1970s Alaska.
- Jones, Kelly. ***Murder, Magic and What We Wore***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2017. When her father dies, Annis Whitworth, who has power to sew glamours, garments that can disguise the wearer completely, becomes a spy and leads a double life in order to find her father's killer.
- Katz, Jon. ***Saving Simon: How a Rescue Donkey Taught Me the Meaning of Compassion***. Random House, 2015. In this heartfelt, thoughtful, and inspiring memoir, the author tells the story of his beloved rescue donkey, Simon, and the wondrous ways that animals make us wiser and kinder people.
- Klune, TJ. ***The House in the Cerulean Sea***. Tor, 2020. A magical island. A dangerous task. A burning secret. Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in orphanages. Linus is unexpectedly given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside. *Alex Award*

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- Kooser, Ted. ***Delights & Shadows: Poems.*** Copper Canyon Press, 2004. This collection of poems by a former Poet Laureate of the United States describes the habits and struggles of daily life. *Winner Pulitzer Prize for Poetry 2005*
- Krosoczka, Jarrett. ***Hey, Kiddo.*** Graphix, 2018. In his deeply personal graphic novel memoir, Krosoczka illustrates the devastating impact his mother's addiction had on his childhood and how his supportive grandparents and his love of art ultimately saved his life. *Graphic novel, Harvey Award, Black-Eyed Susan Award*
- Lu, Marie. ***Batman: Nightwalker.*** Random House, 2018. Young Bruce Wayne is about to inherit his family's fortune and the keys to Wayne Industries when he gets tangled up with Gotham City's biggest enemy - the Nightwalkers. *DC Icons Series*
- Maas, Sarah J. ***Catwoman: Soulstealer.*** Random House, 2018. Joining forces with Poison Ivy and Harley Quinn, Catwoman returns to Gotham City to right the social order and wreak havoc on the city's rich and self-righteous, while attempting to fulfill her own private quest. *DC Icon Series*
- Mandel, Emily St. John. ***Station Eleven.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Scenes from life before and after a great pandemic decimates the world's population depict life through the eyes of members of a traveling group of performers.
- Maniscalco, Kerri. ***Stalking Jack the Ripper.*** Little, Brown, 2016. A gothic murder mystery set in gritty Victorian-era London, where an intrepid society girl finds herself embroiled in the investigation of a serial killer known as Jack the Ripper. *Series*
- Mathieu, Jennifer. ***Devoted: A Novel.*** Roaring Brook, 2015. Rachel Walker loves her family and is devoted to God, but when she begins to question both her reclusive and sheltered life and her relationship with God, she must decide if she will stay or flee, leaving her family and community behind.
- McGee, Katharine. ***American Royals.*** Random House, 2019. An exciting glimpse into a speculative future where the heirs of George Washington reign in a court filled with intrigue, drama, and romance.
- McLemore, Anna-Marie. ***The Weight of Feathers.*** St. Martin's Press, 2015. To the delight of audiences worldwide, members of the Paloma family perform underwater as mermaids while the Corbeau family gives feathered performances in the tallest of trees . . . but their families have been enemies for generations. When disaster strikes, will Lace Paloma and Cluck Corbeau be able to overcome their prejudices and help each other?

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- McNamee, Graham. ***Defender***. Wendy Lamb, 2016. Seventeen-year-old Tyne and her boyfriend Stick investigate a decades-old murder after she finds the body of a girl in the basement wall of her apartment building.
- McStay, Moriah. ***Everything That Makes You***. Katherine Tegen, 2015. In alternating voices, Fiona "Fi" Doyle experiences her teen years in two ways, with and without a disfiguring accident that occurred at age six, dealing with its effects on her brother and parents, her friendships, her dating life, her involvement in sports and hobbies, her future plans, and especially her self-image.
- Menon, Sandhya. ***When Dimple Met Rishi***. Simon Pulse, 2017. When Dimple Shah and Rishi Patel meet at a Stanford University summer program, Dimple is avoiding her parents' obsession with "marriage prospects," but Rishi hopes to woo her into accepting an arranged marriage with him.
- Miodownik, Mark. ***Stuff Matters: Exploring the Marvelous Materials that Shape Our Man-Made World***. Mariner, 2014. Explores objects as ordinary as an envelope and as unexpected as concrete cloth, uncovering the fascinating secrets that hold together our physical world.
- Montgomery, Sy. ***The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration Into the Wonder of Consciousness***. Atria Books, 2015. Explores the emotional and physical world of the octopus -- a surprisingly complex, intelligent, and spirited creature -- and the remarkable connections it makes with humans, revealing what octopuses can teach us about consciousness.
- Moulite, Maika, and Maritza Moulite. ***Dear Haiti, Love Alaine***. Inkyard Press, 2019. After an incident at school, seventeen-year-old Alaine is spending spring break in a "volunteer immersion project," toiling away under the ever-watchful eyes of Tati Estelle and her eagle-eyed mother at a new nonprofit in Haiti. Although it is meant as punishment, Alaine is still able to flirt with Tati's distractingly cute intern, get some actual face time with her mom and experience her family's history in Haiti for the first time.
- Nazemian, Abdi. ***The Authentics***. HarperCollins, 2017. Daria, an Iranian-American teenager, is tired of the sameness of the school cliques, so she and her friends form the Authentics because they are unique and real. When a school project forces her to trace her family roots, unexpected secrets emerge.
- Oliver, Mary. ***Swan: Poems and Prose Poems***. Beacon Press, 2010. Mary Oliver's adoration and awe of nature shines through in this slim collection of beautiful poetry evocative of the beauty, brutality, and mysteries found in the natural world.

