

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Bagert, Brod. ***School Fever***. Dial, 2008. Hilarious poems, clever art work, and wacky subjects combine to change the way you'll think of school forever.
- Barshaw, Ruth. ***Ellie McDoodle: New Kid at School***. Bloomsbury, 2007. Armed only with humor, a pen, and a sketchbook, eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle chronicles her adventures and mishaps as the "new kid" in her new school. *Series*
- Bishop, Nic. ***Spiders***. Scholastic, 2007. Spectacular photographs and well researched text combine to make this book fascinating reading for both those who are interested in spiders and those who don't think they would be until they see this book.
- Berman, Len. ***And Nobody Got Hurt 2! The World's Weirdest, Wackiest, and Most Amazing True Sports Stories***. Little, Brown, 2007. This collection of sports bloopers and phenomena from all over the world in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, golf, tennis, and the Olympics provides an entertaining look at things which actually happened in the sports world.
- Bidner, Jenni. ***Is My Dog a Wolf: How Your Pet Compares to its Wild Cousin***. Lark Books, 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. ***Trouble According to Humphrey***. Puffin, 2008. Humphrey experiences all the ups and downs with his friends as they create a model town project with all the bells and whistles. *Series*
- Boniface, William. ***The Extraordinary Adventures of Ordinary Boy: the Return of Meteor Boy***. HarperCollins, 2007. Ordinary Boy uses his head and manages to solve an old mystery and save the day once again for Superopolis, despite having no superpowers of his own. *Series*
- Brooks, Gwendolyn. ***Bronzeville Boys and Girls***. HarperCollins, 2007. The universal joys and experiences of children are celebrated in this newly illustrated collection of poetry from one of America's most beloved poets.
- Bunting, Eve. ***Reggie***. Cricket, 2006. Eight-year-old Alex is determined to keep the toy mouse he finds tied to a balloon, even after posters appear asking for its return. But when his dog Patch disappears, Alex discovers what it is like to lose something you love more than anything.
- Byars, Betsy. ***Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society***. Henry Holt, 2007. At the first annual meeting of WOOF – Words of Our Friends – assorted dogs share tales of dogs throughout history.
- Cleary, Beverly. ***Ribsy***. First published in 1964. When Ribsy gets lost from his family at the shopping center, he begins a series of humorous escapades and wanderings in his quest to find his family. *Series*

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- Clements, Andrew. **No Talking**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. The noisy fifth grade class of Laketon Elementary becomes suspiciously quiet when the boys challenge the girls to a “no talking” contest.
- Clements, Andrew. **Dogku**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Haiku is used to tell the story about a dog named Mooch who rides in a car, barks at the neighbors, and chews on dirty socks.
- Climo, Shirley. **Tuko and the Birds**. Henry Holt, 2008. In this traditional tale from the Philippines, Tuko the gecko moves in and completely disrupts the lives of the birds living on Mount Pinatubo, as well as the rhythms of life of the village people below, with his frightful singing.
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. **Young Pele: Soccer's First Star**. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. Despite coming from a poor Brazilian family, Pele uses determination and skill to become the greatest soccer player of all time.
- Colfer, Eoin. **Eoin Colfer's Legend of the Worst Boy in the World**. Hyperion, 2007. Will Woodman has a hard time getting anyone in his family to listen to him, so he turns to his grandfather, who, it turns out, has more terrible sob stories than Will does.
- Collins, Ross. **Medusa Jones**. Arthur A. Levine, 2008. Medusa, with her hair of hissing snakes, and her rather unusual friends are considered the Freaks at school, teased unmercifully by the Champions, the more attractive children of the Greek gods and goddesses.
- Coombs, Kate. **The Secret-Keeper**. Atheneum, 2006. Kalli is entrusted with everyone's secrets until the potter's son reveals the best secret of all.
- Coville, Bruce. **Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher**. Harcourt, 1991. In this sequel to **The Monster's Ring**, Jeremy purchases a strange egg which turns out to be a dragon that only he and Mary Lou can see. *Series*
- Creech, Sharon. **Hate that Cat**. Joanna Cotler, 2008. Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous works and how they relate to his life.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Mr. Chickee's Funny Money**. Wendy Lamb, 2005. In this first book of a new series, Flint Future Detective Club members Steven Carter, his friend Russell, and Russell's dog, Zoopy, solve the mystery of a quadrillion-dollar bill with the image of James Brown on it.
- 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.
- Davidson, Avelyn. **Beach Biology**. Children's Press, 2008. Colorful photographs and fascinating text show the plant and animal life of many different kinds of beaches, from rocky shores to estuaries to coral reefs.
- Davies, Nicola. **Extreme Animals: the Toughest Creatures on Earth**. Candlewick, 2006. This amazing natural history book reveals how animals adapt to and survive the harshest of conditions that would kill any human.

