

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021

Grade 1 and Grade 2

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- 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.
- 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*
- 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*
- *Barton, Chris. ***Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions***. Charlesbridge. You know the Super Soaker. It's one of the top twenty toys of all time. And it was an accidental discovery that brought it into being. Trying to create a new cooling system for refrigerators and air conditioners, inventor Lonnie Johnson instead created the mechanics for the iconic toy. A love for rockets, robots, inventions, and a mind for creativity were present in Lonnie Johnson's early life. Growing up in a house full of brothers and sisters, Lonnie demonstrated persistence and a passion for problem solving that became the cornerstone of his career as an engineer and his work with NASA. But it is Lonnie's invention of the Super Soaker water gun that has made the most memorable splash in popular culture.
- 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*
- Blabey, Aaron. ***The Bad Guys***. Scholastic, 2016. They sound like bad guys, they look like bad guys . . . and they even smell like bad guys. But Mr. Wolf, Mr. Piranha, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Shark are about to change all of that... Mr. Wolf has a daring plan for the Bad Guys' first good mission. They are going to break two hundred dogs out of the Maximum Security City Dog Pound. Will Operation Dog Pound go smoothly? Will the Bad Guys become the Good Guys? And will Mr. Snake please stop swallowing Mr. Piranha?! *Series*

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- 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 and Squirrel On the Run!*** Graphix, 2012. Bird and Squirrel outwit Cat and become best friends in this zany adventure. Squirrel is afraid of his own shadow. He teams up with Bird, who is fearless but grounded by a wounded wing, to head south for the winter. Bird doesn't have a care in the world. And Cat wants to eat Bird and Squirrel. Of course, he'll have to catch them first, and that's not going to be easy. Join this trio as they head south for the winter in a hilarious road trip. But watch out! Cat is waiting around every bend, and he's one pesky feline. *Series*
- *Byers, Grace. ***I Am Enough***. Balzer + Bray. This gorgeous, lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another comes from *Empire* actor and activist Grace Byers and talented newcomer artist Keturah A. Bobo. *We are all here for a purpose. We are more than enough. We just need to believe it.*
- 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.
- 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.
- *Choi, Yangsook. ***The Name Jar***. Dragonfly Books. The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she? Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. But

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while Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning. On the day of her name choosing, the name jar has mysteriously disappeared. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it—*Yoon-Hey*.

Clanton, Ben. ***Narwhal and Jelly: Unicorn of the Sea***. Tundra Books, 2016.

Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky narwhal. Jelly is a no-nonsense jellyfish. The two might not have a lot in common, but they do they love waffles, parties and adventures. Join Narwhal and Jelly as they discover the whole wide ocean together. *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.

*Collier, Bryan. ***It's Shoe Time!*** Disney, 2017. Tie your laces. Zip your zippers. And tap your toes. It's...SHOE TIME! This lyrical beginning-reader by multi award-winning artist Bryan Collier turns the closet on its heel and redefines what it means to be a pair. Beautifully rendered art paired with rich, rhyming dialog creates a powerful reading experience.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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- 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.
- *Flintam, Thomas. ***Press Start: Game Over, Super Rabbit Boy!*** Scholastic, 2016. Uh-oh, Animal Town is in trouble! Meanie King Viking has created a dreaded robot army to spread No Fun across the land. On top of that, he has stolen the happiest and most fun animal ever, Singing Dog. There is only one person who can save the day: Super Rabbit Boy! Super Rabbit Boy is super fast and super brave, but he's also a video game character living in a video game world. What will happen when Sunny, the boy playing the game, loses each level? Will it be game over for Super Rabbit Boy and all his friends? *Series*
- *Florian, Douglas. ***Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings***. Harcourt, 2007. Blast off with Douglas Florian's new high-flying compendium, which features twenty whimsical poems about space. From the moon to the stars, from the Earth to Mars, here is an exuberant celebration of our celestial surroundings that's certain to become a universal favorite among aspiring astronomers everywhere.
- *Funk, Josh. ***Dear Dragon: A Pen Pal Tale***. Viking, 2016. A sweet and clever friendship story in rhyme, about looking past physical differences to appreciate the person (or dragon) underneath. George and Blaise are pen pals, and they write letters to each other about everything: their pets, birthdays, favorite sports, and science fair projects. There's just one thing that the two friends don't know: George is a human, while Blaise is a dragon! What will happen when these pen pals finally meet face-to-face?
- *Greenawalt, Kelly. ***I Am Super Girl!*** Scholastic, 2019. Meet Princess Truly! With the help of her rocket boots and her magical, sparkly curls, she becomes a super girl and uses her smarts and strength to save the day. But when her friend Lizzie has a rescue mission of her own, Lizzie doesn't feel so super. Can Truly help her friend believe in herself and find her confidence? *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*

