

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2022
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

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

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Archer, Micha. ***Daniel's Good Day***. Nancy Paulsen, 2019. When his neighbors give a variety of answers to the question "What is a good day?" Daniel writes a poem about the everyday activities that give them joy.
- Bajaj, Varsha. ***The Home Builders***. Nancy Paulsen, 2019. Various woodland creatures make their homes and prepare for their young.
- Barnes, Derrick. ***I Am Every Good Thing***. Nancy Paulsen, 2020. Illustrations and easy-to-read text pay homage to the strength, character, and worth of a child.
- Barnett, Mac. ***A Polar Bear in the Snow***. Candlewick, 2020. This story follows a polar bear out on a walk, over ice, past animals, a human, and finally through the water.
- Barr, Lois. ***When Numbers Met Letters***. Holiday House, 2020. Toy numbers and letters meet and, in some cases, clash in a classroom during recess, but soon discover they have some things in common.
- Bates, Janet Costa. ***Time for Bed, Old House***. Candlewick, 2021. At Isaac's first sleepover, he gets to help Grandpop with a very special routine—putting the house to bed—in a story that's just right for children visiting a new place or adopting a new ritual at home.
- Bee, William. ***Stanley's Diner***. Peachtree, 2015. Stanley is cooking for all the hungry customers who come into his diner while Hattie takes their orders, and then Stanley serves up a special cake—but whose birthday are they celebrating? —*Series*
- Bell, Kristen, and Benjamin Hart. ***The World Needs More Purple People***. Random House, 2020. A purple person is an everyday superhero who asks really great questions, brings their family, friends, and communities together, speaks up for what's right, is kind and hardworking, and loves to laugh – and now you can be one!
- Berlin, Ethan T. ***I Am Not a Dog Toy***. Random House, 2021. A stuffed toy bear is excited to be the new toy for a little girl, but when she rejects him and throws him to the dog, he may discover that he's not a kids' toy after all.
- Bernstrom, Daniel. ***One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree***. Katherine Tegen, 2016. A large hungry snake gobbles a young boy who is still able to encourage him to keep devouring additional animals which eventually saves them all.
- Brantley-Newton, Vanessa. ***Grandma's Purse***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018. When Grandma Mimi comes to visit, her granddaughter cannot wait to see what treasures she has hidden in her purse.

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- Brown, Monica. ***Waiting for the Biblioburro***. Tricycle Press, 2011. Ana loves books and is excited when a man with two burros brings a movable library to her remote village and then encourages her to write a book of her own.
- Brown, Tameka Fryer. ***My Cold Plum Lemon Pie Bluesy Mood***. Viking, 2013. Jamie describes his mood throughout the day, using colors and rhythmic text, as he changes from an “easy green mood” while drawing a picture for his sister to a “brooding black mood” when he is teased for doing so.
- Cabrera, Cozbi. ***Me & Mama***. Simon & Schuster. 2020. For a little girl on a rainy day, the best place to be is with Mama. *Caldecott Honor 2021, Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor 2021*
- Carle, Eric. ***The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse***. Philomel, 2011. Rather than use the same old colors, a child paints animals and objects in a variety of unusual hues.
- Cena, John. ***Elbow Grease***. Random House, 2018. Elbow Grease, a small, electric truck with a lot of gumption, enters the Monster Truck Grand Prix to prove to his brothers that he is just as capable as they are.
- Charles, Tami. ***All Because You Matter***. Orchard Books, 2020. This young boy’s life is certainly important as we are carried through the different aspects of his Black existence.
- Clark, Karla. ***You Be Mommy***. Feiwel and Friends, 2020. A tired mommy lets her toddler have a turn being the parent.
- Cornwall, Gaia. ***Jabari Jumps***. Candlewick, 2017. Join Jabari as he overcomes his fear of jumping off the diving board.
- Cortez, Rio. ***The ABCs of Black History***. Workman, 2020. This story of love and hope is told with rhyming text and includes information about the events, places, and people mentioned in the poem.
- Cosgrove, Matt. ***Macca the Alpaca***. Scholastic, 2020. Macca the Alpaca loves the serenity of his home until the llama who bullies Macca arrives and Macca demonstrates that kindness is the way to go. *Series*
- Cuyler, Margery. ***The Little Ice Cream Truck***. Holt, 2018. Everyone smiles when the little ice cream truck, loaded up with tasty treats, shows up at parties, baseball games, parks, and zoos.
- Dopirak, Kate. ***Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Car***. Beach Lane Books, 2018. In this twist on a classic poem, a little red car takes a final cruise around town before going to bed, beeping goodnight to all his vehicular friends.