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- Edwards, Wallace. ***The Extinct Files: My Science Project***. Kids Can Press, 2006. Wally's science project proves that dinosaurs are alive through funny "photographs" and wacky puns. Wally's plan is a success until the D.I.A. (Dinosaur Intelligence Agency) gets involved.
- Eilenberg, Max. ***Beauty and the Beast***. Candlewick, 2006. This beautifully illustrated version of the classic tale includes such interesting family members as Beauty's two spoiled sisters and her proud, adoring father.
- Fleischman, Paul. ***Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella***. Henry Holt, 2007. This colorful version of the classic fairy tale blends together tidbits of over twenty Cinderella stories from around the world.
- Friedman, Laurie B. ***Honestly Mallory!*** Carolrhoda, 2008. When Mallory cannot decide what to be on Career Day, it makes her feel like she is not good at anything and she ends up telling a lie that quickly gets out of control. *Series*
- Gardiner, John R. ***Stone Fox***. First published 1980. Willie hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.
- Giblin, James. ***Did Fleming Rescue Churchill? a Research Puzzle***. Henry Holt, 2008. Is everything on the Internet really true? That is the question Jason must answer as he researches the life of scientist Alexander Fleming and uncovers a tantalizing tidbit of information.
- Giovanni, Nikki. ***The Grasshopper's Song: an Aesop's Fable Revisited***. Candlewick, 2008. It's 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.
- Gifford, Peggy. ***Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank-you Notes***. Schwartz & Wade, 2008. Ten-year-old Moxy Maxwell has promised to write twelve thank-you notes by the day after Christmas so that she and her twin brother Mark can go to Hollywood to visit their father, but all her brilliant ideas to help finish the task more efficiently end up creating chaos in the house.
- Goldish, Meish. ***Gray Wolves Return to Yellowstone***. Bearport, 2008. After 70 years of absence, gray wolves are reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park through a very successful program to restore balance to the park's ecosystem.
- Goldstone, Bruce. ***Great Estimations***. Henry Holt, 2006. This book will show you how to train your eyes and your mind to make really great estimations using photographs and easy-to-follow text.
- Greenwald, Sheila. ***Rosy Cole's Memoir Explosion***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006. Rosy is surprised when her friends are not thrilled with her memoir project for school. *Series*
- Grimes, Nikki. ***Thanks a Million***. Greenwillow, 2006. The importance of being thankful and expressing our gratitude are demonstrated in sixteen different ways through poetry.

