



HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST

2016

H AISLN Recommended Reading List 2016

Laura Leib, Editor
Kathy Ellwood, Assistant Editor
Jenny Filardo, Assistant Editor
Dorcas Hand, Assistant Editor
Jessica Holland, Assistant Editor
Stephanie Pentilla, Assistant Editor
Yvette Rose, Assistant Editor

Copyright ©2016 by Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

Reproduction rights to the *H AISLN Recommended Reading List* are available to members of the Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network. School districts, libraries, and other organizations may request reproduction rights by contacting:

H AISLN
c/o Duchesne Academy
10202 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77024
Attn: Laura Leib
(laura.leib@duchesne.org)

About the HAISLN Recommended Reading List

This list of titles has been compiled by librarians at member schools of the Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network (HAISLN). It includes both fiction and nonfiction books by some of the best authors for children and young adults.

Books on the list are evaluated annually by grade-level committees. Committee members rely on recommendations from standard, professionally prepared evaluation aids and on input from students and teachers, as well as the collective HAISLN expertise. A conscious effort is made to appeal to the broad range of interests, maturity levels, and reading abilities of students.

In most cases the number of books by any given author is limited to one or two per grade level list. An older title with superior literary quality may remain on the list despite newer publications by the same author. Before reading a recommended author's book that does not appear on the student's grade list, readers should be aware that authors often write for multiple interest and age levels. Books that are part of a series are also noted, but not all books in a series are necessarily appropriate at the indicated grade level.

Students may find that some titles that are required reading for their classes appear on this list. Be advised that if a book for required reading is selected for independent reading, it may have to be re-read with the class at a later date.

This list is offered as one possible source of reading guidance. Additional lists of award winners and recommended books may be obtained from your school or public librarian. We hope that books from this list bring students many hours of enjoyment and encourage the life-long love of reading.

*Houston, Texas
March 2016*

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Antony, Steve. ***Please, Mr. Panda.*** Scholastic, 2014. Mr. Panda wants to share his doughnuts with the other animals, but only if they remember to say “please” and “thank you.”
- Appelt, Kathi. ***Counting Crows.*** Atheneum, 2015. The reader is invited to count hungry crows as they hunt for savory snacks.
- Barner, Bob. ***Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!*** Chronicle Books, 1999. A nonsense rhyme and whimsical illustrations introduce children to familiar bugs, with fun facts and an “actual size” chart included.
- Barnett, Mac. ***Sam & Dave Dig a Hole.*** Candlewick, 2014. Perseverance prevails as Sam and Dave dig a hole in search of something spectacular.
- Barton, Byron. ***My Bike.*** Greenwillow, 2015. Tom describes all the parts of his bicycle and then shares his journey to work as a circus performer.
- Bass, Jennifer Vogel. ***Edible Colors.*** Roaring Brook, 2014. The many colors found in different fruits and vegetables are explored through simple text and photographs.
- Beaumont, Karen. ***Move Over, Rover!*** Harcourt, 2006. When a storm comes, Rover expects to have his doghouse all to himself but finds that other animals, including a skunk, come to join him.
- Becker, Bonny. ***A Library Book for Bear.*** Candlewick, 2014. Bear thinks he has all the books he needs until his cheery friend, Mouse, persuades him to visit the library.
- Bertram, Debbie. ***The Best Place to Read.*** Dragonfly Books, 2007. A young child with a new book hunts inside and outside the house before finding just the right chair for reading.
- Brown, Margaret Wise. ***Another Important Book.*** Joanna Cotler, 1999. Illustrations and rhyming text describe how a child grows from ages one through six.
- Bruel, Nick. ***A Wonderful Year.*** Roaring Brook, 2015. This picture book comically follows one girl through each of the four seasons.
- Camcam, Princesse. ***Fox’s Garden.*** (Translated from the French) Enchanted Lion Books, 2014. In this gentle story without words, a fox seeks shelter from winter’s icy snow in an abandoned greenhouse, but she is spotted by a small boy looking out his window at the moonlit landscape.
- Carle, Eric. ***What’s Your Favorite Animal?*** Holt, 2014. With beautiful illustrations and charming personal stories, 14 children’s book artists share their favorite animals and tell the reader why they love them.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Cousins, Lucy. **Peck, Peck, Peck.** Candlewick, 2013. A young woodpecker masters the skill of pecking as he works his way through the house, reveling in his newfound talent.
- Crews, Nina. **The Neighborhood Mother Goose.** Greenwillow/Amistad, 2003. This collection of nursery rhymes, both familiar and lesser known, is creatively illustrated with photographs in a city setting.
- Curtis, Jamie Lee. **Big Words for Little People.** Joanna Cotler, 2008. A big sister teaches her younger siblings some important words, like “respect,” “responsibility,” and “perseverance.”
- DePaola, Tomie. **Look and Be Grateful.** Holiday House, 2015. A boy awakens with the dawn and expresses gratitude for all he sees around him, the gifts of another unique day.
- Dewdney Anna. **Llama Llama and the Bully Goat.** Viking, 2013. Following their teacher’s lead, Llama Llama speaks to Gilroy Goat and tells him he should not act like a bully on the playground.
- Dunrea, Olivier. **Gossie.** Houghton Mifflin, 2002. Gossie is a gosling who likes to wear bright red boots every day, no matter what she is doing, and so she is heartbroken the day the boots are missing and she cannot find them anywhere.
- Ehlert, Lois. **Waiting for Wings.** Harcourt, 2001. Simple text and bright illustrations show the life cycle stages of butterflies and how they search for nectar to sip from colorful flowers.
- Elliott, David. **On the Farm.** Candlewick, 2008. Farmyard animals are described in lively verse, which is beautifully accompanied by woodcut and watercolor illustrations.
- Elya, Susan Middleton. **Rubia and the Three Osos.** Disney-Hyperion, 2010. This retelling of the story of Goldilocks and the three bears uses rhyming text mainly in English, but interspersed with Spanish words.
- Emberley, Ed. **Go Away, Big Green Monster!** Little, Brown, 1992. Die-cut pages through which bits of a monster are revealed may help children control nighttime fears by making the monster disappear as they turn the remaining pages.
- Falconer, Ian. **Olivia Saves the Circus.** Atheneum, 2001. At school, Olivia tells about her summer vacation and how, when she went to the circus and all the performers were out sick, she saved the day!
- Falwell, Cathryn. **David’s Drawings.** Lee & Low, 2001. A shy boy arriving at a new school makes friends with his classmates by drawing a picture of a tree and inviting them to add their ideas, thus making it a class effort.
- Fleming, Denise. **Alphabet under Construction.** Holt, 2002. A mouse works his way through the alphabet as he folds the “F,” measures the “M,” and rolls the “R.”

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Fogliano, Julie. ***And Then It's Spring*** Roaring Brook, 2012. Simple text reveals the anticipation of a boy who, having planted seeds while everything around is brown, fears that something has gone wrong until, at last, the world turns green.
- Frazee, Marla. ***The Farmer and the Clown***. Beach Lane Books, 2014. In this wordless picture book, a farmer rescues a baby clown who has bounced off the circus train and reunites him with his clown family. *Boston Globe Horn Book Award Winner 2015*
- Gliori, Debi. ***What's the Time, Mr. Wolf?*** Walker, 2012. Mr. Wolf's day is packed, not only with his own activities and errands, but with such characters as three giggling pigs and a fiddling cat continually asking him what time it is until, at last, it is bedtime.
- Hale, Bruce. ***Clark the Shark***. HarperCollins, 2013. Clark finds everything about school fun and exciting, but his enthusiasm causes problems until he begins inventing rhymes to remind himself to stay cool at school.
- Halpern, Shari. ***Dinosaur Parade***. Holt, 2014. Colorful illustrations and simple, rhyming text present a wide variety of dinosaurs for very young readers.
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***Go! Go! Go! Stop!*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Little Green only knows one word, "Go!" which is the perfect thing to get the construction site moving, but how will they stop?
- Harris, Robie. ***Turtle and Me***. Little Bee Books, 2015. This charming story details the beautiful friendship between a boy and his plush toy turtle that has been ripped, chewed, sewn, and taped up, but is still a comforting friend at bedtime.
- Henkes, Kevin. ***Waiting***. Greenwillow, 2015. This beautifully illustrated picture book finds the reader happily waiting with owl, puppy, bear, bunny and pig for marvelous things to happen.
- Holub, Joan. ***Mighty Dads***. Scholastic, 2014. Told in simple rhyming text, hard-working construction vehicle fathers guide and encourage their children.
- Houblon, Marie. ***A World of Colors: Seeing Colors in a New Way***. National Geographic, 2009. Photographs and simple text explore the relationship between colors and objects with images from around the world.
- Idle, Molly. ***Flora and the Flamingo***. Chronicle Books, 2013. In this wordless book with interactive flaps, a friendship develops between a girl named Flora and a graceful flamingo, as they learn to dance together.
- Janeczko, Paul B. ***Firefly July: a Year of Very Short Poems***. Candlewick, 2014. This illustrated collection of thirty-six classic short poems invites children of all ages to sample poetry throughout the four seasons of the year.
- Jenkins, Steve. ***Actual Size***. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Using collage illustrations, the reader is invited to view examples of the actual size of various animals and some of their parts.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- John, Jory. ***Goodnight Already!*** Harper, 2014. Bear has never been so tired but his next-door neighbor, a wide-awake duck, keeps disturbing his sleep.
- Kirk, David. ***Oh So Tiny Bunny.*** Feiwel and Friends, 2013. Oh So Tiny, a very small bunny, dreams every night of being big but eventually realizes that being tiny is not so bad.
- Klostermann, Penny Parker. ***There Was an Old Dragon Who Swallowed a Knight.*** Random House, 2015. Based on the folk song “Little old lady who swallowed a fly,” this variation finds a greedy, hungry dragon learning the lesson of moderation.
- Lionni, Leo. ***Fish Is Fish.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 1970. After suffering disappointment when his best friend tadpole grows into a frog and leaves the pond, a little fish discovers that being himself can still bring happiness.
- Lloyd-Jones, Sally. ***The Ultimate Guide to Grandmas & Grandpas.*** HarperCollins, 2008. Hints are offered to grandchildren about how to make grandparents happy, such as singing and dancing for them, sharing naps, and letting them give you special treats and presents.
- Lobel, Arnold. ***The Frogs and Toads All Sang.*** HarperCollins, 2009. Before becoming the famous friends, Frog and Toad, these amphibious buddies enjoyed other adventures told through ten short, rhyming stories.
- London, Jonathan. ***Froggy Plays T-Ball.*** Puffin, 2007. Froggy looks forward to playing in his first T-ball game but finds it hard to remember the rules.
- Long, Loren. ***Otis.*** Philomel, 2009. When a big yellow tractor arrives, Otis friendly little tractor is cast away behind the barn, but when trouble occurs he is the only one who can help.
- Mack, Jeff. ***Ah Ha!*** Chronicle Books, 2013. The ups and downs of a frog’s day are told through the use of just two words.
- Marino, Gianna. ***Too Tall Houses.*** Viking, 2012. Owl and Rabbit are good friends until a dispute over Rabbit’s garden develops into a house-building frenzy and the now not-so-good friends have the two tallest houses in the world!
- Matheson, Christie. ***Tap the Magic Tree.*** Greenwillow, 2013. A lonely apple tree needs help to change with the seasons and the reader is interactively invited to participate.
- McDonnell, Patrick. ***Thank You and Good Night.*** Little, Brown, 2015. Maggie hosts a pajama party at which Clement, Alan Alexander, and Jean play a variety of fun games, tire themselves, and drift off to sleep, but not before sharing their gratitude.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Mitton, Tony. **Cool Cars**. Kingfisher, 2005. Illustrations and rhyming text describe different kinds of cars, including fast cars, police cars, and taxis, with descriptions about various car parts and how each is used.
- Murray, Alison. **Hickory Dickory Dog**. Candlewick, 2014. Charming illustrations highlight Zack's day at school – with a surprise canine visitor – in this twist on a nursery rhyme about the hours of the day.
- Nelson, Kadir. **If You Plant a Seed**. Balzer + Bray, 2015. While planting seeds in their garden, two animals learn the value of kindness.
- Nichols, Lori. **Maple**. Nancy Paulsen, 2014. A nature-loving little girl's favorite playmate is her maple tree, until the day she's surprised with a baby sister.
- Novak, B. J. **The Book with No Pictures**. Dial Books, 2014. In this book with no pictures, the reader has to say every silly word, no matter how preposterous they are!
- Nyeu, Tao. **Bunny Days**. Dial Books, 2010. All's well that ends well, as a pair of busy goats inadvertently cause trouble for six bunnies and their neighbor, Bear, who comes to the rescue.
- O'Brien, Anne Sibley. **I'm New Here**. Charlesbridge, 2015. Three children from other countries struggle to adjust to their new home and school in the United States.
- Offill, Jenny. **While You Were Napping**. Schwartz & Wade, 2014. A child tells an outlandish tale of what took place while a younger sibling was taking a nap.
- Olson, Jennifer Gray. **Ninja Bunny**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. A little rabbit tries to follow the rules in order to become a "super awesome ninja," but discovers that his book is wrong about one very important thing.
- Parr, Todd. **The I'm Not Scared Book**. Little, Brown, 2011. This story relates some of the things that can frighten children and shows how these fears may be overcome.
- Paschkis, Julie. **P. Zonka Lays an Egg**. Peachtree, 2015. The other chickens in the farmyard think P. Zonka is just lazy because she does not lay eggs regularly, but then she lays the most beautiful egg they've ever seen.
- Perkins, Maripat. **Rodeo Red**. Peachtree, 2015. Rodeo Red and her dog Rusty are happy as can be, but when Side Swiping Slim comes to town and stirs up trouble for them by stealing Rusty, Red will do anything to get him back – even give up the birthday gift her Aunt Sal sent.
- Pham, LeUyen. **A Piece of Cake**. Balzer + Bray, 2014. Mouse has baked a special treat for Little Bird's birthday, but delivering it to his friend isn't easy—not when everyone he meets along the way offers to trade something for a piece of cake.
- Pinkney, Jerry. **The Lion and the Mouse**. Little, Brown, 2009. In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Raschka, Chris. ***A Ball for Daisy***. Schwartz & Wade, 2011. This wordless picture book illustrates all the fun a dog can have with her ball. *Caldecott Medal 2012*
- Ray, Mary Lyn. ***Stars***. Beach Lane Books, 2011. The wonder of stars is explored, whether they are in the night sky, on a plant as a promise of fruit to come, or in one's pocket for those days when one does not feel shiny.
- Rockwell, Lizzy. ***The Busy Body Book: A Kid's Guide to Fitness***. Crown, 2004. This introduction to the human body describes how it functions and its need for exercise.
- Roemer, Heidi. ***What Kinds of Seeds Are These?*** NorthWord, 2006. Rhyming riddles describe nine different types of seeds and how they get to where they need to go in order to grow and bloom.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***Duck! Rabbit!*** Chronicle Books, 2009. Two unseen characters argue about whether the creature they are looking at is a rabbit or a duck.
- Saltzberg, Barney. ***Beautiful Oops!*** Workman, 2010. Using lift-the-flap pages, torn, crinkled, and smudged bits of paper are transformed into creative artwork of various shapes and images.
- Samuels, Barbara. ***Fred's Beds***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014. Zelda's beagle, Fred, has many napping places which he makes great use of before, during, and after her birthday party.
- Savage, Stephen. ***Supertruck***. Roaring Brook, 2015. When the city is hit by a colossal snowstorm, a mysterious superhero saves the day and then disappears once his job is done.
- Sayre, April Pulley. ***Woodpecker Wham!*** Holt, 2015. Enter woodpecker world and get a bird's eye view of the everyday life of nature's homebuilders.
- Schaefer, Lola M. ***One Special Day***. Disney-Hyperion, 2012. An energetic and imaginative boy becomes a big brother.
- Schertle, Alice. ***Little Blue Truck***. Harcourt, 2008. A small blue truck finds his way out of a jam with a little help from his friends.
- Schwartz, Amy. ***100 Things That Make Me Happy***. Abrams Books, 2014. Listing a wide variety of items, from red socks to peekaboo, this celebration of everyday things can make anyone happy!
- Shannon, David. ***Duck on a Bike***. Blue Sky Press, 2002. A duck decides to ride a bike and soon influences all the other animals on the farm to ride bikes too.
- Shea, Susan. ***Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?*** Blue Apple Books, 2011. Exploring the simple notion of living versus non-living, the author presents a rhyming inquiry into which objects grow and which do not.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Spires, Ashley. ***The Most Magnificent Thing***. Kids Can Press, 2014. A little girl, with a wonderful idea, elicits help from her canine assistant and begins the challenging process of trying to make “the most magnificent thing.”
- Staake, Bob. ***Look! Another Book!*** Little, Brown, 2012. Readers will delight in this easy-to-read, rhyming book, which invites one to search for items with a different theme on each page.
- Stead, Phillip Christian. ***Bear Has a Story to Tell***. Roaring Brook, 2012. Bear wants to tell his animal friends a story before they begin their long winter nap, but the story has to wait until spring when everyone will share in the process.
- Stephens, Helen. ***How to Hide a Lion***. Holt, 2013. Iris understands that grown-ups are afraid of lions so she tries to keep one hidden for as long as possible, but when the lion catches two burglars he becomes the town hero.
- Stockdale, Susan. ***Spectacular Spots***. Peachtree, 2015. Presented with engaging rhymes and bright bold images, young readers learn about the many ways in which animals benefit from their spots.
- Sullivan, Mary. ***Ball***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. While searching for someone to play with him, a dog dreams of fantastical adventures he could have with his ball.
- Tardif, Benoit. ***Sport-O-Rama***. (translated from the French) Kids Can Press, 2015. This informational picture book provides an introduction to 23 sports using simple illustrations and humorous touches.
- Teague, Mark. ***The Sky Is Falling!*** Orchard Books, 2015. In this humorous version of the traditional tale, Chicken Little panics when an acorn falls on her head and sets off a dance frenzy among the other chickens.
- Thompson, Lauren. ***Little Quack’s Bedtime***. Simon & Schuster, 2005. A mother duck tries to persuade her five ducklings to go to sleep on a dark night when something is blinking, hooting, and swaying and keeping them awake.
- Thong, Roseanne. ***Green Is a Chile Pepper***. Chronicle Books, 2014. A little girl discovers all the bright colors in her Hispanic American neighborhood.
- Tupera, Tupera. ***Polar Bear’s Underwear***. (Translated from the Japanese) Chronicle Books, 2015. Polar Bear has lost his underwear and his friend, Mouse, offers to help him find it..
- Underwood, Deborah. ***Bad Bye, Good Bye***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Using simple rhyming text and expressive illustrations, a child describes the many feelings and emotions that accompany a family’s move.
- Vamos, Samantha R. ***Alphabet Trucks***. Charlesbridge, 2013. In simple rhyming text, this book follows hardworking trucks from A to Z, describing where they are and what they do.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Wells, Rosemary. ***Max Cleans Up***. Puffin, 2000. Max's big sister Ruby wants to help him clean up his messy room, but he keeps rescuing things that she wants to throw away.
- Willems, Mo. ***That Is Not a Good Idea***. Balzer + Bray, 2013. When a plump mama goose is invited to dinner by a hungry fox, her babies try to warn her that this is a very bad idea!
- Wilson, Karma. ***Where Is Home, Little Pip?*** McElderry Books, 2008. After Little Pip the penguin gets lost, she meets a whale, a Kelp Gull, and sled dogs who cannot help her, but home finds her with the aid of her family's song.
- Wolff, Ashley. ***Baby Bear Counts One***. Beach Lane Books, 2013. Before curling up with his mother in their cozy den, Baby Bear counts other animals from one to ten as they prepare for winter.
- Wood, Audrey. ***The Full Moon at the Napping House***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. In this cumulative tale, a chirping cricket calms a worried mouse, a prowling cat, and other restless creatures, helping them to finally fall asleep.
- Yim, Natasha. ***Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas***. Charlesbridge, 2014. In this Chinese-American retelling of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," a careless Goldy Luck wreaks havoc on the home of a family of panda bears.
- Yolen, Jane. ***You Nest Here with Me***. Boyds Mills, 2015. A mother soothes her child at bedtime as she describes how baby birds and sleepy children everywhere are safe at home in their own nests.
- Yum, Hyewon. ***The Twins' Blanket***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011. Twin girls, who have always shared everything, sleep in separate beds with their own blankets for the first time.

