

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2010

Grade 11 and Grade 12

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Ackerman, Diane. ***The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story***. Norton, 2007. Based on a little known chapter from Nazi Poland, Ackerman works from the diary of Antonina Zabinski. Not only was Hitler interested in human genetics but also the purity of animal breeds. At the Warsaw Zoo, Antonina and her director husband struggle with wartime shortages, care for the animals, their own family, and hundreds of Jews hidden at the zoo from the occupying Nazis. A dramatic, true story. 2008 Orion Book Award; ALA Notable Nonfiction 2008
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Wintergirls***. Viking, 2009. Anderson has taken us into the mind of a rape victim in *Speak* and now takes us into the mind of an anorexic. This is a haunting story about Lia's desire to be the thinnest girl in school, her struggle with anorexia, and path to recovery. BBYA Fiction 2010
- Austen, Jane. ***Pride and Prejudice***. First published 1813. Elizabeth and Jane Bennet overcome obstacles to their happiness with Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley in this comedy of manners set in early nineteenth-century England.
- Baldwin, James. ***Go Tell It On the Mountain***. First published 1953. In 1935 Harlem, young John Grimes searches for God while struggling with his identity as the stepson of a stern, evangelist preacher.
- Beah, Ishmael. ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. Twelve-year old Ishmael first flees from attacking rebels with his friends, but later is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. Alex Award 2008
- Bradbury, Jennifer. ***Shift***. Atheneum, 2008. The summer before they begin college, Chris and Win bike from West Virginia to Seattle. After a fight, and 50 miles from their goal, Win rides off while Chris changes a flat tire and simply disappears. Win's manipulative father enlists the FBI to question Chris.
- Bradley, Alan C. ***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie***. Delacorte, 2009. A dead bird on a doorstep with a stamp stuck on its beak and a delicious trick on an older sister launch this funny and clever mystery. Flavia is isolated in the English countryside, busy practicing chemistry in her deceased mother's lab. Strange things begin to happen and Flavia is just smart enough to figure them out, but only after a host of strange characters, literary allusions, and unexpected happenings. BBYA Fiction 2010
- Brooks, Geraldine. ***People of the Book: A Novel***. Viking, 2008. While working on an ancient manuscript, Hanna Heath, a conservationist, traces its path through the ages and discovers her own contemporary life. National Jewish Book Award 2008
- Caletti, Deb. ***The Fortunes of Indigo Skye***. Simon & Schuster, 2008. Indigo wants nothing more from life than her job as a waitress until a customer gives her \$2,500,000. Then everything changes.

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- Carter, Stephen L. ***The Emperor of Ocean Park***. Knopf, 2002. A look into the world of professional African American society as seen through the eyes of Talcott Garland, who suddenly finds himself investigating the death of his father, "The Judge." Was it as suspicious as his sister believes, or natural? Mystery, suspense, and plot twists unfold as Garland searches for answers. Black Caucus of the American Library Association Literary Award 2003
- Chandler, Raymond. ***The Long Goodbye***. First published 1953. A classic "hard-boiled" detective story where Philip Marlowe, private eye, deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city. Edgar Award 1955
- Chbosky, Stephen. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***. MTV, 1999. In this controversial, coming-of-age novel, Charlie's collection of letters to an unspecified recipient details the humorous trials and tribulations of trying to discover who he is and who he might become.
- Coben, Harlan. ***Tell No One: A Novel***. Delacorte, 2001. After years of struggling with grief over his wife's murder by a serial killer, Dr. David Beck receives a mysterious e-mail that includes a secret word only known to his wife and himself.
- Collins, Billy. ***Ballistics: Poems***. Random House, 2008. Notable collection of verse from the U.S. Poet Laureate, expressing love, joy, and death in his inimitable language.
- Collins, Suzanne. ***The Hunger Games***. Scholastic, 2008. In the not too distant future, the United States has collapsed and has been replaced by the totalitarian regime, Panem. Sixteen-year-old Katniss becomes a contestant in the annual Hunger Games, a televised, gladiator-like contest where teens compete to the death.
- Connolly, John. ***The Book of Lost Things: A Novel***. Atria, 2006. After the death of his mother, David retreats to his attic bedroom where the books on his shelf begin whispering to him, dragging him into another world. Alex Award 2007
- Courtenay, Bryce. ***The Power of One: A Novel***. Ballantine, 1996. Originally published in 1989. A weak, friendless English boy grows up in South Africa during World War II where he learns to box and finds the courage to champion the cause of injustice using the force of the Power of One.
- Danticat, Edwidge. ***Brother, I'm Dying***. Knopf, 2007. In 2005, expecting her first child and facing the death of her father, Danticat relates her childhood experiences of living in a loving and devoted Haitian family torn by immigration, political upheaval, and violence. A poignant and painful memoir filled with hope and grace. National Book Critics Circle Award 2007; Christopher Award 2008
- Doctorow, Cory. ***Little Brother***. Tor, 2008. An interesting read with terrorism plots, lots of electronic gadgets and students with hacker smarts. The students are picked up after a terrorist attack and at first do not cooperate. Their experience is reflective of today's fears and concerns regarding government control and the Department of Homeland Security.