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- Gutman, Dan. ***Nightmare at the Book Fair***. Simon & Schuster, 2008. Fifth-grader Trip Dinkleman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the head by a book fair case and becomes a character in a series of different books including a horror story, an adventure, and a fantasy.
- Haas, Jessie. ***Jigsaw Pony***. Greenwillow, 2005. Twins Kiera and Fran have never agreed on anything until their father surprises them with a pony.
- Hamilton, Virginia. ***The Girl Who Spun Gold***. Scholastic, 2000. This beautifully illustrated folk tale is a West Indian variant of the Rumpelstiltskin story.
- Hansen, Rosanna. ***Caring for Cheetahs: My African Adventure***. Boyds Mill, 2007. Pounce into this colorful photo essay about protecting endangered cheetahs at a nature reserve owned by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa.
- Hanson, Mary. ***How to Save Your Tail***. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. Take a romp with Bob the rat, who survives capture by two cats by sharing both fresh-baked cookies and fractured fairy tales about his ancestors.
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***Just Grace Walks the Dog***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Grace hopes to prove to her parents that she can be dependable and responsible enough to have a real dog, not just the cardboard dog she has been pulling around.
- Helman, Andrea. ***Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts***. Walker & Co., 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.
- Hicks, Betty. ***Basketball Bats***. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. Henry learns to be a real team player when his basketball team takes on the "tough team" from the YMCA.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***Piper Reed, the Great Gypsy***. Henry Holt, 2008. While her father, a Navy Chief, is on ship duty for six months, nine-year-old Piper stays busy with new neighbors, Christmas at a spaceship beach house, a trip to New Orleans, and especially the upcoming Gypsy Club pet show.
- Issa, Kai Jackson. ***Howard Thurman's Great Hope***. Lee & Low, 2008. Born a Negro at the turn of the 20th century, Howard Thurman faced and overcame many obstacles to become an important civil rights leader.
- James, Helen Foster. ***S is for S'mores***. Sleeping Bear Press, 2007. No camping trip will be complete without this fun alphabet book full of camping trivia, including the perennial favorite – s'mores.
- Jenkins, Emily. ***Toys Dance Party***. Schwarz & Wade, 2008. Buffalo, Stingray, and Plastic are worried when the Girl starts spending time with Barbie dolls and at sleepovers. Throughout their adventures in the house, they will learn if they can keep the Girl's love. *Sequel*
- Jenkins, Steve. ***Dogs and Cats, Cats and Dogs***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Illustrated with eye-catching collage, this book presents a wealth of information about both dogs and cats in an enticing read and flip-it-over format.

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- 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.
- Keating, Frank. ***Theodore.*** Simon & Schuster, 2006. Beautifully illustrated picture book of the life of Theodore Roosevelt written as though he were telling the story face-to-face with the reader in his own words.
- Kelly, Katy. ***Lucy Rose: Working Myself to Pieces and Bits.*** Delacorte, 2007. In her diary, fourth grader Lucy Rose, who is a lover of palindromes and big words, records her adventures with friends Jonique and Melonhead, including their unorthodox ways of raising money so that the McBees can remodel their bakery. *Series*
- Keller, Laurie. ***Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners.*** Henry Holt, 2007. The golden rule is introduced in a fun manner when a rabbit worries about getting along with his new neighbors, who happen to be otters.
- Kerley, Barbara. ***What to do About Alice?*** Scholastic Press, 2008. Find out why President Teddy Roosevelt said of his daughter: "I can be president of the United States, or I can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both." in this lighthearted picture book biography.
- Ketteman, Helen. ***Waynetta and the Cornstalk: A Texas Fairy Tale.*** Albert Whitman, 2007. This humorous retelling of "Jack and the Beanstalk" with a Texas twist is pure fun.
- Kimmel, Eric. ***A Picture for Marc.*** Random House, 2007. Marc, an imaginative Russian boy, discovers his talent for drawing and, with the encouragement of a friend and an art teacher, decides to become an artist and grows up to be famous.
- Levine, Ellen. ***Henry's Freedom Box.*** Scholastic, 2007. This is a fictionalized account of how in 1849, a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.
- Li, Cunxin. ***Dancing to Freedom: the True Story of Mao's Last Dancer.*** Walker & Co. 2007. When former principal dancer for the Houston Ballet, Li Cunxin was growing up in China, the country was under the control of communist leader, Mao-Tse Tung, but that did not prevent Li from following his dream of becoming a world renowned ballet dancer.
- Lin, Grace. ***The Year of the Rat.*** Little, Brown, 2008. Pacy faces many challenges this Chinese New Year and is not sure she likes the changes this year will bring. *Sequel*
- Look, Lenore. ***Alvin Ho, Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2008. Alvin Ho loves superheroes and his family, but is afraid of practically everything else. Finding a friend is hard for Alvin, especially because he is unable to talk at school.

