

**HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023**  
**PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten**

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

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Bajaj, Varsha. ***The Home Builders***. Nancy Paulsen, 2019. Various woodland creatures make their homes and prepare for their young.
- Barnes, Derrick. ***I Am Every Good Thing***. Nancy Paulsen, 2020. Illustrations and easy-to-read text pay homage to the strength, character, and worth of a child.
- Barr, Lois. ***When Numbers Met Letters***. Holiday House, 2020. Toy numbers and letters meet and, in some cases, clash in a classroom during recess, but soon discover they have some things in common.
- Bates, Janet Costa. ***Time for Bed, Old House***. Candlewick, 2021. At Isaac's first sleepover, he gets to help Grandpop with a very special routine—putting the house to bed—in a story that's just right for children visiting a new place or adopting a new ritual at home.
- Bee, William. ***Stanley's Diner***. Peachtree, 2015. Stanley is cooking for all the hungry customers who come into his diner while Hattie takes their orders, and then Stanley serves up a special cake—but whose birthday are they celebrating? —*Series*
- Bell, Kristen, and Benjamin Hart. ***The World Needs More Purple People***. Random House, 2020. A purple person is an everyday superhero who asks really great questions, brings their family, friends, and communities together, speaks up for what's right, is kind and hardworking, and loves to laugh – and now you can be one!
- Berlin, Ethan T. ***I Am Not a Dog Toy***. Random House, 2021. A stuffed toy bear is excited to be the new toy for a little girl, but when she rejects him and throws him to the dog, he may discover that he's not a kids' toy after all.
- Bridges, Ruby. ***I Am Ruby Bridges***. Orchard Books, 2022. Ruby Bridges shares her story, told from her 6-year-old self, as she makes history by being the first Black student to integrate an elementary school in the south.
- Charles, Tami. ***All Because You Matter***. Orchard Books, 2020. This young boy's life is certainly important as we are carried through the different aspects of his Black existence.
- Clark, Karla. ***You Be Mommy***. Feiwel and Friends, 2020. A tired mommy lets her toddler have a turn being the parent.
- Cornwall, Gaia. ***Jabari Jumps***. Candlewick, 2017. Join Jabari as he overcomes his fear of jumping off the diving board.

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- Cortez, Rio. ***The ABCs of Black History***. Workman, 2020. This story of love and hope is told with rhyming text and includes information about the events, places, and people mentioned in the poem.
- Cosgrove, Matt. ***Macca the Alpaca***. Scholastic, 2020. Macca the Alpaca loves the serenity of his home until the llama who bullies Macca arrives and Macca demonstrates that kindness is the way to go. *Series*
- Cummings, Troy. ***Can I Be Your Dog?*** Random House, 2018. A dog looking for a home sends letters to prospective owners and the results of his search are surprising.
- Denise, Christopher. ***Knight Owl***. Little, Brown, 2022. Owl has always dreamed of becoming a knight and he soon achieves his dream to protect the castle.
- Dodds, Dayle Ann. ***The Shape of Things***. Candlewick, 1996. Children are introduced to concepts that allow them to identify shapes in the world around them.
- Donaldson, Julia. ***Superworm***. Arthur A. Levine, 2014. When Superworm is captured by the Wizard Lizard, his friends must work together to help him escape.
- Downing, Johnette. ***Chef Creole***. Pelican, 2008. Adapted from the song “Aiken Drum,” Chef Creole from New Orleans has hair of rice, eyes of red beans, and feet of beignets.
- Dyckman, Ame. ***Dandy***. Little, Brown, 2019. A father is desperate to destroy the sole dandelion in an otherwise well-manicured lawn as his daughter attempts to save it.
- Eliopoulos, Christopher. ***The Giggles Are Coming!*** Dial Books, 2021. A couple of friends can’t keep from laughing during school and are worried about what their teacher will think if they can’t avoid the giggles.
- Eliopoulos, Christopher. ***The Yawns are Coming!*** Dial Books, 2020. Two best friends get together for a sleepover, but their plans to stay up all night are ruined when the yawns show up.
- 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*
- 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.

