



# **HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST**

## **2020**

## **About the HAISLN Recommended Reading List**

This list of titles has been compiled by librarians at member schools of the Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network (HAISLN). It includes both fiction and nonfiction books by some of the best authors for children and young adults.

Books on the list are evaluated annually by grade-level committees. Committee members rely on recommendations from standard, professionally prepared evaluation aids and on input from students and teachers, as well as the collective HAISLN expertise. A conscious effort is made to appeal to the broad range of interests, maturity levels, and reading abilities of students.

In most cases the number of books by any given author is limited to one or two per grade level list. An older title with superior literary quality may remain on the list despite newer publications by the same author. Before reading a recommended author's book that does not appear on the student's grade list, readers should be aware that authors often write for multiple interest and age levels. Books that are part of a series are also noted, but not all books in a series are necessarily appropriate at the indicated grade level.

Students may find that some titles that are required reading for their classes appear on this list. Be advised that if a book for required reading is selected for independent reading, it may have to be re-read with the class at a later date.

This list is offered as one possible source of reading guidance. Additional lists of award winners and recommended books may be obtained from your school or public librarian. We hope that books from this list bring students many hours of enjoyment and encourage the life-long love of reading.

*Houston, Texas  
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## **HAISLN Recommended Reading List 2020**

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**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten**

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Agee, Jon. ***It's Only Stanley***. Dial Books, 2015. The very strange noises that keep awakening the Wimbledon family one night have an even stranger source.
- Antony, Steve. ***I'll Wait, Mr. Panda***. Scholastic, 2016. Mr. Panda is making something, and all of his animal friends are interested—but only Penguin is willing to wait to see what it is. *Series*
- Arnosky, Jim. ***Rabbits & Raindrops***. Puffin, 1997. Five baby rabbits follow their mother as she takes them out of their nest, but when it begins to rain they retreat to their home, accompanied by other creatures who need shelter.
- Bates, Amy June and Juniper Bates. ***The Big Umbrella***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. A spacious umbrella welcomes anyone and everyone who needs shelter from the rain.
- Beaty, Andrea. ***Doctor Ted***. McElderry Books, 2008. After bumping his knee one morning, Ted decides to become a doctor, but he has only one problem – he has no patients.
- Bee, William. ***Stanley's Garage***. Peachtree, 2014. Friends bring their cars with problems to Stanley, and he knows just how to fix them. *Series*
- Berger, Samantha. ***I Love My Glam-ma!*** Orchard Books, 2019. Grandmothers go by many different names, but they are all glamorous and special to the children that they love and who love them.
- Berkner, Laurie. ***Monster Boogie***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. A simple song about monsters and how they like to dance is presented.
- Bloom, Suzanne. ***Oh! What a Surprise!*** Boyds Mills, 2012. Fox is curious when she sees her friends Goose and Bear making presents and hopes that one of them might be for her, but then she worries that they might not be making anything for her and decides to make her own gifts for them. *Series*
- Boudreau, Helene. ***I Dare You Not to Yawn***. Candlewick, 2013. A comical cautionary tale for bedtime-resistant youngsters which challenges them to avoid yawning.
- Burach, Ross. ***I Am Not a Chair!*** HarperCollins, 2017. A giraffe's day goes from bad to worse when every animal he encounters mistakes him for a chair!
- Campbell, Scott. ***Hug Machine***. Atheneum, 2014. The hug machine is available to hug anyone, any time, whether they are square or long, spiky or soft.
- Cherry, Matthew A. ***Hair Love***. Penguin Random House, 2019. A little girl's daddy helps her arrange her wild hair in a natural, beautiful way.

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- Chriscoe, Sharon. ***Bulldozer Dreams***. Running Press Kids, 2017. After a long day at work, a bulldozer is tired and ready for bed, but first he must park his machine, take a bath, eat some supper, and choose a bedtime story.
- Christelow, Eileen. ***Five Little Monkeys Wash the Car***. Clarion, 2000. Five little monkeys wash the family car before trying to sell it, but that is only the beginning of their adventures with the old heap. *Series*
- Collier, Bryan. ***It's Shoe Time!*** Hyperion, 2017. If you choose to wear unmatched shoes, can they still be a pair? *Elephant & Piggie Like Reading! series*
- Cooper, Elisha. ***8: An Animal Alphabet***. Orchard Books, 2015. Discover hundreds of animals, from aardvark to zebu, and find out why for each letter of the alphabet one animal is shown eight times.
- Cousins, Lucy. ***Maisy Goes to the Library***. Candlewick, 2005. Maisy goes to the library in search of a book about fish and a quiet place in which to read it.
- Davis, Katie. ***Who Hops?*** Harcourt, 1998. Creatures that hop, fly, slither, swim, and crawl are listed, inviting kids to learn how different animals move about.
- Dean, Kim. ***Pete the Kitty's First Day of PreSchool***. HarperFestival, 2019. Pete the Kitty has his first day of preschool, where he meets the teacher, sings fun songs, and paints a picture.
- Delaney, Celeste. ***ABC Ready for School: An Alphabet of Social Skills***. Free Spirit, 2018. Social skills needed in school are described from A to Z.
- Dewdney, Anna. ***Llama Llama Time to Share***. Viking, 2012. Llama finds out it is better to share after playing with a friend leads to tears and broken toys.
- Dunlap, Cirocco. ***Crunch, the Shy Dinosaur***. Random House, 2018. A shy brontosaurus would like to play but needs some encouragement in this book that subtly provides lessons in friend-making.
- Duquenois, Jacques. ***Opposites***. Twirl, 2018. Best friends Zoe and Zack have a good time learning all about opposites. *Board book*
- Dyckman, Ame. ***Tea Party Rules***. Viking, 2013. A little girl bosses a bear cub at her tea party, making him follow all the rules before she will let him eat any of the cookies.
- Ehlert, Lois. ***Leaf Man***. Harcourt, 2005. Featuring die-cut pages, this is the story of a man made of leaves who blows away, traveling wherever the wind may take him.
- Elya, Susan Middleton. ***La Madre Goose: Nursery Rhymes for Los Niños***. Putnam's, 2016. This collection of classic nursery rhymes is laced with Spanish words mixed in with sentences in English.

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- Emberley, Ed. ***Nighty Night, Little Green Monster***. Little, Brown, 2013. With the turn of each page, see Little Green Monster begin to disappear and then reappear as the stars come out and it is time to say good night.
- Falconer, Ian. ***Olivia...and the Missing Toy***. Atheneum, 2003. When her best toy mysteriously disappears, Olivia the feisty pig is determined to find out who is responsible. *Series*
- Fearing, Mark. ***Giant Pants***. Candlewick, 2017. After searching high and low for his missing pants, Belbum the giant asks his friends if he can borrow their trousers, but when none of the clothes fit him he realizes there is only one thing to do—walk to the tailor in town with no pants on.
- Ferry, Beth. ***The Scarecrow***. Harper, 2019. The comforting power of friendship and the joy of helping others are celebrated.
- Fleming, Candace. ***Tippy-tippy-tippy-hide!*** Atheneum, 2007. Mr. McGreeley shared his carrots with three little bunnies during the summer, but he has no intention of letting them share his house during the winter.
- Fleming, Denise. ***Mama Cat Has Three Kittens***. Holt, 1998. While two kittens copy everything their mother does, their brother naps.
- Fox, Mem. ***Good Night, Sleep Tight***. Orchard Books, 2013. In this book with rhyming text, Bonnie and Ben's favorite babysitter reads them nursery rhymes before putting them to bed.
- Foxworthy, Jeff. ***Dirt on My Shirt: Selected Poems***. Harper, 2013. In this hilarious collection of poems, comedian Jeff Foxworthy creates a neighborhood filled with fun, friends, family, and more.
- Frost, Robert. ***The Road Not Taken***. Familius, 2019. Beautiful illustrations inspired by this well-known poem show a young boy who must make a choice between two paths, something he must do at each intersection of his life.
- Gibson, Ginger Foglesong. ***Tiptoe Joe***. Greenwillow, 2013. A bear invites all of the animals to follow him through the trees, on tiptoe, to see a special surprise.
- Gravett, Emily. ***Tidy***. Simon & Schuster, 2017. When a badger tries to tidy up the forest too much, he finds that the unintended consequences can lead to disaster.
- Henkes, Kevin. ***My Garden***. Greenwillow, 2010. After helping her mother weed, water, and chase the rabbits from their garden, a young girl imagines her dream garden complete with jellybean bushes, chocolate rabbits, and tomatoes the size of beach balls.
- Higgins, Ryan T. ***Bruce's Big Move***. Disney-Hyperion, 2017. Bruce does not want to share his den with the four geese and three mice who have crowded in, so he decides it's time to look for a new home. *Series*

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- Hill, Melanie Heuiser. ***Around the Table That Grandad Built***. Candlewick, 2019. In this cumulative tale, a multi-ethnic family adds to the table everything they need for a joyous celebration, with gratitude for the bounty served and for everyone who has gathered there.
- Hudson, Katy. ***The Runaway Egg***. Random House, 2017. Following Mama Hen's request, Chick reluctantly babysits his brother-to-be, an energetic egg.
- Idle, Molly. ***Flora and the Chicks***. Chronicle Books, 2017. In this counting board book with interactive flaps, Flora, a young dancer, attempts to keep up as more and more friendly chicks emerge from their nest.
- James, Simon. ***Mr. Scruff***. Candlewick, 2019. Jim finds a scruffy-looking dog in the rescue shelter and even though they don't seem like a good match, they manage to form a strong friendship.
- Jarvis, Peter. ***Alan's Big, Scary Teeth***. Candlewick, 2016. Alan like to scare others with his big sharp teeth, but he has a big secret that is not so scary.
- Javernick, Ellen. ***What If Everybody Did That?*** Two Lions, 2010. A child learns that there are consequences for thoughtless behavior, from feeding popcorn to a bear at the zoo to dropping an empty can out of a car window.
- Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page. ***Who Am I?: An Animal Guessing Game***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. Readers are given colorful clues and asked to guess the animal they will see when they turn the page.
- Kang, Anna. ***We Are (Not) Friends***. Two Lions, 2019. Two fuzzy friends have a decision to make when a third creature comes along and wants to join the fun.
- Keats, Ezra Jack. ***The Snowy Day***. Viking, 1962. The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day are described. *Caldecott Medal 1963*
- Kent, Derek Taylor. ***El Perro con Sombrero: A Bilingual Doggy Tale***. Holt, 2015. Although Pepe achieves fame and fortune as a movie star dog, much to the chagrin of a movie star cat, Pepe longs for a family.
- Klausmeier, Jesse. ***Open This Little Book***. Chronicle Books, 2013. Pages of decreasing, then increasing, size open to reveal different animals, each opening a book of a different color and reading about the next.
- Light, Steve. ***Swap!*** Candlewick, 2016. A peg-legged youngster uses his bartering skills to trade for sails, an anchor, a ship's wheel, and other necessary supplies to fix his ship and makes a new friend in the process.
- Limentani, Alison. ***How Much Does a Ladybug Weigh?*** Boxer Books, 2016. In this counting book about weight, the size of different animals is compared and the reader can see and learn, for example, that three rabbits weigh the same as one fox cub.

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- Lin, Grace. ***A Big Bed for Little Snow***. Little, Brown, 2019. When winter comes, Mommy makes a soft bed for Little Snow to sleep on, but each night he cannot resist jumping on the bed, causing tiny feathers to fly down.
- Llenas, Anna. ***The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions***. Little, Brown, 2018. Emotions are explained through the use of different colors, helping an adorable monster to sort and define his feelings in order to arrive at self-awareness and peace.
- Low, William. ***Trucks to the Rescue!*** Holt, 2017. Great artwork depicts different kinds of trucks coming to the rescue to solve problems, such as a fire engine, a dump truck, a tow truck, and more.
- Lyons, Shelly. ***Signs in My Neighborhood***. Capstone, 2013. Neighborhood signs such as stop signs, traffic signals, street signs, and crosswalks are described with explanations about why they are important.
- Markes, Julie. ***Shhhhh! Everybody's Sleeping***. HarperCollins, 2005. A young child is encouraged to go to sleep by the thought of everyone else sleeping, from teacher to baker to postman.
- Martin, Emily Winfield. ***The Wonderful Things You Will Be***. Random House, 2015. Illustrations and simple, rhyming text reveal a parent's musings about what a child will become, knowing that the child's kindness, cleverness, and boldness will shine through no matter what, as will the love they share.
- Marzollo, Jean. ***Pierre the Penguin: A True Story***. Sleeping Bear Press, 2010. Rhyming text and colorful illustrations describe the effort of aquatic biologist Pam to help an African penguin in California when he begins to go bald.
- Mazo, Margarita del. ***My Big Bear, My Little Bear, and Me***. NubeOcho, 2019. In this translation of *Mio Oso Grande, Mi Oso Pequeno y Yo*, a young child is happy to have a big bear to take care of her and a small teddy to share her adventures with friends.
- McCarthy, Meghan. ***Astronaut Handbook***. Knopf, 2008. Astronaut school explains what is involved in becoming an astronaut and what living in outer space is like.
- McNulty, Faith. ***If You Decide to Go to the Moon***. Scholastic, 2005. Instructions are given to anyone who wants to go to the moon, including the important information about how to return home!
- McPhail, David. ***The Searcher and Old Tree***. Charlesbridge, 2008. A raccoon forages for food at night and at dawn returns to its home in a strong, old tree which safely shelters the raccoon through wild winds and ferocious rain so that it can go out searching for food again.
- Miller, Pat Zietlow. ***Remarkably You***. Harper, 2019. Rhyming text encourages young readers to discover what they are good at and use it to make a difference in big ways or in small ones.



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- Miller, Sharee. ***Princess Hair***. Little, Brown, 2017. Little girls pretending to be princesses celebrate the different shapes, textures, and styles of their black hair.
- Moore, Eva. ***Lucky Ducklings***. Orchard Books, 2013. While following their mother through town, five little ducklings fall into a storm drain.
- Mora, Oge. ***Saturday***. Little, Brown, 2019. When all of their special Saturday plans go awry, Ava and her mother still find a way to appreciate one another and their time together.
- Morris, Ann. ***Houses and Homes***. HarperCollins, 1992. Colorful photographs show different kinds of houses around the world, and simple text explains what makes them homes.
- Murphy, Stuart J. ***Double the Ducks***. HarperCollins, 2003. Simple multiplication is used in this story of a boy who cares for five ducks, but when each duck brings home a friend, his work doubles. *MathStart series*
- Odgers, Sally. ***Good Night, Truck***. Feiwei and Friends, 2016. Trucks and other vehicles say good night to each other in this soothing bedtime book.
- Parr, Todd. ***The Earth Book***. Little, Brown, 2010. Easy ways to take care of planet Earth and conserve resources are explained with simple text and colorful illustrations.
- Pinkney, Jerry. ***The Lion & the Mouse***. Little, Brown, 2009. In this wordless retelling of the Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle. *Caldecott Medal 2010*.
- Pizzoli, Greg. ***The Watermelon Seed***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. After swallowing a watermelon seed, a crocodile imagines a scary outcome.
- Portis, Antoinette. ***Wait***. Roaring Brook, 2015. A simple, sweet picture book about the joys of waiting and taking in what is around you.
- Razi, Michael. ***Frank the Seven-Legged Spider***. Little Bigfoot, 2017. Frank loves making beautiful webs, scaring humans, running, and scurrying, but after waking up one morning missing a leg, he wonders if he is still a spider.
- Reidy, Jean. ***Truman***. Atheneum, 2019. He may be slow but Truman the turtle is determined to find his girl Sarah, who has boarded a city bus on her way to preschool.
- Rinker, Sherri Duskey. ***Steam Train, Dream Train***. Chronicle Books, 2013. In this book with rhyming text, the dream train pulls into the station and all the different cars are loaded by the animal workers, each with the appropriate cargo.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***Yes Day!*** HarperCollins, 2009. A little boy gets everything he asks for on Yes Day, a special day that only comes once a year.