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- Lubar, David. ***Punished!*** Darby Creek, 2006. Because he was playing tag in the reference section of the library, Logan is punished by Professor Wordsworth, who puts a spell on him that is broken only by finding anagrams, palindromes, and oxymorons.
- MacDonald, Alan. ***Trolls on Vacation!*** Bloomsbury, 2007. In a continuation of the Trolls Trouble series, the Priddles find themselves on vacation sharing a camper with the Trolls. This was not the seaside vacation Mrs. Priddle hoped for and both families are in for some surprises. *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.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***Edward's Eyes***. Atheneum, 2007. Edward has a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other. When he unexpectedly dies and his parents donate his organs, his wonderful eyes go to the perfect recipient.
- Mannis, Celeste. ***Julia Morgan Built a Castle***. Viking, 2006. Following her dream to build buildings, Julia Morgan overcame great obstacles to become the first woman licensed architect in California and the builder of the magnificent Hearst Castle.
- Markle, Sandra. ***Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories***. Milbrook Press, 2009. Nine riveting tales share examples of animals saving humans, along with photos and extra information and insights into animal behavior.
- Martin, Ann M. and Godwin, Laura. ***The Runaway Dolls***. Hyperion, 2008. When a package containing an old-fashioned china baby doll arrives mysteriously in the mail, Annabelle Doll and her friend Tiffany are launched on a new adventure that takes them all over the city and traps them in a toy store. *Series*
- McDonald, Megan. ***Judy Moody Around the World in 8 ½ Days***. Candlewick, 2006. Judy Moody's new friendship causes problems with her old friends as they try to work together on a school project. *Series*
- McDonough, Yona. ***Hammerin' Hank: The Life of Hank Greenberg***. Walker & Co., 2006. This picture book biography of Hall of Fame baseball player Hank Greenberg has a winning combination of illustrations and text.
- Mills, Claudia. ***Being Teddy Roosevelt***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. When he is assigned Teddy Roosevelt as his biography project in school, fourth-grader Riley finds himself inspired by Roosevelt's tenacity and perseverance and resolves to find a way to get what he most wants – a saxophone and music lessons.
- Morris, Gerald. ***The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. This humorous version of the Arthurian legend features a more laid-back Sir Lancelot who is equally at home fighting "recreant knights" with his sword as with his wits – preferably in shiny armor and after his afternoon nap.
- Nagda, Ann Whitehead. ***Cheetah Math: Learning about Division from a Baby Cheetah***. Henry Holt, 2007. Delightful story using information about baby cheetahs that live in the San Diego Zoo to teach children about division.

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- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Patches and Scratches**. Marshall Cavendish, 2007. Sarah takes on the problem of finding a pet for her friend Peter that both he and his grandmother will like. *Series*
- Nicola-Lisa, W. **How We Are Smart**. Lee & Low, 2006. Famous people are smart in many different ways – eight to be exact according to the author.
- Nivola, Claire. **Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2008. This beautifully illustrated biography tells how Wangari Maathai encouraged the people of Kenya to plant trees in an effort to restore their depleted land.
- 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 & Co., 2005. Cooperatively writing a fairy tale 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. **Pompeii Lost & Found**. Knopf, 2006. This fresco-illustrated book answers questions about the effect of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius on the people of Pompeii and their life before the disaster.
- Pennypacker, Sara. **Clementine's Letter**. Hyperion, 2008. After learning that her favorite teacher will be leaving for a trip to Egypt and will be absent for the remainder of the year, Clementine devises a plan to get rid of the substitute and get Mr. D'Matz to stay. *Series*
- Perkins, Mitali. **Rickshaw Girl**. Charlesbridge, 2007. When her family faces financial difficulties, Naima seeks to find a way to help while remaining true to her Bangladeshi heritage and her own artistic talent.
- Polacco, Patricia. **Lemonade Club**. Philomel, 2007. When Marilyn and her teacher, Miss Wichelman, are both diagnosed with cancer, they encourage each other and, aided by medical treatments and support from their friends and classmates, they each get better.
- Prelutsky, Jack. **My Dog May be a Genius**. Greenwillow, 2008. A collection of poems by children's poet laureate Jack Prelutsky that celebrate the joys of childhood with tongues twisting and imaginations soaring.
- Ray, Deborah Kogan. **Down the Colorado: John Wesley Powell, the One-armed Explorer**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. This picture book portrays the life of the naturalist John Wesley Powell (using primary source journal entries) who led the first recorded Colorado River expedition through the Grand Canyon, despite the loss of an arm in a Civil War injury.
- Rusch, Elizabeth. **The Planet Hunter: The Story Behind What Happened to Pluto**. Rising Moon, 2007. Mike Brown, an astronomer, was determined to discover a new planet. Instead, he made discoveries that ultimately led to the declassification of Pluto as a planet.

