

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2012

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Aldrin, Buzz. ***Look to the Stars***. Putnam's, 2009. Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin traces the history of air and space exploration from Isaac Newton to the International Space Station and Mars using personal insights and conversational text.
- Barber, Tiki and Ronde, with Paul Mantell. ***Goal Line***. Simon & Schuster, 2011. A lot of football action punctuates this tale of Tiki and Ronde Barber as they learn to deal with the trials and tribulations of school, sports, friends, and family.
- Barton, Chris. ***The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors***. Charlesbridge, 2009. Brothers Bob and Joe Switzer had different interests and ambitions but worked together on the dazzling creation of fluorescent colors.
- Beard, Darleen Bailey. ***Annie Glover is Not a Tree Lover***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Fourth grader Annie is torn between supporting her "tree hugging" grandmother who is trying to save a historic tree and her desire for the new community swimming pool which would mean cutting down the tree.
- Becker, Bonny. ***The Magical Ms. Plum***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Each of the students in Ms. Plum's third grade classroom receives a visit from a magical creature that comes out of her supply closet just for them.
- Bidner, Jenni. ***Is My Dog a Wolf?: How Your Pet Compares to its Wild Cousin***. Lark, 2006. Examines the differences and similarities between dogs and wolves with descriptions of how both have descended from the ancient wolf and how they have evolved into two diverse species.
- Birney, Betty G. ***Summer According to Humphrey***. Putnam's, 2010. Humphrey the classroom hamster does not know what will happen to him at the end of the school year, but he is excited when he finds himself at summer camp with some of his favorite teachers and human classmates. *Series*
- Bishop, Nic. ***Nic Bishop Lizards***. Scholastic, 2010. Amazing photographs and interesting tidbits of information are the highlights of this latest Nic Bishop romp through the world of lizards.
- Brown, Don. ***A Wizard From the Start: The Incredible Boyhood and Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. This picture book shows that young Thomas Edison was a hard worker who was curious about everything, read a lot of books, studied diligently for years, and was passionate about inventing.
- Buckley, Michael. ***NERDS: National Espionage, Rescue, and Defense Society***. Amulet Books, 2009. Fifth grader Jackson, a former bully, is sucked through a school locker into the National Espionage, Rescue, and Defense Society on a mission with a group of superhero nerdy kids to save the continents of the world from being moved by the evil Dr. Jigsaw. *Series*

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- Collins, Suzanne. **Gregor the Overlander**. Scholastic, 2003. Hurlled into a fantastical realm below New York City, Gregor finds himself wrapped up in a war between these underground worlds where his fate and that of his little sister and missing father are in his hands. *Series*
- Coville, Bruce. **The Monster's Ring**. Harcourt, 2002. Russell Crannaker's magic ring enables him to turn into a monster on Halloween and ward off the class bully once and for all. *Series*
- Cowell, Cressida. **How to Train Your Dragon**. Little, Brown, 2003. In this silly chapter book, the Viking boy Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, son of the chief, finds himself having to find and train a dragon and also becomes an unlikely hero in the process. *Series*
- Cowley, Joy. **Snake and Lizard**. Kane/Miller, 2008. Snake and Lizard's friendship grows as they learn more about each other in this humorous chapter book of likable desert characters. *Series*
- Crisp, Marty. **Titanicat**. Sleeping Bear Press, 2008. Every ship had a cat, and in this historical fiction picture book, the story of the Titanic's cat is told; but just where is the cat's luck during the Titanic's doomed voyage?
- Cronin, Doreen. **The Trouble with Chickens**. Balzer + Bray, 2011. Missing chicks, a mean "inside" dog, a mama chicken determined to find her babies, and a retired search and rescue dog named J. J. Tully round out the character list in this funny animal detective story with a clever twist at the end. *Series*
- Dahl, Roald. **Matilda**. Viking, 1988. Matilda applies her mental powers to rid the school of the evil headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore Miss Honey, her nice teacher, to financial security.
- Davies, Jacqueline. **The Lemonade War**. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Evan is not happy to learn that he and his younger sister Jessie will be in the same fourth grade class next fall, so their summer turns into a battle to see whose lemonade stand can earn one hundred dollars first.
- Dowson, Nick. **North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration**. Candlewick, 2011. This book follows animals such as gray whales, terns, wolves and caribou as they journey north to the Arctic where they will join the polar bear, arctic hare, and fox to feed and breed all summer.
- Durand, Hallie. **No Room for Dessert**. Atheneum, 2011. Third grader Dessert, also known as "Dirt," feels ignored by her parents; and she is determined to be the winner in the class invention contest to win back her parents' attention. *Series*
- Fleming, Candace. **The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary**. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. Fourth Grade teacher extraordinaire, Mr. Jupiter, takes his energetic students on a wild and woolly ride through the school year.
- Franco, Betsy. **A Curious Collection of Cats: Concrete Poems**. Tricycle Press, 2009. Full of humor and colorful illustrations, this book of concrete poems about cats is a delight.