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- Salmieri, Daniel. ***Bear and Wolf***. Enchanted Lion Books, 2018. Bear and Wolf meet each other and enjoy walks in the forest together, enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells in winter and then again in spring.
- Sayre, April Pulley. ***Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet***. Greenwillow, 2018. A love letter to the Earth which helps us understand all the things that our world provides us and for which we should be thankful.
- Schertle, Alice. ***Little Blue Truck Leads the Way***. Harcourt, 2009. A country truck feels out of place in the speedy, noisy city until he comes to the rescue during a giant traffic jam.
- Sidman, Joyce. ***Round***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. With text from poet Joyce Sidman and beautiful artwork by Taeun Yoo, readers are invited to look for round objects in nature.
- Slobodkina, Esphyr. ***Caps for Sale and the Mindful Monkeys***. Harper, 2017. As the peddler sells his caps the playful monkeys become troublesome by following his every move, but just when he thinks they are no good, the monkeys surprise him.
- Smith, Lane. ***A Perfect Day***. Roaring Brook, 2017. The animals in Bert's backyard discover that a perfect day means something different for each of them.
- Stainton, Sue. ***I Love Dogs***. Katherine Tegen, 2014. The many types of dogs and the different shapes, sizes, textures, and temperaments they can have are celebrated.
- Stewart, Melissa. ***Under the Snow***. Peachtree, 2019. This book describes a journey through the fields, forests, ponds and wetlands to see how animals survive in the snowy winter months, and when the sun's rays grow stronger, we see them get ready for springtime.
- Strasser, Susanne. ***So Light, So Heavy***. Charlesbridge, 2018. With an elephant on one end of the teeter-totter, it takes a lot of animals on the other side—and one child—before the teeter-totter will start to move up and down. *Board book*
- Sturges, Philemon. ***I Love Bugs!*** HarperCollins, 2005. A boy extols the various characteristics of bugs, all of whom he loves.
- Teckentrup, Britta. ***Bee: A Peek-Through Picture Book***. Doubleday, 2016. With holes to peek through, children can see how honeybees go about their busy day helping to pollinate beautiful flowers and contributing to the health of the environment.
- Thomas, Jan. ***Let's Sing a Lullaby with the Brave Cowboy***. Beach Lane Books, 2012. Brave Cowboy tries to sing his young calf pals to sleep on a dark, dark night, with humorous results.
- Vestergaard, Hope. ***Digger, Dozer, Dumper***. Candlewick, 2013. In this book of sixteen poems, young readers meet their favorite trucks and vehicles face-to-face.
- Wan, Joyce. ***The Bear in My Bed***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018. A child faces the challenging task of putting a bear to bed.

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- Ward, Jennifer. ***Mama Built a Little Nest***. Beach Lane Books, 2014. Illustrations and simple, rhyming text introduce different kinds of birds' nests, from the scrapes falcons build on high craggy ledges to the underground nests burrowing owls dig. Included are brief facts about each kind of bird.
- Wellington, Monica. ***Pizza at Sally's***. Dutton, 2006. Using vegetables from her own garden and other fresh ingredients, Sally mixes them all together and bakes hot and bubbly pizzas for her customers to take home or eat in her pizzeria.
- Wells, Rosemary. ***Use Your Words, Sophie***. Viking, 2015. When her new sister won't stop crying, only two-year-old Sophie can communicate with her using the right words to stop her crying and also choose her name. *Series*
- Willems, Mo. ***The Thank You Book***. Hyperion, 2016. Gerald is afraid Piggie will forget someone when he finds out she is determined to thank everyone she knows. *Series*
- Wilson, Karma. ***Bear Can't Sleep***. McElderry Books, 2018. Bear can't seem to get to sleep so that he can hibernate through the winter until his friends join together to help him. *Series*
- Wilson-Max, Ken. ***Astro Girl***. Candlewick, 2019. After Astrid tells her father that she wants to be an astronaut, he tells her of all the things that astronauts have to do.
- Yolen, Jane. ***How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?*** Blue Sky Press, 2003. This colorful book describes all the things that young dinosaurs should do in order to quickly get over being sick. *Series*
- Yuly, Toni. ***Night Owl***. Feiwel and Friends, 2015. A baby owl flies through the night, listening carefully for different sounds as he tries to find Mommy Owl.

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## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

*ny available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Adderson, Caroline. ***Not in Love***. Kids Can Press, 2014. Jasper John Dooley is not happy to be paired with Isabel, who really likes him, for a reading partner, but when he goes to her house and plays on the trampoline, he begins to change his mind. *Series*
- Adler, David A. ***Don't Throw it to Mo***. Penguin Press, 2015. Although Mo, the youngest kid on the Robins football team, is being teased, his coach has a plan to turn things around.
- Alexander, Kwame. ***Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band***. Sleeping Bear Press, 2011. Acoustic Rooster forms a jazz band with Duck Ellington, Bee Holliday, and Pepe Ernesto Cruz to compete in the annual Barnyard Talent Show against such greats as Thelonius Monkey, Mules Davis, and Ella Finchgerald. Includes glossary, notes on the characters and songs, and jazz timeline.
- Appelt, Kathi. ***Mogie: The Heart of the House***. Atheneum, 2014. A rambunctious puppy finds a home at the Ronald McDonald House, a place that houses sick children and their families while they undergo treatment.
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla***. Clarion, 2014. This picture book is an introduction to the true story of Ivan, the shopping mall gorilla that inspired the Newbery-winning novel ***The One and Only Ivan***.
- Archer, Micha. ***Daniel Finds a Poem***. Nancy Paulsen, 2016. When Daniel sees a sign for poetry in the park on Sunday, he spends the week asking animals he encounters in the park, "What is poetry?" and has his poem to share on Sunday.
- Arnold, Tedd. ***Fly Guy Presents: Bats***. Scholastic, 2015. Learn all about bats with Fly Guy! *Series*
- Asim, Jabari. ***Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington***. Little, Brown, 2012. This illustrated picture book follows young Booker T. Washington as he desires and perseveres to go to college and earn a degree.
- Aureliani, Franco. ***Dino-Mike and the Lunar Showdown***. Stone Arch Books, 2016. Mike and Shannon take to space to face off against their archnemesis, Mr. Bones, in a lunar showdown of dino-sized proportions, finally realizing that Mr. Bones isn't at all what he seems to be! *Series*
- Banks, Kate. ***Max's Math***. Frances Foster Books, 2015. Max is looking for problems to solve on this fun adventure in math that culminates in a rocket launch.
- Barnett, Mac. ***The Important Thing about Margaret Wise Brown***. Balzer + Bray, 2019. This picture book biography of the children's book author shares insights into her life and enduring literary influence.

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### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Barrows, Annie. ***Ivy + Bean***. Chronicle Books, 2006. When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. *Series*
- Beaty, Andrea. ***Ada Twist, Scientist***. Abrams Books, 2016. Ada Twist is a very curious girl who shows perseverance by asking questions and performing experiments to find things out and understand the world.
- Bell, Cece. ***Rabbit & Robot and Ribbit***. Candlewick, 2016. Rabbit is excited to surprise Robot with a visit, but Robot already has his friend Ribbit over to play, and Rabbit is not so sure about Ribbit. *Series*
- 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***. Scholastic, 2016. In this illustrated chapter book series, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Shark, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Piranha want to be heroes, and they decide that the way to do it is to free the 200 dogs in the city dog pound--but their plan soon goes awry. *Series*
- Blabey, Aaron. ***Thelma the Unicorn***. Scholastic, 2017. Told in rhyme, Thelma the pony wants to be a unicorn--but when her wish comes true she discovers that there is a downside to fame and realizes that she was happier at home with her friend.
- Bottner, Barbara. ***Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don't)***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. A first-grade girl--who does not like to read--stubbornly resists her school librarian's efforts to convince her to love books until she finds one that might change her mind.
- Broach, Elise. ***The Miniature World of Marvin & James***. Henry Holt, 2015. When his best friend, a human boy named James, goes away on vacation, Marvin the beetle worries that their friendship may end. *Series*
- Brown, Don. ***A Wizard from the Start: The Incredible Boyhood and Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Introduces young children to the life and inventions of Thomas Edison.
- Burks, James. ***Bird & Squirrel On the Edge!*** Graphix, 2015. Laughter ensues in Burks' third graphic novel featuring Bird and Squirrel. Amnesia, crossing a mountain, and rescuing a baby bear keep this Bird and Squirrel adventure laughter filled. *Series*
- Butler, Dori Hillestad. ***King and Kayla and the Case of the Secret Code***. Peachtree, 2017. When a mysterious letter written in code arrives at King's house for his human, Kayla, he follows the trail of the person who left it. *Series*
- Chabon, Michael. ***The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man***. Balzer + Bray, 2011. A young superhero describes his awesome powers, which he then demonstrates as various foes arrive on the scene.

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### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Chin, Jason. **Gravity.** Roaring Brook, 2014. Minimal text and enthralling illustrations provide an introduction to the concept of gravity and explain what would happen without gravity. Additionally, specific and easy to understand information is included in the afterward.
- Churnin, Nancy. **The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game.** Whitman, 2016. When deaf professional baseball player William Hoy asks an umpire to use hand signals for calls, it changes the way the game is played forever.
- Clanton, Ben. **Super Narwhal and Jelly Jolt.** Tundra Books, 2017. Join Narwhal and his best friend Jelly on three new undersea adventures told in graphic novel format. *Series*
- Clinton, Chelsea. **She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World.** Philomel, 2018. A nonfiction picture book compilation of the stories of thirteen American women who persisted in overcoming obstacles and changing the world.
- Coleman, Evelyn. **White Socks Only.** Whitman, 1996. Grandma tells the story about her first trip alone into town during the days when segregation still existed in Mississippi.
- 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.
- Coy, John. **Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball.** Carolrhoda Books, 2013. In 1891 James Naismith invented basketball as a game of skill to keep the unruly students in his gym class engaged.
- 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*
- Davies, Nicola. **Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes.** Candlewick, 2014. This engaging introduction to microbes explains how some of the smallest things on Earth have really big jobs.
- Davis, Jill. **Orangutans Are Ticklish: Fun Facts from an Animal Photographer.** Schwartz & Wade, 2010. Provides interesting facts about animals and explores what it takes to photograph them, with animal photographer Steve Grubman sharing some of his favorite, and scariest, encounters.
- Daywalt, Drew. **The Day the Crayons Came Home.** Philomel, 2015. One day, Duncan is happily coloring with his crayons when a stack of postcards arrives in the mail from his former crayons, each of whom has run away or been left behind, and all of whom want to come home.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Deedy, Carmen Agra. ***The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!*** Scholastic, 2017. When the mayor of a noisy village passes harsh rules about singing, a persistent rooster inspires the villagers to rebel and bring back singing.
- Dempsey, Kristy. ***A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream.*** Philomel, 2014. A young girl growing up in Harlem in the 1950s dreams of becoming a prima ballerina one day and is thrilled to see a performance by Janet Collins, the first "colored" prima ballerina.
- DePaola, Tomie. ***When Andy Met Sandy.*** Simon & Schuster, 2016. Andy has the playground to himself until a new girl, Sandy, arrives. *Series*
- Diggs, Taye. ***Mixed Me!*** Feiwel and Friends, 2015. Mike, a mixed-race boy, answers all the questions about being mixed with lots of energy and joy.
- Dutcher, Jim and Jamie. ***A Friend for Lakota: The Incredible True Story of a Wolf Who Braved Bullying.*** National Geographic, 2015. Lakota, the shy wolf pup, is picked on by the other wolves until Matsi blocks the others' nips, and Lakota learns to be more courageous.
- Egan, Tim. ***Dodsworth in Tokyo.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Dodsworth and his misbehaving duck continue their journeys with a trip to Tokyo. Again, Dodsworth must come to the rescue of the duck as he causes a series of mishaps. *Series*
- Elliott, Rebecca. ***Eva's Treetop Festival.*** Scholastic, 2015. Having a Bloomtastic Festival at school to celebrate spring is a great idea - but Eva Wingdale, a young owl, discovers that it is also a lot of work, and there is nothing wrong with asking her friends for help. *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.
- Feder, Sandra V. ***Daisy's Big Night.*** Kids Can Press, 2014. Daisy loves poetry, and she must find a way to use it as her special talent in her school's talent show.
- Florian, Douglas. ***UnBEElievables: Honeybee Poems and Paintings.*** Beach Lane, 2012. Fourteen funny, fact-filled poems inform the reader about the wonderful life of bees and their role in our ecosystem.
- Green, Poppy. ***A New Friend.*** Little Simon, 2015. Eight-year-old Sophie Mouse is excited to return to school after the long winter break, but there is a new student-a snake-and Sophie and the other animals are afraid to sit near him, much less ask him to play with them, because they have heard that snakes are awful. *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*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Haas, Jessie. ***Bramble and Maggie: Horse Meets Girl***. Candlewick, 2012. Maggie, a little girl who longs for a horse of her own, finds her match in Bramble, a horse who has grown tired of riding lessons and walking in circles. *Series*
- Hale, Shannon. ***The Princess in Black Takes a Vacation***. Candlewick, 2016. Even monster-battling princesses get tired sometimes, but a peaceful time away is hard to find! *Series*.
- Hanlon, Abby. ***Dory Fantasmagory***. Dial Books, 2014. Dory, the youngest in the family, is a girl with a very active imagination, and she spends the summer playing with her imaginary friend, pretending to be a dog, battling monsters, and generally driving her family nuts. *Series*
- Heos, Bridget. ***I, Fly: The Buzz About Flies and How Awesome They Are***. Holt, 2015. In this fact-filled narrative, Fly explains why his species is cooler than butterflies, who seem to get all the attention.
- Hernandez, Laurie. ***She's Got This***. Harper, 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.
- Hoberman, Mary Ann, ed. ***Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart***. Little, Brown, 2012. A collection of more than 120 poems for children to learn, including selections from classic and contemporary poets, with tips and tricks from former Children's Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman on memorization and recitation.
- Holm, Jennifer. ***Super Amoeba***. Random House, 2011. The young amoeba Squish, inspired by his favorite comic book hero, Super Amoeba, tries to navigate his way through school to save his friends, and the world, from the evils that lurk in the halls. *Series*
- Jamieson, Victoria. ***The Great Pet Escape***. Holt, 2016. A young graphic novel chapter book about the escape escapades of class pets at Daisy P. Flugelhorn Elementary School.
- 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.
- Kaplan, Michael. ***Betty Bunny Wants a Goal***. Dial Books, 2014. When a young rabbit quits soccer after a disappointing first game, her family encourages her to keep trying. *Series*
- 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.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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 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.
- 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.
- Lin, Grace. ***Ling & Ting: Twice as Silly***. Little, Brown, 2014. Identical twins Ling and Ting like to be silly, tell jokes, and laugh together. *Series*
- Lobel, Arnold. ***Frog and Toad Are Friends***. 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.
- Marko, Cyndi. ***Let's Get Cracking!*** Scholastic, 2014. Gordon Blue and his brother, Benny, unlikely superheroes, must save Fowladelphia from Granny Goosebumps, who has filled the city with cookies that cause innocent chickens' feathers to fall off. *Series*
- Marshall, James. ***Fox On the Job***. Puffin, 1988. Fox tries several different jobs to earn money. *Series*
- Mattick, Lindsay. ***Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear***. Little, Brown, 2015. A fictionalized account of Captain Harry Coleburn's relationship with a bear cub in 1914, which he rescued while on his way to care for soldiers' horses during World War I and became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.
- McCleery, Peter. ***Bob and Joss Get Lost***. HarperCollins, 2016. Two best friends get more than they bargained for in this funny adventure when they are shipwrecked on what may or may not be a deserted island.
- McDonald, Megan. ***Stink and the Ultimate Thumb-Wrestling Smackdown***. Candlewick, 2011. When Stink Moody gets a "U" (for Unsatisfactory) in gym, he turns first to thumb-wrestling, then to karate, to give him a sporting edge. *Series*
- McMullan, Kate. ***Pearl and Wagner: Five Days Till Summer***. Penguin Press, 2012. Pearl and her friend Wagner, on the verge of moving up to Ms. Bean's first grade class, worry about their new teacher being "mean" until something surprising changes their minds... *Series*
- Medina, Juana. ***Juana and Lucas***. Candlewick, 2016. Juana lives in Bogota, Colombia, and loves drawing and her dog, Lucas, but she does not love having to learn English. When her abuelos plan a trip - one that will require speaking in English - she reconsiders. *Pura Belpré Award 2017*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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.
- Nees, Susan. ***Missy's Super Duper Royal Deluxe Picture Day.*** Scholastic, 2013. After her mother helps with her outfit, Missy is afraid her school picture will not be special this year. *Series*
- O'Ryan, Ray. ***Hello, Nebulon!*** Little Simon, 2013. Moving from Earth to the futuristic planet Nebulon in 2120, eight-year-old Galaxy Zack is nervous about starting school and meeting people. *Series*
- Parish, Herman. ***Amelia Bedelia Means Business.*** Greenwillow, 2013. Amelia Bedelia wants a new bike, but her parents will only pay for half of the bike, so Amelia Bedelia needs to find a job to earn enough money for the bike of her dreams. *Series*
- Petty, Dev. ***I Don't Want to be a Frog.*** Doubleday, 2015. A frog who yearns to be any animal that is cute and warm discovers that being wet, slimy, and full of bugs has its advantages.
- 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 series of letters.
- Reynolds, Peter H. ***The Dot.*** Candlewick, 2003. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." This sage advice, offered by her teacher, sets the young heroine on a journey of self-expression, artistic experimentation, and success.
- 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 becomes a pioneer in computer programming and a hero in the Apollo 11 mission.
- 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.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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.
- 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.
- Selznick, Brian, and David Serlin. ***Baby Monkey, Private Eye.*** Scholastic Press, 2018. Baby Monkey, private eye, will investigate stolen jewels, missing pizzas, and other mysteries – if he can manage to figure out how to put his pants on.
- Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman, and Mitchell Sharmat. ***Nate the Great and the Hungry Book Club.*** Delacorte, 2009. Rosamond, who starts a book club, claims there is a monster on the loose that is ruining pages of her cookbook, which leads Nate the Great and his dog Sludge to investigate as undercover detectives. *Series*
- Sidman, Joyce. ***Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2011. An illustrated exploration of various examples of spirals appearing in nature, looking at snail shells, flower petals, elephant tusks, crashing waves, and more.
- Snyder, Laurel. ***Charlie and Mouse.*** Chronicle Books, 2017. Charlie and Mouse, two young brothers, enjoy a day out together, attending an imaginary party and collecting rocks.
- Sotomayor, Sonia. ***Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You.*** Philomel Books, 2019. A group of children with different abilities and strengths come together to build a community garden. *Schneider Family Book Award 2020*
- Spires, Ashley. ***The Most Magnificent Thing.*** Kids Can Press, 2014. A little girl has creative ideas to build the 'most magnificent thing,' and despite set-backs and problems, she perseveres and is very pleased with the finished product.
- Steig, William. ***Sylvester and the Magic Pebble.*** First published 1969. In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock, but then he cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again! *Caldecott Medal 1970*
- Stein, David Ezra. ***Because Amelia Smiled.*** Candlewick, 2012. As she skips down the street in New York, a little girl's smile inspires a neighbor to send cookies to her grandson in Mexico, and the goodwill soon spreads around the world.
- Stevens, Janet. ***The Donkey Egg.*** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019. After fast-talking Fox leaves him with a large, green egg, Bear spends minutes, hours, days, and weeks lovingly caring for it with the help of his neighbor, Hare.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Stewart, Melissa. ***Feathers: Not Just for Flying.*** Charlesbridge, 2014. This is a beautifully illustrated description of the many kinds of feathers and their uses.
- Stockdale, Susan. ***Stripes of All Types.*** Peachtree, 2013. Using vivid illustrations and snappy verse, nineteen animals with stripes are described to show the importance of animals' stripes.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell.*** Holt, 2013. This engaging and delightfully illustrated book brings to life Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor.
- 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.
- 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*
- 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*
- Vernick, Audrey. ***First Grade Dropout.*** Clarion, 2015. Humor and empathy abound when an embarrassed first grader decides to quit school.
- Watkins, Rowboat. ***Rude Cakes.*** Chronicle Books, 2015. A rude cake learns a valuable lesson from a Cyclops in a simple story of etiquette and kindness found in the most unlikely place.
- West, Tracey. ***Rise of the Earth Dragon.*** Scholastic, 2014. Eight-year-old Drake is snatched up by the King's soldiers and taken to the castle where he is told by the wizard Griffiths that he has been chosen to be a Dragon Master like Ana, Rori, and Bo - and his first task will be to discover whether his dragon, Worm, has any special powers. *Series*
- Winter, Jeanette. ***Henri's Scissors.*** Beach Lane Books, 2013. When he became an old man confined to a wheelchair, artist Henri Matisse continued to make spectacular art, but not using paint and canvas - he used scissors to create enormous and breathtaking paper cutouts.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. ***The Day You Begin.*** Nancy Paulsen, 2018. Other students laugh when Rigoberto, an immigrant from Venezuela, introduces himself, but later, he meets Angelina and discovers that he is not the only one who feels like an outsider.
- Woollvin, Bethan. ***Little Red.*** Peachtree, 2016. A visually striking retelling of the classic Little Red Riding Hood story, complete with a brave and confident heroine.
- Yamada, Kobi. ***What Do You Do With a Chance?*** Compendium, 2017. Feeling disappointed and unhappy after not taking a chance, a child overcomes fears and ultimately takes a chance. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