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- Padian, Maria. ***How to Build a Heart***. Algonquin, 2020. When Izzy Crawford's father, a marine, dies in Iraq, her family moves to Virginia where she attends a private school on a scholarship. Fortunately, her family is selected for a new home by Habitat for Humanity, near where the very attractive Sam lives. Izzy grapples with accepting this new opportunity without leaving behind her old neighbor and best friend just when she's needed most.
- Perkins, Mitali, ed. ***Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices***. Candlewick, 2013. Using a mix of diverse styles and perspectives, ten authors of non-Caucasian background share their personal views on the ways race and discrimination affect children and teenagers.
- Pung, Alice. ***Lucy and Linh***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2016. Set in Australia, Lucy tries to balance her life at home surrounded by her Chinese immigrant family with her life at a pretentious private school.
- Raasch, Sara. ***Snow Like Ashes***. Balzar + Bray, 2014. Sixteen years ago the Kingdom of Winter was attacked by King Angra from the Kingdom of Spring. Most of the Winterians were killed or enslaved. Meira and a group of Winterians journey to find the magical conduit that will restore their Kingdom, not realizing that she is the key to their future. *Series*
- Revis, Beth. ***A World Without You***. Penguin, 2016. Seventeen-year-old Bo knows that he can time travel. His parents send him to a special school where he meets and falls in love with Sofia, a tragic, quiet girl. Is this school for troubled teens - or for those with superpowers? *Series*
- Reynolds, Justin A. ***Opposite of Always***. Katherine Tegen, 2019. Jack King, a high school senior, is determined to save Kate, a girl he fell hard for at a party, despite the fact that he is caught in a time loop wherein she dies and he wakes up the moment they first met.
- Roat, Sharon Huss. ***How to Disappear***. HarperTeen, 2017. When Vicki's best friend moves away, she is consumed by loneliness and anxiety until, on a whim, she invents an Instagram account that forces her out of the shadows.
- Saedi, Sara. ***Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018. In this memoir set in the 1990s, teenaged Sara keeps a diary of life as an Iranian American and her discovery that she and her family entered the United States as undocumented immigrants.
- Saeed, Aisha. ***Written in the Stars***. Nancy Paulsen, 2015. Naila's vacation to visit relatives in Pakistan turns into a nightmare when she discovers her parents want to force her to marry a man she's never met.