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- Freedman, Deborah. ***Tiny Dino***. Viking, 2022. A bold little bird insists it is a dinosaur and explains to its animal friends how it is linked to the “not-so extinct” creatures.
- Frost, Helen. ***Wait and See***. Candlewick, 2022. Beautiful pictures of praying mantises hidden in nature are accompanied by lyrical words that invite the reader to be patient in order to wait – and see these exquisite insects.
- Funk, Josh. ***My Pet Feet***. Simon & Schuster, 2022. When the letter “R” disappears, a young girl finds that she has a pet feet instead of a ferret and the absence is causing chaos throughout her town.
- Gaiman, Neil. ***Chu’s Day***. Harper, 2014. Chu is a little panda with a big sneeze. When Chu sneezes, bad things happen.
- Goodrich, Carter. ***Nobody Hugs a Cactus***. Simon & Schuster, 2019. Hank, a cactus who is as prickly on the inside as he is on the outside, decides he wants a hug.
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***The Good for Nothing Button (Elephant & Piggie Like Reading)***. Hyperion, 2017. Yellow, Red, and Blue Bird debate whether or not a new, big button is better off doing something or nothing. *Series*
- Higgins, Ryan T. ***What About Worms!?*** Hyperion, 2020. Tiger unwittingly helps some worms overcome their fear of tigers with a well-placed, informative book, but will a wormy hug aid fearful tiger? *Series*
- Hwang, Sarah. ***Toasty***. Holiday House, 2021. Toasty, a piece of toast, believes he is a dog deep down, but he soon realizes he is very different from all the other dogs.
- Jarvis, Peter. ***Alan’s Big, Scary Teeth***. Candlewick, 2016. Alan the alligator appears to be very scary, but he has a very BIG (not-so-scary) secret.
- 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.
- Johnson, Crockett. ***Harold and the Purple Crayon***. HarperCollins, 2015. Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon.
- Jones, Naomi. ***The Perfect Fit***. Kane/Miller, 2019. Triangle isn’t like the circles or squares, but if she can get all the shapes to join together, playtime will be much more fun.
- Keller, Laurie. ***Potato Pants!*** Holt, 2018. Afraid of the Eggplant bully, Potato finds ways to avoid the Fancy Pants Store and the pants that he really, really wants; but could he be wrong about Eggplant?
- Kerby, Johanna. ***Little Pink Pup***. Putnam’s, 2010. Pink, a piglet and runt of the litter, is adopted by Tink, a dachshund who is nursing a litter of her own. Based on a true story, readers of all ages will be captivated by the amazing bond they share.

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- 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*
- Larsen, Mylisa. ***If I Were a Kangaroo: A Bedtime Tale***. Viking, 2017. Rhyming verse envisions the bedtime rituals of animals of all kinds, from whales to otters, squirrels to gorillas.
- Lewis, Kevin. ***My Truck is Stuck***. Hyperion, 2002. When a dump truck "haulin' a great big load" gets stuck in the mud, progressively larger vehicles try to pull it out.
- Lichtenheld, Tom. ***Louis***. Houghton Mifflin, 2020. A beloved teddy can bear it no longer and plots his escape from his owner's suffocating affections.
- Limentani, Alison. ***How Tall was a T. Rex?*** Boxer Books, 2018. A counting book about height that uses the Tyrannosaurus Rex and other animals to compare body size between each.
- Lin, Grace. ***A Big Bed for Little Snow***. Little, Brown. 2019. When winter comes, Mommy makes a soft bed for Little Snow to sleep on, but each night he cannot resist jumping on the bed, causing tiny feathers to fly down.
- Llenas, Anna. ***The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions***. Little, Brown, 2018. Color Monster begins his day with his emotions all jumbled up until a little girl helps him sort out his feelings using different colors for various emotions.
- López-Alt, J. Kenji. ***Every Night Is Pizza Night***. Norton, 2020. Convinced that pizza is the best food, Pipo will eat nothing else until her fed-up parents send her on a quest to prove that no dishes in their multicultural neighborhood are better.
- Luciani, Brigitte. ***How Will We Get to the Beach?*** NorthSouth, 2003. The reader is asked to guess what Roxanne must leave behind (ball, umbrella, book, turtle, or baby) as she tries various means of transportation to get to the beach.
- Mantchev, Lisa. ***Twisty-Turny House***. Simon & Schuster, 2021. In a house full of animals, the cats stay upstairs and the dogs stay downstairs, until a bold cat sneaks out and, rather than cause a fight, explores the house and a new friendship with the dogs.
- Martin, David. ***The More the Merrier***. Candlewick, 2021. Bear, Moose, Snake, and other forest animals dance to their own groove in a rhythmic celebration of individuality.
- Meltzer, Brad. ***A New Day***. Dial Books, 2021. After feeling unappreciated, Sunday decides to quit the days of the week – the other days of the week attempt to replace her by interviewing many comical candidates.
- Miller, Kelly Leigh. ***I Am a Wolf***. Dial Books, 2019. In this pet adoption story, a dog who insists that she is a wolf finds the perfect home with a young girl who sees past her prickly personality.