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- 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*.
- 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.
- 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.
- *Juster, Norton. ***The Hello, Goodbye Window***. Hyperion. This is a love song devoted to that special relationship between grandparents and grandchild. The kitchen window at Nanna and Poppy's house is, for one little girl, a magic gateway. Everything important happens near it, through it, or beyond it. Told in her voice, her story is both a voyage of discovery and a celebration of the commonplace wonders that define childhood, expressed as a joyful fusion of text with evocative and exuberant illustrations. The world for this little girl will soon grow larger and more complex, but never more enchanting or deeply felt.
- 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.
- 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*

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- 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.
- 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*
- *Miller, Rhet. ***No More Poems: A Book in Verse that Just Gets Worse***. Little, Brown, 2019. Acclaimed singer-songwriter Rhett Miller teams up with Caldecott Medalist and bestselling artist Dan Santat in a riotous collection of irreverent poems for modern families. In the tradition of Shel Silverstein, these poems bring a fresh new twist to the classic dilemmas of childhood as well as a perceptive eye to the foibles of modern family life. Full of clever wordplay and bright visual gags—and toilet humor to spare—these twenty-three rhyming poems make for an ideal read-aloud experience. Taking on the subjects of a bullying baseball coach and annoying little brothers with equally sly humor, renowned lyricist Rhett Miller's clever verses will have the whole family cackling.
- 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.
- *Penn, Audrey. ***The Kissing Hand***. Tanglewood. To help ease Chester's fears, Mrs. Raccoon shares a family secret called The Kissing Hand to give him the reassurance of her love any time his world feels a little scary. Since its first publication in 1993, this heartwarming book has become a children's classic that touches the lives of millions of children and their parents, especially at times of separation, whether starting school, entering daycare, going to camp. It is widely used by kindergarten teachers on the first day of school. Stickers at the back will help children and their parents keep their Kissing Hand alive.
- 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.
- *Pilkey, Dav. ***The Hallo-wiener***. Blue Sky Press, 1999. When is a hot dog not a hot dog? When he becomes a hero sandwich!
Pilkey delivers a hilarious Halloween treat in this story about Oscar, a dachshund doomed to wear a hot dog costume on Halloween. When he saves the day -- and night -- Oscar proves that while he may be short on height, he's long on heart. A tale trick-or-treaters will relish.
- 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.

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- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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- 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.
- 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*
- *Van Dusen, Chris. ***If I Built a School***. Dial Books. If Jack built a school, there would be hover desks and pop-up textbooks, skydiving wind tunnels and a trampoline basketball court in the gym, a robo-chef to serve lunch in the cafeteria, field trips to Mars, and a whole lot more. The inventive boy who described his ideal car and house in previous books is dreaming even bigger this time. *Series*
- *Verde, Susan. ***I Am Love: A Book of Compassion***. Abrams Books. Love means showing kindness, living with gratitude, and taking care of our minds and bodies. Letting our hearts lead the way can help move us closer to a better world. From the bestselling team that created *I Am Yoga*, *I Am Peace*, *I Am Human*, and *I Am One* comes a celebration of love in all its forms. Grounded in mindfulness and wellness, *I Am Love* asks readers to look inward when they feel afraid, angry, hurt, or sad. When a storm is brewing inside us and the skies grow dark, the transformative power of love lets the light back in. Includes heart-opening yoga poses and a guided meditation.
- 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. ***Dragon Masters: Rise of the Earth Dragon***. Scholastic, 2014. Eight-year-old Drake is snatched up by King Roland's soldier and taken to the castle. He is to be trained as a Dragon Master. At the castle, he is joined by three other young Dragon Masters-in-training: Ana, Rori, and Bo. The Dragon Masters must learn how to connect with and train their dragons--and they must also uncover their dragons' special powers. Does Drake have what it takes to be a Dragon Master? What is his dragon's special power? *Series*
- *Willems, Mo. ***We Are in a Book!*** Hyperion. Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald and Piggie are best friends. In *We Are in a Book!* Gerald and Piggie discover the joy of being read. But what will happen when the book ends? Using vocabulary perfect for beginning readers (and vetted by an early-learning specialist), Mo Willems has crafted a mind-bending story that is even more interactive than previous *Elephant & Piggie*

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adventures. Fans of the Geisel Award-winning duo won't be able to put this book down—literally! *Series*

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***The Day You Begin***. Nancy Paulsen. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

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*

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.*

Compiled by:

Chair: Kelly Broaddus, *Holy Spirit Episcopal School*

Melanie Wallace, *St. Francis Episcopal School*

Megan Hopkins, *The Fay School*

Jennifer Ward, *Lutheran South Academy*

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