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- Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. ***Crime and Punishment***. First published 1866. Raskolnikov, a student who believes that his own intellectual and spiritual superiority places him above the masses, tests his theory of invincibility by committing murder.
- Downham, Jenny. ***Before I Die***. David Fickling, 2007. This is a touching story that draws the reader into the last months of Tessa's life after battling leukemia for four years. The reader experiences a wide range of activities from her to-do list, emotional upheaval, and thoughts told through Tessa's narrative.
- Egan, Timothy. ***The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl***. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. A Pulitzer Prize-winning author follows a half-dozen families and their communities during the darkest years of the Depression, when the people of America's High Plains were terrorized by relentless dust storms unlike any ever seen before or since. National Book Award for Nonfiction 2006
- Erlbaum, Janice. ***Girlbomb: A Halfway Homeless Memoir***. Villard, 2006. In 1983, at age fifteen, Janice Erlbaum walks away from her dangerous home life and into the streets of New York determined to make it on her own in this unflinching portrait of being underprivileged, underage, and underdressed.
- Euripides. Edited and translated by James Morwood. ***Medea and other plays***. Oxford World's Classics, 1998. A passionate and timely play about foolish men, powerful women, and the problem of pain and suffering. Medea is willing to do the unthinkable in order to escape the unbearable.
- Ferraris, Zoe. ***Finding Nouf***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Written as a mystery, this is a fascinating look at the odd disappearance of a teenaged girl in Saudi Arabia. Nayir, a friend of the girl's family, is asked to find her. As he tries to locate Nouf, readers learn about the rigorous requirements of practicing a Muslim life. Alex Award, 2009
- Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. ***Love in the Time of Cholera***. First published 1988. From the Nobel Laureate comes a tale of unrequited love lasting over fifty years, Florentino Ariza has the bad grace to declare his undying love for Fermina Daza at the funeral of her husband, the illustrious physician and leader in the fight against cholera in their South American country.
- Gladwell, Malcolm. ***The Outliers: the Story of Success***. Little, Brown, 2008. Gladwell examines the background of extremely successful people to see what common traits they share that lead to their success. He compares birth date, birthplace, community values, family, and other factors to draw his conclusions.
- Gordon-Reed, Annette. ***The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family***. Norton, 2008. Gordon-Reed presents an in-depth view of the Hemings family tree, relationships to Thomas Jefferson, and the life they lived at Monticello as slaves. 2008 National Book Award in Nonfiction; 2009 Pulitzer Prize in History; 2009 Frederick Douglass Book Prize; 2009 Pulitzer Prize in History
- Green, John. ***Paper Towns***. Dutton, 2008. Quentin idolizes his next door neighbor, Margo Roth Spiegelman. When she includes him in a wild night of revenge and then disappears, Quentin must follow the clues she has left in order to find her. Edgar Allan Poe Award 2009

