

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

Grade 6

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Allen, Thomas B. ***Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War***. National Geographic, 2006. Tells the story of Harriet Tubman and other slaves and free African Americans who risked death to gather information about the Confederacy for the Union during the Civil War.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Fever, 1793***. Simon & Schuster, 2000. In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, who is separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.
- Avi. ***The Seer of Shadows***. HarperCollins, 2008. In this intriguing historical ghost story, which is set in New York City in 1872, Horace Carpetine becomes an apprentice to a local society photographer and learns more about deception, ghosts, and photography than he could ever have imagined.
- Balliett, Blue. ***The Danger Box***. Scholastic, 2010. In small-town Michigan, twelve-year-old Zoomy and his new friend Lorrol investigate the journal found inside a mysterious box and find family secrets and a more valuable treasure, while a dangerous stranger watches and waits.
- Birdsall, Jeanne. ***The Penderwicks, A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. Four lovable sisters and their father spend their summer vacation in the Berkshire Mountains. While there, they share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.
- Burg, Shana. ***A Thousand Never Evers***. Delacorte, 2008. Addie Ann Pickett, an African American girl in 1963 Kuckachoo, Mississippi, journals about her family, the racial injustices they face, and her fears for her older brother Elias when he goes missing due to her own carelessness.
- Casanova, Mary. ***The Klipfish Code***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Sent with her younger brother to an island to live with her aunt and grandfather after the Germans bomb Norway in 1940, ten-year-old Merit finds a way to help the Resistance.
- Cody, Matthew. ***Powerless***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Soon after moving to Noble's Green, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Daniel learns that his new friends have super powers that they will lose when they turn thirteen, unless he can use his brain power to protect them.
- Comerford, Lynda. ***Rissa Bartholomew's Declaration of Independence***. Scholastic, 2009. Having told off all of her old friends at her eleventh birthday party, Rissa starts middle school determined to make new friends while being herself, not simply being part of a "herd."
- Compestine, Ying Chang. ***Revolution is Not a Dinner Party: A Novel***. Holt, 2007. During the Cultural Revolution in China, Ling struggles to make sense of severe losses of freedom and injustices that both she and her well-educated family must endure.

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- Connor, Leslie. ***Waiting for Normal***. Katherine Tegen, 2008. Addie would like a normal life. Not only does she live in a trailer in Schenectady, New York with her mother, who is not at all responsible or parental, but also she is separated from her kind and loving stepfather and younger half-sisters. Schneider Family Book Award 2009
- Dakin, Glenn. ***The Society of Unrelenting Vigilance***. Egmont USA, 2009. Thirteen-year-old Theo, who has lived in seclusion his entire life, discovers he is the descendant of the Candle Man, a Victorian vigilante with the ability to melt criminals with a single touch. *Series*
- Dowd, Siobhan. ***The London Eye Mystery***. David Fickling Books, 2007. When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.
- Draper, Sharon. ***Out of My Mind***. Atheneum, 2010. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient, young girl with cerebral palsy discovers a way for her to speak for the first time.
- Dubosarsky, Ursula. ***The Word Snoop***. Dial Books, 2009. Brimming with humor, puzzles, and more, this book offers an entertaining look at the English language, from the origins of the alphabet to today's sometimes cryptic text.
- Durrant, Lynda. ***My Last Skirt: The Story of Jennie Rodgers, Union Soldier***. Clarion, 2006. Jennie Rodgers, a poor Irish immigrant girl, disguises herself as a boy to survive in the New York City of the 1850s. She escapes from New York to go to Ohio, enlists as a Union soldier in the Civil War, and lives to draw her soldier's pension.
- Engle, Margarita. ***Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba***. Holt, 2009. Escaping from Nazi Germany to Cuba in 1939, a young Jewish refugee dreams of finding his parents again, befriends a local girl with painful secrets of her own, and discovers that the Nazi darkness is never far away.
- Erskine, Kathryn. ***Mockingbird: (Mok'ing-burd)***. Philomel, 2010. Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.
- Flanagan, John. ***The Siege of Macindaw***. Philomel, 2008. Will, who has become a protector of his first fief after many years as a Ranger's apprentice, is faced with many challenges when Keren, a renegade knight, takes over Castle Macindaw and forges a secret alliance with the ruthless Scotti. *Series*
- Fleischman, Sid. ***Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini***. Greenwillow, 2006. Born Ehrich Weiss into a poor and struggling family, Harry Houdini sought out fame and went on to perform some of the world's most astonishing magic tricks. Houdini's story is a classic rags-to-riches story with plenty of personality to spare.

