



HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST

2015

About the HAISLN Recommended Reading List

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

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

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

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

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

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HAISLN Recommended Reading List 2015

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Alexander, Claire. ***Back to Front and Upside Down***. Eerdmans Books, 2012. While the rest of the class makes birthday cards for the principal, Stanley struggles with his words and letters.
- Ashman, Linda. ***No Dogs Allowed!*** Sterling, 2011. Alberto does not allow customers to bring their pets into his new restaurant, but after he realizes he is losing their business, he must find a way to win them back.
- Baker, Keith. ***No Two Alike***. Beach Lane Books, 2011. A pair of birds journey through a snowflake-filled winter landscape where everything, everywhere is wonderfully unique – from branches and leaves to forests and trees to friends and loved ones.
- Bang, Molly. ***When Sophie Gets Angry --: Really, Really Angry...*** Scholastic, 1999. When Sophie gets angry, she goes outside and runs, cries, climbs her favorite tree – and then, calmed by the breeze, she is soon ready to go back home.
- Barton, Byron. ***My Bus***. Greenwillow, 2014. Joe, the bus driver, heads out on his route, stopping to pick up five dogs and five cats in all, then dropping nine of them off at a plane, train, or boat and going home with the tenth passenger, his own dog.
- Becker, Bonny. ***A Library Book for Bear***. Candlewick, 2014. Bear thinks he has all the books he needs until his cheery friend, Mouse, persuades him to visit the library. *Series*
- Bee, William. ***And The Cars Go...*** Candlewick, 2013. Vrooming, chugging, and whispering vehicles are driven by characters ranging from a beach-going family and hat-wearing royals to a noisy troupe of schoolchildren and a fretful ice-cream vendor.
- Bloom, Suzanne. ***Oh! What a Surprise!*** Boyds Mills, 2012. Fox is curious when she sees her friends, Goose and Bear, making presents and hopes that one might be for her, but then she decides to make her own gifts for Goose and Bear.
- Boldt, Mike. ***123 Versus ABC***. Harper, 2013. While numbers and letters may disagree about who is the real star of the book, the reader is the real winner due to the rollicking illustrations and fast-paced fun.
- Brown, Margaret Wise. ***The Fathers Are Coming Home***. McElderry Books, 2010. As nighttime falls all types of fathers – fish, rabbits, snails, pigs, and a boy's father – make their way home to their families.
- Bunting, Eve. ***Little Bear's Little Boat***. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. When Little Bear can no longer fit into his boat he finds someone else who can use it. Board Book
- Burningham, John. ***Picnic***. Candlewick, 2014. Boy and Girl go out for a picnic and meet all sorts of animals along the way.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Emberley, Rebecca. **Chicken Little**. Roaring Brook, 2009. In this retelling of the classic story, an acorn falls on Chicken Little's head and he runs in a panic to his friends Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurky to tell them the sky is falling.
- Falconer, Ian. **Olivia and the Fairy Princesses**. Atheneum, 2012. Olivia, tired of all of the sparkly princesses around these days, embarks upon a quest for her own unique identity.
- Feiffer, Kate. **My Side of the Car**. Candlewick, 2011. Sadie and her father have been planning a trip to the zoo for a long time but something always gets in the way, so when they finally start out and her father sees some raindrops, Sadie insists that there is no rain on her side of the car.
- Fleming, Denise. **Alphabet under Construction**. Holt, 2002. A mouse works his way through the alphabet as he folds the "F," measures the "M," and rolls the "R."
- Fox, Mem. **Hello Baby!** Beach Lane Books, 2009. A baby encounters a variety of young animals, including a clever monkey, a hairy warthog, and a dusty lion cub, before discovering the most precious creature of all.
- Freeman, Tor. **Olive and the Big Secret**. Templar, 2012. Olive learns the hard way that keeping secrets is tough, and telling them can lead to a lot of trouble.
- Ganz-Schmitt, Sue. **Planet Kindergarten**. Chronicle Books, 2014. A young child imagines going off to Kindergarten as a journey to another planet.
- Gibson, Ginger Foglesong. **Tiptoe Joe**. Greenwillow, 2013. A bear invites all the animals to follow him through the forest, on tiptoe, to see a special surprise that requires utmost silence.
- Gliori, Debi. **What's the Time, Mr. Wolf?** Walker, 2012. Mr. Wolf's day is packed, not only with his own activities and errands, but with such characters as three giggling pigs and a fiddling cat continually asking him what time it is until, at last, it is bedtime.
- Gordon, Domenica More. **Archie**. Bloomsbury, 2012. Archie, a fashion-loving dog with a faithful pet of his own, leads a quiet life until he gets a sewing machine and begins creating canine couture that captures attention all over town, even from a queen and her two royal corgis.
- Gray, Rita. **Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?** Houghton Mifflin, 2014. In this nonfiction picture book, children hear many birds on their walk through the forest, but the quiet mother bird has something special to see.
- Hacohen, Dean & Sherry Scharschmidt. **Tuck Me In!** Candlewick, 2010. The reader helps tuck in baby animals at bedtime using pages with flaps to serve as blankets.
- Hale, Bruce. **Clark the Shark**. HarperCollins, 2013. Clark finds everything about school fun and exciting, but his enthusiasm causes problems until he begins inventing rhymes to remind himself to stay cool at school. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Harrison, Hannah E. ***Extraordinary Jane***. Dial Books, 2014. Jane the dog doesn't have a unique talent in the circus like the rest of her family until the ringmaster discovers what is truly special about her.
- Henkes, Kevin. ***A Good Day***. Greenwillow, 2007. A bird, a fox, a dog, and a squirrel overcome minor setbacks to have a very good day.
- Hest, Amy. ***The Reader***. Amazon Children's, 2012. A boy and his dog hike to the top of a very tall, snowy hill where they play, enjoy a snack, and then share their favorite book before sledding home.
- Hudson, Cheryl Willis. ***Hands Can***. Candlewick, 2003. Photographs and simple, rhyming text present different ways that hands can be used, including holding or mixing things and waving goodbye.
- Jeffers, Oliver. ***Stuck***. Philomel, 2011. Floyd's kite gets stuck in a tree, and he tries to knock it down with increasingly larger and more outrageous things.
- Jocelyn, Marthe & Nell Jocelyn. ***Where Do You Look?*** Tundra Books, 2013. A number of English homonyms are presented, with illustrations that help explain the different meanings of words that are spelled the same.
- Kirk, David. ***Oh So Tiny Bunny***. Feiwel and Friends, 2013. Oh So Tiny, a very small bunny, dreams every night of being big but eventually realizes that being tiny is not so bad.
- Konagaya, Kiyomi. ***Beach Feet***. Translated from the Japanese by Yuki Kaneko. Enchanted Lion Books, 2012. This cheerful book follows a free and independent child as he explores the beach, focusing on his feet as he feels the sand, shells, and water.
- Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue. ***Same, Same but Different***. Holt, 2011. Pen pals Elliot and Kailash discover that even though they live in different countries – America and India – they both love to climb trees, have pets, and ride a school bus.
- Kulka, Joe. ***Wolf's Coming***. Carolrhoda Books, 2007. All the animals in the forest go into hiding from the wolf, but why they are hiding is a big surprise.
- Kuskin, Karla. ***I Am Me***. Simon & Schuster, 2000. After being told how she resembles other members of her family, a young girl states positively and absolutely that she is "NO ONE ELSE BUT ME."
- LaRochelle, David. ***It's a Tiger!*** Chronicle Books, 2012. A child imagines that he is in a story where he encounters a tiger at every turn.
- Lass, Bonnie. ***Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?*** Little, Brown, 2000. A skunk tries to find out which of his animal friends stole the cookies.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Lester, Helen. ***The Loch Ness Monster***. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Angus, a very messy monster who lives with his parents in Loch Ness, learns an important lesson about picking up after himself.
- Lewis, J. Patrick. ***Big Is Big (and little, little): A Book of Contrasts***. Holiday House, 2007. Rhyming text and animal illustrations artfully demonstrate the meaning of opposites.
- Lloyd, Sam. ***Mr. Pusskins and Little Whiskers: Another Love Story***. Atheneum, 2008. When Emily brings home a little kitten to be Mr. Pusskins' best friend, the older cat does not appreciate the gesture.
- Lloyd-Jones, Sally. ***How to Be a Baby, by Me, the Big Sister***. Schwartz & Wade, 2011. An all-knowing big sister gives her baby sibling lessons in being a baby.
- Long, Loren. ***Otis***. Philomel, 2009. When a big yellow tractor arrives, Otis the friendly little tractor is cast away behind the barn, but when trouble occurs Otis is the only one who can help. *Series*
- McClure, Nikki. ***How to Be a Cat***. Abrams Books, 2013. Cut-paper illustrations and single words of text show a kitten's attempts to imitate an adult cat's mastery of such skills as stretching and stalking.
- McLeod, Bob. ***SuperHero ABC***. HarperCollins, 2006. Humorously-named superheroes such as Goo Girl and The Volcano represent the letters of the alphabet from A to Z.
- Meisel, Paul. ***See Me Dig***. Holiday House, 2013. A group of dogs that loves to dig has a fun-filled day of making mischief.
- Melling, David. ***The Kiss That Missed***. Barron's, 2002. When a goodnight kiss from the King to his son goes astray and escapes to the forest, the bravest knight is sent to find it and bring it back.
- Murray, Alison. ***One Two That's My Shoe!*** Disney-Hyperion, 2012. Using illustrations and rhyming text, the reader is encouraged to count from one to ten when a mischievous puppy runs off with his owner's shoe.
- Murray, Laura. ***The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School***. Putnam's, 2011. A Gingerbread Man searches all over the school for the group of children who made him and then left him behind.
- Muth, Jon J. ***Hi, Kool!: A Year of Seasons***. Scholastic, 2014. The four seasons are celebrated in twenty-six imaginative haikus.
- Nichols, Lori. ***Maple***. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014. A nature-loving little girl's favorite playmate is her maple tree, until the day she's surprised with a baby sister.
- O'Connor, Jane. ***Fancy Nancy's Favorite Fancy Words: From Accessories to Zany***. HarperCollins, 2008. Fancy Nancy teaches children the alphabet by sharing her favorite fancy words. *Series*

