

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*

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- 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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- 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*

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- 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, “hauling 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.
- Prasadam-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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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.

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- 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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