

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2025

### 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. This inspiring autobiography chronicles Sylvia Acevedo's upbringing in New Mexico in a working-class Mexican American family. It shows how her experiences in the Girl Scouts helped her become a rocket scientist, an executive in technology companies, and CEO of the Girl Scouts. *Memoir*
- 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. *Historical fiction*
- 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. *Historical fiction*
- Bagley, Jessixa. ***Duel***. Simon & Schuster, 2023. Two sisters, Lucy and GiGi, navigate their rivalry and grief over their father's death, culminating in a high-stakes fencing duel that could either mend or further fracture their relationship. *Sports fiction, graphic novel*
- Banbury, Steven. ***The Pumpkin Princess and the Forever Night***. Little, Brown, 2024. Attempting to escape from a terrible orphanage on Halloween, Eve is rescued by the Pumpkin King and taken to Hallowell, a secret community of the undead that faces a dark evil from within. *Scary, Series*
- Barnes, Derrick. ***Who Got Game? Baseball: Amazing but True Stories!*** Workman, 2020. This nonfiction book explores pivotal but lesser-known baseball players, such as Rube Foster, Hank Greenberg, Lizzie Murphy, and Sadaharu Oh, as well as various sensational stories, radical records, and colossal comebacks. *Nonfiction*
- 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. Still, their schemes go awry, and their friendship is put to the test. *Sports fiction, historical fiction*
- Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss. ***Sisterhood of Sleuths***. Little, Brown, 2022. When twelve-year-old Maizy finds a box full of vintage Nancy Drew books at her mom's thrift store and an old photograph of three women, this discovery leads her to investigate on her own. *Mystery*
- 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. *Mystery*
- 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 and to solve an ancient mystery that might be at the heart of his parents' disappearance. *Fantasy, Series*

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- Chan, A.Y. *The Legendary Mo Seto*. Aladdin, 2024. Mo Seto can't wait to audition for a martial arts movie and meet her idol, but when she realizes her mom won't let her try out and that she is too short to qualify, she takes matters into her own hands. She finds herself learning more about family secrets than she ever expected. *Action & Adventure, Series*
- Connor, Leslie. *Anybody Here Seen Frenchie?* Katherine Tegen, 2022. When eleven-year-old Aurora's best friend Frenchie, an autistic boy, goes missing in coastal Maine, she sets out to find him. *Realistic fiction*
- 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. *Fantasy, Series*
- Craft, Jerry. *New Kid*. Harper, 2019. Jordan Banks navigates through seventh grade as a new African American student at a prestigious school. *Realistic fiction, Newbery Medal, graphic novel*
- Day, Christine. *We Still Belong*. Heartdrum, 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 family and community at the intertribal powwow. *Realistic fiction*
- 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. *Nonfiction*
- 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. *Realistic fiction, 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 increase at school, her parents both become engaged, and police stop her and her stepbrother. *Realistic fiction*
- 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. *Action & Adventure, Newbery Medal*
- Elliot, Laura. *Bea and The New Deal Horse*. Katherine Tegen, 2023. When thirteen-year-old Bea and her sister are abandoned by her father in 1929, they are taken in by a family friend in exchange for farm work and bond with a stubborn horse. *Historical fiction*
- Glaser, Karina 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 live, and they work to take action against the city government's harmful policies. *Realistic fiction*

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- 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. *Realistic fiction, Series*
- 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. *Historical fiction*
- Harrington, C.C. ***Wildoak***. Scholastic, 2022. Twelve-year-old Maggie's stutter makes school extremely hard, but life changes when she finds Rumpus, an abandoned snow leopard, in a forest in Cornwall. *Historical fiction*
- 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. *Historical fiction*
- 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. *Science fiction*
- Hood, Susan. ***Lifeboat 12***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. In 1940, a group of British children, escaping the bombing of London, struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed by the Germans. *Historical fiction, novel in verse*
- Johnson, Varian. ***Twins***. Graphix, 2020. When best friends and twin sisters Maureen and Francine start sixth grade, they are trying to figure out what is important to each of them and who they are as individuals. *Realistic fiction, graphic novel*
- Jurmain, Suzanne. ***Murder on the Baltimore Express: The Plot to Keep Abraham Lincoln from Becoming President***. Yellow Jacket, 2021. This book chronicles 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. *Nonfiction*
- 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. *Realistic fiction*
- Kelly, Lynne. ***The Secret Language of Birds***. Delacorte, 2024. When Nina goes to overnight summer camp in Texas for the first time, she navigates new friendships and learns how to protect rare whooping cranes. *Realistic fiction*
- 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. *Humor*