Compiled by:

Kathy Ellwood (chair), *River Oaks Baptist School*

Adonica Aston, *River Oaks Baptist School*

Jennifer Jaeger, *St. Martin's Episcopal Preschool*

Layne Mason, *The Center for Hearing and Speech*

Melanie Wallace, *St. Francis Episcopal Day School*

Christelle Zaharatos, *The Awty School*

Copyright © 2016 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Adderson, Caroline. ***Not in Love***. Kids Can Press, 2014. Jasper John Dooley is not happy to be paired with Isabel, who really likes him, for a reading partner, but when he goes to her house and plays on the trampoline, he begins to change his mind. *Series*
- Adler, David A. ***A Picture Book of Sam Houston***. Holiday House, 2012. A brief overview of the life and accomplishments of Texas politician Sam Houston.
- Adler, David A. ***Young Cam Jansen and the Speedy Car Mystery***. Viking, 2010. At her school's Green Fair, Cam and her friends are learning to keep the earth green when a student's remote controlled car goes missing! Was it stolen? It's up to Cam and her photographic memory to figure it out! *Series*
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla***. Clarion, 2014. This picture book is an introduction to the true story of Ivan, the Shopping Mall Gorilla that inspired the Newbery-winning novel ***The One and Only Ivan***.
- Banks, Kate. ***Max's Math***. Frances Foster Books, 2015. Max is back and looking for problems to solve on this fun adventure in math that culminates in a rocket launch.
- Barrows, Annie. ***Ivy + Bean***. Chronicle Books, 2006. When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. *Series*
- Beaty, Andrea. ***Rosie Revere, Engineer***. Abrams Books, 2013. A young, aspiring engineer must first conquer her fear of failure.
- Becker, Aaron. ***Quest***. Candlewick, 2014. A continuation of the book, *Journey*, this wordless story follows a girl on her adventure to save a kingdom armed with only a crayon, a map, and a friend.
- Bell, Cece. ***Rabbit and Robot: The Sleepover***. Candlewick, 2012. Rabbit has his best friend Robot coming to spend the night. Rabbit has everything planned out, but Robot has different ideas about his friend's plans which ultimately result in an enjoyable time together.
- Best, Cari. ***Beatrice Spells Some Lulus and Learns to Write a Letter***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. Beatrice enjoys learning to spell, and gets really excited about it after some encouragement from her grandmother, but she has trouble convincing her classmates that spelling is not boring.
- Bottner, Barbara. ***Miss Brooks Loves Books! (and I Don't)***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. A first-grade girl--who does not like to read--stubbornly resists her school librarian's efforts to convince her to love books until she finds one that might change her mind.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Brendler, Carol. **Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Zany and whimsical drawings bring this story about Winnie, the worm farmer, to life. Winnie needs a new wagon, so she looks for ways to win first prize at the county fair; however, there are no prizes for worm farmers.
- Brown, Don. **A Wizard from the Start: The Incredible Boyhood and Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison.** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Introduces young children to the life and inventions of Thomas Edison.
- Burleigh, Robert. **One Giant Leap.** Philomel, 2009. An illustrated retelling of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's lunar landing in 1969.
- Butler, Dori Hillestad. **The Haunted Library.** Grosset & Dunlap, 2014. Ghost boy, Kaz, is separated from his family when a wind carries him to a library, where he meets a real girl named Claire, and they team up to investigate strange noises in the library.
- Chabon, Michael. **The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man.** Balzer + Bray 2011. A young superhero describes his awesome powers, which he then demonstrates as various foes arrive on the scene.
- Chaconas, Dori. **Cork & Fuzz: The Swimming Lesson.** Viking, 2011. Cork the muskrat wants his best friend Fuzz, a possum, to visit his home, but first he must teach Fuzz to swim and not be afraid of the water. *Series*
- Chin, Jason. **Gravity.** Roaring Brook, 2014. Minimal text and enthralling illustrations provide an introduction to the concept of gravity and what would happen without gravity. Additional specific, easy to understand information is included in the afterward.
- Cox, Lynne. **Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas.** Schwartz & Wade, 2014. Elizabeth, an elephant seal in New Zealand, causes havoc on the roadway when she persists on living in town versus her natural habitat, the ocean.
- Coy, John. **Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball.** Carolrhoda Books, 2013. In 1891 James Naismith invented basketball as a game of skill to keep the unruly students in his gym class engaged.
- Cronin, Doreen. **Diary of a Fly.** Joanna Cotler, 2007. A young fly discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being an insect, including the dangers of flyswatters and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.
- Daywalt, Drew. **The Day the Crayons Came Home.** Philomel, 2015. One day, Duncan is happily coloring with his crayons when a stack of postcards arrives in the mail from his former crayons, each of which has run away or been left behind, and all of which want to come home.
- Davies, Nicola. **Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes.** Candlewick, 2014. This engaging introduction to microbes explains how some of the smallest things on Earth have really big jobs.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Davis, Jill. ***Orangutans Are Ticklish: Fun Facts From an Animal Photographer.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2010. Provides interesting facts about animals and explores what it takes to photograph them, with animal photographer Steve Grubman sharing some of his favorite, and scariest, encounters.
- Dempsey, Kristy. ***A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream.*** Philomel, 2014. A young girl growing up in Harlem in the 1950s dreams of becoming a prima ballerina one day and is thrilled to see a performance of Janet Collins, the first "colored" prima ballerina.
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***Louise: the Adventure of a Chicken.*** Joanna Cotler, 2008. A restless chicken has exciting and fearsome adventures, and winds up bringing her fellow chickens along through her stories.
- DiPucchio, Kelly S. ***Grace for President.*** Hyperion, 2008. After finding out there has never been a female U.S. president, Grace decides to run in her school's mock election where she learns about the American electoral system and sets out to be the best person for the job even though her opponent, Thomas, seems to be winning all the boys' votes.
- Dutcher, Jim and Jamie. ***A Friend for Lakota.*** National Geographic, 2015. Lakota, the shy wolf pup, is picked on by the other wolves until Matsi blocks the others' nips and Lakota learns to be more courageous.
- Egan, Tim. ***Dodsworth in Tokyo.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Dodsworth and his misbehaving duck continue their journeys with a trip to Tokyo. Again Dodsworth must come to the rescue of the duck as he causes a series of mishaps. *Series.*
- Elya, Susan Middleton. ***Little Roja Riding Hood.*** Putnam's, 2014. A rhyming twist on the classic fairy tale in which a little girl saves her grandmother from a wolf. Includes a glossary of Spanish words.
- English, Karen. ***Nikki & Deja: Election Madness.*** Clarion, 2011. Deja, excited by the announcement that Carver School is going to elect its first ever student body president, is confident she can nab the third grade nomination with her best friend Nikki as her campaign manager; but her tendency to rush into things and boss people around alienates Nikki when she needs her the most. *Series*
- Ernst, Lisa Campbell. ***The Gingerbread Girl.*** Dutton, 2006. After their first gingerbread disaster, the lonely old couple decides to bake again and create a gingerbread girl who proves herself to be one smart cookie.
- Feder, Sandra V. ***Daisy's Big Night.*** Kids Can Press, 2014. Daisy loves poetry and she must find a way to use that as her special talent in her school's talent show.
- Fenske, Jonathan. ***A Pig, a Fox, and a Box.*** Penguin, 2015. Three humorous stories of two friends, Pig and Fox, and their shenanigans with a cardboard box (all of which involve Pig accidentally crushing Fox in the box).
- Florian, Douglas. ***UnBEElievables: Honeybee Poems and Paintings.*** Beach Lane, 2012. Fourteen funny, fact-filled poems inform the reader about the wonderful life of bees and their role in our ecosystem.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Fucile, Tony. ***Let's Do Nothing!*** Candlewick, 2009. Young friends Frankie and Sal, believing they have "done it all," decide to do nothing for a while; but Frankie has a little trouble with the concept and it is not long before the boys realize there is no way to do nothing.
- Gibbons, Gail. ***Ladybugs.*** Holiday House, 2012. A colorful, illustrated introduction to ladybugs, describing their physical characteristics, lifecycle, diets and their benefits to the environment.
- Gibson, Amy. ***Around the World on Eighty Legs.*** Scholastic, 2011. An illustrated collection of poems that provides information about animals around the world.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly. ***Flying Feet.*** Wendy Lamb, 2011. Charlie has always lived in his big brother's shadow, so when the Zigzag center organizes a "Come as a Character" day, Charlie hopes it will be his chance to shine as he shows off his latest invention. *Series*
- Greene, Stephanie. ***Princess Posey and the First Grade Parade.*** Putnam's, 2010. Posey is intimidated about the first day of school until Miss Lee invites Posey and her classmates to wear their favorite clothes to show how they "are all so different and creative." *Series*
- Hale, Shannon. ***The Princess in Black.*** Candlewick, 2014. While having hot cocoa with the Duchess Wigtower, Princess Magnolia must sneak away to fight monsters as her alter ego the Princess in Black. *Series.*
- Harper, Jessica. ***Uh-Oh, Cleo.*** Putnam's, 2008. What starts out as a perfectly ordinary day in the Small house turns into Stitches Saturday when Cleo gets a cut on the head after her twin brother, Jack, accidentally pulls down their toy house. *Series*
- Hayes, Geoffrey. ***Benny and Penny in Just Pretend.*** Candlewick, 2008. Benny Mouse insists that his little sister, Penny, leave him alone while playing, until he thinks she is in danger. Suddenly he realizes his affection for her and joins her in a game of pretend. *Series*
- Henkes, Kevin. ***Penny and Her Marble.*** Greenwillow Books, 2013. Penny finds a marble in Mrs. Goodwin's yard and takes it home, as guilt overcomes Penny. Readers of this early chapter book will delight with Penny's choice and the ending in another delightful tale of Penny. *Series*
- Henkes, Kevin. ***The Year of Billy Miller.*** Greenwillow Books, 2013. Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons.
- Hicks, Betty. ***Goof-Off Goalie.*** Roaring Brook, 2008. Ten-year-old Goose is best at goofing off; but when he decides to become the goalie for their soccer team, his friend Henry sets up a practice schedule and enlists their other friends to help Goose improve his skills. *Series*

HASLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Hoberman, Mary Ann, ed. ***Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart***. Little, Brown, 2012. A collection of more than 120 poems for children to learn, including selections from classic and contemporary poets, with tips and tricks from former Children's Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman on memorization and recitation.
- Holm, Jennifer. ***Squish, #1: Super Amoeba***. Random House, 2011. The young amoeba Squish, inspired by his favorite comic book hero, Super Amoeba, tries to navigate his way through school and save his friends and the world from the evils that lurk in the halls. *Series*
- Hopkins, Joseph H. ***The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree Loving Woman Changed a City Forever***. Beach Lane Books, 2013. An illustrated look at the life of Kate Sessions, who planted a nursery in San Diego, California, after making a deal with the city.
- Howe, James. ***Houndsley and Catina: Plink and Plunk***. Candlewick, 2009. Houndsley likes canoeing and his friend Catina likes bicycling, but each has to help the other learn to enjoy these activities in order to do them together. *Series*
- Janezko, Paul B., ed. ***Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems***. Candlewick 2014. Thirty-six short poems from spring to winter with mixed media illustrations sure to keep the reader engaged again and again.
- Jeffers, Oliver. ***The Incredible Book Eating Boy***. Philomel, 2006. Henry loves to eat books until he begins to feel quite ill and decides that maybe he could do something else with the books he has been devouring.
- Kaplan, Michael. ***Betty Bunny Wants a Goal***. Dial Books, 2014. When a young rabbit quits soccer after a disappointing first game, her family encourages her to keep trying. *Series*
- Keating, Frank. ***Theodore***. Simon & Schuster, 2006. A biography of Theodore Roosevelt that imagines the president looking back on his life, describing his childhood, his youthful journeys throughout the world, his experiences as a leader, and the value he placed on knowledge, adventure, originality, and integrity.
- Keller, Laurie. ***Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners***. Holt, 2007. Mr. Rabbit is worried that he might not get along with his new neighbors. A wise owl gives him the advice "Do unto otters as you would have otters do unto you" and proceeds to explain what this means.
- Kimmel, Eric A. ***Anansi's Party Time***. Holiday House, 2008. When Anansi the spider invites Turtle to a party just to play a trick on him, Turtle gets revenge at a party of his own.
- Kirby, Stan. ***Captain Awesome and the New Kid***. Little Simon, 2012. Looking for super-silly superhero adventures? It's Captain Awesome and Nacho Cheese Man to the rescue! In title number three Eugene and Charlie continue their hijinks and discover the "new kid" is Super Dude. *Series*.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Larson, Kirby and Mary Nethery. ***Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival***. Walker, 2008. Bobbi the dog and Bob Cat show us how friendship and perseverance kept them together through the rough times of Hurricane Katrina.
- Lasky, Kathryn. ***Poodle and Hound***. Charlesbridge, 2009. This book contains three stories which follow the adventures of Hound and Poodle as they discover how much they enjoy each other's company in spite of--or possibly because of--their differences. *Series*
- Lester, Helen. ***Tacky Goes to Camp***. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Tacky the penguin and his friends go to Camp Whoopihaha where they scare each other by telling ghost stories around the campfire, never expecting that one of the frightening stories will come true. *Series*
- Lies, Brian. ***Bats in the Band***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. As the weather warms up, the bats re-unite to stage a concert at an empty theater. *Series*
- Lin, Grace. ***Ling & Ting: Twice as Silly***. Little, Brown, 2014. Identical twins Ling & Ting like to be silly, tell jokes and laugh together. *Series*
- Liniers. ***The Big Wet Balloon***. Toon Books, 2013. Sisters enjoy a rainy Saturday, even after Matilda lets go of Clemmie's red balloon
- Lobel, Arnold. ***Frog and Toad Are Friends***. First published 1970. Be entertained by the classic, short, delightful tales about best friends Frog and Toad. *Series*
- Lyons, Kelly Starling. ***Ellen's Broom***. Putnam's, 2012. Ellen, a young girl growing up in the Reconstruction Era, learns the significance of love and tradition as she encourages her parents to "Jump the Broom" to finalize their marriage vows.
- MacLachlan, Patricia and Emily MacLachlan Charest. ***Once I Ate a Pie***. Joanna Cotler, 2006. Fourteen free-verse poems and beautiful oil paintings capture the personality of each dog in these examples of a dog's life from the perspective of the animals.
- Marshall, James. ***Fox On the Job***. Puffin, 1988. Fox tries several different jobs to earn money. *Series*
- Mattick, Lindsay. ***Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear***. Little, Brown, 2015. A fictionalized account of Captain Harry Coleburn's relationship with a bear cub in 1914, which he rescued while on his way to care for soldiers' horses during World War I, and became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.
- McDonald, Megan. ***Stink and the Ultimate Thumb-Wrestling Smackdown***. Candlewick, 2011. When Stink Moody gets a "U" (for "Unsatisfactory") in gym, he turns first to thumb-wrestling, then to karate, to give him a sporting edge. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- McKay, Hilary. ***Lulu and the Duck in the Park***. Albert Whitman, 2012. Lulu loves animals. When Lulu finds a duck egg that has rolled out of its nest, she takes it to class to keep it safe. Lulu isn't allowed to bring pets to school, but she's not really breaking the rules because it's just an egg. Surely nothing bad will happen... *Series*
- McMullan, Kate. ***Pearl and Wagner: Five Days Till Summer***. Penguin Press, 2012. Pearl and her friend Wagner, on the verge of moving up to Ms. Bean's first grade class, worry about their new teacher being "mean" until something surprising changes their mind...
- McNulty, Faith. ***If You Decide to Go to the Moon***. Scholastic, 2005. This book tells you how to get to the moon, what to do after you land, and, most importantly, how to get back home.
- Miller, Zeitlow Pat. ***Sophie's Squash***. Schwartz & Wade 2013. Sophie goes to the farmer's market and chooses a squash which she names Bernice and treats as a friend. What happens when Sophie has to give Bernice up?
- Nees, Susan. ***Missy's Super Duper Royal Deluxe Picture Day***. Scholastic, 2013. Missy likes to do everything in a super duper royal deluxe way, including planning what she will wear for school picture day. However, her mother has other ideas for Missy's picture day outfit. *Series*
- Nevius, Carol. ***Soccer Hour***. Marshall Cavendish, 2011. Using rhymed couplets, a narrator recounts the ups and downs of soccer practice from drills to scrimmage.
- Numeroff, Laura. ***The Jellybeans and the Big Art Adventure***. Abrams Books, 2012. Four friends who like to do different things such as paint, play soccer, read and dance --- paint a mural on an outside wall of Mrs. Petunia Dinkley-Sneezer's candy shop that depicts them each doing what they love best. *Series*
- O'Ryan, Ray. ***Hello, Nebulon!*** Little Simon, 2013. Moving from Earth to the futuristic planet Nebulon in 2120, eight-year-old Galaxy Zack is nervous about starting school and meeting people. *Series*.
- Parish, Herman. ***Amelia Bedelia Means Business***. Greenwillow Books, 2013. Amelia Bedelia wants a new bike, but her parents will only pay for half of the bike. Amelia Bedelia needs to find a job to earn enough money for the bike of her dreams. *Series*
- Pinkney, Andrea Davis. ***Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Songs***. Little Brown, 2013. A beautiful intertwining of the lives of Martin Luther King, Jr. and singer Mahalia Jackson, both civil right activists as their journeys brought them together in 1963's March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.
- Potter, Alicia. ***Miss Hazeltine's Home for Shy and Fearful Cats***. Albert A. Knopf, 2015. Miss Hazeltine opens her home to cats needing courage, and their new learned skills are put to use when she finds herself in trouble.
- Raczka, Bob. ***Guyku: A Year of Haiku for Boys***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. A collection of haiku poetry for boys that features poems about tree climbing, kite flying, and other related topics.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Reynolds, Peter. ***The Dot***. Candlewick, 2003. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." This sage advice, offered by her teacher, sets the young heroine on a journey of self-expression, artistic experimentation, and success.
- Rosensteihl, Agnes. ***Silly Lilly In What Will I Be Today?*** Toon Books, 2014. Each day of the week Silly Lilly tries out a new career through play in this fun graphic novel for beginning readers.
- Rosenstock, Barb. ***The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Describes how Wassily Kandinsky's creative life was profoundly shaped by a neurological condition called synesthesia which caused him to experienced colors as sounds and sounds as colors. Caldecott Honors 2015
- Rylant, Cynthia. ***Annie and Snowball and the Book Bugs Club***. Simon Spotlight, 2011. Annie and Henry join the summer reading club at the library, and they vow to be "Book Bugs" for life. *Series*
- Rylant, Cynthia. ***Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover***. Simon & Schuster, 2006. Henry and his dog Mudge are invited to a sleepover in Patrick's attic, where they watch monster movies, eat pizza, and enjoy a contest to determine whose dog is the best popcorn catcher. *Series*
- Rylant, Cynthia. ***The High-Rise Private Eyes: The Case of the Desperate Duck***. Greenwillow, 2005. In this case, animal detectives Bunny and Jack help Mabel the duck find out who stole the sugar cubes from her tea room. *Series*
- Santat, Dan. ***The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend***. Little, Brown, 2014. Tired of waiting to be "imagined," Beekle courageously embarks on a journey to find his special friend in the "real" world. *Randolph Caldecott Medal Winner, 2015.*
- Schneider, Josh. ***Tales for Very Picky Eaters***. Clarion, 2011. A father tells outlandish stories while trying to get his young son, who is a very picky eater, to eat foods he thinks he will not like.
- Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman and Mitchell Sharmat. ***Nate the Great and the Hungry Book Club***. Delacorte, 2009. Rosamond, who starts a book club, claims there is a monster on the loose that is ruining pages of her cookbook, which leads Nate the Great and his dog Sludge to investigate as undercover detectives. *Series*
- Sidman, Joyce. ***Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature***. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. An illustrated exploration of various examples of spirals appearing in nature, looking at snail shells, flower petals, elephant tusks, crashing waves, and more.
- Silverman, Erica. ***Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Spring Babies***. Harcourt, 2010. Cowgirl Kate and her horse Cocoa watch over the new calves, a puppy, and some baby barn owls. *Series*
- Sklansky, Amy E. ***Out of This World: Poems and Facts about Space***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. A collection of poems and facts about space, accompanied by color paintings.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Spinelli, Eileen. ***The Best Story***. Dial Books, 2008. When a contest at the local library offers a prize for the best story, a girl tries to write one using her family's suggestions, but her story does not seem right until she listens to her heart.
- Steig, William. ***Sylvester and the Magic Pebble***. First published 1969. In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock, but then he cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again! *Caldecott Medal 1970*
- Stewart, Melissa. ***Feathers: Not Just for Flying***. Charlesbridge, 2014. This is a beautifully illustrated description of the many kinds of feathers and their uses.
- Stockdale, Susan. ***Stripes of All Types***. Peachtree, 2013. Animals wearing all kinds of stripes parade across the page and additional information is included in an afterword along with a matching game.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? : The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell***. Holt, 2013. This engaging and delightfully illustrated book brings to life Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor.
- Talbott, Hudson. ***United Tweets of America***. Putnam's, 2008. A collection of detailed illustrations of state birds from all fifty United States.
- Van Leeuwen, Jean. ***Amanda Pig and the Wiggly Tooth***. Dial Books, 2008. When Amanda Pig has her first loose tooth, she is reluctant to pull it. *Series*
- Vernick, Audrey. ***First Grade Dropout***. Clarion, 2015. Humor and empathy abound when an embarrassed first grader decides to quit school.
- Viorst, Judith. ***Lulu's Mysterious Mission***. Atheneum, 2014. When her parents take a vacation, Lulu decides to misbehave to rid herself of Ms. Solinsky, the babysitter, until Ms. Solinsky reveals her secret. *Series*
- Watkins, Angela Farris. ***My Uncle Martin's Words for America***. Abrams Books, 2011. Using words and phrases from Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches, his niece explains the importance of his message and his contributions to the Civil Rights movement.
- Willems, Mo. ***That Is Not a Good Idea!*** Balzer + Bray, 2013. A wolf and a goose meet on the street and decide to have dinner together. But, what, or who, are they going to eat?
- Winter, Jeanette. ***Henri's Scissors***. Beach Lane Books, 2013. In a small weaving town in France, a young boy named Henri-Emile Matisse drew pictures everywhere, and when he grew up, he moved to Paris and became a famous artist who created paintings that were adored around the world. But late in life a serious illness confined him to a wheelchair, and amazingly, it was from there that he created among his most beloved works—enormous and breathtaking paper cutouts.
- Winter, Jonah. ***Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates***. Atheneum, 2005. This is the story of Roberto Clemente, a young Puerto Rican who followed his baseball dream to the big leagues and went on to help the poor in his homeland.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 1 and Grade 2

