

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

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.

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.

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.

Burgan, Michael. **Olympic Gold 1936: How the Image of Jesse Owens Crushed Hitler's Evil Myth**. Capstone, 2017. Track star Jesse Owens won multiple gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games—his performance crushed Hitler's view of Aryan superiority in every way, showing the world that personal character and skill have nothing to do with race.

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 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

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she must, with the help of her new friends and her own 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.

Eagar, Lindsay. ***Race to the Bottom of the Sea***. Candlewick, 2017. Still mourning her marine biologist parents' death, Fidelia is kidnapped from her librarian aunt's home by the pirate Merrick the Monstrous who needs her help with a risky dive in shark-infested waters to retrieve his lost treasure using her almost complete invention called the "Water-Eater."

Farrell, Mary C. ***Standing Up Against Hate: How Black Women in the Army Helped Change the Course of WWII***. Abrams Books, 2019. True stories of the African American women who enlisted as part of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps to help with the World War II effort while fighting racism in the country they were helping to protect.

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.

Gemeinhart, Dan. ***Good Dog***. Scholastic, 2018. Brodie was a good dog. And good dogs go to heaven. Except Brodie can't move on. Not just yet.

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.

Hale, Nathan. ***Lafayette!*** Amulet Books, 2018. At age 19, Major General Marquis de Lafayette left the luxuries of French nobility for adventure overseas, where he joined the American Revolution and fought alongside Alexander Hamilton and George Washington. *Graphic novel, series*

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- 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. In order 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*
- Hicks, Deron R. ***The Van Gogh Deception.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2017. When a young boy is discovered in Washington, DC's National Gallery of Art without any recollection of who he is, he must piece together the disjointed clues of his origins while using his limited knowledge to stop one of the greatest art frauds ever attempted.
- 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, 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.
- Johnson, Varian. ***The Parker Inheritance.*** Arthur A. Levine, 2018. Twelve-year-old Candice, who is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, finds herself caught up in the mystery of a lost inheritance; tries to exonerate her grandmother who had the city tennis courts dug up looking for this treasure; and exposes an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert.
- 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.

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- Lupica, Mike. **Strike Zone**. Philomel, 2019. Twelve-year-old Nick García dreams of winning MVP of his summer baseball league, of finding a cure for his sister, of meeting his hero, Yankee pitcher Michael Arroyo, and of 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.
- 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.
- 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 in 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*.
- 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.

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- 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.
- 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 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 still remains unsolved. *Graphic novel, series*
- 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

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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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Compiled by:

Christopher Gray, *St. John's School*

Ashleigh Manion, *Second Baptist School*

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

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

Cindy Schumacher, *Annunciation Orthodox School*

Jennifer Succi (Co-Chair), *Episcopal High School*

Ruth Stubbs, *The Kinkaid School*

Aria Tatelman, *formerly at Duchesne Academy*

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