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- Eliopoulos, Christopher. ***The Giggles Are Coming***. Dial Books, 2021. A couple of friends can't keep from laughing during school and are worried about what their teacher will think if they can't avoid the giggles.
- Elya, Susan Middleton. ***La Princesa and the Pea***. Putnam's, 2017. The classic fairy tale of the Princess and the Pea is told in rhyme with the addition of some Spanish words in each sentence. *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award 2018*
- Esbaum, Jill. ***Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin, Pie***. National Geographic, 2009. How pumpkins grow, the different varieties of pumpkins, and the many ways people use them are discussed.
- Ferry, Beth. ***Swashby and the Sea***. Houghton Mifflin, 2020. No-nonsense Captain Swashby is used to the sea meeting all of his needs and when, after his retirement, new neighbors disturb his solitary life, the sea helps in just the right way.
- Fitzgerald, Isaac. ***How to Be a Pirate***. Bloomsbury, 2020. Told by the neighborhood boys that she cannot be a pirate, Cece seeks reassurance from her grandfather who knows about boats and has tattoos.
- Fogliano, Julie. ***Just in Case You Want to Fly***. Holiday House, 2019. For children who want to explore, rhyming text offers encouragement and supplies they might need along the way, from a snack and a blanket to a map for finding the way home.
- Franklin, Ashley. ***Not Quite Snow White***. Harper, 2019. Tameika is excited to audition for the school's Snow White musical, but when she overhears her classmates say she is too tall, chubby, and brown to play Snow White, she questions whether she is right for the part.
- Gaiman, Neil. ***Chu's Day***. Harper, 2014. Chu is a little panda with a big sneeze. When Chu sneezes, bad things happen.
- Goodrich, Carter. ***Nobody Hugs a Cactus***. Simon & Schuster, 2019. Hank, a cactus who is as prickly on the inside as he is on the outside, decides he wants a hug.
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***Go! Go! Go! Stop!*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Little Green only knows the word "Go" which is the perfect thing to get the construction site moving, but how will they stop?
- Higgins, Ryan T. ***What About Worms!?*** Hyperion, 2020. Tiger unwittingly helps some worms overcome their fear of tigers with a well-placed, informative book, but will a wormy hug aid fearful tiger? *Series*
- Hwang, Sarah. ***Toasty***. Holiday House, 2021. Toasty, a piece of toast, believes he is a dog deep down, but he soon realizes he is very different from all the other dogs.
- James, LeBron. ***I Promise***. HarperCollins, 2020. This motivational book reminds readers to do their best, remain positive, and be respectful of both themselves and the people around them.

