

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Aliki. ***My Five Senses***. HarperCollins, 1989. The excitement a child feels when discovering the world through the use of the five senses is related.
- Allen, Judy. ***Are You a Ladybug?*** Kingfisher, 2000. The life cycle of a ladybug is introduced, showing how it changes from an egg to an adult ladybug.
- Anderson, Jill. ***Zebras***. NorthWord, 2005. Simple text and color photos present a portrait of the zebra, covering its physical characteristics, diet, predators, social behavior, and life cycle.
- Aston, Dianna Hutts. ***Mama Outside, Mama Inside***. Holt, 2006. Two mothers – a human and a bird – prepare for the birth of their babies while living very close to each other.
- Ayres, Katherine. ***Up, Down, and Around***. Candlewick, 2007. A garden produces a variety of edible plants, such as corn that grows up, onions that grow down, and tomato vines that twine all around.
- Barton, Byron. ***My Car***. Greenwillow, 2001. Sam describes in loving detail his car and how he drives it.
- Beaty, Andrea. ***Doctor Ted***. McElderry Books, 2008. After bumping his knee one morning, Ted decides to become a doctor, but he has only one problem – he has no patients.
- Bonnett-Rampersaud, Louise. ***Bubble and Squeak***. Marshall Cavendish, 2006. Bubble helps her mother practice bedtime rituals that she proclaims she has outgrown, such as checking for monsters and reading a favorite book, but that her baby sister, Squeak, will need when she gets a little older.
- Bredeson, Carmen. ***Fun Facts about Alligators!*** Enslow Elementary, 2008. Descriptions are given regarding the life cycle of alligators, where they live, what they eat, how they differ from crocodiles, and other alligator facts.
- Brett, Jan. ***Daisy Comes Home***. Puffin Books, 2002. Mei Mei's six hens are the happiest hens in China, but when Daisy – the smallest – falls into the river in a basket and drifts away, she must learn to survive on her own.
- Charlip, Remy. ***A Perfect Day***. Greenwillow, 2007. A parent and child spend a perfect day together, from sunrise to nightfall.
- Child, Lauren. ***Say Cheese!*** Dial Books, 2007. Lola has promised her mother that she will stay clean and tidy for picture day, but she is covered in paint and milk by the time she poses for her picture, so her friend Charlie suggests how to save the day.
- Choldenko, Gennifer. ***Louder, Lili***. Putnam, 2007. Lili is so shy that her voice is never heard in class until the day a good friend needs her help.
- Crews, Donald. ***Shortcut***. Greenwillow, 1992. Children taking a shortcut by walking along a railroad track find excitement and danger when a train approaches.

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- Crews, Nina. **One Hot Summer Day**. Greenwillow, 1995. Simple text and photographs are used to tell the story of a child's activities in the heat of a summer day, punctuated by a thunderstorm.
- Cronin, Doreen. **Click, Clack, Splish, Splash: a Counting Adventure**. Atheneum, 2006. While Farmer Brown sleeps, some of the animals who live on the farm go on a fishing expedition.
- Cunnane, Kelly. **For You Are a Kenyan Child**. Atheneum, 2006. A little Kenyan boy gets distracted by all there is to see and do in the village and forgets what his mama asked him to do.
- Curtis, Jamie Lee. **Big Words for Little People**. Joanna Cotler, 2008. A big sister teaches her younger siblings some important words, like "responsibility," "perseverance," and "respect."
- Daly, Niki. **Happy Birthday, Jamela!** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Jamela wants sparkly "princess shoes" to go with her new birthday dress, but Mama makes her buy practical school shoes instead.
- Dewdney, Anna. **Nobunny's Perfect**. Viking, 2008. Bunnies who slurp their juice, forget to say "please," and bite their friends, learn about good manners.
- Dodd, Emma. **Just Like You**. Dutton, 2007. A baby bear describes the ways in which he wants to be like his father when he grows up.
- Dodds, Dayle Ann. **The Prince Won't Go to Bed!** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. When the young prince refuses to go to bed, assorted members of the royal household offer their ideas on exactly what he needs, but it is his sister, Princess Kate, who learns the truth.
- Dotlich, Rebecca Kai. **What Is Science?** Holt, 2006. Young readers are introduced to the world of science and all it encompasses.
- Durango, Julia. **Cha-Cha Chimps**. Simon & Schuster, 2006. In this counting book, ten little chimps sneak out at night to dance at a swinging club called Mambo Jamba's, where rhinos hustle and ostriches polka, and are found out by Mama.
- Elliott, David. **And Here's to You!** Candlewick, 2004. This rhyming celebration introduces all sorts of creatures, from the "Feather People" (birds) to the "Dreaming People" (dogs) to even the "People People".
- English, Karen. **Hot Day on Abbott Avenue**. Clarion, 2004. After having a fight, two friends spend the day ignoring each other until the lure of a game of jump rope helps them to forget about being mad.
- Ernst, Lisa Campbell. **Round Like a Ball!** Blue Apple Books, 2008. Readers try to guess the identity of the object that is round like a ball, both wet and dry, hot and cold, and always moving.
- Ficocelli, Elizabeth. **Kid Tea**. Marshall Cavendish, 2007. On every night of the week, a new color of "kid tea" is created in the bath, depending on the activities of that day.

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- Ganeri, Anita. ***From Seed to Sunflower***. Heinemann, 2006. The life cycle of a sunflower plant is presented in simple text with illustrations, tracing its development from seed to flower.
- Geras, Adele. ***Little Ballet Star***. Dial, 2007. Tilly is thrilled when she gets to see her aunt perform in the ballet, "The Sleeping Beauty," especially because she gets to go backstage and even onto the stage itself.
- Gleeson, Libby. ***Half a World Away***. Arthur A. Levine, 2007. When Amy moves to the other side of the world, her best friend Louie must find a way to reconnect with her.
- Gonzalez, Maya Christina. ***My Colors, My World = Mis Colores, Mi Mundo***. Children's Book Press, 2007. Maya, who lives in the dusty desert, opens her eyes wide to find the colors in her world, from Papi's black hair and Mami's orange and purple flowers to Maya's red swing set and the fiery pink sunset. Text in English and Spanish.
- Gorbachev, Valeri. ***Turtle's Penguin Day***. Knopf, 2008. After hearing a bedtime story about penguins, Turtle dresses as one for school and soon the entire class is having a penguin day, sliding on their bellies and eating goldfish crackers.
- Gravett, Emily. ***Monkey and Me***. Simon & Schuster, 2008. A little girl imitates a variety of animals with her stuffed toy monkey, from bats to penguins to kangaroos.
- Gravett, Emily. ***Orange Pear Apple Bear***. Simon & Schuster, 2006. As a bear juggles, the concepts of color, shape, and food are explored using only five simple words.
- Hall, Zoe. ***The Apple Pie Tree***. Blue Sky Press, 1996. An apple tree is described as it grows leaves and flowers and then produces its fruit, while in its branches robins make a nest, lay eggs, and raise a family. Includes a recipe for apple pie.
- Hayes, Sarah. ***Dog Day***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. Ben, Ellie, and their friends have fun learning math, reading, and writing from their new teacher, a dog named Riff, but when the principal comes to check on the class, the children wonder what will happen to Riff.
- Henkes, Kevin. ***Old Bear***. Greenwillow, 2008. When Old Bear falls asleep for the winter, he has a dream that he is a cub again and is enjoying each of the four seasons.
- Hennessy, B.G (Barbara G.). ***Because of You***. Candlewick, 2005. Using everyday examples, this book describes how every single person helps make the world a kinder and more peaceful place.
- Horacek, Petr. ***Butterfly, Butterfly***. Candlewick, 2007. Lucy discovers a world full of colorful creatures while searching for the beautiful butterfly she played with in the garden the day before.
- Hudson, Cheryl Willis. ***Construction Zone***. Candlewick, 2006. Simple text and colorful photographs describe the excitement of a busy construction site.

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- Ichikawa, Satomi. ***My Father's Shop***. Kane/Miller, 2004. A young boy named Mustafa ventures out of his father's carpet shop into the marketplace – under a carpet that makes him look like a rooster – where he learns about the languages of the tourists, bringing his father new customers in the process.
- Jenkins, Emily. ***What Happens on Wednesdays***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. A child describes every event that occurs on a Wednesday, from waking up while it is still dark and deciding it is not a kissing day, through a half-day of school, to snuggling into bed at night.
- Jenkins, Martin. ***Ape***. Candlewick, 2007. The behavior, diets, and habitats of the orangutan, chimpanzee, bonobo, and gorilla are described before revealing that humans are the other great ape, discussing simple similarities between people and the other apes, and the need to protect these species.
- Kajikawa, Kimiko. ***Close to You: How Animals Bond***. Holt, 2008. Photographs and simple text describe the different ways parents in the animal kingdom interact with their children.
- Kirk, Daniel. ***Library Mouse***. Abrams Books, 2007. Sam, a shy and creative mouse who lives in a library, decides to write and illustrate his own stories which he places on the shelves with the other library books. When the children find the tales, they all want to meet the author.
- Klise, Kate. ***Imagine Harry***. Harcourt, 2007. After Little Rabbit starts school, he sees less and less of his invisible friend, Harry, and finally tells his mother that Harry moved away.
- Korchek, Lori. ***Adventures of Cow***. Tricycle Press, 2005. A lost cow has many adventures before finding its way home.
- Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue. ***My Travelin' Eye***. Holt, 2008. Jenny Sue loves that her "travelin' eye" lets her see the world in a special way, and so she is not happy when her teacher suggests that her parents take her to an ophthalmologist to fix the lazy eye.
- Kurtz, Kevin. ***A Day in the Salt Marsh***. Sylvan Dell, 2007. Rhyming verse introduces readers to hourly changes in the salt marsh as the tide comes and goes.
- Kuskin, Karla. ***Green As a Bean***. Laura Geringer Books, 2007. Questions in verse are asked about the many things you could be if you were square or soft or loud or red or small or fat or fierce or dark.
- Lachenmeyer, Nathaniel. ***The Origami Master***. Albert Whitman, 2008. An Origami Master whose only company has been his creations captures someone who has been leaving him a magnificent origami animal each night.
- Lehman, Barbara. ***Museum Trip***. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. In this wordless book, a boy imagines himself inside some of the exhibits when he goes on a field trip to a museum.
- Lobel, Anita. ***Hello, Day!*** Greenwillow, 2008. Various animals greet the sunrise in their own unique voices, except for the owl who welcomes the night.

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- London, Jonathan. **Froggy Eats Out**. Viking, 2001. After Froggy misbehaves at a fancy restaurant, his parents take him to a fast flies restaurant to celebrate their anniversary.
- Lord, Janet. **Albert the Fix-it Man**. Peachtree, 2008. A cheerful repairman fixes squeaky doors, leaky roofs, and crumbling fences for his neighbors who return the kindness when he catches a terrible cold.
- Lunde, Darrin P. **Meet the Meerkat**. Charlesbridge, 2007. Colorful illustrations and simple text describe the characteristics, habitat, and habits of the meerkat.
- Lunis, Natalie. **Ostrich: the World's Biggest Bird**. Bearport Publishing, 2007. An overview of the ostrich is provided, with descriptions of its size, habitat, movements, predators, and life cycle. Brief details on other large birds are also included.
- MacDonald, Suse. **Fish, Swish! Splash Dash!: Counting Round and Round**. Little Simon, 2007. Die-cut pages and simple text introduce young readers to the numbers one through ten by counting the fish in the sea up to ten and then back down to one.
- Manning, Mick. **Cock-a-doodle-hooooooo!** Good Books, 2007. When a tired, lonely owl finds shelter in a hen house during a storm, he is awakened by a flock of bossy hens who try to force him to be a rooster until he demonstrates what he can do for them.
- Markes, Julie. **Good Thing You're Not an Octopus!** HarperCollins, 2001. A little boy finds that his life is pretty easy compared to how it might be.
- Markle, Sandra. **Little Lost Bat**. Charlesbridge, 2006. The early life of an orphaned Mexican free-tailed bat is chronicled, from its birth to its adoption by a new mother. Facts about bats are included.
- Mayhew, James. **Where's My Hug?** Bloomsbury, 2008. Jake tries to track down his mother's hug after she gives it to his father, who gives it to the cat, who gives it to a witch, and so on.
- McDonald, Megan. **Hen Hears Gossip**. Greenwillow, 2008. When Hen overhears some news on the farm, she runs to tell Duck who tells another animal, and as the gossip is repeated from one animal to the next, it becomes unrecognizable.
- Munro, Roxie. **Rodeo**. Bright Sky Press, 2007. Fifty flaps and fold-outs are used to illustrate a variety of rodeo events.
- Neitzel, Shirley. **The Jacket I Wear in the Snow**. Greenwillow, 1989. A young girl names all the clothes that she must wear to play in the snow.
- Nevius, Carol. **Baseball Hour**. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. A typical baseball practice in which the athletes demonstrate teamwork is described.
- Nevius, Carol. **Building with Dad**. Marshall Cavendish, 2006. A father and his young child watch the construction of the new school, from the bulldozing of earth and mixing of the concrete for the foundation to the hanging of the new sign.

