

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

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

- 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*
- 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.
- Barnett, Mac. ***A Polar Bear in the Snow***. Candlewick, 2020. This story follows a polar bear out on a walk, over ice, past animals, near a human, and finally through the water.
- 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.
- Bee, William. ***Stanley's Garage***. Peachtree, 2014. Friends bring their cars with problems to Stanley, and he knows just how to fix them. *Series*
- 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.
- Brett, Jan. ***Armadillo Rodeo***. Putnam's, 1995. Bo, an adventurous, near-sighted armadillo, leaves his mother and brothers to follow a girl wearing red boots, which Bo mistakes for another armadillo, to a rodeo.
- 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 moods 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.
- Burgess, Matthew. ***The Bear and the Moon***. Chronicle Books, 2020. When the gift of a balloon floats into a bear's life, the two companions embark on a journey of discovery as small as a clearing in the forest and as deep as the sky.

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- Cabrera, Cozbi A. ***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*
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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*
- Crews, Nina. ***The Neighborhood Mother Goose***. Greenwillow, 2004. This collection of nursery rhymes, both familiar and lesser known, is illustrated with photographs in a city setting.
- Cuyler, Margery. ***The Little Ice Cream Truck***. Holt, 2018. Everyone smiles when the little ice cream truck, loaded with tasty treats, shows up at parties, baseball games, parks, and zoos.
- 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.
- Dawnay, Gabby. ***If I Had a Dinosaur***. Thames & Hudson, 2017. Although she has considered other pets, a young girl is sure a dinosaur would be the perfect pet and imagines all the things she could do with her dinosaur.
- 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. *Board book*
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
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- 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.
- 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, Meg. ***Sometimes Rain***. Beach Lane Books, 2018. Illustrations and simple, rhyming text celebrate the seasons of the year and the joy each one brings.
- Fogliano, Julie. ***Just in Case You Want to Fly***. Holiday House, 2019. For children who want to explore, rhyming text offers encouragement and supplies what they might need for their adventures, 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.
- Genechten, Guido van. ***Little Kangaroo***. Clavis, 2017. Little Kangaroo's mama wants him to explore the wider world, but he wants to stay in her pouch where it is cozy and safe, at least at first ...
- Gerstein, Mordicai. ***The Night World***. Little, Brown, 2015. Sylvie the cat convinces her boy to go out and discover the night where there are shadows of flowers and animals who are all waiting for the beautiful sunrise to appear.
- 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.

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- 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?
- Helmore, Jim. ***The Snow Lion***. Peachtree, 2018. Caro is too shy to make friends in her new neighborhood until she meets a mysterious Snow Lion who plays with her and encourages her to meet other children.
- Henkes, Kevin. ***A Parade of Elephants***. Greenwillow, 2018. Illustrations and easy-to-read text introduce such basic concepts as adjectives, adverbs, daytime, and nighttime as readers follow five elephants marching from dawn to dusk.
- 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*
- Hudson, Katy. ***The Runaway Egg***. Random House, 2017. Following Mama Hen's request, Chick reluctantly babysits his brother-to-be, an energetic egg.
- 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.
- 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.
- Katz, Karen. ***The Colors of Us***. Holt, 2002. Seven-year-old Lena and her mother observe the variations in the colors of their friends' skin, viewed in terms of foods and things found in nature.
- Kerr, Mike. ***Crafty Llama***. Bloomsbury, 2018. Llama knits while considering what special thing she wants to do, and soon all her friends have joined her except Beaver, who only likes to make things that are useful.
- Kim, Sang-Keun. ***Little Mole's Wish***. Schwartz & Wade, 2019. Little Mole has no friends since moving to a new home, so he molds a snowball into a bear, wishing that it will come to life.
- 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*
- 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.

