



Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network



## **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, 2011*

**HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten**

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Alexander, Cecil Frances. ***All Things Bright and Beautiful***. Atheneum, 2010. The words of the well-known hymn reflect God's creation of animals, flowers, mountains, sun, rivers, humans, and the ability to enjoy all that he made.
- Andrews, Julie, and Emma Walton Hamilton. ***The Very Fairy Princess***. Little, Brown, 2010. Despite her scabby knees and dirty fingernails, Geraldine knows that she is a princess inside and shows it through her behavior at home and in school.
- Baker, Keith. ***LMNO Peas***. Beach Lane Books, 2010. Busy little peas introduce their favorite occupations, from astronaut to zoologist.
- Barton, Chris. ***Shark vs. Train***. Little, Brown, 2010. A shark and a train compete in a series of contests on a seesaw, in hot air balloons, bowling, shooting baskets, playing hide-and-seek, and more.
- Beard, Alex. ***The Jungle Grapevine***. Abrams Books, 2009. When Turtle makes an off-hand remark to Bird at the watering hole one day, Bird's misunderstanding starts rumors that stir up the other animals.
- Berne, Jennifer. ***Calvin Can't Fly: The Story of a Bookworm Birdie***. Sterling, 2010. A young starling chooses to read books when his cousins are learning to fly, and the knowledge he acquires comes in handy when a hurricane threatens the flock's migration.
- Berry, Lynne. ***Ducking for Apples***. Holt, 2010. Five little ducks ride bicycles and gather apples to make a sweet treat.
- Birdsall, Jeanne. ***Flora's Very Windy Day***. Clarion, 2010. When a big wind blows her annoying little brother away, Flora decides to save him despite the many tempting offers she gets for him from, among others, a cloud, an eagle, the man in the moon, and the wind itself.
- Blackwood, Freya. ***Ivy Loves to Give***. Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Ivy loves to give presents, and although they are not always appropriate, they are always given with enthusiasm and generosity.
- Bloom, Suzanne. ***What about Bear?*** Boyds Mills, 2010. When Fox joins Goose and Bear for playtime, one of them is left out and someone must figure out how all three of them can play together.
- 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.
- Braun, Sebastien. ***Back to Bed, Ed!*** Peachtree, 2009. Ed the mouse will not sleep in his own bed, but eventually his exasperated and tired parents find a way to keep him from joining them in the middle of the night.



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten**

- Brown, Peter. ***Children Make Terrible Pets***. Little, Brown, 2010. When Lucy, a young bear, discovers a boy lost in the woods, she asks her mother if she can have him as a pet, only to find him impossible to train.
- Brun-Cosme, Nadine. ***Big Wolf & Little Wolf***. Enchanted Lion Books, 2009. Alone but happy, Big Wolf gets a new perspective on life when Little Wolf arrives.
- Carroll, James Christopher. ***The Boy and the Moon***. Sleeping Bear Press, 2010. A boy and his animal friends go out at night to play, but when Moon gets stuck in a tree, the boy undertakes a daring rescue.
- Casanova, Mary. ***Some Dog!*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. A stray dog moves into George's formerly peaceful home, dazzling the man and woman of the house with lively tricks and antics that just leave George exhausted.
- Clements, Andrew. ***The Handiest Things in the World***. Atheneum, 2010. The many things that hands can do are celebrated in verse, accompanied by photographs.
- Cotten, Cynthia. ***At the Edge of the Woods: A Counting Book***. Holt, 2002. A variety of animals, birds, and insects enjoy the flowers and trees of the forest early one morning.
- Covert, Ralph. ***Me and My Animal Friends***. Holt, 2009. Ralph ventures across land and sea looking at everything from elephants to ants, promising that he will be very good and take care of them if only he can have them as pets. Lyrics with guitar chords are included.
- Craig, Lindsey. ***Dancing Feet!*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. Easy-to-read, rhyming text depicts different animals having fun dancing.
- Cronin, Doreen. ***Rescue Bunnies***. Balzer + Bray, 2010. Newbie struggles to pass her field test to become a full-fledged Rescue Bunny.
- Dodd, Emma. ***I Love Bugs!*** Holiday House, 2010. Easy-to-read text celebrates the many kinds of bugs that can be found in a backyard.
- Donaldson, Julia. ***What the Ladybug Heard***. Holt, 2009. Although much quieter than the farm animals that moo, cluck, or oink, a gentle ladybug is instrumental in foiling a plan to steal the farm's prize-winning cow.
- Elliott, David. ***In the Wild***. Candlewick, 2010. This woodcut-illustrated collection of poems celebrates wild animals.
- Emberley, Ed. ***Go Away, Big Green Monster!*** Little, Brown, 1992. Die-cut pages through which bits of a monster are revealed are designed to help a child control nighttime fears of monsters.



HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011  
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Ernst, Lisa Campbell. ***The Turn-around, Upside-down Alphabet Book***. Simon & Schuster, 2004. In this alphabet book each letter becomes three different objects when the book is turned in different directions, as when A becomes a bird's beak, a drippy ice cream cone, and the point of a star.
- Everitt, Betsy. ***Mean Soup***. Harcourt, 1992. Horace feels really mean at the end of a bad day until he helps his mother make Mean Soup.
- Feiffer, Kate. ***But I Wanted a Baby Brother!*** Simon & Schuster, 2010. Oliver Keaton wants a baby brother more than anything, but when he gets a sister instead he sets out with his dog Chaplin to trade her for the perfect baby brother.
- Fischer, Scott M. ***Jump!*** Simon & Schuster, 2010. From bugs and frogs to alligators and whales, frightened animals always move out of the way of a larger opponent.
- Fleming, Candace. ***Seven Hungry Babies***. Atheneum, 2010. A mother bird frantically tries to keep her seven baby birds fed.
- Fleming, Denise. ***The Cow Who Clucked***. Holt, 2006. When a cow loses her moo, she searches to see if another animal in the barn has it.
- Fox, Lee. ***Ella Kazoo Will Not Brush Her Hair***. Walker, 2007. A little girl refuses to brush her hair until it becomes so unruly that it takes over everything.
- Fraser, Mary Ann. ***Pet Shop Lullaby***. Boyds Mills, 2009. When the pet store closes for the night, a hamster's activities keep the other animals awake as they try to think of some way to put him to sleep.
- French, Jackie. ***Diary of a Baby Wombat***. Clarion, 2010. Through a week of diary entries, a wombat describes his life of sleeping, playing, and helping his mother look for a bigger hole in which to make their home.
- Garcia, Emma. ***Tap Tap Bang Bang***. Boxer Books, 2010. Colorful illustrations and brief text show a variety of tools and what they can do.
- Gravett, Emily. ***Dogs***. Simon & Schuster, 2010. A surprising narrator reveals the characteristics and attributes of dogs he loves, including dogs that are big or small, striped or spotted, and good or bad.
- Hall, Michael. ***My Heart Is Like a Zoo***. Greenwillow, 2010. Rhyming text describes how love can be many different things, such as eager as a beaver, steady as a yak, or silly as a seal.
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***Cupcake: A Journey to Special***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Cupcake, feeling drab because he is only vanilla, and his friend, Candle, come up with a plan to make themselves stand out in the crowd.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011  
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Henkes, Kevin. ***My Garden***. Greenwillow, 2010. After helping her mother weed, water, and chase the rabbits from their garden, a young girl imagines her dream garden complete with jellybean bushes, chocolate rabbits, and tomatoes the size of beach balls.
- Houblon, Marie. ***A World of Colors: Seeing Colors in a New Way***. National Geographic, 2009. Simple text and photographs explore the relationship between colors and objects with images from around the world, encouraging children to find both expected and surprising colored objects, such as green leaves and pink fish.
- Howe, James. ***Brontorina***. Candlewick, 2010. Despite her size and not having the proper footwear, a determined dinosaur pursues her dream of becoming a ballerina.
- Hutchins, Pat. ***The Doorbell Rang***. Greenwillow, 1986. Each time the doorbell rings, there are more people who have come to share Ma's wonderful cookies.
- Isadora, Rachel. ***Say Hello!*** Putnam's, 2010. A little girl greets people in her neighborhood in many different languages.
- Karas, G. Brian. ***The Village Garage***. Holt, 2010. Throughout the seasons the workers at the Village Garage are busy taking care of the town and its residents.
- Kerby, Johanna. ***Little Pink Pup***. Putnam's, 2010. Pink, a piglet who is the runt of the litter, is adopted by Tink, a dachshund who is nursing a litter of her own, and Pink is raised in the house along with the puppies.
- Ketteman, Helen. ***Goodnight, Little Monster***. Marshall Cavendish, 2010. Rhyming text describes a mother guiding her young monster through bedtime preparations, such as howling at the moon, snacking on worm juice and beetle bread, and choosing a bedtime story.
- Khan, Rukhsana. ***Big Red Lollipop***. Viking, 2010. Having to take her younger sister along the first time she is invited to a birthday party spoils Rubina's fun, and later when that sister is asked to a party and baby sister wants to come, Rubina must decide whether to help.
- LaRochelle, David. ***1+1=5: And Other Unlikely Additions***. Sterling, 2010. Colorful illustrations and unusual calculations encourage children to think about numbers in a creative way.
- 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.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011  
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Lloyd, Sam. **Mr. Pusskins and Little Whiskers: Another Love Story.** Atheneum, 2007. When Emily brings home a little kitten to be best friends with Mr. Pusskins, the older cat does not appreciate the gesture.
- London, Jonathan. **A Plane Goes Ka-zoom.** Holt, 2010. Easy-to-read, rhyming text describes the sounds of, and uses for, different kinds of airplanes.
- Love, Maryann Cusimano. **You Are My Wish.** Philomel, 2010. Illustrations and rhyming text describe how a grandparent and child complement each other.
- Lyon, George Ella. **Trucks Roll!** Atheneum, 2007. Illustrations and simple, rhyming text reveal many different -- and sometimes silly -- items that trucks can haul.
- Macken, JoAnn Early. **Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move.** Holiday House, 2008. Illustrations and simple text introduce children to how seeds travel from place to place and propagate new plants.
- Martin, Bill, Jr. and John Archambault. **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom.** Simon & Schuster, 1989. This alphabet rhyme/chant relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree.
- Mayo, Margaret. **Dig Dig Digging.** Holt, 2001. Simple rhymes introduce various large vehicles, such as dump trucks, fire engines, and tractors, and describe the work that they do.
- McCarty, Peter. **Fabian Escapes.** Holt, 2007. While Hondo the dog stays home and enjoys his usual pursuits, Fabian the cat escapes out the window and has many adventures.
- McKee, David. **Elmer's Special Day.** Andersen Press, 2009. Once a year on Elmer's Day, all the elephants decorate themselves and have a parade, and this year Elmer comes up with a plan to include the other animals as well as the elephants.
- McNaughton, Colin. **Not Last Night But the Night Before.** Candlewick, 2009. A child's quiet night is transformed into a rowdy party as different fairy tale creatures come knocking.
- Meadows, Michelle. **Hibernation Station.** Simon & Schuster, 2010. Rhyming text and pictures introduce the reader to a variety of animals as they try to snuggle in to sleep.
- Melling, David. **Hugless Douglas.** Tiger Tales, 2010. Poor Douglas, a young bear, goes from place to place looking for someone to give him a hug.
- Meyers, Susan. **Bear in the Air.** Abrams Books, 2010. A teddy bear begins an adventurous journey home after being lost by the child who loves him.
- Miller, Heather. **Subway Ride.** Charlesbridge, 2009. Five children are shown as they ride subways in ten cities throughout the world.



