

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011
Grade 7 and 8

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Abbott, Tony. ***The Postcard***. Little, Brown, 2008. Thirteen-year-old Jason finds an old postcard at his recently-deceased grandmother's house leading him on an adventure that blends figures from an unfinished detective story with his family's past.
- Adlington, L. J. ***The Diary of Pelly D***. Greenwillow, 2005. Toni V, a construction worker on a futuristic colony, finds the diary of a teenage girl whose life has been turned upside-down by holocaust-like events, and he begins to question his own beliefs.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Chains***. Simon & Schuster, 2008. After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. *Series*
- Arbuthnott, Gill. ***The Keepers' Tattoo***. Chicken House, 2010. Months before her fifteenth birthday, Nyssa learns that she is a special member of a legendary clan, the Keepers of Knowledge, as she and her uncle try to escape from Alaric, the White Wolf, who wants to use lines tattooed on her scalp to destroy the rest of her people.
- Aronson, Marc. ***Robert F. Kennedy: A Twentieth-Century Life***. Viking, 2007. This is a behind-the-scenes glimpse at how the "runt" of a wealthy and powerful political family came to represent the poor in the race for the Presidency in the late 1960s.
- Asimov, Isaac. ***The Stars, Like Dust***. First published 1951. At the death of his father, Biron Farrill becomes involved in the plot to rebel against the Tyranni who have conquered many worlds.
- Bacigalupi, Paolo. ***Ship Breaker***. Little, Brown, 2010. In a futuristic world, teenager Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living; but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl. Michael L. Printz Award 2011
- Bauer, Joan. ***Peeled***. Putnam's, 2008. In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle is determined to be a reporter whom her father would have been proud of, but she finds herself pitted against psychics and unexplained phenomenon.
- Bloor, Edward. ***Tangerine***. Harcourt, 1997. Twelve-year-old Paul's family revolves around his football-hero brother, and they fail to notice Paul as he fights for the right to play soccer after his bad eyesight disqualified him.
- Brandt, Robin. ***Fat Cat***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Overweight teen Catherine embarks on a high school science fair project in which she decides to emulate the ways of hominids, the earliest ancestors of human beings, by eating an all-natural diet and foregoing technology as much as possible.

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- Bryant, Jen. ***Pieces of Georgia: A Novel***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. In journal entries to her mother, a gifted artist who died suddenly, thirteen-year-old Georgia McCoy reveals how her life changes after she receives an anonymous gift membership to a nearby art museum.
- Cabot, Meg. ***Airhead***. Point, 2008. Sixteen-year-old Emerson Watts, an advanced placement student with a disdain for fashion, is the recipient of a “whole body transplant” and finds herself transformed into one of the world’s most famous teen supermodels. *Series*
- Card, Orson Scott. ***Ender’s Game***. First published 1985. Andrew “Ender” Wiggin, who spends his childhood at military school in outer space, believes he is playing computer-simulated war games; in fact, he is commanding the last great fleet of Earth. Hugo Award; Nebula Award. *Series*
- Carey, Janet Lee. ***Dragon’s Keep***. Harcourt, 2007. In 1145 A.D., as foretold by Merlin, fourteen-year-old Rosalind will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island; but she has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, all the while hiding from her people the dragon’s claw she was born with.
- Carter, Ally. ***Heist Society***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. A group of teenagers uses its combined talents to re-steal several priceless paintings and save fifteen-year-old Kat Bishop's father, himself an international art thief, from a vengeful collector. *Series*
- Chatterton, Martin. ***The Brain Finds a Leg***. Peachtree, 2009. In Farrago Bay, Australia, thirteen-year-old Sheldon is recruited by a new student, Theo Brain, to help investigate a murder, which is tied not only to bizarre animal behavior but also to a diabolical plot to alter human intelligence.
- Chima, Cinda Williams. ***The Demon King***. Disney-Hyperion, 2009. The first in a high fantasy series that tells of the intertwining fates of former street gang leader Han Alister and headstrong Princess Raisa as Han takes possession of an amulet that once belonged to an evil wizard and Raisa uncovers a conspiracy in the Grey Wolf Court. *Series*
- Christie, Agatha. ***And Then There Were None*** (alternate title: ***Ten Little Indians***). First published 1940. Ten people, each with something to hide and something to fear, are invited to a lonely mansion on Indian Island by a host who, surprisingly, fails to appear. And then, one by one, they begin to die.
- Colfer, Eoin. ***Airman***. Hyperion, 2008. In the late nineteenth century on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king. He is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design and build.
- Cooney, Caroline. ***Diamonds in the Shadow***. Delacorte, 2007. The Amabo family, refugees from a tyrannical regime in an African country, is beginning to adjust to its new life with a good-hearted American family—even as another African refugee is pursuing a dangerous course that will impact both families.

