



HAISLN

**RECOMMENDED
READING LIST**

2024

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 interests 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 2024*

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024
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.

Adamson, Geb. ***Bird Hugs***. Two Lions, 2020. Bernard isn't like other birds. His wings are impossibly long, and try as he might, he just can't seem to fly. A chance encounter with a dejected orangutan leads to a surprise discovery.

Alary, Laura. ***Sun in My Tummy***. Pajama Press, 2022. A colorful, nonfiction picture book about how the sun nourishes us all, introducing the concepts of matter and energy in a child-friendly and lyrical language.

Ashman, Linda. ***I Like This, You Like That***. Abrams Books, 2022.
Told in two voices, this sweet rhyming friendship story follows two children as they try to discover what they have 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 just right for children visiting a new place or adopting a new ritual at home.

Blabey, Aaron. ***Pig the Stinker***. Scholastic, 2019. Pig the Pug hates bath time, but when his plan to escape the tub backfires, he must endure. *Series*

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.

Bryant, Laura. ***This Little Pup***. Albert Whitman, 2020. Take a trip through a farm while a boy and his puppy play ball.

Bryon, Nathan. ***Rocket Says Look Up***. Random House, 2019. Aspiring astronaut Rocket draws her community together to see a rare appearance of the Phoenix Meteor Showers, hoping especially that her big brother, Jamal, will look up from his phone.

Burgess, Matthew. ***The Bear and the Moon***. Chronicle Books, 2020. A journey ensues when a balloon floats into Bear's life leading to many discoveries.

Canty, John. ***Heads and Tails: Underwater***. Candlewick, 2021. A nonfiction picture book, featuring watercolor illustrations, in which the reader glimpses part of an ocean animal, along with clues about its behaviors and features, and turns the page to see the entire animal revealed.

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. *Series*

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Cole, Lo. ***We Want a Dog***. Sourcebooks, 2021. Humorous rhyming text takes the reader through twenty-seven unexpected varieties of dogs that one could have as a pet.
- Cornwall, Gaia. ***Jabari Jumps***. Candlewick, 2017. Join Jabari as he overcomes his fear of jumping off the diving board.
- 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.
- Cousins, Lucy. ***A Good Place***. Candlewick, 2022. Four insects set out to find the perfect home in this sweet story with an environmental message.
- 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. *Series*
- Cummins, Lucy Ruth. ***Sleepy Sheepy***. Flamingo Books, 2023. Illustrations and simple, rhyming text follow Sleepy Sheepy, who despite his name, is not sleepy.
- Decalf, Jérémie. ***The Sky is Not the Limit***. Eerdmans Books, 2023. Beautiful digital illustrations and a poetic narrative describe the journey of the Voyager 2 spacecraft as it travels through space.
- 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 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. *Series*

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PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Elliott, David. ***Color the Sky***. Little, Brown, 2022. A child observes various birds and the many colors they represent as they take flight and “color” the sky.
- Fan, Terry. ***It Fell from the Sky***, Simon and Schuster, 2021. All the insects agree that the object that fell from the sky is a Wonder, but when Spider decides it is his, he risks losing all his friends.
- Fan, Terry. ***Lizzy and the Cloud***. Simon & Schuster, 2022. Lizzy finds out that a cloud is not the easiest pet to manage.
- Ferry, Beth. ***The Umbrella***. Clarion, 2023. A little girl and her dog unexpectedly discover a way to spread happiness and light in their dreary, rainy town.
- Fleming, Candace. ***Cubs in the tub: the true story of the Bronx Zoo's first woman zookeeper***. Holiday House, 2020. Helen and Bronx zookeeper Fren Martini, couldn't have children so when Fred brings home a lion cub, Helen cares for it, leading her to become the first female zookeeper.
- 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 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 pet feet instead of a ferret and the absence is causing chaos throughout her town.
- 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.
- Greig, Louise. ***Sweep***. Simon & Schuster, 2019. Edgar's bad mood begins as something small, but before long it grows, gathers strength, and sweeps through the entire town.
- Guglielmo, Amy and Jacqueline Tourville. ***Pocket Full of Colors: The Magical World of Mary Blair, Disney artist extraordinaire***. Atheneum, 2017. Mary Blair was a trailblazing Disney artist, who, despite being in a predominantly man's world, broke through with colorful, vivid, and unconventional art.
- Hale, Shannon. ***Itty-Bitty Kitty-Corn***. Abrams Books, 2021. Kitty, who looks like a kitten yet feels she is a unicorn, begins to doubt herself as others ridicule her until she meets a unicorn who helps her discover and embrace who she is.
Series
- 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*

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Henkes, Kevin. ***Little Houses***. Greenwillow, 2022. A young girl visiting her grandparents at the beach stays in a little house and walks along the shore gathering seashells, wondering about the creatures who used to live in each shell, about the hidden treasures of the sea—and the world.
- 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.
- 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 wants; but could he be wrong about Eggplant?
- Kousky, Vern. ***I See You, Sad Bear***. Roaring Brook, 2023. Bear’s friends can’t figure out why Bear is so gloomy, but maybe it’s okay not to be happy all of the time.
- Laditan, Bunmi. ***The Big Bed***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018. A young girl tries to persuade her father that he is the one who should sleep in a special, little bed while she shares the big bed with Mommy.
- Lehrhaupt, Adam. ***I Will Not Eat You***. Simon and Schuster, 2016. A dragon resists the urge to eat the animals that approach his cave.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. *Series*
- McAnulty, Stacy. ***Our Planet!: There’s No Place Like Earth***. Holt, 2022. Earth, also known as “Planet Awesome”, explains how the climate crisis is putting all its wonderful attributes in danger and offers tips for humans to ensure Earth remains awesome. *Series*
- 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.

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- Moon, Emily. ***Drop: An Adventure through the water.*** Dial Books, 2021. Learn fun facts about the water cycle and take an adventure with Drop, a friendly water drop.
- 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.
- Olivera, Ramon. ***ABCs on Wheels.*** Little Simon, 2016. Celebrate ABCs and different types of wheeled transportation.
- Penfold, Alexandra. ***Big Feelings.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2021. Kids discover they are not alone in their different feelings.
- Peterson, Ellie. ***How to Hug a Pufferfish.*** Roaring Brook, 2022. In this picture book, the topics of respecting boundaries and finding alternate ways to show affection are handled in a lighthearted manner and with a cast of characters including Pufferfish and his ocean friends.
- Prasad-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.
- Raczka, Bob. ***Guyku: A Year of Haiku for boys.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Raczka and Reynolds present a humorous haiku collection perfect for guys (big and small) that celebrates outdoor fun throughout the seasons.
- Raczka, Bob. ***You Are a Story.*** Holiday House, 2023. This book explores the characteristics that make us who we are and the possibilities of who we can be.
- 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, Michael. ***Facts vs Opinions vs Robots.*** Nancy Paulsen, 2020. Fun and colorful nonfiction picture book where robots teach us facts versus opinions. *Series*
- Rex, Michael. ***Wants vs. Needs vs. Robots.*** Nancy Paulsen, 2023. Colorful, amusing robots help illustrate the difference between a want and a need and the importance of balancing both. *Series*
- Reynolds, Peter H. ***Our Table.*** Orchard Books, 2021. When Violet realizes that technology is isolating them instead of connecting her family, she works to solve the problem and reunite them.
- Richardson, Julia Marie. ***Let's Build a Little Train.*** Sleeping Bear Press, 2022.

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PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

A simple, rhythmic book about how a steam train is built and the teamwork involved in the process.

- 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. *Series*
- Robinson, Robin. **This Book is My Best Friend**. Simon & Schuster, 2023. When Sunny and Aarush reach for the same book at the library, they try to resolve the conundrum by searching through the stacks to find something else for the others to read, but maybe what they find instead is even better.
- 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.
- Sanchez, Anita. **Hello, Puddle!** Clarion, 2022. The seasons are explored through this introduction to a puddle as a habitat whose visitors include birds, insects, mammals, plant life, and more.
- Sauer, Tammy. **Wordy Birdy**. Doubleday, 2018. Wordy Birdy loves to talk and never listens to her friends, until Bear shows up and changes everything. *Series*
- 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.
- Sima, Jessie. **Perfectly Pegasus**. Simon & Schuster, 2022. Nimbus, a lonely Pegasus, searches for a fallen star to wish for a friend and meets a unicorn named Kelp along the way. *Series*
- Snider, Grant. **What Sound is Morning?** Chronicle Books, 2020. The first morning light may not be as quiet as it seems.
- 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.
- Stein, Peter. **The Runaway No-Wheeler**. Viking, 2020. Tony, an 18-wheeler encounters treacherous obstacles leaving him without one wheel, then two wheels and no wheels as he journeys to make a delivery on time.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Straub, Emma. ***Very Good Hats***. Rocky Pond Books, 2023. An engaging picture book that redefines what makes a good hat when using your imagination.
- 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.
- Tamaki, Jillian. ***They Say Blue***. Abrams Books, 2018. A young girl examines all of the colors in the world around her.
- Teckentrup, Britta. ***Moon: A Peek-Through Picture Book***. Doubleday, 2017. Using Die-cut pages to show the phases, the moon shines all over the world. *Series*
- Tillotson, Carrie. ***B is for Bananas: A Going Bananas Alphabet Book***. Flamingo Books, 2023. B is for bedtime, but Banana has other ideas as he hilariously revises all of the bedtime-related words into more lively words in this amusing alphabet book.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ward, Jennifer. ***Round***. Beach Lane Books, 2020. This picture book explores roundness in the natural world illustrated through the seasons.
- 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 that express a range of feelings.
- Yoon, Salina. ***Penguin and Penelope***. Bloomsbury, 2022. Penguin does everything he can to help his new friend, an elephant named Penelope, find her family after she is left behind. *Series*
- Zhang, Gracey. ***Lala's Words: A Story of Planting Kindness***. Orchard Books, 2021. Even though Lala's mom wants her to "Be still and quiet," Lala prefers to visit her secret hideaway and learns that her kind words are just what the plants need.
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H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

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H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024
Grade 1 and Grade 2