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Each Kindness***. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2012. It is only after Maya, the new girl, moves away that Chloe regretfully realizes that she and her friends have been unkind by excluding her from their games.

Yee, Wong Herbert. ***Mouse and Mole: A Winter Wonderland***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Best friends Mouse and Mole enjoy playing in the snow with Sno-Mouse and Sno-Mole, two more best friends. *Series*

Compiled by:

Adonica Aston, *River Oaks Baptist School*

Wayne Cherry, *First Baptist School*

Missy Edgmon, *Cornerstone Christian Academy*

Kathy Ellwood, *River Oaks Baptist School*

Laurie Mitchell, *St. Mark's Episcopal School*

Christa Pryor, *River Oaks Baptist School*

Georgene Quirke, *The Fay School*

Cindy Schumacher, *Annunciation Orthodox School*

Kristin Uptmor, *St. Mark's Episcopal School*

Copyright © 2016 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 11 and Grade 12

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Albright, Madeleine. ***Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948***. Harper, 2012. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright shares her childhood experiences in Czechoslovakia amid the horrors of World War II and the discovery of her family's Jewish ancestry.
- Alexie, Sherman. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***. Little, Brown, 2007. Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the "rez" to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. *National Book Award for Young People's Literature 2007*
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***The Impossible Knife of Memory***. Viking, 2014. Hayley and her father, who suffers from PTSD, return to their hometown to start over, but the Iraq war continues to haunt him and threatens to disrupt their lives.
- Backman, Fredrik. ***A Man Called Ove***. Translated from the Swedish by Henning Kock. Atria Books, 2014. A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary, well-ordered world turned on its head when a boisterous young family and their two daughters move in next door.
- Barbery, Muriel. ***The Elegance of the Hedgehog***. Translated from the French by Alison Anderson. Europa, 2008. Laugh out loud at the unlikely friendship among a secretly educated concierge, a precocious twelve-year-old girl with a philosophical bent, and an older Japanese gentleman in a Paris apartment.
- Bardugo, Leigh. ***Six of Crows***. Holt, 2015. Six outcasts sign up for a dangerous heist that will not only fill their pockets but also save the world from its current path towards darkness and destruction. Each of these characters has a story to tell, but can they unite long enough to complete the mission?
- Barry, Max. ***Lexicon***. Penguin Press, 2013. Emily Ruff belongs to a secret organization whose "poets" can break down individuals by psychographic markers in order to take control of their thoughts. Then she makes a catastrophic mistake and falls in love, breaking her organization's rules. *Alex Award 2013*
- Brontë, Charlotte. ***Jane Eyre***. First published 1847. Jane finds terror and romance when she becomes a governess in a mysterious mansion.
- Brooks, Geraldine. ***Caleb's Crossing***. Viking, 2011. Bethia Mayfield befriends Caleb, the son of a Wampanoag chieftain, as she grows up near Martha's Vineyard in the mid-seventeenth century, and watches her minister father's attempts to convert the Native Americans. The fates of the children are tied together as Bethia's father encourages the education of Caleb, a privilege Bethia has always wanted.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Brown, Dan. ***Inferno: A Novel***. Doubleday, 2013. Harvard professor Robert Langdon is once again drawn into a deadly quest, this time based on clues from Dante's *Inferno*.
- Brown, Daniel James. ***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics***. Viking, 2013. In Depression era America, nine dirt-poor, unskilled rowers at the University of Washington join the rowing team - and move on to compete in the Hitler Olympics.
- Cain, Susan. ***Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking***. Crown, 2012. In our American culture that values extroversion, the value of "quiet" people is often overlooked, but the one third of the population that fits the definition of introvert has much to offer.
- Chamberlain, Diane. ***Necessary Lies***. St. Martin's Press, 2013. On a tobacco farm in rural North Carolina in the 1960s, fifteen-year-old Ivy Hart struggles with her grandmother's aging, her sister's mental illness, and her own epilepsy. When Jane Forrester takes a position as Grace County's newest social worker, she is asked to recommend which of her clients should be sterilized due to poverty, illness, or is in some other way unfit to have children. Based on real cases, this is the story of two young women who seem worlds apart, but are both faced with a life-changing battle.
- 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*
- Choo, Yangsze. ***The Ghost Bride***. William Morrow, 2013. When she agrees to become a ghost bride for the wealthy Lim family's son, who recently died under mysterious circumstances, Li Lan must dive into a shadowy parallel world of the Chinese afterlife to find the truth about the son's death.
- Chwast, Seymour. ***Dante's Divine Comedy***. Bloomsbury, 2010. Chwast retells Dante's Divine Comedy in a graphic format. The visual presentation of all three stages of Dante's epic is appealing and humorous. The illustrations depict the details and complexity of this classic tale.
- Cline, Ernest. ***Ready Player One***. Crown, 2011. In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS. When Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday, he finds he must compete with thousands of others -- including those willing to commit murder -- in order to claim the prize of a massive fortune. *Alex Award 2012*
- Collins, Billy. ***Ballistics: Poems***. Random House, 2008. A notable collection of verse from the U.S. Poet Laureate, expressing love, joy, and death in his inimitable language.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Cruz, Nilo. ***Anna in the Tropics***. Theatre Communications Group, 2003. In this play set in 1929 Florida in a Cuban-American cigar factory, a new lector unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners.
- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. ***Leaving Yuba City: New and Selected Poems***. Anchor, 1997. Little stories about life in India and the Indian immigrant experience in America told through accessible and enlightening poetry.
- Doerr, Anthony. ***All the Light We Cannot See***. Scribner, 2014. The paths of a blind French girl and a young Nazi soldier collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. *Alex Award 2015, National Book Award for Fiction 2014, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2015*
- Donovan, Jim. ***The Blood of Heroes: The 13-day Struggle for the Alamo -- and the Sacrifice That Forged a Nation***. Little Brown, 2012. Exhaustively researched and based on new primary sources in U.S. and Mexican archives, this book is the definitive account of this epic battle and is populated with larger-than-life characters, audacity, valor, and redemption.
- Egan, Timothy. ***Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis***. Houghton Mifflin, 2012. Edward Curtis was charismatic, handsome, a passionate mountaineer, and a famous portrait photographer. In 1900, when he was thirty-two years old, he gave it all up to pursue his Great Idea: to capture on film the continent's original inhabitants before the old ways disappeared. Curtis spent the next three decades documenting the stories and rituals of more than eighty North American tribes, thus creating the most definitive archive of the American Indian.
- Fromm, Pete. ***Indian Creek Chronicles: A Winter in the Bitterroot Wilderness***. Lyons & Burford, 1993. The author recounts his seven months working for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in an isolated location that changed him from a college kid to a man.
- Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. ***Chronicle of a Death Foretold***. Translated from the Spanish by Gregory Rabassa. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. Nearly thirty years later, a man returns to town in an attempt to discover the truth behind the jumbled murder of Santiago Nasar.
- Hannah, Kristin. ***The Nightingale***. St. Martin's Press, 2015. During the Nazi occupation of France in World War II, sisters Vianne and Isabelle find very different ways of surviving the atrocities.
- Hillenbrand, Laura. ***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption***. Random House, 2010. This biography chronicles the life of World War II bombardier Louis Zamperini from his wild youth to becoming a world-class runner in the 1936 Olympic Games to his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force where he must survive for forty-seven days in the Pacific Ocean after his plane goes down.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Hosseini, Khaled. ***And the Mountains Echoed: A Novel***. Riverhead Books, 2013. Pari and Abdullah are siblings and best friends. When their father takes them across the desert in a red wagon to Kabul, Abdullah loses Pari and is forced to return to the village without her. The children live separate lives, but Abdullah never loses hope that he will find Pari. The children's separate lives unfold with incidents of love and hate, bravery and cowardice, want and fulfillment.
- Jacobs, Harriet A. ***Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl***. First published 1861. This autobiographical account by a former slave is one of the few extant narratives written by a woman. It delivers a powerful portrayal of the brutality of slave life. Jacobs speaks frankly of her master's abuse and her eventual escape, in a tale of dauntless spirit and faith.
- Johnson, James Weldon. ***The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man***. First published 1912. In this emotionally gripping and poignant look into race relations, a half-white, half-black man of very light complexion must choose between his heritage and the art that he loves or the ability to escape the inherent racism that he faces by passing as a white.
- Kean, Sam. ***The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements***. Little, Brown, 2010. Sam Kean presents the rationale behind the organization of the periodic table of the elements as well as many interesting anecdotes about the elements and the scientists who discovered them.
- Kibler, Julie. ***Calling Me Home: A Novel***. St. Martin's Press, 2013. In a novel based on a family story of her grandmother's forbidden love in 1930's Kentucky, the author chronicles the journey of an elderly woman and her hairdresser en route to a funeral and explores race relations both then and now.
- King, Stephen. ***11/22/63: A Novel***. Scribner, 2011. What if you could go back in time and change the course of American history? High school English teacher Jake Epping finds himself in this exact place and has as his mission stopping Lee Harvey Oswald from assassinating President John F. Kennedy.
- Kline, Christina Baker. ***Orphan Train***. William Morrow, 2013. Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer, a foster child in Maine, and elderly widow Vivian Daley who, as a child, had been sent by train from New York City to depression era Minnesota, discover they have much in common.
- Knisley, Lucy. ***Relish: My Life in the Kitchen***. First Second, 2013. This graphic novel is a humorous memoir of cartoonist Lucy Knisley, the daughter of a chef and a gourmet, and her obsession with cooking and food. *Alex Award 2014*
- Koontz, Dean. ***The City***. Bantam, 2014. In a musically talented African American family living in New York in the sixties, a mother, her young son, and his grandfather lovingly interact with each other as well as with their diverse neighbors. However, something sinister threatens them all. Woven into the plot are a crime story and a thread of the supernatural.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Kostova, Elizabeth. ***The Historian: A Novel***. Little, Brown, 2005. A young woman discovers an ancient book and a cache of old letters in her father's library; and thus begins her adventurous quest for the truth about Vlad the Impaler, a search that will span continents and generations as well as a confrontation with the darkest powers of evil.
- Lanagan, Margo. ***The Brides of Rollrock Island***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. On remote Rollrock Island, men go to sea to make their livings and to catch a wife. The witch Misskaella knows the way of drawing a girl from the heart of a seal, of luring the beauty out of the beast, and, for a price, a man may buy a lovely sea-wife for himself.
- Lansdale, Joe. ***Edge of Dark Water***. Mulholland Books, 2012. Teenagers Sue Ellen, Terry, and Jinx dig up the body of their friend May Lynn in order to burn her body and spread her ashes in Hollywood; but on their journey they are chased by the sheriff who is after the money they stole for the trip and by a legendary killer who just wants them dead.
- Larson, Erik. ***Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania***. Crown, 2015. With a false sense of security, the luxury ocean liner sailed on May 1, 1915, during World War I. The author tells the story of the many individuals who lost their lives or played a part in this famous maritime disaster involving an enemy torpedo. The story also offers a glimpse of the Progressive Era in the United States.
- Levithan, David. ***Every Day***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Every morning, A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached. Life goes along smoothly until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon.
- Marra, Anthony. ***A Constellation of Vital Phenomena***. Hogarth, 2013. Behind the backdrop of the Chechen conflicts, two doctors protect a girl named Havaa as they provide triage healthcare to a society experiencing loss and trauma from the atrocities of war. Both the extraordinary determination of the human spirit and its dark side are evident throughout the novel.
- McBride, Laura. ***We Are Called to Rise***. Simon & Schuster, 2014. An immigrant youth struggling to assimilate, a middle-aged housewife with a troubled marriage, a Vegas social worker, and a wounded soldier connect with each other and rescue themselves in the wake of an unthinkable incident.
- McCarthy, Cormac. ***The Road***. Alfred A. 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, Fiction 2007*
- McCullough, David. ***The Wright Brothers***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. An award-winning historian helps us understand the lives of these two modest men as they journey from a bike shop to aviation history.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- McDermott, Alice. **Someone.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. Scattered recollections -- of childhood, adolescence, motherhood, and old age -- come together in this transformative narrative, stitched into a vibrant whole by McDermott's deft, lyrical voice.
- 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.
- McLain, Paula. **Circling the Sun.** Ballantine Books, 2015. This novel is based on the life of Beryl Markham, who grew up training horses on her father's ranch in Nairobi, Africa in the 1920s. She led a full and sometimes difficult life, befriending Karen Blixen and Denys Finch Hatton from *Out of Africa* fame. Being a strong woman for her times, Beryl's relationships were complicated, but her passion for flying was ignited by the friendships she made.
- Morgenstern, Erin. **The Night Circus.** Doubleday, 2011. The circus arrives without warning, and what looks like clever illusions are actually magic. The two principal illusionists, Celia and Marco, have unknowingly been involved in a deadly contest created by their mentors. When they fall in love, it complicates the circus and their teachers' plans. *Alex Award 2012*
- Morrison, Toni. **Beloved.** First published 1987. The Nobel prize-winning author's lyrical expression of the slave experience is built around Sethe, her memories of Sweet Home, and the ghost of her baby. *Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1988*
- Morton, Kate. **The Secret Keeper.** Atria Books, 2012. Fifty years after she witnessed a shocking crime at her family's farm in the English countryside, Laurel, now a successful London actress, returns to the farm and is overwhelmed by family secrets she has not thought of in decades.
- Mosley, Walter. **The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey.** Riverhead Books, 2010. Ptolemy Grey, an elderly man, falls further into his solitary existence and dementia, when his grandnephew -- his only real connection to the outside world -- dies in a drive-by shooting. Robyn, his niece's lodger, motivates him and introduces him to a doctor who is touting an experimental drug that may give Ptolemy a temporary burst of clarity and energy, leading Ptolemy to think of a way to leave a memorable legacy.
- Moyes, Jojo. **Me Before You: A Novel.** Viking, 2012. A twenty-seven-year-old woman accepts a job caring for a paraplegic man, unaware that the experience will allow her to learn new skills, consider a bigger life than she could have ever imagined, and break her heart.
- Nelson, Jandy. **I'll Give You the Sun.** Dial Books, 2014. A story of first love, family secrets, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her gay twin brother, Noah. *Printz Award 2015*