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- French, Jackie. ***How to Scratch a Wombat: Where to Find It ... What to Feed It ... Why It Sleeps All Day.*** Clarion, 2009. This book tells you all you need to know about caring for and living with wombats -- how to scratch their backs, how to sing to them, and how to keep the "hairy brown rocks with legs" from breaking your door down -- based on the author's thirty years of experience in her Australian home.
- Gardiner, John Reynolds. ***Stone Fox.*** First published 1980. Willy hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.
- Giovanni, Nikki. ***The Grasshopper's Song: An Aesop's Fable Revisited.*** Candlewick, 2008. It is the alleged "frivolous" grasshopper's day in court as he tries to prove his case against the industrious ants who did not share their food with him through the long, cold winter.
- Greene, Stephanie. ***Sophie Hartley, On Strike.*** Clarion, 2006. When Sophie's mother makes a jobs list for the Hartley children, Sophie and her siblings go on strike, never expecting it to backfire. *Series*
- Grindley, Sally. ***Dear Max.*** McElderry Books, 2006. Written in letter format between a nine-year-old boy and a published author, this book deals sensitively with loss within a family, disease, and bullying.
- Gutman, Dan. ***Nightmare at the Book Fair.*** Simon and Schuster, 2008. Fifth-grader Trip Dinkleman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the head by a bookfair case and becomes a character in a series of different books including a horror story, an adventure, and a fantasy.
- Hansen, Rosanna. ***Caring for Cheetahs: My African Adventure.*** Boyds Mills, 2007. Pounce into this colorful photo-essay about protecting endangered cheetahs at a nature reserve owned by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa.
- Harley, Avis. ***African Acrostics: A Word in Edgeways.*** Candlewick, 2009. Entertaining acrostic poems about African animals provide readers information both about the animals as well as the various forms of acrostic poems.
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***Just Grace and the Double Surprise.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2011. In the seventh book of the series, Grace's best friend, Mimi, is surprised to get an adopted brother instead of a sister; and a double surprise is that Grace's parents finally say yes to getting a dog. *Series*
- Hatkoff, Juliana et al. ***Leo the Snow Leopard: The True Story of an Amazing Rescue.*** Scholastic, 2010. This story of rescue and survival of an orphaned snow leopard begins in the mountains of Pakistan and ends at the Bronx Zoo, allowing readers to learn about the life of these rare cats while documenting the determined cooperation of international animal conservationists.
- Helman, Andrea. ***Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts.*** Walker, 2008. This beautifully photographed book takes the reader to ecosystems around the world to show how animals camouflage themselves for protection in each unique habitat.