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- O'Connor, Jane. ***Fancy Nancy's Favorite Fancy Words: from Accessories to Zany.*** HarperCollins, 2008. Fancy Nancy helps children learn the alphabet by sharing her favorite fancy words.
- Patricelli, Leslie. ***The Birthday Box.*** Candlewick, 2007. An imaginative young child has a wonderful time playing with his birthday present and the box it came in.
- Pinkwater, Daniel. ***Bear's Picture.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2008, 1972. A bear continues to paint what he likes despite the criticism of two passing gentlemen who believe that bears cannot be artists.
- Prelutsky, Jack. ***Me I Am!*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007, 1983. This illustrated children's poem celebrates individuality and uniqueness.
- Raye, Rebekah. ***The Very Best Bed.*** Tilbury House, 2006. A squirrel with his store of seeds and nuts hunts for a cozy bed, but he must search high and low for a spot that is not already taken by other animals.
- Rockwell, Anne F. ***Our Earth.*** Voyager Books/Harcourt, 1998. This simple introduction to geography explains such things as how the earth was shaped, how islands are born from volcanoes, and how gushing springs affect rivers.
- Rodriguez, Edel. ***Sergio Makes a Splash.*** Little, Brown, 2008. Even though he loves everything to do with water, Sergio the penguin is afraid to try deep water until he learns how to swim and conquers his fears.
- Rosen, Michael. ***We're Going on a Bear Hunt.*** McElderry Books, 1989. Brave bear hunters go through grass, a river, mud, and other obstacles before the inevitable encounter with the bear forces a headlong retreat.
- Rosoff, Meg. ***Jumpy Jack & Googily.*** Holt, 2008. Jumpy Jack the snail is terrified that there are monsters around every corner despite the reassurances of his best friend, Googily.
- Ruelle, Karen Gray. ***Bark Park.*** Peachtree, 2008. Illustrations and rhyming text reveal dogs of every shape, size, and personality as they romp and frolic in a park.
- Saltzberg, Barney. ***Cornelius P. Mud, Are You Ready for Bed?*** Candlewick, 2005. Cornelius the pig has his own style when preparing for bed, but he does not really feel ready until he gets a hug.
- Schaefer, Lola M. ***An Island Grows.*** Greenwillow, 2006. An island is born and as it grows, lava flows, waves pound, and sands mound as it becomes inhabited.
- Schertle, Alice. ***Little Blue Truck.*** Harcourt, 2008. A little blue truck finds his way out of a jam, with a little help from his friends.
- Schertle, Alice. ***A Very Hairy Bear.*** Harcourt, 2007. The experiences of a shaggy, "boulder-big" bear are recounted as the four seasons come to the beautiful wood which is his home.
- Schoenherr, Ian. ***Pip & Squeak.*** Greenwillow, 2007. After rushing through the snow to get to their friend's birthday party, two mice realize that they forgot to bring the present.

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- Schuette, Sarah L. ***Let's Look at Winter***. Capstone Press, 2007. The signs that say it is winter are investigated, such as the changes in the weather, the length of days, and the behavior of plants and animals.
- Schwartz, Amy. ***A Beautiful Girl***. Roaring Brook, 2006. On her way to the market, Jenna encounters an elephant, a robin, a fly, and a goldfish that discover some of the things that make little girls different from each other.
- Schwartz, Corey Rosen. ***Hop! Plop!*** Walker, 2006. Mouse and Elephant go to the playground together, but it seems as if everything they try to play on together is broken.
- Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. ***One Boy***. Roaring Brook, 2008. A boy creates ten paintings in this counting book that also explores the relationship of words within words.
- Sherry, Kevin. ***I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean***. Dial, 2007. A giant squid brags about being bigger than anything else in the ocean – almost.
- Squires, Janet. ***The Gingerbread Cowboy***. Laura Geringer Books, 2006. A freshly baked gingerbread cowboy escapes from the rancher's wife's kitchen and eludes his pursuers in this western United States version of "The Gingerbread Boy."
- Stein, David Ezra. ***Leaves***. Putnam, 2007. A bear that has never experienced autumn before is puzzled by the falling leaves, unsure whether he should try to put them back or use them as a bed for winter.
- Stewart, Melissa. ***When Rain Falls***. Peachtree, 2008. This gently illustrated story describes where all of the animals go during a rainstorm.
- Stockdale, Susan. ***Fabulous Fishes***. Peachtree, 2008. Colorful illustrations and simple text describe a variety of fish.
- Swanson, Susan Marie. ***The House in the Night***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Illustrations and easy-to-read text explore the light that makes a house in the night a home filled with light. (Caldecott Medal, 2009)
- Swinburne, Stephen R. ***Guess Whose Shadow?*** Caroline House/Boyd's Mills, 1999. This photo-essay shows how light creates shadows.
- Tafari, Nancy. ***What the Sun Sees; What the Moon Sees***. Greenwillow, 1997. These books, issued back-to-back and inverted, contrast the world as viewed in sunlight with the quiet night world in moonlight.
- Teckentrup, Britta. ***Grumpy Cat***. Boxer Books, 2008. A street cat, increasingly grumpy in its loneliness, changes its attitude when a small, abandoned kitten decides to be its friend.
- Tourville, Amanda Doering. ***A Crocodile Grows Up***. Picture Window Books, 2007. The life of a Nile crocodile is followed from its birth along an African river until the age of ten when she becomes a mother.
- Urbanovic, Jackie. ***Duck Soup***. HarperCollins, 2008. Maxwell Duck is trying to invent a soup that will make him famous, but when he goes out to look for the missing ingredient and his friends show up, they think he has fallen into the pot.

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PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Van Fleet, Matthew. **Dog**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. This clever interactive book has pull tabs, flaps, and photographs to illustrate basic concepts such as opposites, synonyms, and action words.
- Warnes, Tim. **Mommy Mine**. HarperCollins, 2005. Whether it is by croak, flutter, or fur, all children claim their mothers as their own.
- Weaver, Tess. **Cat Jumped In!** Clarion, 2007. An inquisitive feline walks through the rooms of a house, jumping into one mess after another, before landing in the loving arms of the owner.
- Wells, Rosemary. **Max's Bunny Business**. Viking, 2008. Ruby and her friend Louise set up a lemonade stand to earn money to buy matching rings, but Max foils their plan.
- Wheeler, Lisa. **One Dark Night**. Harcourt, 2003. Mouse and Mole feel afraid one dark night crossing a mush-mucky swamp and a marsh-misty wood.
- Willems, Mo. **The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!** Hyperion, 2008. The pigeon really, really wants a puppy, but when a puppy arrives, the pigeon changes its mind.
- 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. **Bear Feels Scared**. McElderry Books, 2008. Bear's animal friends come to his rescue when he becomes lost and frightened in the woods.
- Wilson, Karma. **A Frog in the Bog**. McElderry Books, 2003. A frog in a bog grows larger and larger as he eats more and more bugs until he attracts the attention of an alligator that puts an end to his eating.
- Wilson, Karma. **Sakes Alive!: a Cattle Drive**. Little, Brown, 2005. Two cows, Mabel and Molly, take the farmer's truck and go for an eventful joyride into town.
- Wolf, Sallie. **Truck Stuck**. Charlesbridge, 2008. Illustrations and simple rhyming text tell the story of a big truck that gets stuck under a bridge.
- Wood, Audrey. **A Dog Needs a Bone!** Blue Sky Press, 2007. In this rhyming tale, a dog makes extravagant promises to its mistress if only she will give it a bone.
- Ziefert, Harriet. **Bigger Than Daddy**. Blue Apple Books, 2006. Edward wants to be bigger than his Daddy, so for one afternoon they pretend to exchange places.

Compiled by: Nancy Rodenbusch (Chair), *St. Mark's Episcopal School*;
Adonica Aston, *River Oaks Baptist School*;
Layne Mason, *The Center for Hearing and Speech*;
Gayle Modrall, *Presbyterian School*.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 1 and Grade 2

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

**Beginning readers are marked with an asterisk.*

- Adler, David. ***President George Washington***. Holiday House, 2005. From Washington's youth to his death, this book gives enough details and background to make it an enjoyable biography for new readers.
- *Adler, David. ***Young Cam Jansen and the Lion's Lunch Mystery***. Penguin, 2007. On a trip to the zoo, Cam Jansen uses her photographic memory to help solve what happened to Danny's lunch. *Series*
- Amato, Mary. ***Chicken of the Family***. Putnam, 2008. Henrietta's two older sisters try to convince her she is really a chicken, so Henrietta sets off for the farm to find her real family, and discovers how much fun being a chicken can be.
- Arnold, Tedd. ***The Twin Princes***. Dial, 2007. Twin chicken princes take part in a contest to determine which one will inherit the throne.
- Barber, Tiki. ***Game Day***. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Brothers Tiki and Ronde Barber, two NFL superstars, tell their story and explain how loyalty, determination, and the power of teamwork help all succeed.
- Becker, Bonny. ***A Visitor for Bear***. Candlewick Press, 2008. Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse.
- Brett, Jan. ***Hedgie Blasts Off!*** Putnam, 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.
- *Chaconas, Dori. ***Cork & Fuzz: the collectors***. Viking, 2008. Cork, a short muskrat, and Fuzz, a tall possum, both like to collect shiny stones, but Cork must act fast to save his friend when Fuzz angers a mother duck by trying to take a "stone" from her nest.
- Cronin, Doreen. ***Diary of a Spider***. Joanna Cotler Books, 2005. In this sequel to *Diary of a Worm*, worm's friend Spider gives his view of the world. He discovers that there is a lot to learn about being a spider, including spinning webs, avoiding vacuum cleaners and never falling asleep in a shoe.
- Crummel, Susan Stevens. ***Ten-Gallon Bart and the Wild West Show***. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Buffalo Chip's Wild West Show comes to Dog City and retired sheriff Bart, looking for some excitement, enters the bull-riding contest.
- *Danziger, Paula. ***Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown***. Putnam, 2004. Amber Brown loves the second grade but wonders if she will ever receive an award from Deskarina, desk fairy, for keeping her desk clean. *Series*
- Davies, Nicola. ***Surprising Sharks***. Candlewick Press, 2003. Sharks come in all shapes and sizes. Many species from the smallest to the scariest are described in this informative picture book.

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Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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.
- De Paola, Tomie. ***26 Fairmount Avenue***. Puffin, 2001. Children's author-illustrator Tomie De Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy. *Series*
- Dicamillo, Kate. ***Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig***. Candlewick Press, 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 Books for Children, 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 Children's Books, 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.
- Fleischman, Paul. ***Sidewalk Circus***. Candlewick Press, 2004. A young girl watches as the activities across the street from her bus stop become a circus.
- Florian, Douglas. ***Bow Wow Meow: It's Rhyming Cats and Dogs***. Harcourt, 2003. It's rhyming cats and dogs in Douglas Florian's furr-ocious collection of twenty-one original poems and paintings about our favorite animal friends.
- 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.
- Grandparent Poems***. compiled by John Micklos, Jr. Wordsong Boyds Mill Press, 2004. A compilation of twenty-two poems in celebration of grandparents.
- Grogan, John. ***Bad Dog Marley***. Harper Collins, 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, 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.
- Hicks, Betty. ***Goof-Off Goalie***. Roaring Brook Press, 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*
- Hills, Tad. ***Duck and Goose***. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2006. Duck and Goose learn to work together to take care of a ball that they think is an oversized egg.

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Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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, designed especially for young children and adults to read together. *Series*.
- *Hoff, Syd. ***Danny and the Dinosaur Go To Camp***. HarperCollins, 1996. When Danny brings his favorite dinosaur to camp, the two friends enjoy boating, hiking, and roasting marshmallows. *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 and the Birthday Surprise***. Candlewick, 2006. Friends Houndsley and Catina are sad because they do not know when their birthdays are, but they solve the problem in a thoughtful and creative way. *Series*
- Isadora, Rachel. ***Nick Plays Baseball***. Putnam, 2001. The story of Nick and his teammates' championship baseball game provides an introduction to the aspects of the game of baseball including equipment, player positions, and rules.
- Jeffers, Susan. ***My Chincoteague Pony***. Hyperion, 2008. Julie, having worked year-round to save money to buy her first Chincoteague pony, realizes she doesn't have enough, but when Pony Penning Day arrives strangers help her make her purchase.
- Karas, G. Brian. ***On Earth***. Putnam, 2005. The earth and its cycles are simply and beautifully illustrated in this poetic text. Difficult concepts are explained through children's real life experiences.
- 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.
- Katz, Alan. ***Are You Quite Polite? : Silly Dilly Manners Songs***. McElderry, 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.
- Kennedy, Senator 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.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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.
- King-Smith, Dick. ***The Twin Giants.*** Candlewick Press, 2008. Bachelor giants Normus and Lottavim, who always do everything together, have a series of adventures after deciding to go their separate ways in search of wives.
- Knudsen, Michelle. ***Library Lion.*** Candlewick, 2006. A lion starts visiting the local library, but runs into trouble as he tries to both obey the rules and help his librarian friend.
- 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*
- Landry, Leo. ***Sea Surprise.*** Holt, 2005. Kate, a mermaid, and her best friend Dave, a shark, have planned a special surprise for their best friend Ed who has lost his zap. A funny story with silly illustrations makes this a delightful tale of friendship.
- 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. ***Batter Up Wombat.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2006. An Australian wombat joins the Champs baseball team, and even though he is disastrously ignorant of the game, his innate talents save everyone when a tornado strikes.
- Lies, Brian. ***Bats at the Library.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Bored with another normal, inky evening, bats discover an open library window and fly in to enjoy the photocopier, water fountain, and especially the books and stories found there.
- *Lobel, Arnold. ***Frog and Toad Are Friends.*** HarperCollins, 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.
- Markle, Sandra. ***Spiders: Biggest! Littlest!*** Boyds Mills, 2004. From the Goliath Bird Spider to the Crab Spider, amazing photographs show how spiders benefit from their size. Includes a map of where spiders live.
- *Marshall, James. ***Fox on the Job.*** Puffin, 1988. Fox tries several different jobs to earn money. *Series*