Young, Amy. ***A Unicorn Named Sparkle***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. Lucy wants a unicorn, and although when he arrives he is not at all what she imagined, she warms up to him and realizes he is special after all.

*All book summaries are from provided by the publisher or  
written by committee members.*

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## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Alexander, Kwame. ***Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets***. Candlewick, 2017. From Maya Angelou to Naomi Shihab Nye, Robert Frost to Walter Dean Myers – this multicultural collection of original poems celebrates renowned poets from across the globe and across centuries of shared stories.
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Endling: The Last***. Harper, 2018. Byx, believed to be the last dairne, goes on a quest to search for more of her species and is joined by various allies as they uncover many secrets in this exciting series opener. *Series*
- Arnold, Elana K. ***A Boy Called Bat***. Walden Pond Press, 2017. When his veterinarian mom brings home a stray baby skunk that needs rehabilitation before it can be placed in a wild animal shelter, Bat, who has autism, resolves to prove that he is up to the challenge of caring for the skunk permanently.
- Aston, Dianna Hutts. ***A Beetle Is Shy***. Chronicle Books, 2016. From flea beetles to bombardier beetles, an incredible variety of these beloved bugs are showcased in this carefully researched, visually striking book that is poetic in voice and elegant in design, perfect for sparking children's imaginations.
- Barton, Chris. ***What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?*** Beach Lane Books, 2018. A picture book biography about the life of Houston native Barbara Jordan, who was best known for her work as a lawyer, politician and civil rights leader.
- Becker, Helaine. ***Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13***. Holt, 2018. From Katherine's early beginnings as a gifted student to her heroic accomplishments as a prominent mathematician at NASA, this is the story of a groundbreaking American woman who not only calculated the course of moon landings but, in turn, saved lives and made enormous contributions to history.
- Boothby, Ian. ***Sparks!*** Graphix, 2018. Two cats, August and Charlie, wear a dog suit and attempt to save humans while their arch nemesis, Princess, tries to conquer the world. *Graphic novel*
- Brooks, Molly. ***Sanity & Tallulah***. Hyperion, 2018. In this rollicking graphic novel, Sanity and Tallulah, who live in a space station, search the galaxy for Sanity's three-headed kitten. *Graphic novel*
- Brown, Don. ***Older Than Dirt: A Wild but True History of Earth***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. In this one-of-a-kind, wild, but true history of Earth, Sibert Honor medalist Don Brown takes on big concepts with humor and ease.
- Brown, Jeffrey. ***Lucy and Andy Neanderthal***. Crown, 2016. Lucy and her brother Andy, two Neanderthal siblings living 40,000 years ago, take on a wandering baby sibling, bossy teens, cave paintings and a mammoth hunt, but the real adventure begins when they encounter a group of humans. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Bryan, Ashley. ***Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life***. Atheneum, 2016. Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents and his own bold and vivid illustrations, the author creatively contrasts the monetary value of a slave with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams that a slave owner could never take away.
- Cleary, Beverly. ***Beezus and Ramona***. HarperTrophy, 2006. Four-year old Ramona has an imagination that makes her a menace to everyone around her, particularly her older sister, Beezus. *Series*
- Clements, Andrew. ***The Losers Club***. Random House, 2017. Alec, a sixth grade bookworm always in trouble for reading instead of listening and participating in class, starts a book club solely to have a place to read and discovers that real life, although messy, can be as exciting as the stories in his favorite books.
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. ***Before She Was Harriet: The Story of Harriet Tubman***. Holiday House, 2018. An evocative poem and opulent watercolors come together to honor a woman of humble origins whose courage and compassion make her larger than life.
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. ***Finding Langston***. Holiday House, 2018. Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.
- Colfer, Chris. ***The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell***. Little, Brown, 2012. Through the mysterious power of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy-tale characters they grew up reading about. *Series*
- Creech, Susan. ***Saving Winslow***. HarperCollins, 2018. When Louis' dad brings home a scrawny and sickly newborn donkey, their connection is instant; while the adults around him say that Winslow might not survive, Louis finds the faith and courage to believe in his donkey and himself.
- Dahl, Roald. ***The BFG***. Farrar, Straus, Giroux. First published in 1982. Sophie is kidnaped from her orphanage by a BFG--Big Friendly Giant--and the two set out to save the world.
- Davies, Jacqueline. ***The Lemonade War***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Evan and his younger sister, Jessie, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade, and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. ***Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folk Tale***. Roaring Brook, 2013. On her way to visit her daughter on the other side of the jungle, Grandma encounters a hungry fox, bear, and tiger, and although she convinces them to wait for her return trip, she still must find a way to outwit them all.
- Eggers, Dave. ***Her Right Foot***. Chronicle Books, 2017. This beautifully illustrated book looks at the significance of the Statue of Liberty's right foot.
- Engle, Margarita. ***The Flying Girl: How Aida de Acosta Learned to Soar***. Atheneum, 2018. This beautifully illustrated picture book tells the inspirational story of Aida de Acosta, the first woman to fly a motorized aircraft.
- Eszterhas, Suzi. ***Sea Otter Rescue***. Owlkids, 2016. A visit to the Alaska SeaLife Center explores, through engaging text and striking photography, how sea otters have become orphaned or hurt by a range of threats and how the dedicated teams at the clinic help them heal and rehabilitate.
- Fleming, Candace. ***Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom***. Schwartz & Wade, 2017. When ten-year-old Nolan and his little sister, Olive, find Ben Franklin in their kitchen, they do their best to guide Ben through the new world he helped form. *Series*
- Fleming, Candace. ***Giant Squid***. Roaring Brook, 2016. A nonfiction picture book exploring the mysterious life of the elusive giant squid.
- Florence, Debbi Michiko. ***Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017. Eager to do something her big sister has not done first, Jasmine Toguchi, eight, decides to pound mochi with the men and boys when her family gets together for New Year's. *Series*
- Gibbs, Stuart. ***Spaced Out***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. In 2041 twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is a resident of Moon Base Alpha, and at the moment he is faced with a number of problems: coping with the nasty Sjoberg twins, finding out how the commander of the base has managed to disappear from a facility no bigger than a soccer field, and dealing with the alien Zan who communicates with him telepathically from afar--and who is hiding a secret which may threaten the whole Earth. *Series*
- Grabenstein, Chris. ***Home Sweet Motel: Welcome to Wonderland***. Random House, 2016. P.T. and his friend Gloria must solve a mystery at the world's wackiest motel: The Wonderland. *Series*
- Gratz, Alan. ***Ban This Book***. Tom Doherty, 2017. Amy Anne, who never gets in trouble, finds herself in the battle of a lifetime when a concerned parent in her school has her favorite book taken off the library shelf.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Griffiths, Andy. ***The 13-Story Treehouse***. Feiwel and Friends, 2013. Under pressure by their publisher to finish their next book, two young authors graphically describe all the extraordinary distractions they face living in their 13-story treehouse. *Series*
- Guglielmo, Amy, and Jacqueline Tourville. ***How to Build a Hug: Temple Grandin and Her Amazing Squeeze Machine***. Atheneum, 2018. Presents the story of Grandin's 'squeeze machine,' describing her childhood love of building and design, as well as her sensitivities.
- Hale, Nathan. ***Alamo All-Stars***. Amulet Books, 2016. Hale recounts the story of the Alamo, featuring the exploits of historical legends Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett. *Graphic novel series*
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***The Amazing Crafty Cat***. First Second, 2017. A new graphic novel trilogy for elementary-age readers about a little girl who can craft her way out of any situation. Each volume includes fun and simple instructions for do-it-yourself crafting activities. *Series*
- Harris, Chris. ***I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-ups***. Little, Brown, 2017. In the vein of Shel Silverstein, this collection of poems is filled with humor, nonsensical language, rhyme, wordplay, and even codes to crack.
- Henry, Marguerite. ***Misty of Chincoteague***. Aladdin, 1947. Paul's and his sister Maureen's determination to own a pony from the herd on Chincoteague Island, Virginia, is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among the ponies rounded up for the yearly auction.
- Holub, Joan. ***Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom***. Aladdin, 2012. When ten-year-old Zeus is kidnapped, he discovers he can defend himself with a magic thunderbolt. *Series*
- Humphrey, Anna. ***Megabat***. Tundra Books, 2018. When Daniel moves into a new house in a new town, he thinks it might be haunted, but he is surprised to find a new friend who happens to be a fruit bat in need of some help to make the long journey back home. *Series*
- Jenkins, Steve. ***The Frog Book***. Harcourt, 2019. An introduction to an assortment of the world's frog species, discussing a myriad of topics such as their colors, shapes and sizes to their various habitats to how they find food, escape danger and attract a mate.
- Johannes, Shelley. ***Beatrice Zinker, Upside Down Thinker***. Disney-Hyperion, 2017. When third grade begins, Beatrice fears she is losing her best friend, so she uses her topsy-turvy ways of thinking to get things looking up. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Khan, Hena. ***Power Forward***. Salaam Press, 2018. Fourth-grader Zayd yearns to play basketball on the Gold Team, but when he skips orchestra rehearsals to practice, his parents forbid anything basketball related, and tryouts are coming soon. *Series*
- Lamothe, Matt. ***This Is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World***. Chronicle Books, 2017. An illustrated take on how seven real kids from different countries go about a typical day.
- Latham, Irene, and Charles Waters. ***Can I Touch Your Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship***. Carolrhoda Books, 2018. Two students, one black and one white, learn to communicate, relate, and celebrate differences in this collection of poems in conversation.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***The Truth of Me: About a Boy, His Grandmother, and a Very Good Dog***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Robbie and his dog, Ellie, spend the summer at his grandmother Maddy's house, where Robbie learns many things about his emotionally distant parents and himself.
- McCarthy, Meghan. ***The Wildest Race Ever: The Story of the 1904 Olympic Marathon***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. The exciting and bizarre true story of the 1904 Olympic marathon, which took place at the St. Louis World's Fair.
- McMullan, Kate. ***Have a Hot Time, Hades!*** Stone Arch Books, 2012. In this story with a modern twist, Hades tells his own version of how he became King of the Underworld and Zeus became King of the Gods. *Series*
- McNamara, Margaret. ***The Dinosaur Expert***. Schwartz & Wade, 2018. When a classmate tells Kimmy, who dreams of being a paleontologist, that "girls aren't scientists," their teacher Mr. Tiffin teaches them otherwise.
- Newman, Lesléa. ***Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story***. Abrams Books, 2019. When it's time for nine-year-old Gittel and her mother to leave their homeland and immigrate to America to start a new life, a health inspection forces Gittel to find the courage within to leave her family behind; based on true stories told by the author's grandmother.
- Nobleman, Marc Tyler. ***Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story***. Houghton Mifflin, 2018. In this important and moving true story of reconciliation after war, beautifully illustrated in watercolor, a Japanese pilot bombs the continental U.S. during WWII—the only enemy ever to do so—and comes back 20 years later to apologize.
- Nolan, Janet. ***Seven and a Half Tons of Steel***. Peachtree, 2016. This powerful story reveals how seven and a half tons of steel that had once been a beam in the World Trade Center became a navy ship's bow showing how something remarkable can emerge from a devastating event.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. ***Dogs on Duty: Soldiers' Best Friends on the Battlefield and Beyond.*** Walker, 2012. Explains the many ways that dogs are used in the military and describes how they are cared for and trained.
- Patterson, James. ***Jacky Ha-Ha.*** Little, Brown, 2016. Twelve-year-old Jacky "Ha-Ha" Hart is a class clown with a penchant for pranking--and when she's required to act in the school play to appease her frustrated teachers, she must conquer her stutter. *Series*
- Pearson, Luke. ***Hilda and the Stone Forest.*** Nobrow, 2016. Hilda is hardly at home anymore, seeking days filled with excitement, and her mother can't help but worry... In a moment of tension, the pair find themselves flung far away into a mysterious, dark forest--the land of the trolls! Can they work together to escape the clutches of these sinister stone creatures? *Graphic novel series*
- Phelan, Matt. ***Knights vs. Dinosaurs.*** Greenwillow, 2018. Merlin sends the Knights of the Round Table on their most exciting and dangerous quest to date -- to face dinosaurs! *Series*
- Pipe, Jim. ***You Wouldn't Want to Be Cleopatra! : An Egyptian Ruler You'd Rather Not Be.*** Franklin Watts, 2017. Humorous illustrations and facts combine to provide a portrait of what life might be like as Cleopatra in Ancient Egypt. *Series*
- Pizzoli, Greg. ***The Quest For Z: The True Story of Explorer Percy Fawcett and a Lost City in the Amazon.*** Viking, 2017. The true story of the British explorer Percy Fawcett, an adventurer who set out on a doomed expedition to find a lost city in the Amazon jungle.
- Probst, Jeff, and Chris Tebbetts. ***Stranded.*** Puffin, 2013. Jane, Buzz, Carter, and Vanessa, ages nine to thirteen, are on a sailing trip in the South Pacific intended to help them bond in their newly-blended family when a massive storm strands them on a deserted island. *Series*
- Raczka, Bob. ***Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems.*** Roaring Brook, 2016. A collection of concrete poetry written and shaped in surprising ways.
- Robinson, Sharon. ***The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend.*** Scholastic, 2017. Eight-year-old Steve Satlow is thrilled when Jackie Robinson moves into his Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn in 1948, although many of his neighbors are not, and when Steve actually meets his hero he is even more excited--and worried that a misunderstanding over a Christmas tree could damage his new friendship.
- Rockliff, Mara. ***Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic.*** Candlewick, 2016. Traces the story of dancer-turned-magician's assistant Adelaide Herrmann, placing her achievements against a backdrop of period conventions about women in the arts and her determination to continue her work after the death of her husband.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Ruurs, Margriet. ***The Elephant Keeper: Caring for Orphaned Elephants in Zambia.*** Kids Can Press, 2017. Documents the story of a devoted advocate for elephant conservation who, as a child in Zambia, rescued a baby elephant and reevaluated his beliefs about elephants as violent predators while visiting a wildlife sanctuary.
- Sachar, Louis. ***Sideways Stories from Wayside School.*** HarperTrophy. Originally published in 1978. Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story. *Series*
- Shurtliff, Liesl. ***Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen.
- Silverstein, Shel. ***A Light in the Attic.*** HarperCollins, 1981. A collection of poems and drawings by American poet and humorist Shel Silverstein, including "Backward Bill," "Day After Halloween," "Gumey Ball," "Nailbiter," "Sour Face Ann," and many others.
- Stabler, David. ***Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood from Sports Legends.*** Quirk Books, 2015. Hilarious childhood biographies and full-color illustrations show how Tiger Woods, Gabby Douglas, Bruce Lee, Billie Jean King, and other budding sports champions faced kid-sized challenges growing up. *Series*
- Stanley, Diane. ***Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer.*** Simon & Schuster, 2016. This is the story of how an important but little-known woman – a brilliant scientist and mathematician - envisioned the computer-driven world we know today.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Pass Go and Collect \$200: The Real Story of How Monopoly Was Invented.*** Holt, 2018. This exciting nonfiction picture book tells the bold and fascinating story behind one of the world's most beloved board games.
- Tarshis, Lauren. ***I Survived the Hindenburg Disaster, 1937.*** Scholastic, 2016. Eleven year-old Hugo, his parents, and his sister Gertie are making the thrilling four thousand mile journey across the Atlantic in a zeppelin as big as the Titanic when disaster strikes and fire consumes the ship. *Series*
- Tavares, Matt. ***Crossing Niagara: The Death-Defying Tightrope Adventures of the Great Blondin.*** Candlewick, 2016. An illustrated account of the daredevil of Niagara Falls, the Great Blondin, who walked from America to Canada across the Niagara River on a rope.
- Temple, Bob. ***The Golden Age of Pirates: An Interactive History Adventure.*** Capstone, 2016. Describes the people and events of the Golden Age of Piracy. The reader's choices reveal historical details from the perspectives of a pirate, a navy sailor, and a merchant ship crewmember. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Turnage, Sheila. ***Three Times Lucky***. Dial Books, 2012. Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with the café's hostess, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder. *Series*
- Vande Velde, Vivian. ***Three Good Deeds***. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Caught stealing some goose eggs from a witch, Howard is cursed for his heartlessness and turned into a goose himself, and he can only become human again by performing three good deeds.
- Vernick, Audrey. ***The Kid from Diamond Street: The Extraordinary Story of Baseball Legend Edith Houghton***. Clarion, 2016. A historical picture book about Edith Houghton, a female baseball phenomenon who joined the professional women's team the Bobbies in 1922 at the age of 10.
- Walker, Sally M. ***Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up***. Candlewick, 2018. A collection of haiku poems that celebrates the planet Earth, including such topics as rocks, earthquakes, fossils, volcanoes and the water cycle. Factual information about each topic is included.
- Walker, Sally M. ***Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh***. Holt, 2015. This is the true story of a bear named Winnie who was left behind at the London Zoo while her keeper went away fighting in World War I and became the inspiration for the fictional character Winnie-the-Pooh.
- Wallace, Sandra Neil. ***Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. The true story of NFL star Ernie Barnes, a man who pursued his lifelong dream of being an artist after his football career ended.
- Wang, Jen. ***Stargazing***. First Second, 2019. "Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness." *Graphic novel*
- Weeks, Sarah, and Gita Varadarajan. ***Save Me a Seat***. Scholastic, 2016. Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class. Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems. When their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade, they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.
- Winick, Judd. ***Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth***. Random House, 2016. When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Winter, Jonah. ***Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965***. Schwartz & Wade, 2015. As an elderly woman, Lillian recalls that her great-great-grandparents were sold as slaves in front of the courthouse where only rich white men were allowed to vote, then remembers the long fight that led to her right--and determination--to cast her ballot since the Voting Rights Act gave every American the right to vote.
- Woods, Brenda. ***Zoe in Wonderland***. Nancy Paulsen, 2016. Because Zoe has such an active imagination, she does not think that her real life will ever be as interesting as her make-believe life.
- Yep, Laurence. ***A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans***. Crown, 2015. Feisty dragon Miss Drake's new pet human, precocious ten-year-old Winnie, not only thinks Miss Drake is her pet, she accidentally brings to life her "sketchlings" of mysterious and fantastic creatures hidden in San Francisco, causing mayhem among its residents. *Series*