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Niven, Jennifer. ***All the Bright Places***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. When Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, both teetering on the edge, it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another.
- Percer, Elizabeth. ***An Uncommon Education***. Harper, 2012. In this coming-of-age story, Naomi Feinstein dreams of attending Wellesley College and being a doctor; everything changes in her life when she is introduced to the oldest honor society, the mysterious Shakespeare Society.
- Petry, Ann. ***The Street***. First published in 1946. Lutie Johnson, a single African American mother in 1940s Harlem, struggles to raise her young son Bub in a world of racism and socioeconomic inequality. Based on a true story.
- Powell, Goran. ***Chojun: A Novel***. YMAA, 2012. Kenichi Ota accompanies Chojun Miyagi to China searching for the meaning of karate. Upon their return to Okinawa they learn that the Japanese have just destroyed Pearl Harbor, forcing both of them to adapt to a new world order, to rebuild their island, and to preserve Miyagi's brand of karate. *International Book Award Finals 2013*
- Rock, Peter. ***My Abandonment***. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Thirteen-year-old Caroline lives with her father "off the grid" in a makeshift structure in a Pacific Northwest forest. The forest seems to fulfill their basic needs and hides them from the rest of humanity. The world eventually intrudes upon their solitude, and what Caroline thought was real is not. *Alex Award 2010*
- Rowell, Rainbow. ***Fangirl***. St. Martin's Griffin, 2013. Feeling cast off when her twin sister outgrows their shared love for a favorite fictional character, Cath, a dedicated fan-fiction writer, struggles to survive on her own in her first year of college while avoiding a surly roommate, bonding with a handsome classmate who only wants to talk about words, and worrying about her fragile father.
- Ruby, Laura. ***Bone Gap***. Balzer + Bray, 2015. Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza. His inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying. *Printz Award 2016*
- Schneider, Robyn. ***The Beginning of Everything***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Star athlete and prom king Ezra Faulkner's life is irreparably transformed by a tragic accident and the arrival of eccentric new girl Cassidy Thorpe.
- Semple, Maria. ***Where'd You Go Bernadette: A Novel***. Little, Brown, 2012. When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her. *Alex Award 2013*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Sepetys, Ruta. ***Out of the Easy***. Philomel, 2013. Josie, the seventeen-year-old daughter of a French Quarter prostitute, is striving to escape 1950s New Orleans and enroll at prestigious Smith College when she becomes entangled in a murder investigation.
- Simic, Charles. ***The Voice at 3:00 A.M.: Selected Late & New Poems***. Harcourt, 2003. These 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.
- Simsion, Graeme. ***The Rosie Project***. Simon & Schuster, 2013. A college professor’s analytical survey to find the perfect wife leads to a relationship with Rosie Jarman even though she is the opposite of his scientific criteria for a wife.
- Sittenfeld, Curtis. ***Sisterland: A Novel***. Random House, 2013. Identical twins Kate and Violet have always been different -- able to sense other people's secrets and know about future events. As they grow up, Vi embraces her gift and pursues a career as a psychic medium, while Kate denies it and settles down with a family. An earthquake in their hometown of Saint Louis and Vi's vision of a more devastating quake to come force Kate to reconcile the strained relationship with her twin and come to grips with the truth about herself.
- Skloot, Rebecca. ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks***. Crown, 2010. "HeLa" cells, named after Henrietta Lacks, a poor African American woman born in 1920, were taken from a tumor removed during Lacks’ treatment for cervical cancer. While she died from the disease, her cancer cells proved uncommonly robust, reproducing at a rapid rate. Years later, billions of these cells are used in laboratories around the world.
- Sloan, Robin. ***Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Clay Jannon is released from his job in San Francisco during the Great Recession and accepts a position working the night shift at a local bookstore. Clay soon realizes that there is something very strange and mysterious about that bookstore. *Alex Award 2013*
- Stanley, Shalanda. ***Drowning is Inevitable***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. After seventeen-year-old Olivia and her friend Jamie accidentally kill Jamie's abusive father, two other friends, Max and Maggie, join them in running away from St. Francisville, Louisiana, to hide out in New Orleans while they try to figure out what to do next.
- Stein, Garth. ***The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel***. HarperCollins, 2008. Enzo is an old soul who just happens to be a dog. He is devoted to Denny who is a race car driver. The reader will be captivated as Enzo tells his master’s story and prepares for his next life...as a human.
- 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 Oklahoma farmers drives west to California in search of work as migrant fruit pickers. *Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1940*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Szyborska, Wislawa. ***Monologue of a Dog: New Poems***. Translated from the Polish by Clare Cavanagh and Stanislaw Baranczak. Harcourt, 2006. Crisp, elegant poetry is presented in original Polish alongside its English translation. Clouds, current events, and revolution are just a few of the themes addressed in this marvelous collection of twenty-six thought-provoking poems.
- 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.
- Towles, Amor. ***Rules of Civility***. Viking, 2011. In 1938 Katey Kontent moves to New York City to find her first job. With a group of newly acquired friends she enjoys the jazz and glamour of the city and the adventure that comes with youth, relationships, and differing social classes.
- Vance, Jack. ***The Moon Moth***. Graphic novel adaption by Humayoun Ibrahim. First Second, 2012. Lovers of the science fiction genre and graphic novels will enjoy Vance's classic short story set on planet Sirene where aliens wear masks to indicate their social status and communicate by playing musical instruments. Edwer Thissell is sent to Sirene to solve a murder and find the killer in a world where every face is hidden.
- Walton, Jo. ***Among Others***. Tor Books, 2012. Morwenna Phelps' twin has been killed in an evil magical battle that has left Morwenna crippled. Now at a boarding school, where everyone avoids her, she discovers another magic – science fiction, libraries, and book clubs. All is recorded in a series of poignant, funny journal entries. *Hugo Award for Best Novel 2012*
- Wecker, Helene. ***The Golem and the Jinni***. Harper, 2013. Two magical creatures -- Chava, a golem made out of clay, and Ahmad, a jinni made of fire -- find themselves in New York City in 1899 in unfamiliar surroundings. The two eventually meet and form an unlikely friendship, only to realize the looming threat to their lives and to those around them.
- Weir, Andy. ***The Martian***. Crown, 2014. Astronaut Mark Watney, having been stranded on Mars during a dust storm, relies on his ingenuity and engineering skills to stay alive and try to contact NASA. *Alex Award 2015*
- Weisgarber, Ann. ***The Promise***. Skyhorse, 2014. 1900. Young pianist Catherine Wainwright flees the fashionable town of Dayton, Ohio, in the wake of a terrible scandal. Heartbroken and facing destitution, she finds herself striking up correspondence with a childhood admirer, the recently widowed Oscar Williams. In desperation, she agrees to marry him. But when Catherine travels to Oscar's farm on Galveston Island, Texas - a thousand miles from home - she finds she is little prepared for the life that awaits her.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Wilson, August. ***Two Trains Running***. Plume, 1992. This historical African-American drama, part of a ten-part series by a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright, takes place during the Civil Rights movement in Memphis Lee's diner in Pittsburgh, 1969. Characters wrestle with the changing political and social landscape of this American era expressed through everyday conversations as they gather in booths and the lunch counter. They exude strength with dignity and hope for a better future.
- Womack, Gwendolyn. ***The Memory Painter***. Picador, 2015. Bryan Pierce is an internationally famous artist whose paintings have dazzled the world. But there's a secret to his success: every canvas is inspired by an unusually vivid dream. When Bryan awakes, he possesses extraordinary new skills, like the ability to speak obscure languages and an inexplicable genius for chess. All his life, he has wondered if his dreams are recollections, or if he is re-experiencing other people's lives. A taut thriller and a timeless love story spanning six continents and 10,000 years of history, this is a riveting debut novel unlike any you've ever read.
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***Boxers***. First Second, 2013. Companion volume to ***Saints***. In 1898 during the Boxer Rebellion, a boy named Little Bao recruits an army of Boxers to rid China of foreign missionaries and soldiers who bully and rob Chinese peasants.
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***Saints***. First Second, 2013. Companion volume to ***Boxers***. In 1898 during the Boxer Rebellion, a girl named Vibiana, who is unwanted and unwelcome, turns to Christianity, but she finds herself torn between her nation and her Christian friends who are being murdered by bands of young men.
- Zevin, Gabrielle. ***The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry***. Algonquin, 2014. Bookstore owner A.J. Fikry's prized book of rare Poe poems disappears, and he becomes increasingly isolated until a package in the mail compels him to rethink his life.
- Zusak, Markus. ***The Book Thief***. Alfred A. 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*
-

HASLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 11 and Grade 12

Compiled by:

Julia Beddingfield (Chair), *Second Baptist School*

Diana Armentor, *Awty International School*

Elizabeth Dronet, *St. John XXIII College Preparatory*

Pam Hill, *The John Cooper School*

Krystal Irven, *Episcopal High School*

Dorian Myers, *The Kinkaid School*

Peg Patrick, *St. John's School*

Jean Pfluger, *Duchesne Academy*

Joanie South-Shelley, *St. Thomas High School*

Hannah Bailey, *Houston Christian High School*

Jennifer Succi, *Episcopal High School*

Suzanne Webb, *St. John's School*

Susi West, *St. Pius X High School*

Copyright ©2016 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Applegate, Katherine. **Crenshaw**. Feiwel and Friends, 2015. A story about a homeless boy and his imaginary feline friend, Crenshaw, that proves in unexpected ways that friendships matter, whether real or imaginary.
- Asim, Jabari. **Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington**. Little, Brown, 2012. Booker, a former slave, journeys five hundred miles, mostly on foot, with 50 cents in his pocket to begin making a dream come true at the Hampton Institute.
- Bauer, Marion Dane. **Little Dog, Lost**. Atheneum, 2012. A dog without a boy, a boy without a dog, and an elderly gentleman without a sense of belonging follow their star-crossed paths and find that love, compassion, and charity can cure loneliness and restore balance to their lives.
- Becker, Aaron. **Journey**. Candlewick, 2013. Follow a girl on an elaborate flight of fancy in a wondrously illustrated, wordless picture book about self-determination and unexpected friendship.
- Birney, Betty G. **Surprises According to Humphrey**. Putnam's, 2008. While continuing to help his classmates solve their problems, Humphrey, pet hamster of Longfellow School's Room 26, faces many surprises, like rolling in a hamster ball, a substitute janitor who might be an alien, and the possibility of Mrs. Brisbane retiring. *Series*
- Bishop, Nic. **Spiders**. Scholastic, 2007. Nic Bishop's signature up-close, stop-action photographs show spiders larger than life.
- Borden, Louise. **The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H. A. Rey**. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Tells how the creators of "Curious George" narrowly escaped capture by the Nazis while fleeing Paris on their bicycles during World War II.
- Brown, Don. **Henry and the Cannons: An Extraordinary True Story of the American Revolution**. Roaring Brook, 2013. In 1776, Henry Knox creatively delivers cannons to General Washington in Boston, which leads to a victory over the British Army.
- Bryan, Ashley. **Ashley Bryan's Puppets: Making Something from Everything**. Atheneum, 2014. Beloved storyteller and creator Ashley Bryan reveals the vibrant spirit of found objects in this magnificent treasury of poetry and puppets.
- Cardillo, Margaret. **Just Being Audrey**. Balzer + Bray, 2011. Illustrations and text describe the life of Audrey Hepburn, beginning with her childhood, and describing her life in Nazi-occupied Holland, her dreams of becoming a prima ballerina, her success as an actress, and her efforts to help the world's children through UNICEF.
- Cleary, Beverly. **The Mouse and the Motorcycle**. HarperCollins, 1965. A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Clements, Andrew. **No Talking.** Simon & Schuster, 2007. The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.
- Cole, Henry. **A Nest for Celeste.** Katherine Tegen, 2010. Celeste, a mouse longing for a real home, becomes a source of inspiration to teenaged Joseph who is an assistant to the artist and naturalist John James Audubon, at a New Orleans, Louisiana, plantation in 1821.
- Colfer, Chris. **The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell.** Little, Brown, 2012. Through the mysterious power of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairytale characters they grew up reading about. *Series*
- Cronin, Doreen. **Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure.** Atheneum, 2014. Dirt, Sweetie, Poppy and Sugar, the chicks of the Chicken Squad, must figure out what is making Tail the squirrel so afraid. *Series*
- Crum, Shutta. **Thomas and the Dragon Queen.** Yearling, 2010. The princess must be rescued from the Dragon Queen, and the smallest squire-in-training, 13-year-old Thomas, rises to the challenge of this quest.
- Dahl, Roald. **The BFG.** Farrar, Straus, Giroux, First published in 1982. Sophie is kidnaped from her orphanage by a BFG--Big Friendly Giant--and the two set out to save the world.
- Davies, Jacqueline. **The Magic Trap.** Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Evan Treski is trying his hand at magic with his little sister's help while the unexpected appearance of a hurricane and their long-lost father make for some interesting twists. *Series*
- Desmond, Jenni. **The Blue Whale.** Enchanted Lion Books, 2015. This nonfiction picture book, draws children into the life and world of this enormous whale by putting facts within a familiar context that is fun and engaging.
- DiCamillo, Kate. **Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures.** Candlewick, 2013. A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses' superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak.
- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. **Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folk Tale.** Roaring Brook, 2013. On her way to visit her daughter on the other side of the jungle, Grandma encounters a hungry fox, bear, and tiger, and although she convinces them to wait for her return trip, she still must find a way to outwit them all.
- Edgers, Geoff. **Who Is Stan Lee?** Grosset and Dunlap, 2014. A biography of comic book author and creator Stan Lee. *Series*
- Elliott, David. **On the Wing.** Candlewick, 2014. Clever verse and lovely artwork celebrate all things bird from the hummingbird to the majestic bald eagle.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Friedman, Laurie B. ***Mallory on the Move***. Carolrhoda Books, 2004. When eight-and-a-half year-old Mallory McDonald's parents tell her that they are moving, she's mad! How can they make her move away from Mary Ann, her best friend in the whole wide world?
- Gibbs, Stuart. ***Poached***. Simon & Schuster, 2014. Twelve-year-old Teddy Fitzroy is the prime suspect when FunJungle's newly-acquired koala goes missing, thanks to a prank staged by middle school bully Vance Jessup.
- Grabenstein, Chris. ***Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library***. Random House, 2013. Nine children enter into a competition to "Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library," a game which the creator describes as "like *The Hunger Games* but with lots of food and no bows or arrows."
- Griffiths, Andy. ***The 13-Story Treehouse***. Feiwel and Friends, 2013. Under pressure by their publisher to finish their next book, two young authors graphically describe all the extraordinary distractions they face living in their 13 story treehouse.
- Gutman, Dan. ***Mission Unstoppable***. Harper, 2011. On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files. *Series*
- Hale, Nathan. ***Big Bad Ironclad!: A Civil War Steamship Showdown***. Amulet Books, 2012. Retells, in graphic-novel format, the history of the ironclad steam warships used in the Civil War, revealing facts about the ship's inventor, William Cushing—who pranked his way through the entire war—as well as other real-life characters. *Series*
- Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Saving the Baghdad Zoo: A True Story of Hope and Heroes***. Greenwillow, 2010. This photo-illustrated book tells the poignant stories of abandoned lions who roamed an empty palace with no food or drink; the camel, Lumpy, who survived transport through sniper fire; the tigers, Riley and Hope, who traveled 7,000 miles from home; and shares first-hand accounts of how the United States soldiers and volunteers saved the animals of the Baghdad Zoo.
- Harley, Bill. ***Charlie Bumpers vs. the Really Nice Gnome***. Peachtree, 2014. Charlie has looked forward to being in the fourth-grade play, but he is not at all happy when Mrs. Burke assigns him the role of the Nice Gnome. *Series*
- Hatke, Ben. ***Zita the Spacegirl. Book One, Far from Home***. First Second, 2010. Zita rushes to the rescue after her best friend is abducted by an alien doomsday cult, and, before long, finds herself hailed as an intergalactic hero. *Series*
- Henry, Marguerite. ***Misty of Chincoteague***. Aladdin, 1947. Paul and his sister Maureen's determination to own a pony from the herd on Chincoteague Island, Virginia, is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among the ponies rounded up for the yearly auction.
- Hicks, Betty. ***The Worm Whisperer***. Roaring Brook, 2013. Ellison Ellis Coffey, a lonely fifth-grader, discovers he might have the special gift of talking to bugs and decides to use his ability to win his town's annual Woolly Worm Race.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Holm, Jennifer L. ***The Fourteenth Goldfish***. Random House, 2014. Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging and consequently has turned into a teenager, which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.
- Holub, Joan. ***Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom***. Aladdin, 2012. When ten-year-old Zeus is kidnapped, he discovers he can defend himself with a magic thunderbolt. *Series*
- Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building***. Schwartz & Wade, 2006. In 1931, a boy and his father watch as the world's tallest building, the Empire State Building, is constructed, step-by-step, near their Manhattan home.
- Huey, Lois Miner. ***Ick! Yuck! Eew!: Our Gross American History***. Millbrook, 2014. Discover many unusual and gross facts from America in the 1700s including many sights, smells and habits of the past.
- Jenkins, Steve. ***Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Profiles a series of animals with unusual eyes and explains how the animals use their uniquely evolved eyes to gain essential information about the biological world.
- Kalman, Maira. ***Thomas Jefferson Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Everything***. Nancy Paulsen, 2014. Thomas Jefferson, interested in science, nature, architecture, math and botany, and best known for writing the Declaration of Independence, was also a slave owner who called slavery an "abomination."
- Keller, Laurie. ***Bowling Alley Bandit***. Holt/Christy Ottaviano, 2013. Arnie the talking doughnut is delighted to be Mr. Bing's new pet "doughnut-dog, so when Mr. Bing starts rolling gutter balls during a big bowling tournament, Arnie suspects foul play and sets out to solve the mystery. *Series*
- Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. ***A Taste of Freedom: Gandhi and the Great Salt March***. Walker, 2014. An old man in India recalls how, when he was a young boy, he got his first taste of freedom as he and his brother joined the great Mahatma Gandhi on a march to the sea to make salt in defiance of British law.
- Klimo, Kate. ***Barry***. Random House, 2013. Barry der Menschenretter, a Saint Bernard dog, reflects back on his life in the early 1800s at the Hospice of the Great Saint Bernard in the Swiss Alps, where he rescued some forty people from avalanches. *Series*
- Klise, Kate. ***The Show Must Go On!*** Algonquin, 2013. Two mice and a crow, who travel with a circus, cleaning up the spilled popcorn after every performance, come to the rescue when a greedy con artist takes over the management of the circus.
- Lee, Jenny. ***Elvis and the Underdogs***. Balzer + Bray, 2013. Benji, a young boy who suffers from seizures, has his life turned around when a talking therapy dog comes to live with him. *Series*
- Lewis, J. Patrick, ed. ***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: With Favorites From Robert Frost, Jack Prelutsky, Emily Dickinson, and More: 200 Poems With Photographs That Squeak, Soar, and Roar!*** National Geographic, 2012. Full-color photographs accompany two hundred poems about animals.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Lord, Cynthia. ***A Handful of Stars***. Scholastic, 2015. When her blind dog slips his collar, twelve-year old Lily meets Salma Santiago, a young Hispanic girl whose migrant family is in Maine for the blueberry-picking season, and based partly on their mutual love of dogs, the two forge a friendship while painting bee boxes for Lily's grandfather - but as the Blueberry Queen pageant approaches, Lily and Salma are confronted with some of the hard truths of prejudice and migrant life.
- MacLachlan, Patricia ***The Truth of Me: About a Boy, His Grandmother, and a Very Good Dog***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Robbie and his dog, Ellie, spend the summer at his grandmother Maddy's house, where Robbie learns many things about his emotionally distant parents and himself.
- Malam, John. ***You Wouldn't Want to Be a Ninja Warrior!: A Secret Job That's Your Destiny***. Franklin Watts, 2012. Examines the skills needed to become a ninja, including practicing with weapons everyday, listening and not asking questions, and keeping your identity secret. *Series*
- Martin, Ann M. ***Rain Reign***. Feiwel and Friends, 2014. Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet. *Schneider Family Book Award 2015*
- McCarthy, Meghan ***Pop!: the Invention of Bubble Gum***. Simon & Schuster, 2010. A collection of amusing historical facts on the invention of bubble gum.
- McGehee, Claudia. ***My Wilderness: An Alaskan Adventure***. Little Bigfoot, 2015. Beautifully written memoir of a young boy, his father, and an old frontiersman who spent one winter on isolated Fox Island in Alaska in the early 1900s.
- McMullan, Kate. ***Have a Hot Time, Hades!*** Stone Arch Books, 2012. In this story with a modern twist, Hades tells his own version of how he became King of the Underworld and Zeus became King of the Gods. *Series*
- Meltzer, Brad. ***I am Albert Einstein***. Dial Books, 2014. A picture book biography with an inspiring message that we can all be heroes like Albert Einstein, whose special way of thinking drove him to figure out the secrets of the universe.
- Messner, Kate. ***Rescue on the Oregon Trail***. Scholastic, 2015. Ranger, a golden retriever, could have been a great search-and-rescue dog except for the squirrels, but one day he unearths a mysterious box and finds himself transported back to the year 1850, where his faithful service is really needed by a family traveling west along the Oregon Trail. *Series*
- Morris, Gerald. ***The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Follow the great, yet humble, Sir Lancelot through a series of exciting adventures in this humorous tale of one of King Arthur's knights. *Series*
- Neri, Greg. ***Hello, I'm Johnny Cash***. Candlewick, 2014. A stirring look at the early life of Johnny Cash, from his harsh but music-filled childhood to the first flush of stardom.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- O'Neill, Alexis. ***The Kite That Bridged Two Nations: Homan Walsh and the First Niagara Suspension Bridge.*** Calkins Creek, 2013. Young Homan Walsh loves flying his kite and enters a contest to fly the kite with a line attached all the way across the Niagara River to help build the first suspension bridge between Canada and the United States.
- Osborne, Mary Pope and Natalie Pope Boyce. ***Heroes For All Times: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House #51: High Time for Heroes.*** Random House, 2014. Jack and Annie track the facts behind six people who have changed history, including Florence Nightingale, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, and John Muir. *Series*
- Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. ***Dogs on Duty: Soldiers' Best Friends on the Battlefield and Beyond.*** Walker, 2012. Explains the many ways that dogs are used in the military and how they are trained and cared for.
- Polacco, Patricia. ***Tucky Jo and Little Heart.*** Simon & Schuster, 2015. A heartwarming story of friendship, loyalty, and kindness based on a true account of a World War II Veteran who gave as much as he could and never expected his kindness would come back to him when he needed it most.
- Probst, Jeff and Chris Tebbetts. ***Stranded.*** Puffin, 2013. Jane, Buzz, Carter, and Vanessa, aged nine to thirteen, are on a sailing trip in the South Pacific intended to help them bond in their newly-blended family when a massive storm strands them on a deserted island. *Series*
- Pyron, Bobbie. ***Lucky Strike.*** Arthur A. Levine, 2015. Nathaniel Harlow lives with his grandfather in a trailer park in Franklin County, Florida, and he has always been unlucky--but when he is struck by lightning on his eleventh birthday and survives, it seems like his luck starts to change.
- Rappaport, Doreen. ***Jack's Path of Courage: The Life of John F. Kennedy.*** Disney-Hyperion, 2010. A biographical portrait of John F. Kennedy, telling how he overcame childhood sickness and tragedy to lead the United States as president.
- Ripkin, Cal, Jr. ***Super-Sized Slugger.*** Disney-Hyperion, 2012. Thirteen-year-old Cody Parker moves to Baltimore, Maryland, where as a fat eighth-grader, he has to deal with brutal teasing from a baseball teammate, and his school is beset by a rash of mysterious thefts that threaten to sideline Cody and ruin a golden season for his team. *Series*
- Riordan, Rick. ***The Lightning Thief.*** Disney-Hyperion, 2005. Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war. *Series*
- Roberts, Cokie. ***Founding Mothers: Remembering the Ladies.*** Harper, 2014. A brief, behind the scene look at the women from the period of the Revolution and early United States.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Rosenstock, Barb. **The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Describes how Wassily Kandinsky's creative life was profoundly shaped by a neurological condition called synesthesia which caused him to experienced colors as sounds and sounds as colors.
- Sachar, Louis. **Sideways Stories from Wayside School.** HarperTrophy. Originally published in 1978. Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story. *Series*
- Shurtliff, Liesl. **Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen.
- Silverstein, Shel. **A Light in the Attic.** HarperCollins, 1981. A collection of poems and drawings by American poet and humorist, Shel Silverstein including "Backward Bill," "Day After Halloween," "Gumeyeball," "Nailbiter," "Sour Face Ann," and many others.
- Singer, Marilyn. **Follow, Follow: A Book of Reverso Poems.** Dial Books, 2013. A collection of clever poems that can be read backward and forward, often opposite in their meaning – all of familiar fairy tales.
- Spires, Ashley. **Binky: License to Scratch.** Kids Can Press 2013. When the humans leave the space station and board the animals at the vet, Binky and his friends make a humorous attempt to escape. *Series*
- Sternberg, Julie. **Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie.** Amulet Books, 2011. When nine-year-old Eleanor's beloved babysitter Bibi moves away to care for her ailing father, Eleanor must spend the summer adjusting to a new babysitter while mourning the loss of her old one. *Series*
- Tarshis, Lauren. **Hurricane Katrina, 2005.** Scholastic, 2011. Barry's family prepares to evacuate before Hurricane Katrina hits, but when his little sister gets very sick, they are forced to stay home and face the floodwater that sweeps Barry away. *Series*
- Temple, Bob. **The Titanic: An Interactive History Adventure.** Capstone, 2008. Describes the events surrounding the sinking of the ship Titanic in 1912, revealing the historical details from the perspective of a first-class passenger, a third-class passenger, and a crew member. *Series*
- Turnage, Sheila. **Three Times Lucky.** Dial Books, 2012. Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder. *Series*
- Van Allsburg, Chris. **Jumanji.** Houghton Mifflin, 1981. Left on their own for an afternoon, two bored and restless children find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and mystical jungle adventure board game. *Randolph Caldecott Award 1982*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Vande Velde, Vivian. **8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel Divided by 1 Dog = Chaos.** Holiday House, 2012. Twitch, the school yard squirrel, is chased into the building by the principal's dog and is now locked in for a dangerous and disastrous night where a group of small animals turns an elementary school into a real zoo.
- Walker, Sally M. **Winnie: The True Story of the Bear who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh.** Holt 2015. This is the true story of a bear named Winnie who was left behind at the London Zoo while her keeper went away fighting in World War I and becomes the inspiration for the fictional character Winnie-the-Pooh.
- Wallace, Bill. **Totally Disgusting!** Holiday House, 1991. Mewkiss, a timid, little kitten, who in spite of his uncourageous name, overcomes his fear of rats and finds strength during a crisis to save his mistress from danger.
- Weatherford, Carole. **Leontyne Price: Voice of a Century.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Looks at the life and career of African American soprano singer Leontyne Price.
- Winter, Jonah. **Joltin' Joe DiMaggio.** Atheneum, 2014. In the golden age of baseball, sports announcers ruled the radio, winning and losing was front-page news, and just about every young boy wanted to grow up to wear Yankee pinstripes, including Giuseppe Paolo DiMaggio, Jr., a first generation Italian from San Francisco.
- Winter, Jonah. **Lillian's Right To Vote : A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.** Schwartz & Wade, 2015. As an elderly woman, Lillian recalls that her great-great grandparents were sold as slaves in front of a courthouse where only rich white men were allowed to vote, then the long fight that led to her right and determination to cast her ballot when the Voting Right Act gave every American the right to vote.
- Yolen, Jane. **Animal Stories: Heartwarming True Tales from the Animal Kingdom.** National Geographic, 2014. Presents a collection of true animal stories from different historical periods, including the tales of Balto the Alaskan sled dog, Smoky the Bear, and Internet sensation Christian the lion.

Compiled by:

Christa Pryor (Chair), *River Oaks Baptist School*
Mary Jane Covington, *Corpus Christi Catholic School*
Georgene Quirke, *The Fay School*
Laurie Mitchell, *St. Mark's Episcopal School*
Sonal Marwaha, *The Honor Roll School*
Celine Poirier, *Awty International School*
Cindy Schumacher, *Annunciation Orthodox School*

Copyright ©2016 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 5

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Appelt, Kathi. ***The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp***. Atheneum, 2013. 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 Buzzie, greedy Sunny Boy Beaucoup, and world-class alligator wrestler and would-be land developer Jaeger Stitch in this hilarious tall tale from a Texas swamp.
- Applegate, Katherine. ***The One and Only Ivan***. Harper, 2012. When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.
- Avi. ***Old Wolf***. Atheneum, 2015. A wolf and a bird, must fight the starving time and find food, while a human boy learns to hunt.
- Bell, Cece. ***El Deafo***. Amulet Books, 2014. This empowering graphic novel memoir of the author/illustrator's childhood struggle being accepted and finding friends with her severe deafness received a 2015 Newbery Honor.
- Colfer, Eoin. ***The Atlantis Complex***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. When an army of fairy space probes programmed to destroy Atlantis returns to Earth, Artemis Fowl attempts to stop the destruction of the city while dealing with his own delusional and obsessive-compulsive disorders. *Series*
- Creech, Sharon. ***The Great Unexpected***. Joanna Cotler, 2012. Orphans Naomi and Lizzie are best friends, but Naomi has a knack for being around when trouble happens, and she knows all the peculiar people in town. Into their lives drops the strangely charming Finn boy. Across the sea, on a grand estate in Ireland, an elderly lady has a plan. These two worlds weave together with the great unexpected gifts of love and forgiveness.
- 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.
- Graff, Lisa. ***Absolutely Almost***. Philomel, 2014. Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but his new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.
- 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*
- Foxlee, Karen. ***Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Ophelia, a timid eleven-year-old girl grieving her mother, suspends her disbelief in things non-scientific when a boy, locked in the museum where her father is working, asks her to help him complete an age-old mission.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 5

- Janeczko, Paul B. compiler. ***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.
- 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 -- but 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.
- Kehret, Peg. ***Ghost Dog Secrets***. Dutton, 2010. Sixth-grader Rusty is determined to help an injured dog that is chained outdoors in frigid weather with no food, water, or shelter. He calls animal control and takes matters into his own hands, aided by his best friend and a ghost collie that leads Rusty to an even deeper secret.
- Kelly, Lynne. ***Chained***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. To work off a family debt, ten-year-old Hastin leaves his desert village in India to work as a circus elephant keeper; but many challenges await him, including trying to keep Nandita, a sweet elephant, safe from the cruel circus owner.
- Kirby, Matthew J. ***Icefall***. Scholastic, 2011. Princess Solveig and her army are trapped in a hidden fortress between towering mountains and a frozen fjord. As they await news of the king's victory and for the all-encompassing ice to break, acts of treachery make it clear that a traitor lurks in their midst.
- Lai, Thanhha. ***Inside Out and Back Again***. Harper, 2011. Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.
- Lloyd, Natalie. ***A Snicker of Magic***. Scholastic, 2014. The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic – but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend Jonah the Beetle, she hopes to bring the magic back.
- Lord, Cynthia. ***Half a Chance***. Scholastic, 2014. When twelve-year-old Lucy enters a photography contest, she must decide if the picture that she wants to use showing Nate's grandmother's face and the telltale signs of early dementia is worth the truth it portrays.
- Magnin, Joyce. ***Cake***. Zonderkidz, 2012. Wilma Sue is wary of the eccentric sisters, Ruth and Naomi, at her new foster home, but wonders if she might have a true home with them, baking and delivering cakes and tending their chickens, until she is implicated in a series of neighborhood crimes.
- Markle, Sandra. ***The Case of the Vanishing Honeybees: A Scientific Mystery***. Millbrook, 2013. Large numbers of honeybees are disappearing every year...and and no one knows why. In this real-life science mystery, scientists and bee-keepers are working to answer these questions and save the world's honeybees before it's too late.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 5

- 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, have a great time and Ava grows in self-confidence until the pencil reveals a truth about her family that Ava would rather not know.
- Mull, Brandon. **Sky Raiders**. Aladdin, 2014. Whisked through a portal to The Outskirts, an in-between world, sixth-grader Cole must rescue his friends and find his way back home before his existence is forgotten. *Series*.
- Newman, Patricia. **Plastic, Ahoy! : Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch**. Millbrook, 2014. Informative book about how our overuse of plastics is affecting ocean life and has created the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Lots of photographs help tell the story of three female scientists doing research onboard ship in the middle of the patch.
- 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. *Series*
- Oppel, Kenneth. **The Boundless**. Simon & Schuster, 2014. In 1885 Will uses his wits and courage to face dangerous men and mythical creatures on his ride across the Canadian frontier on The Boundless, the greatest train ever built.
- Palacio, R.J. **Wonder**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was 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.
- Perl, Erica S. **Aces Wild**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Eleven-year-old Zelly Fried's parents will not allow her to have a slumber party until she teaches her mischievous puppy, Ace, to behave, but with Grandpa Ace around nothing is ever simple.
- 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 face many challenges to survive in the aftermath while searching for his grandmother.
- Potter, Ellen. **The Humming Room**. Feiwel and Friends, 2012. Twelve-year-old orphan Roo Fanshaw is sent to live with an uncle she never knew in a largely uninhabited mansion on Cough Rock Island and discovers a wild river boy, an invalid cousin, and the mysteries of a hidden garden.
- 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*

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 5

- Ross, Stewart. ***Into the Unknown: How Great Explorers Found Their Way By Land, Sea, and Air.*** Candlewick, 2011. Fourteen amazing journeys by explorers throughout history and the methods they used by land, sea, and sky to find their way. Includes unfolding cross sections of vessels.
- Rusch, Elizabeth. ***Eruption: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2013. An account of the work of volcanologists Andy Lockhart, John Pallister, and their team describes their life-risking efforts to investigate dangerous volcanoes that pose threats to more than one billion people worldwide.
- Scattergood, Augusta. ***The Way to Stay in Destiny.*** Scholastic, 2015. Sixth-grader Theo moves to Destiny, Florida to live with his Uncle Charlie, an isolated Vietnam War veteran. Theo meets Anabel, a baseball fanatic and the two work together to solve a mystery.
- Selfors, Suzanne. ***The Sasquatch Escape.*** Little, Brown, 2013. Spending the summer in his grandfather's rundown town, ten-year-old Ben meets an adventurous local girl and together they learn that the town's veterinarian runs a secret hospital for imaginary creatures.
- 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.
- Snicket, Lemony. ***“Who Could That Be at This Hour?”*** Little Brown, 2012 Thirteen-year-old Lemony Snicket begins his apprenticeship with S. Theodora Markson of the secretive V.F.D. in the tiny dot of a town called Stain'd By The Sea, where he helps investigate the theft of a statue. *Series*
- Sovern, Megan Jean. ***The Meaning of Maggie.*** Chronicle Books, 2014. Eleven-year-old Maggie Mayfield is an A-plus student with big plans for herself, but at this moment she is facing a lot of problems such as starting middle school and figuring out how to help her father who is out of work and in a wheelchair.
- Spinelli, Jerry. ***Jake and Lily.*** Balzer + Bray, 2012. Twins Jake and Lily have a very close relationship, but when they turn eleven, their parents give them separate bedrooms and Jake begins to spend time with a group of neighborhood boys. Lily is devastated as she struggles to make friends, and Jake is faced with a bully.
- St. John, Lauren. ***The White Giraffe.*** Dial Books, 2006. After losing her parents in a tragic fire, eleven-year-old Martine must live with a grandmother she has never met on a wildlife preserve in Africa where she learns about a mystical white giraffe.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 5