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- Scotton, Christopher. ***The Secret Wisdom of the Earth***. Grand Central, 2015. Kevin spends the summer with his grandfather and tries to help the townspeople save the woods in Appalachia from the devastation of strip mining.
- Sedoti, Chelsea. ***The Hundred Lies of Lizzie Lovett***. Sourcebooks, 2017. Seventeen-year-old Hawthorn, an endearing and awkward loner, becomes obsessed with the mysterious disappearance of the beautiful and popular Lizzie Lovett.
- Sepetys, Ruta. ***The Fountains of Silence***. Philomel, 2019. At the Castellana Hilton in 1957 Madrid, eighteen-year-old Daniel Matheson connects with Ana Moreno through photography - and fate - as Daniel discovers the incredibly dark side of the city under Generalissimo Franco's rule.
- Showalter, Gena. ***Firstlife***. Harlequin TEEN, 2016. Locked in an asylum for her refusal to let her parents dictate her afterlife choices, Ten Lockwood finds herself caught in a violent power struggle between the two leading Everlife realms that would do anything to claim her powerful soul. *Series*
- Shusterman, Neal. ***Scythe***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. In a Utopian world where there is no war, no unhappiness, and the creation of nannites has eliminated death, the only challenge facing the world is overpopulation. Scythes have been given the power to selectively kill or "glean" the population to keep growth in check. Rowan and Cirta, the newly selected apprentice scythes, internally struggle with "gleaning" and find that the world is really no utopia. *Series*
- Simon, Matt. ***The Wasp That Brainwashed the Caterpillar: Evolution's Most Unbelievable Solutions to Life's Biggest Problems***. Penguin, 2016. Explores the creative way that curious creatures have adapted to the challenges of survival. Includes a discussion of the satanic leaf-tailed gecko, the velvet worm, and the pink fairy armadillo.
- Stevenson, Noelle. ***Nimona***. HarperTeen, 2015. Nimona, a young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy, and Lord Ballister Blackheart, a villain with a vendetta, set out to prove that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his friends are not the heroes everyone thinks they are. But Lord Blackheart soon realizes that Nimona's powers are as murky and mysterious as her past, and her unpredictable wild side might be more dangerous than he is willing to admit. *Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album 2016, Graphic novel*
- Stone, Nic. ***Dear Martin***. Crown, 2017. Writing letters to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seventeen-year-old college-bound Justyce McAllister struggles to face the reality of race relations today and how they are shaping him. *William C. Morris Award Finalist*

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Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Suma, Nova Ren. ***The Walls Around Us***. Algonquin, 2015. Orianna and Violet are ballet dancers and best friends, but when the ballerinas who have been harassing Violet are murdered, Orianna is accused of the crime and sent to a juvenile detention center where she meets Amber and they experience supernatural events linking the girls together.
- Tahir, Sabaa. ***An Ember in the Ashes***. Razorbill, 2015. Laia is a Scholar living under the iron-fisted rule of the Martial Empire. When her brother is arrested for treason, Laia goes undercover as a slave at the empire's greatest military academy in exchange for assistance from rebel Scholars who claim that they will help save her brother from execution. *Series*
- Takei, George. ***They Called Us Enemy***. Top Shelf Productions, 2019. Actor George Takei, best known for his role as Hikaru Sulu on *Star Trek*, reveals how at the age of five his family was forced into Japanese-American internment camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. *Graphic Memoir, Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature 2020*
- Tamani, Liara. ***All the Things We Never Knew***. Greenwillow, 2020. Carli and Rex have an immediate connection and an understanding that must mean first love, but family secrets, disappointments--and basketball, which holds center stage in both their lives--all create complications.
- Taylor, Laini. ***Strange the Dreamer***. Little, Brown, 2017. In the aftermath of a war between gods and men, a hero, a librarian, and a girl must battle the fantastical elements of a mysterious city stripped of its name. *Series*
- Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***Wild Bird***. Alfred K. Knopf, 2017. When her behavior escalates out of control, fourteen-year-old Wren is taken away in the middle of the night to a wilderness therapy camp where she is forced to develop new skills, including the courage to ask for help.
- Wallach, Tommy. ***We All Looked Up***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. The lives of four high school seniors intersect weeks before a meteor is set to pass through Earth's orbit, with a 66.6% chance of striking and destroying all life on the planet.
- Wilson, G. Willow. ***Ms. Marvel. Volume 1: No Normal***. Marvel, 2014. When Pakistani-American and Jersey City teenager Kamala Khan suddenly acquires superpowers, she sets out to protect her community and her city while balancing school and family life. *Hugo Award 2015, Series, Graphic novel*

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Yang, Gene Luen. ***Dragon Hoops***. First Second, 2020. At the high school where Gene now teaches, the men's varsity basketball team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. *Graphic Memoir*

Zappia, Francesca. ***Eliza and Her Monsters***. Greenwillow, 2017. Eliza has found great success through her webcomic *Monstrous Sea*. However, in real life she is voluntarily isolated, until she meets a new student, Wallace, who is one of the series' greatest fans. Her journey to being part of the real world is rocky and terrifying at times; however, navigating her way through the relationships in her life helps her to find her way.