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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 is jealous because he cannot sing. He 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 Press, 2008. Stink Moody, friends Webster and Sophie, and Mrs. Birdwistle visit tourist attractions in Virginia as they try to give away 101 guinea pigs rescued from a laboratory, although Stink is very reluctant to relinquish his favorite, Astro. *Series*
- McKissack, Patricia. ***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.
- *Miller, Sara Swan. ***Three Stories You Can Read to Your Teddy Bear.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2003. If your teddy bear seems quiet and just sits on your bed staring, maybe he is bored and needs to be entertained. This book has perfect stories for teddy bears to hear.
- Murphy, Stuart J. ***Lemonade for Sale.*** Harper Collins, 1998. The Elm Street Kid's Club decides to sell lemonade to earn money to fix up their clubhouse and they use a graph to keep track of their sales. *MathStart series*
- Muth, Jon. ***Zen Shorts.*** Scholastic, 2005. Stillwater, a talking panda, shares Zen stories with three children. Each story matches the mood and character of the child.
- 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.
- *Nixon, Joan Lowery. ***Gus and Gertie and the Lucky Charms.*** SeaStar, 2002. Fine-feathered heroes Gus and Gertie return for another slapstick, easy-to-read mystery as they arrive at the Animals' Winter Olympics with dreams of winning gold as Antarctica's first synchronized swimming team. *Series*
- Numeroff, Laura. ***The Jellybeans and the Dance.*** Abrams Books for Young People, 2008. When four young girls meet in dance class, it takes time for them to find a way--and a reason--to pull together as one, but Emily helps them realize that, just like a bag of jellybeans, they can be different and still go well together.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- O'Connor, Jane. ***Fancy Nancy and the Boy from Paris***. HarperCollins, 2008. Nancy is delighted that the new boy in her class is from Paris and sets out to become his friend, then discovers that this Parisian is not quite as fancy as she had thought. *Series*
- Ó Flatharta, Antoine. ***Hurry and the Monarch***. 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 Under Construction***. Greenwillow, 2006. Anytime Amelia Bedelia baby-sits for the Hardy family, trouble is sure to follow, this time leading up to some unexpected remodeling of the Hardy's house. *Series*
- Polacco, Patricia. ***Thank You Mr. Faulker***. Philomel, 1998. At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problems.
- Recorvits, Helen. ***Yoon and the Jade Bracelet***. Farrar Straus 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.
- Rodman, Mary Ann. ***My Best Friend***. Viking, 2005. At the local swimming pool six-year-old Lily is doing her best to impress seven-year-old Tamika because she wants Tamika to be her best friend. No matter how hard Lily tries, Tamika either ignores her or teases her. Could there be another best friend?
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. ***Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons***. HarperCollins, 2006. Cookies provide the framework for this clever book, but the focus is on life lessons to be learned about sharing, regret, cooperation, and patience-terms which are defined in simple, relevant text and made clear by sweet illustrations.
- Ryder, Joanne. ***Toad by the Road***. Holt, 2007. A poetic and illustrated description of the toad's life cycle through the course of a year.
- *Rylant, Cynthia. ***Annie & Snowball and the Dress-Up Birthday***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Annie and her bunny Snowball invite Henry & Mudge to a dress-up party. *Series*
- *Rylant, Cynthia. ***Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover***. Simon & Schuster, 2006. Henry and his dog Mudge are invited to a sleepover in Patrick's attic, where they watch monster movies, eat pizza, and enjoy a contest to determine whose dog is the best popcorn catcher. *Series*
- *Rylant, Cynthia. ***The High-Rise Private Eyes: the Case of the Desperate Duck***. Greenwillow, 2005. In this case, animal detectives Bunny and Jack help Mabel the duck find out who stole the sugar cubes from her tea room. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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 in Mummy Trouble***. Dutton Children's Books, 2006. Skippyjon Jones, a Siamese kitten who thinks he's a Chihuahua, dreams of traveling to ancient Egypt with his gang of Chihuahua amigos.
- Schorter, Roni. ***The Boy Who Loved Words***. Schwartz & Wade, 2006. Selig loves and collects words in this charming story of a boy who finds his life's purpose through his passion for words.
- Schulman, Janet. ***Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City***. 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.
- 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 realizes that there is one special toy that he absolutely cannot part with.
- *Sharmat, Marjorie. ***Nate the Great Talks Turkey***. Delacorte, 2006. Nate the Great and his cousin Olivia are on the case of a runaway turkey, but unfortunately the clues appear to contradict each other. *Series*
- Shulevitz, Uri. ***How I Learned Geography***. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008. As he spends hours studying his father's world map, a young boy escapes the hunger and misery of refugee life. Based on the author's childhood in Kazakhstan, where he lived as a Polish refugee during World War II.
- *Silverman, Erica. ***Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Partners***. Harcourt, 2006. Cocoa the horse herds the cows with Cowgirl Kate, helps her practice her roping skills, and wishes he could wear boots instead of horseshoes. *Series*
- Smothers, Ethel Footman. ***Hard-Times Jar***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. Emma, the daughter of poor migrant workers, longs to own a real book. When she turns eight and must attend school for the first time, she is amazed to discover a whole library in her classroom.
- Steig, William. ***Sylvester and Magic Pebble***. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1999. In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn into a rock but then can not hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again.
- Stewart, Dawn Lesley. ***Harriet's Horrible Hair Day***. Peachtree, 2000. After having tried a series of outrageous schemes to tame Harriet's hair, her brother and sister finally see that it's not such a big problem after all.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Stowell, Penelope. ***The Greatest Potatoes***. Hyperion, 2005. George Crum, son of a former slave and a Native American, was a chef in Saratoga, New York in 1853. As a practical joke, George created the worst fried potatoes in the world. The Saratoga flaky fried potatoes became an instant hit.
- Sturges, Philemon. ***She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain***. Little, Brown, 2004. New words to the traditional tune describe a camper-driving, "hooting" and "shouting" guest and the party that will begin when she arrives.
- *Sutcliffe, Jane. ***Jesse Owens***. Carolrhoda, 2001. This is a biography of track-and-field athlete Jesse Owens, from his childhood in Alabama to his athletic career which culminated in his winning four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany.
- Swope, Sam. ***Gotta Go! Gotta Go!*** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2000. Although she doesn't know how or why, a small creepy-crawly bug is certain that she must make her way to Mexico.
- Talbott, Hudson. ***United Tweets of America***. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. A collection of detailed illustrations of state birds from all fifty United States. SLJ starred, Horn Book, Booklist
- Tavares, Matt. ***Mudball***. Candlewick, 2005. The year is 1903. Andy Oyler, the shortest player in his baseball league, is batting with two outs and rain is falling hard. Andy's bat connects with the ball, but will it be hard enough to bring in the runs and win the game?
- Teague, Mark. ***Detective LaRue: Letters from the Investigation***. Scholastic, 2004. While on vacation, Mrs. LaRue receives letters from her dog, Ike, who has been falsely accused of harming the neighbor's cats and is trying to clear his name. *Series*
- *Thomas, Shelley Moore. ***Take Care, Good Knight***. Dutton, 2006. Three little dragons have agreed to take care of the old wizard's cats while he is away, but their inability to read his instructions causes problems until their friend, the Good Knight, save the day. *Series*
- Umansky, Kaye. ***I Don't Like Gloria***. Candlewick Press, 2007. The family dog tries to cope with the arrival of a new cat.
- *Van Leeuwen, Jean. ***Oliver the Mighty Pig***. Dial, 2004. Oliver feels like the superhero Mighty Pig when he wears his Mighty Pig cape, but he finds that being a superhero in the real world has some complications. *Series*
- Weatherby, Brenda. ***The Trucker***. Scholastic, 2004. Wesley dreams his toy semi-flatbed truck grows big enough for him to have a trucking adventure but wakes to find he is in the back of his father's truck.
- Whybrow, Ian. ***Badness for Beginners: A Little Wolf and Smellybreff Adventure***. Carolrhoda, 2005. Little Wolf and his brother Smellybreff get lessons in badness from their Mom and Dad. They just can't be naughty enough to suit their parents.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- 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 Press, 2007. A collection of poems for children with the various themes of self, family, going outside, and when it is time for bed.
- 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.
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Compiled by:

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H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Bagert, Brod. ***School Fever***. Dial, 2008. Hilarious poems, clever art work, and wacky subjects combine to change the way you'll think of school forever.
- Barshaw, Ruth. ***Ellie McDoodle: New Kid at School***. Bloomsbury, 2007. Armed only with humor, a pen, and a sketchbook, eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle chronicles her adventures and mishaps as the "new kid" in her new school. *Series*
- Bishop, Nic. ***Spiders***. Scholastic, 2007. Spectacular photographs and well researched text combine to make this book fascinating reading for both those who are interested in spiders and those who don't think they would be until they see this book.
- Berman, Len. ***And Nobody Got Hurt 2! The World's Weirdest, Wackiest, and Most Amazing True Sports Stories***. Little, Brown, 2007. This collection of sports bloopers and phenomena from all over the world in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, golf, tennis, and the Olympics provides an entertaining look at things which actually happened in the sports world.
- Bidner, Jenni. ***Is My Dog a Wolf: How Your Pet Compares to its Wild Cousin***. Lark Books, 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.
- Birney, Betty. ***Trouble According to Humphrey***. Puffin, 2008. Humphrey experiences all the ups and downs with his friends as they create a model town project with all the bells and whistles. *Series*
- Boniface, William. ***The Extraordinary Adventures of Ordinary Boy: the Return of Meteor Boy***. HarperCollins, 2007. Ordinary Boy uses his head and manages to solve an old mystery and save the day once again for Superopolis, despite having no superpowers of his own. *Series*
- Brooks, Gwendolyn. ***Bronzeville Boys and Girls***. HarperCollins, 2007. The universal joys and experiences of children are celebrated in this newly illustrated collection of poetry from one of America's most beloved poets.
- Bunting, Eve. ***Reggie***. Cricket, 2006. Eight-year-old Alex is determined to keep the toy mouse he finds tied to a balloon, even after posters appear asking for its return. But when his dog Patch disappears, Alex discovers what it is like to lose something you love more than anything.
- Byars, Betsy. ***Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society***. Henry Holt, 2007. At the first annual meeting of WOOF – Words of Our Friends – assorted dogs share tales of dogs throughout history.
- Cleary, Beverly. ***Ribsy***. First published in 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*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- 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.
- Clements, Andrew. **Dogku**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Haiku is used to tell the story about a dog named Mooch who rides in a car, barks at the neighbors, and chews on dirty socks.
- Climo, Shirley. **Tuko and the Birds**. Henry Holt, 2008. In this traditional tale from the Philippines, Tuko the gecko moves in and completely disrupts the lives of the birds living on Mount Pinatubo, as well as the rhythms of life of the village people below, with his frightful singing.
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. **Young Pele: Soccer's First Star**. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. Despite coming from a poor Brazilian family, Pele uses determination and skill to become the greatest soccer player of all time.
- Colfer, Eoin. **Eoin Colfer's Legend of the Worst Boy in the World**. Hyperion, 2007. Will Woodman has a hard time getting anyone in his family to listen to him, so he turns to his grandfather, who, it turns out, has more terrible sob stories than Will does.
- Collins, Ross. **Medusa Jones**. Arthur A. Levine, 2008. Medusa, with her hair of hissing snakes, and her rather unusual friends are considered the Freaks at school, teased unmercifully by the Champions, the more attractive children of the Greek gods and goddesses.
- 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.
- Coville, Bruce. **Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher**. Harcourt, 1991. In this sequel to **The Monster's Ring**, Jeremy purchases a strange egg which turns out to be a dragon that only he and Mary Lou can see. *Series*
- 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.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Mr. Chickee's Funny Money**. Wendy Lamb, 2005. In this first book of a new series, Flint Future Detective Club members Steven Carter, his friend Russell, and Russell's dog, Zoopy, solve the mystery of a quadrillion-dollar bill with the image of James Brown on it.
- 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.
- Davidson, Avelyn. **Beach Biology**. Children's Press, 2008. Colorful photographs and fascinating text show the plant and animal life of many different kinds of beaches, from rocky shores to estuaries to coral reefs.
- 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.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Edwards, Wallace. ***The Extinct Files: My Science Project***. Kids Can Press, 2006. Wally's science project proves that dinosaurs are alive through funny "photographs" and wacky puns. Wally's plan is a success until the D.I.A. (Dinosaur Intelligence Agency) gets involved.
- 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.
- Fleischman, Paul. ***Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella***. Henry Holt, 2007. This colorful version of the classic fairy tale blends together tidbits of over twenty Cinderella stories from around the world.
- Friedman, Laurie B. ***Honestly Mallory!*** Carolrhoda, 2008. When Mallory cannot decide what to be on Career Day, it makes her feel like she is not good at anything and she ends up telling a lie that quickly gets out of control. *Series*
- Gardiner, John R. ***Stone Fox***. First published 1980. Willie hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.
- Giblin, James. ***Did Fleming Rescue Churchill? a Research Puzzle***. Henry Holt, 2008. Is everything on the Internet really true? That is the question Jason must answer as he researches the life of scientist Alexander Fleming and uncovers a tantalizing tidbit of information.
- Giovanni, Nikki. ***The Grasshopper's Song: an Aesop's Fable Revisited***. Candlewick, 2008. It's 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.
- Gifford, Peggy. ***Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank-you Notes***. Schwartz & Wade, 2008. Ten-year-old Moxy Maxwell has promised to write twelve thank-you notes by the day after Christmas so that she and her twin brother Mark can go to Hollywood to visit their father, but all her brilliant ideas to help finish the task more efficiently end up creating chaos in the house.
- Goldish, Meish. ***Gray Wolves Return to Yellowstone***. Bearport, 2008. After 70 years of absence, gray wolves are reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park through a very successful program to restore balance to the park's ecosystem.
- Goldstone, Bruce. ***Great Estimations***. Henry 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.
- Greenwald, Sheila. ***Rosy Cole's Memoir Explosion***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006. Rosy is surprised when her friends are not thrilled with her memoir project for school. *Series*
- Grimes, Nikki. ***Thanks a Million***. Greenwillow, 2006. The importance of being thankful and expressing our gratitude are demonstrated in sixteen different ways through poetry.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Gutman, Dan. ***Nightmare at the Book Fair***. Simon & Schuster, 2008. Fifth-grader Trip Dinkleman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the head by a book fair case and becomes a character in a series of different books including a horror story, an adventure, and a fantasy.
- Haas, Jessie. ***Jigsaw Pony***. Greenwillow, 2005. Twins Kiera and Fran have never agreed on anything until their father surprises them with a pony.
- Hamilton, Virginia. ***The Girl Who Spun Gold***. Scholastic, 2000. This beautifully illustrated folk tale is a West Indian variant of the Rumpelstiltskin story.
- Hansen, Rosanna. ***Caring for Cheetahs: My African Adventure***. Boyds Mill, 2007. Pounce into this colorful photo essay about protecting endangered cheetahs at a nature reserve owned by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa.
- Hanson, Mary. ***How to Save Your Tail***. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. Take a romp with Bob the rat, who survives capture by two cats by sharing both fresh-baked cookies and fractured fairy tales about his ancestors.
- 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.
- Helman, Andrea. ***Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts***. Walker & Co., 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. ***Basketball Bats***. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. Henry learns to be a real team player when his basketball team takes on the "tough team" from the YMCA.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***Piper Reed, the Great Gypsy***. Henry Holt, 2008. While her father, a Navy Chief, is on ship duty for six months, nine-year-old Piper stays busy with new neighbors, Christmas at a spaceship beach house, a trip to New Orleans, and especially the upcoming Gypsy Club pet show.
- Issa, Kai Jackson. ***Howard Thurman's Great Hope***. Lee & Low, 2008. Born a Negro at the turn of the 20th century, Howard Thurman faced and overcame many obstacles to become an important civil rights leader.
- James, Helen Foster. ***S is for S'mores***. Sleeping Bear Press, 2007. No camping trip will be complete without this fun alphabet book full of camping trivia, including the perennial favorite – s'mores.
- Jenkins, Emily. ***Toys Dance Party***. Schwarz & 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. *Sequel*
- Jenkins, Steve. ***Dogs and Cats, Cats and Dogs***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Illustrated with eye-catching collage, this book presents a wealth of information about both dogs and cats in an enticing read and flip-it-over format.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- 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.
- Keating, Frank. ***Theodore.*** Simon & Schuster, 2006. Beautifully illustrated picture book of the life of Theodore Roosevelt written as though he were telling the story face-to-face with the reader in his own words.
- Kelly, Katy. ***Lucy Rose: Working Myself to Pieces and Bits.*** Delacorte, 2007. In her diary, fourth grader Lucy Rose, who is a lover of palindromes and big words, records her adventures with friends Jonique and Melonhead, including their unorthodox ways of raising money so that the McBees can remodel their bakery. *Series*
- Keller, Laurie. ***Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners.*** Henry Holt, 2007. The golden rule is introduced in a fun manner when a rabbit worries about getting along with his new neighbors, who happen to be otters.
- Kerley, Barbara. ***What to do About Alice?*** Scholastic Press, 2008. Find out why President Teddy Roosevelt said of his daughter: "I can be president of the United States, or I can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both." in this lighthearted picture book biography.
- Ketteman, Helen. ***Waynetta and the Cornstalk: A Texas Fairy Tale.*** Albert Whitman, 2007. This humorous retelling of "Jack and the Beanstalk" with a Texas twist is pure fun.
- Kimmel, Eric. ***A Picture for Marc.*** Random House, 2007. Marc, an imaginative Russian boy, discovers his talent for drawing and, with the encouragement of a friend and an art teacher, decides to become an artist and grows up to be famous.
- Levine, Ellen. ***Henry's Freedom Box.*** Scholastic, 2007. This is a fictionalized account of how in 1849, a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.
- Li, Cunxin. ***Dancing to Freedom: the True Story of Mao's Last Dancer.*** Walker & Co. 2007. When former principal dancer for the Houston Ballet, Li Cunxin was growing up in China, the country was under the control of communist leader, Mao-Tse Tung, but that did not prevent Li from following his dream of becoming a world renowned ballet dancer.
- Lin, Grace. ***The Year of the Rat.*** Little, Brown, 2008. Pacy faces many challenges this Chinese New Year and is not sure she likes the changes this year will bring. *Sequel*
- Look, Lenore. ***Alvin Ho, Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2008. Alvin Ho loves superheroes and his family, but is afraid of practically everything else. Finding a friend is hard for Alvin, especially because he is unable to talk at school.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- 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 on Vacation!*** Bloomsbury, 2007. In a continuation of the Trolls Trouble series, the Priddles find themselves on vacation sharing a camper with the Trolls. This was not the seaside vacation Mrs. Priddle hoped for and both families are in for some surprises. *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.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***Edward's Eyes***. Atheneum, 2007. Edward has a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other. When he unexpectedly dies and his parents donate his organs, his wonderful eyes go to the perfect recipient.
- Mannis, Celeste. ***Julia Morgan Built a Castle***. Viking, 2006. Following her dream to build buildings, Julia Morgan overcame great obstacles to become the first woman licensed architect in California and the builder of the magnificent Hearst Castle.
- Markle, Sandra. ***Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories***. Milbrook Press, 2009. Nine riveting tales share examples of animals saving humans, along with photos and extra information and insights into animal behavior.
- Martin, Ann M. and Godwin, Laura. ***The Runaway Dolls***. Hyperion, 2008. When a package containing an old-fashioned china baby doll arrives mysteriously in the mail, Annabelle Doll and her friend Tiffany are launched on a new adventure that takes them all over the city and traps them in a toy store. *Series*
- McDonald, Megan. ***Judy Moody Around the World in 8 ½ Days***. Candlewick, 2006. Judy Moody's new friendship causes problems with her old friends as they try to work together on a school project. *Series*
- McDonough, Yona. ***Hammerin' Hank: The Life of Hank Greenberg***. Walker & Co., 2006. This picture book biography of Hall of Fame baseball player Hank Greenberg has a winning combination of illustrations and text.
- Mills, Claudia. ***Being Teddy Roosevelt***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. When he is assigned Teddy Roosevelt as his biography project in school, fourth-grader Riley finds himself inspired by Roosevelt's tenacity and perseverance and resolves to find a way to get what he most wants – a saxophone and music lessons.
- Morris, Gerald. ***The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. This humorous version of the Arthurian legend features a more laid-back Sir Lancelot who is equally at home fighting "recreant knights" with his sword as with his wits – preferably in shiny armor and after his afternoon nap.
- Nagda, Ann Whitehead. ***Cheetah Math: Learning about Division from a Baby Cheetah***. Henry Holt, 2007. Delightful story using information about baby cheetahs that live in the San Diego Zoo to teach children about division.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Patches and Scratches***. Marshall Cavendish, 2007. Sarah takes on the problem of finding a pet for her friend Peter that both he and his grandmother will like. *Series*
- Nicola-Lisa, W. ***How We Are Smart***. Lee & Low, 2006. Famous people are smart in many different ways – eight to be exact according to the author.
- Nivola, Claire. ***Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai***. Farrar, Straus & 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.
- 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 & Co., 2005. Cooperatively writing a fairy tale 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.
- Osborne, Mary Pope. ***Pompeii Lost & Found***. Knopf, 2006. This fresco-illustrated book answers questions about the effect of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius on the people of Pompeii and their life before the disaster.
- 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*
- Perkins, Mitali. ***Rickshaw Girl***. Charlesbridge, 2007. When her family faces financial difficulties, Naima seeks to find a way to help while remaining true to her Bangladeshi heritage and her own artistic talent.
- Polacco, Patricia. ***Lemonade Club***. Philomel, 2007. When Marilyn and her teacher, Miss Wichelman, are both diagnosed with cancer, they encourage each other and, aided by medical treatments and support from their friends and classmates, they each get better.
- Prelutsky, Jack. ***My Dog May be a Genius***. Greenwillow, 2008. A collection of poems by children's poet laureate Jack Prelutsky that celebrate the joys of childhood with tongues twisting and imaginations soaring.
- Ray, Deborah Kogan. ***Down the Colorado: John Wesley Powell, the One-armed Explorer***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. This picture book portrays the life of the naturalist John Wesley Powell (using primary source journal entries) who led the first recorded Colorado River expedition through the Grand Canyon, despite the loss of an arm in a Civil War injury.
- Rusch, Elizabeth. ***The Planet Hunter: The Story Behind What Happened to Pluto***. Rising Moon, 2007. Mike Brown, an astronomer, was determined to discover a new planet. Instead, he made discoveries that ultimately led to the declassification of Pluto as a planet.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Ryder, Joanne. ***A Pair of Polar Bears: Twin Cubs Find a Home at the San Diego Zoo.*** Simon & Schuster, 2006. In a factual, yet entertaining account, two orphaned polar bear cubs are rescued and flown to the San Diego Zoo where they find both safety and care in their new home.
- Saint-Lot, Katia Novet. ***Amadi's Snowman.*** Tilbury House, 2008. Young Amadi learns the value of reading through a book about snow which is something Amadi has never heard of nor seen.
- Salas, Laura Purdie. ***Chatter, Sing, Roar, Buzz: Poems About the Rainforest.*** Capstone Press, 2009. This collection of poetry about the rainforest is accompanied by brilliant photos of fascinating animals and plants.
- 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.
- Simon, Seymour. ***Horses.*** HarperCollins, 2006. Horse-lovers will enjoy this book of photographs and accompanying text which provides interesting information about horses.
- Singer, Marilyn. ***Eggs.*** Holiday House, 2008. This handsome book introduces eggs: their functions, wide variety of sizes, shapes, textures, and colors, and how they protect the young animals growing inside them.
- Sonnenblick, Jordan. ***Dodger and Me.*** Feiwel & Friends, 2008. Befriended by a blue chimpanzee genie, awkward Willie humorously navigates the road to discovering what real life wishes are all about.
- Stewart, Melissa. ***A Place for Butterflies.*** Peachtree, 2006. Using specific species of butterflies, the author effectively explains how the actions and inactions of humans affect the butterfly populations in the United States.
- Tate, Lindsey. ***Kate Larkin, the Bone Expert.*** Henry Holt, 2008. When Kate falls off her bike and breaks her arm, she learns everything she can about the amazing bones in her body.
- Truss, Lynne. ***The Girl's Like Spaghetti: Why You Can't Manage Without Apostrophes.*** Putnam, 2007. Using or not using an apostrophe can change the meaning of a sentence dramatically.
- Urbigkit, Cat. ***The Shepherd's Trail.*** Boyds Mills, 2008. Through photos and text, follow the work of shepherds in today's American West as they travel with and care for vast herds of sheep.
- Vande Velde, Vivian. ***Three Good Deeds.*** Harcourt, 2005. Caught stealing some goose eggs from a witch, Howard is cursed and turned into a goose himself. He can only become human again by performing three good deeds.
- Weatherford, Carole Boston. ***I, Matthew Henson.*** Walker & Co., 2008. Short picture-book biography in free verse about the African-American polar explorer, Matthew Henson, one of only six men to be the first to reach the North Pole.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Willey, Margaret. ***Clever Beatrice and the Best Little Pony***. Atheneum, 2004. Clever Beatrice seeks out the village breadmaker to come up with a plan to protect her pony. *Series*

Zenon, Paul. ***Simple Sleight-of-Hand***. Rosen, 2008. Card and coin tricks are carefully described and well-illustrated to help even the youngest magician amaze his or her family and friends.

Compiled by:

Georgene Quirke (Chair), *Grace School*;
Laurie Mitchell, *St. Mark's Episcopal School*;
Caro Ann Germann, *Kinkaid School*;
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Margie Donaruma, *St. John's School*;
Amy Parker, *Second Baptist School*;
Susan Giddings, *Fort Bend Baptist Academy*

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 5

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable

- Allen, Thomas B. ***George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War***. National Geographic, 2004. This illustrated biography of the Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focuses on his use of spies to gather the intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.
- 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.
- Armstrong, Alan W. ***Whittington***. Random House, 2005. Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.
- Avi. ***Never Mind! : A Twin Novel***. HarperCollins, 2004. Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.
- Balliett, Blue. ***Chasing Vermeer***. Scholastic Press, 2004. When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.
- Bolden, Tanya. ***George Washington Carver***. Abrams, 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.
- Broach, Elise. ***Masterpiece***. Holt/Christy, 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 is, 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.
- Carman, Patrick. ***Atherton***. Little Brown, 2007. Edgar, a natural climber, discovers a mysterious book and goes on a fast-paced adventure to discover what is happening to Atherton, a man-made multi-level world orbiting earth.
- Cheng, Andrea. ***Shanghai Messenger***. Lee & Low, 2005. A free-verse novel about eleven-year-old Xiao Mei's visit with her extended family in China, where the Chinese-American girl not only finds many differences, but also the similarities that bind a family together.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 5

- Choldenko, Gennifer. ***Al Capone Does My Shirts***. Putnam, 2004. A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. Newbery Honor.
- Codell, Esme Raji. ***Sahara Special***. Hyperion, 2003. Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.
- Corbett, Sue. ***Free Baseball***. Dutton, 2006. Baseball is in eleven-year-old Felix Piloto's blood. His Cuban father plays professionally, but Felix knows little else about him. When he runs away to serve as a batboy for a professional baseball team, Felix ultimately discovers his father's story, as well as his love for his mother, a dog, and of course, the game.
- Coville, Bruce. ***William Shakespeare's Hamlet***. Dial, 2004. A simplified prose retelling of Shakespeare's play about the prince of Denmark who seeks revenge for his father's murder.
- 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***. 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 Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane***. Candlewick, 2006. Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.
- Dixon, Dougal. ***The Future Is Wild***. Firefly Books, 2002. 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 Gollywopper Games***. Greenwillow, 2008. When the Golly Toy & Game Company announces the Gollywhooper 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 Chocolate Factory!*
- 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***. Fiewel 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.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 5

- George, Jean Craighead. ***Tarantula in my Purse***. Harper, 1997. The unusual George household welcomes animals of all species into their home. This is a collection of autobiographical stories about raising a houseful of children and wild pets including crows, skunks, and raccoons.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly. ***Eleven***. Wendy Lamb, 2008. When Sam, who can barely read, discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his eleventh birthday, it brings forth memories from his past, and, with the help of a new friend at school and the castle they are building for a school project, his questions are eventually answered.
- 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.
- 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.
- Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Tales of the Cryptids***. Darby Creek Publishing, 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?
- Hannigan, Katherine. ***Ida B: ...And Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World***. Greenwillow, 2004. In Wisconsin, Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.
- Hobbs, Will. ***Jackie's Wild Seattle***. HarperCollins, 2003. Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother Cody spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle.
- Horvath, Polly. ***The Pepins and Their Problems***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family's unusual problems, which include having a cow that creates lemonade rather than milk and having to cope with a competitive neighbor.
- Ibbotson, Eva. ***Dragonfly Pool***. Dutton, 2008. Tally organizes a ragtag dance troupe so the school can participate in an international folk dancing festival in Bergania in the summer of 1939. There she befriends Karil, the crown prince, who would love nothing more than to have ordinary friends. During their visit, the Nazis arrive, and Tally's dancer friends must find a way to help Karil escape.