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- Gruen, Sara. ***Water for Elephants: A Novel***. Algonquin, 2006. Jacob Jankowski, a penniless orphan forced to drop out of veterinary school during the Great Depression, joins a traveling circus. He forges a bond with Rosie the elephant and Marlena, the beautiful star of an equestrian act, whose husband is a handsome circus boss with a violent temper. Alex Award 2007
- Harmon, Michael B. ***The Last Exit to Normal***. Knopf, 2008. Ben's dad and his dad's boyfriend move to rural Montana. Ben, angry at his father's coming out and the breakup of his family, begins to reassess his life. It is hard to fit in with his spiked hair and skateboard in a country town, but Ben finds he is letting go of his anger toward people and toward the outside world. He is also worried about his neighbor's treatment of his son, so Ben confronts the line that is drawn between child abuse and discipline in a small town.
- Hosseini, Khaled. ***A Thousand Splendid Suns***. Riverhead, 2007. Mariam and Laila, married to Rasheed, form an uneasy alliance so that they and their children survive despite horrific circumstances. In this second novel, Hosseini depicts Afghanistan from a woman's point of view during three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war, and Taliban tyranny. Book Sense Book of the Year 2008
- Ishiguro, Kazuo. ***Never Let Me Go***. Knopf, 2005. A dark secret lurks behind the nurturing façade of Hailsham, a private school in the English countryside where Kathy, now thirty-one years old, lived as a child. Alex Award 2006
- Jordan, Hillary. ***Mudbound: A Novel***. Algonquin, 2008. Two young war heroes return home to their neighboring families in the Mississippi Delta after World War II. Jamie is haunted by memories of combat, and Ronsel by the horrors of the segregated South. Laura McAllan is adjusting to farm life with her mean-spirited father-in-law. A compelling family tragedy. Alex Award 2009
- Kenyon, Kay. ***Bright of the Sky***. Pyr, 2007. A parallel universe has been discovered by voyager Titus Quinn, but he has lost his family in the process. Saving them involves finding a way back, infiltrating the society, and rising to power; ingenuity, deceit, and luck will be required.
- Kidder, Tracy. ***Mountains Beyond Mountains***. Random House, 2003. In his quest to cure the world of infectious diseases, the brilliant, charismatic Dr. Paul Farmer finds time to make house calls both in Boston and the mountains of Haiti. He blasts through convention to get results with his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity." Book Sense Book of the Year Award 2004
- Krakauer, Jon. ***Into the Wild***. Villard, 1996. Christopher McCandless abandoned all he knew, gave his entire savings account to charity, and hitchhiked to Alaska in an attempt to rebel against authority and his privileged upbringing. Four months later, his body was found by hunters in the wilderness.
- Kyle, Aryn. ***God of Animals***. Scribner, 2007. Alice and her father struggle to keep the family horse ranch going by boarding horses that are owned by wealthy neighbors. Pressures caused by debt, family illness, and the unrelenting work of the ranch explode and Alice must grow up quickly, making a few mistakes along the way, but learning important lessons about life and being human. Alex Award 2008