**H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten**

- Milton, Giles. ***Call Me Gorgeous!*** Boxer Books, 2009. Young readers are encouraged to identify the mysterious creature in the illustrations.
- Mora, Pat. ***Gracias = Thanks.*** Lee & Low, 2009. With English and Spanish text, a young multiracial boy celebrates family, friendship, and fun by telling about some of the everyday things for which he is thankful.
- Munro, Roxie. ***Go! Go! GO! With More Than 70 Flaps to Uncover & Discover.*** Sterling, 2009. Colorful illustrations with flaps to lift depict people in action, from flying in a hot air balloon to exploring the sea.
- Na, Il Sung. ***The Thingamabob.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. An elephant finds a "thingamabob" and experiments until he discovers its real purpose.
- Nevius, Carol. ***Baseball Hour.*** Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Using rhyming, rhythmic text and photorealistic artwork, a typical baseball practice is described in which the girls and boys in a multicultural group demonstrate teamwork.
- Numeroff, Laura Joffe. ***If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.*** Harper & Row, 1985. A young boy, having given a cookie to a bossy mouse, is run ragged by the energetic rodent's subsequent requests.
- Oppel, Kenneth. ***The King's Taster.*** HarperCollins, 2009. The royal chef takes Max the dog, who is the royal taster, on several international journeys to find a dish for the land's pickiest king.
- Pelé. ***For the Love of Soccer!*** Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Pelé, the three-time World Cup soccer champion, shares his enthusiastic love of the sport and his rise to fame.
- Perry, Andrea. ***The Bicklebys' Birdbath.*** Atheneum, 2010. This cumulative rhyme, in the style of "The House That Jack Built," describes the antics that occur when a girl with a long leaky hose squirts a flock of curious crows.
- Prelutsky, Jack. ***Me I Am!*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. This illustrated poem celebrates the individuality of three very different children, with a concluding scene that shows a gaggle of other ME I AMs.
- Rathmann, Peggy. ***Officer Buckle and Gloria.*** Putnam's, 1995. The children at Napville Elementary School always ignore Officer Buckle's safety tips until a police dog named Gloria accompanies him when he gives his safety speeches.
- Reidy, Jean. ***Too Pickley!*** Bloomsbury, 2010. A child rejects a number of foods before settling on one that is just right.
- Rex, Michael. ***My Race Car.*** Holt, 2000. This simple presentation of a race car shows how it is used and serviced during a race.
- Rickards, Lynne. ***Jacob O'Reilly Wants a Pet.*** Barron's, 2010. Jacob, desperately wanting a pet, takes his parents' advice to start a pet-sitting business and realizes what type of animal is perfect for him to keep.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten**

- Ritz, Karen. ***Windows with Birds***. Boyds Mills, 2010. A cat adjusts to its new home in an apartment, high above the ground, after living in a house.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***Bedtime for Mommy***. Bloomsbury, 2010. In a reversal of the classic bedtime story, a child helps her mommy get ready for bed, enduring pleas for one more book, five more minutes of play time, and a glass of water before the lights go out.
- Saltzberg, Barney. ***Beautiful OOPS!*** Workman, 2010. The many ways that torn, crinkled, and smudged bits of paper can be transformed into various shapes and images are demonstrated.
- Schaefer, Lola. ***Just One Bite: 11 Animals and Their Bites at Life Size!*** Chronicle Books, 2010. The diets of eleven creatures are examined, focusing on the amount of food each one consumes in a single bite, and covering the sand-grain-sized bite of dirt eaten by an earthworm to the giant squid swallowed by a sperm whale.
- Schertle, Alice. ***Little Blue Truck Leads the Way***. Harcourt, 2009. A country truck feels out of place in the speedy, noisy city until he comes to the rescue during a giant traffic jam.
- Schoenherr, Ian. ***Don't Spill the Beans!*** Greenwillow, 2010. A little bear just cannot keep a secret and shares it with all his friends.
- Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. ***What If?*** Roaring Brook, 2010. The concept of sharing is explored using three different scenarios of what could happen after a boy throws a beach ball into the ocean.
- Shapiro, Zachary. ***We're All in the Same Boat***. Putnam's, 2009. After being on the ark for months and months, the ants get antsy, the bees bored, and the llamas livid, and Noah must find a way to make everyone get along.
- Siddals, Mary McKenna. ***Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth***. Tricycle Press, 2010. This rhyming recipe explains how to make the dark, crumbly, rich, earth-friendly food called compost.
- Spinelli, Jerry. ***I Can Be Anything!*** Little, Brown, 2010. A little boy ponders the many possible jobs in his future, from paper-plane folder and puppy-dog holder to mixing-bowl licker and tin-can kicker.
- Staines, Bill. ***All God's Critters***. Simon & Schuster, 2009. How all the animals in the world make their own music in their own way is celebrated, some singing low, some singing higher.
- Stein, David Ezra. ***Pouch!*** Putnam's, 2009. A baby kangaroo takes his first tentative hops outside of his mama's pouch, meeting other creatures and growing bolder each time.



**H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten**

- Swinburne, Stephen R. ***Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job.*** Boyds Mills, 2010. Different occupations are explored through simple text and colorful photographs of shoes and the people who wear them.
- Teague, Mark. ***Funny Farm.*** Orchard Books, 2009. Cousin Edward visits Aunt Judy and Uncle Earl on their farm and tries to help with all the chores.
- Ufer, David A. ***The Giraffe Who Was Afraid of Heights.*** Sylvan Dell, 2006. A young giraffe's fear of heights prevents him from having fun until two new animal friends with their own fears help the giraffe become less afraid.
- Underwood, Deborah. ***The Quiet Book.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. From the quiet of being the first one awake in the morning to "sweet dreams quiet" when the last light is turned off, simple text and clever illustrations help the reader explore the many kinds of quiet that can exist during the day.
- Urbanovic, Jackie. ***Sitting Duck.*** Harper, 2010. Max the duck volunteers to babysit for puppy Anabel, unaware of all the mischief a puppy can get into.
- Van Camp, Katie. ***Harry and Horsie.*** Balzer & Bray, 2009. Harry has an out-of-this-world adventure when he goes in search of his favorite stuffed animal, Horsie, after it is carried away by a bubble.
- Voake, Steve. ***Insect Detective.*** Candlewick, 2010. This illustrated story tells the reader where to look for different insects, including wasps, ants, bees, beetles, and others, and provides facts about each six-legged creature.
- Wheeler, Lisa. ***Dino-baseball.*** Carolrhoda Books, 2010. Meat-eating dinosaurs face plant-eating dinosaurs in a baseball game.
- Willems, Mo. ***City Dog, Country Frog.*** Hyperion, 2010. When City Dog comes to the country he meets Country Frog for the first time, and every season afterward the two have a fun time playing together.
- Willis, Jeanne. ***Cottonball Colin.*** Eerdmans Books, 2008. Afraid that her smallest child, Colin, will be hurt if he goes outside or plays, a mother mouse insists that he sit quietly indoors until his grandmother suggests wrapping him in cotton wool, which proves to be effective but in a most unexpected way.
- Wilson, Karma. ***Don't Be Afraid, Little Pip.*** McElderry Books, 2009. Afraid to swim, Pip the penguin would much rather learn to fly.
- Wood, Audrey. ***Silly Sally.*** Harcourt, 1992. With humorous illustrations and rhyming text, this is the story of Silly Sally who makes many friends as she travels to town -- backward and upside down.



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten**

---

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*

Gayle Modrall, *Presbyterian School*

Leila Parrish, *St. Mark's Episcopal School*

Christine Roberts, *Grace School*

Copyright ©2011 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- 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 how to keep the earth green when a student's remote controlled car goes missing! Was it stolen? It is up to Cam and her amazing photographic memory to find it. *Series*
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Never Race a Runaway Pumpkin***. HarperCollins, 2009. Roscoe is determined to guess the weight of a giant pumpkin in order to win books for his school library and candy for himself, but he is overwhelmed by superstitions, especially about a certain black kitten. *Series*
- Archer, Peggy. ***Name That Dog! Puppy Poems from A to Z***. Dial Books, 2010. A collection of humorously illustrated poems about dogs, their names and their unique personalities.
- Arnold, Tedd. ***The Twin Princes***. Dial Books, 2007. Twin chicken princes take part in a contest to determine which one will inherit the throne.
- 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*
- Beard, Alex. ***The Jungle Grapevine***. Abrams Books, 2009. Reminiscent of *Chicken Little*, this cleverly illustrated book demonstrates how rumors get started and quickly get out of hand.
- Becker, Bonny. ***A Visitor for Bear***. Candlewick, 2008. Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse.
- Bishop, Nic. ***Nic Bishop Spiders***. Scholastic, 2007. Includes foldout pages, photographs, and text providing basic information about various kinds of spiders.
- Blume, Judy. ***The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo***. Yearling, 1981. Second-grader Freddy hates being the middle one in the family until he gets a part in the school play.
- 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.
- Brett, Jan. ***Hedgie Blasts Off!*** Putnam's, 2006. When the spectacular, sparkling explosions at a popular tourist site slow down, Hedgie the hedgehog is the only one capable of flying to tiny planet Mikkop to see what is wrong.
- Browne, Anthony. ***Little Beauty***. Candlewick, 2008. This beautifully illustrated, simple story describes a gorilla with the ability to communicate in sign language who asks for a new friend and is not disappointed.
- Burleigh, Robert. ***One Giant Leap***. Philomel, 2009. An illustrated retelling of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's lunar landing in 1969.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Byars, Betsy. ***Boo's Dinosaur***. Holt, 2006. When young Boo is followed home by a dinosaur that only she can see, it causes a bit of trouble for her older brother, Sammy.
- Chaconas, Dori. ***Cork & Fuzz: Finders Keepers***. Viking, 2009. Although Cork the muskrat is short and likes to find things and Fuzz the possum is tall and likes to keep things, the pair remain best friends even after Fuzz finds Cork's lost stone and decides to keep it. *Series*
- Cocca-Leffler, Maryann. ***Princess K.I.M. and the Lie That Grew***. Whitman, 2009. In an attempt to impress her new classmates, Kim lies about her name and claims that she comes from a royal family, but she gets herself into real trouble after her classmates beg to meet Kim's grandmother--the Queen.
- Collins, Ross. ***Dear Vampa***. Katherine Tegen, 2009. A young vampire writes a letter to his grandfather bemoaning his new neighbors.
- 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.
- 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.
- De Paola, Tomie. ***26 Fairmount Avenue***. Putnam's, 1999. Children's author and illustrator Tomie De Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy. Newbery Honor 2000. *Series*
- Deans, Karen. ***Playing to Win: The Story of Althea Gibson***. Holiday House, 2007. An illustrated biography of the life and achievements of African American tennis player Althea Gibson.
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig***. Candlewick, 2008. Two sisters move in next door to where Mercy the pig lives and, frustrated when Mercy continues to eat their flowers, they decide to call for the help of an Animal Control Officer, Francine Poulet, to handle the case. *Series*
- 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.
- 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.
- Florian, Douglas. ***Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars***. Harcourt, 2007. A collection of twenty whimsical poems about comets, the stars, moon, and the planets.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### 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.
- Geras, Adele. ***Little Ballet Star***. Dial Books, 2007. Every little girl dreams of becoming a ballet star and Tilly is no exception. In this story, Tilly visits her Aunt Gina behind-the-scenes of a real ballet. It is Tilly's birthday, and she unexpectedly finds herself performing in front of a live audience.
- Gibbons, Gail. ***The Vegetables We Eat***. Holiday House, 2007. A clear, informative introduction to eight groups of vegetables, categorized by the part of the plant that is eaten.
- Grogan, John. ***Bad Dog, Marley!*** HarperCollins, 2007. Marley, a rambunctious puppy, causes lots of trouble in his new home and feels very sad about it. He then proves beyond a doubt that he is a valuable member of the household.
- 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*
- 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*
- Hoberman, Mary Ann. ***You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together***. Little, Brown, 2004. This title presents short retellings of familiar fairy tales, each told in two voices and designed especially for young children and adults to read together. *Series*
- Hort, Lenny. ***Did Dinosaurs Eat Pizza? Mysteries Science Hasn't Solved***. Holt, 2006. While much is known about dinosaur anatomy, behavior, and habitat, the author points out the many mysteries that remain to be answered about these extinct creatures.
- 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*
- Jeffers, Susan. ***My Chincoteague Pony***. Hyperion, 2008. Julie, having worked year-round to save money to buy her first Chincoteague pony, realizes she does not have enough; but when Pony Penning Day arrives, strangers help her make her purchase.
- Kaczman, James. ***Lucky Monkey, Unlucky Monkey***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. While Ed the monkey has the most wonderful day imaginable, Ted the monkey faces everything from bad weather to being chased by wild animals and an angry troll.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Katz, Alan. ***Are You Quite Polite? Silly Dilly Manners Songs.*** McElderry Books, 2006. Presenting humorous lyrics to such familiar children's songs as "Pop Goes the Weasel," "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," and "Hey Diddle Diddle," Katz presents examples of behavior both good and bad.
- 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.
- Kennedy, Edward M. ***My Senator and Me: A Dog's-Eye View of Washington, D.C.*** Scholastic, 2006. Illustrated by David Small and narrated by Splash, the Portuguese water dog, this is a clear and concise introduction to the American political process.
- 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.
- Kimmel, Eric A. ***Stormy's Hat: Just Right for a Railroad Man.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. As Stormy, a railroad engineer, searches for the perfect hat--one that will not blow off, get too hot, or shade his eyes too much--his wife, Ida, becomes increasingly annoyed that he will not let her help. Includes a historical note about the real Stormy and Ida Kromer.
- Krebs, Laurie. ***Off We Go To Mexico! An Adventure in the Sun.*** Barefoot Books, 2006. Colorful text with an introduction to Spanish words describes a family's trip to Mexico where they swim in turquoise seas, admire grey whales and monarch butterflies, hike to native villages, and sing and dance to the music of Mariachi bands.
- Krensky, Stephen. ***Milo the Really Big Bunny.*** Simon & Schuster, 2006. A misfit bunny finds out that the characteristic that makes him different helps the Easter Bunny save the day.
- Labatt, Mary. ***Sam Gets Lost.*** Kids Can Press, 2004. Sam's fun trip downtown turns scary after he hops out of the car and gets lost in the city. *Series*
- LaMarche, Jim. ***Lost and Found: Three Dog Stories.*** Chronicle Books, 2009. A compilation of three short stories that indeed prove there is a powerful connection between dogs and children.
- 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.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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*
- Lechner, Jack. ***Mary Had a Little Lamp***. Bloomsbury, 2008. Mary takes her "bendy" gooseneck lamp wherever she goes, much to the dismay of her parents and classmates; but after leaving it at home during summer camp, Mary finds that she has outgrown her need for her odd companion.
- Leedy, Loreen. ***Missing Math: A Number Mystery***. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. A numerical mystery ensues when the numbers all over town suddenly disappear, bringing a halt to everyday activities.
- 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 at the Ballgame***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Two teams of bats enjoy a nighttime game of baseball. Cheering the home team are the bat fans enjoying the snacks of "mothdogs" and the like.
- Lin, Grace. ***Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!*** Little, Brown, 2010. Ling and Ting are identical twins who people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different.
- 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*
- 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*
- McDermott, Gerald. ***Jabuti the Tortoise: A Trickster Tale from the Amazon***. Harcourt, 2001. All the birds enjoy the song-like flute music of Jabuti, the tortoise, except Vulture who, jealous because he cannot sing, tricks Jabuti into riding on his back toward a festival planned by the King of Heaven.
- McDonald, Megan. ***Daisy Jane, Best-Ever Flower-Girl!*** Random House, 2007. Daisy Jane, who is thrilled to be the flower girl at her babysitter's wedding, helps save the day when a storm threatens the festivities.
- McDonald, Megan. ***Stink and the Great Guinea Pig Express***. Candlewick, 2008. Stink Moody, his friends Webster and Sophie, and Mrs. Birdwistle visit tourist attractions in Virginia as they try to give away one hundred and one guinea pigs rescued from a laboratory, although Stink is very reluctant to relinquish his favorite, Astro. *Series*