HASLNL RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 5

- Jackson, Donna. M. ***ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room***. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. This book discusses the life in an animal ER hospital from the point of view of the veterinarians, the vet technicians, the owners, and their pets.
- 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.
- Konigsberg, E.L. ***The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place***. Atheneum, 2004. Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her great-uncles have been building in their backyard for over forty years.
- Kraske, Robert. ***Marooned: The Strange but True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk, the Real Robinson Crusoe***. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. Presents the story of Scottish mariner Alexander Selkirk and his experiences while marooned on a South Pacific island for four years.
- Lasky, Kathryn. ***The Man Who Made Time Travel***. Farrar, Straus & 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.
- 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.
- Montgomery, Sy. ***The 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.
- Peck, Richard. ***On the Wings of Heroes***. Dial, 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.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 5

- Rowling, J.K. ***The Tales of Beedle the Bard***. Scholastic, 2008. Readers are first introduced to *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* as the book bequeathed to Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. The five wizard fairy tales are cleverly footnoted and commented upon by Dumbledore.
- Smith, Roland. ***Cryptid Hunters***. Hyperion, 2005. Twins Grace and Mary are sent to live with their mysterious Uncle Travis Wolfe, a veterinarian and mythical creature expert, and as a result of their uncle's secret mission, the twins become involved in a fast-paced action adventure in the Congo to find a mysterious dinosaur cryptid before they all end up in the evil hands of Dr. Blackwood, also known as the cryptid hunter.
- Springer, Nancy. ***The Case of the Missing Marquess: an Enola Holmes Mystery***. Sleuth 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. This is the first in a series of four books starring Enola Holmes.
- St. John, Lauren. ***The White Giraffe***. Dial, 2007. 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.
- 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.
- 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. Sequel is *Into the Labyrinth: a Novel*.
- 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.
- 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.
- Zimmer, Tracie Vaughan. ***42 Miles***. Clarion, 2008. JoEllen is Joey with her father on weekends in the country and Ellen with her mother in the city. The forty-two miles that separate her two homes and her two lives becomes a shorter distance as JoEllen discovers who she is in the world. Linked free-verse poems and illustrations depict the challenges a young girl faces as she grows up and tries to determine who she really wants to be and how she can remain true to herself.

HASLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 5

Compiled by:

Dorcas Hand (Chair), *Annunciation Orthodox School*;
Aria Tatelman, *Duchesne Academy*;
Susan Gerding, *John Cooper School*;
Jenny Filardo, *Presbyterian School*;
Laura Luong, *Regis School*;
Mary Lasley, *River Oaks Baptist School*;
Jean Martin, *St. John's School*;
Betsy Ginsburg, *St. Francis Episcopal Day School*

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HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

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.*** Harper Collins, 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.
- Barry, Dave. ***Peter and the Secret of Rundoon.*** Hyperion, 2007. Fearing that the sinister Lord Ombra was not destroyed, Peter and Molly travel to the land of Rundoon, which is ruled by the evil King Zarboff. *Series*
- Birdsall, Jeanne. ***The Penderwicks, A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy.*** 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.
- 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.
- Colfer, Eoin. ***Artemis Fowl: Time Paradox.*** Hyperion, 2008. The brilliant Artemis Fowl must travel into the past in order to save his beloved mother. At his side in this action-packed adventure is elf Captain Holly Short and dwarf Mulch Diggums. This is the sixth novel in the Artemis Fowl series.
- Compestine, Ying Chang. ***Revolution is Not a Dinner Party.*** 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.
- 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. Bluebonnet Nominee 09-10.
- Curlee, Lynn. ***Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.*** Atheneum, 2002. This book explores the mystery and wonder associated with the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Colossus of Rhodes, the Great Pyramid at Giza, and other incredible structures from ancient times.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 6

- Dahlberg, Maurine F. ***The Story of Jonas***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. In the mid-1800s, a slave boy dreams of escaping to freedom while on a journey from Missouri to the gold fields of Kansas Territory with his master's ne'er-do-well son.
- Dowd, Siobhan. ***The London Eye Mystery***. David Fickling Books, 2008. 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.
- Durrant, Lynda. ***My Last Skirt***. Clarion, 2006. Jennie Hodgers, 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.
- Feiler, Bruce. ***Walking the Bible: An Illustrated Journey for Kids Through the Greatest Stories Ever Told***. HarperCollins, 2004. The author describes his journey through places mentioned in the Old Testament.
- Flanagan, John. ***The Sorcerer of the North***. Random House, 2006. Now a full-fledged Ranger with his own fief to protect, Will goes undercover as a bard to seek the traitors who poisoned the king and to find his dear friend Alyss, who has been kidnapped. This is book five in the exciting Ranger's Apprentice 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 is a classic rags to riches story with plenty of personality to spare.
- 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.
- Hahn, Mary Downing. ***Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story***. Sandpiper, 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.
- Hesse, Karen. ***Brooklyn Bridge***. Feiwel and Friends, 2008. Joe, fourteen, is the first member of his Russian-Jewish family born in the United States. He wonders if he will ever get to go to Coney Island, but in 1903 his life changes when his parents turn their apartment into a teddy-bear factory. The story alternates, and eventually becomes linked, between Joe's life and the lives of vagrant children who live under the Brooklyn Bridge.
- Hiaasen, Carl. ***Flush***. Knopf, 2005. With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister Abbey must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 6

- Horvath, Polly. ***My One Hundred Adventures***. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. 12-year-old Jane lives in an old beach house with her mother and three younger siblings. She has a busy summer meeting her mother's old boyfriends, helping a neighbor deliver Bibles, and being talked into baby-sitting a neighbor's rambunctious children.
- Ibbotson, Eva. ***Journey to the River Sea***. Dutton, 2001. Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River.
- Jackson, Donna. ***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: supernovae, black holes, and dark energy.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. ***Kira-Kira***. Atheneum, 2004. This is the story of a close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s and the despair they feel when one sister becomes terminally ill. Newbery Medal
- Ketchum, Lisa. ***Into a New Country: Eight Remarkable Women of the West***. Little, Brown, 2000. Born into different cultures and backgrounds, each of these eight women challenged the rules and broke the barriers set down for women of their time. Their extraordinary lives offer inspiring examples of courage and determination.
- 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.
- Lawrence, Caroline. ***The Pirates of Pompeii***. Roaring Brook Press, 2003. At a refugee camp following the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius which buried Pompeii, Flavia and her friends discover that children are disappearing and a very powerful citizen might be involved.
- Lester, Julius. ***Day of Tears***. Hyperion, 2005. This powerful and engaging historical novel is told in dialogue and through monologues by various fictional characters as they look back at the largest slave auction in United States history. Coretta Scott King Award
- Levine, Ellen. ***Catch a Tiger by the Toe***. Viking, 2005. In the Bronx, New York, during the McCarthy era, twelve-year old Jamie keeps a terrible secret about her family, but when the truth is exposed, her parents lose their jobs and she is fired from the school newspaper.
- Matthews, L. S. ***Fish***. Delacorte, 2004. As fighting closes in on the village where Tiger's parents have been working, the three of them and a mysterious guide set out on a difficult journey to safety.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 6

- McCaughrean, Geraldine (retold by). **Odysseus**. Cricket, 2004. Odysseus begins his long journey home after years of fighting during the Trojan War, but he and his men encounter monsters and ghastly creatures, are imprisoned, and face raging seas that threaten their safe return.
- McClafferty, Carla Killough. **Something out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006. This biography of Marie Curie covers her childhood in Poland, her studies in France, her happy marriage, and her discovery of radium which led to two Nobel Prizes.
- McKay, Hilary. **Saffy's Angel**. Margaret K. McElderry, 2002. Thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes when she finds out she was adopted, until they help her return to her birthplace in Italy to bring back a special memento of her past.
- 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.
- Meltzer, Milton. **Ten Kings: And the Worlds They Ruled**. Orchard, 2002. Read profiles of ten legendary kings who used their power to change the course of history, including Hammurabi, King David, Kublai Khan, and others.
- Miller, Sarah. **Miss Spitfire**. 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.
- Myers, Walter Dean. **The Greatest: Muhammad Ali**. Scholastic, 2001. A biography of one of the world's greatest boxers chronicles his childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battle against Parkinson's disease.
- 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.
- Nelson, Marilyn. **Carver: A Life in Poems**. Front Street, 2001. This collection of poems provides a portrait of the life of African-American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver.
- 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.
- 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.
- Peck, Richard. **The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts**. Dial, 2004. In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies" and Russell's older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 6

- Rex, Adam. ***The True Meaning of Smekday***. 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.
- Ryan, Pam Muñoz. ***Becoming Naomi Leon***. Scholastic, 2004. When Naomi’s absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.
- Shearer, Alex. ***Canned***. Scholastic, 2008. 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.
- Skye, Obert. ***Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo***. Shadow Mountain, 2005. Fate brings fourteen-year-old Leven Thumps and thirteen-year-old Winter together as they discover that, for mankind to continue dreaming, the gateway between reality and the land of dreams and hopes must be found and demolished. First book in Series. Bluebonnet Nominee 07-08.
- Velmans, Hester. ***Isabel of the Whales***. Delacorte, 2005. On a whale watch trip with her class off the coast of Cape Cod, Isabel, who has always had an affinity for whales, falls overboard and discovers as she finds herself swimming underwater with whales all around her that she is one of the Chosen who can change shape from human to whale and back again.
- Warren, Andrea. ***Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. Chronicles the experiences of an orphaned half- Vietnamese, half-American boy from his birth and early childhood in Saigon, through his departure from Vietnam in the 1975 Operation Babylift, and his subsequent life as the adopted son of an American family in Ohio.
- Whitehouse, Howard. ***The Strictest School in the World: Being the Tale of a Clever Girl, a Rubber Boy and a Collection of Flying Machines, Mostly Broken***. Kids Can, 2006. Fourteen-year-old Emmaline Cayley, a tomboy and flying machine inventor, has been sent to St. Grenilda’s School for Girls with the hope that the school can make her into a lady.
- 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 2009

Grade 6

Compiled by:

Dorcas Hand (Chair), *Annunciation Orthodox School*;
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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 7 and Grade 8

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Abrahams, Peter. ***Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery***. Laura Geringer Books, 2005. Eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill idolizes Sherlock Holmes, so it is not surprising when, stumbling across a murder, she opts to keep what she knows a secret and tries to solve the crime herself.
- Aronson, Marc. ***Robert F. Kennedy: Crusader***. Viking, 2007. 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.
- Barakat, Ibtisam. ***Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. The innocence of her childhood is shattered as planes bomb young Ibtisam’s home, Israeli soldiers conduct raids, and members of her family become Palestinian refugees following the Six-Day War of 1967.
- Bauer, Joan. ***Peeled***. Putnam, 2008. In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle’s determination to be a reporter who her father would have been proud , 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 fails to notice Paul as he fights for the right to play soccer after his bad eyesight disqualified him.
- Budhos, Marina. ***Ask Me No Questions***. Atheneum, 2006. After September 11th, 2001, Nadira’s Bangladesh family, living in New York City, become extremely anxious when their visas expire, leading to a series of actions and reactions that bring terror and sorrow.
- 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.
- Carbone, Elisa. ***Blood on the River: James Town 1607***. Viking, 2006. Young orphan Samuel Collier boards a ship bound for the New World, where he encounters hardship, adventure and danger serving as Captain John Smith’s page
- Card, Orson Scott. ***Ender’s Game***. Tor, 1984. 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
- Carey, Janet Lee. ***Dragon’s Keep***. Harcourt, 2007. In 1145 A.D., as foretold by Merlin, fourteen-year-old Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island, has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, all the while from her people the dragon’s claw she was born with that reflects a dark secret.