- Standiford, Natalie. ***The Secret Tree***. Scholastic, 2012. Sixth-graders Minty and her new friend Raymond discover a tree with a hollow trunk that holds the secrets of the people in their neighborhood. They begin to watch their neighbors, so they can solve the mysteries of the secrets and break a curse, but the friends will have to work through some of their own secrets as well.
- Stead, Rebecca. ***When You Reach Me***. Wendy Lamb, 2009. As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980's 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 Award, 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. *Series*
- Telgemeier, Raina. ***Sisters***. Graphix, 2014. Raina wants a baby sister until she has one who tends to be cranky and difficult. When it appears that their parents are having issues, the girls must figure out how to get along. This humorous look at relationships between siblings will resonate with readers.
- Turnage, Sheila. ***The Odds of Getting Even***. Kathy Dawson, 2015. Desperado Detectives--aka Mo LoBeau and her best friend Dale, along with newly-appointed intern, Harm Crenshaw--must take on a new case when Dale's daddy goes on the lam just before his trial is about to start. *Series*
- Weeks, Sarah. ***Honey***. Scholastic, 2015. Melody, a girl living in Royal, Indiana learns that her dad may have a new secret girlfriend, so Melody and her best friend Nick try to figure out the secret.
- Wood, Maryrose. ***The Mysterious Howling***. Balzer + Bray, 2010. Three wild children who were raised by wolves and their young governess, Penelope, are caught up in the mysteries of Ashton Place and the people who live there. *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. *Series*
- Ziegler, Jennifer. ***Revenge of the Flower Girls***. Scholastic, 2014. Triplets try to thwart their older sister's wedding plans when they think she should marry someone else. Will their antics help or hinder the wedding?
-

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 5

Compiled by:

Grace Littlefield (Chair), *Second Baptist School*
Jenny Filardo, *Presbyterian School*
Diane King, *Westbury Christian School*
Laura Leib, *Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart*
Judann Luening, *Kinkaid School*
Gina Lunsford, *The Woodlands Christian Academy*
Desiree McConnell, *St. Francis Episcopal Day School*
Aria Tatelman, *formerly at Duchesne Academy*

Copyright ©2016 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 6

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Abbott, Tony. ***The Copernicus Legacy: The Forbidden Stone***. Katherine Tegen, 2014. Wade, Lily, Darrell, and Becca fly from Texas to Germany for the funeral of an old family friend. But instead of just paying their respects, they wind up on a dangerous, mind-blowing quest to unlock an ancient, guarded secret that could destroy the fate of the world. *Series*
- Allen, Crystal. ***The Laura Line***. Balzar + Bray, 2013. When Laura Dyson's seventh grade history teacher schedules a class trip to the slave shack on her grandmother's farm, Laura is forced to come to terms with her family's past and what it means for her future.
- Auxier, Jonathan. ***The Night Gardener***. Amulet Books, 2014. Irish orphans, Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be. Soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house. Spooky atmosphere abounds!
- Avi. ***Catch You Later, Traitor***. Algonquin, 2015. It's 1951, and twelve-year-old Pete Collison is a regular kid in Brooklyn, New York, who loves Sam Spade detective books and radio crime dramas. But when FBI agents show up at Pete's doorstep, accusing Pete's father of being a Communist, Pete is caught in a real-life mystery. Could there really be Commies in Pete's family?
- Balliett, Blue. ***Hold Fast***. Scholastic, 2013. On a cold winter day in Chicago, Early's father disappeared. Now she, her brother, and mother have been forced to flee their apartment and join the ranks of the homeless – leaving it up to Early to hold her family together and solve the mystery surrounding her father.
- Bauer, Joan. ***Close to Famous***. Viking, 2011. Twelve-year-old Foster dreams of growing up to become a celebrity chef despite her reading disability. Can the quirky townsfolk of tiny Culpepper help Foster succeed?
- Benjamin, Ali. ***The Thing About Jellyfish***. Little, Brown, 2015. Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.
- Blakemore, Megan Frazer. ***The Spy Catchers of Maple Hill***. Bloomsbury, 2014. Hazel Kaplansky and new student Samuel Butler investigate rumors that a Russian spy has infiltrated their small Vermont town, amidst the fervor of Cold War era McCarthyism, but more is revealed than they could ever have imagined.
- Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. ***The War That Saved My Life***. Dial Books, 2015. A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.
- Bragg, Georgia. ***How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous***. Walker, 2011. "If you don't have the guts for gore, do not read this book." This caveat from the publisher warns the reader that they will encounter lots of gory details of the deaths of nineteen famous people . . . fun and informative too.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 6

- Brown, Don. ***The Great American Dust Bowl***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. This graphic novel explores the American plains in the 1930's when millions of kinetic dust particles "rained down" causing the catastrophe known as the Dust Bowl.
- Creech, Sharon. ***The Boy on the Porch***. Joanna Cotler, 2013. One day a young couple finds a boy asleep on their porch. He is unable to speak or explain who he is, but they choose to care for the boy and embrace his exuberant spirit and talents. A simple tale that touches the heart and asks questions about the real meaning of family.
- DeFelice, Cynthia. ***Fort***. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015. Wyatt and his friend Augie are enjoying the fort they built, but when two older boys mess with it and with another kid who can't fight back, they launch Operation Doom to get back at the bullies.
- 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.
- Ellis, Leanne Statland. ***The Ugly One***. Clarion, 2013. At the height of the Incan Empire, a girl called the Ugly One because of a disfiguring scar on her face seeks to have the scar removed but finds a life path as a shaman instead.
- Flanagan, John. ***The Outcasts***. Philomel, 2011. In this action-packed companion series to Flanagan's *Rangers Apprentice* books, a sixteen-year-old Skandian-Araluen named Hal and his group of misfit friends compete against two other, more powerful, brotherbands, enduring three months of grueling training in seamanship, weapons, and battle tactics to determine who will win the coveted prize. *Series*
- Frederick, Heather Vogel. ***Absolutely Truly***. Simon & Schuster, 2014. Twelve-year-old Truly Lovejoy's family moves to a quaint town in New Hampshire to take over her grandparents' bookstore, and soon, she and her new friends have to solve two mysteries involving a missing book and an undelivered letter.
- Freedman, Russell. ***Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship***. Clarion, 2012. This fascinating account focuses on the lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, including their friendship and its effect on emancipation and the Civil War.
- Gibbs, Stuart. ***Space Case: a Moon Base Alpha Novel***. Simon & Schuster, 2014. You'd think it would be awesome to be the first people to live on the moon, right? For 12-year old Dashiell Gibson and the other civilians on the base, however, life is extremely dull until the base's top scientist is found dead. Dash takes it upon himself to solve the mystery and find out what exactly happened to the doctor.
- Graff, Lisa. ***Tangle of Knots***. Philomel, 2013. Destiny leads eleven-year-old Cady to a peanut butter factory, a family of children searching for their own Talents, and a Talent Thief who will alter her life forever.
- Greenberg, Jan. ***The Mad Potter: George E. Ohr, Eccentric Genius***. Roaring Brook, 2013. Filled with historical photographs and over fifty color reproductions of Ohr's ceramics, this fifty three page biography takes an interesting look into the development of a larger-than-life artist

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 6

- Haskell, Merrie. ***Handbook for Dragon Slayers***. Harper, 2013. Yearning for life in a cloistered scriptorium, thirteen-year-old Princess Matilda, whose lame foot brings fear of the evil eye, escapes her scheming cousin Ivo and joins her servant Judith and an old friend, Parz, in hunting dragons and writing about them. Schneider Family Book Award for 2014.
- Hiaasen, Carl. ***Chomp***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. A combination of wild animals and reality TV is mixed with a dose of humor, adventure, and mystery when the fame-seeking star of the show disappears in the Florida Everglades and Wahoo Cray, the young animal wrangler, and his new friend Tuna are the only ones who can find him.
- Hoffman, Alice. ***Nightbird***. Wendy Lamb, 2015. Due to a 200-year-old curse on her family and an enormous secret, twelve-year-old Twig and her mother avoid people and certainly do not have friendships in their quaint hometown of Sidwell, Massachusetts; yet when the descendants of the witch who placed the curse moves into the house next door, big changes begin to blossom.
- Hoose, Phillip. ***Moonbird: A Year on the Wind With the Great Survivor B95***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Documents the survival tale of an intrepid shorebird who has endured annual migrations between Argentina and the Canadian Arctic throughout the course of a long lifetime while his species continues to decline.
- Hopkinson, Deborah. ***The Great Trouble: a Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spread through water, and not poisonous air, when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood in 1854.
- 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?
- Johnson, Jaleigh. ***The Mark of the Dragonfly***. Delacorte, 2014. Since her father's death in a factory in the Dragonfly territories, thirteen-year-old Piper has eked out a living as a scrapper in Merrow Kingdom, but the arrival of a mysterious girl sends her on a dangerous journey to distant lands.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. ***The Thing About Luck***. Atheneum, 2013. Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.
- Kennedy, Caroline, ed. ***Poems to Learn by Heart***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. A wonderful selection of poems -- some old favorites, some new -- arranged by everyday subjects like school, family, self, sports, etc., accompanied by watercolor illustrations so charmingly done by Jon J. Muth. A book to treasure and share!
- Kidd, Chip. ***Go: a Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design***. Workman, 2013. This is an appealing introduction to graphic design with chapters covering: form, typography, content, and concepts, including 10 design projects for you to try.

HASLNLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 6

- Kirby, Matthew. ***Spell Robbers***. Scholastic, 2014. Ben Warner is invited to join a "science camp" led by a quantum physicist. With his new friend Peter he discovers the secret art of Actuation--the ability to change reality by imagining it differently--but he also finds that there are people willing to kill for that secret. Book One of the exciting spy, sci-fi adventure, *The Quantum League*.
- Korman, Gordon. ***Masterminds***. Balzer + Bray, 2015. The tiny town of Serenity, New Mexico, appears to be the most perfect town in the world, however, when thirteen-year-old Eli and his friend try to leave the city limits for the first time, Eli gets his first clue that all may not be as it seems, and that something sinister is going on all around them. *Series*
- LeGrand, Eric. ***Believe: the Victorious Story of Eric LeGrand***. HarperCollins, 2012. Eric LeGrand reflects on his life, discussing his childhood, family, success in high school and college sports, and the football injury which resulted in paralysis, rehabilitation, and more.
- Levine, Kristin. ***The Lions of Little Rock***. Putnam, 2012. In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.
- Leyson, Leon. ***The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List***. Antheneum, 2013. This memoir recounts the life and perseverance of the youngest survivor on Schindler's list. Mr. Leyson's incredible remembrances remind us of the atrocities of war and the humanity that one person can show to make a difference.
- Loftin, Nikki. ***Nightingale's Nest***. Razorbill, 2014. In this twist on "The Nightingale," Little John, despite his own poverty and grief, reaches out to Gayle, an unhappy foster child living next-door who sings beautifully and hides a great secret.
- Lopez, Diana. ***Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel: a Novel***. Little Brown, 2013. A genius young sister and keeping up with a boyfriend wish list are the biggest problems in Chia's life when she learns her mom has cancer. Will God help her keep a big promise?
- Lupica, Mike. ***Fantasy League***. Philomel, 2014. Twelve-year-old Charlie gets a chance to work with a real NFL owner once his skills for picking Fantasy Football winners is discovered. On the field, the game is much more challenging.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Treasury of Egyptian Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Monsters & Mortals***. National Geographic, 2014. Presents illustrated retellings of Egyptian myths, sharing the stories of Ra, Isis, Osiris, Anubis, and Bastet with sidebars for each god, goddess, monster and mortal that link the tales to history, geography, and culture, and includes a timeline and other resources.
- 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*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 6

- Pearsall, Shelly. ***Jump into the Sky***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. In 1945, thirteen-year-old Levi is sent to find the father he has not seen in three years. He travels from Chicago to segregated North Carolina and finally to Pendleton, Oregon, where he learns that his father's unit, the all-Black 555th paratrooper battalion, will never see combat but finally has a mission. Includes historical notes.
- Riordan, Rick; adapted by Orpheus Collar. ***The Red Pyramid: Graphic Novel***. Disney-Hyperion, 2012. Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its link to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.
- Sachar, Louis. ***Fuzzy Mud***. Delacorte, 2015. Two kids take a shortcut home from school through forbidden woods to escape a bully and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.
- Shusterman, Neil and Eric Elfman. ***Tesla's Attic***. Disney-Hyperion, 2014. With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor, Nikola Tesla. *Series*
- Sloan, Holly Goldberg. ***Counting by 7s***. Dial, 2013. Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.
- Smith, Roland. ***The Edge***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. Fifteen-year-old Peak Marcello is invited to participate in an "International Peace Ascent" in the Hindu Kush, with a team made up of under-eighteen-year-old climbers from around the world--but from the first something seems wrong, so when the group is attacked, and most of the climbers are either killed or kidnapped, Peak finds himself caught up in a struggle to survive, shadowed by the Shen, a mysterious snow leopard. *Series*
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Courage Has No Color: the True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers***. Candlewick, 2013. Examines the role of African-Americans in the military through the history of the Triple Nickles, America's first black paratroopers, who fought against attacks perpetrated on the American West by the Japanese during World War II.
- When on Earth: History as You've Never Seen it Before***. DK, 2015. Divided into four sections covering the ancient, medieval, and modern worlds, this book features beautiful illustrations, 3-D graphics, clear text boxes, and fun facts that bring history to life and show how it fits into the world at large.
- Wiles, Deborah. ***Revolution***. Scholastic, 2014. It's 1964 in Greenwood, Mississippi, and Sunny's town is being invaded by people from up north who are coming to help people register to vote. Her personal life isn't much better, as a new stepmother, brother, and sister are crowding into her life, giving her little room to breathe. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 6

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Brown Girl Dreaming***. Nancy Paulsen, 2014. The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South. *National Book Award Winner, Newbery Honor Book, Sibert Honor Book, The Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner*

Compiled by:

Grace Littlefield (Chair), *Second Baptist School*

Jenny Filardo, *Presbyterian School*

Diane King, *Westbury Christian School*

Laura Leib, *Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart*

Judann Luening, *Kinkaid School*

Gina Lunsford, *The Woodlands Christian Academy*

Desiree McConnell, *St. Francis Episcopal Day School*

Aria Tatelman, *formerly at Duchesne Academy*

Copyright ©2016 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Acampora, Paul. ***I Kill the Mockingbird***. Roaring Brook, 2014. When best friends Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see the book ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** included ... but not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. So the three friends hatch a plot to get the entire town talking about the well-known Harper Lee classic.
- Alexander, Kwame. ***The Crossover***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Twins, Josh and Jordan, both of whom love basketball, begin to grow apart in adolescence at the same time as their father, a former basketball star, begins to experience health issues. Written in verse. *Newbery Award 2015*
- Aronson, Marc. ***Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners From 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert***. Atheneum, 2011. The true story of thirty-three miners trapped in a copper-gold mine in San Jose, Chile, and how experts from around the world, from drillers, to astronauts, to submarine specialists, came together to make their remarkable rescue possible.
- 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. *Series*
- Auxier, Jonathan. ***The Night Gardener***. Amulet Books, 2014. Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.
- Barrett, Tracy. ***The Stepsister's Tale***. Harlequin Teen, 2014. Jane and her sister struggle to live with their slightly deranged mother in a decaying mansion when their mother surprises them both by marrying again and bringing home not only a new husband but also a spoiled, exasperating stepsister.
- Bascomb, Neal. ***The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi***. Arthur Levine, 2013. Recounts how, sixteen years after the end of World War II, a team of undercover Israeli agents captured the Nazi war criminal, Adolf Eichmann, in a remote area of Argentina and brought him to trial in Israel for crimes committed during the Holocaust.
- Bauer, Joan. ***Almost Home***. Viking, 2012. When twelve-year-old Sugar's grandfather dies and her gambling father takes off, yet again, Sugar and her mother lose their home in Missouri. They head to Chicago for a fresh start, only to discover that fresh starts are not so easy to come by for the homeless.
- Benway, Robin. ***Also Known As***. Walker Books, 2013. As the active-duty daughter of international spies, sixteen-year-old safecracker Maggie Silver never attended high school. So when she and her parents are sent to New York for her first solo assignment, Maggie is introduced to cliques, school lunches, and maybe even a boyfriend. *Series*