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- McElligott, Matthew. ***The Lion's Share***. Walker, 2009. Ant is honored to receive an invitation to lion's annual dinner party, but she is shocked when the other guests behave rudely and then accuse her of thinking only of herself.
- McKissack, Patricia and Onawumi Jean Moss. ***Precious and the Boo Hag***. Atheneum, 2005. Home alone with a stomach ache while the family works in the fields, a young girl faces up to the horrifying Boo Hag that her brother warned her about.
- 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.
- Negron, Ray. ***The Greatest Story Never Told: The Babe and Jackie***. HarperCollins, 2008. Two young boys who are sick in the hospital decide they do not want to be roommates because of their differences; but when they travel back in time and meet Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson, they change their minds.
- Nevius, Carol. ***Baseball Hour***. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. All baseball players will enjoy the rhythmic rhyming of this story and photo-like illustrations of children practicing baseball in an effort to build a winning team and, ultimately, a circle of friends.
- Numeroff, Laura and Nate Evans. ***The Jellybeans and the Big Camp Kickoff***. Abrams Books, 2011. When four friends with different talents and abilities go to summer camp together, they use their strengths to make camp fun for all. *Series*
- Ó Flatharta, Antoine. ***Hurry and the Monarch***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. On her way from Canada, a monarch butterfly lands on Hurry the tortoise in Wichita Falls, Texas. Through their friendship, Hurry witnesses the life cycle of a monarch. This story has strong Texas connections and the illustrations depict the beauty of the monarch and Texas springtime.
- Parish, Herman. ***Amelia Bedelia's First Day of School***. Greenwillow, 2009. Amelia Bedelia, a literal-minded first-grader, finds her first day of school filled with confusing adventures--much to her delight. *Series*
- Recorvits, Helen. ***Yoon and the Jade Bracelet***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. Although she really would have liked a jump rope for her birthday, Yoon is happy to receive a Korean picture book and a jade bracelet passed down from her grandmother; and when she wears the bracelet to school it seems as if her wish for a jump rope and a friend is about to come true.
- 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.
- Rylant, Cynthia. ***Annie and Snowball and the Dress-Up Birthday***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Annie and her bunny Snowball invite Henry and Mudge to a dress-up party. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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*
- Sauer, Tammi. **Chicken Dance.** Sterling, 2009. Marge and Lola set out to get tickets to the Elvis Poultry concert by winning a farmyard talent contest. What transpires is hilarious!
- Sayre, April Pulley. **Army Ant Parade.** Holt, 2002. The animals in the forest prepare for the army ants to swarm over the ground in a thick stream, searching for food.
- Schachner, Judy. **Skippyjon Jones Lost in Spice.** Dutton, 2009. Skippyjon Jones, the Siamese cat that thinks he is a Chihuahua dog, has an adventure on Mars. *Series*
- Schulman, Janet. **Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. Recounts the true story of Pale Male, a red-tailed hawk living in New York City, who has become one of the city's most-watched celebrities as bird watchers, tourists, and residents admire the bird and his nest which is built on a Fifth Avenue apartment building.
- Scieszka, Jon. **Robot Zot!** Simon & Schuster, 2009. Big and bright robots advance and defeat their way through a wonderful yet familiar place.
- Scotton, Rob. **Splat the Cat.** HarperCollins, 2008. Splat the Cat is nervous about his first day at cat school, but once he arrives he realizes he had nothing to worry about.
- Shannon, David. **Too Many Toys.** Blue Sky Press, 2008. After he finally concedes that he has far too many toys, Spencer agrees to give many of them away; but he realizes that there is one special toy that he absolutely cannot part with.
- 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*
- 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*
- 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 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



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Talbott, Hudson. ***United Tweets of America***. Putnam's, 2008. A collection of detailed illustrations of state birds from all fifty United States.
- Tavares, Matt. ***Mudball***. Candlewick, 2005. During a rainy Minneapolis Millers baseball game in 1903, Little Andy Oyler has the chance to become a hero by hitting the shortest and muddiest home run in history.
- Thomas, Shelley Moore. ***A Cold Winter's Good Knight***. Dutton, 2008. The Good Knight must remind three little dragons to mind their manners when they arrive at the castle on the night of a fancy ball. *Series*
- 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*
- Willems, Mo. ***Edwina: The Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct***. Hyperion, 2006. Edwina the friendly neighborhood dinosaur, friend to children and grown-ups alike, finds a foe in young Reginald Von Hoobie-Doobie, who insists that she is extinct.
- 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.
- Yolen, Jane. ***Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry***. Candlewick, 2007. A collection of poems for children with the various themes of self, family, going outside, and bedtime.
- Yee, Wong Herbert. ***Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends***. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. When spring arrives, Mole and Mouse find that compromising and sharing is the way to bird watch with a good friend. *Series*
- Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner. ***Did Dinosaurs Have Feathers?*** HarperCollins, 2004. This book discusses the discovery and analysis of Archaeopteryx, a feathered dinosaur, which may have been an ancestor of modern birds.
- 

Compiled by:

Elizabeth Holloway (Chair), *Kinkaid School – Lower School*

Brenda McManus, *Second Baptist School*

Jeanine Carthey, *Cypress Christian School*

Marilyn Arlen, *Shlenker School*

Copyright ©2011 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network



## **HAISLN Recommended Reading List 2011**

Diana Armentor, Editor  
Judy Baldwin, Assistant Editor  
Laura Leib, Assistant Editor  
Laurie Mitchell, Assistant Editor  
B. R. Simon, Assistant Editor  
Melanie Wallace, Assistant Editor

Copyright ©2011 by Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

Reproduction rights to the *HAISLN 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:

HAISLN, c/o Awty International School  
7455 Awty School Lane  
Houston, TX 77055  
Attn: Diana Armentor ([darmentor@awty.org](mailto:darmentor@awty.org))

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Aldrin, Buzz. ***Look to the Stars***. Putnam's, 2009. Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin traces the history of air and space exploration from Isaac Newton to the International Space Station and Mars using personal insights and conversational text.
- Anderson, Matthew T. ***Handel, Who Knew What He Liked***. Candlewick, 2001. A man who would later compose some of the world's most beautiful music is shown as a stubborn little boy with a mind of his own.
- Barton, Chris. ***The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors***. Charlesbridge, 2009. Brothers Bob and Joe Switzer had different interests and ambitions but worked together on the dazzling creation of fluorescent colors.
- Beard, Darleen Bailey. ***Annie Glover is Not a Tree Lover***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Fourth grader Annie is torn between supporting her "tree hugging" grandmother who is trying to save a historic tree and her desire for the new community swimming pool which would mean cutting down the tree.
- Becker, Bonny. ***The Magical Ms. Plum***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Each of the students in Ms. Plum's third grade classroom receives a visit from a magical creature that comes out of her supply closet just for them.
- Bidner, Jenni. ***Is My Dog a Wolf?: How Your Pet Compares to its Wild Cousin***. Lark, 2006. Examines the differences and similarities between dogs and wolves with descriptions of how both have descended from the ancient wolf and how they have evolved into two diverse species.
- Bishop, Nic. ***Forest Explorer: A Life-Size Field Guide***. Scholastic, 2004. Enjoy up close views of the wildlife in a deciduous forest through breathtakingly beautiful photography and informative text.
- Brown, Don. ***A Wizard From the Start: The Incredible Boyhood and Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. This picture book shows that young Thomas Edison was a hard worker who was curious about everything, read a lot of books, studied diligently for years, and was passionate about inventing.
- Bruel, Nick. ***Happy Birthday Bad Kitty***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Bad Kitty's birthday party seems to be going well until her presents begin to disappear. Is one of the guests stealing them? *Series*
- Buckley, Carol. ***Tarra and Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends***. Putnam's, 2009. This book shares the true story of an elephant named Tarra who befriends a dog, Bella, at an elephant sanctuary.
- Cheshire, Simon. ***The Curse of the Ancient Mask: And Other Case Files***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Become a detective and see if you can solve each mystery from the clues Saxby gives as he works three cases in this fast-paced chapter book. *Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Cleary, Beverly. ***Ribsy***. First published 1964. When Ribsy gets lost from his family at the shopping center, he begins a series of humorous escapades and wanderings in his quest to find his family. *Series*
- Clements, Andrew. ***No Talking***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. The noisy fifth grade class of Laketon Elementary becomes suspiciously quiet when the boys challenge the girls to a “no talking” contest.
- Coombs, Kate. ***The Secret-Keeper***. Atheneum, 2006. Kalli is entrusted with everyone’s secrets until the potter’s son reveals the best secret of all.
- Corey, Shana. ***Mermaid Queen: The Spectacular True Story of Annette Kellerman, Who Swam Her Way to Fame, Fortune, & Swimsuit History!*** Scholastic, 2009. This brightly illustrated picture book biography of Annette Kellerman details how she overcame physical difficulties to become a world famous swimmer, water ballerina, and swimsuit innovator.
- Coville, Bruce. ***The Monster's Ring***. Harcourt, 2002. Russell Crannaker's magic ring enables him to turn into a monster on Halloween and ward off the class bully once and for all. *Series*
- Cowley, Joy. ***Snake and Lizard***. Kane/Miller, 2008. Snake and Lizard's friendship grows as they learn more about each other in this humorous chapter book of likable desert characters.
- Creech, Sharon. ***Hate That Cat***. Joanna Cotler, 2008. Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous works and how they relate to his life.
- Crisp, Marty. ***Titanicat***. Sleeping Bear Press, 2008. Every ship had a cat, and in this historical fiction picture book, the story of the Titanic's cat is told; but just where is the cat's luck during the Titanic's doomed voyage?
- Dahl, Roald. ***Matilda***. Viking, 1988. Matilda applies her mental powers to rid the school of the evil headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore Miss Honey, her nice teacher, to financial security.
- Davies, Nicola. ***Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures on Earth***. Candlewick, 2006. This amazing natural history book reveals how animals adapt to and survive the harshest of conditions that would kill any human.
- Demi. ***Marco Polo***. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Travel with the legendary explorer, Marco Polo, through colorful, exotic lands, experiencing the dangers and adapting to strange cultures over his 24-year, 3,000-mile journey through the Far East.
- Dennis, Brian. ***Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle***. Little, Brown, 2009. Heartwarming true tale of a United States Marine and his canine friend as they met and bonded in Iraq, and how Nubs came to America.
- Eilenberg, Max. ***Beauty and the Beast***. Candlewick, 2006. This beautifully illustrated version of the classic tale includes such interesting family members as Beauty’s two spoiled sisters and her proud, adoring father.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Franco, Betsy. ***A Curious Collection of Cats: Concrete Poems.*** Tricycle Press, 2009. Full of humor and colorful illustrations, this book of concrete poems about cats is a delight.
- Franco, Betsy. ***Messing Around on the Monkey Bars: And Other School Poems for Two Voices.*** Candlewick, 2009. Find a partner and enjoy reading poems about life at school from this entertaining collection of poetry for two voices.
- French, Jackie. ***How to Scratch a Wombat: Where to Find It ... What to Feed It ... Why It Sleeps All Day.*** Clarion, 2009. This book tells you all you need to know about caring for and living with wombats -- how to scratch their backs, how to sing to them, and how to keep the "hairy brown rocks with legs" from breaking your door down -- based on the author's thirty years of experience in her Australian home.
- Friedman, Laurie. ***Red, White & True Blue Mallory.*** Carolrhoda Books, 2009. On a class trip to Washington, D.C., Mallory keeps a journal in which she writes about sites she visits, her bothersome loose tooth, the lack of attention from her best friend, Mary Ann, and getting lost in a museum. *Series*
- Gardiner, John Reynolds. ***Stone Fox.*** First published 1980. Willy hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.
- Gibbons, Gail. ***Hurricanes!*** Holiday House, 2009. Informative text and drawings present an overview of how hurricanes are formed, their categories, the destruction they can cause, and how they are forecasted and tracked.
- Giovanni, Nikki. ***The Grasshopper's Song: An Aesop's Fable Revisited.*** Candlewick, 2008. It is the alleged "frivolous" grasshopper's day in court as he tries to prove his case against the industrious ants who did not share their food with him through the long, cold winter.
- Goldstone, Bruce. ***Great Estimations.*** Holt, 2006. This book will show you how to train your eyes and your mind to make really great estimations using photographs and easy-to-follow text.
- Greene, Stephanie. ***Happy Birthday, Sophie Hartley.*** Clarion, 2010. Sophie, who is looking forward to her tenth birthday, has many ups and downs growing up in a family with five kids.
- Grindley, Sally. ***Dear Max.*** McElderry Books, 2006. Written in letter format between a nine-year-old boy and a published author, this book deals sensitively with loss within a family, disease, and bullying.
- Gutman, Dan. ***Nightmare at the Book Fair.*** Simon and Schuster, 2008. Fifth-grader Trip Dinkleman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the head by a bookfair case and becomes a character in a series of different books including a horror story, an adventure, and a fantasy.
- Hamilton, Virginia. ***The Girl Who Spun Gold.*** Blue Sky Press, 2000. This beautifully illustrated folktale is a West Indian variant of the Rumpelstiltskin story.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Hansen, Rosanna. ***Caring for Cheetahs: My African Adventure.*** Boyds Mills, 2007. Pounce into this colorful photo-essay about protecting endangered cheetahs at a nature reserve owned by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa.
- Harley, Avis. ***African Acrostics: A Word in Edgeways.*** Candlewick, 2009. Entertaining acrostic poems about African animals provide readers information both about the animals as well as the various forms of acrostic poems.
- Harper, Charise Mericle. ***Just Grace Walks the Dog.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Grace hopes to prove to her parents that she can be dependable and responsible enough to have a real dog, not just the cardboard dog she has been pulling around. *Series*
- Helman, Andrea. ***Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts.*** Walker, 2008. This beautifully photographed book takes the reader to ecosystems around the world to show how animals camouflage themselves for protection in each unique habitat.
- Hicks, Betty. ***Track Attack.*** Roaring Brook, 2009. Superfast Jazz, a budding track star, is embarrassed by her overly enthusiastic father and his meddling at her track meets and practices.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***Piper Reed Gets a Job.*** Holt, 2009. Piper starts a party-planning business in order to earn enough money to buy a clubhouse for their Gypsy Club members, but she discovers the job is not nearly as easy as she had thought. *Series*
- Hopkins, Jackie Mims. ***The Gold Miner's Daughter: A Melodramatic Fairytale.*** Peachtree, 2006. In trying to pay her debt to mean ole Mr. Bigglebottom, Gracie Pearl meets many fairytale characters along the way who have had their own problems with the money hungry banker in this entertaining, melodramatic fairytale.
- Hopkins, Jackie Mims. ***Joe Bright and the Seven Genre Dudes.*** Upstart Books, 2010. Stella, the master storyteller of a storybook kingdom, is threatened by Joe Bright's ability to tell stories and sends him deep into the dark forest, where Joe meets the Seven Genre Dudes, brothers who care for various types of books at the local library.
- Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Keep On!: The Story of Matthew Henson, Co-Discoverer of the North Pole.*** Peachtree, 2009. Well-researched text and striking drawings portray the courage and determination of explorer Matthew Henson as he traveled with Admiral Peary to the North Pole in 1909.
- Hunt, Elizabeth Singer. ***The Escape of the Deadly Dinosaur: USA.*** Weinstein, 2007. Nine-year-old Jack Stalwart works for the GPF, the Global Protection Force, and travels to New York City in search of a genetically mutated flesh-eating dinosaur. *Series*