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- Cummings, Priscilla. **Red Kayak**. Dutton, 2004. Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.
- Deuker, Carl. **Gym Candy**. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Freshman running back Mick Johnson works hard to make his dream of football stardom come true, finding the edge he needs to become bigger, stronger, and faster with the help of steroids—despite consequences to his health and social life.
- Dionne, Erin. **Total Tragedy of a Girl Named Hamlet**. Dial Books, 2010. Hamlet's attempts to be a "normal" eighth grader become increasingly difficult when her genius seven-year-old sister and her eccentric Shakespeare scholar parents both begin to attend her school.
- Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir. **The Sign of the Four**. First published 1890. Sherlock Holmes is asked by Miss Morstan to investigate the strange disappearance of her father ten years ago and to find out why she has been receiving a large, beautiful pearl for her birthday every year since.
- Doyle, Marissa. **Bewitching Season**. Holt, 2008. Persephone and Penelope, seventeen-year-old twins, are to be presented at court in London and meet Princess Victoria, when they suddenly are catapulted into a romantic adventure involving their governess (a magician tutor), and a sinister Irish magician. *Series*
- Draper, Sharon M. **Fire from the Rock**. Dutton, 2007. In 1957, honor student Sylvia Patterson is thrilled to be chosen to be among the first African American students to attend the all-white Central High School in Little Rock Arkansas, but threats of violence by racist mobs cause Sylvia to reconsider.
- Dumas, Alexandre. **The Three Musketeers**. First published 1844. Young d'Artagnan comes to Paris to join the Musketeers; there he and his new friends Athos, Porthos, and Aramis, serve King Louis XIV and try to foil the evil plots of Cardinal Richelieu. Lots of swordplay!
- Engle, Margarita. **The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom**. Holt, 2008. Using free verse poetry, Rosa tells her story of healing, revolution, slavery, survival, and hope for freedom during three revolutions in Cuba between 1868 and 1898.
- Feinstein, John. **Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. While covering the World Series, teen reporters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol uncover some inconsistencies in the life story of a popular, new pitcher and begin to investigate. *Series*
- Fisher, Catherine. **Incarceron**. Dial Books, 2007. Finn is struggling to escape from the Inside of Incarceron, a prison controlled by technology, while Claudia, the privileged warden's daughter, is trapped in a forced seventeenth century world on the Outside. *Series*

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- Fleischman, Sid. ***Sir Charlie Chaplin: The Funniest Man in the World.*** Greenwillow, 2010. Charlie Chaplin, who was raised by a mentally ill mother and an alcoholic, mostly absent, father, spent his childhood in the depths of poverty but grew to international fame as perhaps “the funniest man in the world” in vaudeville, silent movies, and finally “talkies” at the end of his career.
- Flinn, Alex. ***Beastly.*** HarperTeen, 2007. Kyle Kingsbury, a vain, spoiled, private school student who judges others by their appearances, is turned into a frightening monster by a girl he humiliates. In order to break the spell, Kyle must find true love.
- Freedman, Russell. ***The War to End All Wars: World War I.*** Clarion, 2010. This is a narrative history of World War I that features archival photographs and describes how advanced military weaponry impacted the course of the war.
- Gaiman, Neil. ***The Graveyard Book.*** HarperCollins, 2008. Toddler Bod, short for Nobody, crawls into a graveyard after his family is brutally murdered. He is then raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen by the graveyard’s ghosts and otherworldly creatures. Newbery Award 2009
- Galante, Cecilia. ***The Patron Saint of Butterflies.*** Bloomsbury, 2008. With her grandmother at the wheel of the car, fourteen-year-old Agnes, her younger brother, and her best friend Honey escape from a religious commune. Agnes clings to the faith she loves while Honey longs to be free from the rigid control of the commune’s strict charismatic leader, Emmanuel.
- Gardner, Sally. ***The Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution.*** Dial Books, 2007. In the late eighteenth-century, Sido, the twelve-year-old daughter of a self-indulgent marquis, and Yann, a fourteen-year-old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution. *Series*
- Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. ***The Red Umbrella.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. Fourteen-year-old Lucia’s comfortable life in Cuba in 1961 ends when communists take control of the country and Lucia and her younger brother are sent by their parents to the U.S. where they end up with a foster family in Nebraska and must adapt to a new language and way of life.
- Grant, K. M. ***How the Hangman Lost His Heart.*** Walker, 2007. When her Uncle Frank is executed for treason against England’s King George in 1746 and his severed head is mounted on a pike for public viewing, daring Alice tries to reclaim the head for a proper burial, finding an unlikely ally in the soft-hearted executioner.
- Grant, Michael. ***Gone.*** HarperTeen, 2008. In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school as well as those who have “The Power” and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not. *Series*