*All book summaries are provided by the publisher or written by committee members.
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- Applegate, Katherine. ***Doggo and Pupper Search for Cozy, Book 3.*** Feiwel and Friends, 2022. The conclusion to the Doggo and Pupper early readers trilogy. The canines help Cat adjust to a big change: A new bed! *Series*
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Never Glue Your Friends to Chairs.*** HarperCollins, 2016. When the first-grader's bee antennae would not stay on their heads and the drummers would not stay in their seats for the open house play, Roscoe decides to help by using the "don't-you-dare" glue. *Series*
- Arnold, Elana K. ***Starla Jean Cracks the Case.*** Roaring Brook, 2023. Starla Jean and her pet chicken, Opal Egg, return in this side-splitting third-chapter book, just in time to solve a puzzling mystery that takes them on a chase through the neighborhood! *Series*
- Bailey, Jenn. ***Henry, Like Always.*** Chronicle Books, 2023. Henry, a first grader on the autism spectrum, attempts to navigate friendships and sudden changes in classroom routines--like a parade on Friday instead of share time. *Geisel Award 2023.*
- Bailey, Linda. ***The Three Little Mittens.*** Tundra, 2023. Dotty and Other Dotty are a perfect match. The pair of yellow-spotted, pink, woolly mittens flaunt their partnership in front of lonesome single-mitten named Stripes. That is until one day the little girl asks, why do mittens have to match?
- Barnett, Mac. ***Jack Gets Zapped!*** Viking, 2021. Zapped into his favorite video game by a sneaky bolt of lightning, mischievous Jack finds himself racing around game puzzles while outmaneuvering a pounding boss. *Series*
- Barrett, Hayley. ***Girl Versus Squirrel.*** Margaret Ferguson Books, 2020. One resourceful girl. One determined squirrel. Great minds meet their match in this tale of persistence and learning that compromise can be a wonderful thing.
- Barton, Chris. ***Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions.*** Charlesbridge, 2016. One of the top twenty toys of all time, the Super Soaker water gun was invented quite by accident by a NASA engineer working on a new system for refrigerators.
- Bell, Cece. ***Smell My Foot!*** Candlewick, 2019. Shares the interactions of the rule-following Chick and the absent-minded Brain, whose friendship is tested by miscommunications and misunderstandings about good manners.
- Blabey, Aaron. ***The Bad Guys: The Big Bad Wolf.*** Scholastic, 2019. In this installment of the illustrated chapter book Series., Mr. Wolf, Mr. Shark, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Piranha want to help the Big Bad Wolf which has been enlarged to Godzilla size, and protect the world from an alien invasion. *Series*

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024
Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Burach, Ross. ***Make Way for the Butterfly***. Scholastic, 2023. Butterfly learns from Bee that he too is a pollinator and can help in the important work of pollinating plants. Factual information is delivered humorously. *Series*
- Burks, James. ***Bird and Squirrel All or Nothing***. Graphix, 2020. The dangerous Horned Toad 500 cross-country race is coming up and Bird's father has always won it. But when his dad gets injured, Bird reluctantly joins the race to save the family's honor. *Graphic novel, Series*.
- Butler, Dori Hillestad. ***King and Kayla and the Case of the Unhappy Neighbor***. Peachtree, 2020. King the golden retriever struggles to communicate with his human, Kayla, as both try to clear Thor of having trashed Mr. Gary's yard. *Series*
- Byers, Grace. ***I Am Enough***. Balzer + Bray, 2018. 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.
- Castillo, Lauren. ***Our Friend Hedgehog: A Place to Call Home***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2022. Our beloved Hedgehog and friends return for another adventure that leads them to the realization that home can be found in unexpected places. *Series*
- Chin, Jason. ***Gravity***. Roaring Brook, 2014. Minimal text and enthralling illustrations introduce the concept of gravity and explain what would happen without gravity. Specific and easy-to-understand information on gravity is included in the afterward.
- Clanton, Ben. ***Narwhal's School of Awesomeness***. Tundra Books, 2021. Narwhal and Jelly become the coolest teachers in the worldwide waters in the hilarious sixth book of this blockbuster series! *Graphic novel, Series*
- Collier, Bryan. ***It's Shoe Time!*** Hyperion, 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.
- Cordell, Matthew. ***Cornbread & Poppy at the Museum***. Little, Brown, 2023. Celebrating priceless friendship and the value of what makes us individuals, children will find this classic odd couple irresistible as they encounter relatable issues with humor and heart. *Series*
- Cordell, Matthew. ***Evergreen***. Feiwel and Friends, 2023. Evergreen the squirrel is afraid of many things: thunder, hawks, and the dark paths of Buckthorn Forest. But when her mother tasks Evergreen with delivering soup to her sick Granny Oak, the little squirrel must face her fears and make the journey.

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Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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.
- Cronin, Doreen. ***Lawrence and Sophia***. Rocky Pond Books, 2023. Lawrence prefers to stay in his small backyard, and his friend Sophia, a bird who avoids the ground, helps each other overcome their fears during a rainstorm.
- DiPucchio, Kelly. ***Becoming Charley***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2023. Unlike all the other caterpillars Charley sometimes wonders what it would be like to be a fawn or a waterfall, so when the day comes to form her chrysalis, Charley must decide who she will become.
- Doerrfeld, Cori. ***Beneath***. Little, Brown, 2023. A child and their grandfather take a walk in the woods and discover more about themselves. Finn begins to realize that people, just like the elements of nature, are more than they appear.
- de la Peña, Matt. ***Carmela Full of Wishes***. Putnam's, 2018. Carmela, finally old enough to run errands with her brother, tries to think of the perfect wish, while his wish seems to be that she stays home.
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***Franklin Endicott and the Third Key***. Candlewick, 2021. A constant worrier, Franklin Endicott earns a fresh cause for alarm when he accompanies Eugenia Lincoln to her favorite thrift shop and leaves with a mystery to solve. *Series*
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***Mercy Watson is Missing!: Tales from Deckawoo Drive***. Candlewick, 2023. When Mercy Watson the pig goes missing, all of Deckawoo Drive is in an uproar. *Series*
- Eaton, Maxwell. ***The Truth About Parrots***. Roaring Brook, 2021. An introduction to parrots is presented through humorous text complemented by engaging facts. *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.
- Fang, X. ***Dim Sum Palace***. Tundra Books, 2023. A little girl's love of dim sum spills over into her dreams, taking her on a fantastical food-filled adventure
- Faruqi, Saadia. ***Yasmin the Detective***. Picture Window, 2022. Nani likes to sit outside and sew, but little things like her thimble keep disappearing, so she turns detective and applies a science lesson to solve the mystery. *Series*
- 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.

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Grade 1 and Grade 2

Feuti, Norm. **Beak and Ally #4: Snow Birds.** HarperCollins, 2023. When noisy neighbors move in for the winter, will Beak & Ally ever find peace and quiet? Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Award. *Graphic novel, Series*

Fisher, Lalena. **Friends Beyond Measure.** Harper, 2023. Ana and Harwin's friendship has been off the charts since day one! But when Harwin learns her family will move far away, they aren't sure how their friendship can survive the move.

Flintham, Thomas. **Game Over, Super Rabbit Boy!** Scholastic, 2017. 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! *Series*

Floca, Brian. **Keeping the City Going.** Atheneum, 2021. A heartfelt thank you picture book to the essential workers who kept their cities going during the COVID-19 quarantine.

Funk, Josh. **Dear Dragon: A Pen Pal Tale.** Viking, 2016. 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?

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. **Three Tales of My Father's Dragon.** Random House, 1998. A compilation of three tales that relate to the fantastic adventures of Elmer Elevator and a baby-flying dragon named Boris.

Greenawalt, Kelly. **I Can Build It!** Scholastic, 2020. Princess Truly is a great inventor! With her magic and sparkling curls, she can build anything from a Brushy-Brush machine to a super-cool, turbo-boosted racing bike for her little brother. But when Truly and her sidekick pug Sir Noodles discover that the animal shelter is all out of treats, it's time for their biggest invention yet... the Super Snack Machine! *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*

Hanlon, Abby. **Dory Fantasmagory: Tiny Tough.** Dial Books, 2019. Dory tries to help her big sister when she has trouble with her friends at school, but somehow, as only Dory manages to do, she mixes in pirates and treasure along the way. *Series*

Harvey, Jeanne Walker. **Ablaze with Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas.** HarperCollins, 2022. The incredible true story of Alma Thomas, the first Black woman to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum in New York City and to have her work chosen for the White House.

Hernandez, Laurie. **She's Got This.** HarperCollins, 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.

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- Ho, Joanna. ***Eyes That Speak to the Stars***. HarperCollins, 2022. A young Chinese American boy discovers himself, his roots, and his potential.
- Iwai, Melissa. ***Gigi and Ojiji: What's in a Name?*** Harper, 2022. Gigi wants to go by something besides her baby name--but Geraldine is too long to write and Hanako, her middle name, doesn't feel quite right. Will Gigi find the perfect name? *Series*
- Jenkins, Steve. ***Apex Predators: The World's Deadliest Hunters, Past and Present***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. Award-winning author/illustrator Steve Jenkins shares amazing facts about extinct and modern-day apex (animals at the top of the food chain) predators.
- 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.
- Johnson, Kevin. ***Cape***. Roaring Brook, 2023. A child wears a cape as protection from grief after the loss of a loved one, using it at first to avoid memories that keep bubbling up, and then later for comfort and strength.
- Keating, Jess. ***Eat Your Rocks, Croc!: Dr. Glider's Advice for Troubled Animals***. Orchard Books, 2020. Dr. Sugar Glider travels around the world to help animals with all sorts of problems.
- 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.
- Klise, Kate. ***Stay: A Girl, A Dog, A Bucket List***. Feiwel and Friends, 2017. Eli the dog has been with Astrid since she was a baby, and now that Eli is getting older and slowing down, Astrid wants to make fun memories with him, but she knows what is most important to Eli is the time he spends with Astrid.
- Kügler, Tina. ***Snail and Worm, of Course***. Clarion, 2023. Follows best friends Snail and Worm through three adventures. *Series*
- Lanan, Jessica. ***Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider***. Roaring Brook, 2023. A beautifully illustrated nonfiction story following a day in the life of a backyard jumping spider - meticulously researched and utterly charming. *Sibert Honor 2024*.
- Lang, Heather. ***The Leaf Detective: How Margaret Lowman Uncovered Secrets in the Rainforest***. Calkins Creek, 2021. A picture book biography on Meg Lowman, a groundbreaking scientist who was determined to investigate the undiscovered rainforest treetops.
- Lerner, Jarrett. ***Nat the Cat Takes a Nap***. Simon Spotlight, 2023. A witty narrator and a secondary character, Pat the Rat, prevent Nat the Cat from taking a much-needed nap.
- Leung, Julie. ***The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee***. Little, Brown, 2021. Fearless from birth, Chinese American Hazel Ying Lee fulfilled her dreams of flying and

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became an aviation pioneer when she joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II.