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- Fleming, Candace. ***The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2009. Filled with reproductions of old photographs, circus posters, and museum flyers, this fascinating biography of the life of showman Phineas Taylor Barnum will both engage and entertain readers.
- French, S. Terrell. ***Operation Redwood.*** Amulet Books, 2009. In northern California, Julian Carter-Li and his friends old and new fight to save a grove of redwoods from an investment company that plans to cut them down.
- George, Jessica Day. ***Dragon Slippers.*** Bloomsbury, 2007. Creel, a poor but brave and clever orphan, befriends a dragon and selects a pair of remarkable slippers that lead her into the center of a struggle between longtime rivals.
- Grisham, John. ***Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer.*** Dutton, 2010. Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, who knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg, finds himself involved in a murder trial because of knowledge he might have about a cold-blooded killer. *Series*
- Hahn, Mary Downing. ***Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story.*** Clarion, 2007. When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.
- Hiaasen, Carl. ***Scat.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Nick and Marta are determined to find what happened to the biology teacher after she disappears on a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp resulting in a fast paced ecological mystery involving the Florida Panther and a cast of unique characters.
- Horvath, Polly. ***Northward to the Moon.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2010. Jane, along with her three siblings, mother, and stepfather are on an extended road trip after receiving a mysterious bag of money that was supposedly left to them by a long lost relative.
- Jackson, Donna M. ***Phenomena: Secrets of the Senses.*** Little, Brown, 2008. This overview of sensory perception explores the myths, facts, and controversial topics related to such issues as psychic powers and animal intuition.
- Jackson, Ellen. ***The Mysterious Universe: Supernovae, Dark Energy, and Black Holes.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. A fascinating and mysterious look at the universe with beautiful photographs, this book discusses various space phenomena.
- Kelly, Jacqueline. ***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate.*** Holt, 2009. Calpurnia struggles with growing up as she spends more of her free time with her grandfather, an avid naturalist, examining the beauty of nature, while at the same time her mother wants to teach her the responsibilities of a young woman during the turn of the century in Central Texas. Newbery Honor, 2010
- Klages, Ellen. ***The Green Glass Sea.*** Viking, 2006. In 1943 when her grandmother is incapacitated by a stroke, Dewey must move to "The Hill," now known as Los Alamos, New Mexico, because her father is a brilliant mathematician working there on a secret army project.

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- Mass, Wendy. ***The Candymakers***. Little Brown, 2010. Four gifted twelve-year-olds, including Logan, the candymaker's son, are set to be contestants in the Confectionary Association's national competition to determine the nation's tastiest sweet, but nobody anticipates that a friendship will form between the children.
- Mebus, Scott. ***Gods of Manhattan***. Dutton, 2008. Rory, thirteen, discovers a spirit world which exists in contemporary New York City. It is peopled with "gods and goddesses," famous and infamous people from the past who have chosen Rory for a special mission. *Series*
- Miller, Sarah. ***Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller***. Atheneum, 2007. This is Annie Sullivan's story of challenge and determination as she tries to become a teacher of the child Helen Keller, who is blind, deaf, and overindulged by her desperate parents.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Bound***. Atheneum, 2004. In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab, ed. ***Is This Forever or What? Poems and Paintings from Texas***. Greenwillow, 2004. Full-color artwork accompanies a collection of poems by 140 Texans.
- O'Connor, George. ***Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess***. First Second, 2010. Action and adventure are in store for the Greek goddess Athena in this graphic portrayal that is told through five myths. *Series*
- Olson, Tod. ***How to Get Rich in the California Gold Rush: An Adventurer's Guide to the Fabulous Riches Discovered in 1848***. National Geographic, 2008. Presents a fictional account of the adventures and experiences of young Thomas Hartley as he and his two companions set off in 1850 for the California gold fields.
- Papademetriou, Lisa. ***Sixth-Grade Glommers, Norks, and Me***. Hyperion, 2005. Allie Kimball discovers that middle school is a very different place than fifth grade and struggles to learn ways to fit in.
- Prineas, Sarah. ***The Magic Thief***. HarperCollins, 2008. Conn's life is forever changed when he tries to pick the pocket of the wizard Nevery and instead gets a strong jolt of magic; but, instead of punishing the boy, Nevery takes Conn under his wing, teaches him magic, and enlists his help in finding the person responsible for stealing the city's dwindling magic supply. *Series*
- Rex, Adam. ***The True Meaning of Smekday***. Disney-Hyperion, 2007. Aliens called "The Boov" abduct Gratuity "Tip" Tucci's mother, leading Tip to begin a wild adventure to rescue her mother with the help of her cat named Pig and a friendly Boov named J.Lo.

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- Ryan, Pam Muñoz. ***The Dreamer***. Scholastic, 2010. A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but still became one of the most widely-read poets in the world.
- Shearer, Alex. ***Canned***. Scholastic, 2006. Fergal Bamfield has a unique hobby: collecting tin cans without labels. He meets Charlotte, a fellow can collector, and they find some gruesome things inside the cans, like an ear and a human finger! Together, Fergal and Charlotte set out to learn the origins of these mysterious cans. Despite the macabre subject matter, *Canned* is a funny, quirky read.
- Smith, Roland. ***Tentacles***. Scholastic, 2009. After the mysterious disappearance of their parents, Marty and Grace go to live with their scientist uncle and accompany him on what soon becomes an increasingly dangerous expedition to New Zealand to track a giant squid.
- Stanley, Diane. ***The Mysterious Case of the Albright Academy***. HarperCollins, 2008. Zoe and her twin brother J.D. and big sister Franny are all accepted to Albright Academy, an elite boarding school training the country's future leaders, and while everything appears perfect, Franny uncovers a mystery involving the students' perfection.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream***. Candlewick, 2009. A chronicle of the thirteen women who tried to become NASA's first women astronaut trainees in the early 1960s. All were pilots; all earned high scores in preliminary tests; one had more hours in the air than John Glenn or Scott Carpenter. They were not accepted, but the story is riveting.
- Thor, Annika. ***A Faraway Island***. Delacorte, 2009. Living with two separate host families on a small island off the coast of Sweden in order to escape the Nazis, two German Jewish sisters, Nellie and Stephanie, face daily life without their parents. Each sister adapts differently to their challenges, not knowing if they will see their parents as planned or when the war will end.
- Wiles, Deborah. ***Countdown***. Scholastic, 2010. As eleven-year-old Franny Chapman deals with drama at home and with her best friend in 1962, she tries to understand the larger problems in the world after President Kennedy announces that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba.
- Winthrop, Elizabeth. ***Counting on Grace***. Wendy Lamb, 2006. After twelve-year-old Grace is forced to leave school to work in a textile mill, she and her friend Arthur work with their teacher to have the laws changed.

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