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Grade 7 and Grade 8

- Chima, Cinda Williams. ***The Wizard Heir***. Hyperion, 2007. Sixteen-year-old Seph McCauley is sent to the Havens, a boys' school in Maine, after being kicked out of several private schools for his untrained magical powers; but his headmaster, Gregory Leicester, has his own mysterious agenda when he agrees to help Seph channel his magic.
- Christie, Agatha. ***A Pocket Full of Rye***. First published 1953. The wealthy Rex Fortescue falls dead at a normal tea shortly after partaking of the fare, and when the only clue is rye in his pocket, Miss Marple uses the old nursery rhyme "Sing a Song of Sixpence" to help solve the murder.
- 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, are beginning to adjust to their new lives with a good-hearted American family—even as another African refugee is pursuing a dangerous course that will impact both families.
- Crane, E. M. ***Skin Deep***. Delacorte, 2008. Andrea Anderson, high school student and outsider, struggles with her place in the world until she meets an artistic neighbor and her dog, who together demonstrate how much she means to them.
- Cummings, Priscilla. ***Red Kayak***. Dutton Children's Books, 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.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. ***Bucking the Sarge***. Wendy Lamb, 2004. Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.
- 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.
- Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. ***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***. Henry Holt, 2008. It is time for Persephone and Penelope, age 17, to be presented at court in London and to meet Princess Victoria, when they suddenly get catapulted into a romantic adventure involving their governess (a magician tutor), and a sinister Irish magician.

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Grade 7 and Grade 8

- 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 with lots of swordplay.
- Draper, Sharon M. ***Fire from the Rock***. Penguin, 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.
- Farmer, Nancy. ***The House of the Scorpion***. Atheneum, 2002. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.
- Feinstein, John. ***Cover-Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl***. Knopf, 2007. Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson, high school reporters, learn that every player on the offensive line of a pro football team slated to play in the Super Bowl has failed his drug test and that the team owner has covered it up. Now they must find a way to prove it.
- 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.
- Frank, Mitch. ***Understanding the Holy Land: Answering Questions about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict***. Viking, 2005. Using basic questions and answers, the current conflict is explained in a balanced, organized and understandable approach ending with some hopeful ways teens can add peace to their own lives.
- Gallante, 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.
- Gallo, Donald. ***First Crossing: Stories about Teen Immigrants***. Candlewick, 2004. Short fiction stories highlight the extreme challenges often faced by many teen immigrants in America. Contributors are prominent authors of young-adult literature, including Pam Muñoz Ryan, Lensey Namioka, David Lubar, and Elsa Marston.
- Gardner, Sally. ***I, Coriander***. Dial, 2005. In 17th century London, Coriander, a girl who has inherited magic from her mother, must find a way to use this magic in order to save both herself and an inhabitant of the fairy world where her mother was born.
- Grandits, John. ***Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems***. Clarion, 2007. A fifteen-year-old girl named Jessie expresses her sarcastic and hilarious take on high school life using concrete poetry.

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Grade 7 and Grade 8

- 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.
- Grimes, Nikki. ***The Road to Paris***. Putnam, 2006. Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, eight-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family but just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision.
- 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***. Henry Holt, 2006. In a fictionalized account of the hurricane that devastated Galveston in 1900, actual eyewitness accounts are incorporated into the story.
- Hale, Shannon. ***Book of a Thousand Days***. Bloomsbury, 2007. Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, and the two prepare for a long, dark imprisonment. Saren's two suitors—one welcome, and the other decidedly less so—arrive outside the tower, bringing both hope and danger.
- Hatch, Robert. ***The Hero Project: 2 Teens, 1 Notebook, 13 Extraordinary interviews***. McGraw-Hill, 2005. Brothers Robert and William Hatch embarked on an ambitious project of interviewing their modern-day heroes, asking them, "How have you made America a better place?" Interviewees include Lance Armstrong, Yo-Yo Ma, Jackie Chan, Madeleine L'Engle, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.
- Hoffman, Mary. ***Falconer's Knot: A Story of Friars, Flirtation, and Foul Play***. Bloomsbury, 2007. Silvano and Chiara, teens sent to live in a friary and a nunnery in Renaissance Italy, dream of a future together, but when murders are committed in the friary, they must discover who is behind the crimes before they can realize their love.
- 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, 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.
- Hughes, Dean. ***Soldier Boys***. Atheneum, 2001. Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.
- Jinks, Catherine. ***Evil Genius***. Harcourt, 2005. Child prodigy Cadel Piggot, an antisocial computer hacker, discovers his true, shocking identity when he enrolls as a first-year student at an advanced crime academy.

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Grade 7 and Grade 8

- Kerr, P. B. ***The Cobra King of Kathmandu***. Orchard, 2007. Djinn twins John and Phillipa go to India to search for the cobra talisman which gives the person who wields it power over their friend Mr. Rakshasas, a very elderly djinn.
- Kolosov, Jacqueline. ***The Red Queen's Daughter***. 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, and she finds her beliefs tested when he becomes involved in a plot against the queen.
- LeGuin, Ursula. ***The 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.
- Levine, Gail Carson. ***Fairest***. Harper Collins, 2006. Aza, who is *not* the fairest, is valued for her beautiful singing voice in this fairy tale that include gnomes, magic mirrors and a bumbling good fairy, Lucinda.
- Li, Moying. ***Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China during the Cultural Revolution***. Farrar, Straus & 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.
- Lisle, Janet Taylor. ***Black Duck***. Philomel, 2006. When Ruben and Jeddy find a dead body on a Rhode Island beach, they inadvertently become involved in a turf war between two rival gangs smuggling liquor during the Prohibition Era.
- London, Jack. ***The Call of the Wild***. First published 1931. Buck, half-St. Bernard, half-Scottish sheep dog, is stolen from his comfortable home in California and compelled first to become a sledge dog in the Alaskan Klondike and then to fight for his survival in a pack of wolves.
- Lupica, Mike. ***Heat***. Philomel Books, 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.
- Maguire, Gregory. ***Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister***. ReganBooks, 1999. Set in 17th-century Holland, this retelling of the Cinderella story is full of surprises.
- Mazer, Harry. ***A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor***. Simon & Schuster, 2001. On December 7, 1941, Adam is fishing with his friends off the coast of Honolulu when the Japanese begin bombing Pearl Harbor. During the chaotic days that follow, Adam tries desperately to find his father, a naval officer serving on the U.S.S. Arizona.
- Miklowitz, Gloria. ***Secrets in the House of Delgado***. Eerdmans, 2001. In Spain in 1492, fourteen-year-old Maria, a Catholic orphan, becomes a servant to a wealthy family of Conversos, converted Jews, at a time when the Jews are being expelled from the country and when the Inquisition is diligently searching for religious heretics.

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Grade 7 and Grade 8

- 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.
- 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.
- Nix, Garth. ***Abhorsen***. HarperCollins, 2003. In this conclusion of ***The Old Kingdom Trilogy***, Abhorsen-in-Waiting Lirael and Prince Sameth, a Wallmaker, must confront and bind the evil spirit Oranis before it can destroy all life.
- Nye, Naomi Shabib. ***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.
- 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.
- Pearson, Mary E. ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***. Henry Holt, 2008. Jenna survives a horrific car accident thanks to her scientist father, but at what cost?
- Paolini, Christopher. ***Eragon***. Random House, 2003. In Alagaësia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. *Series*
- Parker, Robert B. ***Edenville Owls***. Philomel, 2007. Fourteen-year-old Bobby, living in a small Massachusetts town just after World War II, faces new challenges as he tries to pull together the Owls basketball team, handle new feelings for his old friend Joanie, and discover the identity of a mysterious stranger who appears to be threatening his pretty new English teacher.
- Patterson, James. ***Maximum Ride, the Angel Experiment***. Little Brown, 2005. After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the “birdkids” take off in pursuit and find themselves battling their seemingly evil creators.
- Maximum Ride Series***
- Philbrick, Rodman. ***The Young Man and the Sea***. Blue Sky Press, 2004. Motherless Skiff Beaman embarks alone on a dangerous trip to catch a giant blue fin tuna in order to earn enough money to buy a new engine for his father’s boat.
- Pierce, Tamora. ***Trickster’s Choice***. Random House, 2003. Alianne, kidnapped and put into slavery, calls forth her mother’s courage and her father’s spying skills in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy.
- Rees, Celia. ***Sorceress***. Candlewick, 2003. Eighteen-year-old Agnes, a Mohawk Indian descended from a line of shamanic healers, uses her own newly-discovered powers to uncover the story of her ancestor, a seventeenth-century New England English healer who fled charges of witchcraft.

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Grade 7 and Grade 8

- Reeve, Philip. ***Mortal Engines: A Novel***. EOS, 2003. In the distant future, when cities move about and consume smaller towns, a fifteen-year-old apprentice is pushed out of London by the man he most admires and must seek answers in the perilous Out-Country, aided by one girl and the memory of another.
- Ritter, John H. ***Under the Baseball Moon***. Philomel Books, 2006. Andy and Glory, two fifteen-year-olds from Ocean Beach, California, pursue their respective dreams of becoming a famous musician and a professional softball player.
- 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.
- Salisbury, Graham. ***Eyes of the Emperor***. Random, 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. *Series*
- 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.
- Shulman, Polly. ***Enthusiasm***. Putnam, 2006. Julia’s best friend Ashleigh has decided that this year Jane Austen’s world will be theirs. They try to master the proper forms of dancing, speech and behavior (sort-of) for the early nineteenth century, and then set off to find the boys of their dreams at the local exclusive boys prep boarding school.
- Shusterman, Neal. ***Unwind***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives “unwound” and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs—and, perhaps, save their own lives.
- Smith, D. James. ***The Boys of San Joaquin: A Novel***. Atheneum, 2005. In a small California town in 1951, twelve-year-old Paolo and his deaf cousin Billy get caught up in a search for money missing from the church collection, leading them to complicated discoveries about themselves, other family members, and townspeople they thought they knew.
- Smith, Roland. ***Peak***. Harcourt, 2007. Plucked by police from the top of a New York skyscraper, a 14-year-old boy and mountain climber wannabe finds himself facing the challenge of his life: climbing Mt. Everest.
- Spinner, Stephanie. ***Quiver***. Knopf, 2002. Atalanta, abandoned as an infant, has grown to become a renowned archer and swiftest mortal alive due to the intervention of Artemis, goddess of the hunt, so when the father who forsook her so many years before issues an ultimatum that Atalanta marry and produce an heir, she counters with the condition that the man she weds must be able to best her in a footrace or die.

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Grade 7 and Grade 8

- Stroud, Jonathan. ***Amulet of Samarkand***. Miramax, 2003. Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, calls up the djinni Bartimaeus to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from another magician, and they both get caught up in a vast conspiracy of treason and murder.
- 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.
- Updale, Eleanor. ***Montmorency, Thief, Liar, Gentleman?*** Orchard, 2004. In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gained in prison and from scientific lectures he attended as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself.
- Ursu, Anne. ***Shadow Thieves***. Atheneum, 2006. After her cousin Zee arrives from England, thirteen-year-old Charlotte and he must set out to save humankind from denizens of the underworld, Nightmares, Death, Pain, and a really nasty guy named Phil.
- Vande Velde, Vivian. ***Remembering Raquel***. Harcourt, 2007. Suicide or accident? The life of Raquel Falcone, an unpopular, overweight high school freshman, is recalled by classmates, her parents, and the driver who struck and killed her as she walked home from an animated film festival.
- 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 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 19th century England and create havoc.
- Westerfeld, Scott. ***Uglies***. Simon Pulse, 2005. The sixteenth birthday means a body makeover in Tally's world, but Tally begins to question this procedure when she is forced to spy on a friend who does not want to transform her own body.
- Whelan, Gloria. ***Listening for Lions***. HarperCollins, 2005. Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a dead girl's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.
- Wrede, Patricia. ***Sorcery & Cecelia, or, the Enchanted Chocolate Pot***. Harcourt, 2003. In 1817 in England, two young cousins, Cecilia living in the country and Kate in London, write letters to keep each other informed of their exploits, which take a sinister turn when they find themselves confronted by evil wizards.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 7 and Grade 8

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.

Yee, Lisa. ***Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time***. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2005. When Stanford Wong, named for dad's alma mater, flunks 6th grade, he must attend summer school instead of basketball camp, be tutored by his arch enemy, and somehow keep all of this secret from his friends.

Compiled by: Sally Hilliard, Chair, *River Oaks Baptist School*;
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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 9 and Grade 10

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Abadzis, Nick. ***Laika***. Roaring Brook, 2007. An abandoned puppy, Laika, was destined to become Earth's first space traveler in the Soviet Union's Sputnik program. This non-fiction graphic novel portrays the preparation for her fatal journey and the agony of her special handler, who knows that there are no plans for her to come back.
- 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
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Speak***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1999. A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.
- Berra, Tim M. ***Charles Darwin: The Concise Story of an Extraordinary Man***. Johns Hopkins University, 2009. Although Darwin was born into a family of physicians and scientists, and targeted by his father for the clergy, he gravitated toward studying plants, animals, and geology at university. An invitation to join the *Beagle* on its second voyage set the direction of his life. Though plagued with poor health, he ushered in the study of modern biology with his groundbreaking work, "The Origin of the Species".
- Beschloss, Michael. ***Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. A presidential scholar provides historical examples of presidents, including Jackson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, FDR, Truman, Kennedy, and Reagan, who faced adversity with courage and wisdom to change the future of the country.
- Bissinger, H. G. ***Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream***. HarperCollins, 1991. In this book that inspired the TV series, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author penetrates the culture of high school football as it is lived in Odessa, Texas.
- Bray, Libba. ***A Great and Terrible Beauty***. Delacorte, 2003. After her mother dies mysteriously in 1895 India, Gemma is sent to a finishing school in England where she becomes aware of her magical powers. *Series*
- Cather, Willa. ***Death Comes for the Archbishop***. First published 1927. In the mid-nineteenth century, two French missionaries make their way into the harsh, unexplored, mountainous region of New Mexico hoping to revive the religion brought by Spanish priests and then left to decay in the hands of an insubordinate and materialistic clergy.