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- Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***Unaccustomed Earth: Stories***. Knopf, 2008. As with her previous Pulitzer-winning collection, *Interpreter of Maladies*, Lahiri's magic lies in the warm-blooded richness with which she deftly renders each and every one of her characters, not to mention the ambiguity, joy and grief that imbue the liminal spaces between those characters.
- Lewis, Michael. ***The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game***. Norton, 2006. The development of the offensive left tackle position to protect a quarterback in the National Football League is presented in combination with the story of Michael Oher, who lived in a Memphis ghetto until he was taken under the protection of a wealthy, loving family. Alex Award 2007
- Martinez, A. Lee. ***Gil's All Fright Diner***. Tor, 2005. Vampire Earl and Werewolf Duke stop at a diner in the desert town of Rockwood, Texas, where they help Loretta dispose of her zombie problem and agree to stay on to help the town with its other supernatural issues. Alex Award 2006
- McCarthy, Cormac. ***The Road***. Knopf, 2006. In a post-apocalyptic landscape, a man and a boy struggle toward the unknown. This dark and doomed quest offers a spiritual sense of soul and humanity. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2007
- McEwan, Ian. ***Atonement: A Novel***. Doubleday, 2001. In the summer of 1935, the lives of three people are changed forever by a young girl's scheming imagination. National Book Critics Circle Award 2002
- Moalem, Sharon. ***Survival of the Sickest: A Medical Maverick Discovers Why We Need Disease***. William Morrow, 2007. If every living thing dances to the same two-step imperative, survive and reproduce, then why do we still have diabetes, hemochromatosis, and other life-threatening ailments? With fascinating insights and cutting-edge research, the author looks at evolutionary history, epigenetics, and modern medical research to try to figure out why we developed as we did.
- Moehringer, J. R. ***The Tender Bar: A Memoir***. Hyperion, 2005. While growing up, young J.R. found his male role models among the flamboyant characters who were regulars at Publicans, a Long Island bar owned by his uncle.
- Morrison, Toni. ***Beloved***. First published 1987. The Nobel prize-winning author's lyrical expression of slave experience is built around Sethe, her memories of Sweet Home, and the ghost of her baby.
- Mullen, Thomas. ***Last Town on Earth***. Random House, 2006. Set during the twin catastrophes of WWI and the 1918 flu epidemic, this fiction title explores the risks of trading freedom for safety in a small milling town in Commonwealth, Washington. Mullen examines the parallels with our current fear of contagious viruses, obsession with foreign operatives, and repression of political dissent.
- Neruda, Pablo. ***Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair***. First published 1924. This collection of romantic poems was originally published when the Nobel Laureate was just nineteen.
- Palwick, Susan. ***The Necessary Beggar***. Tor, 2005. Banned from a parallel universe for a crime of passion, Palwick's exiles arrive in Reno, Nevada, through a shimmering blue portal. Action focuses on the family's falling apart under the strain of adapting to a new life while the back-story of Darroti's crime provides a haunting mystery. Alex Award 2006

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- Patchett, Ann. ***Run***. HarperCollins, 2007. An accident during a snowstorm near the Harvard campus suddenly thrusts Mayor Doyle and his sons from their world of privilege into one of complicated and personal issues related to race, class, politics, and faith. Book Sense Book of the Year 2008
- Petterson, Per. ***Out Stealing Horses***. Translated by Anne Born. Graywolf Press, 2007. In an austere style, with a series of flashbacks, a Norwegian boy finds his family and friendships unraveling as his courage grows.
- Philbrick, Nathaniel. ***Mayflower: a Story of Courage, Community, and War***. Viking, 2006. Philbrick's historical account of the Pilgrims' preparations, voyages, and colonial settlements in New England conveys a realistic and lively story of remarkable events.
- Picoult, Jodi. ***Nineteen Minutes***. Atria, 2007. The residents of a small, ordinary New Hampshire town seek justice in the aftermath of a shocking school shooting carried out by a teenage boy who had been bullied since kindergarten.
- Pink, Daniel H. ***A Whole New Mind: Why Right Brainers Will Rule the Future***. Riverhead, 2005. The future belongs to a different kind of person with a different kind of mind: artists, inventors, storytellers—creative and holistic "right-brain" thinkers whose abilities mark the fault line between who gets ahead and who does not.
- Plath, Sylvia. ***The Bell Jar***. First published 1963. This autobiographical novel describes an ambitious and brilliant young woman's search for values and her eventual breakdown. The 2004 edition includes additional poems.
- Simic, Charles. ***Voice @ 3:00 A.M. Selected Late & New Poems***. Houghton Mifflin/Harcourt, 2003. The poems convey vivid and quirky imagery. From *Sunday Papers* to *Frightening Toys* to *Blood Orange*, the originality and sly humor of "everydayness" cheers the reader of this award-winning poet's work.
- Small, David. ***Stitches: A Memoir***. Norton, 2009. David Small grew up in the 1950's in a dysfunctional family with an angry mother and emotionally distant father. This graphic novel by Small, a Caldecott winning illustrator, about the redemptive value of art, is filled with sadness and dark humor. Alex Award 2010, BBYA 2010
- Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. ***One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich***. First published 1962. Although innocent of any crime, Ivan Denisovich Shukhov is convicted of treason and sentenced to serve ten years in a Soviet work camp in Siberia.
- Steinbeck, John. ***The Grapes of Wrath***. First published 1939. Forced out of their home in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl by economic desperation, a family of Okie farmers drives west to California in search of work as migrant fruit pickers. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1940
- Thoreau, Henry David. ***Walden***. First published 1854. Thoreau's observations on nature and life were penned during his solitary stay at Walden Pond, outside Concord, Massachusetts, from 1845 to 1847.
- Tinti, Hannah. ***The Good Thief: A Novel***. Dial, 2008. Ren, a one-handed orphan in 18th century New England, is released into the custody of a villain who claims to be his father and who wants to train him to be a thief. Ren seems to be a natural at it. Alex Award 2009