Zentner, Jeff. ***The Serpent King***. Crown, 2015. Small towns can be hard places to grow up when you don't fit the mold, but for three high school seniors, it is nearly impossible. Dill, whose father is incarcerated, Lydia, who is a fashion blogger longing for New York, and Travis, who is living in an abusive home, find an unlikely friendship that bonds them together and helps them find hope for the future. *William C. Morris Award 2017*

Zoboi, Ibi, and Yusef Salaam. ***Punching the Air***. HarperCollins, 2020. Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, because of a biased system he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated. Then, one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white. *Walter Award, Novel in verse*

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Grade 11 and Grade 12

All book summaries are provided by the publisher or written by committee members.

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

Acevedo, Elizabeth. ***With the Fire on High***. HarperTeen, 2019. Teen mother Emoni Santiago struggles with the challenges of finishing high school and her dream of working as a chef.

Anderson, Natalie G. ***City of Saints & Thieves***. Putnam's, 2017. An exciting thriller that takes place in Kenya and follows Tina, a Congolese refugee, as she takes care of her little sister and plots revenge on the man who killed her mother.

Arden, Katherine. ***The Bear and the Nightingale***. Del Rey, 2017. After Vasilisa's new stepmother forbids her family from honoring the household spirits at the edge of the wilderness in medieval Russia, misfortune stalks the village and evil creatures of the forest creep nearer. *Series*

Backman, Fredrik, translated by Neil Smith. ***Beartown***. Atria Books, 2016. Beartown gets smaller each year, but the townspeople believe that winning the hockey national semi-finals will breathe life back into the dying town. When faced with a violent scandal committed by one of their own, courage and honor will be tested, and the town's response will determine the fate of Beartown. *Series*

Bardugo, Leigh. ***Six of Crows***. Holt, 2015. Six outcasts sign up for a dangerous heist that will not only fill their pockets but also save the world from its current path towards darkness and destruction. Each of these characters has a story to tell, but can they unite long enough to complete the mission? *Series*

Bauermeister, Erica. ***The Scent Keeper***. St. Martin's Press, 2020. Growing up on a small island that only she and her father inhabit, Emmeline longs to understand the mysterious scents her father has stored in the little drawers lining the cabin walls. After her father's sudden death, Emmeline must learn to live in the real world and face secrets from her father's past.

Bennett, Brit. ***The Vanishing Half***. Riverhead Books, 2020. The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different, it's everything. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, their fates remain intertwined.

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- Brown, Dan. **Origin**. Doubleday, 2017. Professor Robert Langdon teams up with the director of the Guggenheim Bilbao and together they race across Spain, eluding mysterious men trying to kill them, in search of Langdon's former friend and futurist Edmond Kirsch's answers to mankind's most perplexing questions. *Series*
- Carey, M. R. **The Girl with All the Gifts**. Orbit, 2015. Not every gift is a blessing. Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class. When they come for her, Sergeant Parks keeps his gun pointed at her while two of his people strap her into the wheelchair. She thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite. But they don't laugh. Melanie is a very special girl.
- Choo, Yangsze. **The Night Tiger**. Flatiron, 2019. In 1930s Malaysia, a plucky dance-hall girl longing for adventure and a young houseboy seeking to fulfill his dead master's dying wish cross paths over the discovery of a severed finger that is shrouded in Chinese superstition and that may be connected to a series of grisly "tiger" attacks.
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. **The Water Dancer**. Random House, 2019. Hiram Walker lost his mother and all memory of her when he was a child, but he is gifted with a mysterious power. Hiram almost drowns but is saved from the depths by a force, a blue light that lifts him up and lands him a mile away. So begins an unexpected journey into the covert war on slavery that takes Hiram from the corrupt grandeur of Virginia's plantations to desperate guerrilla cells in the wilderness, from the coffin of the deep South to dangerously idealistic movements in the North.
- Contreras, Ingrid Rojas. **Fruit of the Drunken Tree**. Doubleday, 2018. Two girls, one rich and one the maid of the rich girl's family, become friends despite their backgrounds and the violence that surrounds them in Colombia during the 1990s.
- Crane, Rebekah. **The Upside of Falling Down**. Skyscape, 2018. Struggling with amnesia after surviving a plane crash, Clementine Haas escapes from the hospital where her father sits in the waiting room. She decides to abandon her old identity and hide out in the sleepy town of Waterville, Ireland, as she searches for herself in the company of Kieran O'Connell.
- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. **Before We Visit the Goddess**. Simon & Schuster, 2016. Life choices around love are powerful ones that have the potential to alter lives dramatically. Three generations of Indian mothers and daughters share their interconnected stories, even if they are themselves separated by thousands of miles.
- Doerr, Anthony. **All the Light We Cannot See**. Scribner, 2014. The paths of a blind French girl and a young Nazi soldier collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. *Alex Award 2015, National Book Award for Fiction 2014, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2015*