*All book summaries are provided by the publisher or  
written by committee members.*

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## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 5

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Appelt, Kathi. ***The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp***. Atheneum, 2013. In this hilarious tall tale from a Texas swamp, twelve-year-old Chap Brayburn, the ancient Sugar Man, and his raccoon-brother Swamp Scouts Bingo and J'miah try to save Bayou Tourterelle from feral pigs, greedy Sunny Boy Beaucoup, and world-class alligator wrestler and would-be land developer Jaeger Stitch.
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Wishtree***. Feiwel and Friends, 2017. Red, the neighborhood “wishtree,” and her crow friend, Bongo, comfort an immigrant family who is threatened by others.
- Auxier, Jonathan. ***Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard: A Peter Nimble Adventure***. Amulet Books, 2016. Twelve-year-old Sophie knows little beyond the four walls of her father’s bookshop, where she repairs old books and dreams of escaping the confines of her dull life, when she finds herself pulled into an adventure beyond anything she has ever read. *Series*
- Barr, Jennifer R. ***Goodbye, Mr. Spalding***. Calkins Creek, 2019. In 1930’s 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, but their schemes go awry and their friendship is put to the test.
- Behar, Ruth. ***Lucky Broken Girl***. Nancy Paulsen, 2017. It’s 1960 and Ruthie, a recent Cuban immigrant, is finally showing confidence in her English and hopscotch abilities when a horrific car accident shrinks her world, causing her to rely on her inner strength, the love of family and neighbors, and a new love of art.
- Bell, Cece. ***El Deafo***. Amulet Books, 2014. This empowering graphic novel memoir of the author/illustrator’s childhood struggle with being accepted and finding friends with her severe deafness received a 2015 Newbery Honor. *Graphic novel*
- Brown, Peter. ***The Wild Robot***. Little, Brown, 2016. Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try and learn about her new environment from the island’s hostile inhabitants. *Series*
- 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 in order to solve an ancient mystery that might be at the heart of his parents’ disappearance. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 5

- Chanani, Nidhi. ***Pashmina***. First Second, 2017. Eager to learn more about her cultural identity and family history, teenaged Priyanka, a budding cartoon artist, is transported to India after finding a magical scarf. *Graphic novel*
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. ***Finding Langston***. Holiday House, 2018. Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.
- 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. *Series*
- Craft, Jerry. ***New Kid***. Harper, 2019. In this Newbery Medal winner, Jordan Banks navigates his way through seventh grade as a new African American student at a prestigious, non-diverse school, making friends along the way. *Graphic novel*
- DeKeyser, Stacy. ***The Rhino in Right Field***. McElderry Books, 2018. Twelve-year-old Nick wants to win the 1948 Batboy Contest for the local Milwaukee minor league team, but the contest is on Saturday when he works in his father's shop, and he's lost confidence in his fielding ability ever since he had to retrieve his missed ball that went into Tank's (the 2,000-pound rhino) pen—what is Nick going to do to save face and uphold his responsibilities?
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***Beverly, Right Here***. Candlewick, 2019. Resolved to leave her home for good, a young runaway finds a job and a place to live before forming connections that alter her perspectives about life and herself.
- Draper, Sharon. ***Stella by Starlight***. Atheneum, 2015. When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.
- Flanagan, John. ***A New Beginning***. Puffin, 2018. The popular *Ranger's Apprentice* series ends and an exciting new adventure begins when Ranger Will Treaty, devastated by previous events and struggling for acceptance, takes on an unexpected – and difficult – apprentice of his own. Formerly published as *The Royal Ranger*, *Ranger's Apprentice* series, book 12. *Series*
- Fletcher, Susan. ***Journey of the Pale Bear***. McElderry Books, 2018. Twelve-year-old Arthur forms a bond with a polar bear given by King Haakon IV of Norway to King Henry III of England in 1252 while traveling as her handler.
- Gemeinhart, Dan. ***Some Kind of Courage***. Scholastic, 2016. Fun, touching, adventurous story of an orphan boy's search for his beloved horse, sold without his knowledge.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 5

- 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.
- Hood, Susan. ***Lifeboat 12***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. In 1940, a group of British children escaping the bombing of London, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed by the Germans. This novel in verse includes historical notes.
- Janowitz, Jessie. ***The Doughnut Fix***. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2018. When his family moves to tiny Petersville, eleven-year-old Tris stops focusing on his perfect sister, Jeanine, by using his cooking expertise to revive a town tradition of chocolate cream doughnuts. *Series*
- Kane, Karen. ***Charlie & Frog: A Mystery***. Disney-Hyperion, 2018. While staying with his grandparents in Castle-on-the-Hudson, Charlie stumbles upon a mystery but must learn American Sign Language to keep up with Frog, a deaf girl who wants to help solve it.
- Kelly, Erin Entrada. ***Hello, Universe***. Greenwillow, 2017. The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him. *Newbery Medal*
- Khan, Hena. ***Amina's Voice***. Salaam Press, 2017. Pakistani-American Amina is torn between her traditional Muslim family's culture and her American friends as she struggles to find her place after a tragedy in the community.
- Lai, Remy. ***Pie in the Sky***. Holt, 2019. Knowing very little English, eleven-year-old Jingwen feels like he was dropped onto an alien planet when his family immigrates to Australia, but copes with loneliness and the loss of his father by baking elaborate cakes. Full of humor and heart, and a little sibling rivalry, this graphic/fiction hybrid will appeal to fans of the *Wimpy Kid* series.
- Marsden, Mariah. ***Anne of Green Gables: A Graphic Novel***. Andrews McMeel, 2017. The indomitable spirit and antics of flame-haired heroine Anne Shirley are delightfully brought back in this graphic adaptation of the classic by L.M. Montgomery. Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. *Graphic novel*
- Marshall, Joseph. ***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse***. Amulet Books, 2015. Jimmy McClean is a part white and part Native American boy who embarks on a journey with his grandfather to learn more about his Lakota heritage while visiting places significant in the life of Crazy Horse, the 19<sup>th</sup> century Lakota leader and warrior.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 5

- Mass, Wendy, and Rebecca Stead. **Bob**. Feiwel and Friends, 2018. Visiting her grandmother in Australia, ten-year-old Livy is reminded of the promise she made five years before to Bob, a strange, green creature who cannot recall who or what he is.
- 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. *Newbery Medal*
- Montgomery, Sy. **Amazon Adventure: How Tiny Fish Are Saving the World's Largest Rainforest**. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. Scientific tale of how small fish and humans coexist to create a healthy and thriving ecology in the rainforest.
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. **Words on Fire**. Scholastic, 2019. While Audra is on the run from Cossack soldiers and in search of her missing parents, she realizes the importance of the mission to save the Lithuanian language and culture, and puts herself in danger to become part of the resistance in 1893 Russian-controlled Lithuania.
- O'Connor, George. **Hera, the Goddess and Her Glory**. First Second, 2011. Recounts the stories of the many heroes who sought and won the approval and patronage of Hera, the Queen of the Gods, including the story of Heracles. *Graphic novel, series*
- Palacio, R.J. **Wonder**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, where he endures the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.
- Pennypacker, Sara. **Pax**. Balzer + Bray, 2016. Driven by love and loss, Peter must travel hundreds of miles through wilderness, impending war, and injury in search of the pet fox he was forced to abandon, while loyal Pax searches for him.
- Reeves, Jordan, and Jen Lee Reeves. **Born Just Right**. Aladdin, 2019. Jordan Reeves may have been born with a "little (left) arm," yet her positive attitude and determination sparked her invention of a prosthetic arm at a STEM summer camp, and, along with her mother, she has established the Born Just Right foundation to help others like herself to fully engage in life – an inspiring memoir for all.
- Reynolds, Jason. **Ghost**. Atheneum, 2018. Can a talented sprinter from a rough neighborhood push past his troubles to keep his place on an elite track team? *National Book Award Finalist, Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 5

- Riordan, Rick. ***The Lost Hero***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. *Series*
- Rundell, Katherine. ***The Explorer***. Simon & Schuster, 2017. Left stranded in the Amazon jungle when their plane crashes on their way back to England from Manaus, Brazil, four children struggle to survive for days until one of them finds a map that leads them to a ruined city and a secret hidden among the vines.
- Scott, Elaine. ***Our Moon: New Discoveries About Earth's Closest Companion***. Clarion, 2016. Highlighting the latest thrilling discoveries about the moon, this comprehensive book for kids covers the moon's history, scientific findings, and fun facts, interspersed with informative color photos.
- Selznick, Brian. ***Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures***. Scholastic, 2011. Rose and Ben are deaf children living fifty years and worlds apart, yet both marvel and connect with the world around them. The American Museum of Natural History links their separate stories – one narrated in text and the other through cinematic illustrations.
- Silvey, Anita. ***Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall***. National Geographic, 2015. This biography of Jane Goodall highlights her work with chimpanzees and her fight for the protection of the environment so her beloved chimpanzees and other animals can not only survive, but thrive.
- Slader, Erik, and Ben Thompson. ***The Wright Brothers: Nose-Diving into History***. Roaring Book, 2018. Describes the lives of the two American brothers who designed, built, and flew the first heavier-than-air aircraft successfully, detailing the many mishaps and misadventures that preceded it. *Series*
- Sweet, Melissa. ***Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White***. Houghton Mifflin, 2016. This biography of the beloved children's author is an inviting, colorful collage of photos, art, letters, and snippets of E. B. White's writing.
- Tingle, Tim. ***How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story***. RoadRunner, 2013. A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe's removal from the only land its people had ever known, and how their journey to Oklahoma led him to become a ghost—one with the ability to help those he left behind. *Series*
- Townsend, Jessica. ***Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow***. Little, Brown, 2017. Since birth, cursed Morrigan Crow has known she will die the night before her eleventh birthday; however, with only minutes remaining until her impending doom, Morrigan is whisked from her parents' gloomy house by an eccentric man and taken to the magical land of Nevermoor. There she must compete in trials which will determine whether she is allowed to stay in Nevermoor or return home to face her fate. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 5

- Turnage, Sheila. ***The Law of Finders Keepers***. Kathy Dawson, 2018. The Desperado Detectives, Mo LoBeau and her best friends Dale and Harm, tackle two huge cases in Tupelo Landing – the hunt for Blackbeard’s buried treasure and the search for Mo’s Upstream Mother – in this heart-warming series conclusion. *Series*
- Valise, Kim Perez. ***The Orca Scientists***. Houghton Mifflin, 2018. Follow the majestic orca whales along with the scientists who tirelessly work to save this species from extinction. *Series*
- Viola, Jason. ***Polar Bears: Survival on the Ice***. First Second, 2019. Through the humorous antics of two inquisitive polar bear cubs learning all they need to know to survive in the Arctic, we learn bear biology and behavior, as well as what all polar bears are facing because of global warming. *Graphic novel, series*
- Wolf, Allan. ***The Day the Universe Exploded My Head: Poems to Take You into Space and Back Again***. Candlewick, 2019. With dynamite illustrations by Anna Raff, and opportunities for readers to perform multi-part poems with peers, this book of clever, funny, informative poetry about our solar system truly sparkles as it puts a variety of poetry forms on display.
- Yang, Kelly. ***Front Desk***. Arthur A. Levine, 2018. Recent immigrants from China and desperate for money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California for skinflint Mr. Yao, whose son is the only other Chinese American in Mia’s class.