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Jenkins, Emily. ***Toy Dance Party: Being the Further Adventures of a Bossyboots Stingray, a Courageous Buffalo, and a Hopeful Round Someone Called Plastic.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2008. Buffalo, Stingray, and Plastic are worried when the Girl starts spending time with Barbie dolls and at sleepovers. Throughout their adventures in the house, they will learn if they can keep the Girl's love. *Series*
- Jenkins, Steve. ***Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Incredible cut paper illustrations highlight eighteen creatures whose weapons of teeth, claws, spines, and venom make them dangerous to humans, while the captivating text explains what you should never do if you encounter one of these animals.
- Judge, Lita. ***One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II.*** Hyperion, 2007. The author relates the story of her grandparents' efforts after World War II to send packages of food, clothing, and shoes to their friends in Germany and others in Europe who suffered from the after-effects of the war.
- Klimo, Kate. ***The Dragon in the Driveway.*** Random House, 2009. Cousins, Jesse and Daisy, along with their pet dragon, continue their battle against the evil scientist who has plans to destroy the forest in order to find the magical golden pickax that is buried there. *Series*
- Klise, Kate. ***Stand Straight, Ella Kate: The True Story of a Real Giant.*** Dial Books, 2010. The life of Ella Kate Ewing, an eight foot tall giant born in 1872, is presented in this illustrated fictionalized biography.
- Krosoczka, Jarrett. ***Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. In this graphic novel, the Lunch Lady and her sidekick, Betty, secretly fight forces of evil when they uncover a plot hatched by a villainous teacher to overrun the school with cyborg substitutes. *Series*
- Krull, Kathleen. ***The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. As a young boy in the early 1900's, Philo Farnsworth's curiosity about how things work eventually led him to develop the idea of how television could work.
- La Fevers, R. L. ***Flight of the Phoenix.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Ten-year-old Nate is sent to live with a family cousin, the world's last beastologist, after his parents are declared lost at sea, but danger mounts when he is brought on an expedition to the Arabian desert, gets lost, and must protect a newly hatched phoenix egg and rescue his guardian. *Series*
- Lane, Kathleen. ***Nana Cracks the Case!*** Chronicle Books, 2009. Not your ordinary grandma, Nana is aided by her grandchildren Eufala and Bog in nabbing a candy thief for the Crispy County Police Department.
- Larsen, C. S. ***Crust & Spray: Gross Stuff in Your Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat.*** Millbrook, 2010. Prepare to be both grossed out and educated by the wacky descriptions and graphic close up pictures of the fluids and ooze generated by the human body.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Lin, Grace. ***The Year of the Dog: A Novel.*** Little, Brown, 2006. Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese-American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog to her own life. *Series*
- Low, Alice. ***The Fastest Game on Two Feet and Other Poems About How Sports Began.*** Holiday House, 2009. This book contains funny poems about various sports as well as a brief paragraph about the sport's origin.
- Lowry, Lois. ***The Birthday Ball.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Princess Patricia Priscilla is not looking forward to her birthday when she has to choose a suitor, so she switches places with her chambermaid so she can attend school with the commoners.
- Lubar, David. ***Punished!*** Darby Creek, 2006. Because he was playing tag in the reference section of the library, Logan is punished by Professor Wordsworth, who puts a spell on him that is broken only by finding anagrams, palindromes, and oxymorons.
- MacDonald, Alan. ***Trolls United.*** Bloomsbury, 2007. In this silly story about an endearing troll family, Ulrik has to deal with his father coming to school, worrying about making the soccer team, and hoping for a new pair of soccer cleats. *Series*
- MacDonald, Betty. ***Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle.*** First published 1947. Loved by children and their parents, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle always knows just the right way to solve any problem. *Series*
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***Sarah, Plain and Tall.*** First published 1985. This sweet prairie tale of a family's experiences with Sarah, a mail-order bride from Maine, begins with children Anna and Caleb worried that their new mother might not like being away from the sea. *Series*
- Markle, Sandra. ***Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories.*** Millbrook, 2009. Nine riveting tales share examples of animals saving humans, along with photos and extra information and insights into animal behavior.
- McCully, Emily Arnold. ***Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse.*** Holt, 2010. Bill "Doc" Key, who was a former slave, trains his horse, Jim Key, to recognize letters and numbers and perform around the country, ultimately teaching others to treat animals humanely.
- Mitchell, Barbara. ***The Graffiti Mystery.*** Stone Arch Books, 2009. Getting in a few scrapes himself, Supersleuth Damian uses his smarts to solve the mystery of who has been painting graffiti on the walls of the boys' bathroom and the principal's car. *Series*
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Shiloh.*** Atheneum, 1991. Marty must make some painful decisions about returning a dog to his abusive owner. Newbery Honor Book 1992. *Series*
- Nivola, Claire A. ***Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. This beautifully illustrated biography tells how Wangari Maathai encouraged the people of Kenya to plant trees in an effort to restore their depleted land.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Nolan, Lucy. ***Bad to the Bone***. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Neighboring dogs, Down Girl and Sit, are discovering that their owners are very hard to train. *Series*
- O'Malley, Kevin. ***Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude***. Walker, 2005. Cooperatively writing a fairytale for school, a girl imagines a beautiful princess whose beloved ponies are being stolen by a giant, and a boy conjures up the muscular biker who will guard the last pony in exchange for gold.
- Otfinoski, Steven. ***All in the Family: A Look-It-Up Guide to the In-Laws, Outlaws, and Offspring of Mythology***. Franklin Watts, 2009. Greek mythology hall of famers meet the modern age in a new series that brings the superstars of Greek mythology to life. *Series*
- Pennypacker, Sara. ***Clementine's Letter***. Hyperion, 2008. After learning that her favorite teacher will be leaving for a trip to Egypt and will be absent for the remainder of the year, Clementine devises a plan to get rid of the substitute and get Mr. D'Matz to stay. *Series*
- Petersen, P. J. ***Wild River***. Delacorte, 2009. When their kayak hits a log and his older brother is seriously hurt, Ryan must overcome his fears and go for help.
- Polacco, Patricia. ***The Keeping Quilt***. First published 1988. Follow the author's family's quilt through several generations, from its creation by the first generation immigrant family all the way to the present generation.
- Rappaport, Doreen. ***Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt***. Disney-Hyperion, 2009. Well-researched and powerfully presented, this biography of Eleanor Roosevelt chronicles her life from a quiet, reserved child to an outspoken champion for the rights of all individuals.
- Root, Phyllis. ***Paula Bunyan***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Paula Bunyan is a rough, tough lady with a singing voice that cracks windows, a live bear for a foot warmer, and a heart for the environment in this fun folk tale set in the North Woods.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***The Wonder Book***. Harper, 2010. Silly poems, puns, and jokes are illustrated with happy line drawings in this humorous book full of word play.
- Ryder, Joanne. ***Panda Kindergarten***. Collins, 2009. Simple text and enticing color photographs follow sixteen giant panda cubs as they eat, play, and nap during the day at the Wolong Nature Preserve in China.
- Scieszka, Jon. ***Spaceheadz***. Simon & Schuster, 2010. Michael moves to a new school and learns that some of his friends are really aliens who have come to Earth in order to convince millions of kids to be Space Heads. *Series*
- Scott, Elaine. ***When is a Planet Not a Planet?: The Story of Pluto***. Clarion, 2007. This book takes the downgrading of Pluto from planet to dwarf planet as a teachable moment for discussing questions such as how the number of planets has changed through the centuries, what can be called a planet, and how scientists come to conclusions—and occasionally change their minds.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Service, Pamela F. ***Alien Expedition.*** Carolrhoda Books, 2009. Alien agent Zack is on a mission to help rescue alien dinosaurs from another planet who have been taken hostage in Mongolia by the Kiapa Kapa Syndicate. *Series*
- Shefelman, Janice. ***I, Vivaldi.*** Eerdmans Books, 2008. This picture book biography describes how Vivaldi grew to be a famous musician, despite his mother's vow for him to become a priest.
- Sidman, Joyce. ***Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Poems about pond life throughout the year and factual annotations are contained in this beautifully illustrated book.
- Sidman, Joyce. ***Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. In fourteen poems, this picture book blends poetry, science, and art in celebrating the earth's most resilient and long-lived species.
- Simon, Seymour. ***Horses.*** HarperCollins, 2006. Horse lovers will enjoy this book of photographs and accompanying text which provides interesting information about horses.
- Sylver, Adrienne. ***Hot Diggity Dog: The History of the Hot Dog.*** Dutton, 2010. The history of the hot dog and how it came to America is discussed in this eye-catching picture book.
- Tavares, Matt. ***Henry Aaron's Dream.*** Candlewick, 2010. In this beautiful picture book biography of Henry "Hank" Aaron, Henry overcomes many obstacles to realize his childhood dream of becoming a major league baseball player.
- Taylor, Sarah Stewart. ***Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean.*** Disney-Hyperion, 2010. In graphic novel format, Amelia Earhart's life is described with a focus on the successful Atlantic crossing in 1928.
- Tolan, Stephanie S. ***Wishworks, Inc.*** Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Third-grader Max copes with his parents' divorce by retreating into an imaginary world complete with an imaginary dog to protect him from the bullies at school until he realizes that one must be careful what one wishes for even at his imaginary Wishworks, Inc.
- Trine, Greg. ***The Curse of the Bologna Sandwich.*** Holt, 2006. After graduating from the Superhero Academy, Melvin Beederman heads for Los Angeles where he unexpectedly teams up with Candace Brinkwater, school play actress, to nab the evil McNasty Brothers. *Series*
- Tunnell, Michael O. ***Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's Chocolate Pilot.*** Charlesbridge, 2010. This is the story of pilot Gail Halvorsen who, after meeting some of the children living in post World War II West Berlin, started dropping candy from his plane when he flew over.
- Vail, Rachel. ***Justin Case: School, Drool, and Other Daily Disasters.*** Feiwel and Friends, 2010. Written in diary form, Justin writes honestly about his worries and observations of life in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Wallace, Rich. ***The Ball Hogs.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. In this beginning chapter book, Mark and Ben, both highly competitive, refuse to pass the soccer ball, but eventually realize that their best chance of winning is working together. *Series*