- 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.
- Lloyd-Jones, Sally. ***Tiny Cedric***. Anne Schwartz Books, 2021. A witty and touching story about a tiny king who transforms into a kind-hearted monarch after he removes almost his entire court from the palace.
- Lobel, Arnold. ***Frog and Toad Are Friends***. HarperCollins, 2003. First published 1970. Be entertained by the classic, short, delightful tales about best friends Frog and Toad. *Series*
- Madan, Vikram. ***Owl and Penguin: Best Day Ever***. Holiday House, 2023. Sometimes best friends disagree. Though Owl and Penguin are opposites, they like to solve their conflicts with creative play. From conquering fears to flying a runaway kite, there's nothing these pals can't get through together. *Graphic novel*
- 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.
- May, Kyla. ***Beach Pug***. Branches/Scholastic, 2024. It is Bub the pug's first trip to the beach, and Bella wants to enter him in a pet-surfing contest, but Bub is scared of the ocean and refuses, so he hopes to make it up to Bella by presenting her with the treasure at the end of the map he found. *Series*
- McKibben, Bill. ***We Are Better Together***. Holt, 2022. A hopeful book written by an environmentalist honoring the power of human cooperation in protecting our beautiful world.
- Medina, Juana. ***Elena Rides***. Candlewick Press, 2023. A determined elephant and her loyal sidekick will inspire students to persist when facing a challenge.
- Messner, Kate. ***Over and Under the Rainforest***. Chronicle Books, 2020. Explore the extraordinary life and the activity that lie hidden among the roots, above the winding rivers and under the brilliant green trees of the rainforest. *Series*
- Michalak, Jamie. ***Niki Nakayama: A Chef's Tale in 13 Bites***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2021. A picture book biography that tells the story of the extraordinary female Japanese-American chef and her rise to fame.
- Miller, Rhett. ***No More Poems!: A Book in Verse That Just Gets Worse***. Little, Brown, 2019. 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.
- Morris, J.E. ***Flubby Does Not Like Snow***. Penguin Workshop, 2023. Kami tries to convince her finicky cat, Flubby, to come outside and enjoy the winter wonderland. *Series*

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- Mosca, Julia Finley. ***The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes: The Story of Dr. Patricia Bath***. Innovation, 2017. As a girl coming of age during the Civil Rights Movement, Patricia Bath dreamed of becoming a doctor, and not only did she fulfill that dream, but she also invented a procedure to remove cataracts and became the first African American female doctor to hold a medical patent.
- 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.
- Palatini, Margie. ***Kitty-cam***. Simon Spotlight, 2023. Kitty has a pet cam attached to its head, and readers see everything the kitten sees including a day of pouncing, eating, washing, and playing. *Series*
- Perkins, Mitali. ***Home is in Between***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2021. Immigrating to America, a young girl navigates between her family's Bengali traditions and her new country's culture.
- 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 newly learned skills are put to use when she finds herself in trouble.
- 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. Told in a series of letters, this is the hilarious tale of an ox who is in love with a gazelle.
- Robbins, Dean. ***Margaret and the Moon: How Margaret Hamilton Saved the First Lunar Landing***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2017. Pursuing her childhood passion for mathematics and astronomy, Margaret Hamilton became a pioneer in computer programming and a hero in the Apollo 11 mission.
- Rosen, Sybil. ***Carpenter's Helper***. Schwartz & Wade, 2021. Renata and her father halt work on their new bathroom when a pair of wrens build a nest over the bathtub.
- Ruzzier, Sergio. ***Up and Down: and Other Stories***. Chronicle Books, 2022. In the tradition of Frog + Toad, this critically acclaimed early reader series features Fox and Chick—two unlikely friends. *Series*
- 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.
- Saltzberg, Barney. ***A Delicious Story***. Hippo Park, 2023. When Big Mouse eats the story in their book, Little Mouse, who is not ok with this, wants to hear a tale--and will settle for nothing less.
- 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.

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- 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? *Series*
- 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.
- Smith, Emma Bland. ***Mr. McCloskey's Marvelous Mallards: The Making of Make Way for Ducklings.*** Calkins Creek, 2022. Robert McCloskey finds himself navigating the delightful chaos of raising a flock of ducklings in his cramped New York City apartment, facing challenges as he tries to capture their essence through his illustrations before they outgrow their adorable stage.
- Stewart, Melissa. ***Summertime Sleepers: Animals that Estivate.*** Charlesbridge, 2021. Everyone knows about hibernation, but this book offers young readers a lyrical look at its fascinating warm-weather counterpart—estivation.
- Sundin, David. ***The Book That Did Not Want to Be Read.*** Simon & Schuster, 2022. Beware! This picture book will do anything in its power to stay unread in this fun, interactive, and irresistibly silly read-aloud.
- 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. *Series*
- Tabor, Corey R. ***Snail Crossing.*** Balzer + Bray, 2020. Determined to make his way to a plump, crisp cabbage across the road, Snail risks speeding cars and hungry crows during a long and slow journey, before getting lost while helping a crew of ants escape a rainstorm.
- Todd, Traci N. ***Nina: A Story of Nina Simone.*** Putnam's, 2021. An award-winning picture book biography celebrating the life and voice of acclaimed singer, Nina Simone.
- 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, 2019. 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! *Series*
- Verde, Susan. ***I Am Love: A Book of Compassion.*** Abrams Books, 2019. Love means showing kindness, living with gratitude, and taking care of our minds and bodies. Grounded in mindfulness and wellness, *I Am Love* asks readers to look inward when they feel afraid, angry, hurt, or sad. *Series*

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- Vere, Ed. **Max and Bird**. Sourcebooks, 2017. Max, a kitten, and Bird, a very young bird, want to be friends, but Max also wants to eat Bird, so they strike a deal. *Series*
- West, Kara. **Mia Mayhem Rides the Waves**. Little Simon, 2021. Mia Mayhem learns some important things about herself and her abilities during a family vacation to the beach. *Series*
- West, Tracey. **Howl of the Wind Dragon**. Scholastic, 2021. Drake and Rori rush off to find a Wind Dragon--the final dragon needed to undo the False Life spell. *Series*
- Willems, Mo. **We Are in a Book!** Hyperion, 2010. Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald and Piggie are best friends. Gerald and Piggie discover the joy of being read. But what will happen when the book ends? *Series*
- Winkler, Henry and Lin Oliver. **Detective Duck: The Case of the Strange Splash**. Abrams, 2023. Willow Feathers McBeaver, aka Detective Duck, and her pond animal pals investigate puzzling mysteries caused by human disruptions to their habitat. *Series*
- Windness, Kaz. **Worm and Caterpillar are Friends**. Simon Spotlight, 2023. A worm and a caterpillar are best friends and when one of them is about to go through a big change, they both learn what is inside is what counts.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. **The Day You Begin**. Nancy Paulsen, 2018. 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 knows you yet, but somehow you do it.
- Wynter, Anne. **Nell Plants a Tree**. Balzer + Bray, 2023. A wonderful depiction of three generations of a family who grow up and come together around one pecan tree.
- Yuksel, M.O. **One Wish: Fatima al-Fihri and the World's Oldest University**. HarperCollins, 2022. Picture book biography of Fatima al-Fihri, a trailblazing woman who founded the oldest existing and continually operating university in the world.

Compiled by:

Megan Hopkins, The Fay School

Elizabeth Holloway, The Kinkaid School

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Grade 1 and Grade 2

Jane Martellino, (Chair), River Oaks Baptist School

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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.

- Albus, Kate. ***A Place to Hang the Moon***. Holiday House, 2021. In World War II England, orphaned siblings William, Edmund, and Anna are evacuated from London to live in the countryside, where they bounce from home to home in search of someone willing to adopt them permanently.
- 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*
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Odder***. Feiwel and Friends, 2022. A remarkable sea otter's life changes after a dangerous encounter with a shark.
- Barton, Chris. ***What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?*** Beach Lane Books, 2018. A 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*
- Boxer, Elisa. ***Hidden Hope: How a Toy and a Hero Saved Lives during the Holocaust***. Abrams Books, 2023. The true story of teenager Jacqueline Gauthier and her toy duck that helped save Jewish families in Nazi-occupied France during World War II.
- Broach, Elise. ***Duet***. Christy Ottaviano, 2022. A talented but reluctant piano student is coaxed into playing again by a singing goldfinch and together they work to unravel the mystery of a valuable missing piano.
- Brooks, Molly. ***Sanity & Tallulah***. Hyperion, 2018. Sanity and Tallulah, who live in a space station, search the galaxy for Sanity's three-headed kitten. *Graphic novel*
- Brown, Peter. ***The Wild Robot Escapes***. Little, Brown, 2018. After being captured by the Recons and returned to civilization for reprogramming, Roz is sent to Hilltop Farm where she befriends her owner's family and animals, but pines for her son, Brightbill. *Series*
- Chau, Alina. ***Marshmallow & Jordan***. First Second, 2021. Jordon's days as a star basketball player are over after an accident leaves her paralyzed from the waist

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down. She befriends Marshmallow, a mysterious white elephant, who helps Jordan discover a new sport. *Graphic novel*

Churnin, Nancy. ***The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game.*** Whitman, 2016. Deaf baseball player William Hoy helped to forever change the way baseball is played.

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.

Creech, Susan. ***Saving Winslow.*** Joanna Cotler, 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.

Crimi, Carolyn. ***Secondhand Dogs.*** Balzer + Bray, 2021. A group of rescue dogs must work together and courageously embark on a difficult journey to save one of their own.

Dahl, Roald. ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.*** Puffin, was 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*

DiCamillo, Kate. ***The Puppets of Spelhorst.*** Somerville, 2023. Five puppets work together to discover their own stories while being owned by several melancholy individuals.

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*

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- 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.
- Fairbairn, Nathan. ***Paws: Gabby Gets It Together***. Razorbill, 2022. Three best friends who love animals but can't own pets work together to start a dog-walking business. *Graphic novel*
- Farley, Walter. ***The Black Stallion***. Random House, was 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. ***Polar Bear***. Neal Porter Books, 2022. Exploration of the life and habitat of a mother polar bear and her cubs.
- 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.
- 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 several 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.
- Gottesfeld, Jeff. ***Twenty-one Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier***. Candlewick, 2001. A tribute to the nameless fallen soldiers and the sentinels who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.
- Gratz, Alan. ***Ban this Book***. Starscape, 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.
- Gray, Kristin L. ***The Amelia Six: An Amelia Earhart mystery***. Simon & Schuster, 2020. Eleven-year-old Millie and five other girls snowed in at Amelia Earhart

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Birthplace Museum in Atchison, Kansas, are on a scavenger hunt when the lights go out and Amelia's aviator goggles go missing.

Griffiths, Andy. ***The 13-Story Treehouse***. Feiwel and Friends, 2013. Under pressure from 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*

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.

Harris, Chris. ***My Head Has a Bellyache: and More Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups***. Little, Brown, 2023. This lighthearted collection of humorous poems uses rhymes and clever wordplay to share silly and nonsensical stories.

Hartman, Aubrey. ***The Lion of Lark-Hayes Manor***. Little, Brown. 2023. Twelve-year-old Poppy meets a water nymph and exchanges her favorite book for a lion, but her deal has unexpected consequences that Poppy must fight to correct.

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*

Jaggard, Louisa and Sheri Becker. ***Sprouting Wings: The True Story of James Herman Banning, the First African American Pilot to Fly Across the United States***. Crown, 2021. James Herman Banning dreamed of touching the sky and he became the first African American pilot to fly across the United States.

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.

Johnson, Terry Lynn. ***Sled Dog School***. Clarion, 2019. When eleven-year-old Matt must set up a business to save his failing math grade, he overcomes his self-doubt and gains two friends along the way.