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- Jenkins, Steve. ***What Do You Do If You Work at the Zoo?*** Houghton Mifflin, 2020. Young children are introduced to the important tasks the zookeeper does to keep all the animals safe and healthy.
- John, Jory. ***Giraffe Problems***. Random House, 2018. Edward the giraffe can't understand why his neck is as long and ridiculous as it is until a turtle ambles in and helps him understand that his neck has a purpose and also looks excellent in a bow tie.
- Johnson, Crockett. ***Harold and the Purple Crayon***. HarperCollins, 2015. Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon.
- Katz, Karen. ***The Colors of Us***. Holt, 2002. Seven-year-old Lena and her mother observe the variations in the color of their friends' skin, viewed in terms of foods and things found in nature.
- Keller, Laurie. ***Potato Pants!*** Holt, 2018. Afraid of the Eggplant bully, Potato finds ways to avoid the Fancy Pants Store and the pants that he really, really wants; but could he be wrong about Eggplant?
- Kerby, Johanna. ***Little Pink Pup***. Putnam's, 2010. Pink, a piglet and runt of the litter, is adopted by Tink, a dachshund who is nursing a litter of her own. Based on a true story, readers of all ages will be captivated by the amazing bond they share.
- Klassen, Jon. ***This Is Not My Hat***. Candlewick, 2012. A tiny fish thinks he can get away with stealing a blue hat. *Caldecott Medal 2013*
- Lang, Suzanne. ***Grumpy Monkey***. Random House, 2018. Jim Panzee wakes up in a bad mood one beautiful day, but he keeps denying he is grumpy even as his friends give advice for feeling better.
- Larsen, Mylisa. ***If I Were a Kangaroo: A Bedtime Tale***. Viking, 2017. Rhyming verse envisions the bedtime rituals of animals of all kinds, from whales to otters, squirrels to gorillas.
- Le, Minh. ***Lift***. Disney-Hyperion, 2020. When Iris's elevator button-pushing is disrupted by a new member of the family, she's pretty put out until the sudden appearance of a mysterious new button opens up new worlds.
- Lichtenheld, Tom. ***Louis***. Houghton Mifflin, 2020. A beloved teddy can bear it no longer and plots his escape from his owner's suffocating affections.
- Light, Steve. ***Black Bird Yellow Sun***. Candlewick, 2018. As a solitary black bird wings its way through the sky, readers are treated to a magnificent flight from one vibrant color to another. *Board book*.
- 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.

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- Llenas, Anna. ***The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions***. Little, Brown, 2018. Color Monster begins his day with his emotions all jumbled up until a little girl helps him sort out his feelings using different colors for various emotions.
- López-Alt, J. Kenji. ***Every Night Is Pizza Night***. Norton, 2020. Convinced that pizza is the best food, Pipo will eat nothing else until her fed-up parents send her on a quest to prove that no dishes in their multicultural neighborhood are better.
- Luciani, Brigitte. ***How Will We Get to the Beach?*** NorthSouth, 2003. The reader is asked to guess what Roxanne must leave behind (ball, umbrella, book, turtle, or baby) as she tries various means of transportation to get to the beach.
- Mantchev, Lisa. ***Twisty-Turny House***. Simon & Schuster, 2021. In a house full of animals, the cats stay upstairs and the dogs stay downstairs, until a bold cat sneaks out and, rather than cause a fight, explores the house and a new friendship with the dogs.
- Martin, David. ***The More the Merrier***. Candlewick, 2021. Bear, Moose, Snake, and other forest animals dance to their own groove in a rhythmic celebration of individuality.
- McBratney, Sam. ***Will You Be My Friend?*** Candlewick, 2020. Little Nutbrown Hare decides to explore and hops all the way to Cloudy Mountain where he finds a new friend.
- McDonald, Megan. ***The Hinky Pink***. Atheneum, 2008. Summoned to the Great Castle of Firenze to create a special dress for Princess Isabella Caramella Gorgonzola, Anabel, a talented seamstress is at first delighted but then increasingly despairing as time passes and her efforts are continually subverted by an unseen sprite.
- Miller, Kelly Leigh. ***I Am a Wolf***. Dial Books, 2019. In this pet adoption story, a dog who insists that she is a wolf finds the perfect home with a young girl who sees past her prickly personality.
- Muhammad, Ibtihaj. ***The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family***. Little, Brown, 2019. Faizah relates how she feels on the first day her sister, sixth-grader Asiya, wears a hijab to school.
- Murray, Diana. ***Five Fuzzy Chicks***. Imprint, 2020. Five baby chickens want to have some fun and visit with the other farm animals before bedtime.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Words to Make a Friend: A Story in Japanese and English***. Random House, 2021. This bilingual book features two girls who speak different languages but connect and create a friendship over their love for the snow.
- Nelson, Kadir. ***Baby Bear***. Balzer + Bray, 2014. Lost Baby Bear tries to find his way home through the forest. As he gains courage with every step, he realizes he was never far from home after all.