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- Pham, LeUyen. ***A Piece of Cake***. Balzer + Bray, 2014. Mouse has baked a special treat for Little Bird's birthday, but delivering it to his friend isn't easy—not when everyone he meets along the way offers to trade something for a piece of cake.
- Pizzoli, Greg. ***Number One Sam***. Disney-Hyperion, 2014. A competitive race-car driving dog learns that some things are more important than being number one.
- Portis, Antoinette. ***Froodle***. Roaring Brook, 2014. One day, amidst the usual chirps, tweets, and caws, a little brown bird decided to try singing a new song which sets off an interesting reaction.
- Rathmann, Peggy. ***Good Night, Gorilla***. Putnam, 1994. An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo.
- Reagan, Jean. ***How to Babysit a Grandpa***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. A little boy provides instructions for properly “babysitting” a grandfather, such as offering him tasty treats and entertaining him with special games.
- Rosenthal, Eileen. ***I'll Save You, Bobo!*** Atheneum, 2012. Willy is writing a story about Bobo in order to act out his revenge fantasies on Earl, who retaliates by wrecking Willy's stories until they both realize that they have something in common.
- Ross, Tony. ***I Want My Light On!*** Andersen Press, 2007. A little princess begs to have her light left on at night, not because she is afraid of the dark, but because she is afraid that there are ghosts hiding under her bed.
- Rylant, Cynthia. ***Puppies and Piggies***. Harcourt, 2008. Rhyming text describes what various animals do and what they love, as well as a baby who loves his bed and his mother.
- Salas, Laura Purdie. ***A Leaf Can Be...*** Millbrook, 2012. With rhyming text and illustrations, this story explores some of the many things a leaf can be, from tree topper to rain stopper. Facts about leaves and a glossary are included.
- Scanlon, Liz Garton. ***All the World***. Beach Lane Books, 2009. In this gentle story, pictures and rhyming text celebrate a family's day spent going to the beach, shopping at the market, eating at a restaurant, and sharing a quiet night at home.
- Schertle, Alice. ***Little Blue Truck***. Harcourt, 2008. A small blue truck finds his way out of a jam with a little help from his friends.
- Schneider, Josh. ***Bedtime Monsters***. Clarion, 2013. A young boy conquers his fear of bedtime monsters after making a surprising discovery.
- Shannon, David. ***Duck on a Bike***. Blue Sky Press, 2002. A duck decides to ride a bike and soon influences all the other animals on the farm to ride bikes too.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
PreSchool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten

- Slate, Joseph. ***Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten***. Dutton, 1996. The reader is introduced to the letters of the alphabet as Miss Bindergarten and her students get ready for kindergarten.
- Spires, Ashley. ***The Most Magnificent Thing***. Kids Can Press, 2014. A little girl, with a wonderful idea, elicits help from her canine assistant and begins the challenging process of trying to make “the most magnificent thing.”
- Staake, Bob. ***My Pet Book***. Random House, 2014. A boy’s search for the perfect pet leads him to the bookstore where he finds a bright red book that becomes his best friend.
- Stephens, Helen. ***How to Hide a Lion***. Holt, 2013. Iris understands that grown-ups are afraid of lions so she tries to keep one hidden for as long as possible, but when he catches two burglars he becomes the town hero.
- Stevens, April. ***Edwin Speaks Up***. Schwartz & Wade, 2011. Before his family leaves the grocery store, Baby Edwin makes sure their grocery cart contains the last ingredient needed to make his birthday celebration complete.
- Stockdale, Susan. ***Stripes of All Types***. Peachtree, 2013. The many reasons that animals have stripes are explained, with an afterword, a brief description of each animal, and a matching game.
- Sturges, Philemon. ***The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza***. Dutton, 1999. In this version of the traditional tale, the duck, the dog, and the cat refuse to help the Little Red Hen make a pizza but do get to participate when the time comes to eat it.
- Sullivan, Mary. ***Ball***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. While searching for someone to play with him, a dog dreams of fantastical adventures he could have with his ball.
- Thomas, Jan. ***The Doghouse***. Harcourt, 2008. Mouse convinces each of his friends to venture into the scary doghouse to retrieve a lost ball, but realizes that he will have to go in himself since no one has come back out.
- Thong, Roseanne. ***Green Is a Chile Pepper***. Chronicle Books, 2014. A little girl discovers all the bright colors in her Hispanic American neighborhood.
- Underwood, Deborah. ***The Quiet Book***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. From the quiet of being the first one awake in the morning to “sweet dreams quiet” when the last light is turned off, simple text explores the many kinds of quiet that can exist during the day.
- Vere, Ed. ***Banana!*** Holt, 2010. This nearly wordless book tells the story of two monkeys who fight for one banana but eventually learn to share.
- Walsh, Ellen Stoll. ***Balancing Act***. Beach Lane Books, 2010. Two mice have fun playing on a teeter-totter, but as more and larger friends join them, it becomes increasingly difficult to stay balanced.