Keating, Jess. ***The Girl Who Built an Ocean: An Artist, an Argonaut, and the True Story of the World's First Aquarium***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2022. The inspiring tale of a seamstress-turned-scientist who invented the world's first aquarium at a time when women in STEM were startlingly rare.

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- Kenny, Emily. ***The Extraordinary Adventures of Alice Tonks***. Rock the Boat, 2022. Alice Tonks desperately wants to make friends at boarding school, but being autistic, she's always found it hard to fit in. Then she discovers she is a 'switcher' and can talk to animals.
- 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.
- Lai, Remy. ***Pawcasso***. Holt, 2021. Eleven-year-old Jo discovers that a small lie can turn into a big problem when her town assumes a talented and fun-loving dog is hers. *Graphic novel*
- Lang, Heather. ***The Leaf Detective: How Margaret Lowman Uncovered Secrets in the Rainforest***. Calkins Creek, 2021. In this nonfiction book, learn how Margaret braved the odds to discover the secrets of trees from the rainforest.
- 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.
- Lia, Simone. ***They Didn't Teach THIS In Worm School!*** Candlewick, 2018. A hungry chicken (who thinks he is a flamingo) and a quick-thinking worm set off on a madcap adventure and forge an unlikely friendship.
- Lloyd, Megan Wagner. ***Allergic***. Graphix, 2021. Hoping to adopt a pet to find a sense of belonging in a busy family, Maggie is disappointed to discover she is severely allergic to anything with fur and tries to find a pet to love. *Graphic novel*
- López, Diana. ***Sing with Me: The Story of Selena Quintanilla***. Dial Books, 2001. A picture book biography that follows Selena's rise to success, from singing at her family's restaurant to performing at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in the Astrodome.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***White Fur Flying***. McElderry Books, 2013. A sad and silent nine-year-old boy finds his voice when he moves next to a family that rescues dogs.
- 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.
- McDonald, Megan. ***Judy Moody in a Monday Mood***. Candlewick, 2021. When her teacher Mr. Todd makes Monday special by celebrating Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day, Judy Moody's frown is turned upside down, prompting her to come up with the perfect idea to make this the best week ever. *Series*

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- 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.
- 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 to leave her family behind; based on true stories told by the author’s grandmother.
- Nguyen, Trang. ***Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear***. Dial Books, 2021. Based on the true story of a young girl who becomes a conservationist and returns a sun bear back into the wild. *Graphic novel*
- 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.
- Ortega, Claribel A. ***Frizzy***. First Second, 2022. This charming coming-of-age tale follows Marlene’s journey of self-acceptance and confidence, learning to celebrate her naturally curly hair.
- Paeff, Colleen. ***The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London’s Poop Pollution Problem***. McElderry Books, 2021. Something smells in 19th century London! Joseph Bazalgette designs London’s first comprehensive sewage system and saves thousands of lives from cholera outbreaks.
- Parry, Rosanne. ***A Horse Named Sky***. Greenwillow, 2023. Sky is a young horse running free in the Wild West when he is captured for the Pony Express. He must then escape and find his way back home to rescue his family.
- 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.

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Perkins, Lynne Rae. ***Violet and Jobie in the wild.*** Greenwillow, 2022. Mice Violet and Jobie, live in a human home but they soon find themselves uprooted and must quickly adapt to an unfamiliar world.
- 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*
- Raczka, Bob. ***Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems.*** Roaring Brook, 2016. A collection of concrete poetry written and shaped in surprising ways.
- Riley, Scott. ***The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field.*** Millbrook, 2021. There is no room on a small Thai island for a group of soccer-loving teens to play the game they love, so they create a floating field.
- 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 meets his hero, he is even more excited--and worried that a misunderstanding over a Christmas tree could damage his new friendship.
- 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.
- 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*
- Sis, Peter. ***Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued.*** Norton, 2021. In Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, Nicholas Winston saved the lives of almost 700 children. Vera's family was among those he helped.
- Smith, Emma Bland. ***The Gardener of Alcatraz: A True Story.*** Charlesbridge, 2022. Prisoner Elliott Michener began tending the gardens at Alcatraz and through his work, he finds new interests and new skills and ultimately transforms his life.
- Smith, Emma Bland. ***How Science Saved the Eiffel Tower.*** Capstone, 2022. The builder of the Eiffel Tower works to save it from being demolished by proving that it is a useful place for cutting-edge scientific experiments.
- Smith, S. D. ***The Green Ember.*** Story Warren Books, 2014. Two sibling rabbits embark on an adventure to save their family and find their place in a world consumed by tragedy and promise. *Series*
- Stabler, David. ***Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood from Sports Legends.*** Quirk Books, 2015. Hilarious childhood biographies and full-color illustrations show

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

- how Tiger Woods, Gabby Douglas, Bruce Lee, Billie Jean King, and other budding sports champions faced kid-sized challenges growing up. *Series*
- Stead, Rebecca and Wendy Mass. ***The Lost Library***. Feiwel and Friends, 2023. When a mysterious little free library guarded by a large orange cat appears overnight, eleven-year-old Evan plucks two weathered books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change.
- 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.
- Stremer, Jessica. ***Great Carrier Reef***. Holiday House, 2023. A remarkable story chronicling the conversion of the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany from a thriving warship to the world's largest artificial reef.
- 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.
- Tavares, Matt. ***Hoops***. Candlewick Press, 2023. Inspired by a true story, in 1976 Judi and her friends lead the first girls' basketball team at their school in an undefeated season while creatively raising community support and fighting for equal treatment. *Graphic novel*
- Thomson, Sarah L. ***Two Friends, One Dog, and a Very Unusual Week***. Peachtree, 2023. Straight-laced fifth grader Emily's world is turned upside down when a new neighbor and free spirit Rani moves in with her dog Otto.
- 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.
- 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*

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Grade 3 and Grade 4

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.

Watson, Tom. ***Trouble at Table Five: The Candy Caper***. HarperCollins, 2020. Molly, Simon, and Rosie will do anything to know how many candies are in Principal Shelton's jar. *Series*

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.

Willems, Mo. ***The Story of Diva and Flea***. Hyperion, 2015. Diva, a small, but brave dog, and Flea, an adventurous cat, become friends in Paris.

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.

Compiled by:

Jane Martellino, *River Oaks Baptist School*

Shelia Potter, *River Oaks Baptist School*

Alissa Tucker, *Fort Bend Christian Academy*

Lana Wallace (Chair), *Second Baptist School*

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H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 5

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

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Acevedo, Sylvia. ***Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist.*** Clarion, 2018. An inspiring autobiography about Sylvia Acevedo’s upbringing in New Mexico in a working-class Mexican American family and how her experiences in the Girl Scouts helped her become a rocket scientist, an executive in technology companies, and a former CEO of the Girl Scouts.
- Albus, Kate. ***A Place to Hang the Moon.*** Holiday House, 2021. In World War II England, orphaned siblings William, Edmund, and Anna are evacuated from London to live in the countryside, where they bounce from home to home in search of someone willing to adopt them permanently.
- Amos, Shawn. ***Cookies & Milk.*** Little, Brown 2022. Eleven-year-old Ellis discovers family secrets, makes new friends, and adjusts to his parent’s recent divorce during a hijinks-filled summer helping his father open the world’s first chocolate chip cookie shop in 1976 Hollywood.
- 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 1930s 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.
- Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss. ***Sisterhood of Sleuths.*** Little, Brown, 2022. Twelve-year-old Maizy finds a box full of vintage Nancy Drew books left at her mom’s thrift store along with an old photograph of three women and this leads her to do her own investigation.
- Bradley, Fleur. ***Midnight at the Barclay Hotel.*** Viking, 2020. Five murder suspects are invited to the haunted Barclay Hotel for a weekend getaway, and it is up to twelve-year-old JJ and eleven-year-old Penny—and a lonely ghost—to figure out who committed the crime.
- 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 to solve an ancient mystery that might be at the heart of his parents’ disappearance. *Series*

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- 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.
- Connor, Leslie. ***Anybody Here Seen Frenchie?*** Katherine Tegen, 2022. Set in coastal Maine, this is a friendship and missing person story about an eleven-year-old girl named Aurora and her best friend “an autistic boy” named Frenchie Livernois.
- 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*
- Day, Christine. ***We Still Belong***. Heardrum, 2023. Wesley's hopeful plans for Indigenous Peoples' Day (and asking her crush to the dance) go all wrong until she finds herself surrounded by the love of her Indigenous family and community at the intertribal powwow.
- Day, Nick. ***The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, a Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity***. Random House, 2023. This fast-paced true heist story explains how the theft of the Mona Lisa in 1911 made it the most famous painting in the world.
- Dinerstein, Eric. ***What Elephants Know: A Novel***. Disney-Hyperion 2016. Abandoned at age two in the Nepalese Borderlands, Nandu was raised by the head of the King's elephant stable, and Devi Kali, a female elephant, and now at the age of twelve, he faces his greatest challenge: to help save the elephant stable and its community when the King orders it shut down.
- 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.
- Downing, Erin Soderberg. ***When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Peach Pie***. Pixel+Ink, 2021. The Peach kids get a summer they didn't expect when their dad shows up with a food truck and an idea to help them bond after losing their mother. *Series*
- 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.

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- Eggers, Dave. ***The Eyes and the Impossible***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2023. Johannes, a free dog living in an urban park by the sea, acts as the “eyes” of the park and shares his findings with the three bison elders, but some major changes threaten to alter both the park and everything Johannes knows about himself.
- Elliot, Laura. ***Bea and The New Deal Horse***. Katherine Tegen, 2023. Abandoned by her father after Black Tuesday, thirteen-year-old Bea convinces Mrs. Scott to take in her and her sister in exchange for farm work, and Bea bonds with a seemingly untrainable horse.
- 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.
- Glaser, Karian Yan. ***A Duet for Home***. Clarion, 2022. Sixth-graders June and Tyrell form a friendship over a shared love of classical music in the homeless shelter where they are living and working together to take action against the city government’s hurtful policy.
- Glaser, Karina Yan. ***The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street . . . so when their reclusive, curmudgeonly landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five siblings have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home.
- Gratz, Alan. ***Ground Zero***. Scholastic, 2021. Brandon is visiting his dad on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, when the attack comes. Reshmina is a girl in Afghanistan who has grown up in the aftermath of that attack but dreams of peace, becoming a teacher and escaping her village and the narrow role that the Taliban believes is appropriate for women. Both are struggling to survive; both are changed forever by the events of 9/11.
- 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*
- Harrington, C.C. ***Wildoak***. Scholastic, 2022. Twelve-year-old Maggie's stutter makes school extremely hard but life is changed forever when she finds Rumpus an abandoned snow leopard in a forest in Cornwall.
- 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.
- 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

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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.

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. *Graphic novel*

Jurmain, Suzanne. ***Murder on the Baltimore Express: The Plot to Keep Abraham Lincoln from Becoming President***. Yellow Jacket, 2021. The amazing true story of Abraham Lincoln's cross-country train trip for his inauguration which took Lincoln through some very hostile parts of the country with no protection and a deadly assassination threat.