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- Black, Holly. ***Doll Bones***. McElderry Books, 2013. Three middle school friends, who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl, but nothing goes according to plan. As their adventure turns into an epic journey, creepy things begin to happen.
- Bondoux, Anne-Laure. ***A Time of Miracles***. Translated from the French by Y. Maudet. Delacorte, 2010. In the early 1990s, a boy with a mysterious past and the woman who cares for him endure a five-year journey across the war-torn Caucasus and Europe, weathering hardships and welcoming unforgettable encounters with other refugees searching for a better life. *Batchelder Award Winner 2011*
- Bow, Erin. ***Sorrow's Knot***. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2013. Otter is a girl of the Shadowed People, and she is born to be a binder, a woman whose power it is to tie the knots that bind the dead - the only thing that keeps the living safe; but something is terribly wrong in their tribe. Can Otter find a way to save her people?
- Britt, Fanny. ***Jane, the Fox & Me***. Translated from the French by Christine Morelli and Susan Ouriou. Groundwood Books, 2013. H el ene seeks solace in the pages of ***Jane Eyre*** while the girls who were once her friends ostracize her; but when she is humiliated on a class trip in front of her entire grade, she needs more than a fictional character to allow her to see herself as a person deserving of laughter and friendship.
- Brown, Don. ***Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. The tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage -- and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. *Graphic novel*.
- Bullard, Lisa. ***Turn Left at the Cow***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Travis runs away from his home in California to his grandmother's home in rural Minnesota to find out about his father whom he never knew, and finds himself enmeshed in a mystery about his father, as well as trying to deal with the kids next door.
- Carriger, Gail. ***Etiquette & Espionage***. Little, Brown, 2013. In an alternate England of 1851, spirited fourteen-year-old Sophronia is enrolled in a finishing school where she is surprised to learn that lessons include not only the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette, but also diversion, deceit, and espionage. *Series*
- Catmull, Katherine. ***Summer and Bird***. Dutton, 2012. In the world of Down, young sisters Summer and Bird are separated and go in very different directions as they seek their missing parents, try to vanquish the evil Puppeteer, lead the talking birds back to their Green Home, and discover the identity of the true bird queen.
- Choldenko, Gennifer. ***No Passengers Beyond This Point***. Dial Books, 2011. With their house in foreclosure, sisters India and Mouse and their brother Finn are sent to stay with an uncle in Colorado until their mother can join them. However, when the plane lands, the children are welcomed by cheering crowds to a strange place where each of them has a perfect house and a clock that is ticking down the time.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- Constable, Cathryn. ***The Wolf Princess***. Scholastic, 2013. Sophie Smith is an orphan stuck in a boarding school in London, but at night she dreams of Russia and wolves – then, on a class trip to Saint Petersburg, she finds herself and her two friends deliberately separated from the group and whisked off into the silver forest of her dreams, where a mystery awaits.
- Crossan, Sarah. ***The Weight of Water***. Bloomsbury, 2013. Told in verse, this story is about twelve-year-old Kasienka who immigrates to England from Poland with her mother in search of Kasienka’s father. Sadly, everyone is not friendly except for one neighbor and a cute boy she meets at the swimming pool, which is her only refuge from bullies and an unfamiliar society.
- Dashner, James. ***The Eye of Minds***. Delacorte, 2013. Kaine, a cyberterrorist, has been holding players hostage in the VirtNet, a total mind/body virtual reality immersion. Michael and his friends, skilled gamers, are hired to go off the grid to track him down. *Series*
- Davies, Stephen. ***Outlaw: A Novel***. Clarion, 2011. The children of Britain's ambassador to Burkina Faso, fifteen-year-old Jake, who loves technology and adventure, and thirteen-year-old Kas, a budding social activist, are abducted and spend time in the Sahara desert with Yakuuba Sor, who some call a terrorist but others consider a modern-day Robin Hood.
- Deuker, Carl. ***Swagger***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Jonas’ future looks bright with a college basketball scholarship within reach, but a team member is dead and Jonas knows who is responsible. Should he keep his head down or confront the killer and put his future in jeopardy?
- Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir. ***The Hound of the Baskervilles***. First published 1902. Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a mysterious death and a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.
- Elliott, Kate. ***Court of Fives***. Little, Brown, 2015. When a scheming lord tears Jess's family apart, she must rely on her unlikely friendship with Kal, a high-ranking Patron boy, and her skill at Fives, an intricate, multi-level athletic competition that offers a chance for glory, to protect her Commoner mother and mixed-race sisters and save her father's reputation. *Series*
- Eulberg, Elizabeth. ***Take a Bow***. Scholastic, 2012. The Senior Showcase recital at a performing arts high school in New York is approaching: Sophie is grateful for the support of her friends and boyfriend; Emme and Ethan wonder whether they could be more than friends and band-mates; and Carter does not know how to admit that he would rather be a painter than a performer.
- Falkner, Brian. ***The Assault***. Random House, 2012. In the year 2030, six teens have been modified to look like the aliens who are battling for control of Earth. Their mission: to go behind enemy lines to uncover and destroy a shocking, secret alien project. *Series*
- Fantaskey, Beth. ***Buzz Kill***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Seventeen-year-old Millie joins forces with her classmate, gorgeous but mysterious Chase Colton, to try to uncover who murdered head football coach "Hollerin' Hank" Killdare . . . and why.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- Fforde, Jasper. ***The Last Dragonslayer***. Harcourt, 2012. Jennifer Strange runs an agency for underemployed magicians in a world where magic is fading away, but when visions of the death of the world's last dragon begin, all signs point to Jennifer--and Big Magic. *Series*
- Fleming, Candace. ***The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, & the Fall of Imperial Russia***. Schwartz & Wade, 2014. This book recounts the true story of the Romanovs, as both an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and as a compelling account of the family's and Czarist Russia's fall. Contains many photos and first person accounts.
- Freedman, Russell. ***Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty***. Holiday House, 2013. This introduction to the life of young Benjamin Franklin describes how, as a rebellious teen in 1732, he ran away from his family and a Boston apprenticeship to Philadelphia, and how throughout subsequent decades he rose to become a distinguished statesman, renowned author, and world-famous scientist.
- Frost, Mark. ***The Paladin Prophecy***. Random House, 2012. Will West is careful to live life under the radar, but now he finds himself in the middle of a millennia-old struggle between titanic forces, as he is recruited by an exclusive prep school and followed by sinister agents. *Series*
- Gansworth, Eric L. ***If I Ever Get Out of Here***. Arthur A. Levine, 2013. Seventh-grader Lewis "Shoe" Blake from the Tuscarora Reservation has a new friend, George Haddonfield from the local Air Force base, but in 1975 upstate New York there is tension between Native Americans and Whites, and in spite of their friendship, Lewis hides many facts about his life. *Native American Youth Literature Award 2014*
- Gewirtz, Adina. ***Zebra Forest***. Candlewick, 2013. Eleven-year-old Annie and her younger brother are being raised by their Gran and are surrounded by family secrets, but everything changes when an escaped criminal shows up at their house and takes them all hostage. There is an interesting thematic connection to the classic ***Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stevenson, which the children read throughout the story.
- Gier, Kerstin. ***Ruby Red***. Translated from the German by Anthea Bell. Holt, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Gwyneth Shepherd unexpectedly travels through time to the eighteenth century where she discovers a mystery about her real birth date and finds to her dismay that she must work with Gideon -- another time traveler who hates her! *Series*
- Gleason, Colleen. ***The Clockwork Scarab***. Chronicle Books, 2013. In 1889 London, Evaline Stoker, sister of vampire hunter Bram Stoker, and Mina Holmes, niece of Sherlock Holmes, are summoned to investigate the disappearance of young society women using only an Egyptian scarab as a clue. Murder, time travel, and rivalries abound. *Series*
- Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. ***Moving Target***. Scholastic, 2015. An attempt on thirteen-year-old Cassie Arroyo's life results in her father's hospitalization, but not before he warns her that she is the target of a secret organization known as the Hastati, protectors of the mystical Spear of Destiny.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- Grimes, Nikki. ***Planet Middle School***. Bloomsbury, 2011. A series of poems describes all the baffling changes at home and at school in twelve-year-old Joylin's transition from tomboy basketball player to not-quite-girly girl.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Game Changer***. Simon & Schuster, 2012. While playing in the championship softball game, star pitcher KT Sutton blacks out and awakes to a changed world where the roles of academics and sports at her middle school have flipped, making talented athletes, such as KT, outcasts and brainy nerds popular.
- Hale, Nathan. ***One Dead Spy: The Life, Times, and Last Words of Nathan Hale, America's Most Famous Spy***. Amulet Books, 2012. After being swallowed by a giant history book moments before his own execution, Nathan Hale is given the chance to tell his own story as well as many other stories from American History.
- Halpern, Jake. ***Nightfall***. Putnam's, 2015. On a distant island where day and night exist on fourteen-year cycles, and the islanders migrate south each sunset, three children get left behind and must find a way off the island before the Night finds them.
- Harrington, Kim. ***The Dead and Buried***. Point, 2012. High School senior Jade is horrified to learn her father and stepmother have bought the house of a girl who was mysteriously killed just the year before they moved to town. She is even more horrified to realize the house is being haunted by the dead girl's very mean-spirited ghost.
- Hartman, Rachel. ***Seraphina***. Random House, 2012. Seraphina is half dragon and half human and, if people knew, would be considered an abomination. She lives a life in the shadows until her musical talent, a mysterious death, and her attraction to a handsome prince bring her life to a crisis. Morris Award for Best YA Debut Novel
- Hoose, Phillip M. ***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015. Deeply ashamed of Denmark's failure to resist the Nazi regime, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis themselves.
- Kelly, Erin Entrada. ***Blackbird Fly***. Greenwillow, 2015. Bullied at school, eighth-grader Apple, a Filipino American who loves the music of the Beatles, decides to change her life by learning how to play the guitar.
- Kibuishi, Kazu, ed. ***Explorer: Mystery Boxes***. Amulet Books, 2012. Seven popular authors contribute wildly different graphic stories revolving around the mysterious contents of a box.
- Kincaid, S.J. ***Insignia***. Katherine Tegen, 2012. Tom, a fourteen-year-old genius at virtual reality games, is recruited by the United States Military to begin training at the Pentagon Spire as a Combatant in World War III, controlling the mechanized drones that do the actual fighting off-planet. *Series*

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- LaFleur, Suzanne M. ***Listening for Lucca***. Wendy Lamb, 2013. When her younger brother, Lucca, stopped talking, Siena's family moved to Maine in hopes of a fresh start. Their home on the beach, however, has ghostly secrets of its own that connect Siena with a boy and girl who lived there during World War II.
- Landy, Derek. ***Skulduggery Pleasant***. HarperCollins, 2007. When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones. *Series*
- Leavitt, Lindsey. ***Going Vintage***. Bloomsbury, 2013. When sixteen-year-old Mallory learns that her boyfriend, Jeremy, is cheating on her with his cyber "wife," she rebels against technology and starts following her grandmother's list of goals from 1962, with help from her younger sister, Ginnie.
- Maguire, Gregory. ***Egg & Spoon***. Candlewick, 2014. Impoverished Russian peasant Elena Rudina and the aristocratic Ekaterina meet and set in motion an escapade that includes mistaken identity, a monk locked in a tower, a prince traveling incognito, and the witch Baba Yaga.
- McMann, Lisa. ***The Unwanteds***. Aladdin, 2011. In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated -- one to attend University while the other, supposedly Eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic. *Series*
- McNeal, Tom. ***Far Far Away***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. When Jeremy Johnson Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate, Ginger Boultinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown. National Book Award Finalist 2013
- Meloy, Maile. ***The Apothecary***. Putnam's, 2011. During the early days of the Red Scare, Janie and her family must leave their home in Los Angeles and move to London. There, she encounters a fascinating boy named Benjamin Burrows who wants to become a spy. When Benjamin discovers his father has some secrets of his own, Janie and Benjamin begin a race against the Russians to prevent a global disaster. *Series*
- Meyer, Marissa. ***Cinder***. Feiwel and Friends, 2012. Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing. When Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle. *Series*
- Monaghan, Annabel. ***A Girl Named Digit***. Houghton Mifflin, 2012. After identifying a terrorist plot by cracking their codes, Digit, a brilliant girl from Santa Monica, California, gets involved with the young FBI agent who is trying to ensure her safety. *Series*

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- Mone, Gregory. ***The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics***. Viking, 2015. Adapted for young readers from Daniel Brown's book, this is the remarkable story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeat elite rivals first from eastern and British universities before challenging the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936.
- Mull, Brandon. ***A World Without Heroes***. Aladdin, 2011. Fourteen-year-old Jason Walker is transported to a strange world called Lyrian, where he joins Rachel and a few rebels to piece together the Word that can destroy the malicious wizard emperor. *Series*
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. ***Dairy Queen***. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.
- Nelson, Marilyn. ***How I Discovered Poetry***. Dial Books, 2014. Looking back on her childhood in the 1950s, the author tells the story of her development as an artist and young woman through fifty eye-opening poems that also offer a larger view of the world around her: racial tensions, the Cold War era, and the first stirrings of the feminist movement.
- Nix, Garth. ***Sabriel***. Eos, first published 1995. Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead. *Series*
- Oliver, Mary. ***Dog Songs: Thirty-five Dog Songs and One Essay***. Penguin, 2013. A collection of poems and one essay about dogs and their relationships with their owners.
- Oppel, Kenneth. ***The Nest***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. Steve is an anxious boy who is visited in his dreams by wasps who say they want to save his sickly baby brother but can only do it with his help. But do they really, is he actually dreaming and can he really help?
- Ottaviani, Jim. ***Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas***. First Second, 2013. In graphic novel format, this nonfiction book explores the lives and work of scientists Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas, who lived with and studied chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans, respectively, in their natural habitats, creating between them a body of work that has greatly improved our understanding of primates, including humans.
- Patchin, Justin W. and Sameer Hinduja. ***Words Wound: Delete Cyberbullying and Make Kindness Go Viral***. Free Spirit Publishing, 2014. Two expert researchers on bullying prevention speak directly to teens about how they can end cyberbullying. The book provides numerous peer anecdotes and strategies teens can use to help create kinder schools and communities.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- Peterfreund, Diana. ***For Darkness Shows the Stars***. Balzer + Bray, 2013. In the dystopian future, a genetic experiment has devastated humanity and a new class system has emerged under the absolute control of the Luddites. Elliot is a dutiful Luddite but longs for her first love Cai, even knowing her love for him betrays everything she has been raised to believe is right.
- Pratchett, Terry. ***Dodger***. HarperCollins, 2012. In an alternative version of Victorian London, seventeen-year-old Dodger, a cunning and cheeky street urchin, unexpectedly rises in life when he saves a mysterious girl, meets Charles Dickens, and unintentionally puts a stop to the murders of Sweeny Todd. Printz Honor Award 2013
- Preus, Margi. ***West of the Moon***. Amulet Books, 2014. Norwegian folktale and myth are woven into the story of Astri, a young girl whose evil aunt sells her to a goat herder. Astri plots to make a daring escape, rescue her younger sister and embark on a quest to find their father.
- Priest, Cherie. ***I Am Princess X***. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2015. Years after writing stories about a superheroine character she created with a best friend who died in a tragic car accident, sixteen-year-old May is shocked to see stickers, patches, and graffiti images of the superheroine appearing around Seattle.
- Raffin, Michele. ***The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic and the Endangered***. Algonquin, 2014. Pandemonium, the home and bird sanctuary that Raffin shares with some of the world's most remarkable birds, is a conservation organization dedicated to saving and breeding birds at the edge of extinction, with the goal of eventually releasing them into the wild. Their stories teach us volumes about the interrelationships of humans and animals.
- Rice, Condoleezza. ***Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Family and Me***. Delacorte, 2011. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice shares stories of growing up in a black middle class family during the racially turbulent 1950s and 1960s.
- Riggs, Ransom. ***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children***. Quirk Books, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Jacob, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and, after some investigating, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined but may also still be alive. Haunting vintage photographs are dispersed throughout the book, giving the story a hint of creepiness. *Series*
- Ritter, William. ***Jackaby***. Algonquin, 2014. Abigail Rook has a gift for noticing ordinary but important details, making her perfect for the position of assistant to R. F. Jackaby, investigator of the unexplained. Abigail finds herself in the midst of a thrilling case: a serial killer is on the loose. The police are convinced it's an ordinary villain, but Jackaby is certain the foul deeds are the work of the kind of creature whose very existence the local authorities seem adamant to deny. *Series*
- Romero, Jordan. ***No Summit Out of Sight: the True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits***. Simon & Schuster, 2014. The true story of Jordan Romero, who at the age of thirteen became the youngest person ever to reach the summit of Mount Everest. At age fifteen, he reached the summits of the world's seven highest mountains.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- 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 his fifteen-year-old sister Alicia, along with new friend Roland, face off against an evil magician who is striving to complete a bargain made before he died.
- Rusch, Elizabeth. ***The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity***. Houghton Mifflin, 2012. The story of the two robot vehicles, Spirit and Opportunity, that were sent to explore Mars, lasting far past their projected lives of three months and sending back invaluable images of the environmentally hostile planet.
- Sands, Kevin. ***The Blackthorn Key***. Aladdin, 2015. In 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, and his best friend Tom try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, pranks, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart.
- Schmatz, Pat. ***Bluefish***. Candlewick, 2011. Longing for the country and his missing dog Roscoe, Travis tries to survive in a new school while living with his alcoholic grandfather and burdened by a painful secret. Hope comes in the form of a teacher and a new friend named Velveeta.
- Schmidt, Gary D. ***Okay for Now***. Clarion, 2011. Fourteen-year-old Doug has just moved to a new town. A new town means another chance to start over. Will everyone assume he is like his thug of an older brother? Will everyone assume he is like his corrupt, abusive father? All Doug wants is to be treated fairly and, thanks to a couple of new friends, Doug may just find out what it is like to be “okay for now.”
- Scott, Traer. ***Nocturne: Creatures of the Night***. Princeton Architectural, 2014. Provides amazing photographs and an introduction to nocturnal animals, offering information on the habits and habitations of each animal, including sugar gliders, tarantulas, cougars, raccoons, beavers, hedgehogs, and more.
- Sedgwick, Marcus. ***She Is Not Invisible***. Roaring Brook, 2014. When her father disappears, a blind London teenager kidnaps her younger brother -- her eyes to the world -- and embarks on a quest to find her father and solve the mystery of his disappearance.
- Sepetys, Ruta. ***Between Shades of Gray***. Philomel, 2011. On a calm, beautiful night in 1941 Lithuania, fifteen-year-old Lina’s life is torn apart as she and her family are forced from their home and sent to work in labor camps along the harsh Arctic Circle as part of Stalin’s forced relocation program.
- Sheinkin, Steve. ***The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights***. Roaring Brook, 2014. Presents an account of the 1944 Civil Rights protest involving hundreds of African-American Navy servicemen who were unjustly charged with mutiny for refusing to work in unsafe conditions after the deadly Port Chicago explosion, which killed 320 servicemen.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- Stead, Rebecca. **Goodbye, Stranger.** Wendy Lamb, 2015. As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvaceous Em, crusader Tab, and a curious new friend - or more than friend - Sherm, she finds the answer she has been seeking since she barely survived an accident at age eight: "What is my purpose?"
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. **Treasure Island.** First published 1883. A classic pirate story reproduced in movies and TV shows more than any other, *Treasure Island* tells the tale of the quest for treasure by Jim Hawkins and pirate Long John Silver. The book also introduced the now infamous pirate song "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest--Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"
- Strohmeier, Sarah. **Smart Girls Get What They Want.** Balzer + Bray, 2012. Who says smart girls can't have fun? Three brainiac high school best friends decide to branch out - with mixed results.
- Stroud, Jonathan. **The Screaming Staircase.** Disney-Hyperion, 2013. All across London, ghosts, ghouls, and other otherworldly apparitions are appearing with malevolent intent. Only children can see and deal with them, so three capable young operatives form a Psychic Detection Agency to battle this frightening epidemic. *Series*
- Supplee, Suzanne. **Somebody Everybody Listens To.** Dutton, 2010. When Retta Lee Jones graduates from high school and leaves her small town in search of a big break in Nashville, she encounters warmth and kindness along with cruelty and violence.
- Thompson, Holly. **Orchards.** Ember, 2011. Sent to Japan for the summer after an eighth-grade classmate's suicide, half-Japanese, half-Jewish Kana Goldberg tries to fit in with relatives she barely knows and reflects on the guilt she feels over the tragedy back home.
- Thomson, Jamie. **Dark Lord, the Early Years.** Walker, 2012. Evil Dark Lord tries to recover his dignity, his power, and his lands when an arch-foe transports him to a small town and into the body of a thirteen-year-old boy. *Series*
- 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*
- Wagenen, Maya Van. **Popular: A Memoir: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek.** Dutton, 2014. Stuck at the bottom of the social ladder at "pretty much the lowest level of people at school who aren't paid to be here," Maya Van Wagenen decided to begin a unique social experiment: spend her eighth grade year following a 1950s popularity guide written by a former teen model. She documents her experience in this memoir.
- Walker, Sally M. **Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man and the Paleoamerican World.** Carolrhoda Books, 2012. This book explores the discovery and controversy surrounding the identification of the Kennewick Man, a nine thousand year old skeleton whose remains were found in a riverbed in Washington State in 1996.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016
Grade 7 and 8

- Watson, Jude. **Loot: How to Steal a Fortune.** Scholastic, 2014. When Alfie McQuinn, the notorious jewel thief, is killed on a job, his last words to his son, March, are to "find jewels" and this instruction leads the boy to Jules, the twin sister he never knew he had - and the perfect partner to carry on the family business.
- Wright, Barbara. **Crow.** Random House, 2012. Moses Thomas's summer vacation in 1898 North Carolina does not go as planned, and while he deals with family problems and fickle friends, he feels the mounting tension between the African American and white communities.
- Zettel, Sarah. **Palace of Spies: Being a True, Accurate, and Complete Account of the Scandalous and Wholly Remarkable Adventures of Margaret Preston Fitzroy, Counterfeit Lady, Accused Thief, and Confidential Agent at the Court of His Majesty, King George I.** Harcourt, 2013. In 1716 London, an orphaned sixteen-year-old girl from a good family impersonates a lady-in-waiting only to discover that the real girl was murdered, the court harbors a nest of spies, and the handsome young artist who is helping her solve the mystery might be a spy himself. *Series*
- Zinn, Bridget. **Poison.** Hyperion, 2013. Kyra is a potions master, so when she tries to save the kingdom by killing her best friend, the princess, she becomes a fugitive pursued by the king's army and her ex-boyfriend Hal.
-