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- Hicks, Betty. ***Track Attack***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Superfast Jazz, a budding track star, is embarrassed by her overly enthusiastic father and his meddling at her track meets and practices.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***Piper Reed Rodeo Star***. Holt, 2011. Piper Reed is back in an adventure at her grandparents' home during the Christmas break. Her adventures include her best friend moving, a homespun rodeo, and a fun twist at the end. *Series*
- Hopkins, Jackie Mims. ***The Gold Miner's Daughter: A Melodramatic Fairytale***. Peachtree, 2006. In trying to pay her debt to mean ole Mr. Bigglebottom, Gracie Pearl meets many fairytale characters along the way who have had their own problems with the money hungry banker in this entertaining, melodramatic fairytale.
- Hopkins, Jackie Mims. ***Joe Bright and the Seven Genre Dudes***. Upstart Books, 2010. Stella, the master storyteller of a storybook kingdom, is threatened by Joe Bright's ability to tell stories and sends him deep into the dark forest, where Joe meets the Seven Genre Dudes, brothers who care for various types of books at the local library.
- Jenkins, Steve. ***Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember***. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Incredible cut paper illustrations highlight eighteen creatures whose weapons of teeth, claws, spines, and venom make them dangerous to humans, while the captivating text explains what you should never do if you encounter one of these animals.
- Judge, Lita. ***One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II***. Hyperion, 2007. The author relates the story of her grandparents' efforts after World War II to send packages of food, clothing, and shoes to their friends in Germany and others in Europe who suffered from the after-effects of the war.
- Klise, Kate. ***Till Death Do Us Bark***. Harcourt, 2011. Seymour adopts a dog that carries a big secret left by the late Noah Breth whose greedy children, Kitty and Kanine Breth, want only to recover their father's fortune which he has left hidden around the town of Ghastly. *Series*
- Krosoczka, Jarrett. ***Lunch Lady and the Field Trip Fiasco***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2011. Superhero Lunch Lady and the Breakfast Bunch save the day from art thieves in this fun graphic novel set in an art museum. *Series*
- Krull, Kathleen. ***The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. As a young boy in the early 1900's, Philo Farnsworth's curiosity about how things work eventually led him to develop the idea of how television could work.
- La Fevers, R. L. ***Flight of the Phoenix***. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Ten-year-old Nate is sent to live with a family cousin, the world's last beastologist, after his parents are declared lost at sea, but danger mounts when he is brought on an expedition to the Arabian desert, gets lost, and must protect a newly hatched phoenix egg and rescue his guardian. *Series*

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- Larsen, C. S. ***Crust & Spray: Gross Stuff in Your Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat.*** Millbrook, 2010. Prepare to be both grossed out and educated by the wacky descriptions and graphic close up pictures of the fluids and ooze generated by the human body.
- Lin, Grace. ***Dumpling Days.*** Little, Brown, 2012. Pacy and her family fly to Taiwan to visit family, celebrate her grandmother's 60th birthday, and learn what it means to be Taiwanese even without speaking the language. *Series*
- Low, Alice. ***The Fastest Game on Two Feet and Other Poems About How Sports Began.*** Holiday House, 2009. This book contains funny poems about various sports as well as a brief paragraph about the origin of each sport.
- Lowry, Lois. ***The Birthday Ball.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Princess Patricia Priscilla is not looking forward to her birthday when she has to choose a suitor, so she switches places with her chambermaid so she can attend school with the commoners.
- MacDonald, Alan. ***Trolls United.*** Bloomsbury, 2007. In this silly story about an endearing troll family, Ulrik has to deal with his father coming to school, worrying about making the soccer team, and hoping for a new pair of soccer cleats. *Series*
- MacDonald, Betty. ***Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle.*** First published 1947. Loved by children and their parents, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle always knows just the right way to solve any problem. *Series*
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***Sarah, Plain and Tall.*** First published 1985. This sweet prairie tale of a family's experiences with Sarah, a mail-order bride from Maine, begins with children Anna and Caleb worried that their new mother might not like being away from the sea. *Series*
- Markle, Sandra. ***Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories.*** Millbrook, 2009. Nine riveting tales share examples of animals saving humans, along with photos and extra information and insights into animal behavior.
- McCully, Emily Arnold. ***Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse.*** Holt, 2010. Bill "Doc" Key, who was a former slave, trains his horse, Jim Key, to recognize letters and numbers and perform around the country, ultimately teaching others to treat animals humanely.
- Mitchell, Barbara. ***The Graffiti Mystery.*** Stone Arch Books, 2009. Getting in a few scrapes himself, Supersleuth Damian uses his smarts to solve the mystery of who has been painting graffiti on the walls of the boys' bathroom and the principal's car. *Series*
- Moss, Marissa. ***Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Hero.*** Abrams Books, 2011. The author describes the life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, who disguised herself as a man, took the name Frank Thompson, joined a Michigan army regiment to fight in the Civil War, served as a nurse on the battlefield, and became a spy.
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Shiloh.*** Atheneum, 1991. Marty must make some painful decisions about returning a dog to his abusive owner. Newbery Honor Book 1992. *Series*