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Weeks, Sarah. **Oggie Cooder**. Scholastic, 2008. Oggie, an outcast to his classmates, garners friends and fame by sharing his unique talent of "charving," chewing and carving processed cheese into the shape of states, on a television talent show. *Series*
- Wilson, Karma. **What's the Weather Inside?** McElderry, 2009. This clever collection of original poetry is mostly light, humorous verse about family, friends, and school.
- Winter, Jonah. **Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx**. Atheneum, 2009. Written in both English and Spanish, the life of Sonia Sotomayor is described from her childhood in poverty to how she worked her way up to the top of the United States judicial system.
- Winter, Jonah. **You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!** Schwartz & Wade, 2009. Learn about Sandy Koufax, a powerful left-handed pitcher for the New York Dodgers, a practicing Jew who would not play baseball on High Holy days, and a mystery man who quit baseball after the best season of his career.
- Yee, Lisa. **Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally)**. Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Two long-time best friends' disagreement escalates into a war between the girls and boys of their fourth-grade classroom.
- 

Compiled by:

Amy Parker (Chair), *The Kinkaid School*

Marjorie Donaruma, *St. John's School*

Mary Lasley, *River Oaks Baptist School*

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

Georgene Quirke, *The Fay School*

Cindy Schumacher, *Annunciation Orthodox School*

Copyright ©2011 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 5

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Appelt, Kathi. ***The Underneath***. Atheneum, 2008. An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free. Newbery Honor 2009. National Book Award Finalist 2008
- Bolden, Tonya. ***George Washington Carver***. Abrams Books, 2008. Born a slave during the Civil War and raised by his mother's owners, George Washington Carver, also known as the "Peanut Man," became an important African American conservationist, scientist, researcher, and teacher.
- Breathed, Berkeley. ***Flawed Dogs: The Novel: The Shocking Raid on Westminster***. Philomel, 2009. After being framed by a jealous poodle, a dachshund is left for dead, but comes back with a group of mutts from the National Last Ditch Dog Depository to disrupt the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club dog show and exact revenge on Cassius the poodle.
- Broach, Elise. ***Masterpiece***. Holt/Christy Ottaviano, 2008. Marvin, a beetle, and his family live in the home of eleven-year-old James and his family. When James' birthday party fails miserably, Marvin surprises James with an elaborately intricate pen and ink drawing Marvin has created. Trouble begins when the drawing is mistaken for James' work, which sets off action that leads to a fast-paced mystery featuring an unlikely friendship, the discovery of art forgery, and thievery.
- Choldenko, Gennifer. ***Al Capone Shines My Shoes***. Dial Books, 2009. Moose Flanagan, who lives on Alcatraz along with his family and the families of the other prison guards, is frightened when he discovers that noted gangster Al Capone, a prisoner there, wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose. *Sequel*
- Colfer, Eoin. ***The Atlantis Complex***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. When an army of fairy space probes programmed to destroy Atlantis return to Earth, Artemis Fowl attempts to stop the destruction of the city while dealing with his delusional and obsessive-compulsive disorders. *Series*
- Creech, Sharon. ***Heartbeat***. Joanna Cotler, 2004. Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.
- Delano, Marfe Ferguson. ***Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher***. National Geographic, 2008. Annie Sullivan grew up in extreme poverty with her own eye problems. Her first and only job was teaching Helen Keller how to "see" despite the fact that she was blind, deaf, and mute.
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***The Magician's Elephant***. Candlewick, 2009. Orphan Peter Augustus Duchene sees a fortune teller that leads him on an adventurous journey involving an elephant and a magician in order to find his long lost younger sister Adele.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 5

- DiTerlizzi, Tony. ***The Search For WondLa***. Simon & Schuster, 2010. Living in isolation with a robot on what appears to be an alien world populated with bizarre life forms, a twelve-year-old human girl called Eva Nine sets out on a journey to find others like her. Features “augmented reality” pages in which readers can access additional information online about Eva Nine’s world.
- Dixon, Dougal. ***The Future Is Wild***. Firefly Books, 2003. This companion book to the Animal Planet series uses a variety of scientific principles to imagine how life on planet Earth may evolve over the next 200 million years.
- Feldman, Jody. ***The Gollywhopper Games***. Greenwillow, 2008. When the Golly Toy & Game Company announces the Gollywhopper Games, Gil Goodson wants to be the lucky winner; this could be the perfect opportunity for his family to move away from Orchard Heights. Can he solve the puzzles and complete the stunts? This may remind you of a modern day *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!*
- Flanagan, John. ***Halt’s Peril***. Philomel, 2010. Tennyson, the false prophet of the Outsider cult, has escaped and Halt is determined to stop him before he crosses the border into Araluen, but Genovesan assassins put Will and Halt’s extraordinary archery skills to the test. *Series*
- Florian, Douglas. ***Omnibeasts***. Harcourt, 2004. In this treasure chest of wit and charm, the author weaves information into each poem, combining fun and fact. This collection of poems and art is selected from the author’s whimsical, pun-filled previous books.
- Forester, Victoria. ***The Girl Who Could Fly***. Feiwel and Friends, 2008. “Piper decided to jump off the roof. It wasn’t a rash decision on her part.” And so we meet a strong-willed, generous girl with extraordinary talents.
- Golding, Julia. ***Secret of the Sirens***. Marshall Cavendish, 2006. Upon moving to her aunt’s seaside home in the British Isles, Connie becomes part of a secret society that shelters mythical creatures and must use her ability to communicate with these beings to protect them from evil and the incursions of humans. *Series*
- Gutman, Dan. ***Satch and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure***. HarperCollins, 2006. With his ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe takes Flip with him to find out whether Satchel Paige really was the fastest pitcher ever. *Series*
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Just Ella***. Simon & Schuster, 1999. Fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming’s proposal ensnares her in such a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette that she plots her escape.
- Hale, Shannon. ***Rapunzel’s Revenge***. Bloomsbury, 2008. In this graphic novel, Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the ruin of the world beyond her home. She is able to escape and, with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land and find her true mother.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 5

- Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Tales of the Cryptids***. Darby Creek, 2006. Be the judge: are the many mysterious and legendary animals, including Bigfoot and assorted sea serpents, real based on the descriptions, photographs and drawings?
- Holm, Jennifer L. ***Turtle in Paradise***. Random House, 2010. A girl named Turtle moves to the Florida Keys, where she meets her extended family and makes new friends.
- Karr, Kathleen. ***Exiled: Memoirs of a Camel***. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. This first person narrative is told from a camel's viewpoint. He tells how he was sent from Egypt to serve in the United States Camel Corps and of his life on the Mojave Desert before and during the Civil War.
- Kerley, Barbara. ***Walt Whitman: Words for America***. Scholastic, 2004. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief after Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse.
- Klise, Kate. ***Dying to Meet You***. Harcourt, 2009. A cranky, burned-out children's mystery writer moves into a dilapidated, old Victorian house, searching for peace and quiet to help him get over writer's block; unbeknownst to him, the house is already occupied by a boy, his cat, and the ghost of the house's original owner. *Series*
- Lasky, Kathryn. ***The Man Who Made Time Travel***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. The need for sailors to be able to determine their position at sea led to the efforts of John Harrison, an eighteenth-century man who spent his life refining instruments to enable them to do this.
- Leal, Ann. ***Also Known as Harper***. Holt, 2009. Harper Lee Morgan's family is struggling, but she holds close to her passion for writing poetry and this provides her with an opportunity to express her feelings, even as she must skip school to take care of her younger brother Hemingway.
- Lin, Grace. ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***. Little, Brown, 2009. A magical story of a young girl who wishes for fortune and happiness for her village and leaves her family to find the mysterious Old Man of the Moon. Newbery Honor 2010
- Lowry, Lois. ***The Willoughbys***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. The four Willoughby children devise a plan to become orphans, unaware that their despicable parents are trying to lose them. The humorous glossary and annotated reading list of classic children's literature are not to be missed.
- Lutes, Jason. ***Houdini: The Handcuff King***. Hyperion, 2007. In bold graphics, author and artist formulate a living picture of this amazing escape artist and show how time and morals shaped him and his art.
- Malone, Marianne. ***The Sixty-Eight Rooms***. Random House, 2010. An adventure about the Thorne Rooms, sixty-eight miniature rooms made by Mrs. James Ward Thorne in the 1930s, and a magic key that allows a person to shrink down small enough to explore the rooms' secrets.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 5

- Marino, Nan. ***Neil Armstrong is My Uncle and Other Lies Muscle Man McGinty Told Me.*** Roaring Brook, 2009. Set in 1969, Tammy has a difficult summer when her best friend suddenly moves away and a new, know-it-all boy moves into the neighborhood.
- Mass, Wendy. ***11 Birthdays.*** Scholastic, 2009. Best friends since their mothers met at the hospital when they were born, Amanda and Leo always celebrate their birthdays together. However, now that they are turning 11, they are no longer speaking to each other and everything is not as normal as it may appear. This is one birthday that does not seem to end!
- Montgomery, Sy. ***Quest for the Tree Kangaroo.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Wonderful color photographs and an excellent text provide details of the search for the tree kangaroo in Papua New Guinea's cloud forest.
- Morpurgo, Michael. ***Beowulf.*** Candlewick, 2006. An illustrated retelling of the oldest English epic, Beowulf, in which a Norse hero saves Denmark's royal house from monsters, and then his own house from dragons.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. ***The King of Mulberry Street.*** Wendy Lamb, 2005. When nine-year-old Beniamino, a Jewish boy from Naples, is smuggled onto a ship, he assumes his mother is also on the ship. When he ends up alone in New York, he has to deal with his fear and sadness on the one hand and figure out how to get food and shelter on the other as he makes his way in the New World.
- Nelson, Peter & Rohitash Rao. ***Herbert's Wormhole.*** Harper, 2009. While Alex is getting to know his inventive neighbor Herbert they unexpectedly travel to the twenty-second century through a space-time wormhole where they encounter aliens, jet packs, and their future selves.
- O'Connor, George. ***Zeus: King of the Gods.*** First Second, 2010. An illustrated retelling of the Greek myth that details the story of Zeus, describing his boyhood through his reign as the ruler of the Olympian Pantheon. *Series*
- Peck, Richard. ***On the Wings of Heroes.*** Dial Books, 2007. Set in the time period of World War II, Davy Bowman has two heroes: his dad who fought in World War I and his brother who is currently in the Air Force.
- Philbrick, Rodman. ***The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg.*** Blue Sky Press, 2009. Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army. Newbery Honor, 2010
- 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*
- Rutkoski, Marie. ***The Cabinet of Wonders.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. Twelve-year-old Petra, accompanied by her magical tin spider, goes to Prague hoping to retrieve the enchanted eyes the Prince of Bohemia took from her father, and is aided in her quest by a Roma boy and his sister. *Series*



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 5

- Springer, Nancy. ***The Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes Mystery.*** Philomel, 2006. Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, escapes to London in disguise to find her missing mother. Along the way, she uses her considerable deductive skills to determine the whereabouts of a young Viscount. *Series*
- 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.
- 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 Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey.*** Little, Brown, 2008. Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict. *Series*
- Stone, Jeff. ***Eagle.*** Random House, 2008. After attacking and killing his former grandmaster, sixteen-year-old Ying realizes he has been betrayed in addition to being wanted for treason, and consequently is forced to turn to Hok, his old temple sister, for help. *Series*
- Townley, Roderick. ***The Great Good Thing.*** Atheneum, 2001. Nothing ever changes inside the storybook kingdom inhabited by twelve-year-old Princess Sylvie, her parents, and many other characters until Sylvie discovers that by allying herself with the Reader she can experience new adventure beyond the confines of the book. *Series*
- Walker, Alice. ***Langston Hughes: American Poet.*** HarperCollins, 2002. An illustrated biography of the Harlem poet whose works gave voice to the joy and pain of the black experience in America.
- Weston, Robert Paul. ***Zorgamazoo.*** Razorbill, 2008. Imaginative and adventurous Katrina eludes her maniacal guardian to help Morty, a member of a vanishing breed of zorgles, with his quest to uncover the fate of the fabled zorgles of Zorgamazoo as well as of other creatures that seem to have disappeared from the Earth.
- Wiles, Deborah. ***Each Little Bird that Sings.*** Harcourt, 2005. Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the funeral parlor in their small southern town; but even so, the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events triggered by the sudden death of her beloved great uncle Edisto.