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- Duckworth, Angela. ***Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance***. Scribner, 2016. Part of success and achievement is finding and keeping the determination and resilience to move forward and meet goals in all aspects of life. The author offers examples, interviews, and guidance for students, teachers, and other professionals.
- Eberhardt, Jennifer L. ***Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do***. Viking, 2019. A scientific, investigative, and personal look at bias in different aspects of our lives and what we can do about it.
- Finlay, Adrienne. ***Your One and Only***. Houghton Mifflin, 2018. In a perfect world where only clones exist after humanity and human imperfections have died off, Jack, the only genuine human in existence, longs for acceptance.
- Fink, Joseph, and Jeffrey Cranor. ***It Devours!: A Welcome to Night Vale Novel***. HarperCollins, 2017. Set in the peculiar town of Night Vale, scientist Nilanjana Sikdar is forced to put logic on the backburner when she investigates a mysterious rumbling in the desert. *Series*
- Grann, David. ***Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI***. Doubleday, 2016. Presents a true account of the early twentieth-century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage and law-enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.
- Green, John. ***Turtles All the Way Down***. Dutton, 2017. Aza deals with anxiety and invasive thoughts that make living a normal life a struggle. She must learn to control her thoughts if she is going to help solve the mysterious disappearance of billionaire Russell Pickett.
- Haig, Matt. ***Midnight Library***. Viking, 2020. Nora Seed finds herself faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.
- Hannah, Kristin. ***The Great Alone***. St. Martin's Press, 2018. In Alaska during the 1970s, teenager Leni observes her parents cope with her father's PTSD and its effect on their relationship. As the family struggles to survive the brutal cold and dark landscape, Leni falls in love, discovers a supportive community, and copes with her difficult family dynamics.
- Hoffman, Alice. ***The Marriage of Opposites***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. Fleeing from the Spanish Inquisition, Rachel's family finds a small Jewish community on the tropical island of St. Thomas to call home. This magical story is based on the extraordinary life of Rachel Pissarro who gave birth to Camille Pissarro, famous painter and father of Impressionism.

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- Jiles, Paulette. ***News of the World***. William Morrow, 2016. After the Civil War, an older man who makes his living travelling around North Texas reading newspapers aloud, agrees to take a young white girl who was kidnapped and raised by Indians on a 400-mile journey from Wichita Falls back to her family in San Antonio.
- Kelly, Martha Hall. ***Lilac Girls***. Ballantine Books, 2016. Three women - a New York socialite charity worker, a Nazi doctor, and a “Ravensbruck Rabbit” survivor of medical experiments in the concentration camp - search for justice, peace, or a new life after World War II.
- Kelly, Scott. ***Endurance: A Year in Space, a Lifetime of Discovery***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2017. Astronaut Scott Kelly describes how he overcame early obstacles through hard work and perseverance to find himself living and working on board the International Space Station during an amazing year of science and self-reflection.
- King, A. S. ***Still Life with Tornado***. Dutton, 2016. Sarah’s life changes the day her art teacher says that there are no more original ideas. She begins roaming the streets of Philadelphia and stops seeing the point of things like going to school or brushing her hair. As the traumatic events that led to Sarah’s existential crisis are revealed, she begins to heal.
- Krueger, William Kent. ***This Tender Land***. Atria Books, 2019. Four orphans flee from heartless, ruthless caretakers and travel down the Gilead River in a canoe during the Great Depression in search of self and home.
- Larbalestier, Justine. ***My Sister Rosa***. Soho Teen, 2016. When his father's business takes the family to New York City, a seventeen-year-old Australian boy must balance his desire to protect his ten-year-old sister, a diagnosable psychopath, from the world with the desperate need to protect the world from her.
- Larson, Erik. ***Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania***. Crown, 2015. With a false sense of security, the luxury ocean liner sailed on May 1, 1915, during World War I. The author tells the story of the many individuals who lost their lives or played a part in this famous maritime disaster involving an enemy torpedo. The story also offers a glimpse of the Progressive Era in the United States.
- Lee, Mackenzi. ***The Gentleman’s Guide to Vice and Virtue***. HarperCollins, 2017. Henry "Monty" Montague takes off on a wild and memorable trip across Europe with his closest friend and crush, Percy. *Series*
- Lehmann, Kat. ***Small Stones from the River: Meditations and Micropoems***. 29 Trees, 2017. Includes 180 original micropoems, haikus, tanka, and short prose entries that reflect on the beauty and wondrous nature of life.

