

HAI SLN 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*

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 5

- 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.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 5

- 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

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 5

- 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 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

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 5

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 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*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 5

- 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.
- 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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Grade 5

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