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Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Cavanagh, Thomas B. ***Head Games***. St. Martin's, 2007. The lead singer of a popular boys' band disappears. A lucrative reward is offered by the band's manager, a retired police detective, with two ex-wives, a teenage daughter, and a brain tumor he's named "Bob." *Series*
- Cooper, Brenda. ***The Silver Ship and the Sea***. Tor, 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*
- Crutcher, Chris. ***Deadline***. Greenwillow, 2007. Eighteen-year-old Ben Wood has been given less than a year to live, but 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.
- Earley, Tony. ***The Blue Star: A Novel***. Little, Brown, 2008. In the sequel to *Jim the Boy*, set in the period before Pearl Harbor, Jim moves through his final year of high school into a grown-up world at war.
- Ettlinger, Steve. ***Twinkie Deconstructed: My Journey to Discover How the Ingredients Found in Processed Foods Are Grown, Mined (Yes, Mined), and Manipulated into What America Eats***. Penguin, 2007. Drawing on interviews with industry professionals, we discover that snack cakes and other popular food products are concocted from by-products of chlorine bleaching, gypsum mining, petroleum processing, and other non-food chemicals.
- Giles, Gail. ***Shattering Glass***. Roaring Brook, 2002. A group of cool high school boys transform Simon Glass, the school nerd, into one of the most popular boys in school. Then they kill him.
- Haddon, Mark. ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***. Random House, 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
- 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 Atréides family is banished to planet Dune where the ferocious Fremen live. *Series*
- Hornby, Nick. ***Slam***. Putnam, 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 doesn't offer answers, so it's up to Sam, thrust suddenly into maturity, to figure out the right thing to do.

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Grade 9 and Grade 10

- 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**. Penguin, 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.
- Jordan, Robert. **Eye of the World**. Tor, 1990. During the Third Age, the Age of Prophecy, the world and time itself hang in the balance in danger of falling under the Shadow. *Series*
- Llewellyn, Sam. **The Return of Death Eric**. Walker, 2006. Death Eric was your parents' favorite rock band, but the band's leader, Eric Thrashmettle, retired because he thought he was cursed. When his bank account runs dry, Eric's children convince him and the other former band members to reunite for a blazing comeback.
- 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. *Series*. Alex Award 2008; Anthony Award 2008
- Marillier, Juliet. **Wildwood Dancing**. 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, 2008. 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. A smart, funny series sure to delight Twilight fans. Rita Award/Capitol Choices
- Martel, Yann. **The Life of Pi: A Novel**. Harcourt, 2002. Sixteen-year-old Pi Patel, his family, and their zoo animals emigrate from India to North America aboard a cargo ship. The ship sinks, and Pi finds himself sharing a lifeboat with a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Man Booker Prize 2002
- McCloud, Scott. **Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga and Graphic Novels**. HarperCollins, 2006. 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.
- Meyer, Stephanie. **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*

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Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Mitchell, Margaret. ***Gone with the Wind***. First published, 1936. After her genteel, romantic lifestyle is swept away by the Civil War, Scarlett O'Hara summons strength to salvage her plantation home.
- Moore, Perry. ***Hero***. Hyperion, 2007. Thom Creed is a bit of an outsider amongst his peers. Apart from being a skilled athlete and unselfish, he has secrets to keep from his friends, and above all, his father, a defeated ex-superhero. Thom is both gay and a natural-born superhero with the ability to heal others' physical maladies.
- Morris, Mary McGarry. ***The Lost Mother***. Viking, 2005. Homeless and abandoned by their mother, twelve-year-old Thomas and his eight-year-old sister Margaret are forced to grow up too quickly, surviving hand-to-mouth while living in a tent with their father in the woods of Vermont during the Great Depression.
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. ***Dairy Queen***. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. DJ spends most of her time helping out on the family farm until she is coerced into helping train Brian, the star quarterback on the town's rival football team. DJ decides to go out for the other team herself and the fact that she has a major crush on Brian complicates matters.
- Myers, Walter Dean. ***Sunrise over Fallujah***. Scholastic, 2008. Robin is a young soldier trying to make sense of his tasks in the Iraq War where confusion and randomness rule: his public affairs unit is trying to make friends with Iraqis, while at the same time combat forces are bombing their schools and houses.
- Na, An. ***The Fold***. Putnam, 2008. Joyce is faced with a dilemma when her pushy rich aunt offers her plastic surgery to change the look of her eyelids. Always compared to her beautiful, talented older sister, Joyce must decide what Korean beauty really means to her. Some amusing events occur as the result of her aunt's well-intentioned, but unwanted "gifts" to each family member.
- Nash, Ogden. ***The Best of Ogden Nash***. Ivan R. Dee, 2007. This delightful book of rhythm and rhyme, together with magical word use, by the renowned master of light, humorous verse, is edited by the poet's daughter, Linell Nash Smith.
- Novik, Naomi. ***His Majesty's Dragon***. Ballantine, 2006. Aerial combat brings a thrilling new dimension to the Napoleonic Wars as valiant warriors rise to Britain's defense by taking to the skies, not aboard aircraft, but atop the mighty backs of fighting dragons.
- Oliver, Mary. ***The Truro Bear and Other Adventures: Poems and Essays***. Beacon, 2008. Charming and clever writing from the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award winner.
- 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 Award 2009

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Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Pullman, Philip. ***The Golden Compass***. Knopf, 1995. Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subjects of gruesome experiments in the Far North. Carnegie Medal. *Series*
- Rees, Celia. ***Sovay***. Bloomsbury, 2008. In 1794 England, the rich and beautiful Sovay, disguised as a highwayman, acquires papers that could lead to her father's arrest for treason. Her newly-awakened political consciousness leads her and a compatriot to France during the Revolution.
- Roach, Mary. ***Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers***. Norton, 2003. Both funny and gruesome, this book is about the many things that happen to human bodies after death, from providing practice for plastic surgeons to enabling research on decomposition. Alex Award 2004
- Roberts, Judson. ***Viking Warrior: the Strongbow Saga, Book One***. HarperCollins, 2006. After his mother sacrifices her life to free him from slavery, Halfdan is finally acknowledged by his Viking father. He learns to fight, builds a relationship with his noble half-brother Harald, and then vows vengeance for Harald's murder. *Series*
- Rothfuss, Patrick. ***Name of the Wind: the Kingkiller Chronicle: Day One***. DAW Books, 2007. In the first of this fantasy trilogy, Kvothe is a powerful and famous magician living as an innkeeper under an assumed name. Part of his past is revealed in the first book, but not why he no longer uses magic. Strange and evil events hint that Kvothe will need to resolve his inner conflict and use his powers. Alex Award 2009
- Runyon, Brent. ***The Burn Journals***. Knopf, 2004. In this fast-moving and excruciatingly true story of a fourteen-year-old burn victim, Brent struggles to recover from his self-inflicted burns and psychological depression.
- Salinger, J. D. ***Catcher in the Rye***. First published 1951. Holden Caulfield runs away from boarding school to New York City.
- Sandburg, Carl. ***Selected Poems***. Harcourt, 1996. Sandburg's best and most characteristic poetry is collected and thematically grouped in this one-volume edition.
- Satrapa, Marjane. ***Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood***. Pantheon, 2003. In graphic novel format, Satrapa tells of her childhood growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Alex Award 2004
- Shaffer, Mary Ann and Annie Barrows. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society: A Novel***. Dial, 2008. January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. From a remarkable correspondence with a man on the island of Guernsey, she constructs an affecting and amusing story of letters between the inhabitants of the island during the German occupation.

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Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Shaw, George Bernard. ***Pygmalion***. First published 1913. Shaw's satire on British class divisions is based on the classical myth of Pygmalion, in which the sculptor falls in love with his own creation. The witty transformation of Eliza Doolittle from guttersnipe to sophisticate leaves Professor Henry Higgins, our Pygmalion, without his educated Cinderella.
- Sivertsen, Linda and Tosh. ***Generation Green : the Ultimate Teen Guide to Living anEco-Friendly Life***. Simon Pulse, 2008. This engaging, how-to guide for environmentally conscious living provides pragmatic "green" solutions to everyday problems, such as purchasing consumer goods, powering household appliances, traveling, reusing and recycling, and eating.
- Sofer, Dalia. ***The Septembers of Shiraz: a Novel***. HarperCollins, 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.
- Tan, Shaun. ***The Arrival***. Scholastic, 2007. A man leaves his troubled homeland and travels to an unfamiliar place where he makes a new life and sends for his family. This wordless book's sepia drawings look like surrealistic snapshots, poignantly expressing the timeless and universal courage of migrants.
- Thompson, Kate. ***The New Policeman***. HarperTeen, 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's a leak between the real world and the faeire kingdom. As he begins to unravel the secrets of his history, both recent and distant, the legends of Ireland come to life around him. Parents Choice Award 2007
- Tisserand, Michael. ***The Sugarcane Academy: How a New Orleans Teacher and His Storm-Struck Students Created a School to Remember***. Harvest, 2007. Author Michael Tisserand and his wife think that they have left New Orleans for a brief flight from Hurricane Katrina. However, they quickly find that they must create a stable life in a very abnormal time for their children. Banding together with other families who have fled from their neighborhood, they start a school with a gifted teacher and help their children deal with the trauma from the storm. A touching, human look at the unimaginable changes that Katrina made in so many lives.
- Vaughn, Brian K. ***Pride of Baghdad***. DC Comics, 2006. This graphic novel is based on the true story of a pride of lions that escaped the Baghdad Zoo during an American bombing raid. Vibrant colors of brown, yellow, and gray illustrating the aftermath of war-torn Iraq vividly evoke the smell of fire, decay, and fear.
- Vonnegut, Kurt. ***Slaughterhouse Five***. 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 Trafalador.

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Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Westerfield, Scott. **PEEPS**. Allyn & Bacon, 2006. Cal, a partially immune carrier of a parasitic disease that leaves the majority of its victims in a state of zombie-like vampirism, is on a quest. Working for New York's underground public health bureau, he tracks parasite positives, or "peeps," while simultaneously aiming to unravel the mystery behind the illness and the woman who infected him.
- Wiess, Laura. **Such a Pretty Girl**. Pocket/MTV, 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.
- White, T. H. **The Once and Future King**. First published 1958. The chivalry and romance of Arthurian England are transported to the modern world.
- Wooten, Jim. **We Are All the Same: A Story of a Boy's Courage and a Mother's Love**. Penguin, 2004. The global battle against AIDS is set against the life and death of Nkosi Johnson, a young South African boy. Having been born with AIDS, he comes to symbolize the struggle against the disease and the strength of the human spirit.
- 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.
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HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

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. At the Warsaw Zoo, Antonina Zabinski and her husband bravely struggle to care for the animals, their own family, and hundreds of Jews and Polish resistors hidden at the zoo from the occupying Nazis. A dramatic, true story based on Antonina's diary. ALA Notable Book.
- Amirrezvani, Anita. ***The Blood of Flowers***. Little, Brown, 2007. Following the death of her father, a fourteen-year-old girl, living in seventeenth-century Persia, is left without a dowry. She and her mother, a master storyteller, toil as servants in the home of her uncle where she becomes a skillful rug designer.
- Austen, Jane. ***Pride and Prejudice***. First published 1813. Elizabeth and Jane Bennet overcome obstacles to their happiness with Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley in this comedy of manners set in early nineteenth-century England.
- Baldwin, James. ***Go Tell It On the Mountain***. First published 1953. In 1935 Harlem, young John Grimes searches for God while struggling with his identity as the stepson of a stern, evangelist preacher.
- Beah, Ishmael. ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. Twelve-year old Ishmael first flees from attacking rebels with his friends, but later is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. Alex Award 2008
- Bradbury, Jennifer. ***Shift***. Atheneum, 2008. The summer before they begin college, Chris and Win bike from West Virginia to Seattle. After a fight, and 50 miles from their goal, Win rides off while Chris changes a flat tire and simply disappears. Win's manipulative father enlists the FBI to question Chris.
- Brooks, Geraldine. ***People of the Book: A Novel***. Viking, 2008. While working on an ancient manuscript, Hannah Heath, a conservationist, traces its path through the ages and discovers her own contemporary life. National Jewish Book Award 2008
- Caletti, Deb. ***The Fortunes of Indigo Skye***. Simon & Schuster, 2008. Indigo wants nothing more from life than her job as a waitress until a customer gives her \$2,500,000. Then everything changes.
- Capote, Truman. ***In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences***. First published 1965. The senseless, brutal murder of four members of the Clutter family by two psychotic young men shocked their small-town community of Holcomb, Kansas and the entire country. Edgar Award 1966
- Carey, Peter. ***His Illegal Self***. Knopf, 2008. Che, age 7, is abducted by his "possible" mother and lands in a hippie commune in tropical Australia. There he learns by experience the ways of evil and of love in human relationships.
- Carter, Stephen L. ***The Emperor of Ocean Park***. Knopf, 2002. A look into the world of professional African American society as seen through the eyes of Talcott

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- Garland, who suddenly finds himself investigating the death of his father, "The Judge." Was it as suspicious as his sister believes, or natural? Mystery, suspense, and plot twists unfold as Tal searches for answers. Black Caucus of the American Library Association Literary Award 2003
- Chandler, Raymond. ***The Long Goodbye***. First published 1953. The "hard-boiled" private detective Philip Marlowe deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city. Edgar Award 1955
- Chbosky, Stephen. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***. MTV, 1999. In this controversial, coming-of-age novel, Charlie's collection of letters to an unspecified recipient details the humorous trials and tribulations of trying to discover who he is and who he might become.
- Coben, Harlan. ***Tell No One: A Novel***. Delacorte, 2001. After years of struggling with grief over his wife's murder by a serial killer, Dr. David Beck receives a mysterious e-mail that includes a secret word only known to his wife and himself.
- Collins, Billy. ***Ballistics: Poems***. Random House, 2008. Notable collection of verse from the U.S. Poet Laureate, expressing love, joy, and death in his inimitable language.
- Collins, Suzanne. ***The Hunger Games***. Scholastic, 2008. In the not too distant future, the United States has collapsed and has been replaced by the totalitarian regime, Panem. Sixteen-year-old Katniss becomes a contestant in the annual Hunger Games, a televised, gladiator-like contest where teens compete to the death.
- Cone, Marla. ***Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic***. Grove, 2005. Traditionally thought of as the last great, unspoiled territory on Earth, the Arctic is actually home to some of the most contaminated people and animals on the planet.
- Connolly, John. ***The Book of Lost Things: A Novel***. Atria, 2006. After the death of his mother, David retreats to his attic bedroom, where the books on his shelf begin whispering to him, dragging him into another world. Alex Award 2007
- Courtenay, Bryce. ***The Power of One: A Novel***. 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.
- Danticat, Edwidge. ***Brother, I'm Dying***. Knopf, 2007. In 2005, expecting her first child and facing the death of her father, Danticat relates her childhood experiences of living in a loving and devoted Haitian family torn by immigration, political upheaval, and violence. A poignant and painful memoir filled with hope and grace. National Book Critics Circle Award 2007; Christopher Award 2008
- Dean, Debra. ***The Madonnas of Leningrad***. HarperCollins, 2006. During the 1941 siege of Leningrad, Marina, a docent at the Hermitage Museum, helps to remove paintings for safekeeping. Decades later as she prepares for her

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granddaughter's wedding, Marina, now suffering from Alzheimer's, vividly recalls details of those paintings.