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.

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.

Lee, Stacey. ***Winston Chu vs. the Whimsies***. Disney, 2023. Winston Chu saves the owner of a curiosities shop from a robbery only to be gifted a broomstick and dustpan for his trouble—items that turn out to be more a curse than a blessing when they sweep away important stuff, like his baby sister.

Marks, Janae. ***From the Desk of Zoe Washington***. Katherine Tegen, 2020. Aspiring baker Zoe Washington reconnects with her father by writing letters to him in prison.

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.

Ponti, James. ***City Spies***. Aladdin, 2020. After hacking into the NYC juvenile justice system, Sara Martinez gets a surprise when a British secret agent rescues her from the detention center and takes her to a secret location in Scotland to join

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Grade 5

forces with four teenage spies on a mission to outwit an evil genius before he attacks the environmental innovation competition final in Paris. *Series*

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.

Richards, Natalie D. ***15 Secrets to Survival***. Delacorte, 2023. After disrupting a middle school competition, four classmates are forced to spend winter break together on a wilderness survival expedition that goes awry when their guide disappears.

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.

Soontornvat, Christina. ***The Last Mapmaker***. Candlewick, 2022. 12-year-old Sai is hiding secrets as she joins a celebrated mapmaker as his assistant to chart the southern seas, but it turns out she’s on a much bigger, more dangerous adventure than she could have ever imagined. *Newbery Honor Book*

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.

Sullivan, Tom. ***Escape at 10,000 Feet: D.B. Cooper and the Missing Money***. Balzer + Bray, 2021. A gripping nonfiction account, including graphics and FBI document reproductions, of the only unsolved airplane hijacking in U.S. history from 1971. *Graphic novel*

Telgemeier, Raina. ***Ghosts***. Graphix, 2000. Catrina and her family are moving to the coast of Northern California because her little sister, Maya, is sick. Cat isn’t happy about leaving her friends for Bahía de la Luna, but Maya has cystic fibrosis and will benefit from the cool, salty air that blows in from the sea. As the girls explore their new home, a neighbor lets them in on a secret: There are ghosts in Bahía de la Luna, and Maya sets her heart on meeting one. *Graphic novel*

Townsend, Jessica. ***Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow***. Little, Brown, 2017. Since birth, cursed Morrigan Crow has known she would 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 that will determine whether she is allowed to stay in Nevermoor or return home to face her fate. *Series*

Warga, Jasmine, ***A Rover’s Story***. Balzer + Bray, 2022. Resilience a Mars rover begins to develop human-like feelings as he learns from the NASA scientists who assembled him.

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Weeks, Sarah and Gita Varadarajan. ***Save Me a Seat***. Scholastic, 2016. The only thing Ravi (top student and newly arrived from India) and Joe (New Jersey native who struggles with auditory processing disorder) have in common is their desire not to be bullied and humiliated by the devious Dillon, and together this unlikely pair team up to give the 5th grade class bully his rightful comeuppance, with lots of friendship and delicious food thrown in for good measure.

Wilson, Misty. ***Play Like a Girl: A Graphic Memoir***. Balzer + Bray, 2022. Seventh grade is hard enough but when you are a girl who loves football, it creates more challenges in this heartfelt graphic memoir.

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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Ashleigh Manion, *Second Baptist School*

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

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

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 6

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

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

Acampora, Paul. ***In Honor of Broken Things***. Dial Books, 2022. In an introduction to clay class, two boys and a girl meet and become friends sharing an appreciation for art, football, family, and faith.

Anderson, John David. ***Stowaway***. Walden Pond Press, 2021. To save his father, a Coalition scientist protecting a precious resource, after their ship is attacked, Leo stows away on a strange ship of mercenary space pirates and must decide who to trust--human or alien--to stay alive. *Series*

Anderson, John David. ***The Greatest Kid in the World***. Walden Pond Press, 2023. Zeke Stahls is chosen to participate in an online contest for the World's Greatest Kid even though he is often the one that gets into trouble at school or is behind the pranks, however with a large cash prize of \$10,000 and his family struggling to pay all their bills Zeke must figure out how to be his best self and exactly what that means.

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.

Bridges, Ruby. ***This is Your Time***. Delacorte, 2020. Written as a letter to the "young peacemakers of America," Civil Rights activist Ruby Bridges recalls her experience as a child in the 1960s, being the first black student to integrate an all-white school in her hometown of New Orleans, and she calls on all young people to share their love and grace to heal the world with their heart.

Brown, Aly. ***The Last Unexplored Place on Earth: Investigating the Ocean Floor with Alvin the Submersible***. Feiwel and Friends, 2023. Dive miles down into the depths of the ocean with Alvin the Submersible, which has been used for everything from science exploration to shipwreck searching, while learning more about the last great frontier on Earth.

Bruchac, Joseph. ***Rez Dogs***. Dial Books, 2021. Malian is visiting her grandparents on the Wabanaki reservation when all travel stops and she must quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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girl to portray the Trevor's daughter in witness protection; but she soon learns that the biggest threat to her new family's security comes from her own past.

Christmas, Johnnie. ***Swim Team***. HarperAlly, 2022. Middle Schooler Bree is not afraid of hard work, but she is afraid of swimming, so when she ends up in Swim 101 for her elective, she tackles this challenge with the help of an elderly neighbor and former swim team captain and Bree joins the school swim team and ends up guiding them to the state championship. *Graphic novel*

Clayton, Dhonielle. ***The Marvellers***. Holt, 2022. Eleven-year-old Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend the Arcanum Training Institute, a magic school in the clouds, but when she falls under suspicion for helping a criminal escape prison she must, with the help of her new friends and her growing powers, find a way to clear her family's name. *Series*

Dobbs, Alda P. ***The Other Side of the River***. Sourcebooks, 2022. Twelve-year-old Petra Luna has escaped the Mexican Revolution and has arrived at a refugee camp in Texas trying to support and build a new life with her abuelita, little sister, and baby brother.

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.

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*

Gratz, Alan. ***Two Degrees***. Scholastic, 2022. Fire, ice, and flood create perilous situations for four kids who become committed to helping save the planet in this action-packed adventure of survival and humanity.

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.

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.

Hernandez, Carlos. ***Sal & Gabi Break the Universe***. Disney-Hyperion, 2019. 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*

Hiaasen, Carl. ***Wrecker***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2023. When fifteen-year-old Valdez Jones

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VIII, a.k.a Wrecker, unwittingly becomes entangled with a group of smugglers and grave robbers, he must deep-dive into their shady dealings to escape their twisted net.

Higuera, Donna Barba. **Alebrijes**. Levine Querido. Thirteen-year-old pickpocket Leandro and his sister Gabi are part of a small group of humans who have survived on the barren wasteland of Earth for the last 400 years. As a part of a punishment, Leandro's consciousness is placed inside an ancient drone and left to fend on its own. Beyond the walls of the city of Pocatel, there are other alebrijes like Leandro who seek a better world.

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. *Schneider Family Honor winner, Graphic novel*

Johnson, Janet Sumner. **Final Word**. Pixel+Ink, 2023. Thirteen-year-old twins Hope and Gordon enter a spelling bee in a last-ditch effort to save their family from financial ruin, only to find themselves in a cut-throat competition to uncover a fortune and dark secrets about the wealthy relations they have never known.

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 disease, but that will not stop her from competing in a rigorous new sled dog race through the Canadian wilderness.

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.

Korman, Gordan. **Linked**. Scholastic, 2021. A community is transformed by unity when students from a middle school in Colorado try to solve the mystery of swastikas appearing in their school and how these symbols may be linked to a difficult past for their town.

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 García dreams of

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winning MVP of his summer baseball league, finding a cure for his sister, meeting his hero, Yankee pitcher Michael Arroyo, and no longer living in fear of the government and ICE agents.

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.

Martin, Pedro. ***Mexikid***. Dial Books, 2023. Pedro Martin has grown up in the U.S. hearing stories about his legendary abuelito, but during a family road trip to Mexico, he connects with his grandfather and learns more about his own Mexican identity. *Graphic memoir. Newbery Honor Book, Pura Belpré Youth Illustration and Children's Author Award*

Nannestad, Katrina, ***We Are Wolves***. Atheneum, 2022. At the end of World War II and separated from their mother Liesel, Otto and their baby sister Mia are forced to do dangerous things to survive.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***Iceberg***. Scholastic, 2023. Twelve-year-old Hazel Rothbury stows away aboard the Titanic and, with the help of a porter named Charlie and a first-class passenger named Sylvia, she sets out to explore the great ship, uncovering a haunting mystery--until the ship hits an iceberg and she must fight to save herself and her friends.

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*

Palacio, R.J. ***Pony***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2021. It's Ohio in the 1860s and twelve-year-old Silas sees his father taken by three outlaws in the middle of the night. With a ghostly friend and a mysterious pony by his side, Silas sets out on the long journey to find his father.

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.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Northwind***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022. After sickness destroys his fishing village, orphan Leif flees in a cedar canoe on a journey along the coastline.

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*

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- Riordan, Rick. ***Daughter of the Deep***. Disney-Hyperion, 2021. This story is inspired by Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." Ana Dakkar, a freshman at Harding-Pencraft Academy, a five-year high school that graduates the best marine scientists, naval warriors, navigators, and underwater explorers in the world, makes astounding discoveries about her heritage and puts her leadership skills to the test against deadly enemies from a rival school.
- 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.
- Shayne, Ralph. ***Hour of Need: The Daring Escape of the Danish Jews During World War II***. Yellow Jacket, 2023. A retelling of the brave efforts of the Danish Resistance to save the Danish Jewish population during World War II. *Graphic novel*
- 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.
- Sheinkin, Steve. ***Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown***. Roaring Book, 2021. From espionage to weapons, this exciting and well-researched account of the Cold War digs deep into the battle for supremacy between the United States and the Soviet Union during the 1960s.
- Smith, Matthew Ross. ***The Million Dollar Race***. Aladdin, 2021. The Babblemoney Sneaker Company is hosting an international competition to discover the fastest kid in the world; and Grant Falloon, a track runner, badly wants to enter the competition even though his parents never got him a legal birth certificate.
- Smith, Roland. ***Descent***. Houghton Mifflin, 2020. In a fast-paced adventure, Peak Marcello and his infamous mountain-climbing father must navigate through the mountains of Tibet to escape from the Chinese government. *Series*
- Sullivan, Tom. ***Jailbreak at Alcatraz: Frank Morris & the Anglin Brothers' Great Escape***. Balzer + Bray, 2021. A thrilling true-crime, nonfiction account of the incredulous escape of three Alcatraz inmates that remains unsolved. *Graphic novel, series*