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- Liu, Cixin, translated by Ken Liu. ***The Three-Body Problem***. Tor Books, 2014. At the height of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, a young scientist sends a signal to an alien world knowing it will lead an invasion force to Earth and end the human race. Forty years later, humanity's first chance to avert destruction emerges. *Hugo Award 2015, Series*
- Lockhart, E. ***Genuine Fraud***. Delacorte, 2017. Jule is on the run and hiding out in a resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Her story is told in reverse with unpredictable twists that will keep readers guessing until the very end.
- Luceno, James. ***Star Wars, Catalyst: A Rogue One Novel***. Del Rey, 2016. If completed, the secret Death Star project promises to change the balance of power in the galaxy, and Director Orson Krennic knows that the key to finishing the deadly superweapon lies with the brilliant scientist Galen Erso. Weaving a web of deception around Galen and his family, Krennic is determined to ensnare the scientist to ensure the completion of the Death Star and to make his own political fortune, no matter the cost to the galaxy itself. *Series*
- Marrs, John. ***The Passengers***. Berkley, 2019. Just as self-driving cars become the trusted, safer norm, eight people find themselves in a terrifying situation. Suddenly the doors lock, the cars have been completely taken over, and a mysterious voice informs them they are being driven to their death. Their panic is being broadcast to millions around the world while the mysterious voice calls on the public to decide which person to save.
- Mastai, Elan. ***All Our Wrong Todays***. Dutton, 2017. In a twist of fate, Tom Barren travels from a utopian society to a dystopian wasteland. Will he go back to the idealistic world he came from or stay in the alternate reality that finally feels like home?
- Mathieu, Jennifer. ***Moxie***. Roaring Brook, 2017. In a small Texas town where high school football reigns supreme, sixteen-year-old Viv starts a feminist revolution using anonymously written zines.
- McBride, Laura. ***We Are Called to Rise: A Novel***. Simon & Schuster, 2014. This debut novel is set in Las Vegas and told from four alternating perspectives that come together suddenly and explosively. At its heart, it's a story about the power of human resilience and how even in the darkest and most hopeless moments, people can rise, help each other, redeem themselves, and ultimately heal.
- McClellan, Brian. ***Promise of Blood***. Orbit, 2014. The Age of Kings has ended in a bloody coup. Field Marshal Tamas' determination to end rule by corrupt aristocrats may have brought relief to the oppressed citizens of Ardo, but threats quickly arise from inside and outside the nation. More worryingly, whispers have begun to circulate about gods walking the earth amid omens of death and destruction, and Tamas has only his own estranged son, Taniel, and Adamant, a retired police inspector, on whom to rely. *Series*

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- McCullough, David. ***The Wright Brothers***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. An award-winning historian helps us understand the lives of these two modest men as they journey from bike shop to aviation history.
- McCrina, Amanda. ***Traitor***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020. In the bloody ethnic fighting between Poles and Ukrainians during World War II that has claimed the lives of almost all of Tolya's loved ones, it's almost impossible for him to know who to believe in and even harder for him to know who to trust.
- McGee, Katharine. ***The Thousandth Floor***. HarperCollins, 2016. From the top of a towering skyscraper in New York City a hundred years in the future, someone falls to their death. The flashback follows five teens through the events that led to that fateful event in this first book of a page-turning trilogy. *Series*
- McLain, Paula. ***Circling the Sun***. Ballantine Books, 2015. This novel is based on the life of Beryl Markham, who grew up training horses on her father's ranch in Nairobi, Africa, in the 1920s. She led a full and sometimes difficult life, befriending Karen Blixen and Denys Finch Hatton from *Out of Africa* fame. Being a strong woman for her times, Beryl's relationships were complicated, but her passion for flying was ignited by the friendships she made.
- McManus, Karen M. ***One of Us is Lying***. Delacorte, 2017. A modern-day Breakfast Club in which four students become murder suspects when the ruthless high school gossip blogger dies mysteriously in detention; they were the only ones in the room and everyone wants to know...who killed Simon Kelleher? *Series*
- Miller, Madeline. ***Circe***. Little, Brown, 2018. This is the intimate story of Circe, daughter of the sun god Helios, who could transform her enemies into wild beasts and was banished by Zeus to a deserted island, as she crosses paths with several famous mythological figures such as Odysseus, Daedalus, Icarus, Athena, and the Minotaur.
- Miranda, Lin-Manuel, and Jeremy McCarter. ***Hamilton: The Revolution***. Grand Central, 2016. Includes the complete libretto of the Broadway musical with a true account of its creation and concise remarks on hip-hop, the power of stories, and the new America. *Musical*
- Miranda, Megan. ***The Last Guest House***. Simon & Schuster, 2019. A suspenseful novel about an idyllic town in Maine dealing with the suspicious death of one of their own--and her best "summer" friend, who is trying to uncover the truth...before fingers point her way.
- Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. ***Mexican Gothic***. Del Ray, 2020. A darkly enchanting reimagining of Gothic fantasy in which a spirited young woman discovers the haunting secrets of a beautiful old mansion in 1950s Mexico.