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**

**Grade 5**

---

Compiled by:

Dorcas Hand (Chair), *Annunciation Orthodox School*

Jenny Filardo, *Presbyterian School*

Susan Gerding, *John Cooper School*

Grace Littlefield, *Second Baptist School*

Aria Tatelman, *formerly at Duchesne Academy*

Copyright ©2011 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 6

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

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

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 6

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



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 6

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

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 6

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



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 6

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



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**

**Grade 6**

---

Compiled by:

Dorcas Hand (Chair), *Annunciation Orthodox School*

Jenny Filardo, *Presbyterian School*

Susan Gerding, *John Cooper School*

Grace Littlefield, *Second Baptist School*

Aria Tatelman, *formerly at Duchesne Academy*

Copyright ©2011 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

**HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

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

**H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

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



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

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

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

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



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

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



**H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

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

**H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

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



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

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

**HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

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



**H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**  
**Grade 7 and 8**

---

Compiled by:

Sally Hilliard (Chair), *River Oaks Baptist School*

Diana Armentor, *Awty International School*

Judy Baldwin, *Kinkaid School*

Wayne Cherry, Jr., *First Baptist Academy*

Diane King, *Westbury Christian School*

Laura Leib, *Duchesne Academy*

Melissa Murphey, *St. John's School*

Nita Schriver, *Annunciation Orthodox*

B. R. Simon, *Post Oak School*

Copyright ©2011 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Alexie, Sherman. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian.*** Little, Brown, 2007. Talented Arnold Spirit leaves the reservation school to go to an academically superior one located many miles away. How he copes with this change, both at school and on the reservation, is realistic, thought-provoking, and laugh-out-loud funny. National Book Award Young People's Literature 2007; Book Sense Book of the Year 2008
- Asher, Jay. ***Thirteen Reasons Why: A Novel.*** Razorbill, 2007. When Hannah Baker commits suicide, she leaves behind thirteen cassette tapes to those she feels contributed to her decision to end her life. Clay finds the box of tapes on his front porch, and as he starts listening to Hannah recount the events leading up to her suicide, his heartrending night begins.
- Breashears, David and Audrey Salkeld. ***Last Climb: The Legendary Everest Expeditions of George Mallory.*** National Geographic, 1999. In 1924 the explorer, George Mallory, disappeared on Mount Everest only to be found seventy-five years later on the icy slopes. Breashears, himself a renowned mountaineer, reveals the astounding facts of early climbing on Mount Everest, describes the events of Mallory's adventurous life, and suggests scenarios that may have led to his death on this most dangerous climb.
- Clare, Cassandra. ***City of Bones.*** McElderry Books, 2007. Suddenly Clary Fray is seeing fairies and demons and finds herself drawn into an alternate reality as a Shadowhunter, teens dedicated to saving the world. Her mother, who is the only one who knows where the Mortal Cup is hidden, disappears and Clary finds herself committed to the Shadowhunter cause. *Series*
- Collins, Suzanne. ***The Hunger Games.*** Scholastic, 2008. In the not-too-distant future, the United States has collapsed and has been replaced by the totalitarian regime, Panem. Sixteen-year-old Katniss becomes a contestant in the annual Hunger Games, a televised, gladiator-like contest where teens compete to the death. *Series*
- Cooper, Brenda. ***The Silver Ship and the Sea.*** Tor Books, 2007. Abandoned on an environmentally dangerous colony planet where the citizens are hostile toward genetic engineering, six genetically enhanced children must learn to use their special talents to either survive and make the planet their home or find a way to escape in the abandoned silver space ship that lies in the Grass Plains. *Series*
- Croggon, Alison. ***The Naming.*** Candlewick, 2002. In the first of a recently completed four-book series, the orphaned Maerad escapes from slavery. As she discovers her magical powers and her heritage, she realizes she is destined to defeat the "Nameless One." *Series*
- Crutcher, Chris. ***Deadline.*** Greenwillow, 2007. Eighteen-year-old Ben Wolf has been given less than a year to live, but he chooses not to tell anyone so his senior year will be as normal as possible. This surprisingly humorous story tracks that final year as Ben goes out for football, finds romance, and realizes that his secret has a serious impact on others.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Ford, Jamie. ***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet***. Ballantine Books, 2009. A story of commitment and enduring hope, this novel is set in Seattle during one of the most conflicted and volatile times in American history. Henry, a Chinese American, raised by a fiercely nationalistic father, and Keiko, a young Japanese American, develop a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcends time and the long-standing prejudices of their Old World ancestors.
- 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.
- Gill, David Macinnis. ***Soul Enchilada***. Greenwillow, 2009. El Paso teen Eunice "Bug" Smoot's grandfather sold his soul to the devil for a Cadillac and reneged on the deal. When a demon repo agent shows up, she finds out that her deceased grandfather pledged both the car and her soul as collateral, and she has sixty hours to figure out what to do.
- Haddon, Mark. ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***. Doubleday, 2003. An autistic boy keeps a diary of his efforts to solve the mystery of who killed his neighbor's dog. This funny, touching novel is a revealing look into the mind of an autistic person. Alex Award 2004
- Heiligman, Deborah. ***Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith***. Holt, 2009. Heiligman reveals a personal look at the life and love of the man whose ideas have caused a stir in the scientific and religious communities since the 1800s. Charles Darwin, a brilliant man who was unsure of his faith in God, married Emma Wedgwood who was devoutly religious. The story of their lives together is one filled with science, religion, history, but -- most of all -- love. YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award 2010; Michael L. Printz Honor Book 2010
- 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*
- Herlong, M. H. ***The Great Wide Sea***. Viking, 2008. Only two months after the death of their mother, Ben's father sells their house and buys a sailboat. The angry and resentful Ben, along with his two younger brothers, must go with their father on a year-long voyage around the Bahamas. Their father disappears overboard one night. The brothers must battle a terrible storm by themselves and are then stranded on a small island with little food, water or hope of rescue. An action packed survival story.
- Hornby, Nick. ***Slam***. Putnam's, 2007. When fifteen-year-old skateboarder Sam "Slam" Jones learns that his ex-girlfriend is pregnant, he turns to the only person he feels can help — his hero, skating legend Tony Hawk. Since Tony is only a poster, he does not offer answers, so it is up to Sam, thrust suddenly into maturity, to figure out the right thing to do.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Johnson, Harriet McBryde. ***Accidents of Nature***. Holt, 2006. Seventeen-year-old Jean is wheelchair-bound with cerebral palsy but has always been treated as normal by her family and schoolmates. For the first time in her life, she attends a summer camp for the disabled where she is exposed to the realities of disabled life. As she bonds with new friends who are not “Norms,” she begins to think about being different and questions her old beliefs. What if normal is not the only way to be?
- Johnson, Maureen. ***13 Little Blue Envelopes***. HarperCollins, 2005. Ginny’s beloved, quirky Aunt Peg sends her on one more adventure when she dies, leaving Ginny a series of envelopes. The envelopes lead Ginny on a whirlwind tour of Europe where she finds answers to important questions about her aunt and about herself.
- Johnson, Steven. ***The Ghost Map: The Story of London’s Most Terrifying Epidemic—And How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World***. Riverhead Books, 2006. In 1854, when the existence of bacteria and the concept of waterborne disease are still unknown, two men, one a physician and the other a clergyman, successfully trace the source of a cholera epidemic to a contaminated well in an impoverished part of London.
- King, A. S. ***The Dust of 100 Dogs***. Flux, 2009. Teenage pirate Emer was burying her treasure when she was slain and cursed to live one hundred lives as a dog before returning to a human body with her memories intact. Now she is reincarnated as an American teenager who cannot wait to get to Jamaica with a shovel.
- Kooser, Ted. ***Delights & Shadows: Poems***. Copper Canyon Press, 2004. An award winner and a past Poet Laureate of the United States, Ted Kooser’s verse relates to his country life with a multitude of diverse imagery and acute observations.
- Luttrell, Marcus. ***Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10***. Little, Brown, 2007. Marcus Luttrell was the only survivor of a mission with three American Navy SEALs in the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border. It is a question of which part is more compelling to read: the stories of the brutal Navy and SEAL boot camps or the account of Luttrell’s team fighting on the Afghan border.
- Lutz, Lisa. ***The Spellman Files***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Izzy Spellman, an irrepressible twenty-eight-year-old sleuth, works for her parents’ San Francisco PI firm. The dysfunctional and relentlessly nosy Spellman clan spends as much time spying on each other as they do working their cases. Alex Award 2008; Anthony Award 2008. *Series*
- Marchetta, Melina. ***Finnikin of the Rock***. Candlewick, 2008. Finnikin, son of a former royal guard, has been in exile for a decade following the murder of the royal family. A curse levied on the land creates a magical barrier around the kingdom. Finnikin and his mentor, a former advisor to the murdered king, travel other kingdoms aiding refugees who fled. A young woman fervently believes Finnikin has been chosen to take their people home.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Marillier, Juliet. **Wildwood Dancing**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2007. Every full moon, five sisters who live with their father in Transylvania use a hidden portal to cross over into a magical world, the Wildwood, where they dance until morning with the creatures who live there.
- Marr, Melissa. **Wicked Lovely**. HarperTeen, 2007. Urban faeries can be really mean! Aislinn's grandmother warns her not to admit she can see them, but that is hard to do when their king is convinced that she is their rightful queen. This is a smart, funny series sure to delight Twilight fans. *Series*
- McCloud, Scott. **Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga and Graphic Novels**. Harper, 2006. Presented in graphic novel format and focusing on the storytelling aspects of drawing comics, the author's avatar uses a skillful mix of dry humor and instruction to offer insights into designing and drawing a comic strip.
- McMann, Lisa. **Wake**. Simon Pulse, 2008. Despite her best efforts to avoid it, Janie can see others' dreams. While sometimes this can be funny, it can also be terrifying to be drawn into the gruesome nightmares of an enigmatic fellow student. "Not all dreams are sweet." *Series*
- Meyer, Stephenie. **Twilight**. Little, Brown, 2005. After transferring to a new school in Forks, Washington, seventeen-year-old Bella is attracted to an exquisitely handsome boy who, she comes to realize, is not wholly human. *Series*
- Michaelis, Antonia. **Tiger Moon**. Translated from the German by Anthea Bell. Amulet Books, 2008. Farhad is a thief destined for greater things. When the god Krishna catches him stealing an amulet, Farhad must make a choice between becoming a great hero or spending the rest of eternity as a worm. He chooses the hero's path and, with the help of a magical white tiger named Nitish, he embarks upon a quest to rescue Krishna's daughter from a demon who is holding her captive. Batchelder Award Honors 2009
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. **Dairy Queen**. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. D.J. spends most of her time helping out on the family farm until she is coerced into training Brian, the star quarterback on the town's rival football team. D.J. decides to go out for the opposing team herself. The fact that she has a major crush on Brian complicates matters.
- Nash, Ogden. **The Best of Ogden Nash**. Ivan R. Dee, 2007. This delightful book of rhythm and rhyme combines magical word use by the renowned master of light, humorous verse. The book is edited by the poet's daughter, Linell Nash Smith.
- Ness, Patrick. **The Knife of Never Letting Go**. Candlewick, 2008. Settlers on Todd's planet are infected with a virus that kills all the women and causes survivors to hear the thoughts of men and animals. This coming-of-age survival story reveals the psychological impact of being unable to shut out others' thoughts or hide one's own thoughts. *Series*
- 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. Readers in need of an uplifting thought to reflect upon, as well as nature lovers, will appreciate the wisdom in these simple, sensuous poems.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Perkins, Lynne Rae. ***As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth***. Greenwillow, 2010. In a hilarious story of the ultimate "bad day," fifteen-year-old Ry is left behind when he jumps off the stalled train taking him to summer camp. It is downhill from there until he meets Del. Worried about his grandfather and unable to contact his parents, Ry, with Del's help, sets off on the misadventure of a lifetime that will keep you laughing all the way.
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. ***Life As We Knew It***. Harcourt, 2006. An asteroid has hit the moon and knocked it out of orbit, causing havoc in the world. Life for sixteen-year-old Miranda and her family changes to a mode of survival. Struggling to survive, they find hope and strength to exist even though the future may be short-lived. *Series*
- Pollan, Michael. ***In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto***. Penguin Press, 2008. The author challenges current approaches to healthy eating, arguing that the real food consumed by past generations is being replaced with commercialized, scientifically altered foods that offer no health benefits and may cause serious damage. He encourages people to change the way they eat and return to basic nutrition rules.
- Pratchett, Terry. ***Nation***. HarperCollins, 2008. Mau is caught in the tidal wave that destroyed his island, and Daphne is her ship's only survivor of that tsunami. Together on the devastated island, they form a new nation. Michael L. Printz Honor Award 2009
- Resau, Laura. ***The Indigo Notebook***. Delacorte. 2009. Zeeta has lived in a different country every year with her mom Layla, an English teacher. Zeeta writes in a different colored journal for every country, and this year's journal is indigo. She longs for a boring suburban life, but then she meets Wendell.
- 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.
- Sandburg, Carl. ***Selected Poems***. Harcourt Brace, 1996. Sandburg's best and most characteristic poetry is collected and thematically grouped in this one-volume edition edited by George Hendrick and Willene Hendrick.
- Satrapi, Marjane. ***Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood***. Pantheon, 2003. In graphic novel format, Satrapi tells of her childhood growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Alex Award 2004
- Sedgwick, Marcus. ***Revolver***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Set in 1910 just north of the Arctic Circle, the novel opens with fourteen-year-old Sig sitting alone in an isolated cabin with his dead father when a one-thumbed, vengeful man arrives, demanding stolen gold he claims he is owed by Sig's father. Michael L. Printz Honor Award 2011
- Shields, Charles J. ***I Am Scout: The Biography of Harper Lee***. Holt, 2008. This biography provides interesting facts and sheds light on the reclusive life of Nelle Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Readers will see many parallels between the feisty author's life in a small Southern town and the characters she created in the only novel she has ever written.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Sofer, Dalia. ***The Septembers of Shiraz***. Ecco, 2007. Following the 1981 revolution against the Shah of Iran, Isaac Amin, a Jewish gem dealer, is imprisoned because of his religion and personal wealth, and members of his family are forced to wrestle with the radical changes forced upon them.
- 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.
- Stiefvater, Maggie. ***Shiver***. Scholastic, 2009. Beautifully written from alternating points-of-view of star-crossed lovers Grace and Sam, this paranormal romance will do for werewolves what *Twilight* did for vampires. This compelling story will make you long for the sequels. *Series*
- Swanwick, Michael. ***The Dragons of Babel***. Tor Books, 2007. Will, a half-mortal elf, is forced to be the lieutenant of an evil war-dragon. Will outwits the dragon and escapes to Babel, a post-industrialized faerie city, but finds the dragon lives on in his brain. Alex Award 2009
- Tan, Shaun. ***The Arrival***. Arthur A. Levine, 2006. A man leaves his troubled homeland and travels to an unfamiliar place where he makes a new life and sends for his family. This Australian award-winning wordless book's sepia drawings look like surrealistic snapshots, poignantly expressing the timeless and universal courage of immigrants.
- Thompson, Kate. ***The New Policeman***. Greenwillow, 2007. Where does the time go? J.J. Liddy's mom just wants more time for her birthday. J.J. finds out that there really is less time than there used to be because there is a leak between the real world and the faerie kingdom. As he begins to unravel the secrets of his history, both recent and distant, the legends of Ireland come to life around him.
- 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, including game records and statistics. Tittle's work ethic earned him Most Valuable Player in high school and led him to become a four-time MVP in the NFL.
- 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.
- Walker, Sally M. ***Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland***. Carolrhoda, 2009. A detailed and illustrated account of an archaeological dig in Jamestown. The search for human remains and materials from colonial Maryland is revealed layer by fascinating layer.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Wiess, Laura. ***Such a Pretty Girl***. MTV Books/Pocket Books, 2007. Meredith's father, who was sent to jail for molesting her, has just been released from prison, and her oblivious mother wants them to become a family again. Meredith, a victim turned heroine, tries to save herself and other young people from her predatory father.
- Wilder, Thornton. ***Our Town: A Play in Three Acts***. First published 1938. With the well-earned reputation of an American classic, the play brings themes of growing up, love, marriage and death to the stage portraying the dignity of the human spirit through life in Grover's Corner.
- Williams-Garcia, Rita. ***Jumped***. HarperTeen, 2009. Trina has unknowingly insulted the unstable Dominique in the hall, and she is in danger of being jumped after school. Leticia knows what is going on, but she does not want to get involved by telling anyone.
- Wright, Richard. ***Native Son***. First published 1940. A young African American man is trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, finding release only in acts of violence.
- Zemser, Amy Bronwen. ***Dear Julia***. Greenwillow, 2008. Shy sixteen-year-old Elaine Hamilton wants to be a chef like her hero Julia Child, but her bossy and flamboyant best friend, Lucida Sans, is about to make life much more interesting.