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- Sumner, Jamie. ***One Kid's Trash***. Atheneum, 2021. When his father moves them halfway across Colorado, eleven-year-old Hugo "Shorts" O'Donnell is surprised that his remarkable talent for garbology makes him popular for the first time in his life.
- 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. *Series*
- Wolkenstein, M. Evan. ***Turtle Boy***. Delacorte, 2020. For his Bar Mitzvah community service project, Will is forced to go to the hospital to visit RJ, an older boy struggling with an incurable disease. Their relationship leads to a friendship that is life-changing for both of them and those around them. *Sydney Taylor Book Award 2021*
- 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*

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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. *Novel in verse, Sports fiction, Newbery Medal 2015, series*

Alkaf, Hanna. ***Queen of the Tiles***. Salaam Reads, 2022. A year after her best friend died at a Scrabble tournament, a flurry of social media posts from the dead girl's account prompts 15-year-old Najwa Bakri to investigate what happened to the "Queen of the Tiles." *Mystery, suspense*

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. *Realistic fiction*

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 and unknowing assassin, and is hosted by a goblin archivist, who is anxious for cultural exchanges. *Fantasy*

Asimov, Isaac. ***The Stars, Like Dust***. First published in 1951. At the death of his father, Biron Farrill becomes involved in the plot to rebel against the Tyranni who have conquered many worlds. *Classic science fiction, mystery, series*

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. Mythology, magical realism*

Bishop, Jenn. ***Free Throws, Friendship, and Other Things We Fouled Up***. Chronicle Books, 2023. Basketball player Rory has just moved to Cincinnati with her father, who is a Division 1 coach, when she hits it off with the rival college team's daughter, Abby, but their friendship is threatened when they realize their dads' rivalry goes deeper than on the court. *Sports fiction*

Bowen, Fred. ***Hardcourt: Stories from 75 Years of the National Basketball Association***. McElderry Books, 2022. This basketball history presents an exciting overview of the players that made NBA basketball such a success and includes a brief history of the origins of the game and its evolution. Action-packed, attractive art accompanies the text. *Nonfiction*

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

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and life at a dying western theme park, where her being born armless presents many challenges. *Mystery, series*

Bruchac, Joseph. ***Voices of the People***. Reycraft Books, 2022. This collection of poems dramatizes the lives of men and women who contributed to Native American and Indigenous Peoples' histories, and contemporary Native American artworks provide fascinating connections to the poems. *Poetry, Historical fiction*

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. *Realistic fiction*.

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. *Realistic fiction*.

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. *Classic retelling/fantasy*.

Elliott, David. ***The Seventh Raven***. Clarion, 2021. A gripping retelling of the Grimms' fairy tale of seven brothers transformed into ravens and a young sister determined to find the brothers and break the spell. Told in verse, the rhythm of the storytelling takes on a haunting mood. *Novel in verse, fantasy*

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. *Adventure, survival*

Fleming, Candace. ***Crash from Outer Space: Unraveling the Mystery of Flying Saucers, Alien Beings, and Roswell***. Scholastic, 2022. A strange explosion and scattered debris in the desert outside Roswell, New Mexico leads to a series of UFO stories that escalate into conspiracy tales of government secrecy. *Nonfiction*

Freeman, Megan E. ***Alone***. Aladdin, 2021. When she decides to have a secret sleepover, twelve-year-old Maddie is accidentally left behind when her whole town is evacuated, leaving her to fend for herself in a world without any other human beings. *Novel in verse, adventure, survival*

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. ***Concealed***. Scholastic, 2021. In this mystery thriller, Katrina and her family have been on the run for years but with the help of a computer whiz named Parker, Katrina searches out the truth about her identity and the danger that has ensnared her family. *Mystery, science fiction*

Hale, Shannon. ***Friends Forever***. First Second, 2021. Based on the author's own experiences as an 8th grader, this graphic novel shows the stress of trying to be a

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“perfect” teenager and the path to self-acceptance and focusing on one’s strengths. *Graphic memoir, trilogy*

Hardinge, Frances. ***Unraveller***. Amulet Books, 2023. Suspenseful with a dash of horror, this story features a youth who has the power to “unravel” curses; when he links up with a girl who was once cursed, they try to foil a devious organization’s plot to gain power by controlling curses. *Dark fantasy*

Henry, April. ***Girl Forgotten***. Little, Brown, 2023. When seventeen-year-old Piper Gray starts a true crime podcast investigating a seventeen-year-old murder case, she puts her life in danger as she digs deep into the mysteries of the past. *Mystery, suspense*

Higuera, Donna Barba. ***The Last Cuentista***. Levine Querido, 2021. When the destruction of Earth by a comet is imminent, Petra Peña and her scientist parents, along with other selected humans, escape via starship. After being put in stasis, they expect to be cared for by volunteer monitors until their arrival on habitable Sagan in 380 years, but things do not go as planned. *Science fiction, Newbery Medal 2022, Pura Belpré Author Award Winner 2022*.

Hirsch, Rebecca E. ***Where Have All the Birds Gone?: Nature in Crisis***. Twenty-First Century Books, 2022. The bird crisis is explained through stories of birds that became extinct as well as environmental hazards that endanger birds. *Nonfiction*

Hood, Susan. ***Alias Anna: A True Story of Outwitting the Nazis***. HarperCollins, 2022. The true story of how young Ukrainian Jewish piano prodigies Zhanna and her sister Frina outplayed their pursuers while hiding in plain sight during the Holocaust. *Novel in verse, biography*

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. *Historical fiction*

Jarrow, Gail. ***Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds and Disease***. Calkins Creek, 2020. 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. *Nonfiction*

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. *Nonfiction*

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

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conditioning and eyeglasses, evolved; these stories provide an appreciation of how ideas build upon each other. *Nonfiction*

Kean, Sam. ***The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements***. Little, Brown, 2019. In an amazing collection of stories surrounding the periodic elements, readers will see how art, society, and history have been influenced by the marvels of elements in our world. *Nonfiction*

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. *Memoir*

Kingfisher, T. ***Thornhedge***. Tor Books, 2023. In this fractured fairytale, a knight sets out on a quest to find a princess trapped in a tower entranced by a curse. What if her curse was meant to keep something truly evil contained? *Fantasy*

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. *Sports fiction*

Korman, Gordon. ***Slugfest***. Balzer + Bray, 2024. Considering he is already playing on the high school's JV football team, 8th grader Yash can hardly believe that he's in summer school taking a PE class; soon, he bonds with other students over their slightly wacky former home-economics teacher turned coach as they compete in a city-wide flag football tournament. *Sports, humorous fiction*

Langeland, Deirdre. ***Meltdown: Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Disaster in Fukushima***. Roaring Brook, 2021. It is March 11, 2011, and the fourth largest earthquake ever measured creates a tsunami that not only hits northeast Japan but results in the meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, one of the worst nuclear disasters on record. *Nonfiction*

Larsen, Mylisa. ***Playing through the Turnaround***. Clarion, 2022. Can a handful of jazz band students take a stand to help save student clubs and enrichment classes that are threatened by school budget cuts? *Realistic fiction*

Larson, Hope. ***Salt Magic***. Margaret Ferguson Books, 2021. Twelve-year-old Vonceil Taggart, willing to risk everything to set things right, leaves her family's Oklahoma farm in 1919 seeking the salt witch who cast a spell that turned their spring to saltwater. *Fantasy, historical fiction, 2023 Maverick Award*

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. *Historical fiction*.

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- Lim, Elizabeth. ***Six Crimson Cranes***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2021. The exiled Princess Shiori must unravel the curse that turned her six brothers into cranes, and she is assisted by her spurned betrothed, a capricious dragon, and a paper bird brought to life by the power of her magic. *Fantasy, series*
- Marsh, Katherine. ***The Lost Year***. Roaring Brook, 2023. Struggling with loneliness during the pandemic shutdown, 13-year-old Matthew finds an old photo of his grandmother and starts to uncover family secrets about her experiences during the Holodomor (Ukrainian famine). *Historical fiction, National Book Award Finalist*
- 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. *Nonfiction*
- 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. *Memoir*
- Neri, G. ***Polo Cowboy***. Candlewick, 2021. Cole gets a job as a stable hand for a polo team at an elite military academy and begins to see an opportunity for himself at the academy but can Cole navigate the prejudice of the polo players and use his skills as a horseman to win a scholarship? *Realistic fiction, standalone sequel*
- Nott, Dan. ***Hidden Systems: Water, Electricity, the Internet, and the Secrets Behind Systems We Use Every Day***. Random House Graphic, 2023. Discover the history, development, and engineering challenges posed by society's most essential infrastructures. *Nonfiction, graphic novel*
- 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. *Historical fiction*
- 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. *Historical fiction*
- Oh, Axie. ***The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea***. Feiwel & Friends, 2022. In this retelling of a Korean folktale, Mina is swept away to the spirit realm to awaken the sleeping sea god to save her family and homeland from deadly storms. *Fantasy*
- 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. *Poetry*

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- Oppel, Kenneth. **Bloom**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2020. Anaya, Petra, and Seth race to save their family, friends, and island community against a mysterious, deadly plant invasion only to discover that part of the mystery lies deep within themselves. *Science fiction, thriller, trilogy*
- Paulsen, Gary. **Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2021. In this riveting and inspiring memoir, the author of *Hatchet* and other wilderness survival stories tells his own true-life survival story beginning at age five and continuing through young adulthood. *Memoir*
- 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. *Mystery, thriller*
- 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. *Novel in verse, realistic fiction*
- 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 an antiracist in this fast-paced, conversational nonfiction title. *Nonfiction*
- Reynolds, Justin A. **Miles Morales Shock Waves: A Spider-Man Graphic Novel**. Graphix, 2021. Except for having special powers such as turning invisible and shooting webs from his wrists, Miles is a normal kid juggling typical teenage problems; but when an earthquake hits his mother's hometown in Puerto Rico and a classmate's father disappears, Miles must kick things into high gear. *Graphic novel, superheroes, series*
- 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. *Realistic fiction*
- 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 not going quite the way she planned. *Sports fiction*
- 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. *Science fiction, trilogy, novellas*
- Sandler, Martin W. **1919: The Year That Changed America**. Bloomsbury, 2019. Sandler shows the many shockwaves hitting the country in 1919: the end of

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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. *Nonfiction*

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. *Fantasy, series*

Schmidt, Gary D. ***The Labors of Hercules Beal***. Clarion Books, 2023. When Hercules Beal's teacher assigns him a project to explore the Twelve Labors of the mythological Hercules in real life, the seventh grader ends up learning a lot about himself and his community. *Realistic fiction*

Schwab, V.E. ***Gallant***. Greenwillow, 2022. Olivia Prior has grown up in Merilance School for Girls with no past except for her one treasure, her mother's journal so when a letter arrives inviting her to come home to the ruinous manor, Gallant, she seizes the chance to find out about her family. *Dark fantasy*

Sepetys, Ruta. ***I Must Betray You***. Philomel, 2022. 17-year-old Cristian Florescu, is forced to spy on an American ambassador's teenage son but how does one survive in a Romanian society that is surrounded by suspicion and treachery? *Historical fiction*

Sheinkin, Steve. ***Bomb, Graphic Novel: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon***. Roaring Brook, 2023. Combining historical facts with the pacing of a thriller, this graphic novel adapts Sheinkin's award-winning book Bomb using three storylines--spies, sabotage, and scientific breakthroughs--leading up to the historic creation of the atomic bomb in Los Alamos, New Mexico. *Graphic novel, nonfiction*.