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- Watt, Melanie. **Scaredy Squirrel at Night**. Kids Can Press, 2009. Scaredy Squirrel is afraid to sleep at night in case he dreams of dragons, ghosts, vampire bats, and polka-dot monsters, so he comes up with an elaborate plan to stay awake. *Series*
- Wells, Rosemary. **Max Cleans Up**. Puffin, 2000. Max's big sister Ruby wants to help him clean up his messy room, but he keeps rescuing things that she wants to throw away. *Series*
- Wheeler, Lisa. **Dino-Soccer**. Carolrhoda Books, 2009. Plant-eating dinosaurs face meat-eating dinosaurs in a fast-moving, exciting soccer match.
- Willems, Mo. **Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale**. Hyperion, 2004. Too young to speak words, Trixie struggles to explain to her father that she has lost her precious stuffed bunny during their trip to the Laundromat.
- 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. *Series*
- Wolff, Ashley. **Baby Bear Counts One**. Beach Lane Books, 2013. Before curling up with his mother in their cozy den, Baby Bear counts other animals from one to ten as they prepare for winter.
- Wood, Audrey. **Ten Little Fish**. Blue Sky Press, 2004. Ten little fish swim along an ocean reef, but each finds a reason to leave until there is only one left.
- Yaccarino, Dan. **Unlovable**. Holt, 2001. Alfred, a pug, is made to feel inferior by a cat, a parrot, and the other neighborhood dogs until a new dog moves in next door and helps Alfred realize that he is fine just the way he is.
- Yates, Louise. **Dog Loves Counting**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. When Dog has trouble putting down his books at bedtime, his friends help him find fun things to count so he can fall asleep.

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Adderson, Caroline. ***Not in Love***. Kids Can Press, 2014. Jasper John Dooley is not happy to be paired with Isabel, who really likes him, for a reading partner, but when he goes to her house and plays on the trampoline, he begins to change his mind. *Series*
- Adler, David A. ***A Picture Book of Sam Houston***. Holiday House, 2012. A brief overview of the life and accomplishments of Texas politician Sam Houston.
- Adler, David A. ***Young Cam Jansen and the Speedy Car Mystery***. Viking, 2010. At her school's Green Fair, Cam and her friends are learning to keep the earth green when a student's remote controlled car goes missing! Was it stolen? It's up to Cam and her photographic memory to figure it out! *Series*
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla***. Clarion, 2014. This picture book is an introduction to the true story of Ivan, the Shopping Mall Gorilla that inspired the Newbery-winning novel ***The One and Only Ivan***.
- Applegate, Katherine. ***Never Race a Runaway Pumpkin***. HarperCollins, 2009. Roscoe is determined to guess the weight of a giant pumpkin in order to win books for his school library and candy for himself, but he is overwhelmed by superstitions, especially about a certain black kitten. *Series*
- Archer, Peggy. ***Name That Dog! Puppy Poems from A to Z***. Dial Books, 2010. A collection of humorously illustrated poems about dogs, their names and their unique personalities.
- Barrows, Annie. ***Ivy + Bean***. Chronicle Books, 2006. When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. *Series*
- Beard, Alex. ***The Jungle Grapevine***. Abrams Books, 2009. Reminiscent of *Chicken Little*, this cleverly illustrated book demonstrates how rumors get started and quickly get out of hand.
- Bell, Cece. ***Rabbit and Robot: The Sleepover***. Candlewick, 2012. Rabbit has his best friend Robot coming to spend the night. Rabbit has everything planned out, but Robot has different ideas about his friend's plans which ultimately result in an enjoyable time together.
- Best, Cari. ***Beatrice Spells Some Lulus and Learns to Write a Letter***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. Beatrice enjoys learning to spell, and gets really excited about it after some encouragement from her grandmother, but she has trouble convincing her classmates that spelling is not boring.
- Brendler, Carol. ***Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Zany and whimsical drawings bring this story about Winnie, the worm farmer, to life. Winnie needs a new wagon, so she looks for ways to win first prize at the county fair; however, there are no prizes for worm farmers.

HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Burleigh, Robert. **One Giant Leap**. Philomel, 2009. An illustrated retelling of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's lunar landing in 1969.
- Byars, Betsy. **Boo's Dinosaur**. Holt, 2006. When young Boo is followed home by a dinosaur that only she can see, it causes a bit of trouble for her older brother, Sammy.
- Chabon, Michael. **The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man**. Balzer + Bray 2011. A young superhero describes his awesome powers, which he then demonstrates as various foes arrive on the scene.
- Chaconas, Dori. **Cork & Fuzz: The Swimming Lesson**. Viking, 2011. Cork the muskrat wants his best friend Fuzz, a possum, to visit his home, but first he must teach Fuzz to swim and not be afraid of the water. *Series*
- Chin, Jason. **Gravity**. Roaring Brook, 2014. Minimal text and enthralling illustrations provide an introduction to the concept of gravity and what would happen without gravity. Additional specific, easy to understand information is included in the afterward-
- Cocca-Leffler, Maryann. **Princess K.I.M. and the Lie That Grew**. Whitman, 2009. In an attempt to impress her new classmates, Kim lies about her name and claims that she comes from a royal family, but she gets herself into real trouble after her classmates beg to meet Kim's grandmother--the Queen.
- Collins, Ross. **Dear Vampa**. Katherine Tegen, 2009. A young vampire writes a letter to his grandfather bemoaning his new neighbors.
- Cox, Lynne. **Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas**. Schwartz & Wade, 2014. Elizabeth, an elephant seal in New Zealand, causes havoc on the roadway when she persists on living in town versus her natural habitat, the ocean.
- Coy, John. **Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball**. Carolrhoda Books, 2013. In 1891 James Naismith invented basketball as a game of skill to keep the unruly students in his gym class engaged.
- Cronin, Doreen. **Diary of a Fly**. Joanna Cotler, 2007. A young fly discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being an insect, including the dangers of flyswatters and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.
- Davies, Nicola. **Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes**. Candlewick, 2014. This engaging introduction to microbes explains how some of the smallest things on Earth have really big jobs.
- Davis, Jill. **Orangutans Are Ticklish: Fun Facts From an Animal Photographer**. Schwartz & Wade, 2010. Provides interesting facts about animals and explores what it takes to photograph them, with animal photographer Steve Grubman sharing some of his favorite, and scariest, encounters.
- Dempsey, Kristy. **A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream**. Philomel, 2014. A young girl growing up in Harlem in the 1950s dreams of becoming a prima ballerina one day and is thrilled to see a performance of Janet Collins, the first "colored" prima ballerina.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- DePaola, Tomie. **26 Fairmount Avenue**. Putnam's, 1999. Children's author and illustrator Tomie De Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy. Newbery Honor 2000. *Series*
- DiCamillo, Kate. **Bink & Gollie: Best Friends Forever**. Candlewick Press, 2013. Bink & Gollie are back with three new adventures. *Series*.
- DiCamillo, Kate. **Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig**. Candlewick, 2008. Two sisters move in next door to where Mercy the pig lives and, frustrated when Mercy continues to eat their flowers, they decide to call for the help of an Animal Control Officer, Francine Poulet, to handle the case. *Series*
- DiPucchio, Kelly S. **Grace for President**. Hyperion, 2008. After finding out there has never been a female U.S. president, Grace decides to run in her school's mock election where she learns about the American electoral system and sets out to be the best person for the job even though her opponent, Thomas, seems to be winning all the boys' votes.
- Egan, Tim. **Dodsworth in Tokyo**. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Dodsworth and his misbehaving duck continue their journeys with a trip to Tokyo. Again Dodsworth must come to the rescue of the duck as he causes a series of mishaps. *Series*.
- Elya, Susan Middleton. **Little Roja Riding Hood**. Putnam's, 2014. A rhyming twist on the classic fairy tale in which a little girl saves her grandmother from a wolf. Includes a glossary of Spanish words.
- English, Karen. **Nikki & Deja: Election Madness**. Clarion, 2011. Deja, excited by the announcement that Carver School is going to elect its first ever student body president, is confident she can nab the third grade nomination with her best friend Nikki as her campaign manager; but her tendency to rush into things and boss people around alienates Nikki when she needs her the most. *Series*
- Ernst, Lisa Campbell. **The Gingerbread Girl**. Dutton, 2006. After their first gingerbread disaster, the lonely old couple decides to bake again and create a gingerbread girl who proves herself to be one smart cookie.
- Feder, Sandra V. **Daisy's Big Night**. Kids Can Press, 2014. Daisy loves poetry and she must find a way to use that as her special talent in her school's talent show.
- Florian, Douglas. **Poem Depot: Aisles of Smiles**. Dial Books, 2014. This collection of silly poems, accompanied by fun line drawings, covers all kinds of kid-friendly topics such as braces, hand-me-downs, and hating broccoli.
- Fucile, Tony. **Let's Do Nothing!** Candlewick, 2009. Young friends Frankie and Sal, believing they have "done it all," decide to do nothing for a while; but Frankie has a little trouble with the concept and it is not long before the boys realize there is no way to do nothing.
- Gibbons, Gail. **Ladybugs**. Holiday House, 2012. A colorful, illustrated introduction to ladybugs, describing their physical characteristics, lifecycle, diets and their benefits to the environment.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Gibson, Amy. ***Around the World on Eighty Legs.*** Scholastic, 2011. An illustrated collection of poems that provides information about animals around the world.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly. ***Flying Feet.*** Wendy Lamb, 2011. Charlie has always lived in his big brother's shadow, so when the Zigzag center organizes a "Come as a Character" day, Charlie hopes it will be his chance to shine as he shows off his latest invention. *Series*
- Greene, Stephanie. ***Princess Posey and the First Grade Parade.*** Putnam's, 2010. Posey is intimidated about the first day of school until Miss Lee invites Posey and her classmates to wear their favorite clothes to show how they "are all so different and creative." *Series*
- Grogan, John. ***Bad Dog, Marley!*** HarperCollins, 2007. Marley, a rambunctious puppy, causes lots of trouble in his new home and feels very sad about it. He then proves beyond a doubt that he is a valuable member of the household.
- Harper, Jessica. ***Uh-Oh, Cleo.*** Putnam's, 2008. What starts out as a perfectly ordinary day in the Small house turns into Stitches Saturday when Cleo gets a cut on the head after her twin brother, Jack, accidentally pulls down their toy house. *Series*
- Hayes, Geoffrey. ***Benny and Penny in Just Pretend.*** Candlewick, 2008. Benny Mouse insists that his little sister, Penny, leave him alone while playing, until he thinks she is in danger. Suddenly he realizes his affection for her and joins her in a game of pretend. *Series*
- Henkes, Kevin. ***Penny and Her Marble.*** Greenwillow Books, 2013. Penny finds a marble in Mrs. Goodwin's yard and takes it home, as guilt overcomes Penny. Readers of this early chapter book will delight with Penny's choice and the ending in another delightful tale of Penny. *Series*
- Henkes, Kevin. ***The Year of Billy Miller.*** Greenwillow Books, 2013. Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons.
- Hicks, Betty. ***Goof-Off Goalie.*** Roaring Brook, 2008. Ten-year-old Goose is best at goofing off; but when he decides to become the goalie for their soccer team, his friend Henry sets up a practice schedule and enlists their other friends to help Goose improve his skills. *Series*
- Hoberman, Mary Ann, ed. ***Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart.*** Little, Brown, 2012. A collection of more than 120 poems for children to learn, including selections from classic and contemporary poets, with tips and tricks from former Children's Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman on memorization and recitation.
- Holm, Jennifer. ***Squish, #1: Super Amoeba.*** Random House, 2011. The young amoeba Squish, inspired by his favorite comic book hero, Super Amoeba, tries to navigate his way through school and save his friends and the world from the evils that lurk in the halls. *Series*
- Hopkins, Joseph H. ***The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree Loving Woman Changed a City Forever.*** Beach Lane Books, 2013. An illustrated look at the

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

life of Kate Sessions, who planted a nursery in San Diego, California, after making a deal with the city.