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- 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.
- Murray, Diana. ***Five Fuzzy Chicks***. Imprint, 2020. Five baby chickens want to have some fun and visit with the other farm animals before bedtime.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Words to Make a Friend: A Story in Japanese and English***. Random House, 2021. This bilingual book features two girls who speak different languages but connect and create a friendship over their love for the snow.
- Nelson, Kadir. ***Baby Bear***. Balzer + Bray, 2014. Lost Baby Bear tries to find his way home through the forest. As he gains courage with every step, he realizes he was never far from home after all.
- Newson, Karl. ***A Bear Is a Bear (Except When He's Not)***. Nosy Crow, 2020. When Bear wakes up from his hibernation early, he can't remember what he is, then finds his cave and decides another nap might help. But will he be able to remember what he is when he wakes up again in the spring?
- O'Hair, Margaret. ***You Are Enough: A Book about Inclusion***: Scholastic, 2021. Sofia Sanchez, an eleven-year-old model and actress with Down Syndrome, reminds readers how important it is to embrace your differences and be proud of who you are, with colorful illustrations showing kid characters that have all kinds of backgrounds, experiences, and abilities.
- OHora, Zachariah. ***Fuzzy, Inside and Out: A Story About Small Acts of Kindness and Big Hair***. Abrams Books, 2021. A tale about small acts of kindness, big hair and spreading warm, fuzzy feelings.
- Olivera, Ramon. ***ABCs on Wheels***. Little Simon, 2016. Celebrate ABCs and different types of wheeled transportation.
- Page, Robin. ***Seeds Move!*** Beach Lane Books, 2019. While most people know that seeds need water, sunlight, and soil to grow, this book sheds light on how seeds travel from place to place and what plant the seed will grow to become.
- 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.
- Paul, Miranda. ***Speak Up***. Clarion, 2020. Illustrations and easy-to-read, rhyming text encourage readers to speak up and make their voices heard.
- Penfold, Alexandra. ***Big Feelings***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2021. Kids discover they are not alone in their different feelings.
- Prasadam-Halls, Smriti. ***Rain Before Rainbows***. Candlewick, 2020. Rainbows can be hard to see when it is raining, but with the help of good friends there is always a way out of the darkness.

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Preston-Gannon, Frann. ***By the Light of the Moon***. Templar, 2019. As a little frog is singing a song, he invites other animals to join him, but it doesn't sound quite right until the tiny voice of a firefly is added.

Raúl the Third. ***¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market***. Houghton Mifflin, 2019. Little Lobo, a Mexican American, and Bernabé, his dog, gather tacos, frutas, picadas, cuernos, and more, and deliver them to los luchadores preparing for Lucha Libre 5000. *Series*

Redd, Nancy. ***Bedtime Bonnet***. Random House, 2020. This text gives readers a look into Black nighttime hair traditions in a close-knit, multi-generational family and the little sister who cannot find her bonnet.

Rex, Adam. ***School's First Day of School***. Roaring Brook, 2016. Not only are students nervous the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary, but the actual school itself worries about everything from a fire alarm blaring to a faulty water fountain.

Rex, Michael. ***Facts vs Opinions vs Robots***. Nancy Paulsen, 2020.  
Fun and colorful nonfiction picture book where robots teach us facts versus opinions.

Reynolds, Peter H. ***Our Table***. Orchard Books, 2021. When Violet realizes that technology is isolating instead of connecting her family, she works to solve the problem and reunite them.

Rinker, Sherri Duskey. ***Construction Site: Road Crew, Coming Through! (Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction)***. Chronicle Books, 2021. Told in rhyming text, the construction team takes on their biggest challenge yet—building a brand new superhighway.

Robbins, Dean. ***Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass***. Orchard Books, 2016. Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass get together for a cup of

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***Uni the Unicorn***. Random House, 2014. Uni the unicorn is told there's no such thing as little girls, but no matter what the grown-up unicorns say she believes that little girls are REAL. *Series*

Rothman, Scott. ***Attack of the Underwear Dragon***. Random House, 2020. Brave knights, fire-breathing dragons, and underwear—every kid's favorite things in one book. Kids will recognize themselves in this pint-sized hero.