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. *Nonfiction*

Soontornvat, Christina. ***All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team***. Candlewick, 2020. This gripping narrative of the 2018 Thai boys' rescue combines the technical details of the rescue operation with the inspiring human efforts to save these boys. *Nonfiction, Newbery Honor Book 2021*

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. *Classic retelling, adventure*

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- Springer, Nancy. ***Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche***. Wednesday Books, 2021. The witty, independent, and clever Enola Holmes jumps on a case with her older brother Sherlock Holmes when Flossie, the wife of the Earl of Dunhynch, is suspiciously reported dead. *Mystery, series*
- 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. *Fantasy, 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. *Romance*
- Thomas, Sherry. ***The Magnolia Sword: A Ballad of Mulan***. Tu Books, 2019. This new telling of the Mulan story will captivate readers with scenes of sword duels and martial arts. Mulan, a young girl disguised as a boy, joins forces with a warrior team to search out a traitorous plot and prevent invading armies from overthrowing the Chinese royal empire. *Folklore, adventure*
- 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. *Classic fantasy, 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. *Romance*
- 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 inner courage as she becomes her own person. *Novel in verse, contemporary, historical fiction, Newbery Honor 2020*
- 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. *Realistic fiction, Coretta Scott King Award 2018*
- Wein, Elizabeth. ***The Enigma Game***. Little, Brown, 2020. A small community in Scotland rallies in World War II when a young girl, Louisa, finds an Enigma machine. The descriptions of the air battles between German Messerschmitt planes and the ill-equipped English bombers will keep readers on the edge of their seats. *Historical fiction, adventure*

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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. *Novel in verse, historical fiction*

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. *Historical fiction*

Wolkenstein, M. Evan. **Turtle Boy**. Delacorte, 2020. Seventh-grader Will's Bar Mitzvah community service project, visiting an incurably ill older boy in the hospital, leads to a friendship that is life-changing for both them and those around them. *Realistic fiction*

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. *Mystery*

Young, Kristen. **Apprentice**. Enclave Escape, 2021. Even though she has a freakish photographic memory, Flick has no memory of her first five years of life. When recurring, intrusive nightmares morph into daytime hallucinations, she is propelled down a path that could endanger her lifelong dream of entering the Love Collective government's Elite Academy. *Science fiction, Realm Makers Book of the Year, Caleb Award, series*

Ziegler, Jennifer. **Worser**. Holiday House, 2022. Worser's life is turned upside down after his mother has a stroke, but the awkward, word-loving twelve-year-old finds glimmers of hope when he discovers friends who share his love of wordplay and books. *Realistic fiction*

Compiled by:

Diana Armentor, *Awty International School*

Christina Bell, *The Kinkaid School*

Joan Lange (Chair), *Annunciation Orthodox School*

Laura Leib, *Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart (retired)*

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Stephanie Penttila, *The John Cooper School*

Aaryn Silva, *The Kinkaid School*

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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.

- Abawi, Atia. ***A Land of Permanent Goodbyes***. Penguin, 2019. After their home in Syria is bombed, Tareq, his father, and his younger sister seek refuge, first with extended family in Raqqa and then abroad. *Realistic fiction*
- Adeyemi, Tomi. ***Children of Blood and Bone***. Holt, 2018. Seventeen-year-old Zelig, 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. *Fantasy, 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. *Fantasy, series*
- Barnes, Jennifer. ***The Inheritance Games***. Little, Brown, 2020. Avery Grambs' fortunes change in an instant when billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves Avery virtually his entire fortune but Avery has no idea why -- or even who Tobias Hawthorne is. *Mystery, series*
- 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. *Nonfiction*
- 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 special powers: a naturalist, an elemental, and a poisoner. As tradition dictates, on their sixteenth birthday, the sisters will battle to the death; the victor gains the right to be Queen. *Fantasy, 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. *Historical fiction, 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. *Realistic fiction*
- 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

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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. *Fantasy, series*

Crews, James, ed. ***How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope***. Storey, 2021. This poetry collection invites you to be still for a moment and reflect on the beauty and joy found no matter what is going on in your life. *Poetry*

Crouch, Blake. ***Recursion: A Novel***. Crown, 2019. When investigating a suicide, New York City police officer Barry Sutton discovers an outbreak of a memory-altering disease caused by a new technology created to preserve treasured memories. *Science fiction*

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 heal. *Realistic fiction*

Dass, Sarah. ***Where the Rhythm Takes You***. Balzer + Bray, 2021. Set in Trinidad and Tobago and loosely based on Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, a story about second-chance love, loss, and finding one's way. *Romance*

Dayton, Arwen Elys. ***Stronger, Faster, and More Beautiful***. Delacorte, 2018. Six interconnected stories in near-future and far-future settings explore how far humans will go to stand out while continuing to fit in on the path to perfection. *Science fiction*

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. *Nonfiction*

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, Poetry*

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. *Fantasy*

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. *Realistic fiction*

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

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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. *Fantasy*

Gray, Ayana. ***Beasts of Prey***. Putnam's, 2021. Sixteen-year-old indentured Beastkeeper Koffi and seventeen-year-old warrior candidate Ekon forge an unusual alliance and venture into the Greater Jungle to hunt down a monster that has been menacing their city for a century. *Fantasy, series*

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*

Harrow, Alix E. ***The Ten Thousand Doors of January***. Orbit, 2019. A young woman embarks on a fantastical journey of self-discovery with the help of a mysterious book, good friends, and a bad dog. *Fantasy, historical fiction*

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. *Historical fiction*

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. *Realistic fiction*

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 by four unique teen voices living in 1970s Alaska. *Historical fiction*

Jones, Kelly. ***Murder, Magic, and What We Wore***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2017. When her father dies, Annis Whitworth, who has the power to sew glamours, garments that can disguise the wearer completely, becomes a spy and leads a double life to find her father's killer. *Historical fiction, mystery, fantasy*

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. *Nonfiction*

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-

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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 2021, fantasy*

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, Poetry*

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. *Harvey Award, Black-Eyed Susan Award, graphic novel*

Lim, Elizabeth. ***Six Crimson Cranes***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2021. The exiled Princess Shiori must unravel the curse that turned her six brothers into cranes. She is assisted by her spurned betrothed, a capricious dragon, and a paper bird brought to life by her own magic. *Fantasy*

Limón, Ada. ***The Hurting Kind: Poems***. Milkweed Editions, 2022. Beautiful, simple language brings to life profound thoughts about life and our connections to self, others, and the world of nature we live within. *Poetry*

Little Badger, Darcie. ***A Snake Falls to Earth***. Levine Querido, 2021. Fifteen-year-olds Nina and Oli come from different worlds--she is a Lipan Apache living in Texas and he is a cottonmouth from the Reflecting World--but their lives intersect when Oli journeys to Earth to find a cure for his ailing friend and they end up helping each other save their families. *Newbery Honor Book 2022, Fantasy*

Marquis, Kristen. ***The Davenports***. Dial Books, 2023. The Davenports are one of the few Black families of immense wealth and status in 1910 Chicago, and the two daughters, Olivia and Helen, are finding their way and finding love--even where they are not supposed to. *Historical fiction*

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. *Realistic fiction*

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. *Romance, series*

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. *Mystery*

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

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brother and parents, her friendships, her dating life, her involvement in sports and hobbies, her plans, and especially her self-image. *Realistic fiction*

- McWilliams, Kelly. ***Mirror Girls***. Little, Brown, 2022. Biracial twin girls separated at birth, one who is white-passing, reunite as teenagers in 1950s Georgia and must navigate the horrors and ghosts of the past to end the family curse. *Historical fiction*
- 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. *Realistic fiction*
- Meyer, Marissa. ***Gilded***. Feiwel and Friends, 2021. After saving two magical maidens from the hellhounds of Erlking, Serilda, a poor miller's daughter with a talent for storytelling, is abducted by the demon and whisked away to his castle where she is ordered to spin straw into gold, which she cannot do until a mysterious young man offers to help for a price. *Fantasy, series*
- 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. *Nonfiction*
- Moulite, Maika, and Maritza Moulite. ***Dear Haiti, Love Elaine***. Inkyard Press, 2019. After an incident at school, seventeen-year-old Elaine 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. *Realistic fiction*
- 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. *Realistic fiction*
- Otis, Cindy L. ***True or False: A CIA Analyst's Guide to Spotting Fake News***. Feiwel and Friends, 2020. In *True or False*, former CIA analyst Cindy Otis takes readers through the history and impact of fake news over the centuries, sharing stories from the past and insights that readers today can gain from them. *Nonfiction*
- 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. *Realistic fiction*
- 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

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non-Caucasian backgrounds share their personal views on the ways race and discrimination affect children and teenagers. *Short story collection*

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. *Fantasy, 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? *Realistic fiction, series*

Reynolds, Jason. ***Ain't Burned All the Bright***. Atheneum, 2022. A smash-up of Jason Reynold's poetry and Jason Griffin's art that reflects upon our need for oxygen and what it means to breathe post-pandemic. *Caldecott Honor Book 2023, Poetry and Art*

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, even though he is caught in a time loop wherein she dies and he wakes up the moment they first met. *Realistic fiction*

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. *Realistic fiction*

Saedi, Sara. ***Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018. In this memoir set in the 1990s, teenage 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. *Nonfiction*

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. *Mystery*

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. *Historical fiction*

Sharma, Nisha. ***Radha & Jai's Recipe for Romance***. Crown, 2021. While attending the Princeton Academy of the Arts, dancer Radha is determined to invent herself from scratch and, after much convincing, helps Jai, the captain of the Bollywood Beats dance team, have a show-stopping senior year. *Realistic fiction*

Shepherd, Peng. ***The Cartographers***. William Morrow, 2022. When Nell's father is found dead in the New York Public Library, she sets out on a dangerous journey

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to uncover dark family secrets with the help of a mysterious, magical map.
Thriller, magical realism

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 no utopia. *Science fiction, 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. *Nonfiction*

Smith, Colby Cedar. ***Call Me Athena: Girl from Detroit***. Andrews McMeel, 2021. This enchanting novel in verse captures one woman's struggle for equality, independence, and identity as a Greek immigrant in troubled 1930s America. *Historical fiction, novel in verse*

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, realistic fiction, series*

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. *Magical realism, mystery*

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. *Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature 2020, graphic memoir*