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- Newson, Karl. ***A Bear Is a Bear (Except When He's Not)***. Nosy Crow, 2020. When Bear wakes up from his hibernation early, he can't remember what he is, then finds his cave and decides another nap might help. But will he be able to remember what he is when he wakes up again in the spring?
- O'Hair, Margaret. ***You Are Enough: A Book about Inclusion***: Scholastic, 2021. Sofia Sanchez, an eleven-year-old model and actress with Down Syndrome, reminds readers how important it is to embrace your differences and be proud of who you are, with colorful illustrations showing kid characters that have all kinds of backgrounds, experiences, and abilities.
- O'Houra, Zachariah. ***Fuzzy, Inside and Out: A Story About Small Acts of Kindness and Big Hair***. Abrams Books, 2021. A tale about small acts of kindness, big hair and spreading warm, fuzzy feelings.
- Oswald, Pete. ***Hike***. Candlewick, 2020. In this nearly wordless adventure, a father and child bond as they hike into the mountains, deal with challenges, experience the magic of nature and do their small part to help the forest.
- Page, Robin. ***Seeds Move!*** Beach Lane Books, 2019. While most people know that seeds need water, sunlight, and soil to grow, this book sheds light on how seeds travel from place to place and what plant the seed will grow to become.
- Parr, Todd. ***The Thankful Book***. Little, Brown, 2012. Easy-to-read text encourages the reader to find something for which to be thankful, from underwear that is just the right size to birthday cakes and the wishes they bring.
- Paul, Miranda. ***Speak Up***. Clarion, 2020. Illustrations and easy-to-read, rhyming text encourage readers to speak up and make their voices heard.
- 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.
- Prasadam-Halls, Smriti. ***Rain Before Rainbows***. Candlewick, 2020. Rainbows can be hard to see when it is raining, but with the help of good friends there is always a way out of the darkness.
- Preston-Gannon, Frann. ***By the Light of the Moon***. Templar, 2019. As a little frog is singing a song, he invites other animals to join him, but it doesn't sound quite right until the tiny voice of a firefly is added.
- Pumphrey, Jarrett. ***The Old Truck***. Norton, 2020. A beloved, hardworking old truck falls into disrepair until it is rescued and restored by the family's daughter who is now running her own farm.
- Raúl the Third. ***¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market***. Houghton Mifflin, 2019. Little Lobo, a Mexican American, and Bernabé, his dog, gather tacos, frutas, picadas, cuernos, and more, and deliver them to los luchadores preparing for Lucha Libre 5000. *Series*

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- Reid, Aimee. ***You Are My Friend: The Story of Mister Rogers and His Neighborhood.*** Abrams Books, 2019. Using television to spread his ideas of kindness, compassion, and equality, Fred Rogers changed the lives of many children with this simple message: “There’s no person in the world like you and I like you just the way you are.”
- Rex, Adam. ***School’s First Day of School.*** Roaring Brook, 2016. Not only are students nervous the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary, but the actual school itself worries about everything from a fire alarm blaring to a faulty water fountain.
- Reynolds, Peter H. ***The Dot.*** Candlewick, 2003. Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher’s encouragement leads her to change her mind.
- Robbins, Dean. ***Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass.*** Orchard Books, 2016. Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass get together for a cup of tea and conversation to discuss their struggle for civil rights.
- Roeder, Vanessa. ***The Box Turtle.*** Dial Books, 2020. Born without a shell, Terrence the turtle uses a cardboard box instead, but after looking for other possible shells he decides that his familiar box is the best for him.
- Rosen, Michael. ***We’re Going on a Bear Hunt.*** McElderry Books, 1989. Brave bear hunters go through grass, a river, mud, and other obstacles before the inevitable encounter with the bear forces a headlong retreat.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***Uni the Unicorn.*** Random House, 2014. Uni the unicorn is told there’s no such thing as little girls, but no matter what the grown-up unicorns say she believes that little girls are REAL. *Series*
- Rothman, Scott. ***Attack of the Underwear Dragon.*** Random House, 2020. Brave knights, fire-breathing dragons, and underwear—every kid’s favorite things in one book. Kids will recognize themselves in this pint-sized hero.
- Savage, Stephen. ***Sign Off.*** Beach Lane Books, 2019. This wordless book creatively shows what the figures on street signs do when no one is looking.
- Sayre, April Pulley. ***Being Frog.*** Beach Lane Books, 2020. This book provides a captivating photographic viewpoint of the life journey of a frog, from egg to tadpole to froglet.
- Shea, Bob. ***Chez Bob.*** Little, Brown, 2021. A lazy alligator comes up with a plan to lure his prey by opening a restaurant for birds until he realizes that birds are even better as friends.
- Smith, Kim. ***Boxitects.*** Clarion, 2020. A STEAM-centered picture book about Meg who creates extraordinary things out of ordinary cardboard boxes.
- Sutton, Sally. ***Construction.*** Candlewick, 2014. Lively illustrations and sound words (“BING! POW! THUD!”), show big machines and busy workers as they construct a library.