- Howe, James. ***Houndsley and Catina: Plink and Plunk***. Candlewick, 2009. Houndsley likes canoeing and his friend Catina likes bicycling, but each has to help the other learn to enjoy these activities in order to do them together. *Series*
- Jacobson, Jennifer. ***Andy Shane: Hero at Last!*** Candlewick, 2010. Andy wants two things very much . . . to win the contest for the best decorated bicycle in the “Home Sweet Home parade” and to be a hero; but his best friend Dolores stands in the way of at least one goal.
- Janeczko, Paul B., ed. ***Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems***. Candlewick 2014. Thirty-six short poems from spring to winter with mixed media illustrations sure to keep the reader engaged again and again.
- Jeffers, Oliver. ***The Incredible Book Eating Boy***. Philomel, 2006. Henry loves to eat books until he begins to feel quite ill and decides that maybe he could do something else with the books he has been devouring.
- Johnston, Tony. ***Levi Strauss Gets a Bright Idea: A Fairly Fabricated Story of a Pair of Pants***. Harcourt, 2011. Re-tells, in tall-tale fashion, how Levi Strauss went to California during the Gold Rush, saw the need for a sturdier kind of pants, and invented jeans.
- Kaplan, Michael. ***Betty Bunny Wants a Goal***. Dial Books, 2014. When a young rabbit quits soccer after a disappointing first game, her family encourages her to keep trying. *Series*
- Keating, Frank. ***Theodore***. Simon & Schuster, 2006. A biography of Theodore Roosevelt that imagines the president looking back on his life, describing his childhood, his youthful journeys throughout the world, his experiences as a leader, and the value he placed on knowledge, adventure, originality, and integrity.
- Keller, Laurie. ***Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners***. Holt, 2007. Mr. Rabbit is worried that he might not get along with his new neighbors. A wise owl gives him the advice "Do unto otters as you would have otters do unto you" and proceeds to explain what this means.
- Kimmel, Eric A. ***Anansi's Party Time***. Holiday House, 2008. When Anansi the spider invites Turtle to a party just to play a trick on him, Turtle gets revenge at a party of his own.
- Kirby, Stan. ***Captain Awesome and the New Kid***. Little Simon, 2012. Looking for super-silly superhero adventures? It's Captain Awesome and Nacho Cheese Man to the rescue! In title number three Eugene and Charlie continue their hijinks and discover the “new kid” is Super Dude. *Series*.
- Larson, Kirby and Mary Nethery. ***Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival***. Walker, 2008. Bobbi the dog and Bob Cat show us how friendship and perseverance kept them together through the rough times of Hurricane Katrina.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Lasky, Kathryn. ***Poodle and Hound***. Charlesbridge, 2009. This book contains three stories which follow the adventures of Hound and Poodle as they discover how much they enjoy each other's company in spite of--or possibly because of--their differences. *Series*
- Leedy, Loreen. ***Missing Math: A Number Mystery***. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. A numerical mystery ensues when the numbers all over town suddenly disappear, bringing a halt to everyday activities.
- Lester, Helen. ***Tacky Goes to Camp***. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Tacky the penguin and his friends go to Camp Whoopihaha where they scare each other by telling ghost stories around the campfire, never expecting that one of the frightening stories will come true. *Series*
- Lies, Brian. ***Bats at the Ballgame***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Two teams of bats enjoy a nighttime game of baseball. Cheering the home team are the bat fans enjoying the snacks of "mothdogs" and the like.
- Lin, Grace. ***Ling & Ting: Twice as Silly***. Little, Brown, 2014. Identical twins Ling & Ting like to be silly, tell jokes and laugh together. *Series*
- Liniers. ***The Big Wet Balloon***. Toon Books, 2013. Sisters enjoy a rainy Saturday, even after Matilda lets go of Clemmie's red balloon
- Lobel, Arnold. ***Frog and Toad Are Friends***. First published 1970. Be entertained by the classic, short, delightful tales about best friends Frog and Toad. *Series*
- Lyon, George Ella. ***All the Water in the World***. Atheneum, 2011. An illustrated explanation of the water cycle, showing how water rises to the clouds and is rained back down again to be used by plants, people, and every living thing.
- Lyons, Kelly Starling. ***Ellen's Broom***. Putnam's, 2012. Ellen, a young girl growing up in the Reconstruction Era, learns the significance of love and tradition as she encourages her parents to "Jump the Broom" to finalize their marriage vows.
- MacLachlan, Patricia and Emily MacLachlan Charest. ***Once I Ate a Pie***. Joanna Cotler, 2006. Fourteen free-verse poems and beautiful oil paintings capture the personality of each dog in these examples of a dog's life from the perspective of the animals.
- Marshall, James. ***Fox On the Job***. Puffin, 1988. Fox tries several different jobs to earn money. *Series*
- McDermott, Gerald. ***Jabuti the Tortoise: A Trickster Tale from the Amazon***. Harcourt, 2001. All the birds enjoy the song-like flute music of Jabuti, the tortoise, except Vulture who, jealous because he cannot sing, tricks Jabuti into riding on his back toward a festival planned by the King of Heaven.
- McDonald, Megan. ***Daisy Jane, Best-Ever Flower-Girl!*** Random House, 2007. Daisy Jane, who is thrilled to be the flower girl at her babysitter's wedding, helps save the day when a storm threatens the festivities.
- McDonald, Megan. ***Stink and the Ultimate Thumb-Wrestling Smackdown***. Candlewick, 2011. When Stink Moody gets a "U" (for "Unsatisfactory") in gym,

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- he turns first to thumb-wrestling, then to karate, to give him a sporting edge.
Series
- McKay, Hilary. ***Lulu and the Duck in the Park.*** Albert Whitman, 2012. Lulu loves animals. When Lulu finds a duck egg that has rolled out of its nest, she takes it to class to keep it safe. Lulu isn't allowed to bring pets to school, but she's not really breaking the rules because it's just an egg. Surely nothing bad will happen... *Series*
- McMullan, Kate. ***Pearl and Wagner: Five Days Till Summer.*** Penguin Press, 2012. Pearl and her friend Wagner, on the verge of moving up to Ms. Bean's first grade class, worry about their new teacher being "mean" until something surprising changes their mind...
- McNulty, Faith. ***If You Decide to Go to the Moon.*** Scholastic, 2005. This book tells you how to get to the moon, what to do after you land, and, most importantly, how to get back home.
- Miller, Zeitlow Pat. ***Sophie's Squash.*** Schwartz & Wade 2013. Sophie goes to the farmer's market and chooses a squash which she names Bernice and treats as a friend. What happens when Sophie has to give Bernice up?
- Munro, Roxie. ***Hatch!*** Marshall Cavendish, 2011. Presents illustrations of various eggs with related clues, prompting readers to guess which type of bird laid the eggs.
- Nees, Susan. ***Missy's Super Duper Royal Deluxe Picture Day.*** Scholastic, 2013. Missy likes to do everything in a super duper royal deluxe way, including planning what she will wear for school picture day. However, her mother has other ideas for Missy's picture day outfit. *Series*
- Nevius, Carol. ***Baseball Hour.*** Marshall Cavendish, 2008. All baseball players will enjoy the rhythmic rhyming of this story and photo-like illustrations of children practicing baseball in an effort to build a winning team and, ultimately, a circle of friends.
- Numeroff, Laura. ***The Jellybeans and the Big Art Adventure.*** Abrams Books, 2012. Four friends who like to do different things such as paint, play soccer, read and dance --- paint a mural on an outside wall of Mrs. Petunia Dinkley-Sneezer's candy shop that depicts them each doing what they love best. *Series*
- Parish, Herman. ***Amelia Bedelia Means Business.*** Greenwillow Books, 2013. Amelia Bedelia wants a new bike, but her parents will only pay for half of the bike. Amelia Bedelia needs to find a job to earn enough money for the bike of her dreams. *Series*
- Pinkney, Andrea Davis. ***Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Songs.*** Little Brown, 2013. A beautiful intertwining of the lives of Martin Luther King, Jr. and singer Mahalia Jackson, both civil right activists as their journeys brought them together in 1963's March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.
- Potter, Alicia. ***Mrs. Harkness and the Panda.*** Albert A. Knopf, 2012. In 1936 Ruth Harkness completes her husband's difficult mission to bring the first live panda back to the United States.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Raczka, Bob. ***Guyku: A Year of Haiku for Boys***. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. A collection of haiku poetry for boys that features poems about tree climbing, kite flying, and other related topics.
- 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.
- Ries, Lori. ***Aggie Gets Lost***. Charlesbridge, 2011. Ben is heartbroken when his puppy Aggie goes missing while the two are playing fetch in the park, but he is determined to find his pet. *Series*
- Rosensteihl, Agnes. ***Silly Lilly In What Will I Be Today?*** Toon Books, 2014. Each day of the week Silly Lilly tries out a new career through play in this fun graphic novel for beginning readers.
- Rosenstock, Barb. ***The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Describes how Wassily Kandinsky's creative life was profoundly shaped by a neurological condition called synesthesia which caused him to experienced colors as sounds and sounds as colors. Caldecott Honors 2015
- Rylant, Cynthia. ***Annie and Snowball and the Book Bugs Club***. Simon Spotlight, 2011. Annie and Henry join the summer reading club at the library, and they vow to be "Book Bugs" for life. *Series*
- Rylant, Cynthia. ***Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover***. Simon & Schuster, 2006. Henry and his dog Mudge are invited to a sleepover in Patrick's attic, where they watch monster movies, eat pizza, and enjoy a contest to determine whose dog is the best popcorn catcher. *Series*
- Rylant, Cynthia. ***The High-Rise Private Eyes: The Case of the Desperate Duck***. Greenwillow, 2005. In this case, animal detectives Bunny and Jack help Mabel the duck find out who stole the sugar cubes from her tea room. *Series*
- Sauer, Tammi. ***Chicken Dance***. Sterling, 2009. Marge and Lola set out to get tickets to the Elvis Poultry concert by winning a farmyard talent contest. What transpires is hilarious!
- Schneider, Josh. ***Tales for Very Picky Eaters***. Clarion, 2011. A father tells outlandish stories while trying to get his young son, who is a very picky eater, to eat foods he thinks he will not like.
- Scieszka, Jon. ***Robot Zot!*** Simon & Schuster, 2009. Big and bright robots advance and defeat their way through a wonderful yet familiar place.
- Shannon, David. ***Too Many Toys***. Blue Sky Press, 2008. After he finally concedes that he has far too many toys, Spencer agrees to give many of them away; but he realizes that there is one special toy that he absolutely cannot part with.
- Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman and Mitchell Sharmat. ***Nate the Great and the Hungry Book Club***. Delacorte, 2009. Rosamond, who starts a book club, claims there is a monster on the loose that is ruining pages of her cookbook, which leads Nate the Great and his dog Sludge to investigate as undercover detectives. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