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- Tolan, Sandy. ***The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East.*** Bloomsbury, 2006. An account of the Israeli and Palestinian conflicts is compiled from interviews with Arab and Israeli families and bound together with the fragile symbol of the lemon tree as hope for peace in these troubled lands.
- Tucker, Todd. ***Over and Under.*** Thomas Dunne, 2008. Two fourteen-year-old boys begin summer with high hopes of freedom and adventure. A strike at the major local company where their fathers work, changes those plans and starts them on a stark odyssey of violence, murder and fear. A coming of age story in the tradition of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Alex Award, 2009
- Turgenev, Ivan. ***Fathers and Sons.*** First published 1862. In this portrayal of conflicts between the older aristocratic generation and the new Russian intelligentsia of the nineteenth century, a young graduate student returns home accompanied, much to the discomfort of his father and uncle, by a friend who does not acknowledge any authority and who refuses to accept any principle on faith.
- Walls, Jeannette. ***The Glass Castle: A Memoir.*** Scribner's, 2005. This successful gossip columnist, who "made it" against all odds, shares her astonishing memoir of a childhood lived in a seriously dysfunctional, but uniquely vibrant, family. Alex Award 2006
- Williams, Carol Lynch. ***The Chosen One.*** St. Martin's Griffin, 2009. When the Prophet orders thirteen-year-old Kyra to be the seventh wife of her elderly uncle, her family is upset. Kyra knows that running away puts them all at risk. BBYA 2010
- Wright, Lawrence. ***The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11.*** Knopf, 2006. A sweeping narrative history of the events leading up to 9/11. A groundbreaking look at the people and ideas, the terrorist plans, and the Western intelligence failures that culminated in the assault on America. Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction 2007
- Wroblewski, David. ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle: A Novel.*** Ecco, 2008. Accompanied by canine companions, the mute boy Edgar's quest takes shape with the return of his uncle and culminates dramatically with the solution of his father's mysterious death. A story of joy and sorrow. Indies Choice Book Awards 2009 Best Author Discovery
- X, Malcolm. ***The Autobiography of Malcolm X.*** First published 1965. If there was any one man who articulated the anger, the struggle, and the beliefs of African Americans in the 1960s, that man was Malcolm X. His autobiography is the result of a unique collaboration between Alex Haley and Malcolm X, whose voice and philosophy resonate from every page.
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***American Born Chinese.*** First Second, 2006. A graphic novel depicts Chinese myths and legends that influence the life of a high school boy as he struggles to fit in with his peers. Michael L. Printz Award 2007
- Zusak, Markus. ***The Book Thief.*** Knopf, 2006. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl, whose book stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family, the Jewish man they are hiding, and her neighbors. National Jewish Book Award 2006

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