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- Munroe, Randall. ***What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Have you ever wondered how high a human can throw something or what would happen if lightning struck a bullet in midair? Using stick-figure drawings, Munroe answers these and other bizarre questions submitted by readers of his web comic.
- Nelson, Jandy. ***I'll Give You the Sun.*** Dial Books, 2014. A story of first love, family secrets, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her gay twin brother, Noah. *Printz Award 2015*
- Niven, Jennifer. ***All the Bright Places.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. When Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, both teetering on the edge, it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another.
- Noah, Trevor. ***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood.*** Spiegel & Grau, 2015. Born the son of a Swiss white father and a black Xhosa mother during South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor Noah's existence is forbidden and punishable by law. Noah's remarkable story is told with an honesty that is refreshing, moving, and laugh out loud funny.
- Owens, Delia. ***Where the Crawdads Sing.*** Putnam's, 2018. Abandoned at the age of ten, Kya, known as "the marsh girl," learns to take care of herself as she carefully studies the beloved wildlife that surrounds her. Two young men are attracted to her wild beauty when she is older, and when one of them is found dead, the locals automatically suspect Kya in this beautifully written coming-of-age story entwined with mystery.
- Padua, Sydney. ***The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Computer.*** Pantheon, 2015. A delightful and fascinating story about friendship, the first computer, and how different the world would be if the mathematician duo responsible for creating the first computer would have created the Difference Engine instead. *Graphic novel*
- Perkins, Stephanie, ed. ***Summer Days and Summer Nights: Twelve Love Stories.*** St. Martin's Griffin, 2016. A diverse short story collection that has a little something for everyone. Don't let the cover fool you - these stories take a more realistic look at love. *Short story collection*
- Philippe, Ben. ***The Field Guide to the North American Teenager.*** Balzer + Bray, 2019. When Norris, a Black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as clichés from "a bad 90s teen movie." *Morris Award*

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- Quinn, Kate. ***The Alice Network***. William Morrow, 2017. This epic novel is based on a relatively unknown story of heroic female spies who worked together in a vast underground group called the Alice Network throughout World War I and World War II.
- Richardson, Kim Michele. ***The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek***. Sourcebooks, 2019. Cussy's story is set in the Appalachian Mountains in the 1930s and is inspired by the true lives of the blue-skinned people of Kentucky. With courage and determination, she sets out on her pack mule to deliver books and hope to families who desperately need both.
- Roe, Robin. ***A List of Cages***. Hyperion, 2017. Adam, a high school senior, rescues Julian, a freshman who happens to be his former foster brother, from an abusive situation.
- Ruby, Laura. ***Bone Gap***. Balzer + Bray, 2015. Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza. His inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying. *Printz Award 2016*
- Schneider, Robyn. ***The Beginning of Everything***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Star athlete and prom king Ezra Faulkner's life is irreparably transformed by a tragic accident and the arrival of eccentric new girl Cassidy Thorpe.
- Schwab, V. E. ***Invisible Life of Addie LaRue***. Tor Books, 2020. Making a Faustian bargain to live forever but never be remembered, a woman from early eighteenth-century France endures unacknowledged. 300 years later she meets a man in a hidden bookstore who remembers her name.
- See, Lisa. ***The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane***. Scribner, 2017. Three generations of women living in rural China adapt to life in the 20th century. Li-yan leaves a part of herself there as she embarks on a career as a businesswoman and tea expert but finds more of "home" in the USA than she ever expected.
- Shetterly, Margot Lee. ***Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race***. William Morrow, 2016. The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movements whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space.
- Shusterman, Neal. ***Challenger Deep***. HarperTeen, 2015. A powerfully authentic and moving story about mental illness. This book has a heart and a soul and takes the reader on a journey to the deepest part of the ocean and the deepest corners of the mind. *National Book Award 2015*