- Doctorow, Cory. ***Little Brother***. Tor, 2008. After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, seventeen-year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.
- Downham, Jenny. ***Before I Die***. David Fickling, 2007. After battling leukemia for four years, seventeen-year-old Tessa narrates her thoughts, emotions, and experiences as she attempts to accomplish all the activities on her "to-do" list during her last months of life.
- Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. ***Crime and Punishment***. First published 1866. Raskolnikov, a student who believes that his own intellectual and spiritual superiority places him above the masses, tests his theory of invincibility by committing murder.
- Egan, Timothy. ***The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl***. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. A Pulitzer Prize-winning author follows six families and their communities during the darkest years of the Depression, when the people of America's High Plains were terrorized by relentless dust storms unlike any ever seen before or since. National Book Award for Nonfiction 2006
- Erlbaum, Janice. ***Girlbomb: A Halfway Homeless Memoir***. Villard, 2006. In 1983, at age fifteen, Janice Erlbaum walks away from her dangerous home life and into the streets of New York determined to make it on her own in this unflinching portrait of being underprivileged, underage, and underdressed.
- Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. ***Love in the Time of Cholera***. First published 1988. In 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.
- Goonan, Kathleen Ann. ***In War Times***. Tor, 2007. If World War II-era brainpower could invent the atomic bomb, could equally brilliant minds find a way to nudge human nature toward desiring peace instead of violence? Sam Dance, an American soldier, finds himself in the middle of a war and, sometimes, in an alternate reality.
- Green, John. ***Paper Towns***. Dutton, 2008. Quentin idolizes his next door neighbor, Margo Roth Spiegelman. When she includes him in a wild night of revenge and then disappears, Quentin must follow the clues she has left in order to find her. Edgar Allan Poe Award 2009.
- 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

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- Haley, Alex. ***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.
- Hall, Donald. ***White Apples and the Taste of Stone: Selected Poems, 1946-2006***. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. In this representative work, the Poet Laureate collects 226 poems from sixty years of published writing.
- Hosseini, Khaled. ***A Thousand Splendid Suns***. Riverhead, 2007. Mariam and Laila, married to Rasheed, form an uneasy alliance so that they and their children survive three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war, and Taliban tyranny in Afghanistan. Book Sense Book of the Year 2008
- Ishiguro, Kazuo. ***Never Let Me Go***. Knopf, 2005. A dark secret lurks behind the nurturing façade of Hailsham, a private school in the English countryside where Kathy, now thirty-one years old, lived as a child. Alex Award 2006
- Jordan, Hillary. ***Mudbound***. Algonquin, 2008. Two young war heroes, one white and one black, return home to their neighboring families in the Mississippi Delta after World War II. Jamie McAllan is haunted by memories of combat, and Ronsel Jackson by the horrors of the segregated South. Laura McAllan is adjusting to farm life with her mean-spirited father-in-law. Alex Award 2009
- Kenyon, Kay. ***Bright of the Sky***. Pyr, 2007. A parallel universe has been discovered by voyager Titus Quinn, but he has lost his family in the process. Saving them involves finding a way back, infiltrating the society, and rising to power. Ingenuity, deceit, and luck will be required.
- Kidder, Tracy. ***Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World***. Random House, 2003. In his quest to cure the world of infectious diseases, the brilliant, charismatic Dr. Paul Farmer finds time to make house calls both in Boston and the mountains of Haiti. He blasts through convention to get results with his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity." Book Sense Book of the Year Award 2004
- Krakauer, Jon. ***Into the Wild***. Villard, 1996. Christopher McCandless abandoned all he knew, gave his entire savings account to charity, and hitchhiked to Alaska in an attempt to rebel against authority and his privileged upbringing. Four months later, his body was found by hunters in the wilderness.
- Kurson, Robert. ***Shadow Divers: True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II***. Random House, 2004. Two weekend scuba divers flirt with danger and intrigue in their six-year quest to learn more about a sunken World War II German U-boat they discovered sixty miles off the New Jersey coast. Alex Award 2005
- 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 life lessons. Alex Award 2008

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Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***Unaccustomed Earth: Stories***. Knopf, 2008. As with her previous Pulitzer-winning collection, *Interpreter of Maladies*, Lahiri's magic lies in the warm-blooded richness with which she deftly renders each and every one of her characters, not to mention the ambiguity, joy and grief that imbue the liminal spaces between those characters.
- Larson, Erik. ***Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America***. Crown, 2003. The fates of an architect and a serial killer are linked by the greatest fair in American history: the Chicago World's Exposition of 1893, nicknamed "The White City." Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime 2004
- Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. ***Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything***. William Morrow, 2005. Using analytical tools from economics, the authors find quirky ways to tie economics to a range of emotional forces affecting human behavior, from cheating sumo wrestlers to the relative dangers of guns versus swimming pools.
- Lewis, Michael. ***The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game***. Norton, 2006. The development of the offensive left tackle position to protect a quarterback in the National Football League is presented in combination with the story of Michael Oher, who lived in a Memphis ghetto until he was taken under the protection of a wealthy, loving family. Alex Award 2007
- Margonelli, Lisa. ***Oil on the Brain: Adventures from the Pump to the Pipeline***. Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 2007. A journalist visited domestic oil industry insiders from the drilling rig to the independent gas station and traveled to international producers. The results of her journeys and research are lively anecdotes and descriptions of the history and politics of the global oil industry.
- Martinez, A. Lee. ***Gil's All Fright Diner***. Tor, 2005. Vampire Earl and Werewolf Duke stop at a diner in the desert town of Rockwood, Texas, where they help Loretta dispose of her zombie problem and agree to stay on to help the town with its other supernatural issues. Alex Award 2006
- McCarthy, Cormac. ***The Road***. Knopf, 2006. In a post-apocalyptic landscape, a man and a boy struggle toward the unknown. This dark and doomed quest offers a spiritual sense of soul and humanity. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2007
- McEwan, Ian. ***Atonement: A Novel***. Doubleday, 2001. In the summer of 1935, the lives of three people are changed forever by a young girl's scheming imagination. National Book Critics Circle Award 2002
- Moalem, Sharon. ***Survival of the Sickest: A Medical Maverick Discovers Why We Need Disease***. William Morrow, 2007. If every living thing dances to the same two-step imperative, survives and reproduces, then why do we still have diabetes, hemochromatosis, and other life-threatening ailments? The author looks at evolutionary history, epigenetics, and modern medical research to try to figure out why we developed as we did.
- Moehring, J. R. ***The Tender Bar: A Memoir***. Hyperion, 2005. While growing up, young J.R. found his male role models among the flamboyant characters who were regulars at Publicans, a Long Island bar owned by his uncle.

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Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Morrison, Toni. ***The Bluest Eye***. First published 1969. A young Black girl yearns for beautiful blue eyes like the little white girls she sees in this Nobel Prize-winning author's novel.
- Mullen, Thomas. ***The Last Town on Earth***. Random House, 2006. During the twin catastrophes of World War I and the 1918 flu epidemic, a small mill town called Commonwealth votes to quarantine itself, and guards are posted at the only road leading into town. A conflict arises when a tired, hungry and apparently ill soldier comes begging for sanctuary.
- Neruda, Pablo. ***Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair***. First published 1924. This collection of romantic poems was originally published when the Nobel Laureate was just nineteen.
- Newby, Eric. ***A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush***. First published 1958. This humorous account describes a sobering expedition to Afghanistan. Reissued in 2008, this true adventure is relevant due to current existing conditions.
- Palwick, Susan. ***The Necessary Beggar***. Tor, 2005. Banned from a parallel universe for a crime of passion, Palwick's exiles arrive in Reno, Nevada, through a shimmering blue portal. Action focuses on the family's falling apart under the strain of adapting to a new life while the back-story of Darroti's crime provides a haunting mystery. Alex Award 2006
- Patchett, Ann. ***Run***. HarperCollins, 2007. An accident during a snowstorm near the Harvard campus suddenly thrusts Mayor Doyle and his sons from their world of privilege into one of complicated and personal issues related to race, class, politics, and faith. Book Sense Book of the Year 2008
- Peterson, Per. ***Out Stealing Horses***. Translated by Anne Born. Picador USA, 2008. In an austere style, with a series of flashbacks, a Norwegian boy finds his family and friendships unraveling as his courage grows.
- Philbrick, Nathaniel. ***Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War***. Viking, 2006. Philbrick's historical account of the Pilgrims' preparations, voyages, and colonial settlements in New England conveys a realistic and lively story of remarkable events.
- Picoult, Jodi. ***Nineteen Minutes***. Atria, 2007. The residents of a small, ordinary New Hampshire town seek justice in the aftermath of a shocking school shooting carried out by a teenage boy who had been bullied since kindergarten.
- Pink, Daniel H. ***A Whole New Mind: Why Right Brainers Will Rule the Future***. Riverhead, 2005. The future belongs to a different kind of person with a different kind of mind: artists, inventors, storytellers—creative and holistic "right-brain" thinkers whose abilities mark the fault line between who gets ahead and who does not.
- Plath, Sylvia. ***The Bell Jar***. First published 1963. This autobiographical novel describes an ambitious and brilliant young woman's search for values and her eventual breakdown. The 2004 edition includes additional poems.

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Grade 11 and Grade 12

- See, Lisa. ***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan: A Novel***. Random House, 2005. Snow Flower and Lily find solace in their bond of friendship as they face isolation, arranged marriage, motherhood, and loss in nineteenth-century China.
- Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. ***One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich***. Knopf, 1995. Although innocent of any crime, Ivan Denisovich Shukhov is convicted of treason and sentenced to serve ten years in a Soviet work camp in Siberia.
- Steinbeck, John. ***The Grapes of Wrath***. First published 1939. Forced out of their home in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl by economic desperation, a family of Okie farmers drives west to California in search of work as migrant fruit pickers. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1940.
- Sullivan, Robert. ***Rats: Observations on the History and Habitat of the City's Most Unwanted Inhabitants***. Bloomsbury, 2004. Sullivan overlays his observation and study of the brown rat onto the history of New York City in a narrative which details the rat's seemingly inexhaustible number of connections to mankind.
- 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.
- Tolan, Sandy. ***The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East***. Bloomsbury, 2006. An account of the Israeli and Palestinian conflicts is compiled from interviews with Arab and Israeli families and bound together with the fragile symbol of the lemon tree as hope for peace in these troubled lands.
- Turgenev, Ivan. ***Fathers and Sons***. First published 1862. In this portrayal of conflicts between the older aristocratic generation and the new Russian intelligentsia of the nineteenth century, a young graduate student returns home accompanied, much to the discomfort of his father and uncle, by a friend who does not acknowledge any authority and who refuses to accept any principle on faith.
- Tyler, Anne. ***Digging to America***. Knopf, 2006. Two Korean babies are flown to Baltimore and adopted into different American families. Each experiences acculturation, family life, contrasting ideas of what is important, and two very different approaches to adolescence, all the while sharing birthday and holiday celebrations.
- Wade, Nicholas. ***Before the Dawn: Recovering the Lost History of Our Ancestors***. Penguin, 2006. A fascinating account of the history of human evolution focuses on our common ancestors, possibly only 150 humans, who crossed the Red Sea from Africa 50,000 years ago.
- Walls, Jeannette. ***The Glass Castle: A Memoir***. Scribner's, 2005. This successful gossip columnist, who "made it" against all odds, shares her astonishing memoir of a childhood lived in a seriously dysfunctional, but uniquely vibrant, family. Alex Award 2006

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Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Wiggins, Marianne. ***The Shadow Catcher***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Real people and facts provide fictional threads which are used to draw parallels between the lives of photographer Edward Curtis (1868-1952) and the writer's own father, John Wiggins (1920-1970).
- Wilson, August. ***Fences: A Play***. Plume, 1986. In the pre-television, pre-air-conditioned era of the fifties when families spent time on their porches and back yards, Troy Maxson, a tough Black man who has struggled against the reality of unequal opportunities in America, spins yarns and tells stories to his circle of family. Pulitzer Prize for Drama 1987
- Wright, Lawrence. ***The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11***. Knopf, 2006. A groundbreaking look at the people and ideas, terrorist plans, and the Western intelligence failures that culminated in the assault on America. Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction 2007
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***American Born Chinese***. First Second, 2006. A graphic novel depicts Chinese myths and legends that influence the life of a high school boy as he struggles to fit in with his peers. Michael L. Printz Award 2007
- Zusak, Markus. ***The Book Thief***. Knopf, 2006. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl, whose book stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family, the Jewish man they are hiding, and her neighbors. National Jewish Book Award 2006

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