HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2019

Grade 5

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

Alvarez, Lorena.  *Nightlights*. Nobrow, 2017. Each night Sandy creates beautiful creatures with the tiny lights that appear in her room and draws them the next day. Will the mysterious new girl who notices her art turn it into something sinister?

Appelt, Kathi.  *The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp*. Atheneum, 2013. In this hilarious tall tale from a Texas swamp, twelve-year-old Chap Brayburn, ancient Sugar Man, and his raccoon-brother Swamp Scouts Bingo and J’miah try to save Bayou Tourterelle from feral pigs Clydine and Buzzy, greedy Sunny Boy Beaucoup, and world-class alligator wrestler and would-be land developer Jaeger Stitch.


Auxier, Jonathan.  *Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard: A Peter Nimble Adventure*. Amulet Books, 2016. Twelve-year-old Sophie knows little beyond the four walls of her father’s bookshop, where she repairs old books and dreams of escaping the confines of her dull life, when she finds herself pulled into an adventure beyond anything she has ever read.  

Behar, Ruth.  *Lucky Broken Girl*. Nancy Paulsen, 2017. It’s 1960 and Ruthie, a recent Cuban immigrant, is finally showing confidence in her English and hopscotch abilities when a horrific car accident shrinks her world, causing her to rely on her inner strength, the love of family and neighbors, and a new love of art.


Brown, Peter.  *The Wild Robot*. Little, Brown, 2016. Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try and learn about her new environment from the island’s hostile inhabitants.  

Chanani, Nidhi.  *Pashmina*. First Second, 2017. Priyanka has a lot of questions which her mother never entertains nor answers: why did her mother leave India, without her father, and what is it like there? The mysteries start to unravel when Pri wraps herself in a pashmina scarf found in an abandoned suitcase, and she is transported to a magical version of India, where she begins to learn the truth of her two worlds and cultures, and she and her mother begin their healing journey.
Creech, Sharon. *Moo.* Joanna Cotler, 2016. Twelve-year-old Reena, who has recently moved to rural Maine, adjusts to a new environment and unexpectedly bonds with an ornery cow.

DeKeyser, Stacy. *The Rhino in Right Field.* McElderry Books, 2018. Twelve-year-old Nick wants to win the 1948 Batboy Contest for the local Milwaukee minor league team, but the contest is on Saturday when he works in his father’s shop, and he’s lost confidence in his fielding ability ever since he had to retrieve his missed ball that went into Tank’s (the 2,000-pound rhino) pen—what is Nick going to do to save face and uphold his responsibilities?

Draper, Sharon. *Stella by Starlight.* Atheneum, 2015. When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

Flanagan, John. *The Royal Ranger.* Philomel, 2013. Will Treaty is a shell of his former self, and his first apprentice may be the only one who can save him. *Series*


Gemeinhart, Dan. *Some Kind of Courage.* Scholastic, 2016. Fun, touching, adventurous story of an orphan boy’s search for his beloved horse, sold without his knowledge.

Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary.* Dial Books, 2018. Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

Holm, Jennifer L. *Full of Beans.* Random House, 2016. Ten-year-old Beans Curry, a member of the best marble playing gang in Depression-era Key West, engages in various schemes to earn money while “New Dealers” from Washington, D.C., arrive to turn his town into a tourist resort.

Hood, Susan. *Lifeboat 12.* Simon & Schuster, 2018. In 1940, a group of British children escaping the bombing of London, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed by the Germans. Includes historical notes. *Novel in verse*

Jamieson, Victoria. *Roller Girl.* Dial Books, 2015. Twelve-year-old Astrid decides she wants to try something new this summer and signs-up for a Roller Derby camp, but her long-time best friend Nicole makes a different choice. How will this summer change Astrid and her friendship with Nicole?
Janeczko, Paul B. *The Death of the Hat: A Brief History of Poetry in 50 Objects*. Candlewick, 2015. A celebrated duo reunites for a look through history inspired by objects—earthly and celestial—reflecting the time in which the poet lived.

Janowitz, Jessie. *The Doughnut Fix*. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2018. Tristan isn’t as talented as his perfect sister Janie, but when his parents transplant their family from a big city to a tiny town, one that brags about their long-forgotten and famous chocolate cream doughnuts, it is Tris who starts his own doughnut business in the hopes of putting Petersville back on the map and proving his self-worth. *Series*

Johnson, Varian. *The Great Greene Heist*. Arthur A. Levine, 2014. Jackson Greene has a reputation as a prankster at Maplewood Middle School, but after the last disaster he is trying to go straight. When it looks like Keith Sinclair may steal the election for school president from Jackson’s former best friend Gabriela, he assembles a team to make sure Keith does not succeed.


Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello, Universe*. Greenwillow, 2017. The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully’s prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him. *Newbery Medal 2018*

Khan, Hena. *Amina’s Voice*. Salaam Press, 2017. A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family’s vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.

