

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

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.

Anderson, John David. ***Stowaway***. Walden Pond Press, 2021. To save his father, a Coalition scientist protecting a precious resource, after their ship is attacked, Leo stows away on a strange ship of mercenary space pirates and must decide who to trust--human or alien--to stay alive. *Series*

Anderson, John David. ***The Greatest Kid in the World***. Walden Pond Press, 2023. Zeke Stahls is chosen to participate in an online contest for the World's Greatest Kid even though he is often the one that gets into trouble at school or is behind the pranks, however with a large cash prize of \$10,000 and his family struggling to pay all their bills Zeke must figure out how to be his best self and exactly what that means.

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.

Brown, Aly. ***The Last Unexplored Place on Earth: Investigating the Ocean Floor with Alvin the Submersible***. Feiwel and Friends, 2023. Dive miles down into the depths of the ocean with Alvin the Submersible, which has been used for everything from science exploration to shipwreck searching, while learning more about the last great frontier on Earth.

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.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 6

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

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 6

- Hernandez, Carlos. **Sal & Gabi Break the Universe**. Disney-Hyperion, 2019. 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*
- Hiaasen, Carl. **Wrecker**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2023. When fifteen-year-old Valdez Jones VIII, a.k.a Wrecker, unwittingly becomes entangled with a group of smugglers and grave robbers, he must deep-dive into their shady dealings to escape their twisted net.
- Higuera, Donna Barba. **Alebrijes**. Levine Querido. Thirteen-year-old pickpocket Leandro and his sister Gabi are part of a small group of humans who have survived on the barren wasteland of Earth for the last 400 years. As a part of a punishment, Leandro's consciousness is placed inside an ancient drone and left to fend on its own. Beyond the walls of the city of Pocatel, there are other alebrijes like Leandro who seek a better world.
- 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, Janet Sumner. **Final Word**. Pixel+Ink, 2023. Thirteen-year-old twins Hope and Gordon enter a spelling bee in a last-ditch effort to save their family from financial ruin, only to find themselves in a cut-throat competition to uncover a fortune and dark secrets about the wealthy relations they have never known.
- 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.
- 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.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 6

- Lupica, Mike. **Strike Zone**. Philomel, 2019. Twelve-year-old Nick García dreams of winning MVP of his summer baseball league, finding a cure for his sister, meeting his hero, Yankee pitcher Michael Arroyo, and 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.
- Martin, Pedro. **Mexikid**. Dial Books, 2023. Pedro Martin has grown up in the U.S. hearing stories about his legendary abuelito, but during a family road trip to Mexico, he connects with his grandfather and learns more about his own Mexican identity. *Graphic memoir. Newbery Honor Book, Pura Belpre Youth Illustration and Children's Author Award*
- 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.
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. **Iceberg**. Scholastic, 2023. Twelve-year-old Hazel Rothbury stows away aboard the Titanic and, with the help of a porter named Charlie and a first-class passenger named Sylvia, she sets out to explore the great ship, uncovering a haunting mystery--until the ship hits an iceberg and she must fight to save herself and her friends.
- 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 on 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

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 6

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.

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.

Shayne, Ralph. ***Hour of Need: The Daring Escape of the Danish Jews During World War II***. Yellow Jacket, 2023. A retelling of the brave efforts of the Danish Resistance to save the Danish Jewish population during World War II. *Graphic novel*

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 the 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.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 6

- 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 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 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*

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2024

Grade 6

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

Aaryn Silva, The Kinkaid School

Jennifer Succi (Co-Chair), Episcopal High School

Ruth Stubbs, St. Francis Episcopal School

Aria Tatelman, formerly at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart

Copyright © 2024 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network