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*All book summaries are provided by the publisher or  
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## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 6

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Abbott, Tony. ***The Copernicus Legacy: The Forbidden Stone***. Katherine Tegen, 2014. This thrilling new series sends four middle school students and one astrophysicist on a globe-trotting adventure filled with action and intrigue to unlock the Copernicus Legacy and just possibly save the world. *Series*
- Alexander, Kwame. ***The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. Award-winning author offers his motivational rule book on winning the “game of life,” drawn from the world of sports heroes and other inspirational figures.
- Anderson, John David. ***Ms. Bixby’s Last Day***. HarperCollins, 2016. When Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she is very sick and won't be able to finish the school year, three students come up with a hilarious and heart-warming plan to tell her how much she means to them.
- Arce, Julissa. ***Someone Like Me: How One Undocumented Girl Fought for Her American Dream***. Little, Brown, 2018. Autobiography of a bright, hard-working young girl’s struggle to overcome everyday problems of making the cheer squad while keeping the mean girls at a distance as she fears her legal status will be discovered and her family destroyed.
- Bausum, Ann. ***Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I’s Bravest Dog***. National Geographic, 2014. Smuggled onto a naval ship heading to battle in France by his faithful human friend, Stubby earns his place in World War I history by warning troops of gas attacks, killing rats that plagued the soldiers’ barracks, and even capturing a German soldier by biting the seat of his pants.
- Blakemore, Megan Frazer. ***The Spy Catchers of Maple Hill***. Bloomsbury, 2014. Amidst the fervor of Cold War era McCarthyism, Hazel Kaplansky and new student Samuel Butler investigate rumors that a Russian spy has infiltrated their small Vermont town, but more is revealed than they could ever have imagined.
- Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. ***The War That Saved My Life***. Dial Books, 2015. A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. *Series*
- 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.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 6

- Brown, Don. ***Rocket to the Moon!*** Amulet Books, 2019. You will learn about what made the moon landing possible and the stories and people behind it all. From *Big Ideas that Changed the World* series. *Graphic novel*
- 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 Trevors' daughter in witness protection; but she soon learns that the biggest threat to her new family's security comes from her own past.
- Cherrix, Amy. ***Eye of the Storm: NASA, Drones, and the Race to Crack the Hurricane Code.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2017. From the acclaimed series *Scientists in the Field*, this first contribution solely about weather covers a program using drones to learn more about hurricanes, plus a poignant narrative from Hurricane Sandy. *Series*
- Draper, Sharon. ***Out of My Mind.*** Atheneum, 2010. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient, young girl with cerebral palsy discovers a way for her to speak for the first time.
- Flanagan, John. ***The Outcasts.*** Philomel, 2011. In this action-packed companion series to Flanagan's *Rangers Apprentice* books, a sixteen-year-old Skandian-Araluen named Hal and his group of misfit friends compete against two other, more powerful, brotherbands, enduring three months of grueling training in seamanship, weapons, and battle tactics to determine who will win the coveted prize. *Series*
- 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.
- Fox, Janet. ***The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle.*** Puffin, 2017. In 1940 during the London Blitz, Katherine, Robbie and Amelie Bateson are sent north to a private school at Rookskill Castle in Scotland, a brooding place, haunted by dark magic from the past—but when some of their classmates disappear, Katherine has to find out if the cause is hidden in the past or very much in the present.
- 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.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 6

- 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*
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Under Their Skin***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. Twelve-year-old twins Nick and Eryn investigate why their mother and new stepfather are keeping secrets; why they are forbidden to meet their stepsiblings; and most importantly, why their lives are in danger. *Series*
- 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*
- 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. ***All's Faire in Middle School***. Dial Books, 2017. In her quest to train as an official squire for the Renaissance Faire (her parents' passion), homeschooled Impy takes on the challenge of public middle school and discovers that fitting in is harder than she imagined. *Graphic novel*
- 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.
- Kennedy, Caroline, ed. ***Poems to Learn by Heart***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. A wonderful selection of poems -- some old favorites, some new -- arranged by everyday subjects like school, family, self, sports, etc., accompanied by watercolor illustrations charmingly painted by Jon J. Muth. A book to treasure and share!

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 6

- Lupica, Mike. ***Strike Zone***. Philomel, 2019. Twelve-year-old Nick Garcia 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.
- Magras, Diane. ***The Mad Wolf's Daughter***. Kathy Dawson, 2018. When her Scottish war-lord father and cherished brothers are taken captive by invading knights, twelve-year-old Drest ignores her father's command to hide and courageously sets off to rescue them, taking a wounded knight along to ransom for her family. *Series*
- 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.
- McAnulty, Stacy. ***The Miscalculations of Lighting Girl***. Random House, 2018. A lighting strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius, but after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school, and she learns that life is more than numbers.
- Messner, Kate. ***The Exact Location of Home***. Bloomsbury, 2017. Believing his long-absent father is missing and leaving clues behind through geocaching, thirteen-year-old Zig, relies on his love of electronics, a garage sale GPS unit, and his best friend Gianna to search for answers.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Treasury of Egyptian Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Monsters & Mortals***. National Geographic, 2014. Illustrated retellings of Egyptian myths, sharing the stories of Ra, Isis, Osiris, Anubis, and Bastet with sidebars for each god, goddess, monster and mortal that link the tales to history, geography, and culture. Includes a timeline and other resources.
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***The Mark of the Thief***. Scholastic, 2015. In this fast-paced historical fantasy, Nic is a slave in the Roman mines who finds a magical amulet that once belonged to Julius Caesar. He learns very quickly that there are others who seek the amulet who want to use its powers to overthrow the Emperor and control Rome. *Series*
- O'Connor, George. ***Apollo: The Brilliant One***. FirstSecond, 2016. This retelling of the classic Greek myth about the god of the sun, this most human of all the gods, so charming yet flawed, educates as well as entertains. *Graphic novel, series*
- Palacio, R. J. ***White Bird: A Wonder Story***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2019. When Julian hears the story of his grandmother's childhood during World War II, her escape to Vichy-occupied France, and what happened to her family and loved ones, he learns powerful lessons of kindness, forgiveness, and the importance of standing up to tyranny, wherever and whenever it is found. *Graphic novel*



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 6

- 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.
- Pearsall, Shelley. ***The Seventh Most Important Thing***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. An angry encounter with the local Junk Man leads Arthur on a redemptive journey that ultimately allows him to come to terms with his loss and create art. Based on the work of folk artist James Hampton.
- 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*.
- 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.
- Saujani, Reshma. ***Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World***. Viking, 2017. Introduces the relevance of coding and shares down-to-earth explanations about coding principles and real-life stories of women programmers who work at such places as Pixar and NASA.
- 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 6<sup>th</sup>-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.
- Shepherd, Megan. ***The Secret Horses of Briar Hill***. Delacorte, 2016. Beautifully combining a historical setting and a little magic, this book is destined to be a favorite for those lucky enough to be drawn into its pages. Living in a children's hospital during World War II, Emmaline discovers that a winged horse has entered her world and desperately needs her help.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 6

- Shusterman, Neal, and Eric Elfman. ***Tesla's Attic***. Disney-Hyperion, 2014. Nick and his friends must thwart the secret society of Accelerati from getting Tesla's mysterious inventions in this sci-fi action thriller. *Series*
- Sloan, Holly Goldberg. ***Short***. Dial Books, 2017. Very short for her age, Julia grows into her sense of self while playing a Munchkin in a summer regional theater production of *The Wizard of Oz*.
- Smith, Roland. ***The Edge***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. Fifteen-year-old Peak Marcello finds himself caught up in a struggle to survive as he participates in the "International Peace Ascent" in the Hindu Kush with a team of under-eighteen-year-old climbers from around the world. From the first, something seems very wrong. *Series*
- Sonnenblick, Jordan. ***The Secret Sheriff of Sixth Grade***. Scholastic, 2017. Armed with the toy sheriff badge his dad gave him years ago, Maverick learns that standing up for yourself and others makes everybody's life better, and despite the challenges of bullies and a troubled home life, he can be a hero, just like his dad.
- Stevens, Robin. ***Poison is Not Polite***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. In 1930s England, schoolgirl detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are at Daisy's home for the holidays when someone falls seriously, mysteriously ill at a family party. No one present is what they seem--and everyone has a secret or two--so the Detective Society must do everything they can to reveal the truth . . . no matter the consequences. *Series*
- Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Brown Girl Dreaming***. Nancy Paulsen, 2014. In vivid free-verse poems, the author shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow, and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. *National Book Award Winner, Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner*

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Compiled by:

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**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Alexander, Kwame. ***The Crossover***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Twins Josh and Jordan, both of whom love basketball, begin to grow apart in adolescence at the same time as their father, a former basketball star, begins to experience health issues. *Written in verse. Newbery Medal 2015*
- Anderson, John David. ***Posted***. Walden Pond Press, 2017. Eighth graders thwart a phone ban at their school with a creative use of post-it notes, until the messaging gets harmful and a group of outsider teens take a stand to promote inclusiveness and kindness.
- Anderson, M. T. ***The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge***. Candlewick, 2018. This is a collaboration between Anderson and Eugene Yelchin about an inept and unlikely pair, an elf and a goblin, in which the stiff and snobby historian elf is catapulted into the goblin kingdom as a spy/unknowing assassin, and is hosted by a goblin archivist, who is anxious for cultural exchanges.
- Anthony, Lawrence. ***The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild (Young Readers' Edition)***. Holt, 2017. Lawrence Anthony reflects on his decision to accept a group of hard-to-manage wild elephants onto his South African game reserve in an effort to ensure their survival.
- Asimov, Isaac. ***The Stars, Like Dust***. First published 1951. At the death of his father, Biron Farrill becomes involved in the plot to rebel against the Tyranni who have conquered many worlds. *Series*
- Bascomb, Neal. ***The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi***. Arthur A. Levine, 2013. Recounts how sixteen years after the end of World War II, a team of undercover Israeli agents captured the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in a remote area of Argentina and brought him to trial in Israel for crimes committed during the Holocaust.
- Berry, Julie. ***Lovely War***. Viking, 2019. The Greek goddess Aphrodite recounts two tales of tragic love during WWI at the height of World War II. She seeks to answer the age-old question: 'Why are Love and War eternally drawn to one another?' but her quest for a conclusion that will satisfy her jealous husband uncovers a multi-threaded tale of prejudice, trauma, and music revealing that War is no match for the power of Love. *The audiobook version is highly recommended.*
- Bowling, Dusti. ***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus***. Sterling, 2017. New friends, a mystery, and a lot of humor help Aven, thirteen, adjust to middle school and life at a dying western theme park, where her being born armless presents many challenges.
- Bracken, Alexandra. ***The Dreadful Tale of Prosper Redding***. Disney-Hyperion, 2017. A modern New England boy must rid himself of the ancient demon inhabiting his body and break his family's curse.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Brody, Jessica. ***A Week of Mondays***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. Sixteen-year-old Ellison Sparks keeps reliving that terrible Monday when her boyfriend, Tristan, breaks up with her; and no matter how hard she tries, she cannot seem to set things right.
- Brown, Daniel James. ***The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers' Adaption): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics***. Viking, 2015. Adapted for young readers by Gregory Mone, this is the remarkable story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, defeating elite rivals first from eastern and British universities before challenging the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936.
- Brown, Don. ***Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. The tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage -- and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. *Graphic novel*
- Budhos, Marina. ***Watched***. Wendy Lamb, 2016. Naeem, a senior in high school and an immigrant from Bangladesh, doesn't feel at home anywhere - at home, at school, or with his friends. Tricked into shoplifting by one "friend," he is arrested by NYPD and given a choice-go to jail or become an informant, spying on his own Muslim community.
- Cameron, Sharon. ***The Forgetting***. Scholastic, 2016. Seventeen-year-old Nadia lives in Canaan, a quiet city in an idyllic world, but every twelve years the people of Canaan undergo a collective Forgetting after which the people are left without any trace of memory of themselves, their families, or their lives--except for Nadia, who does not forget. *The audiobook version is highly recommended. Series*
- Carriger, Gail. ***Etiquette & Espionage***. Little, Brown, 2013. In an alternate England of 1851, spirited fourteen-year-old Sophronia is enrolled in a finishing school where she is surprised to learn that lessons include not only the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette, but also diversion, deceit, and espionage. *The audiobook version is highly recommended. Series*
- Connor, Leslie. ***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle***. Katherine Tegen, 2018. Mystery surrounds the death of Mason's friend, and when a second friend goes missing, Mason falls under suspicion. Mason struggles at school with learning and is bullied, but he has a steadfast heart that allows the truth about Mason Buttle to be revealed.
- Cooney, Caroline B. ***No Such Person***. Delacorte, 2015. One of the Allerton sisters has been charged with a pre-meditated killing, so when Lander says she did not do it, Miranda, who wants to believe her sister, finds that the evidence is pointing to Lander's guilt.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Crossan, Sarah. ***The Weight of Water***. Bloomsbury, 2013. Told in verse, this story is about twelve-year-old Kasienka who immigrates to England from Poland with her mother in search of Kasienka's father. Sadly, everyone is not friendly except for one neighbor and a cute boy she meets at the swimming pool, which is her only refuge from bullies and an unfamiliar society.
- Culbertson, Kim. ***The Wonder of Us***. Point, 2017. Riya and Abby were best friends in their small California town, but Riya and her family moved to Berlin for Riya's junior year, and it was hard to stay in touch. Now that the year has passed, Riya proposes that they take a two-week Grand Tour and travel around Europe to reconnect--but they have both been hiding secrets, and those secrets threaten to push them apart forever.
- Dashner, James. ***The Eye of Minds***. Delacorte, 2013. Kaine, a cyberterrorist, has been holding players hostage in the VirtNet, a total mind/body virtual reality immersion. Michael and his friends, skilled gamers, are hired to go off the grid to track him down. *Series*
- Davies, Linda. ***Longbow Girl***. Chicken House, 2016. Sixteen-year-old expert archer Merry Owen is desperate to save her family's farm in Wales. When she finds a buried chest containing an ancient and possibly valuable Welsh text, she hopes it will be the key to a fortune -- and so it is, but not in the way she expected, for it sends her and her friend James de Courcy into the past.
- Deuker, Carl. ***Swagger***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Jonas' future looks bright with a college basketball scholarship within reach, but a team member is dead and Jonas knows who is responsible. Should he keep his head down or confront the killer and put his future in jeopardy?
- Eagar, Lindsay. ***Hour of the Bees***. Candlewick, 2016. Twelve-year old Carolina spends the summer with her aging grandfather in New Mexico and starts to connect more deeply with her family and her Mexican-American heritage in this novel of magical realism.
- Elliott, Kate. ***Court of Fives***. Little, Brown, 2015. When a scheming lord tears Jess's family apart, she must rely on her unlikely friendship with Kal, a high-ranking Patron boy, and her skill at Fives, an intricate, multi-level athletic competition that offers a chance for glory, to protect her Commoner mother and mixed-race sisters and save her father's reputation. *Series*
- Fantaskey, Beth. ***Buzz Kill***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Seventeen-year-old Millie joins forces with her classmate, gorgeous but mysterious Chase Colton, to try to uncover who murdered head football coach "Hollerin' Hank" Killdare . . . and why.
- Fleming, Candace. ***Presenting Buffalo Bill: The Man Who Invented the Wild West***. Roaring Brook, 2016. Buffalo Bill's rise as a mythic figure looms large in this entertaining and well-researched story of how Buffalo Bill popularized the legend of the West with his Wild West shows in the US and Europe.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Freedman, Russell. ***Vietnam: A History of the War***. Holiday House, 2016. The author offers a presentation of American involvement in the Vietnam War with a good selection of primary source photos and quotes from public officials as well as diary accounts and viewpoints of veterans of the war.
- Friedman, Laurie B. ***Love or Something Like It***. Darby Creek, 2015. As summer approaches, April is conflicted about going to camp and missing time with new boyfriend Matt and her friend Sophie, who will be visiting. Is her flame with Matt strong enough to survive a long absence? *Series*
- Gerber, Alyson. ***Braced***. Arthur A. Levine, 2017. Rachel's plans to start as a forward on her school's soccer team become endangered when she learns that scoliosis, a spinal condition, requires her to wear a back brace; however, friends and family rally to support her as she rises to the challenge to lead a full life on the field and at school.
- Gidwitz, Adam. ***The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog***. Dutton, 2016. On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children whose adventures take them on a chase through medieval France.
- Gier, Kerstin. ***Ruby Red***. Translated from the German by Anthea Bell. Holt, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Gwyneth Shepherd unexpectedly travels through time to the eighteenth century where she discovers a mystery about her real birth date and finds to her dismay that she must work with Gideon -- another time traveler who hates her! *Series*
- Gratz, Alan. ***Refugee***. Scholastic, 2017. In this action-packed story, three kids from three time periods on three journeys of survival fight for their lives, and ultimately, their stories converge in the end.
- Grimes, Nikki. ***Planet Middle School***. Bloomsbury, 2011. A series of poems describes all the baffling changes at home and at school in twelve-year-old Joylin's transition from tomboy basketball player to not-quite-girly girl.
- Hale, Nathan. ***One Dead Spy: The Life, Times, and Last Words of Nathan Hale, America's Most Famous Spy***. Amulet Books, 2012. After being swallowed by a giant history book moments before his own execution, Nathan Hale is given the chance to tell his own story as well as many other stories from American History. *Graphic novel series*
- Halpern, Jake, and Peter Kujawinski. ***Nightfall***. Putnam's, 2015. On a distant island where day and night exist on fourteen-year cycles and the islanders migrate south each sunset, three children get left behind and must find a way off the island before the Night finds them.
- Hardinge, Frances. ***A Face Like Glass***. Amulet Books, 2017. In a subterranean society, a young girl named Neverfall becomes immersed in plots, poisonings, and a rising revolt; humor and intrigue fill this story of Neverfall's victory over a society that masks true emotions.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Harrington, Kim. ***The Dead and Buried***. Point, 2012. High school senior Jade is horrified to learn her father and stepmother have bought the house of a girl who was mysteriously killed the year before they moved to town. She is even more horrified to realize that the house is being haunted by the dead girl's very mean-spirited ghost.
- Henkes, Kevin. ***Sweeping Up the Heart***. Greenwillow, 2019. Amelia's vacation looks bleak with her dad insisting they stay home over spring break instead of traveling. As boredom looms, she turns to the clay studio in town where she meets a boy named Casey who has a campaign going to keep his divorcing parents together.
- Henry, April. ***The Girl I Used to Be***. Holt, 2016. Fourteen years ago, everyone believed Olivia's mother had been killed by her father, but recently his remains were found in the same woodsy area where her mother died. Who killed them? Olivia means to find out.
- Hilton, Marilyn. ***Full Cicada Moon***. Dial Books, 2015. Mimi grapples with society in this novel written in verse about a half-black, half-Japanese seventh grader who moves to a new town and struggles to find her identity.
- Hoose, Phillip. ***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015. Deeply ashamed of Denmark's failure to resist the Nazi regime, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis themselves.
- Howard, Tim. ***The Keeper: The Unguarded Story of Tim Howard (Young Readers' Edition)***. Harper, 2015. Tim Howard's uplifting memoir about how he grew from being a hyperactive kid from New Jersey with Tourette syndrome to becoming one of the world's premier soccer goalkeepers.
- Hutton, Keely. ***Secret Soldiers***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2019. It is the height of WWI, and although teenager Thomas Sullivan isn't old enough to enlist as a soldier, he finds himself participating in a secret mission in the brutal trenches of the Western Front, all the while seeking his brother who is missing in action.
- Jarrow, Gail. ***Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America***. Calkins Creek, 2018. Orson Welles led a group of talented performers in a 1938 radio production of *The War of the Worlds*, which created a panic across the nation. The story of this faked "alien invasion" is a fascinating mix of theater, history, and psychology.
- Johnson, Steven. ***How We Got to Now: Six Innovations that Made the Modern World***. Viking, 2018. This fun survey describes how innovations, such as air conditioning and eye-glasses, evolved over time; these stories provide an appreciation of how ideas build upon each other.
- Kelly, Erin Entrada. ***Blackbird Fly***. Greenwillow, 2015. Bullied at school, eighth-grader Apple, a Filipino American who loves the music of the Beatles, decides to change her life by learning how to play the guitar.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Kelly, Scott. ***Endurance: My Year in Space and How I Got There***. Crown, 2018. Ever wonder what it is like to live in space? NASA astronaut, Scott Kelly details his journey from problem student to fighter pilot, Space Shuttle commander, and year-long inhabitant of the International Space Station.
- Khoury, Jessica. ***Kalahari***. Razorbill, 2015. Five teens must try to survive in the Kalahari Desert with limited supplies while evading mercenaries and a strange silver lion.
- Kincaid, S.J. ***Insignia***. Katherine Tegen, 2012. Tom, a fourteen-year-old genius at virtual reality games, is recruited by the United States Military to begin training at the Pentagon Spire as a Combatant in World War III, controlling the mechanized drones that do the actual fighting off-planet. *The audiobook version is highly recommended. Series*
- Klass, David. ***Losers Take All: A Novel***. Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2015. At a sports-crazy New Jersey high school where all kids must play on a team, a group of rebels start a soccer team designed to undermine the jock culture of the school.
- Klise, James. ***The Art of Secrets***. Algonquin, 2014. When a piece of quirky art donated to a school fundraising effort to help a Pakistani American family, victims of a possible hate crime, is revealed to be a valuable unknown work by a famous outsider artist, adults and teenagers alike debate who should get the money and begin to question each other's motivations.
- Landman, Tanya. ***Hell and High Water***. Candlewick, 2017. In 1750s London, young Caleb's life is upended when his father is accused of theft and shipped to America as a laborer; meanwhile, Caleb journeys to a rough seafaring town to live with his father's estranged sister, and he begins to discover murderous plots and a smuggling operation.
- McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. ***Under the Mesquite***. Lee & Low, 2011. Lupita, a budding actor and poet in a close-knit Mexican American immigrant family, comes of age as she struggles with adult responsibilities during her mother's long illness.
- McNeal, Tom. ***Far Far Away***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. When Jeremy Johnson Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate, Ginger Boultinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown.
- Meyer, Marissa. ***Heartless***. Feiwel and Friends, 2016. Cath wants most of all to open her own bakery to sell her tarts and other goodies, but in this prequel to Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, she has caught the eye of the goofy King of the Hearts Kingdom, as well as the eye of Jest, the court jester who is a very intriguing person!
- Miller, Sarah. ***The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century***. Schwartz & Wade, 2016. Examines the Borden murders, using newspaper articles to recreate the events and the trial and acquittal of Lizzie Borden and exploring Lizzie's story to theorize on what might have really happened.