Marsden, Mariah. *Anne of Green Gables: A Graphic Novel*. Andrews McMeel, 2017. The indomitable spirit and antics of flame-haired heroine Anne Shirley are delightfully brought back in this graphic adaptation of the classic by L.M. Montgomery. Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. *Graphic novel*

Marshall, Joseph. *In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse*. Amulet Books, 2015. Jimmy McClean is a part white and part Native American boy who embarks on a journey with his grandfather to learn more about his Lakota heritage while visiting places significant in the life of Crazy Horse, the 19th century Lakota leader and warrior.

Mass, Wendy, and Rebecca Stead. *Bob*. Feiwel and Friends, 2018. Visiting her grandmother in Australia, Livy, ten, is reminded of the promise she made five years before to Bob, a strange, green creature who cannot recall who or what he is.
Messner, Kate. *All the Answers*. Bloomsbury, 2015. Twelve-year-old Ava finds an old pencil in her family’s junk drawer and discovers during a math test that it will answer factual questions, so she and her best friend, Sophie, enjoy testing the pencil’s abilities. Ava grows in self-confidence until the pencil reveals a truth about her family that Ava would rather not know.


O’Connor, George. *Hera, the Goddess and Her Glory*. First Second, 2011. Recounts the stories of the many heroes who sought and won the approval and patronage of Hera, the Queen of the Gods, including the story of Heracles. *Graphic novel, series*

Palacio, R.J. *Wonder*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, where he endures the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Pax*. Balzer + Bray, 2016. After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back.

Philbrick, Rodman. *Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina*. Blue Sky Press, 2014. On a visit to New Orleans to visit his great-grandmother for the first time, Zane Dupree and his dog Bandy are caught in Hurricane Katrina. After weathering the storm, they meet an old musician and a tenacious girl, and together they face many challenges to survive in the aftermath while searching for his grandmother.


Riordan, Rick. *The Lost Hero*. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for “bad kids,” find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. *Series*

Rundell, Katherine. *The Explorer*. Simon & Schuster, 2017. Left stranded in the Amazon jungle when their plane crashes on their way back to England from Manaus, Brazil, four children struggle to survive for days until one of them finds a map that leads them to a ruined city and a secret hidden among the vines.
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Scott, Elaine. **Our Moon: New Discoveries About Earth’s Closest Companion**. Clarion, 2016. Highlighting the latest thrilling discoveries about the moon, this comprehensive book for kids covers the moon’s history, scientific findings, and fun facts, interspersed with informative color photos.

Selznick, Brian. **Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures**. Scholastic, 2011. Rose and Ben are deaf children living fifty years and worlds apart, yet both marvel and connect with the world around them. The American Museum of Natural History links their separate stories – one narrated in text and the other through cinematic illustrations.

Silvey, Anita. **Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall**. National Geographic, 2015. This biography of Jane Goodall highlights her work with chimpanzees and her fight for the protection of the environment so her beloved chimpanzees and other animals can not only survive, but thrive.

Slader, Erik and Ben Thompson. **The Wright Brothers: Nose-Diving into History**. Roaring Book, 2018. Describes the lives of the two American brothers who designed, built, and flew the first heavier-than-air aircraft successfully, detailing the many mishaps and misadventures that preceded it.

Stead, Rebecca. **When You Reach Me**. Wendy Lamb, 2009. As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show “The $20,000 Pyramid,” a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy laws of time and space. *Newbery Medal 2010*

Stewart, Trenton Lee. **The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict**. Little, Brown, 2012. Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict is moved to one more orphanage: this one filled with nasty bullies who target him, a suspicious orphanage director, and a mystery about lost treasure. Using his superior intellect and fierce determination, Nicholas strives to solve the mystery and makes a couple of fast friends in the process.

Tingle, Tim. **How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story**. RoadRunner, 2013. A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe’s removal from the only land its people had ever known, and how their journey to Oklahoma led him to become a ghost—one with the ability to help those he left behind.
Townsend, Jessica. *Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow*. Little, Brown, 2017. Since birth, cursed Morrigan Crow has known she will die the night before her eleventh birthday; however, with only minutes remaining until her impending doom, Morrigan is whisked from her parents’ gloomy house by an eccentric man and taken to the magical land of Nevermoor. There she must compete in trials which will determine whether she is allowed to stay in Nevermoor or return home to face her fate. *Series*


Valise, Kim Perez. *The Orca Scientists*. Houghton Mifflin, 2018. Follow the majestic orca whales along with the scientists who tirelessly work to save this species from extinction. *Series*

Yang, Gene Luen, and Mike Holmes. *Secret Coders*. First Second, 2015. A girl named Hopper is at a new school where everything seems creepy, until she makes a new friend named Eni and they work together to solve a mystery. *Graphic novel, Series*

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk*. Arthur A. Levine, 2018. Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang’s parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao, is a nasty skinflint who exploits them. While her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese students in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao’s son, Jason.
All book summaries are provided by the publisher or written by committee members.

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