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. *Realistic fiction*

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- 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. *Fantasy, series*
- West, Jacqueline. ***Last Things***. Greenwillow, 2019. Anders Thorson, frontman of his metal band, Last Things, is unusually gifted, but strange things in the Minnesota woods near his hometown are threatening him and then Thea, the new girl in town shows up to protect him. *Horror, fantasy*
- 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 novel*
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***Superman Smashes the Klan***. D.C. Comics, 2020. When Dr. Lee moves his family to Metropolis, his son Tommy adjusts to the new neighborhood while daughter Roberta feels out of place, so when the evil Klan of the Fiery Cross begins a string of terrorist attacks on the city, Superman fights them, and Roberta and Tommy soon learn to embrace the unique features that set them apart. *Graphic novel*
- Yoon, Nicola. ***Instructions for Dancing***. Delacorte, 2021. After picking up a book from the library, Evie--who has given up on love--gains the ability to see how other people's romantic relationships will end. *Realistic fiction, romance*
- Zentner, Jeff. ***In the Wild Light***. Crown, 2021. Attending an elite prep school in Connecticut on scholarship with his best friend from their small town in East Tennessee, (and secret love) science genius Delaney Doyle, sixteen-year-old Cash Pruitt, deals with emotional pain and loss by writing poetry. *Realistic fiction*
- 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*

Compiled by:

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H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024
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Julia Beddingfield, *Second Baptist School*

Lakeisha Branch, *The Kinkaid School*

Erica DiBella (Chair), *St. John's School*

Elizabeth Dronet, *St. John XXIII College Preparatory*

Kate Hall, *Episcopal High School*

Shannon Jones, *Episcopal High School*

Daisy Ngo, *The Kinkaid School*

Lea Weatherall, *Incarnate Word Academy*

Suzanne Webb, *St. John's School*

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H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024
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. *Realistic fiction*

Allen, Sarah Addison. ***Other Birds***. St. Martin's Press, 2022. When Zoey comes to claim her deceased mother's apartment on Mallow Island, she meets her quirky and secretive neighbors, including a girl on the run, two estranged middle-aged sisters, a lonely chef, a legendary writer, and three ghosts. *Realistic fiction*

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. *Mystery*

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. *Fantasy, 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. *Realistic fiction, 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. *Realistic fiction*

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. *Historical fiction*

Boulley, Angeline. ***Firekeeper's Daughter***. Holt, 2021. Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, puts her college dreams on hold at the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths. *American Indian Youth Award 2022, Printz Award 2022, William C. Morris Award 2022, mystery, series*

Boulley, Angeline. ***Warrior Girl Unearthed***. Holt, 2023. Perry Firekeeper-Birch gets more than she bargained for during a summer internship when she is propelled

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into a mystery involving the disappearance and murder of Indigenous women and a heist to repatriate the remains of her tribal ancestors. *Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards 2023, mystery, series*

Cameron, Sharon. ***Bluebird***. Scholastic, 2021. In 1946, teen Eva travels from the rubble of Berlin to America to seek justice and find the Nazi behind a horrific experiment called Project Bluebird. *Historical fiction*

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. *Historical fiction*

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 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. *Historical fiction*

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. *Historical fiction*

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. *Realistic fiction*

Deonn, Tracy. ***Legendborn***. McElderry Books, 2020. To discover the truth behind her mother's mysterious death, a teen girl infiltrates a magical secret society that claims, the Legendborn, to be the descendants of King Arthur and his knights. *Coretta Scott King-John Steptoe Award for New Talent 2021, Ignite Award-Young Adult-Best Novel 2021, NCETA Ragan-Rubin Award for Literary Achievement 2021, Fantasy*

Dimaline, Cherie. ***The Marrow Thieves***. Cormorant Books, 2017. Frenchie, an orphan from the Métis tribe, and his found family members have been on the run from the Recruiters, people intent on stealing Indigenous people to harvest their bone marrow to cure dreamlessness. *Amy Mathers Teen Book Award 2017, CODE Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Young Adult Literature 2017, Dystopian*

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

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interconnected stories, even if they are themselves separated by thousands of miles. *Historical fiction*

Durand, Élodie. ***Parenthesis***. Top Shelf Productions, 2021. A triumphant graphic memoir, *Parenthesis* narrates the author's experience with tumor-related epilepsy—losing herself, and finding herself again. *Graphic novel*

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. *Nonfiction*

Elle, J. ***House of Marionne***. Razorbill, 2023. Quell, a 17-year-old girl who has been on the run for most of her life to stay ahead of the Dragun, hunters intent on killing those like Quell with dark magic, hides in plain sight at her grandmother's magical finishing school where she learns to be a debutante while navigating her feelings for her mentor—a Dragun in training. *Fantasy*

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. *Science fiction*

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 back burner when she investigates a mysterious rumbling in the desert. *Fantasy, series*

Garmus, Bonnie. ***Lessons in Chemistry***. Doubleday, 2022. Elizabeth Zott is not an average woman of the 1960s, she's a chemist who ends up hosting her own cooking show, where her unusual approach to cooking and her independent streak teaches women to shake up a lot more in their lives than just their recipes. *Historical Fiction, humor*

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, and 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. *Fantasy*

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. *Historical fiction*

Harmel, Kristin. ***The Book of Lost Names***. Gallery Books, 2020. A historical novel about a young woman with a talent for forgery who helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis. Inspired by a true story from World War II. *Historical fiction*

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- Heller, Peter. ***The River***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2019. An idyllic summer canoe trip down a Canadian river turns into a race for survival after a wildfire is spotted, the two young men overhear a violent argument in the woods, and the woman they overheard goes missing. *Adventure fiction*
- Ishiguro, Kazuo. ***Klara and the Sun***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2021. Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. *Klara and the Sun* offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love? *Science fiction*
- Kingfisher, T. ***A House with Good Bones***. Tor Nightfire, 2023. In *A House with Good Bones*, Sam Montgomery returns to her mother's home in North Carolina, only to discover unsettling changes in the once-charming house. As she investigates her mother's fearful behavior, Sam uncovers hidden secrets that challenge the family's idyllic facade, leading her to confront a dark and buried truth. *Horror*
- 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. *Historical fiction*
- Kuang, R. F. (Rebecca F.). ***Babel***. Harper, 2022. Robin, a Chinese orphan raised in Great Britain, must decide between spying for an underground resistance movement or continuing his education and work in the great linguistic center, Babel, which dispenses the magical silver that powers the colonial systems of the world. *Alex Award 2022, Historical fantasy*
- Lee, Kristen R. ***Required Reading for the Disenfranchised Freshman***. Ember, 2023. At the request of her mother, seventeen-year-old Savannah Howard begins attending Wooddale University, a predominantly white, Ivy League school, where she deals with multiple racial incidents which cause her to step up and take action. *Realistic fiction*
- 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. *Historical fiction, 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. *Poetry*
- Liggett, Kim. ***The Grace Year***. Wednesday Books, 2019. Tierney James dreams of a better life—but as her own grace year draws near, she quickly realizes that there's more to fear about the grace year than the brutal elements and the poachers in the woods. *Science fiction, dystopian*
- Limón, Ada. ***Bright Dead Things***. Milkweed Editions, 2015. *Bright Dead Things* examines the chaos that is life, the dangerous thrill of living in a world you know

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you have to leave one day, and the search to find something that is disorderly, and marvelous. *Poetry*

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. *Mystery*

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. *Science fiction, series*

Mandel, Emily St. John. ***Sea of Tranquility***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2022. "The award-winning, best-selling author of *Station Eleven* and *The Glass Hotel* returns with a novel of art, time, love, and plague that takes the reader from an island off Vancouver in 1912 to a dark colony of the moon three hundred years later, unfurling a story of humanity across centuries and planets. *Carnegie Medal for Excellence Nominee, science fiction*

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. *Mystery*

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? *Science fiction*

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. *Realistic fiction*

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. *Historical fiction*

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. *Nonfiction*

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

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- 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 time, Beryl's relationships were complicated, but her passion for flying was ignited by the friendships she made. *Historical fiction*
- 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. *Mystery, 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. *Fantasy*
- 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. *Mystery*
- 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. *Horror*
- 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. *Nonfiction*
- Nezhukumatathil, Aimee. ***World of Wonders: In Praise of Whale Sharks, Fireflies, and Other Astonishments***. Milkweed Editions, 2020. A collection of essays by an award-winning poet on the natural world and how it can teach and inspire us all. *Nonfiction*
- 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. *Nonfiction*
- O'Farrell, Maggie. ***The Marriage Portrait: A Novel***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2022. A novel set in Renaissance Italy, and centering on the captivating young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici. *Historical fiction*
- 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, realistic fiction*

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- Quinn, Kate. ***The Rose Code***. William Morrow, 2021. Joining the elite Bletchley Park code-breaking team during World War II, three women from very different walks of life uncover a spy's dangerous agenda years later against the backdrop of the royal wedding of Elizabeth and Philip. *Alex Award List 2022, historical fiction*
- Rice, Waubgeshig. ***Moon of the Crusted Snow***. ECW Press, 2018. Fear and panic grip the residents of the remote Anishinaabe reservation after prolonged power outages and dwindling food supplies. Turning to the ancient ways, the residents and their unlikely leader hope to restore order to the chaos. *Dystopian*
- 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. *Historical fiction*
- 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. *Realistic fiction*
- 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, realistic fiction, magical realism*
- 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. *Fantasy*
- 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 a "home" in the USA than she ever expected. *Historical fiction*
- Shusterman, Neal and Jared Shusterman. ***Dry***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. A lengthy California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, turning Alyssa's quiet suburban street into a war zone, and she is forced to make impossible choices if she and her brother are to survive. *Science fiction, dystopian, survival, adventure*
- Stamper, Vesper. ***A Cloud of Outrageous Blue***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2020. When Edyth loses everything in an instant, she is sent to live in the priory where she bumps into a boy from her past and learns to navigate her new life while falling in love during the Great Plague of 1348. *Magical realism, historical fiction*
- 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. *Nonfiction*

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- 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, mystery*
- Van Pelt, Shelby. ***Remarkably Bright Creatures***. Ecco, 2022. Tova Sullivan is a widow who befriends Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus while working the night shift at Sowell Bay Aquarium. The unlikely friendship just may help Tova solve the 30-year mystery of her only son’s disappearance and heal the wounds of her past. *Realistic fiction*
- Weir, Andy. ***Project Hail Mary: A Novel***. Ballantine Books, 2021. While the earth’s sun is dimming at an alarming rate, high school science teacher Ryland Grace wakes up alone on a spacecraft millions of miles away from home and tries to save humankind with the help of an unexpected ally in this exhilarating thrill ride of a novel. *Science fiction*
- 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 to enroll in Brigham Young and eventually Cambridge for a Ph.D. *Alex Award 2019, nonfiction*
- 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. *Fantasy, science fiction, historical fiction*
- Yoon, Daniel. ***Frankly in Love***. Putnam, 2019. High school senior Frank Li creates a fool-proof plan to “fake date” a fellow Korean American so he can date a girl his parents won’t accept but all does not go smoothly as he comes to question everything he knows about love, his family, and himself. *Realistic fiction*
- 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 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. *Realistic fiction*
- 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. *Realistic fiction*

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