

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023
Grades 1 and 2

*All book summaries are provided by the publisher or written by committee members.
available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Applegate, Katherine. ***Doggo and Pupper Save the World***. Feiwel and Friends, 2022. A new chapter book series introduces readers to an old dog who meets the new puppy to the household as it follows their adventures, while they form a beautiful friendship. *Series*
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Never Glue Your Friends to Chairs (Roscoe Riley Rules, Book 1)***. HarperCollins, 2016. When the first-graders' 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 Takes the Cake (Starla Jean, Book 2)***. Roaring Brook, 2021. Starla Jean returns in this much anticipated sequel. It is Willa's first birthday, and between big sister Starla Jean, her pet chicken Opal Egg, and her new neighbor Nate's pet kitten, there is bound to be chaos-- especially when it comes to baking a cake. *Series*
- Barnett, Mac. ***Jack Gets Zapped! (Jack Book)*** 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 who has been enlarged to Godzilla size and protect the world from an alien invasion. *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 honor. While dealing with the scorching desert heat and dirty tricks from another team, Bird and Squirrel are put to the ultimate test of endurance and

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sportsmanship. Along the way, the duo learns that, win or lose, having good friends and family will always get you to the finish line. *Graphic novel, series*

Butler, Dori Hillestad. ***King and Kayla and the Case of the Unhappy Neighbor (King and Kayla)***. 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 world-wide waters in the hilarious sixth book of this blockbuster graphic novel 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.

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.

Cummings, Troy. ***Rise of the Balloon Goons***. Scholastic, 2013. Alexander has just moved into Stermont, but because the elementary school is being torn down, his new classroom is located in the hospital morgue where he finds a notebook full of information about monsters--and everywhere he turns there are spooky balloon men determined to attack him. *Series*

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 stayed home.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***Franklin Endicott and the Third Key (Tales from Deckawoo Drive, Book 6)***. Candlewick, 2021. A constant worrier, Franklin Endicott earns

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a fresh cause for alarm when he accompanies Eugenia Lincoln to her favorite thrift shop and leaves with a mystery to solve. *Series*

Eaton, Maxwell. ***The Truth About Parrots***. Roaring Brook, 2021. An introduction to parrots 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.

Faruqi, Saadia. ***Yasmin the Detective (Yasmin)***. Picture Window Books, 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 use 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.

Feuti, Norm. ***Beak and Ally #1: Unlikely Friends***. HarperCollins, 2021. Ally the alligator is perfectly happy being alone until a noisy bird named Beak lands on her snout. (Geisel Honor Book). *Series*

Flintham, Thomas. ***Press Start: 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. Brian Floca, a Caldecott Winner, beautifully created 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 young boy runs away from home to rescue an abused baby dragon held captive to serve as a free twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week ferry for the lazy wild animals living on Wild Island. *Father's Dragon* (1948), *Elmer and the Dragon* (1950), and *The Dragons of Blueland* (1952) have been collected in one volume, fifty years after the publication of *My Father's Dragon*.

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- Greenawalt, Kelly. ***I Can Build It!*** Scholastic, 2020. Princess Truly is a great inventor! With her magic, 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! These rhyming, funny, and empowering short stories with full-color artwork and easy-to-read text throughout are perfect for new readers! *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. A celebration of art and the power of imagination. 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.
- Ho, Joanna. ***Eyes That Speak to the Stars***. HarperCollins, 2022. A young Chinese American boy discovers himself, his roots, and his potential. (*A companion to the Eyes that Kiss in the Corners*).
- 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.
- 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

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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.

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.

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 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*

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. ***Diary of a Pug: Pug Blasts Off.*** Scholastic, 2019. Enjoy the antics of a funny and adorable pug named Bub and his human, Bella, told from Bub's point of view. *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.

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. In the tradition of Shel Silverstein, these poems bring a fresh new twist to the classic dilemmas of childhood as well as a perceptive eye to the foibles of modern family life. Full of clever wordplay and bright visual gags—and toilet

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humor to spare—these twenty-three rhyming poems make for an ideal read-aloud experience.

- Mosca, Julia Finley. ***The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes: The Story of Dr. Patricia Bath***. Innovation Press, 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.
- 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 new 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. This is the hilarious tale of an ox who is in love with a gazelle, told in a series of letters.
- 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. ***Fox & Chick: Up and Down: and Other Stories***. Chronicle Books, 2022. In the tradition of Frog and Toad, this critically acclaimed early reader series features Fox and Chick—two unlikely friend. *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.
- 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?
- 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.
- 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. The inventive boy who described his ideal car and house in previous books is dreaming even bigger this time. *Series*
- Verde, Susan. ***I Am Love: A Book of Compassion.*** Abrams Books, 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. When a storm is brewing inside us and the skies grow dark, the transformative power of love lets the light back in. Includes heart-opening yoga poses and a guided meditation. *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 (Branches: Dragon Masters, Book 20)**. 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. In *We Are in a Book!* Gerald and Piggie discover the joy of being read. But what will happen when the book ends? *Series*
- 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 really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes-and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.
- 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.

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