Salas, Laura Purdie. ***Lion of the Sky: Haiku for All Seasons***. Millbrook, 2019. Experience the seasons through haiku riddles (riddle-ku) and whimsical illustrations.

Salyer, Hannah. ***Packs: Strength in Numbers***. Houghton Mifflin, 2020. Packs is an inspiring celebration of how togetherness helps many creatures thrive, in both nonhuman and human communities.

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- Sauer, Tammy. **Wordy Birdy**. Doubleday, 2018. Wordy Birdy loves to talk and never listens to her friends, until Bear shows up and changes everything.
- Savage, Stephen. **Sign Off**. Beach Lane Books, 2019. This wordless book creatively shows what the figures on street signs do when no one is looking.
- Sayre, April Pulley. **Being Frog**. Beach Lane Books, 2020. This book provides a captivating photographic viewpoint of the life journey of a frog, from egg to tadpole to froglet.
- Shea, Bob. **Chez Bob**. Little, Brown, 2021. A lazy alligator comes up with a plan to lure his prey by opening a restaurant for birds until he realizes that birds are even better as friends.
- Smith, Kim. **Boxitects**. Clarion, 2020. A STEAM-centered picture book about Meg who creates extraordinary things out of ordinary cardboard boxes.
- Sotomayor, Sonia. **Just Help!: How to Build a Better World**. Philomel, 2022. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonja Sotomayor tells a childhood story about helping the community and inspiring others to do the same.
- Sutton, Sally. **Construction**. Candlewick, 2014. Lively illustrations and sound words (“BING! POW! THUD!”), show big machines and busy workers as they construct a library.
- Syed, Anoosha. **That’s Not My Name!** Viking, 2022. Mirha questions her name after her classmates continually mispronounce it at school but her mother helps her see how special her name is and that she should be proud of it.
- Tabor, Corey R. **Mel Fell**. Balzer + Bray, 2021. Follow Mel on her journey from downward fall to triumphant flight in this tale of self-confidence and taking a leap of faith.
- Tamaki, Jillian. **They Say Blue**. Abrams Books, 2018. A young girl examines all of the colors in the world around her.
- Tatsukawa, Maya. **The Bear in My Family**. Dial Books, 2020. It’s not easy living with a bear, but one little boy learns that sometimes a bear in the family can end up being the best thing in the world.
- Thong, Rosanne. **Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes**. Chronicle, 2013. Children discover a world of shapes in their everyday life, many of them Latino in origin but universal in appeal.
- Underwood, Deborah. **Loving Kindness**. Holt, 2021. This vibrant picture book encourages us to be tender with ourselves and others, and to open our hearts to the world by celebrating connection, compassion, and life.
- Vignocchi, Chiara. **Shake the Tree!** Candlewick, 2018. Hungry animals take turns shaking a tree to the right and then to the left in order to find their next meal only to be surprised by the last animal’s intentions.

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- Vo, Young. ***Gibberish***. Arthur A. Levine, 2022. When Dat starts school in a new country, the language sounds like gibberish but a classmate helps him make sense of his new world.
- Voake, Charlotte. ***Some Dinosaurs Are Small***. Candlewick, 2020. Three big, fast, thieving dinosaurs hungrily encounter a slower dino who uses his smaller teeth to eat fruits and leaves.
- 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.
- Ward, Jennifer. ***Round***. Beach Lane Books, 2020. This picture book explores roundness in the natural world illustrated through the seasons.
- Wheeler, Lisa. ***People Don't Bite People***. Atheneum, 2018. Using illustrations and rhyming this text urges children to use their teeth for biting food not people.
- Willems, Mo. ***Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs***. Balzer + Bray, 2012. Three hungry dinosaurs, including a visitor from Norway, insist that they have not tidied up their home and prepared yummy pudding to trap an unsuspecting girl.
- Wurtzel, Bill. ***Foodie Faces***. Little, Brown, 2020. A colorful picture book filled with faces made of familiar foods which are used to express a range of feelings.
- Zhang, Gracey. ***Lala's Words***. Orchard Books, 2021. Lala wants to run, jump, and play though her mother would prefer her to "Be still and quiet!" Most of all, Lala likes to visit her secret hideaway, where tiny plants sprout in a patch of dirt and concrete. Every day, Lala carries a pot of water to her plants through the heat, but it is her kind words that make them sway and nod.



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