---

Compiled by:

Jenni Elliott (Chair), *Episcopal High School*  
Diana Armentor, *Awty International School*  
Fiona de Young, *The Kinkaid School*  
Cyndie Jones, *Houston Christian High School*  
Marilyn McEvoy, *St. Pius X High School*  
Deborah Mosichuk, *St. Pius X High School*  
Dorian Myers, *The Kinkaid School*  
Peg Patrick, *St. John's School*  
Susan Penny, *Strake Jesuit College Preparatory*  
Stephanie Penttila, *The John Cooper School*  
Jean Pfluger, *Duchesne Academy*  
Diane Roberts, *St. Thomas High School*  
Marylin Sharp, *St. John's School*  
Rebecca Shields, *Incarnate Word Academy*  
Herman Sutter, *St. Agnes Academy*  
Suzanne Webb, *Episcopal High School*

Copyright ©2011 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Ackerman, Diane. ***The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story***. Norton, 2007. A dramatic true story based on a little-known chapter from Nazi Poland, Ackerman works from the diary of Antonina Zabinski. Not only was Hitler interested in human genetics but also the purity of animal breeds. At the Warsaw Zoo, Antonina and her director husband struggle with wartime shortages, care for the animals, their own family, and hundreds of Jews hidden at the zoo from the occupying Nazis.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Wintergirls***. Viking, 2009. Anderson has taken us into the mind of a rape victim in *Speak* and now takes us into the mind of an anorexic. This is a haunting story about Lia's desire to be the thinnest girl in school, her struggle with anorexia, and her path to recovery.
- Austen, Jane. ***Pride and Prejudice***. First published 1813. Elizabeth and Jane Bennet overcome obstacles to their happiness with Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley in this comedy of manners set in early nineteenth-century England.
- Baldwin, James. ***Go Tell It On the Mountain***. First published 1953. In 1935 Harlem, young John Grimes searches for God while struggling with his identity as the stepson of a stern, evangelist preacher.
- Bartlett, Allison Hoover. ***The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession***. Riverhead Books, 2009. This true crime story discloses the world of rare book dealers, the mind of a serial book thief, and follows the detective who tracks the mysterious and obsessive culprit.
- Beah, Ishmael. ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. Twelve-year-old Ishmael first flees from attacking rebels with his friends, but later he is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. Alex Award 2008
- Bradbury, Jennifer. ***Shift***. Atheneum, 2008. The summer before they begin college, Chris and Win bike from West Virginia to Seattle. After a fight, and fifty miles from their goal, Win rides off while Chris changes a flat tire and simply disappears. Win's manipulative father enlists the FBI to question Chris.
- Bradley, Alan C. ***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie***. Delacorte, 2009. A dead bird on a doorstep with a stamp stuck on its beak and a delicious trick on an older sister launch this funny and clever mystery. Flavia is isolated in the English countryside, busy practicing chemistry in her deceased mother's lab. Strange things begin to happen and Flavia is just smart enough to figure them out, but only after a host of strange characters, literary allusions, and unexpected happenings. *Series*
- Brooks, Geraldine. ***People of the Book: A Novel***. Viking, 2008. While working on an ancient manuscript, Hanna Heath, a conservationist, traces its path through the ages and discovers her own contemporary life. National Jewish Book Award 2008

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Caletti, Deb. ***The Fortunes of Indigo Skye***. Simon & Schuster, 2008. Indigo wants nothing more from life than her job as a waitress until a customer gives her \$2,500,000. Then everything changes.
- Carey, Peter. ***Parrot and Olivier In America***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. An imaginative re-invention of the French aristocrat Alexis de Tocqueville's 1830 visit to America, with rich description, strong characters and amusing events.
- Chandler, Raymond. ***The Long Goodbye***. First published 1953. A classic "hard-boiled" detective story where Philip Marlowe, private eye, deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city. Edgar Award 1955
- Chbosky, Stephen. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***. MTV Books/Pocket Books, 1999. In this controversial, coming-of-age novel, Charlie's collection of letters to an unspecified recipient details the humorous trials and tribulations of trying to discover who he is and who he might become.
- Coben, Harlan. ***Tell No One: A Novel***. Delacorte, 2001. After years of struggling with grief over his wife's murder by a serial killer, Dr. David Beck receives a mysterious e-mail that includes a secret word only known to his wife and himself. Is she still alive?
- 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.
- Connolly, John. ***The Book of Lost Things***. Atria Books, 2006. After the death of his mother, David retreats to his attic bedroom where the books on his shelf begin whispering to him, dragging him into another world. Alex Award 2007
- Courtenay, Bryce. ***The Power of One: A Novel***. First published 1989. A weak, friendless English boy grows up in South Africa during World War II where he learns to box and finds the courage to champion the cause of injustice using the force of the Power of One.
- Cronin, Justin. ***The Passage***. Ballantine Books, 2010. In a dystopian future, a virus found in a South American jungle has been used to create a super soldier with great strength and healing abilities. The virus causes an epidemic, and infected people become bloodthirsty monsters. Normal humans are hiding in fortresses trying to survive.
- Danticat, Edwidge. ***Brother, I'm Dying***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2007. In 2005, expecting her first child and facing the death of her father, Danticat relates her childhood experiences living in a loving and devoted Haitian family torn by immigration, political upheaval, and violence. A poignant and painful memoir filled with hope and grace. National Book Critics Circle Award 2007; Christopher Award 2008
- Doctorow, Cory. ***Little Brother***. Tor Books, 2008. Surrounded by terrorism plots and lots of electronic gadgets, resistant hacker students are picked up after an attack. Their experience reflects today's fears and concerns regarding government control and the Department of Homeland Security.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Doctorow, E. L. **Homer & Langley**. Random House, 2009. Based on the true lives of the very unusual Collyer brothers of New York City, this novel allows the reader a glimpse into the hoarding existence of anonymity of the two reclusive brothers. Both a commentary of the 1940s and, moreover, a tale of human psychology, the story is beautifully written in the voice of one of the eccentric brothers.
- Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. **Crime and Punishment**. First published in Russian in 1866. Raskolnikov, a student who believes that his own intellectual and spiritual superiority places him above the masses, tests his theory of invincibility by committing murder.
- Downham, Jenny. **Before I Die**. David Fickling Books, 2007. This is a touching story that draws the reader into the last months of Tessa's life after battling leukemia for four years. The reader experiences a wide range of activities from her to-do list, emotional upheaval, and thoughts told through Tessa's narrative.
- Eggers, Dave. **Zeitoun**. McSweeney's, 2009. A true account of a family caught between America's war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Following the chaos of the storm, Zeitoun travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors until the day armed men suddenly burst into his home.
- Erlbaum, Janice. **Girlbomb: A Halfway Homeless Memoir**. Villard, 2006. In 1983, at age fifteen, Janice Erlbaum walks away from her dangerous home life and into the streets of New York determined to make it on her own in this unflinching portrait of being underprivileged, underage, and underdressed.
- Euripides. **Medea and Other Plays**. Edited and translated from the Greek by James Morwood. Oxford University Press, 1998. First produced in 431 BC, this passionate and timeless play is a story about foolish men, powerful women, and the problem of pain and suffering. Medea is willing to do the unthinkable in order to escape the unbearable.
- Ferraris, Zoe. **City of Veils**. Little, Brown 2010. In this fascinating mystery, policeman Osama Ibrahim, forensic scientist Katya Hijazi, and Bedouin guide Nayir Sharqui investigate the murder of a young Muslim woman washed up on the shores of Jeddah beach. *Series*
- Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. **Love in the Time of Cholera**. First published in Spanish in 1988. From the Nobel Laureate comes a tale of unrequited love lasting over fifty years. Florentino Ariza has the bad grace to declare his undying love for Fermina Daza at the funeral of her husband, the illustrious physician and leader in the fight against cholera in their South American country.
- Gladwell, Malcolm. **Outliers: The Story of Success**. Little, Brown, 2008. Gladwell examines the background of extremely successful people to explore the common traits leading to their success. He compares birth date, birthplace, community values, family, and other factors to draw his conclusions.
- Gordon-Reed, Annette. **The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family**. Norton, 2008. Gordon-Reed presents an in-depth view of the Hemings' family tree, relationships to Thomas Jefferson, and the life they lived at Monticello as slaves. National Book Award, Nonfiction 2008; Pulitzer Prize, History 2009