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- Nolan, Lucy. ***Bad to the Bone***. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Neighboring dogs, Down Girl and Sit, are discovering that their owners are very hard to train. *Series*
- O'Malley, Kevin. ***Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude***. Walker, 2005. Cooperatively writing a fairytale for school, a girl imagines a beautiful princess whose beloved ponies are being stolen by a giant, and a boy conjures up the muscular biker who will guard the last pony in exchange for gold.
- Osborne, Mary Pope. ***Abe Lincoln at Last!*** Random House, 2011. The magic tree house whisks Jack and Annie to Washington D.C. in the 1860s where they meet Abraham Lincoln and collect a feather that will help break a magic spell.
- Otfinoski, Steven. ***All in the Family: A Look-It-Up Guide to the In-Laws, Outlaws, and Offspring of Mythology***. Franklin Watts, 2009. Greek mythology hall of famers meet the modern age in a new series that brings the superstars of Greek mythology to life. *Series*
- Pennypacker, Sara. ***Clementine and the Family Meeting***. Disney-Hyperion, 2011. For the first time Clementine can remember, the reason for a family meeting does not mean that she is in trouble. Instead, it means good news and changes for her. *Series*
- Peot, Margaret. ***Inkblot: Drip, Splat, and Squish Your Way to Creativity***. Boyds Mills, 2011. In addition to interesting facts about the world of art, step-by-step instructions and examples are provided for using inkblots to spark creativity.
- Petersen, P. J. ***Wild River***. Delacorte, 2009. When their kayak hits a log and his older brother is seriously hurt, Ryan must overcome his fears and go for help.
- Polacco, Patricia. ***The Keeping Quilt***. First published 1988. Follow the author's family's quilt through several generations, from its creation by the first generation immigrant family all the way to the present generation.
- Preus, Margi. ***Celebritrees: Historic & Famous Trees of the World***. Holt, 2010. Profiles fourteen trees from around the world that are significant in history or legend, such as the Bodhi Tree under which Buddha gained enlightenment, reminding us that these fascinating trees bring us pleasure and tell us about history.
- Raczka, Bob. ***Lemonade & Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word***. Roaring Brook, 2011. In this double treat for the brain and eyes, all these concrete poems are cleverly formed from the letters of the poem's title.
- Raczka, Bob. ***The Vermeer Interviews: Conversations with Seven Works of Art***. Millbrook, 2009. Seven of Johannes Vermeer's most famous paintings, such as "The Milkmaid" and "The Geographer," come to life through interviews with the subjects to reveal artistic techniques and subtler aspects of Vermeer's unique photographic-style art.
- Rappaport, Doreen. ***Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt***. Disney-Hyperion, 2009. Well-researched and powerfully presented, this biography of Eleanor Roosevelt chronicles her life from a quiet, reserved child to an outspoken champion for the rights of all individuals.

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- Root, Phyllis. ***Paula Bunyan***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Paula Bunyan is a rough, tough lady with a singing voice that cracks windows, a live bear for a foot warmer, and a heart for the environment in this fun folk tale set in the North Woods.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***The Wonder Book***. Harper, 2010. Silly poems, puns, and jokes are illustrated with happy line drawings in this humorous book full of word play.
- Roy, Ron. ***Detective Camp***. Random House, 2006. Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose are at Detective Camp and right away discover a crime. *Series*
- Ryder, Joanne. ***Panda Kindergarten***. Collins, 2009. Simple text and enticing color photographs follow sixteen giant panda cubs as they eat, play, and nap during the day at the Wolong Nature Preserve in China.
- Scieszka, Jon. ***Spaceheadz 2***. Simon & Schuster, 2010. The aliens are back in a humorous encounter between aliens, agents, kindergarteners, and 5th graders, including an interactive website and a challenge to find a million new Spaceheads. *Series*
- Service, Pamela F. ***Alien Expedition***. Carolrhoda Books, 2009. Alien agent Zack is on a mission to help rescue alien dinosaurs from another planet who have been taken hostage in Mongolia by the Kiapa Kapa Syndicate. *Series*
- Shefelman, Janice. ***I, Vivaldi***. Eerdmans Books, 2008. This picture book biography describes how Vivaldi grew to be a famous musician, despite his mother's vow for him to become a priest.
- Sidman, Joyce. ***Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems***. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Poems about pond life throughout the year and factual annotations are contained in this beautifully illustrated book.
- Sidman, Joyce. ***Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. In fourteen poems, this picture book blends poetry, science, and art in celebrating the earth's most resilient and long-lived species.
- Silverstein, Shel. ***Every Thing On It: Poems and Drawings***. Harper, 2011. Enjoy another remarkable collection of playful poems by the magical Shel Silverstein.
- Sutherland, Tui. ***Who Was Harry Houdini?*** Grosset & Dunlap, 2002. Harry Houdini, the most famous escape artist of all time, is the subject of this interesting and accessible biography which includes explanations of some of his illusions. *Series*
- Tavares, Matt. ***Henry Aaron's Dream***. Candlewick, 2010. In this beautiful picture book biography of Henry "Hank" Aaron, Henry overcomes many obstacles to realize his childhood dream of becoming a major league baseball player.
- Taylor, Barbara. ***Hidden in the Grass***. QEB, 2011. This book gives examples of how animals in North American and African grasslands use camouflage to help them adapt to their habitats and hide from predators. *Series*
- Taylor, Sarah Stewart. ***Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. In graphic novel format, Amelia Earhart's life is described with a focus on the successful Atlantic crossing in 1928.