- Silverman, Erica. ***Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Spring Babies***. Harcourt, 2010. Cowgirl Kate and her horse Cocoa watch over the new calves, a puppy, and some baby barn owls. *Series*
- Sklansky, Amy E. ***Out of This World: Poems and Facts about Space***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. A collection of poems and facts about space, accompanied by color paintings.
- Spinelli, Eileen. ***The Best Story***. Dial Books, 2008. When a contest at the local library offers a prize for the best story, a girl tries to write one using her family's suggestions, but her story does not seem right until she listens to her heart.
- Steig, William. ***Sylvester and the Magic Pebble***. First published 1969. In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock, but then he cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again! Caldecott Medal 1970
- Stewart, Melissa. ***Feathers: Not Just for Flying***. Charlesbridge, 2014. This is a beautifully illustrated description of the many kinds of feathers and their uses.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? : The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell***. Holt, 2013. This engaging and delightfully illustrated book brings to life Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor.
- Talbott, Hudson. ***United Tweets of America***. Putnam's, 2008. A collection of detailed illustrations of state birds from all fifty United States.
- Tavares, Matt. ***Mudball***. Candlewick, 2005. During a rainy Minneapolis Millers baseball game in 1903, Little Andy Oyler has the chance to become a hero by hitting the shortest and muddiest home run in history.
- Van Leeuwen, Jean. ***Amanda Pig and the Wiggly Tooth***. Dial Books, 2008. When Amanda Pig has her first loose tooth, she is reluctant to pull it. *Series*
- Vernick, Audrey. ***Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team***. Clarion, 2012. Colorful and action-filled illustrations add to this non-fiction picture book story of twelve baseball playing brothers -- the Acerra brothers.
- Viorst, Judith. ***Lulu's Mysterious Mission***. Atheneum, 2014. When her parents take a vacation, Lulu decides to misbehave to rid herself of Ms. Solinsky, the babysitter, until Ms. Solinsky reveals her secret. *Series*
- Watkins, Angela Farris. ***My Uncle Martin's Words for America***. Abrams Books, 2011. Using words and phrases from Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches, his niece explains the importance of his message and his contributions to the Civil Rights movement.
- Willems, Mo. ***That Is Not a Good Idea!*** Balzer + Bray, 2013. A wolf and a goose meet on the street and decide to have dinner together. But, what, or who, are they going to eat?
- Winter, Jeanette. ***Henri's Scissors***. Beach Lane Books, 2013. In a small weaving town in France, a young boy named Henri-Emile Matisse drew pictures everywhere, and when he grew up, he moved to Paris and became a famous artist who created

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 1 and Grade 2

paintings that were adored around the world. But late in life a serious illness confined him to a wheelchair, and amazingly, it was from there that he created among his most beloved works—enormous and breathtaking paper cutouts.

Winter, Jeanette. ***The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps***. Schwartz & Wade, 2011. This picture book biography of Jane Goodall traces her life from her childhood passion for observing the natural world to her famous studies of chimpanzees in the wild.

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.

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

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

Compiled by:

Joanne Levy (Chair), *St. John's School*

Marilyn Arlen, *Shlenker School*

Elizabeth Holloway, *The Kinkaid School*

Mary Lasley, *Presbyterian School*

Leila Parrish, *The Village School*

Lana Wallace, *Second Baptist School*

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Asim, Jabari. ***Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington.*** Little, Brown, 2012. Booker, a former slave, journeys five hundred miles, mostly on foot, with 50 cents in his pocket to begin making a dream come true at the Hampton Institute.
- Ball, Nate. ***Blast Off.*** Harper, 2014. Fourth-grader Zack McGee's life is turned upside-down when Amp, a tiny alien, crash-lands in his bedroom then causes trouble at school while trying to get parts to repair his spaceship. *Series*
- Bauer, Marion Dane. ***Little Dog, Lost.*** Atheneum, 2012. A dog without a boy, a boy without a dog, and an elderly gentleman without a sense of belonging follow their star-crossed paths and find that love, compassion, and charity can cure loneliness and restore balance to their lives.
- Berne, Jennifer. ***On A Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein.*** Chronicle Books, 2013. Curious about the hidden mysteries of the world, Albert Einstein grows from a silent child into one of the world's greatest scientists.
- Birney, Betty. ***Summer According to Humphrey.*** Putnam's, 2010. When summer arrives, Humphrey, the pet hamster of Longfellow School's Room twenty-six, is surprised and pleased to learn that he will be going to Camp Happy Hollow. *Series*
- Bishop, Nic. ***Spiders.*** Scholastic, 2007. Nic Bishop's signature up-close, stop-action photographs show spiders larger than life.
- Borden, Louise. ***The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H. A. Rey.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Tells how the creators of "Curious George" narrowly escaped capture by the Nazis while fleeing Paris on their bicycles during World War II.
- Brown, Don. ***Henry and the Cannons: An Extraordinary True Story of the American Revolution.*** Roaring Brook, 2013. In 1776, Henry Knox creatively delivers cannons to General Washington in Boston, which leads to a victory over the British Army.
- Bryan, Ashley. ***Ashley Bryan's Puppets: Making Something from Everything.*** Atheneum, 2014. Beloved storyteller and creator Ashley Bryan reveals the vibrant spirit of found objects in this magnificent treasury of poetry and puppets.
- Cleary, Beverly. ***The Mouse and the Motorcycle.*** HarperCollins, 1965. A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling.
- Cole, Henry. ***A Nest for Celeste.*** Katherine Tegen, 2010. Celeste, a mouse longing for a real home, becomes a source of inspiration to teenaged Joseph who is an assistant to the artist and naturalist John James Audubon, at a New Orleans, Louisiana, plantation in 1821.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Colfer, Chris. ***The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell***. Little, Brown, 2012. Through the mysterious power of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairytale characters they grew up reading about. *Series*
- Cowell, Cressida. ***How to Train Your Dragon: the Heroic Misadventures of Hiccup the Viking***. Little, Brown, 2003. In this silly chapter book, the Viking boy Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, son of the chief, finds himself needing to find and train a dragon and becomes an unlikely hero in the process. *Series*
- Cronin, Doreen. ***Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure***. Atheneum, 2014. Dirt, Sweetie, Poppy and Sugar, the chicks of the Chicken Squad, must figure out what is making Tail the squirrel so afraid. *Series*
- Crum, Shutta. ***Thomas and the Dragon Queen***. Yearling, 2010. The princess must be rescued from the Dragon Queen, and the smallest squire-in-training, 13-year-old Thomas, rises to the challenge of this quest.
- Dahl, Roald. ***The BFG***. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, First published in 1982. Sophie is kidsnatched from her orphanage by a BFG--Big Friendly Giant--and the two set out to save the world.
- Davies, Jacqueline. ***The Lemonade War***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade. As the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn one hundred dollars. *Series*
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***Because of Winn-Dixie***. Candlewick, 2000. Ten year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. Newbery Honor 2001
- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. ***Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folk Tale***. Roaring Brook, 2013. On her way to visit her daughter on the other side of the jungle, Grandma encounters a hungry fox, bear, and tiger, and although she convinces them to wait for her return trip, she still must find a way to outwit them all.
- Dowson, Nick. ***North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration***. Candlewick, 2011. This book follows animals such as gray whales, terns, wolves and caribou as they journey north to the Arctic where they will join the polar bear, arctic hare, and fox to feed and breed all summer.
- Freeman, Martha. ***The Case of the Piggy Bank Thief***. Holiday House, 2012. Tessa and her sister Cammie, daughters of the first female U.S. president, explore the mystery of the gold that is found on the White House property and are further perplexed because Tessa's piggy bank has disappeared. *Series*
- Grabenstein, Chris. ***Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library***. Random House, 2013. Nine children enter into a competition to "Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library," a game which the creator describes as "like *The Hunger Games* but with lots of food and no bows or arrows."

