

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

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

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

Albus, Kate. ***A Place to Hang the Moon***. Holiday House, 2021. In World War II England, orphaned siblings William, Edmund, and Anna are evacuated from London to live in the countryside, where they bounce from home to home in search of someone willing to adopt them permanently.

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*

Applegate, Katherine. ***Odder***. Feiwel and Friends, 2022. A remarkable sea otter's life changes after a dangerous encounter with a shark.

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.

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*

Broach, Elise. ***Duet***. Christy Ottaviano Books, 2022. A talented but reluctant piano student is coaxed into playing again by a singing goldfinch and together they work to unravel the mystery of a valuable missing piano.

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*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- 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, Peter. ***The Wild Robot Escapes***. Little, Brown, 2018. After being captured by the Recons and returned to civilization for reprogramming, Roz is sent to Hilltop Farm where she befriends her owner's family and animals, but pines for her son, Brightbill. *Series*
- 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.
- Chau, Alina. ***Marshmallow & Jordan***. First Second, 2021. Jordan's days as a star basketball player are over after an accident leaves her paralyzed from the waist down. She befriends Marshmallow, a mysterious white elephant, who helps Jordan discover a new sport.
- Churnin, Nancy. ***The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game***. Whitman, 2016. Deaf baseball player William Hoy helped to forever change the way baseball is played.
- 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.
- 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.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Crimi, Carolyn. **Secondhand Dogs**. Balzer + Bray, 2021. A group of rescue dogs must work together and courageously embark on a difficult journey to save one of their own.
- Dahl, Roald. **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**. Puffin, first published in 1964. Delicious and mysterious adventures await our hero, Charlie Bucket, and four other lucky winners of the Golden Ticket contest on their private tour of Willy Wonka's infamous Chocolate Factory.
- 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*
- 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. **Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln**. Atheneum, 2019. Teresa was a child prodigy at the piano, and as her fame spread in the United States after her family emigrated from Venezuela, she received an invitation from President Lincoln to play at the White House. *Pura Belpré Illustrator Award 2020*
- 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.
- Fairbairn, Nathan. **Paws: Gabby Gets It Together**. Razorbill, 2022. Three best friends who love animals but can't own pets work together to start a dog-walking business. *Graphic novel*
- Farley, Walter. **The Black Stallion**. Random House, first published in 1941. Set in the 1940s, a young boy and a wild stallion build a relationship of trust and a lifelong friendship after being shipwrecked and surviving on a deserted island together.
- 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.
- Fleming, Candace. **Polar Bear**. Neal Porter Books, 2022. Exploration of the life and habitat of a mother polar bear and her cubs.
- Fleming, Candace. **Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen**. Schwartz & Wade, 2018. In the 1920s, movie director Larry Trimble travels to Berlin where he meets Etzel, an intelligent but fierce German Shepherd, who then returns to Hollywood

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

with Larry and is transformed into the silent screen movie star, Strongheart, with Larry's love and care. Based on real events.