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- Korman, Gordon. ***Faker***. Scholastic, 2024. In this entertaining and heartwarming story of a family of con artists, the father is the mastermind, and the kids are in on the con – until Trey takes an ethics class and begins questioning his father’s schemes. *Realistic fiction*
- Landis, Matthew. ***National Archive Hunters: Capitol Chase***. Pixel + Ink, 2024. Ten-year-old twins Ike and Iris race to find the thief stealing valuable historical artifacts before their family is framed for the crimes. *Mystery, Series*
- 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. *Fantasy*
- Lyll, Casey. ***Gnome Is Where Your Heart Is***. Greenwillow, 2023. Years ago, Grandpa Walt claimed he met an alien, and when his memory begins to fail him, his granddaughter Lemon decides to carry on the hunt even though her dad is dead set against it. *Science fiction*
- 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. *Realistic fiction*
- 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. *Realistic fiction, Newbery Medal*
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***Words on Fire***. Scholastic, 2019. While Audra is on the run from Cossack soldiers and searching for her missing parents, she realizes the importance of the mission to save the Lithuanian language and culture. She is in danger of becoming part of the resistance in 1893 Russian-controlled Lithuania. *Historical fiction*
- Ponti, James. ***City Spies***. Aladdin, 2020. After hacking into the NYC juvenile justice system, Sara Martinez is surprised 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. *Action & Adventure, Series*
- Reeves, Jordan, and Jen Lee Reeves. ***Born Just Right***. Aladdin, 2019. Though Jordan Reeves was born with a “little (left) arm,” her positive attitude and determination led her to invent a prosthetic arm at a STEM summer camp and establish the Born Just Right Foundation to help others fully engage in life. *Memoir*
- 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. *Action & Adventure*
- Robinson, Sharon. ***Child of the Dream: A Memoir of 1963***. Scholastic, 2019. This memoir by Jackie Robinson’s daughter details her teenage years at the height of the Civil Rights movement. *Memoir*
- Soontornvat, Christina. ***The Last Mapmaker***. Candlewick, 2022. When twelve-year-old Sai joins a celebrated mapmaker as his assistant to chart the southern seas, it turns out she’s on a much bigger and more dangerous adventure than she could have ever imagined. *Fantasy, Newbery Honor Book*

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- Standish, Ali. *The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall*. HarperCollins, 2023. Young Arthur Conan Doyle, of Sherlock Holmes fame, is offered a rare spot at the illusive Baskerville Hall, where he becomes embroiled in a dangerous caper involving a secret society. *Mystery, Series*
- Sullivan, Tom. *Escape at 10,000 Feet: D.B. Cooper and the Missing Money*. Balzer + Bray, 2021. This gripping nonfiction account details the 1971 airplane hijacking, the only unsolved one in U.S. history. *Graphic nonfiction*
- 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, but with only minutes remaining until her impending doom, Morrigan is whisked away to the magical land of Nevermoor, where she must compete in trials that will determine her fate. *Fantasy, 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. *Science fiction*
- Warga, Jasmine. *A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall*. HarperCollins, 2024. Someone has stolen a painting from the Penelope L. Brooks Museum, where Rami Ahmed's mother works supervising the cleaning crew. Will Rami use the help of his classmate, a ghost, and a tortoise to solve the mystery and clear his mother's name? *Mystery*
- 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. *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 and opportunities for readers to perform multi-part poems, this book of funny, informative poetry about our solar system truly sparkles. *Poetry*
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