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Moriarty, Jaclyn. ***A Corner of White***. Arthur A. Levine, 2013. Fourteen-year-old Madeleine of Cambridge, England, struggling to cope with poverty and her mother's illness, and fifteen-year-old Elliot of the Kingdom of Cello in a parallel world, begin exchanging notes through a crack between their worlds and find they can be of great help to each other. *Series*
- Muhammad, Ibtihaj. ***Proud: Living My American Dream***. Little, Brown, 2018. The inspiring and critically acclaimed all-American story of faith, family, hard work, and perseverance by Olympic fencer, activist, and one of *Time Magazine's* "100 Most Influential People," Ibtihaj Muhammad.
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. ***Dairy Queen***. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. *Series*
- Nelson, Marilyn. ***How I Discovered Poetry***. Dial Books, 2014. Looking back on her childhood in the 1950s, the author tells the story of her development as an artist and young woman through fifty eye-opening poems that also offer a larger view of the world around her: racial tensions, the Cold War era, and the first stirrings of the feminist movement.
- Nielsen, Susin. ***We Are All Made of Molecules***. Ember, 2016. Thirteen-year-old brilliant but socially-challenged Stewart and mean-girl Ashley must find common ground when, two years after Stewart's mother died, his father moves in with his new girlfriend--Ashley's mother--whose gay ex-husband lives in their guest house in the backyard.
- Nix, Garth. ***Frogkisser!*** Scholastic, 2017. Princess Anya has big problems. Duke Rikard, her step-stepfather, is an evil wizard who wants to rule the kingdom and has a habit of changing people into frogs, and her older sister Morven, the heir, is a wimp. With the help of the librarian Gotfried (who turns into an owl when he is upset) and the Royal Dogs, she must find a way to defeat Rikard, save her sister, and maybe even turn Prince Denholm back into a human being.
- Nunn, Malla. ***When the Ground is Hard***. Putnam's, 2019. At Swaziland's Keziah Christian Academy, where the wealth and color of one's father determines one's station, once-popular Adele bonds with poor Lottie over a book and a series of disasters.
- Odhiambo, Eucabeth A. ***Auma's Long Run***. Carolrhoda Books, 2017. When AIDS devastates thirteen-year-old Auma's village in Kenya during the 1980s, Auma must choose between staying to help her family and working toward a track scholarship that will take her away from home.
- Okorafor, Nnedi. ***Akata Witch***. Viking, 2011. Twelve-year-old Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has latent magical powers which she and three similarly gifted friends use to catch a serial killer. *Series*
- Oliver, Mary. ***Dog Songs: Thirty-five Dog Songs and One Essay***. Penguin, 2013. A collection of poems and one essay about dogs and their relationships with their owners.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Oppel, Kenneth. ***The Nest***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. Steve is an anxious boy who is visited in his dreams by wasps who say they want to save his sickly baby brother but can only do it with his help. But do they really want to help, and is he actually dreaming, and can he really help?
- Peet, Mal. ***Keeper***. Candlewick, 2005. An enthralling story of a poor and gawky Brazilian child who mysteriously becomes the world's greatest goalkeeper -- a seamless blend of magical realism and exhilarating soccer action.
- Phelan, Matt. ***Snow White: A Graphic Novel***. Candlewick, 2016. This darkly stylized, noir adaptation of the classic story is set against a backdrop of Depression-era Manhattan and depicts, in vibrant graphic-novel detail, the story of a beleaguered girl who finds shelter with seven street urchins after the sudden death of her father, a former Wall Street king, and suffers cruelty at the hands of her Queen of the Follies stepmother. *Graphic novel*
- Preus, Margi. ***West of the Moon***. Amulet Books, 2014. Norwegian folktale and myth are woven into the story of Astri, a young girl whose evil aunt sells her to a goat herder. Astri plots to make a daring escape, rescue her younger sister, and embark on a quest to find their father.
- Priest, Cherie. ***I Am Princess X***. Arthur A. Levine, 2015. Years after writing stories about a superheroine character she created with a best friend who died in a tragic car accident, sixteen-year-old May is shocked to see stickers, patches, and graffiti images of the superheroine appearing around Seattle.
- Raffin, Michele. ***The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic and the Endangered***. Algonquin, 2014. Pandemonium, the home and bird sanctuary that Raffin shares with some of the world's most remarkable birds, is a conservation organization dedicated to saving and breeding birds at the edge of extinction, with the goal of eventually releasing them into the wild. Their stories teach us volumes about the interrelationships of humans and animals.
- Reynolds, Jason. ***Long Way Down***. Atheneum, 2017. Fifteen-year-old Will faces questions of morality and justice as he considers murdering the man who shot his brother in this powerful, gripping novel-in-verse that takes place in sixty crucial seconds.
- Roberts, Barbara Carroll. ***Nikki on the Line***. Little, Brown, 2019. Middle schooler Nikki's passion is basketball, and she dreams of making the cut for a competitive club team. However, her non-sporty mom, the secret about her dad, changing friendships, and a new guy on the scene add up to things going not quite the way she planned.
- Ruiz Zafón, Carlos. ***The Prince of Mist***. Little, Brown, 2010. In 1943, in a seaside town where their family has gone to be safe from war, thirteen-year-old Max Carver and his fifteen-year-old sister Alicia, along with new friend Roland, face off against an evil magician who is striving to complete a bargain made before he died.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Sanderson, Brandon. ***Skyward***. Delacorte, 2018. Branded as the daughter of a coward after her father abandons his team and is killed in battle, young Spensa sets her sights on claiming the stars by becoming a pilot and seeking retribution for her father's death by taking on their age-old enemy, the Krell.
- Sandler, Martin W. ***The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found***. Candlewick, 2017. Set sail on the pirate ship Whydah, doomed to sink off the coast of Cape Cod in 1717 with its treasure aboard and Black Sam Bellamy at the helm. Not found until 1984, its artifacts have shed much light on the life of pirates.
- Sands, Kevin. ***The Blackthorn Key***. Aladdin, 2015. In 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, and his best friend Tom try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, pranks, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart. *Series*
- Schlitz, Laura Amy. ***The Hired Girl***. Candlewick, 2015. Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs chronicles her life in a journal when she leaves her family's farm in Pennsylvania to work as a hired girl in Baltimore in the summer of 1911. *Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction 2016*
- Sedgwick, Marcus. ***She Is Not Invisible***. Roaring Brook, 2014. When her father disappears, a blind London teenager kidnaps her younger brother -- her eyes to the world -- and embarks on a quest to find her father and solve the mystery of his disappearance.
- Sepetys, Ruta. ***Between Shades of Gray***. Philomel, 2011. On a calm, beautiful night in 1941 Lithuania, fifteen-year-old Lina's life is torn apart as she and her family are forced from their home and sent to work in labor camps along the harsh Arctic Circle as part of Stalin's forced relocation program. Also published as *Ashes in the Snow*.
- Sheinkin, Steve. ***Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team***. Roaring Brook, 2017. Tells the fascinating story of the beginning of American collegiate football and the role that coach Pop Warner, football great Jim Thorpe, and the legendary Carlisle Indian Industrial School contributed to the development of the sport.
- Spooner, Meagan. ***Sherwood***. HarperTeen, 2019. When Lady Marian learns that her betrothed, Robin of Locksley, has perished in the Crusades, she is faced with an uncertain future and finds herself caught between helping Will Scarlet, a fugitive, and keeping one step ahead of Sir Guy, the arm of the law. "The lady becomes the legend" is the perfect tagline for this reimagined classic.
- Stead, Rebecca. ***Goodbye, Stranger***. Wendy Lamb, 2015. As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvaceous Em, crusader Tab, and a curious new friend - or more than friend - Sherm, she finds the answer she has been seeking since she barely survived an accident at age eight: "What is my purpose?"

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Treasure Island***. First published 1883. A classic pirate story reproduced in movies and TV shows more than any other, *Treasure Island* tells the tale of the quest for treasure by Jim Hawkins and pirate Long John Silver. The book introduces the now infamous pirate song "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest--Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"
- Stroud, Jonathan. ***The Amulet of Samarkand***. Hyperion, 2003. This story is set in present-day London where Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, calls up the djinni Bartimaeus to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from another magician, and they both get caught up in a vast conspiracy of treason and murder. *Series*
- Sundquist, Josh. ***Love and First Sight***. Little, Brown, 2017. When Will decides to have surgery that can potentially restore his vision, he finds that those he cares about may be keeping secrets.
- Thompson, Holly. ***Orchards***. Ember, 2011. Sent to Japan for the summer after an eighth-grade classmate's suicide, half-Japanese, half-Jewish Kana Goldberg tries to fit in with relatives she barely knows and reflects on the guilt she feels over the tragedy back home.
- Tolkien, J. R. R. ***The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again***. First published 1937. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. *Series*
- Turner, Megan Whalen. ***The Thief***. Greenwillow, 1996. Eugenides boasts that he can steal anything, but he is currently sitting in the dungeon when the King's Magus offers him a choice of coming with him on a fantastical quest for a magical gemstone or stay rotting in jail for life. *Series*
- Vail, Rachel. ***Well, That Was Awkward***. Viking, 2017. Gracie has forgotten how to breathe, move, or do anything when confronted with A. J. who is suddenly so good looking! Then to top things off her best friend Sienna wants Gracie to compose texts to send to A. J. as if it was from her... but the replies are weirdly unlike A. J.
- Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***Flipped***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2001. This is a classic romantic comedy of errors told in alternating chapters by two teenagers describing how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.
- Volponi, Paul. ***Game Seven***. Viking, 2015. Julio Ramirez, a sixteen-year-old shortstop in Cuba who dreams of playing with the national team, finds that he must choose between his country and family and his father who long ago defected to the U.S.
- Watson, Jude. ***Loot: How to Steal a Fortune***. Scholastic, 2014. When notorious jewel thief Alfie McQuinn is killed on a job, his last words to his son, March, are to "find jewels," and this instruction leads the boy to Jules, the twin sister he never knew he had--and the perfect partner to carry on the family business. *Series*

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020**  
**Grades 7 and 8**

- Watson, Renée. ***Piecing Me Together***. Bloomsbury, 2017. Tired of being singled out at her mostly white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls. *Coretta Scott King Award 2018*
- Wilson, Kip. ***White Rose***. Versify, 2019. Based on true events, this novel in verse tells the compelling story of Sophie Scholl, an activist in World War II Nazi Germany who refused to be a bystander and instead risked everything to stand up against injustice.
- Wolk, Lauren. ***Wolf Hollow: A Novel***. Dutton, 2016. Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what is right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.
- Yelchin, Eugene. ***Spy Runner***. Holt, 2019. Spy intrigue, FBI agents, Cold War paranoia, some blurry photos, and a sprinkling of wicked wit make this story a unique mystery.
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*All book summaries are provided by the publisher  
or written by committee members.*