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- Green, Tim. ***The Big Time: A Football Genius Novel***. Harper, 2010. Troy has a talent for predicting professional football teams' plays, but it complicates his own seventh grade team's drive to the Georgia State Championship, especially when the father he never knew shows up.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Uprising***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Newly arrived in New York from Italy in 1911, Bella gets a job at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory working long hours under terrible conditions alongside hundreds of other immigrants. When a spark ignites a bit of cloth, the factory becomes engulfed in flames.
- Hale, Marian. ***Dark Water Rising***. Holt, 2006. While salvaging and rebuilding in the aftermath of the Galveston flood of 1900, sixteen-year-old Seth proves himself in a way that his previous efforts never could; but he still must face his father man-to-man. Actual eyewitness accounts are incorporated into the story.
- Hartnett, Sonya. ***The Silver Donkey***. Candlewick, 2004. In France during World War I, four French children learn about honesty, loyalty, and courage from an English army deserter who tells them a series of stories related to his small, silver donkey charm.
- Higgins, F. E. ***The Eyeball Collector***. Feiwel and Friends, 2009. Homeless and orphaned after his father is blackmailed and dies, Hector seeks revenge against the creepy con man who ruined them and follows him to the mansion of cruel Lady Mandible.
- Hoffman, Alice. ***Green Witch***. Scholastic, 2010. A year after her family and world are destroyed, Green and her fellow survivors go on a quest for answers about life, love, loss and their future.
- Horowitz, Anthony. ***Nightrise***. Scholastic, 2007. After telepathic twins Jamie and Scott are attacked by the evil Nightrise Corporation, one of them is imprisoned while the other escapes and is left to fight with the other three gatekeepers against the evil Old Ones in order to save his sibling and prevent the destruction of humanity. *Series*
- Ibbotson, Eva. ***A Countess Below Stairs***. Speak, 2007. First published 1981. Anna, a young Russian countess forced to flee to England with her governess during the Russian Revolution, conceals her past in order to gain a much-needed job as a maid in the Westerholme household. The growing attraction between her and Rupert, the handsome Earl of Westerholme, begins to cause trouble.
- Jinks, Catherine. ***The Reformed Vampire Support Group***. Harcourt, 2009. Fifteen-year-old vampire Nina has been stuck for fifty-one years in a boring support group for vampires, and nothing exciting has ever happened to them--until one of them is murdered and the others must try to solve the crime.
- Kerr, P. B. ***The Cobra King of Kathmandu***. Orchard Books, 2007. Djinn twins John and Philippa go to India to search for the cobra talisman which gives the person who wields its power over their friend Mr. Rakshasas, a very elderly djinn. *Series*