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Grann, David. ***The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon.*** Doubleday, 2009. In 1925, Percy Fawcett, eccentric member of the Royal Geographical Society, sets out to find the treasure of El Dorado deep in the Amazon jungle where he mysteriously disappears. This story contains fascinating facts of Fawcett's quest and tells of the attempts of explorers through the years who have returned to the Amazon to solve the mystery of his disappearance and discover the elusive treasure.
- Green, John. ***Paper Towns.*** Dutton, 2008. Quentin idolizes his next door neighbor, Margo Roth Spiegelman. When she includes him in a wild night of revenge and then disappears, Quentin must follow the clues she has left in order to find her. Edgar Award 2009
- Gruen, Sara. ***Water For Elephants: A Novel.*** Algonquin, 2006. Jacob Jankowski, a penniless orphan forced to drop out of veterinary school during the Great Depression, joins a traveling circus. He forges a bond with Rosie the elephant and Marlena, the beautiful star of an equestrian act, whose husband is a handsome circus boss with a violent temper. Alex Award 2007
- Harmon, Michael B. ***The Last Exit To Normal.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. Ben's dad and his dad's boyfriend move to rural Montana. Ben, angry at his father's coming out and the breakup of his family, begins to reassess his life. It is hard to fit in with his spiked hair and skateboard in a country town, but Ben finds he is letting go of his anger toward people and toward the outside world. He is also worried about his neighbor's treatment of his son, so Ben confronts the line that is drawn between child abuse and discipline in a small town.
- Hawking, Stephen and Leonard Mlodinow. ***The Grand Design.*** Bantam, 2010. The authors present a new discussion of the laws of the universe and the nature of reality. The journey includes thoughts of the great philosophers and scientists over the centuries as well as questions such as "Are the laws of nature suspended when miracles occur?" The well-placed, clever cartoons provide balance to the weighty discussions.
- Hopkins, Ellen. ***Identical.*** McElderry Books, 2008. Identical twins Kaeleigh and Raeanne keep dark secrets. Their politician mother is emotionally remote, and their district court judge father is abusive. This novel in verse alternates first person descriptions of abuse, alcoholism, bulimia, drugs and mental illness. Be ready for a revelation at the end of this disturbing and insightful book.
- Hosseini, Khaled. ***A Thousand Splendid Suns.*** Riverhead Books, 2007. Mariam and Laila, both married to Rasheed, form an uneasy alliance so that they and their children survive despite horrific circumstances. The story depicts Afghanistan from a woman's point of view during three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war, and Taliban tyranny.
- Ishiguro, Kazuo. ***Never Let Me Go.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. A dark secret lurks behind the nurturing façade of Hailsham, a private school in the English countryside where Kathy, now thirty-one years old, lived as a child. Alex Award 2006



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Kent, Kathleen. ***The Heretic's Daughter***. Little, Brown, 2008. Amid the painful details of jail and persecution, deep-seated suspicion and familial betrayal, ten-year-old Sarah Carrier's world is turned upside down as her family becomes a target of Salem's witchcraft hysteria.
- Kenyon, Kay. ***Bright of the Sky***. Pyr, 2007. A parallel universe has been discovered by voyager Titus Quinn, but he has lost his family in the process. Saving them involves finding a way back, infiltrating the society, and rising to power -- ingenuity, deceit, and luck will be required.
- Kidder, Tracy. ***Mountains Beyond Mountains***. Random House, 2003. In his quest to cure the world of infectious diseases, the brilliant, charismatic Dr. Paul Farmer finds time to make house calls both in Boston and the mountains of Haiti. He blasts through convention to get results with his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity."
- Krakauer, Jon. ***Into the Wild***. Villard, 1996. The true story of Christopher McCandless who abandons his familiar life, gives his entire savings account to charity, and hitchhikes to Alaska in an attempt to rebel against authority and his privileged upbringing. Four months later, his body is found in the wilderness.
- Kwok, Jean. ***Girl in Translation***. Riverhead Books, 2010. When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, Kimberly quickly begins a secret double life -- exceptional schoolgirl by day, Chinatown sweatshop worker by night -- and she learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles. Alex Award 2011
- Kyle, Aryn. ***God of Animals***. Scribner, 2007. Alice and her father struggle to keep the family horse ranch going by boarding horses that are owned by wealthy neighbors. Pressures caused by debt, family illness, and the unrelenting work of the ranch explode and Alice must grow up quickly, making a few mistakes along the way but learning important lessons about life and being human. Alex Award 2008
- Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***Unaccustomed Earths***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. As with her previous Pulitzer Prize-winning collection, *Interpreter of Maladies*, Lahiri's magic lies in the warm-blooded richness with which she deftly renders each and every one of her characters, not to mention the ambiguity, joy, and grief that imbue the liminal spaces between those characters.
- Levitt, Stephen D. ***Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance***. William Morrow, 2010. This book combines storytelling with behavioral economics, explaining many modern phenomena. It encourages readers to think about the reasons behind many of the events going on around us.
- Lewis, Michael. ***The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game***. Norton, 2006. The development of the offensive left tackle position to protect a quarterback in the National Football League is presented in combination with the true story of Michael Oher, who lived in a Memphis ghetto until he was taken under the protection of a wealthy, loving family. Alex Award 2007

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- 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
- 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.
- Moalem, Sharon. ***Survival of the Sickest: A Medical Maverick Discovers Why We Need Disease***. William Morrow, 2007. With fascinating insights and cutting-edge research, the author looks at evolutionary history, epigenetics, and modern medical research to try to figure out why we developed as we did.
- Morrison, Toni. ***Beloved***. First published 1987. The Nobel prize-winning author's lyrical expression of slave experience is built around Sethe, her memories of Sweet Home, and the ghost of her baby. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1988
- Morton, Kate. ***The Forgotten Garden***. Atria Books, 2009. A generational quest for her grandmother's secret past is revealed by Cassandra's journey to Blackhurst Manor. A dramatic family saga of twists and turns.
- Mullen, Thomas. ***The Last Town on Earth***. Random House, 2006. Set during the twin catastrophes of WWI and the 1918 flu epidemic, this fiction title explores the risks of trading freedom for safety in a small milling town in Commonwealth, Washington. Mullen examines the parallels with our current fear of contagious viruses, obsession with foreign operatives, and repression of political dissent.
- Patchett, Ann. ***Run***. Harper, 2007. An accident during a snowstorm near the Harvard campus suddenly thrusts Mayor Bernard Doyle and his sons from their world of privilege into one of complicated and personal issues related to race, class, politics, and faith.
- Pérez-Reverte, Arturo. ***The Fencing Master***. Translated from the Spanish by Margaret Jull Costa. Harcourt, 1998. Nineteenth-century fencing master, Don Jaime, finds himself drawn into a plot that includes seduction, politics, secret documents, and murder when he refuses to teach the beautiful and mysterious Dona Adela de Otero how to perform the "unstoppable thrust."
- Pettersen, Per. ***Out Stealing Horses***. Translated from the Norwegian by Anne Born. Graywolf Press, 2007. In an austere style, with a series of flashbacks, a Norwegian boy finds his family and friendships unraveling as his courage grows.
- Picoult, Jodi. ***Nineteen Minutes***. Atria Books, 2007. The residents of a small, ordinary New Hampshire town seek justice in the aftermath of a shocking school shooting carried out by a teenage boy who had been bullied since kindergarten.
- Pink, Daniel H. ***A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future***. Riverhead Books, 2005. According to Pink, the future belongs to a different kind of person with a different kind of mind: artists, inventors, storytellers—creative and holistic "right-brain" thinkers whose abilities mark the fault line between who gets ahead and who does not.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Plath, Sylvia. ***The Bell Jar***. First published 1963. This autobiographical novel describes an ambitious and brilliant young woman's search for values and her eventual breakdown. The 2004 edition includes additional poems.
- Rosnay, Tatiana de. ***Sarah's Key***. St. Martin's Press, 2007. Location: Paris. Time: July 16, 1942. Sarah, a ten-year-old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment. Sixty years later, on the anniversary of the roundup, Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this dark episode and embarks on an investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets and Sarah's ordeal.
- Sides, Hampton. ***Hellhound On His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt For His Assassin***. Doubleday, 2010. The behind-the-scenes narrative about the lives of Martin Luther King, Jr. and James Earl Ray tells a story that was never covered in the headlines of the time. A nonfiction page-turner.
- 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.
- Simonson, Helen. ***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand***. Random House, 2010. Major Ernest Pettigrew, an honor-bound Englishman, the very embodiment of duty and pride, finds himself drawn into an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Based on their shared love of literature and the loss of their respective spouses, their friendship soon blossoms. Can their relationship survive the risks of pursuing happiness in the face of culture and tradition?
- 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. A complex and fascinating drama -- a mixture of science and biography with profound themes of racism, ethics, and scientific illiteracy.
- Small, David. ***Stitches: A Memoir***. Norton, 2009. David Small grew up in the 1950s in a dysfunctional family with an angry mother and an emotionally distant father. This graphic novel by Small, a Caldecott winning illustrator, about the redemptive value of art, is filled with sadness and dark humor. Alex Award 2010
- Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. ***One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich***. First published in Russian in 1962. Although innocent of any crime, Ivan Denisovich Shukhov is convicted of treason and sentenced to serve ten years in a Soviet work camp in Siberia.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- 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
- Stockett, Kathryn. ***The Help***. Amy Einhorn Books, 2009. College graduate Skeeter Phelan, a white twenty-four-year-old social misfit and an aspiring writer, decides to secretly compile the untold stories of black domestic workers in her hometown of Jackson, Mississippi. Her fellow conspirators, two black women, Aibileen and Minny, risk their lives and livelihoods in the racially charged South of the 1960s to help collect the interviews she seeks.
- Szymborska, 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.
- Tinti, Hannah. ***The Good Thief: A Novel***. Dial Books, 2008. Ren, a one-handed orphan in eighteenth-century New England, is released into the custody of a villain who claims to be his father and who wants to train him to be a thief. Ren seems to be a natural at it. Alex Award 2009
- Tucker, Todd. ***Over and Under***. Thomas Dunne, 2008. Two fourteen-year-old boys begin summer with high hopes of freedom and adventure. A strike at the major local company, where both of their fathers work, changes those plans and starts them on a stark odyssey of violence, murder, and fear. A coming-of-age story in the tradition of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Alex Award 2009
- Turgenev, Ivan. ***Fathers and Sons***. First published in Russian in 1862. In this portrayal of conflicts between the older aristocratic generation and the new Russian intelligentsia of the nineteenth-century, a young graduate student returns home accompanied, much to the discomfort of his father and uncle, by a friend who does not acknowledge any authority and who refuses to accept any principle on faith.
- Vergheze, Abraham. ***Cutting for Stone***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Twin brothers are born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon at a mission hospital in Ethiopia. Bound by a preternatural connection, but separated by betrayal and political upheaval, they are reunited in New York City when one faces a life-threatening illness.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Walls, Jeannette. ***The Glass Castle: A Memoir***. Scribner, 2005. This successful gossip columnist, who “made it” against all odds, shares her astonishing memoir of a childhood lived in a seriously dysfunctional, but uniquely vibrant, family. Alex Award 2006
- Williams, Carol Lynch. ***The Chosen One***. St. Martin’s Griffin, 2009. When the Prophet orders thirteen-year-old Kyra to be the seventh wife of her elderly uncle, her family is upset. Kyra knows that running away puts them all at risk.
- Wroblewski, David. ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle: A Novel***. Ecco, 2008. Accompanied by canine companions, the quest of Edgar, a mute boy, takes shape with the return of his uncle and culminates dramatically with the solution of his father’s mysterious death. A story of joy and sorrow.
- X, Malcolm, with the assistance Alex Haley. ***The Autobiography of Malcolm X***. First published 1965. If there was any one man who articulated the anger, the struggle, and the beliefs of African Americans in the 1960s, that man was Malcolm X. His autobiography is the result of a unique collaboration between Alex Haley and Malcolm X, whose voice and philosophy resonate from every page.
- 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

---

Compiled by:

Jenni Elliott (Chair), *Episcopal High School*  
Diana Armentor, *Awty International School*  
Fiona de Young, *The Kinkaid School*  
Cyndie Jones, *Houston Christian High School*  
Marilyn McEvoy, *St. Pius X High School*  
Deborah Mosichuk, *St. Pius X High School*  
Dorian Myers, *The Kinkaid School*  
Peg Patrick, *St. John’s School*  
Susan Penny, *Strake Jesuit College Preparatory*  
Stephanie Penttila, *The John Cooper School*  
Jean Pfluger, *Duchesne Academy*  
Diane Roberts, *St. Thomas High School*  
Marylin Sharp, *St. John’s School*  
Rebecca Shields, *Incarnate Word Academy*  
Herman Sutter, *St. Agnes Academy*  
Suzanne Webb, *Episcopal High School*

Copyright ©2011 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network