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## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Adeyemi, Tomi. ***Children of Blood and Bone***. Holt, 2018. Seventeen-year-old Zelie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy. *Series*
- Ahdieh, Renée. ***Flame in the Mist***. Putnam's, 2017. While journeying to meet her betrothed, the son of the emperor's favorite consort, Mariko barely escapes a sudden and shocking assassination attempt. Disguising herself as a boy, Mariko sets out to discover who tried to kill her and why. Once accepted into the notorious Black Clan, however, Mariko finds herself appreciated and respected for her intellect and alchemical abilities, leading her to start questioning everything she's ever known about her family and her destiny. *Series*
- Anderson, Natalie C. ***City of Saints & Thieves***. Putnam's, 2017. When Tina's mother is murdered in Mr. Grayhill's study in Kenya, Tina believes she knows who did it. She disappears into the streets of Sangu City and begins to train with the Goonda gang, perfecting her thieving skills in order to extract revenge for her mother's death. After four years on the streets, she puts her plan of revenge into action, only to discover that everything may not be what it seems.
- Aveyard, Victoria. ***Red Queen***. HarperTeen, 2015. In a world divided by blood--Red blooded (more common) serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities--seventeen-year-old Mare, a Red, discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. But Mare risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard--a growing Red rebellion--even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. *Series*
- Benedict, Marie. ***Carnegie's Maid***. Sourcebooks, 2018. In this Gilded Age era novel, Clara, an Irish immigrant, takes on a false identity to gain employment as a housekeeper in Andrew Carnegie's grand house. Her relationship with the steel tycoon transforms him into America's first philanthropist.
- Biles, Simone, with Michelle Burford. ***Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance***. Zondervan, 2016. Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles describes how she overcame early difficulties through the help of her family and God to realize her dream of becoming an elite gymnast.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Blake, Kendare. ***Three Dark Crowns***. HarperTeen, 2016. On the island of Fennbirn, a set of triplets born to the queen are separated at a young age and trained to use their individual special powers: a naturalist, an elemental, and a poisoner. As tradition dictates, on their sixteenth birthday, the sisters will engage in a battle to the death; the victor gains the right to be Queen. *Series*
- Bowman, Erin. ***Vengeance Road***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. When her father is killed by the notorious Rose Riders for a mysterious journal that reveals the secret location of a gold mine, eighteen-year-old Kate Thompson disguises herself as a boy and takes to the plains looking for answers--and justice. *Series*
- Brody, Jessica. ***The Chaos of Standing Still***. Simon Pulse, 2017. Ryn, eighteen, trapped by a massive blizzard in the Denver airport, meets some unique characters who help her cope with survivor's guilt on the first anniversary of her best friend's death.
- Brown, Jennifer. ***Torn Away***. Little, Brown, 2014. As Jersey copes with her tornado tragedies, the deaths of both mom and sister, as well as the loss of her home, she is further challenged when she is forced to live with her long-estranged father.
- Cornwell, Betsy. ***Mechanica***. Clarion, 2015. In this retelling of Cinderella, an indomitable inventor-mechanic finds her prince but realizes she doesn't want a fairy tale happy ending after all.
- Crossan, Sarah. ***One***. Greenwillow, 2015. Despite problems at home, sixteen-year-old conjoined twins Tippi and Grace love going to school for the first time and making real friends. In the midst of their happiness, however, they learn that a cardiac problem will force them to have separation surgery, which they have never before considered. *Novel in verse*
- Crouch, Blake. ***Dark Matter***. Crown, 2016. After being knocked out and kidnapped, scientist Jason Dessen wakes up in an unfamiliar world where his wife is not his wife, his son was never born, and someone is out to get him.
- Crowley, Cath. ***Words in Deep Blue***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2016. Rachel and her brother always loved the ocean, but after he drowns, she cannot bear to be around it. She moves back to the city and finds a job working in a bookstore whose part-owner is a young man she had a crush on years before. The job, school, friends and emotional ups and downs lead Rachel to healing.
- Dayton, Arwen Elys. ***Stronger, Faster, and More Beautiful***. Delacorte, 2018. Six interconnected stories in near-future and far-future settings that explore how far humans will go to stand out while continuing to fit in on the path to perfection.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Donnelly, Jennifer. ***These Shallow Graves***. Delacorte, 2015. A young woman in nineteenth-century New York City must struggle against gender and class boundaries when her father is found dead of a supposed suicide and she believes there is more than meets the eye, so in order to uncover the truth, she will have to decide how much she is willing to risk and lose.
- Doty, James R. ***Into the Magic Shop: A Neurosurgeon's Quest to Discover the Mysteries of the Brain and the Secrets of the Heart***. Penguin, 2016. James Doty, a distinguished neurosurgeon, reflects on his impoverished childhood, his alcoholic father, and his career in medicine to show readers how it is fundamentally possible to change the thinking patterns in one's brain.
- Ewing, Eve L. ***Electric Arches***. Haymarket, 2017. A visually explosive collection of poetry and narrative prose that explores black girlhood and womanhood. *Alex Award 2018*
- Foxlee, Karen. ***The Midnight Dress***. Ember, 2015. Until almost sixteen year old Rose connects with the people of a small, coastal Australian town, she is used to traveling aimlessly with her alcoholic father. Stunning classmate Pearl, reclusive dressmaker Edie, and a magical dress that Rose and Edie sew for the Harvest Festival all contribute to a mystery unfolding around them. *The audiobook is also highly recommended.*
- Gaiman, Neil. ***Norse Mythology***. Norton, 2017. A pleasurable retelling of Norse myths featuring gods who interact with dwarves and giants, animals and humans; the tales end with the violent Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods, and the birth of a new time and people.
- Grolleau, Fabien. ***Audubon: On the Wings of the World***. Nobrow, 2017. In the early 1800s, John James Audubon, an ornithologist, traversed America studying birds. Despite challenging weather and wildlife along the way, he persevered to create beautiful illustrations still admired today. *Graphic novel*
- Hesse, Monica. ***The Girl in the Blue Coat***. Little, Brown, 2016. In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke--a 'finder' of black market goods--is tasked with finding a Jewish girl who has seemingly vanished into thin air, and she is pulled into a web of resistance activities and secrets as she attempts to solve the mystery and save the missing girl.
- Hunter, C. C. ***This Heart of Mine: A Novel***. Wednesday Books, 2018. After a heart transplant, seventeen-year-old Leah is plagued with dreams of the donor's suicide . . . or was it murder? Leah sets out to unravel the secret with the help of the donor's twin brother.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Hitchcock, Bonnie-Sue. ***The Smell of Other People's Houses***. Wendy Lamb, 2016. In quite possibly the best titled novel in recent years, this redemptive coming of age story is told in four unique teen voices living in 1970s Alaska.
- Jones, Kelly. ***Murder, Magic and What We Wore***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2017. When her father dies, Annis Whitworth, who has power to sew glammers, garments that can disguise the wearer completely, becomes a spy and leads a double life in order to find her father's killer.
- Katz, Jon. ***Saving Simon: How a Rescue Donkey Taught Me the Meaning of Compassion***. Random House, 2015. In this heartfelt, thoughtful, and inspiring memoir, the author tells the story of his beloved rescue donkey, Simon, and the wondrous ways that animals make us wiser and kinder people.
- Kooser, Ted. ***Delights & Shadows: Poems***. Copper Canyon Press, 2004. This collection of poems by a former Poet Laureate of the United States describes the habits and struggles of daily life. *Winner Pulitzer Prize for Poetry 2005*
- Krosoczka, Jarrett. ***Hey, Kiddo***. Graphix, 2018. In his deeply personal graphic novel memoir, Krosoczka illustrates the devastating impact his mother's addiction had on his childhood and how his supportive grandparents and his love of art ultimately saved his life.
- Lu, Marie. ***Batman: Nightwalker***. Random House, 2018. Young Bruce Wayne is about to inherit his family's fortune and the keys to Wayne Industries when he gets tangled up with Gotham City's biggest enemy - the Nightwalkers. *DC Icons Series*
- Maas, Sarah J. ***Catwoman: Soulstealer***. Random House, 2018. Joining forces with Poison Ivy and Harley Quinn, Catwoman returns to Gotham City to right the social order and wreak havoc on the city's rich and self-righteous, while attempting to fulfill her own private quest. *DC Icon Series*
- Mandel, Emily St. John. ***Station Eleven***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Scenes from life before and after a great pandemic decimates the world's population depict life through the eyes of members of a traveling group of performers.
- Mathieu, Jennifer. ***Devoted: A Novel***. Roaring Brook, 2015. Rachel Walker loves her family and is devoted to God, but when she begins to question both her reclusive and sheltered life and her relationship with God, she must decide if she will stay or flee, leaving her family and community behind.
- McGee, Katharine. ***American Royals***. Random House, 2019. An exciting glimpse into a speculative future where the heirs of George Washington reign in a court filled with intrigue, drama, and romance.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- McLemore, Anna-Marie. ***The Weight of Feathers***. St. Martin's Press, 2015. To the delight of audiences worldwide, members of the Paloma family perform underwater as mermaids while the Corbeau family gives feathered performances in the tallest of trees . . . but their families have been enemies for generations. When disaster strikes, will Lace Paloma and Cluck Corbeau be able to overcome their prejudices and help each other?
- McNamee, Graham. ***Defender***. Wendy Lamb, 2016. Seventeen-year-old Tyne and her boyfriend Stick investigate a decades-old murder after she finds the body of a girl in the basement wall of her apartment building.
- McStay, Moriah. ***Everything That Makes You***. Katherine Tegen, 2015. In alternating voices, Fiona "Fi" Doyle experiences her teen years in two ways, with and without a disfiguring accident that occurred at age six, dealing with its effects on her brother and parents, her friendships, her dating life, her involvement in sports and hobbies, her future plans, and especially her self-image.
- Menon, Sandhya. ***When Dimple Met Rishi***. Simon Pulse, 2017. When Dimple Shah and Rishi Patel meet at a Stanford University summer program, Dimple is avoiding her parents' obsession with "marriage prospects," but Rishi hopes to woo her into accepting an arranged marriage with him.
- Miodownik, Mark. ***Stuff Matters: Exploring the Marvelous Materials that Shape Our Man-Made World***. Mariner, 2014. Explores objects as ordinary as an envelope and as unexpected as concrete cloth, uncovering the fascinating secrets that hold together our physical world.
- Montgomery, Sy. ***The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration Into the Wonder of Consciousness***. Atria Books, 2015. Explores the emotional and physical world of the octopus -- a surprisingly complex, intelligent, and spirited creature -- and the remarkable connections it makes with humans, revealing what octopuses can teach us about consciousness.
- Nazemian, Abdi. ***The Authentics***. HarperCollins, 2017. Daria, an Iranian-American teenager, is tired of the sameness of the school cliques, so she and her friends form the Authentics because they are unique and real. When a school project forces her to trace her family roots, unexpected secrets emerge.
- Oliver, Mary. ***Swan: Poems and Prose Poems***. Beacon Press, 2010. Mary Oliver's adoration and awe of nature shines through in this slim collection of beautiful poetry evocative of the beauty, brutality, and mysteries found in the natural world.

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### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Perkins, Mitali, ed. ***Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices***. Candlewick, 2013. Using a mix of diverse styles and perspectives, ten authors of non-Caucasian background share their personal views on the ways race and discrimination affect children and teenagers.
- Pung, Alice. ***Lucy and Linh***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2016. Set in Australia, Lucy tries to balance her life at home surrounded by her Chinese immigrant family with her life at a pretentious private school.
- Raasch, Sara. ***Snow Like Ashes***. Balzar + Bray, 2014. Sixteen years ago the Kingdom of Winter was attacked by King Angra from the Kingdom of Spring. Most of the Winterians were killed or enslaved. Meira and a group of Winterians journey to find the magical conduit that will restore their Kingdom, not realizing that she is the key to their future. *Series*
- Revis, Beth. ***A World Without You***. Penguin, 2016. Seventeen-year-old Bo knows that he can time travel. His parents send him to a special school where he meets and falls in love with Sofia, a tragic, quiet girl. Is this school for troubled teens - or for those with superpowers? *Series*
- Reynolds, Justin A. ***Opposite of Always***. Katherine Tegen, 2019. Jack King, a high school senior, is determined to save Kate, a girl he fell hard for at a party, despite the fact that he is caught in a time loop wherein she dies and he wakes up the moment they first met.
- Roat, Sharon Huss. ***How to Disappear***. HarperTeen, 2017. When Vicki's best friend moves away, she is consumed by loneliness and anxiety until, on a whim, she invents an Instagram account that forces her out of the shadows.
- Saedi, Sara. ***Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018. In this memoir set in the 1990s, teenaged Sara keeps a diary of life as an Iranian American and her discovery that she and her family entered the United States as undocumented immigrants.
- Saeed, Aisha. ***Written in the Stars***. Nancy Paulsen, 2015. Naila's vacation to visit relatives in Pakistan turns into a nightmare when she discovers her parents want to force her to marry a man she's never met.
- Scotton, Christopher. ***The Secret Wisdom of the Earth***. Grand Central, 2015. Kevin spends the summer with his grandfather and tries to help the townspeople save the woods in Appalachia from the devastation of strip mining.

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### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Sedoti, Chelsea. ***The Hundred Lies of Lizzie Lovett***. Sourcebooks, 2017. Seventeen-year-old Hawthorn, an endearing and awkward loner, becomes obsessed with the mysterious disappearance of the beautiful and popular Lizzie Lovett.
- Sepetys, Ruta. ***Salt to the Sea: A Novel***. Philomel, 2016. World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia, and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom. When their paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, Joana, Emilia, and Florian find their strength, courage, and trust in one another tested with each step closer toward safety. When tragedy strikes the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, they must fight for the same thing: survival.
- Showalter, Gena. ***Firstlife***. Harlequin TEEN, 2016. Locked in an asylum for her refusal to let her parents dictate her afterlife choices, Ten Lockwood finds herself caught in a violent power struggle between the two leading Everlife realms that would do anything to claim her powerful soul. *Series*
- Shusterman, Neal. ***Scythe***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. In a Utopian world where there is no war, no unhappiness, and the creation of nannites has eliminated death, the only challenge facing the world is overpopulation. Scythes have been given the power to selectively kill or “glean” the population to keep growth in check. Rowan and Ciria, the newly selected apprentice scythes, internally struggle with “gleaning” and find that the world is really no utopia. *Series*
- Simon, Matt. ***The Wasp That Brainwashed the Caterpillar: Evolution's Most Unbelievable Solutions to Life's Biggest Problems***. Penguin, 2016. Explores the creative way that curious creatures have adapted to the challenges of survival. Includes a discussion of the satanic leaf-tailed gecko, the velvet worm, and the pink fairy armadillo.
- Stevenson, Noelle. ***Nimona***. HarperTeen, 2015. Nimona, a young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy, and Lord Ballister Blackheart, a villain with a vendetta, set out to prove that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his friends are not the heroes everyone thinks they are. But Lord Blackheart soon realizes that Nimona's powers are as murky and mysterious as her past, and her unpredictable wild side might be more dangerous than he is willing to admit. *Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album 2016, Graphic novel*
- Stone, Nic. ***Dear Martin***. Crown, 2017. Writing letters to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seventeen-year-old college-bound Justyce McAllister struggles to face the reality of race relations today and how they are shaping him. *William C. Morris Award Finalist*

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### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Suma, Nova Ren. ***The Walls Around Us***. Algonquin, 2015. Orianna and Violet are ballet dancers and best friends, but when the ballerinas who have been harassing Violet are murdered, Orianna is accused of the crime and sent to a juvenile detention center where she meets Amber and they experience supernatural events linking the girls together.
- Tahir, Sabaa. ***An Ember in the Ashes***. Razorbill, 2015. Laia is a Scholar living under the iron-fisted rule of the Martial Empire. When her brother is arrested for treason, Laia goes undercover as a slave at the empire's greatest military academy in exchange for assistance from rebel Scholars who claim that they will help save her brother from execution. *Series*
- Takei, George. ***They Called Us Enemy***. Top Shelf Productions, 2019. Actor George Takei, best known for his role as Hikaru Sulu on *Star Trek*, reveals how at the age of five his family was forced into Japanese-American internment camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. *Graphic Memoir, Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature 2020*
- Taylor, Laini. ***Strange the Dreamer***. Little, Brown, 2017. In the aftermath of a war between gods and men, a hero, a librarian, and a girl must battle the fantastical elements of a mysterious city stripped of its name. *Series*
- Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***Wild Bird***. Alfred K. Knopf, 2017. When her behavior escalates out of control, fourteen-year-old Wren is taken away in the middle of the night to a wilderness therapy camp where she is forced to develop new skills, including the courage to ask for help.
- Wallach, Tommy. ***We All Looked Up***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. The lives of four high school seniors intersect weeks before a meteor is set to pass through Earth's orbit, with a 66.6% chance of striking and destroying all life on the planet.
- Wilson, G. Willow. ***Ms. Marvel. Volume 1: No Normal***. Marvel, 2014. When Pakistani-American and Jersey City teenager Kamala Khan suddenly acquires superpowers, she sets out to protect her community and her city while balancing school and family life. *Hugo Award 2015, Series, Graphic novel*
- Zappia, Francesca. ***Eliza and Her Monsters***. Greenwillow, 2017. Eliza has found great success through her webcomic *Monstrous Sea*. However, in real life she is voluntarily isolated, until she meets a new student, Wallace, who is one of the series' greatest fans. Her journey to being part of the real world is rocky and terrifying at times; however, navigating her way through the relationships in her life helps her to find her way.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

Zentner, Jeff. ***The Serpent King***. Crown, 2015. Small towns can be hard places to grow up when you don't fit the mold, but for three high school seniors, it is nearly impossible. Dill, whose father is incarcerated, Lydia, who is a fashion blogger longing for New York, and Travis, who is living in an abusive home, find an unlikely friendship that bonds them together and helps them find hope for the future. *William C. Morris Award 2017*