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- Ryder, Joanne. ***A Pair of Polar Bears: Twin Cubs Find a Home at the San Diego Zoo.*** Simon & Schuster, 2006. In a factual, yet entertaining account, two orphaned polar bear cubs are rescued and flown to the San Diego Zoo where they find both safety and care in their new home.
- Saint-Lot, Katia Novet. ***Amadi's Snowman.*** Tilbury House, 2008. Young Amadi learns the value of reading through a book about snow which is something Amadi has never heard of nor seen.
- Salas, Laura Purdie. ***Chatter, Sing, Roar, Buzz: Poems About the Rainforest.*** Capstone Press, 2009. This collection of poetry about the rainforest is accompanied by brilliant photos of fascinating animals and plants.
- Scott, Elaine. ***When is a Planet Not a Planet? The Story of Pluto.*** Clarion, 2007. This book takes the downgrading of Pluto from planet to dwarf planet as a teachable moment for discussing questions such as how the number of planets has changed through the centuries, what can be called a planet, and how scientists come to conclusions—and occasionally change their minds.
- Simon, Seymour. ***Horses.*** HarperCollins, 2006. Horse-lovers will enjoy this book of photographs and accompanying text which provides interesting information about horses.
- Singer, Marilyn. ***Eggs.*** Holiday House, 2008. This handsome book introduces eggs: their functions, wide variety of sizes, shapes, textures, and colors, and how they protect the young animals growing inside them.
- Sonnenblick, Jordan. ***Dodger and Me.*** Feiwel & Friends, 2008. Befriended by a blue chimpanzee genie, awkward Willie humorously navigates the road to discovering what real life wishes are all about.
- Stewart, Melissa. ***A Place for Butterflies.*** Peachtree, 2006. Using specific species of butterflies, the author effectively explains how the actions and inactions of humans affect the butterfly populations in the United States.
- Tate, Lindsey. ***Kate Larkin, the Bone Expert.*** Henry Holt, 2008. When Kate falls off her bike and breaks her arm, she learns everything she can about the amazing bones in her body.
- Truss, Lynne. ***The Girl's Like Spaghetti: Why You Can't Manage Without Apostrophes.*** Putnam, 2007. Using or not using an apostrophe can change the meaning of a sentence dramatically.
- Urbigkit, Cat. ***The Shepherd's Trail.*** Boyds Mills, 2008. Through photos and text, follow the work of shepherds in today's American West as they travel with and care for vast herds of sheep.
- Vande Velde, Vivian. ***Three Good Deeds.*** Harcourt, 2005. Caught stealing some goose eggs from a witch, Howard is cursed and turned into a goose himself. He can only become human again by performing three good deeds.
- Weatherford, Carole Boston. ***I, Matthew Henson.*** Walker & Co., 2008. Short picture-book biography in free verse about the African-American polar explorer, Matthew Henson, one of only six men to be the first to reach the North Pole.

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Willey, Margaret. ***Clever Beatrice and the Best Little Pony***. Atheneum, 2004. Clever Beatrice seeks out the village breadmaker to come up with a plan to protect her pony. *Series*

Zenon, Paul. ***Simple Sleight-of-Hand***. Rosen, 2008. Card and coin tricks are carefully described and well-illustrated to help even the youngest magician amaze his or her family and friends.

Compiled by:

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