- Fulton, Kristen. ***Flight for Freedom: The Wetzel Family's Daring Escape from East Germany.*** Chronicle Books, 2020. Set in 1979, this is the true story of Peter Wetzel and his family who made the daring escape over the Berlin Wall in their handmade hot air balloon, succeeding where others had failed, making freedom a reality and inspiring hope for their fellow East Berliners.
- 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*
- Giovanni, Nikki. ***I am loved.*** Atheneum, 2018. This collection of poems and art celebrates individuality, personal histories, diversity, and the universal and powerful value of love on all levels for everyone.
- Gottesfeld, Jeff. ***Twenty-one Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.*** Candlewick, 2001. A tribute to the nameless fallen soldiers and the sentinels who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.
- 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.
- Gray, Kristin L. ***The Amelia Six: An Amelia Earhart mystery.*** Simon & Schuster, 2020. Eleven-year-old Millie and five other girls, snowed in at Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison, Kansas, are on a scavenger hunt when the lights go out and Amelia's aviator goggles go missing.
- 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*
- 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*
- 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.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- 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*
- Jaggar, Louisa and Sheri Becker. **Sprouting Wings: The True Story of James Herman Banning, the First African American Pilot to Fly Across the United States**. Crown Books, 2021. James Herman Banning dreamed of touching the sky and he became the first African American pilot to fly across the United States.
- 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*
- Johnson, Terry Lynn. **Sled Dog School**. Clarion, 2019. When eleven-year-old Matt must set up a business to save his failing math grade, he overcomes his self-doubt and gains two friends along the way.
- Keating, Jess. **The Girl Who Built an Ocean: An Artist, an Argonaut, and the True Story of the World's First Aquarium**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2022. The inspiring tale of a seamstress-turned-scientist who invented the world's first aquarium at a time when women in STEM were startlingly rare.
- 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*
- Krull, Kathleen. **Fly High, John Glenn: The Story of an American Hero**. Harper, 2020. John Glenn was the first American astronaut to orbit Earth; he was also a devoted family man, a U.S. Senator, and a national hero, who for 95 years never lost his love of flying.
- Lai, Remy. **Pawcasso**. Holt, 2021. Eleven-year-old Jo discovers that a small lie can turn into a big problem when her town assumes a talented and fun-loving dog is hers. *Graphic Novel*
- 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.
- Lang, Heather. **The Leaf Detective: How Margaret Lowman Uncovered Secrets in the Rainforest**. Calkins Creek, 2021. In this nonfiction book, learn how Margaret braved the odds to discover the secrets of trees from the rainforest.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- 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.
- Lia, Simone. ***They Didn't Teach THIS In Worm School!*** Candlewick, 2018. A hungry chicken (who thinks he is a flamingo) and a quick-thinking worm set off on a madcap adventure and forge an unlikely friendship.
- Lloyd, Megan Wagner. ***Allergic.*** Graphix, 2021. Hoping to adopt a pet to find a sense of belonging in a busy family, Maggie is disappointed to discover she is severely allergic to anything with fur and tries to find a pet to love. *Graphic novel*
- López, Diana. ***Sing with Me: The Story of Selena Quintanilla.*** Dial Books, 2001. A picture book biography that follows Selena's rise to success, from singing at her family's restaurant to performing at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in the Astrodome.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***White Fur Flying.*** McElderry Books, 2013. A sad and silent nine-year-old boy finds his voice when he moves next to a family that rescues dogs.
- 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.
- McDonald, Megan. ***Judy Moody in a Monday Mood.*** Candlewick, 2021. When her teacher Mr. Todd makes Monday special by celebrating Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day, Judy Moody's frown is turned upside down, prompting her to come up with the perfect idea to make this the best week ever. *Series*
- McKissack, Patricia C. ***What is Given from the Heart.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2019. James Otis and his family live in poverty, yet his mother insists they need to help seven-year-old Sarah, whose family lost everything in a fire.
- 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.
- Messner, Kate. ***The Next President: The Unexpected Beginnings and Unwritten Future of America's Presidents.*** Chronicle Books, 2020. Explore our nation's presidents, learn what they were doing before they were president, and imagine what the next president could be doing right now – it could be you!
- 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 to leave her family behind; based on true stories told by the author's grandmother.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Nguyen, Trang. ***Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear***. Dial Books, 2021. Based on the true story of a young girl that becomes a conservationist and returns a sun bear back into the wild. *Graphic novel*
- 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.
- Paeff, Colleen. ***The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London's Poop Pollution Problem***. McElderry Books, 2021. Something smells in 19th century London! Joseph Bazalgette designs London's first comprehensive sewage system and saves thousands of lives from cholera outbreaks.
- Patterson, James and Kwame Alexander. ***Becoming Muhammad Ali***. Little, Brown, 2020. This biographical novel tells the story of Cassius Clay, the determined boy who would one day become Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest boxers of all time.
- Perkins, Lynne Rae. ***Violet and Jobie in the wild***. Greenwillow, 2022. "Mice Violet and Jobie, live in a human home but they soon find themselves uprooted and must quickly adapt to an unfamiliar world.
- 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*
- Raczka, Bob. ***Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems***. Roaring Brook, 2016. A collection of concrete poetry written and shaped in surprising ways.
- Riley, Scott. ***The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field***. Millbrook, 2021. There is no room on a small Thai island for a group of soccer-loving teens to play the game they love, so they create a floating field.
- 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.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Russell-Brown, Katheryn. ***A Voice Named Aretha***. Bloomsbury, 2020. From a shy girl with a big voice to the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin touched millions across generations, not only with her songs but with her exemplary life, inspiring hope, respect, and freedom.
- Sachar, Louis. ***Wayside School Beneath the Cloud of Doom***. Harper, 2020. The kids and teachers of Wayside School are back, but the looming Cloud of Doom has them all in a tizzy as they race to collect toenail clippings and prepare for the Ultimate Test. *Series*
- Sis, Peter. ***Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued***. Norton, 2021. In Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, Nicholas Winston saved the lives of almost 700 children. Vera's family was among those he helped.
- Smith, Emma Bland. ***The Gardener of Alcatraz: A True Story***. Charlesbridge, 2022. Prisoner Elliott Michener began tending the gardens at Alcatraz and through his work he finds new interests and new skills and ultimately transforms his life.
- Smith, Emma Bland. ***How Science Saved the Eiffel Tower***. Capstone, 2022. The builder of the Eiffel Tower works to save it from being demolished by proving that it is a useful place for cutting-edge scientific experiments.
- Smith, S. D. ***The Green Ember (The Green Ember Series: Book 1)***. Story Warren Books, 2014. Two sibling rabbits embark on an adventure to save their family and find their place in a world consumed by tragedy and promise. *Series*
- 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*
- 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.
- 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*
- Tonatiuh, Duncan. ***Soldier for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War***. Abrams Books, 2019. Sáenz, a Mexican-American World War I war hero, fought for equality and created the oldest Latino civil rights organization in the United States.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Turk, Evan. ***You are Home: An Ode to the National Parks***. Atheneum, 2019. The beauty of all living things, animals, plants, and people is celebrated in rich verse and art in a coast-to-coast tour of the United States, emphasizing the precious nature of all life and experience.
- 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*
- Watson, Renée. ***Ways to Make Sunshine***. Bloomsbury, 2020. Ten-year old Ryan is learning that life means lots of changes, like moving, her father's new job, a frustrating older brother, and her best friend moving away, but Ryan makes sunshine out of it all, shining it back on those around her.
- Watson, Tom. ***Trouble at Table Five: The Candy Capers***. Harper Collins, 2020. Molly, Simon and Rosie will do anything to know how many candies are in Principal Shelton's jar. *Series*
- 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.
- Willems, Mo. ***The Story of Diva and Flea***. Hyperion, 2015. Diva, a small, but brave dog, and Flea, an adventurous cat, become friends in Paris.
- 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.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023

Grade 3 and Grade 4

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