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- Kipling, Rudyard. ***The Jungle Book***. First published in magazines, 1893-1895. This is a collection of stories which center on Mowgli, a “man-cub,” raised by wolves. His journey to adulthood is aided by Baloo the bear and Bagheera the black panther. Also included is the story of a mongoose, Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.
- Kirby, Matthew. ***The Clockwork Three***. Scholastic, 2010. As mysterious circumstances bring Giuseppe, Frederick, and Hannah together, their lives soon interlock like the turning gears in a clock and they realize that each one holds a key to solving the others' mysteries.
- Koloso v, Jacqueline. ***The Red Queen's Daughter***. Disney-Hyperion, 2007. Sixteen-year-old Mary Seymour, a white magician in Queen Elizabeth's court, has vowed never to fall in love; but her attraction to her darkly handsome cousin Edmund, a black magician who seems to understand her better than anyone, cannot be denied. She finds her beliefs tested when he becomes involved in a plot against the queen.
- Korman, Gordon. ***Pop***. Balzer + Bray, 2009. Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.
- Le Guin, Ursula K. ***A Wizard of Earthsea***. First published 1968. After pride causes him to unleash a demon, Zed is compelled to either chase or escape from the ever-pursuing shadow. *Series*
- Leavitt, Martine. ***Keturah and Lord Death***. Front Street, 2006. Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah when she is lost and starving in the King's Forest, but she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love.
- Li, Moying. ***Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. Studying at a prestigious language school in Beijing, Moying Li seems destined for a promising future until the Cultural Revolution sweeps across China and student Red Guards orchestrate brutal assaults, public humiliations, and forced confessions throughout the country.
- Lupica, Mike. ***Heat***. Philomel, 2006. Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball. Rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, but he has no parents to offer them proof.
- Morris, Paula. ***Ruined***. Point, 2009. When Rebecca moves to New Orleans to stay with her aunt in a scary old house while her father is traveling, and while most kids at school treat her poorly, a mysterious girl named Lisette shows her the hidden nooks of the city and reveals shocking truths about Rebecca's own history.
- Murphy, Jim. ***The Real Benedict Arnold***. Clarion, 2007. Brilliant military strategist Benedict Arnold, although maligned and branded “traitor,” was a man for whom honor meant a great deal.

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- Nelson, Peter. ***Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis***. Delacorte, 2002. Fifty years after the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, a young boy helps the survivors set the record straight, bringing to light the Navy cover-up and an unfair court-martial of the ship's captain.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab. ***You & Yours***. BOA Editions, 2005. Nye's poetry is firmly grounded in two geographical locations, small moments in her Texas home and many larger themes from the war-torn Middle East.
- O'Brien, Caragh M. ***Birthmarked***. Roaring Brook, 2010. Sixteen-year-old Gaia Stone, a midwife who dutifully delivers at least three babies a month and hands them over to the Enclave, a community within walls where the children are adopted and live with conveniences which are not available to the outside world, begins to question her loyalty to the group after her mother is brutally taken away from her by the people she serves.
- Oppel, Kenneth. ***Airborn***. Eos, 2004. Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an enormous airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures and to fight pirates. *Series*
- Pearson, Mary E. ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***. Holt, 2008. Jenna survives a horrific car accident thanks to her scientist father, but at what cost?
- Petersen, David. ***Mouse Guard, Volume 1: Fall 1152***. ASP Comics, 2007. A graphic novel about the world of Mouse Guard, mice with capes and swords defending themselves against their enemies as if they were Knights of the Round Table. *Series*
- Reeve, Philip. ***Fever Crumb***. Scholastic, 2009. Foundling, Fever Crumb, has been raised as an engineer although females in the future London, England, are not believed capable of rational thought, but at age fourteen she leaves her sheltered world and begins to learn startling truths about her past while facing danger in the present. *Series*.
- Riordan, Rick. ***The Red Pyramid***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Siblings Carter and Sadie Kane, who have been living apart the six years since their mother's death, are reunited with their Egyptologist father who takes them to the British Museum where he disappears in a fiery explosion, leaving the children to save him by embarking on a dangerous pursuit, bringing them to the source of a secret order that goes back to the time of the Pharaohs. *Series*
- Ruiz Zafón, Carlos. ***The Prince of Mist***. Little, Brown, 2010. In 1943, in a seaside town where their family has gone to be safe from war, thirteen-year-old Max Carver and sister, fifteen-year-old Alicia, with new friend Roland, face off against an evil magician who is striving to complete a bargain made before he died.
- Runholt, Susan. ***Rescuing Seneca Crane***. Viking, 2009. While accompanying her mother on a business trip to Scotland, fourteen-year-old Kari and her best friend Lucas attempt to solve a kidnapping mystery. *Series*