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- 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.
- 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.
- Light, Steve. **Black Bird Yellow Sun**. Candlewick, 2018. As a solitary black bird wings its way through the day, readers are treated to a magnificent flight from one vibrant color to another. *Board book*
- Lindstrom, Eva. **My Dog Mouse**. Gecko, 2017. A little girl takes a neighbor's old, very slow dog that she loves for a walk to the park, then brings him home and wishes he were hers.
- Luyken, Corinna. **My Heart**. Penguin, 2019. From moments of great joy and exuberance to necessary times of quiet contemplation, your heart is your guide.
- 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.
- 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 to create a special dress for the princess, Anabel, a talented seamstress, is at first delighted but then increasingly despairing as time passes and her efforts at sewing are continually subverted by an unseen sprite.
- McGuirk, Leslie. **If Rocks Could Sing: A Discovered Alphabet**. Tricycle Press, 2011. Photographs of rocks collected by the author that resemble the letters of the alphabet are shown along with objects that represent each letter.
- 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!
- 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.
- 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.

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- Murphy, Stuart J. ***The Greatest Gymnast of All***. HarperCollins, 1998. While performing an energetic gymnastic routine, Zoe demonstrates such spatial opposites as on and off, inside and outside, and over and under. *MathStart series*
- Nelson, Kadir. ***Nelson Mandela***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Text and illustrations present a biography of the former South African president best known for his political activism and fight to end apartheid.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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*
- 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.
- 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."
- 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.
- 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.
- Rissi, Anica Mrose. ***Watch Out for Wolf!*** Disney-Hyperion, 2019. While preparing for a party, excitable little piggies have some close calls with Wolf.
- Robinson, Christian. ***You Matter***. Atheneum, 2020. Illustrations and easy-to-read text remind the reader that no matter what happens or how one feels, he or she matters.

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- Roeder, Vanessa. ***The Box Turtle***. Dial Books, 2020. Born without a shell, Terrance 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.
- Rogers, Fred. ***A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: The Poetry of Mister Rogers***. Quirk Books, 2019. This illustrated collection of the lyrics to 75 songs highlights the diversity of the characters featured and the topics addressed on the well-known Mr. Rogers television program.
- 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. ***Yes Day!*** HarperCollins, 2009. A little boy gets everything he asks for on Yes Day, a special day that only comes once a year.
- 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. ***Good Night, Little Blue Truck***. Houghton Mifflin, 2019. When a storm is forming, Little Blue Truck and his friend Toad are soon joined by other friends who are afraid of the thunder and lightning since it is easier to be brave together. *Series*
- Shea, Susan A. ***Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?*** Blue Apple Books, 2011. With die-cut and gatefold pages, rhyming questions are posed about what grows and what does not.
- Soman, David. ***Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy***. Dial Books, 2009. Lulu, dressed as Ladybug Girl, goes to the playground and makes new friends, including Bumblebee Boy. *Series*
- 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 a 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*
- Sullivan, Mary. ***Ball***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. While searching for someone to play ball with him, a dog dreams of fantastical adventures he could have with his ball. *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book 2014*
- Sutton, Sally. ***Construction***. Candlewick, 2014. Lively illustrations and sound words (BING! POW! THUD!) show big machines and busy workers as they construct a library.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2021
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- Tafari, Nancy. ***The Big Storm: A Very Soggy Counting Book***. 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.
- 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, Roseanne. ***Round is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes***. Chronicle, 2013. Children discover a world of shapes in their everyday lives, many of them Latino in origin but universal in appeal.
- Underwood, Deborah. ***Outside In***. Houghton Mifflin, 2020. This thought-provoking picture book poetically underscores our powerful and enduring connection with nature, even when lives are spent indoors.
- 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.
- Wan, Joyce. ***The Bear in My Bed***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018. A child faces the challenging task of putting a bear to bed.
- 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.
- 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 Feels Scared***. McElderry Books, 2008. Bear's animal friends come to his rescue when he becomes lost and frightened in the woods. *Series*
- Wong, Janet S. ***Apple Pie 4th of July***. Harcourt, 2002 (paperback). A Chinese American child fears that the food her parents are preparing to sell on the Fourth of July will not be eaten.
- 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*
- Zosienka. ***The Moon Keeper***. Harper, 2020. Emile enjoys his new job making certain that the moon has everything it needs to shine for the night creatures, but he is puzzled when the moon begins to change and slowly disappear.

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Kelli Robertson (Chair), *Westbury Christian School*

Christopher Gray, *St. John's School*

Erika Grove, *St. Thomas' Episcopal School*

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

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

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