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- Temple, Bob. ***The Titanic: An Interactive History Adventure***. Capstone, 2008. The reader's choices reveal the historical details of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 from the perspective of a first-class passenger, a third-class passenger, and a crew member.
- Tolan, Stephanie S. ***Wishworks, Inc.*** Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Third-grader Max copes with his parents' divorce by retreating into an imaginary world complete with an imaginary dog to protect him from the bullies at school until he realizes that one must be careful what one wishes for even at his imaginary Wishworks, Inc.
- Trine, Greg. ***The Curse of the Bologna Sandwich***. Holt, 2006. After graduating from the Superhero Academy, Melvin Beederman heads for Los Angeles where he unexpectedly teams up with Candace Brinkwater, school play actress, to nab the evil McNasty Brothers. *Series*
- Vail, Rachel. ***Justin Case: School, Drool, and Other Daily Disasters***. Feiwel and Friends, 2010. Written in diary form, Justin writes honestly about his worries and observations of life in the third grade.
- Van Allsburg, Chris. ***Queen of the Falls***. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. This biography tells about Annie Edson Taylor, a retired instructor of a charm school, who decided to attempt to go over Niagara Falls in a wooden barrel at the age of sixty-two.
- Wallace, Bill. ***Upchuck and the Rotten Willy***. Aladdin, 1998. Chuck, the cat, lonesome since his Katie goes to college, ventures out and meets a beast, big and black, named Rotten Willy, who has a heart of gold.
- Wallace, Rich. ***The Ball Hogs***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. In this beginning chapter book, Mark and Ben, both highly competitive, refuse to pass the soccer ball, but eventually realize that their best chance of winning is working together. *Series*
- Weeks, Sarah. ***Oggie Cooder***. Scholastic, 2008. Oggie, an outcast to his classmates, garners friends and fame by sharing his unique talent of "charving," chewing and carving processed cheese into the shape of states, on a television talent show. *Series*
- Wilson, Karma. ***What's the Weather Inside?*** McElderry Books, 2009. This clever collection of original poetry is mostly light, humorous verse about family, friends, and school.
- Winter, Jonah. ***Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx***. Atheneum, 2009. Written in both English and Spanish, the life of Sonia Sotomayor is described from her childhood in poverty to how she worked her way up to the top of the United States judicial system.
- Winter, Jonah. ***You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!*** Schwartz & Wade, 2009. Learn about Sandy Koufax, a powerful left-handed pitcher for the New York Dodgers, a practicing Jew who would not play baseball on High Holy days, and a mystery man who quit baseball after the best season of his career.
- Yee, Lisa. ***Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally)***. Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Two long-time best friends' disagreement escalates into a war between the girls and boys of their fourth-grade classroom.

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Yezerksi, Thomas F. ***Meadowlands: A Wetlands Survival Story***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011. A history of New Jersey's Meadowlands, which have been recovering from decades of human destruction and are now mending thanks to community activism.

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