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- Rylant, Cynthia. **Boris**. Harcourt, 2005. The narrator of these nineteen poems speaks directly to her cat, Boris, about his life and her own, since his arrival at her door. This book is a good introduction for newcomers to poetry and is especially appealing to cat lovers.
- Sachar, Louis. **The Cardturner: A Novel About a Queen, a King, and a Joker**. Delacorte, 2010. When his wealthy uncle, a champion bridge player who has lost his vision, asks seventeen-year-old Alton to be a cardturner for him, Alton has no idea how much he will ultimately learn from his eccentric relative. Includes appendix by Syd Fox with information about bridge.
- Salisbury, Graham. **Eyes of the Emperor**. Wendy Lamb, 2005. Eddy Okubo, a high school graduate at age sixteen, volunteers for the army a few weeks prior to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and soon finds himself—along with his friends of Japanese descent—isolated from the rest of the army, humiliated repeatedly, and shipped off to the Gulf Coast.
- Schmidt, Gary D. **Trouble**. Clarion, 2008. Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wishes, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog; but fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin.
- Scieszka, Jon, ed. **Guys Write for Guys Read**. Viking, 2005. This collection of short stories, drawings, comics, poems, and memoirs from well-known writers of "guy" fiction, written by boys, for boys, includes pieces by Daniel Pinkwater, Neil Gaiman, Will Hobbs, Stephen King, Gary Paulsen, and others.
- Scieszka, Jon. **Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka**. Viking, 2008. Part memoir, part scrapbook, this is a very funny autobiography of growing up in a family of six boys in the 1950s.
- Shulman, Polly. **The Grimm Legacy**. Putnam's, 2010. High school student Elizabeth gets an after-school job as a page at the "New York Circulating Material Repository." When she gains coveted access to its Grimm Collection of magical objects, she and the other pages are drawn into a series of frightening adventures involving mythical creatures and stolen goods.
- Smiley, Jane. **The Georges and the Jewels**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Seventh-grader Abby Lovitt grows up on her family's California horse ranch in the 1960s, learning to train the horses her father sells and trying to reconcile her strict religious upbringing with her own ideas about life. *Series*
- Smith, Roland. **Independence Hall**. Sleeping Bear Press, 2008. Quest and his stepsister Angela are thrust into the dangerous world of the American Secret Service and the Israeli Mossad when they learn Angela's real mother was a former Secret Service agent who was killed by a terrorist group. *Series*
- Sonnenblick, Jordan. **After Ever After**. Scholastic, 2010. Jeffrey, cancer survivor from *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie*, now confronts eighth grade without Steven, his staunch, supportive older brother; but he bonds with Tad, also a cancer survivor, making a pact to help each other – Tad to walk for graduation without his wheelchair and Jeffrey to pass his standardized test in math to graduate.

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Grade 7 and 8

- Stork, Francisco X. ***The Last Summer of the Death Warriors***. Arthur A. Levine, 2010. Seventeen-year-old Pancho is bent on avenging the senseless death of his sister, but after he meets D.Q, who is dying of cancer, and one of D.Q's caregivers, Marisol, both boys find their lives changed forever.
- Stroud, Jonathan. ***Heroes of the Valley***. Disney-Hyperion, 2009. Halli Sveinsson, a mischievous young man who does not fit in with his peers and siblings, plays a trick on Ragnor that goes too far, forcing Halli to embark on a hero's quest in which he will face highway robbers, monsters, an intriguing girl, and truths about his family and the legends he grew up with.
- Swanson, James L. ***Chasing Lincoln's Killer***. Scholastic, 2009. This is a nail-biting and detailed telling of the assassination of Lincoln and all the accompanying chaos of the struggle to catch his killer.
- Tolkien, J. R. R. ***The Hobbit, or There and Back Again***. First published 1937. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. *Series*
- Verne, Jules. ***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea***. First published 1869. This is a nineteenth-century science fiction tale of an electric submarine, its eccentric captain, and an undersea world, which anticipated many of the scientific achievements of the twentieth century.
- Warren, Andrea. ***Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps***. HarperCollins, 2001. At age fifteen, Jack Mandelbaum was placed in a Nazi concentration camp and managed to overcome intolerable conditions in order to avoid becoming a victim of Hitler's "Final Solution."
- Wells, H.G. ***War of the Worlds***. First published 1898. Martians invade late nineteenth century England and create havoc in this classic science fiction story.
- Westerfeld, Scott. ***Leviathan***. Simon Pulse, 2009. In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts. *Series*
- Yancey, Richard. ***The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp***. Bloomsbury, 2005. Orphaned and incurably-geeky teen Alfred Kropp is coerced by his unscrupulous uncle into stealing a valuable sword that turns out to be Excalibur, and he is drawn into a dangerous and violent misadventure. *Series*

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