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## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Anderson, Natalie G. ***City of Saints & Thieves***. Putnam's, 2017. An exciting thriller that takes place in Kenya and follows Tina, a Congolese refugee, as she takes care of her little sister and plots revenge on the man who killed her mother.
- Arden, Katherine. ***The Bear and the Nightingale***. Del Rey, 2017. After Vasilisa's new stepmother forbids her family from honoring the household spirits at the edge of the wilderness in medieval Russia, misfortune stalks the village and evil creatures of the forest creep nearer. *Series*
- Backman, Fredrik, translated by Neil Smith. ***Beartown***. Atria Books, 2016. Beartown gets smaller each year, but the townspeople believe that winning the hockey national semi-finals will breathe life back into the dying town. When faced with a violent scandal committed by one of their own, courage and honor will be tested, and the town's response will determine the fate of Beartown. *Series*
- Bardugo, Leigh. ***Six of Crows***. Holt, 2015. Six outcasts sign up for a dangerous heist that will not only fill their pockets but also save the world from its current path towards darkness and destruction. Each of these characters has a story to tell, but can they unite long enough to complete the mission? *Series*
- Brown, Dan. ***Origin***. Doubleday, 2017. Professor Robert Langdon teams up with the director of the Guggenheim Bilbao and together they race across Spain, eluding mysterious men trying to kill them, in search of Langdon's former friend and futurist Edmond Kirsch's answers to mankind's most perplexing questions. *Series*
- Carey, M. R. ***The Girl with All the Gifts***. Orbit, 2015. Not every gift is a blessing. Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class. When they come for her, Sergeant Parks keeps his gun pointed at her while two of his people strap her into the wheelchair. She thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite. But they don't laugh. Melanie is a very special girl.
- Choo, Yangsze. ***The Night Tiger***. Flatiron, 2019. In 1930s Malaysia, a plucky dance-hall girl longing for adventure and a young houseboy seeking to fulfill his dead master's dying wish cross paths over the discovery of a severed finger that is shrouded in Chinese superstition and that may be connected to a series of grisly "tiger" attacks.
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. ***Between the World and Me***. Spiegel & Grau, 2015. Written as a letter to his teenage son, Coates confronts racism through the ages in America. This book covers many uncomfortable but pertinent social issues, encouraging the reader to wrestle with the questions. *National Book Award 2015, Alex Award 2016*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Contreras, Ingrid Rojas. ***Fruit of the Drunken Tree***. Doubleday, 2018. Two girls, one rich and one the maid of the rich girl's family, become friends despite their backgrounds and the violence that surrounds them in Colombia during the 1990s.
- Crane, Rebekah. ***The Upside of Falling Down***. Skyscape, 2018. Struggling with amnesia after surviving a plane crash, Clementine Haas escapes from the hospital where her father sits in the waiting room. She decides to abandon her old identity and hide out in the sleepy town of Waterville, Ireland, as she searches for herself in the company of Kieran O'Connell.
- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. ***Before We Visit the Goddess***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. Life choices around love are powerful ones that have the potential to alter lives dramatically. Three generations of Indian mothers and daughters share their interconnected stories, even if they are themselves separated by thousands of miles.
- Doerr, Anthony. ***All the Light We Cannot See***. Scribner, 2014. The paths of a blind French girl and a young Nazi soldier collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. *Alex Award 2015, National Book Award for Fiction 2014, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2015*
- Duckworth, Angela. ***Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance***. Scribner, 2016. Part of success and achievement is finding and keeping the determination and resilience to move forward and meet goals in all aspects of life. The author offers examples, interviews, and guidance for students, teachers, and other professionals.
- Finlay, Adrienne. ***Your One and Only***. Houghton Mifflin, 2018. In a perfect world where only clones exist after humanity and human imperfections have died off, Jack, the only genuine human in existence, longs for acceptance.
- Fink, Joseph, and Jeffrey Cranor. ***It Devours!: A Welcome to Night Vale Novel***. HarperCollins, 2017. Set in the peculiar town of Night Vale, scientist Nilanjana Sikdar is forced to put logic on the backburner when she investigates a mysterious rumbling in the desert. *Series*
- Grann, David. ***Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI***. Doubleday, 2016. Presents a true account of the early twentieth-century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage and law-enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.
- Green, John. ***Turtles All the Way Down***. Dutton, 2017. Aza deals with anxiety and invasive thoughts that make living a normal life a struggle. She must learn to control her thoughts if she is going to help solve the mysterious disappearance of billionaire Russell Pickett.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Hannah, Kristin. ***The Great Alone***. St. Martin's Press, 2018. In Alaska during the 1970s, teenager Leni observes her parents cope with her father's PTSD and its effect on their relationship. As the family struggles to survive the brutal cold and dark landscape, Leni falls in love, discovers a supportive community, and copes with her difficult family dynamics.
- Hoffman, Alice. ***The Marriage of Opposites***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. Fleeing from the Spanish Inquisition, Rachel's family finds a small Jewish community on the tropical island of St. Thomas to call home. This magical story is based on the extraordinary life of Rachel Pissarro who gave birth to Camille Pissarro, famous painter and father of Impressionism.
- Jiles, Paulette. ***News of the World***. William Morrow, 2016. After the Civil War, an older man who makes his living travelling around North Texas reading newspapers aloud, agrees to take a young white girl who was kidnapped and raised by Indians on a 400-mile journey from Wichita Falls back to her family in San Antonio.
- Kelly, Martha Hall. ***Lilac Girls***. Ballantine Books, 2016. Three women - a New York socialite charity worker, a Nazi doctor, and a "Ravensbruck Rabbit" survivor of medical experiments in the concentration camp - search for justice, peace, or a new life after World War II.
- Kelly, Scott. ***Endurance: A Year in Space, a Lifetime of Discovery***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2017. Astronaut Scott Kelly describes how he overcame early obstacles through hard work and perseverance to find himself living and working on board the International Space Station during an amazing year of science and self-reflection.
- King, A. S. ***Still Life with Tornado***. Dutton, 2016. Sarah's life changes the day her art teacher says that there are no more original ideas. She begins roaming the streets of Philadelphia and stops seeing the point of things like going to school or brushing her hair. As the traumatic events that led to Sarah's existential crisis are revealed, she begins to heal.
- Larbalestier, Justine. ***My Sister Rosa***. Soho Teen, 2016. When his father's business takes the family to New York City, a seventeen-year-old Australian boy must balance his desire to protect his ten-year-old sister, a diagnosable psychopath, from the world with the desperate need to protect the world from her.
- Larson, Erik. ***Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania***. Crown, 2015. With a false sense of security, the luxury ocean liner sailed on May 1, 1915, during World War I. The author tells the story of the many individuals who lost their lives or played a part in this famous maritime disaster involving an enemy torpedo. The story also offers a glimpse of the Progressive Era in the United States.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Lee, Mackenzi. ***The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue***. HarperCollins, 2017. Henry "Monty" Montague takes off on a wild and memorable trip across Europe with his closest friend and crush, Percy. *Series*
- Lehmann, Kat. ***Small Stones from the River: Meditations and Micropoems***. 29 Trees, 2017. Includes 180 original micropoems, haikus, tanka, and short prose entries that reflect on the beauty and wondrous nature of life.
- Liu, Cixin, translated by Ken Liu. ***The Three-Body Problem***. Tor Books, 2014. At the height of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, a young scientist sends a signal to an alien world knowing it will lead an invasion force to Earth and end the human race. Forty years later, humanity's first chance to avert destruction emerges. *Hugo Award 2015, Series*
- Lockhart, E. ***Genuine Fraud***. Delacorte, 2017. Jule is on the run and hiding out in a resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Her story is told in reverse with unpredictable twists that will keep readers guessing until the very end.
- Luceno, James. ***Star Wars, Catalyst: A Rogue One Novel***. Del Rey, 2016. If completed, the secret Death Star project promises to change the balance of power in the galaxy, and Director Orson Krennic knows that the key to finishing the deadly superweapon lies with the brilliant scientist Galen Erso. Weaving a web of deception around Galen and his family, Krennic is determined to ensnare the scientist to ensure the completion of the Death Star and to make his own political fortune, no matter the cost to the galaxy itself. *Series*
- Mastai, Elan. ***All Our Wrong Todays***. Dutton, 2017. In a twist of fate, Tom Barren travels from a utopian society to a dystopian wasteland. Will he go back to the idealistic world he came from or stay in the alternate reality that finally feels like home?
- Mathieu, Jennifer. ***Moxie***. Roaring Brook, 2017. In a small Texas town where high school football reigns supreme, sixteen-year-old Viv starts a feminist revolution using anonymously written zines.
- McBride, Laura. ***We Are Called to Rise: A Novel***. Simon & Schuster, 2014. This debut novel is set in Las Vegas and told from four alternating perspectives that come together suddenly and explosively. At its heart, it's a story about the power of human resilience and how even in the darkest and most hopeless moments, people can rise, help each other, redeem themselves, and ultimately heal.
- McClellan, Brian. ***Promise of Blood***. Orbit, 2014. The Age of Kings has ended in a bloody coup. Field Marshal Tamas' determination to end rule by corrupt aristocrats may have brought relief to the oppressed citizens of Ardo, but threats quickly arise from inside and outside the nation. More worryingly, whispers have begun to circulate about gods walking the earth amid omens of death and destruction, and Tamas has only his own estranged son, Taniel, and Adamant, a retired police inspector, on whom to rely. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- McCullough, David. ***The Wright Brothers***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. An award-winning historian helps us understand the lives of these two modest men as they journey from bike shop to aviation history.
- McGee, Katharine. ***The Thousandth Floor***. HarperCollins, 2016. From the top of a towering skyscraper in New York City a hundred years in the future, someone falls to their death. The flashback follows five teens through the events that led to that fateful event in this first book of a page-turning trilogy. *Series*
- McLain, Paula. ***Circling the Sun***. Ballantine Books, 2015. This novel is based on the life of Beryl Markham, who grew up training horses on her father's ranch in Nairobi, Africa, in the 1920s. She led a full and sometimes difficult life, befriending Karen Blixen and Denys Finch Hatton from *Out of Africa* fame. Being a strong woman for her times, Beryl's relationships were complicated, but her passion for flying was ignited by the friendships she made.
- McManus, Karen M. ***One of Us is Lying***. Delacorte, 2017. A modern-day Breakfast Club in which four students become murder suspects when the ruthless high school gossip blogger dies mysteriously in detention; they were the only ones in the room and everyone wants to know...who killed Simon Kelleher? *Series*
- Miller, Madeline. ***Circe***. Little, Brown, 2018. This is the intimate story of Circe, daughter of the sun god Helios, who could transform her enemies into wild beasts and was banished by Zeus to a deserted island, as she crosses paths with several famous mythological figures such as Odysseus, Daedalus, Icarus, Athena, and the Minotaur.
- Miranda, Lin-Manuel, and Jeremy McCarter. ***Hamilton: The Revolution***. Grand Central, 2016. Includes the complete libretto of the Broadway musical with a true account of its creation and concise remarks on hip-hop, the power of stories, and the new America. *Musical*
- Miranda, Megan. ***All the Missing Girls***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. After graduating high school Nicolette 'Nic' Farrell leaves to get away from her small-town life and the mystery of her best friend's death. Ten years later she comes home and the town is looking into another girl's disappearance. The story is told backwards from day 15 to day 1, and Nic finds out much more than she expected.
- Munroe, Randall. ***What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Have you ever wondered how high a human can throw something or what would happen if lightning struck a bullet in midair? Using stick-figure drawings, Munroe answers these and other bizarre questions submitted by readers of his web comic.
- Nelson, Jandy. ***I'll Give You the Sun***. Dial Books, 2014. A story of first love, family secrets, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her gay twin brother, Noah. *Printz Award 2015*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Niven, Jennifer. ***All the Bright Places***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. When Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, both teetering on the edge, it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another.
- Noah, Trevor. ***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood***. Spiegel & Grau, 2015. Born the son of a Swiss white father and a black Xhosa mother during South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor Noah's existence is forbidden and punishable by law. Noah's remarkable story is told with an honesty that is refreshing, moving, and laugh out loud funny.
- Owens, Delia. ***Where the Crawdads Sing***. Putnam's, 2018. Abandoned at the age of ten, Kya, known as "the marsh girl," learns to take care of herself as she carefully studies the beloved wildlife that surrounds her. Two young men are attracted to her wild beauty when she is older, and when one of them is found dead, the locals automatically suspect Kya in this beautifully written coming-of-age story entwined with mystery.
- Padua, Sydney. ***The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Computer***. Pantheon, 2015. A delightful and fascinating story about friendship, the first computer, and how different the world would be if the mathematician duo responsible for creating the first computer would have created the Difference Engine instead. *Graphic novel*
- Perkins, Stephanie, ed. ***Summer Days and Summer Nights: Twelve Love Stories***. St. Martin's Griffin, 2016. A diverse short story collection that has a little something for everyone. Don't let the cover fool you - these stories take a more realistic look at love. *Short story collection*
- Philippe, Ben. ***The Field Guide to the North American Teenager***. Balzer + Bray, 2019. When Norris, a Black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as clichés from "a bad 90s teen movie."
- Quinn, Kate. ***The Alice Network***. William Morrow, 2017. This epic novel is based on a relatively unknown story of heroic female spies who worked together in a vast underground group called the Alice Network throughout World War I and World War II.
- Richardson, Kim Michele. ***The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek***. Sourcebooks, 2019. Cussy's story is set in the Appalachian Mountains in the 1930s and is inspired by the true lives of the blue-skinned people of Kentucky. With courage and determination, she sets out on her pack mule to deliver books and hope to families who desperately need both.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Roe, Robin. ***A List of Cages***. Hyperion, 2017. Adam, a high school senior, rescues Julian, a freshman who happens to be his former foster brother, from an abusive situation.
- Ruby, Laura. ***Bone Gap***. Balzer + Bray, 2015. Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza. His inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying. *Printz Award 2016*
- Schneider, Robyn. ***The Beginning of Everything***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Star athlete and prom king Ezra Faulkner's life is irreparably transformed by a tragic accident and the arrival of eccentric new girl Cassidy Thorpe.
- Schwab, V. E. ***A Darker Shade of Magic***. Tor Books, 2015. Follow Kell, one of the last Antari, as he travels through parallel Londons in this urban fantasy. After colliding with Delilah Bard, a pickpocket roaming the streets of Grey London, Kell realizes he needs her help to stay alive amidst an invasion of dark magic. *Series*
- See, Lisa. ***The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane***. Scribner, 2017. Three generations of women living in rural China adapt to life in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Li-yan leaves a part of herself there as she embarks on a career as a businesswoman and tea expert but finds more of “home” in the USA than she ever expected.
- Shetterly, Margot Lee. ***Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race***. William Morrow, 2016. The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movements whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space.
- Shusterman, Neal. ***Challenger Deep***. HarperTeen, 2015. A powerfully authentic and moving story about mental illness. This book has a heart and a soul and takes the reader on a journey to the deepest part of the ocean and the deepest corners of the mind. *National Book Award 2015*
- Stanley, Shalanda. ***Drowning is Inevitable***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. After seventeen-year-old Olivia and her friend Jamie accidentally kill Jamie's abusive father, two other friends, Max and Maggie, join them in running away from St. Francisville, Louisiana, to hide out in New Orleans while they try to figure out what to do next.
- Stanton, Doug. ***12 Strong: The Declassified True Story of the Horse Soldiers***. Scribner, 2017. Immediately after 9/11, a small unit of the elite Special Forces is sent to Afghanistan to defeat the Taliban—using horses rather than tanks.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Thomas, Angie. ***The Hate U Give***. Balzer + Bray, 2017. African-American, sixteen-year-old Starr sees her unarmed childhood friend Khalil gunned down by a police officer. As protesters take to the streets defending Khalil and condemning police brutality, Starr is torn between her poor urban neighborhood and her affluent suburban private school worlds. Starr must decide if she speaks to what she saw or if she stays silent; neither choice is easy. *Morris Award 2018*
- Towles, Amor. ***A Gentleman in Moscow***. Viking, 2016. Count Rostov is placed on house arrest in 1922 by the Bolsheviks in the Hotel Metropol in Moscow. The hotel provides the setting for the count to encounter an array of characters propelling a mystery, a love story, and a father-daughter tale.
- Turton, Stuart. ***The 7½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle***. Sourcebooks, 2018. Every day Aiden wakes up in a different body on the day of a large party where Evelyn Hardcastle will die at the end of the night. Every day is a new chance to save her, but each host has unique ways of preventing him from solving the mystery.
- Westover, Tara. ***Educated: A Memoir***. Random House, 2018. Growing up in Idaho in a Mormon survivalist family who values hard work over public education, the author shares stories about her non-traditional family life. With a desire to attend college, Ms. Westover prepares herself independently for entrance exams in order to enroll in Brigham Young and eventually Cambridge for a PhD. *Alex Award 2019*
- Womack, Gwendolyn. ***The Memory Painter***. Picador, 2015. When Linz Jacobs stumbles across a painting that depicts her reoccurring nightmare, she tracks down artist Bryan Pierce and finds that his creations are inspired by vivid dreams; their meeting sparks Bryan's most important dream yet.
- Wynne-Jones, Tim. ***The Emperor of Any Place***. Candlewick, 2015. When Evan's father dies suddenly, Evan finds a hand-bound yellow book on his desk—a book his dad had been reading when he passed away. The book is the diary of a Japanese soldier stranded on a small Pacific island in WWII. Why was his father reading it? What is in this account that Evan's grandfather, whom Evan has never met, fears so much that he will do anything to prevent its being seen? And what could this possibly mean for Evan?
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***Boxers***. First Second, 2013. Volume one of ***Boxers & Saints*** tells the first side of a parallel story. Little Bao harnesses the powers of ancient Chinese gods to fight against the foreign Christian missionaries that bully and rob the Chinese peasants. *Graphic novel*
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***Saints***. First Second, 2013. Volume two of ***Boxers & Saints*** tells the other side of a parallel story. Vibiana is an unwanted fourth daughter who finds friendship and a home with the Christian missionaries just as the Boxer Rebellion rises. *Graphic novel*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2020

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Yoon, Daniel. ***Frankly in Love***. Putnam, 2019. When high school senior Frank Li creates a fool-proof plan to “fake date” a fellow Korean American in order to actually date a girl his parents won’t accept, all does not go smoothly as he comes to question everything he knows about love, his family, and himself.
- Zentner, Jeff. ***Goodbye Days***. Crown, 2017. “Where are you guys? Text me back.” Carver did not know his text would be the last text his three best friends would see. He blames himself for the accident. As Carver deals with his own grief, his friend’s grandmother requests that he spend a “goodbye day” with her to share memories and say a proper farewell to her grandson. Carver questions if he is mentally ready for a “goodbye day” as other families begin asking for one too.
- Zusak, Markus. ***Bridge of Clay***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018. Full of imagery, symbolism and descriptive language, Zusak crafts a story about five Australian brothers, various pets, their parents, and a bridge. The many themes of the novel revolve around loss, grief, family, journey, and redemption.

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