Compiled by:

Diana Armentor (Chair), *Awty International School*
Christina Bell, *The Kinkaid School*
Wayne Cherry, Jr., *First Baptist Academy*
Missy Edgmon, *Cornerstone Christian Academy*
Dorcas Hand, *Annunciation Orthodox School*
Sally Hilliard, *River Oaks Baptist School*
Laura Leib, *Duchesne Academy*
Stephanie Penttila, *The John Cooper School*

Copyright ©2016 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 9 and Grade 10

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Ahdieh, Renee. ***The Wrath and the Dawn***. Putnam's, 2015. In this reimagining of the "Arabian Nights," Shahrzad plans to avenge the death of her dearest friend by volunteering to marry the murderous boy-king of Khorasan but discovers not all is as it seems within the palace. *Series*
- Archer, Jennifer. ***Through Her Eyes***. HarperTeen, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Tansy is used to moving every time her mother starts writing a new book. However, in the small Texas town where her grandfather grew up, she is lured into the world of a troubled young man whose death sixty years earlier is shrouded in mystery.
- Aveyard, Victoria. ***Red Queen***. HarperTeen, 2015. In a world divided by blood--those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities--seventeen-year-old Mare, a Red, discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. But Mare risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard --a growing Red rebellion--even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. *Series*
- Auburn, David. ***Proof: A Play***. Faber and Faber, 2001. This play explores the unknowability of love and the mysteries of mathematics. Pulitzer Prize, Drama 2001
- Barber, Nathan. ***Resurrecting Lazarus, Texas***. CreateSpace, 2012. When Coach Gabe Lewis accepts a job as girls' basketball coach at Lazarus High School, he cannot anticipate the struggles he will face both on and off the court or the personal investment he will end up making when his team needs him to be more than their coach. A tragedy occurs that rocks not only the team, but also the entire town. The girls might be the spark that can bring life back to Lazarus.
- Bardugo, Leigh. ***Shadow and Bone***. Holt, 2012. Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkov is taken from obscurity and away from her only friend, Mal, to become the protégé of the mysterious Darkling, who trains her to join the magical elite in the belief that she can destroy the monsters of the Fold. *Series*
- Blake, Kendare. ***Anna Dressed in Blood***. Tor Books, 2011. Cas Lowood, armed with his late father's mysterious athame, sets out to kill a ghost known as Anna Dressed in Blood, but what he believes will be a routine task turns deadly when he discovers Anna is unlike any ghost he has ever encountered before. *Series*
- Bracken, Alexandra. ***The Darkest Minds***. Hyperion, 2012. Sixteen-year-old Ruby breaks out of a government-run rehabilitation camp for teens who acquired dangerous powers after surviving a virus that wiped out most American children. *Series*
- Brown, Jennifer. ***Torn Away***. Little, Brown, 2014. As Jersey copes with her tornado tragedies, the deaths of both mom and sister, as well as the loss of her home, she is further challenged when she is forced to live with her long estranged father.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Card, Orson Scott. ***Ender's Game***. Tor Books, 1985. A very young Ender Wiggin might be the human race's last chance to defeat a deadly alien invasion. *Series*
- Carleson, J. C. ***The Tyrant's Daughter***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Exiled to the United States after her father, a Middle Eastern dictator, is killed in a coup, fifteen-year-old Laila must cope with a completely new way of life, the truth of her father's regime, and her mother's and brother's ways of adjusting.
- Coelho, Paulo. ***The Alchemist***. Translated from the Portuguese by Alan R. Clarke. HarperCollins, 1993. In this uplifting fable, Santiago takes a journey to find his personal legend and live the life he is meant to live, meeting friends along the way who provide him with the wisdom he needs to fulfill his dreams.
- Cornwell, Betsy. ***Mechanica***. Clarion, 2015. A retelling of Cinderella about an indomitable inventor-mechanic who finds her prince but realizes she doesn't want a fairy tale happy ending after all.
- Crandall, Susan. ***Whistling Past the Graveyard: A Novel***. Gallery Books, 2013. Determined to get to Nashville to find her mother in 1963, nine-year-old spitfire Starla Claudelle runs away from her strict grandmother's Mississippi home, eventually accepting a ride from Eula, a black woman traveling alone with a white baby.
- Crewe, Megan. ***The Way We Fall***. Hyperion, 2012. Sixteen-year-old Kaelyn challenges her fears, finds a second chance at love, and fights to keep her family and friends safe as a deadly new virus devastates her island community. *Series*
- Crutcher, Chris. ***Period .8***. Greenwillow, 2013. At lunchtime, Mr. Logs opens his classroom for students to unburden themselves, speak honestly, and figure things out. When regular attendee Mary Wells disappears, the Period 8 group must sort out the good guys from the bad.
- Dessen, Sara. ***Saint Anything***. Viking, 2015. Her brother and his problems have pushed Sydney to the back seat in her family. A random stop at a local pizzeria introduces her to an amazing journey which includes finding friends, family, love, and herself.
- Gagnon, Michelle. ***Don't Turn Around***. Harper, 2012. After waking up on an operating table with no memory of how she got there, Noa must team up with computer hacker Peter to stop a corrupt corporation with a deadly secret. *Series*
- Gaiman, Neil. ***The Ocean at the End of the Lane: A Novel***. William Morrow, 2013. A man returns to his childhood home and relives the harrowing summer when a girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her family save him from the darkness and evil that were unleashed by a suicide that occurred near the pond at the end of their street.
- Galloway, Steven. ***The Cellist of Sarajevo***. Riverhead Books, 2008. The lives of four people -- a baker, a young father, a sniper, and a cellist who commits to playing Albinoni's "Adagio" once a day for twenty-two days in memory of his neighbors who were killed -- are chronicled as they try to adjust to their new daily routines in war-torn Sarajevo.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Gardner, Sally. ***Maggot Moon***. Candlewick, 2012. Friendship and trust inspire Standish to rise up against an oppressive regime and expose the truth about a planned moon landing.
- Gautreaux, Tim. ***Welding With Children***. Picador, 2009. Set in the hot days and nights of Louisiana, these eleven short fiction stories will make you laugh, cry, and marvel as ordinary people try to survive what life throws at them, whether it be memory loss, a crazed bull, or a thief with a big blade and bad intentions.
- Green, John, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle. ***Let It Snow! Three Holiday Romances***. Speak, 2008. In three intertwining short stories, several high school couples experience the trials and tribulations along with the joys of romance during a Christmas Eve snowstorm in a small town.
- Green, Sally. ***Half Bad***. Viking, 2014. In modern-day England where witches live alongside humans, Nathan, son of a White Witch and the most powerful Black Witch, must escape captivity before his seventeenth birthday to receive the gifts that will determine his future. *Series*
- Hemingway, Ernest. ***A Farewell to Arms***. First published 1929. A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.
- Herbert, Frank. ***Dune***. First published 1965. The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained. *Series*
- Howe, Katherine. ***Conversion***. Putnam's, 2014. When girls at Colleen's high school start experiencing strange tics and other mysterious symptoms, the small town of Danvers, Massachusetts, falls victim to rumors that lead to full-blown panic. Only Colleen connects their fate to Salem Village where three centuries earlier another group of girls suffered a similarly bizarre epidemic.
- Jennings, Ken. ***Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks***. Scribner, 2011. Jennings, former software engineer turned multimillionaire *Jeopardy* game show winner, used his lifelong obsession with geography to pen this book about geography with topics ranging from historical maps to current geographical trends such as Google Earth and geocaching.
- Johnson, Maureen. ***The Name of the Star***. Putnam's, 2011. An American girl, Rory, enrolls in a London boarding school for her senior year of high school and encounters a suspenseful ghost mystery closely tied to the Jack the Ripper murders of old. *Series*
- Klavan, Andrew. ***If We Survive***. Thomas Nelson, 2012. When revolutionaries seize control of a country in Central America where sixteen-year-old Will is serving as a missionary, he and the other volunteers find themselves in a desperate race to escape the violence and return home.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Konigsberg, Bill. ***Openly Straight***. Arthur A. Levine, 2013. Rafe plays soccer, wins skiing prizes, likes to write, and hates tofu. In his junior year of high school, Rafe, tired of being known as “that gay guy,” transfers across the country to an all-boys’ boarding school and decides to be “openly straight.” His scheme is wildly successful but gets complicated when he falls in love with one of his new friends.
- Kontis, Alethea. ***Enchanted***. Harcourt, 2012. When Sunday Woodcutter, the youngest of seven sisters, each named for a day of the week, kisses an enchanted frog, he transforms into Rumbold, the crown prince of Arilland - and a man Sunday's family despises. *Series*
- Kooser, Ted. ***Delights & Shadows: Poems***. Copper Canyon Press, 2004. This collection of poems by former Poet Laureate of the United States describes the habits and struggles of daily life.
- Laybourne, Emmy. ***Monument 14***. Feiwel and Friends, 2012. A strange weather phenomenon drives students into a superstore where fourteen kids take refuge while the world outside gets torn apart from a series of escalating disasters. *Series*
- Li, Cunxin. ***Mao's Last Dancer***. Penguin Press, 2003. The autobiography of Houston Ballet soloist Li Cunxin details his rise from poverty in Communist China to dance stardom and a defection that caused an international incident.
- Lockhart, E. ***We Were Liars***. Delacorte, 2013. Spending summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.
- Luttrell, Marcus. ***Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10***. Little, Brown, 2007. American Navy SEAL and team leader Marcus Luttrell tells his story of the loss of his teammates in July 2005 along the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border to al-Qaida insurgents.
- Maberry, Jonathan. ***Rot & Ruin***. Simon & Schuster, 2010. In a post-apocalyptic world in which zombies have overtaken civilization, fences and border patrols guard the few remaining people. Fifteen-year-old Benny Imura becomes convinced that he must follow in his older brother's footsteps and become a bounty hunter. *Series*
- Mathieu, Jennifer. ***Devoted***. Roaring Brook, 2015. Rachel Walker loves her family and is devoted to God, but when she begins to question both her reclusive and sheltered life and her relationship with God, she must decide if she will stay or flee, leaving her family and community behind.
- McStay, Moriah. ***Everything That Makes You***. Katherine Tegen, 2015. In alternating voices, Fiona "Fi" Doyle experiences her teen years in two ways, with and without a disfiguring accident that occurred at age six, dealing with its effects on her brother and parents, her friendships, her dating life, her involvement in sports and hobbies, her future plans, and especially her self-image.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Miodownik, Mark. ***Stuff Matters: Exploring the Marvelous Materials that Shape Our Man-made World.*** Mariner, 2014. Explores objects as ordinary as an envelope and as unexpected as concrete cloth, uncovering the fascinating secrets that hold together our physical world.
- Moore, Meredith. ***I am Her Revenge.*** Razorbill, 2015. Obedient Vivian arrives at boarding school to attract fellow student, Ben, to toy with him, run away with him, and break his heart on her mother's orders. Ben is the son of a man who, long ago, jilted her teenage mother. Revenge is the motive but the instrument – Vivian – may not be the efficient hammer Mother envisions.
- Oliver, Mary. ***Swan: Poems and Prose Poems.*** Beacon Press, 2010. Mary Oliver's adoration and awe of nature shines through in this slim collection of beautiful poetry evocative of the beauty, brutality, and mysteries found in the natural world.
- Patrick, Cat. ***Forgotten.*** Little, Brown, 2011. Each night at precisely 4:33 am, while sixteen-year-old London Lane is asleep, her memory of that day is erased. She relies on reminder notes and a trusted friend to get through the day, but things get complicated when a new boy at school enters the picture.
- Perkins, Mitali, ed. ***Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices.*** Candlewick, 2013. Using a mix of diverse styles and perspectives, ten authors of non-Caucasian background share their personal views on the ways race and discrimination affect children and teenagers.
- Raasch, Sara. ***Snow Like Ashes.*** Balzar + Bray, 2014. Sixteen years ago the Kingdom of Winter was attacked by King Angra from the Kingdom of Spring. Most of the Winterians were killed or enslaved. Meira and a group of Winterians journey to find the magical conduit that will restore their Kingdom, not realizing that she is the key to their future. *Series*
- Rowell, Rainbow. ***Eleanor & Park.*** St. Martin's Griffin, 2013. Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits -- smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. Michael L. Printz Honor Book 2014
- Saeed, Aisha. ***Written in the Stars.*** Nancy Paulsen, 2015. Naila's vacation to visit relatives in Pakistan turns into a nightmare when she discovers her parents want to force her to marry a man she's never met.
- Sales, Leila. ***This Song Will Save Your Life: A Novel.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. Nearly a year after a failed suicide attempt, sixteen-year-old Elise discovers that she has the passion and talent to be a disc jockey. This is a novel about identity, friendship, and the power of music to bring people together.
- Salinger, J. D. ***The Catcher in the Rye.*** First published 1951. Holden Caulfield is an alienated, disillusioned youth who drops out of school and spends three days and nights in New York City on a quest for self-discovery.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Sheinkin, Steve. ***Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon***. Roaring Brook, 2012. Scientists and spies are central characters in this engaging and informative book describing the process of creating the first atomic weapons. *National Book Award Finalist 2013, Sibert Medal 2013*.
- Shusterman, Neal. ***Bruiser***. HarperTeen, 2010. Bruiser was the guy nobody knew – or wanted to know. Then Brontë includes him in her group of friends and unusual things start to happen.
- Sowa, Marzena. ***Marzi: A Memoir*** translated from the French by Anjali Singh. DC Comics, 2011. This memoir, structured as a series of vignettes that build on one another, is a coming-of-age story that portrays the harsh realities of life behind the Iron Curtain while maintaining the everyday wonders and curiosity of childhood.
- Steinbeck, John. ***Cannery Row***. First published 1945. The antics of Steinbeck's down-at-heel misfit characters bring mirth and sensitivity to a rollicking good read.
- Stevenson, Noelle. ***Nimona***. HarperTeen, 2015. Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. As sidekick and supervillain, Nimona and Lord Blackheart are about to wreak some serious havoc.
- Stiefvater, Maggie. ***The Raven Boys***. Scholastic, 2012. Though she is from a family of clairvoyants, Blue Sargent's only gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger. When she meets Gansey, one of the Raven Boys from the expensive Aglionby Academy, she discovers that he has talents of his own and that together their talents are a dangerous mix. *Series*
- Suma, Nova Ren. ***The Walls Around Us***. Algonquin, 2015. Orianna and Violet are ballet dancers and best friends, but when the ballerinas who have been harassing Violet are murdered, Orianna is accused of the crime and sent to a juvenile detention center where she meets Amber and they experience supernatural events linking the girls together.
- Tahir, Sabaa. ***An Ember in the Ashes***. Razorbill, 2015. Laia is a Scholar living under the iron-fisted rule of the Martial Empire. When her brother is arrested for treason, Laia goes undercover as a slave at the empire's greatest military academy in exchange for assistance from rebel Scholars who claim that they will help to save her brother from execution. *Series*
- Thompson, Holly. ***The Language Inside***. Delacorte, 2013. Emma's mother contracts cancer and the American international high school sophomore moves from Japan to Massachusetts with her family for necessary medical treatment. This novel-inverse touches on feelings of homesickness, but ends in hope as Emma develops new friendships and finds her way in her home country.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Tittle, Y. A. with Kristine Setting Clark. ***Nothing Comes Easy***. Triumph Books, 2009. Experience the early hard-hitting, blood-spilling days of the NFL *before* fancy helmets and a lot of protective padding were used. This autobiography of Yelberton Abraham Tittle, who grew up during the Depression in Marshall, Texas, is a history of the NFL and includes game records and statistics.
- Vonnegut, Kurt. ***Slaughterhouse-Five, or, The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance with Death***. First published 1969. After surviving the bombing of Dresden in World War II, Billy Pilgrim returns to civilian life and has a successful career until he is kidnapped by aliens and displayed in a zoo on the planet of Tralfamadore.
- Wallach, Tommy. ***We All Looked Up***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. The lives of four high school seniors intersect weeks before a meteor is set to pass through Earth's orbit, with a 66.6% chance of striking and destroying all life on the planet.
- Wein, Elizabeth. ***Code Name Verity***. Hyperion, 2012. In World War II, Maddie, a British transport pilot, attempts to deliver her best friend and Resistance spy, Julie (Code Name Verity), into Nazi-occupied France, but the plane crashes. Love, courage, bravado, and intrigue drive the story to its stunning conclusion.
- Wilder, Thornton. ***Our Town: A Play in Three Acts***. First published 1938. With the well-earned reputation of an American classic, this play brings themes of growing up, love, marriage, and death to the stage and portrays the dignity of the human spirit through life in Grover's Corner.
- Wilson, Daniel H. ***Robopocalypse***. Doubleday, 2011. An artificial intelligence program has taken over the world, uniting all the computer programs residing in everything from dolls and toys to domestic service robots, airplanes, and military weapons. Its aim is to destroy all human life . . . and the robots are winning. Alex Award 2012. *Series*
- Yancey, Rick. ***The 5th Wave***. Putnam's, 2013. Cassie Sullivan, the survivor of an alien invasion, must rescue her young brother from the enemy with help from a boy who may be one of them. *Series*
- Zuckoff, Mitchell. ***Frozen in Time: An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of World War II***. Harper, 2013. One search-and-rescue team is caught in a storm and crashes into the Greenland ice cap, leaving its members struggling to stay alive in the extreme, bitterly cold conditions. A second search-and-rescue team flies into a storm and vanishes. Parallel stories alternate between the crashed teams and a 2012 storyline of an expedition trying to solve the mystery of the vanished plane.
-

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2016

Grade 9 and Grade 10

Compiled by:

Julia Beddingfield (Chair), *Second Baptist School*

Diana Armentor, *Awty International School*

Elizabeth Dronet, *St. John XXIII College Preparatory*

Pam Hill, *John Cooper School*

Krystal Irvén, *Episcopal High School*

Dorian Myers, *The Kinkaid School*

Peg Patrick, *St. John's School*

Jean Pfluger, *Duchesne Academy*

Joanie South-Shelley, *St. Thomas High School*

Hannah Bailey, *Houston Christian High School*

Jennifer Succi, *Episcopal High School*

Suzanne Webb, *St. John's School*

Susi West, *St. Pius X High School*

Copyright ©2016 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network