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- Tabor, Corey R. **Mel Fell**. Balzer + Bray, 2021. Follow Mel on her journey from downward fall to triumphant flight in this tale of self-confidence and taking a leap of faith.
- Tafari, Nancy. **The Big Storm**. Simon & Schuster, 2009. Ten animals find shelter one by one in a hill hollow, but when the storm is over, a rumbling tells them there is still danger afoot.
- Tatsukawa, Maya. **The Bear in My Family**. Dial Books, 2020. It's not easy living with a bear, but one little boy learns that sometimes a bear in the family can end up being the best thing in the world.
- Teckentrup, Britta. **Don't Wake Up the Tiger**. Nosy Crow, 2016. Tiger is asleep, but Frog figures out how all the animals carrying balloons can get past him without waking him up and spoiling the surprise.
- Thong, Rosanne. **Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes**. Chronicle, 2013. Children discover a world of shapes in their everyday life, many of them Latino in origin but universal in appeal.
- Underwood, Deborah. **Loving Kindness**. Holt, 2021. This vibrant picture book encourages us to be tender with ourselves and others, and to open our hearts to the world by celebrating connection, compassion, and life.
- Vignocchi, Chiara. **Shake the Tree!** Candlewick, 2018. Hungry animals take turns shaking a tree to the right and then to the left in order to find their next meal only to be surprised by the last animal's intentions.
- Voake, Charlotte. **Some Dinosaurs Are Small**. Candlewick, 2020. Three big, fast, thieving dinosaurs hungrily encounter a slower dino who uses his smaller teeth to eat fruits and leaves.
- Walsh, Melanie. **My Nose, Your Nose**. Houghton, Mifflin, 2002. The close-up and lively illustrations of kids will invite readers to tell what's unique about themselves, and at the same time, children will see that there's so much they have in common.
- Ward, Jennifer. **Round**. Beach Lane Books, 2020. This picture book explores roundness in the natural world illustrated through the seasons.
- Wheeler, Lisa. **People Don't Bite People**. Atheneum, 2018. Using illustrations and rhyming this text urges children to use their teeth for biting food not people.
- Yolen, Jane. **How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You?** Blue Sky Press, 2009. Illustrations and rhyming text present some of the different ways dinosaurs can express their love, from cleaning up after making a mess to smiling sweetly instead of roaring.
Series
- Zhang, Gracey. **Lala's Words**. Orchard Books, 2021. Lala wants to run, jump, and play though her mother would prefer her to "Be still and quiet!" Most of all, Lala likes to visit her secret hideaway, where tiny plants sprout in a patch of dirt and concrete. Every day, Lala carries a pot of water to her plants through the heat, but it is her kind words that make them sway and nod.

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Compiled by:

Jillian Cox, *The Kinkaid School*

Erika Grove, *St. Thomas' Episcopal School*

Jennifer Jaeger, *St. Martin's Episcopal Preschool*

Tomisha Johnson, *Annunciation Orthodox School*

Layne Mason (retired), *The Center for Hearing and Speech*

Kelli Robertson (Chair), *Westbury Christian School*

Jennifer Ward, *Lutheran South Academy*

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