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- Stanley, Shalanda. ***Drowning is Inevitable***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. After seventeen-year-old Olivia and her friend Jamie accidentally kill Jamie's abusive father, two other friends, Max and Maggie, join them in running away from St. Francisville, Louisiana, to hide out in New Orleans while they try to figure out what to do next.
- Stanton, Doug. ***12 Strong: The Declassified True Story of the Horse Soldiers***. Scribner, 2017. Immediately after 9/11, a small unit of the elite Special Forces is sent to Afghanistan to defeat the Taliban—using horses rather than tanks.
- Thomas, Angie. ***The Hate U Give***. Balzer + Bray, 2017. African-American, sixteen-year-old Starr sees her unarmed childhood friend Khalil gunned down by a police officer. As protesters take to the streets defending Khalil and condemning police brutality, Starr is torn between her poor urban neighborhood and her affluent suburban private school worlds. Starr must decide if she speaks to what she saw or if she stays silent; neither choice is easy. *Morris Award 2018*
- Towles, Amor. ***A Gentleman in Moscow***. Viking, 2016. Count Rostov is placed on house arrest in 1922 by the Bolsheviks in the Hotel Metropol in Moscow. The hotel provides the setting for the count to encounter an array of characters propelling a mystery, a love story, and a father-daughter tale.
- Turton, Stuart. ***The 7½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle***. Sourcebooks, 2018. Every day Aiden wakes up in a different body on the day of a large party where Evelyn Hardcastle will die at the end of the night. Every day is a new chance to save her, but each host has unique ways of preventing him from solving the mystery. *Costa Book Award*
- Westover, Tara. ***Educated: A Memoir***. Random House, 2018. Growing up in Idaho in a Mormon survivalist family who values hard work over public education, the author shares stories about her non-traditional family life. With a desire to attend college, Ms. Westover prepares herself independently for entrance exams in order to enroll in Brigham Young and eventually Cambridge for a PhD. *Alex Award 2019*
- Womack, Gwendolyn. ***The Memory Painter***. Picador, 2015. When Linz Jacobs stumbles across a painting that depicts her reoccurring nightmare, she tracks down artist Bryan Pierce and finds that his creations are inspired by vivid dreams; their meeting sparks Bryan's most important dream yet.
- Wynne-Jones, Tim. ***The Emperor of Any Place***. Candlewick, 2015. When Evan's father dies suddenly, Evan finds a hand-bound yellow book on his desk—a book his dad had been reading when he passed away. The book is the diary of a Japanese soldier stranded on a small Pacific island in WWII. Why was his father reading it? What is in this account that Evan's grandfather, whom Evan has never met, fears so much that he will do anything to prevent its being seen? And what could this possibly mean for Evan?

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Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Yang, Gene Luen. **Boxers**. First Second, 2013. Volume one of **Boxers & Saints** tells the first side of a parallel story. Little Bao harnesses the powers of ancient Chinese gods to fight against the foreign Christian missionaries that bully and rob the Chinese peasants. *Graphic novel, LA Times Book Prize*
- Yang, Gene Luen. **Saints**. First Second, 2013. Volume two of **Boxers & Saints** tells the other side of a parallel story. Vibiana is an unwanted fourth daughter who finds friendship and a home with the Christian missionaries just as the Boxer Rebellion rises. *Graphic novel, LA Times Book Prize*
- Yoon, Daniel. **Frankly in Love**. Putnam, 2019. When high school senior Frank Li creates a fool-proof plan to “fake date” a fellow Korean American in order to actually date a girl his parents won’t accept, all does not go smoothly as he comes to question everything he knows about love, his family, and himself.
- Zentner, Jeff. **Goodbye Days**. Crown, 2017. “Where are you guys? Text me back.” Carver did not know his text would be the last text his three best friends would see. He blames himself for the accident. As Carver deals with his own grief, his friend’s grandmother requests that he spend a “goodbye day” with her to share memories and say a proper farewell to her grandson. Carver questions if he is mentally ready for a “goodbye day” as other families begin asking for one too.
- Zusak, Markus. **Bridge of Clay**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018. Full of imagery, symbolism and descriptive language, Zusak crafts a story about five Australian brothers, various pets, their parents, and a bridge. The many themes of the novel revolve around loss, grief, family, journey, and redemption.

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