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Gregory, Kristiana. ***The Clue at the Bottom of the Lake***. Scholastic, 2008. Brothers Jeff and David, along with their cousin Claire, plunge into a dangerous mystery after spotting someone dumping a large bundle into the lake at Cabin Creek in the middle of the night. *Series*
- Griffiths, Andy. ***The 13-Story Treehouse***. Feiwel and Friends, 2013. Under pressure by their publisher to finish their next book, two young authors graphically describe all the extraordinary distractions they face living in their 13 story treehouse.
- Gutman, Dan. ***Mission Unstoppable***. Harper, 2011. On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files. *Series*
- Hale, Nathan. ***Big Bad Ironclad!: a Civil War Steamship Showdown***. Amulet Books, 2012. Retells, in graphic-novel format, the history of the ironclad steam warships used in the Civil War, revealing facts about the ship's inventor, William Cushing—who pranked his way through the entire war—as well as other real-life characters. *Series*
- Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures That May or May Not Exist***. Darby Creek, 2006. Cryptozoology is the study of animals that may or may not be real: familiar animals like Bigfoot and Loch Ness Monster, and those that are less familiar like the Marozi of Kenya and the Orang-pendek of Sumatra and the Thylacine of Tasmania. Meet these and more in this introduction to cryptozoology.
- Harley, Bill. ***The Amazing Flight of Darius Frobisher***. Peachtree, 2006. When Darius Frobisher's father disappears in a hot air balloon, the boy's happy, carefree life suddenly comes to an end at the home of his notoriously nasty Aunt Ida, but then one day he is startled to see an old man with long flowing hair riding a bicycle across the sky!
- Harley, Bill. ***Charlie Bumpers vs. the Teacher of the Year***. Peachtree, 2013. Charlie Bumpers, convinced his fourth grade year will be a disaster with the strictest teacher in the school, tries to stay out of trouble, even though trouble seems to follow his often well intentioned actions.
- Hicks, Betty. ***The Worm Whisperer***. Roaring Brook, 2013. Ellison Ellis Coffey, a lonely fifth-grader, discovers he might have the special gift of talking to bugs and decides to use his ability to win his town's annual Woolly Worm Race.
- Holm, Jennifer L. ***The Fourteenth Goldfish***. Random House, 2014. Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging and consequently has turned into a teenager, which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.
- Holub, Joan. ***Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom***. Aladdin, 2012. When ten-year-old Zeus is kidnapped, he discovers he can defend himself with a magic thunderbolt. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Hopkins, H. Joseph. ***The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever.*** Beach Lane Books, 2013. Unearth the true story of green-thumbed pioneer and activist Kate Sessions, who helped San Diego grow from a dry desert town into a lush, leafy city known for its gorgeous parks and gardens.
- Huey, Lois Miner. ***Ick! Yuck! Eew!: Our Gross American History.*** Millbrook, 2014. Discover many unusual and gross facts from America in the 1700s including many sights, smells and habits of the past.
- Jenkins, Steve. ***Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Profiles a series of animals with unusual eyes and explains how the animals use their uniquely evolved eyes to gain essential information about the biological world.
- Johnson, Rebecca L. ***When Lunch Fights Back: Wickedly Clever Animal Defenses.*** Millbrook, 2015. An exploration of animal defenses that discusses the physical and behavioral adaptations that various animals depend on for their survival.
- Keller, Laurie. ***Bowling Alley Bandit.*** Holt/Christy Ottaviano, 2013. Arnie the talking doughnut is delighted to be Mr. Bing's new pet "doughnut-dog, so when Mr. Bing starts rolling gutter balls during a big bowling tournament, Arnie suspects foul play and sets out to solve the mystery. *Series*
- Kelly, Mark E. ***Mousetronaut: Based on a (Partially) True Story.*** Simon & Schuster, 2012. A small but plucky mouse named Mike is sure that he can help the Space Shuttle astronauts and ends up saving the whole mission.
- Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. ***A Taste of Freedom: Gandhi and the Great Salt March.*** Walker, 2014. An old man in India recalls how, when he was a young boy, he got his first taste of freedom as he and his brother joined the great Mahatma Gandhi on a march to the sea to make salt in defiance of British law.
- Klimo, Kate. ***Barry.*** Random House, 2013. Barry der Menschenretter, a Saint Bernard dog, reflects back on his life in the early 1800s at the Hospice of the Great Saint Bernard in the Swiss Alps, where he rescued some forty people from avalanches. *Series*
- Klise, Kate. ***The Show Must Go On!*** Algonquin, 2013. Two mice and a crow, who travel with a circus, cleaning up the spilled popcorn after every performance, come to the rescue when a greedy con artist takes over the management of the circus.
- LaFevers, R. L. ***Flight of the Phoenix.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Ten-year-old Nate is sent to live with a family cousin, the world's last beastologist, after his parents are declared lost at sea, but danger mounts when he is brought on an expedition to the Arabian Desert, gets lost, and must protect a newly hatched phoenix egg and rescue his guardian. *Series*
- Lagercrantz, Rose. ***My Happy Life.*** Gecko, 2013. It is difficult to deal with the loss of a loved one, a best friend who moves away, and the jitters of a new school year, but there are also many happy moments that make life dear, as young Dani discovers in this gentle story of childhood.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Lee, Jenny. ***Elvis and the Underdogs***. Balzer + Bray, 2013. Benji, a young boy who suffers from seizures, has his life turned around when a talking therapy dog comes to live with him. *Series*
- Lewis, J. Patrick, ed. ***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: With Favorites From Robert Frost, Jack Prelutsky, Emily Dickinson, and More: 200 Poems With Photographs That Squeak, Soar, and Roar!*** National Geographic, 2012. Full-color photographs accompany two hundred poems about animals.
- Lin, Grace. ***Dumpling Days***. Little, Brown, 2012. Pacy and her family fly to Taiwan to visit family, celebrate her grandmother's 60th birthday, and learn what it means to be Taiwanese even without speaking the language. *Series*
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***White Fur Flying***. McElderry Books, 2013. A sad and silent nine-year old boy finds his voice when he moves next to a family that rescues dogs.
- Malam, John. ***You Wouldn't Want to Be a Ninja Warrior!: A Secret Job That's Your Destiny***. Franklin Watts, 2012. Examines the skills needed to become a ninja, including practicing with weapons everyday, listening and not asking questions, and keeping your identity secret. *Series*
- Martin, Ann M. ***Rain Reign***. Feiwel and Friends, 2014. Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels , even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet.
- McDonald, Megan. ***The Big Bad Blackout***. Candlewick, 2014. In this third,full-color installment in the series featuring the Moody siblings, a blackout encourages the whole family to discover activities that don't require electricity. *Series*
- McMullan, Kate. ***Have a Hot Time, Hades!*** Stone Arch Books, 2012. In this story with a modern twist, Hades tells his own version of how he became King of the Underworld and Zeus became King of the Gods. *Series*
- McMullan, Kate. ***The New Kid at School***. Grosset & Dunlap, 2003. Wiglaf is chosen from his many siblings to attend the prestigious Dragon Slayers' Academy and embarks upon an unforgettable journey. *Series*
- Morris, Gerald. ***The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Follow the great, yet humble, Sir Lancelot through a series of exciting adventures in this humorous tale of one of King Arthur's knights. *Series*
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Shiloh***. Atheneum, 1991. Marty must make some painful decisions about returning a dog to his abusive owner. Newbery Honor Book 1992. *Series*
- Nolan, Lucy A. ***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'Neill, Alexis. ***The Kite That Bridged Two Nations: Homan Walsh and the First Niagara Suspension Bridge***. Calkins Creek, 2013. Young Homan Walsh loves flying his kite and enters a contest to fly the kite with a line attached all the way across the Niagara River to help build the first suspension bridge between Canada and the United States.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Osborne, Mary Pope and Natalie Pope Boyce. ***Heroes For All Times: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House #51: High Time for Heroes.*** Random House, 2014. Jack and Annie track the facts behind six people who have changed history, including Florence Nightingale, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, and John Muir. *Series*
- Overdeck, Laura. ***Bedtime Math.*** Feiwel and Friends, 2013. Inside this book, families will find fun, mischief-making, kid-appealing math problems to tackle with over one hundred math riddles on topics from jalapeños to flamingos and three different levels of challenge: wee ones, little kids, and big kids.
- Peot, Margaret. ***Inkblot: Drip, Splat, and Squish Your Way to Creativity.*** Boyds Mills, 2011. In addition to interesting facts about the world of art, step-by-step instructions and examples are provided for using inkblots to spark creativity.
- Polacco, Patricia. ***Clara and Davie: The True Story of Young Clara Barton, Founder of the Red Cross.*** Scholastic, 2014. Relates the story of the special relationship between young Clara Barton, who would one day establish the Red Cross, and her older brother Davie, including Davie's encouragement of Clara's loving, healing nature and Clara's healing touch that saved Davie's life.
- Pollack, Pam and Meg Belviso. ***Who Was Steve Jobs?*** Grossett & Dunlap, 2012. A biography of Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, discussing his childhood, family, business sense and more. *Series*
- Primavera, Elise. ***Libby of High Hopes.*** Simon & Schuster, 2012. When ten-year-old Libby Thump stumbles upon High Hopes Horse Farm and finds her dream horse, Princess, a prize-winning jumping horse that has been put out to pasture, Libby tries to convince her parents to give her riding lessons.
- Probst, Jeff and Chris Tebbetts. ***Stranded.*** Puffin, 2013. Jane, Buzz, Carter, and Vanessa, aged nine to thirteen, are on a sailing trip in the South Pacific intended to help them bond in their newly-blended family when a massive storm strands them on a deserted island. *Series*
- Raczka, Bob. ***The Vermeer Interviews: Conversations with Seven Works of Art.*** Millbrook, 2009. Seven of Johannes Vermeer's most famous paintings, such as "The Milkmaid" and "The Geographer," come to life through interviews with the subjects to reveal artistic techniques and subtler aspects of Vermeer's unique photographic-style art.
- Raum, Elizabeth. ***Orphan Trains: An Interactive History Adventure.*** Capstone, 2011. Describes the people and events involved in the orphan trains while the reader's choices reveal historical details from the perspectives of a New York City newsboy, a child trying to keep his siblings together, and an child sent west on the baby trains. *Series*
- Ripkin, Cal, Jr. ***Super-Sized Slugger.*** Disney-Hyperion, 2012. Thirteen-year-old Cody Parker moves to Baltimore, Maryland, where as a fat eighth-grader, he has to deal with brutal teasing from a baseball teammate, and his school is beset by a rash of mysterious thefts that threaten to sideline Cody and ruin a golden season for his team. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Roberts, Cokie. ***Founding Mothers: Remembering the Ladies***. Harper, 2014. A brief, behind the scene look at the women from the period of the Revolution and early United States.
- Rose, Deborah Lee. ***Jimmy the Joey: The True Story of an Amazing Koala Rescue***. National Geographic, 2013. Fall in love with Jimmy, the koala joey, as you learn about the endangered Australian marsupial in this interesting, colorful photo essay.
- Rosenstock, Barb. ***Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library***. Calkins Creek, 2013. Looks at how Thomas Jefferson's love of books led to the creation of the Library of Congress.
- Sachar, Louis. ***Sideways Stories from Wayside School***. HarperTrophy, Originally published in 1978. Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story. *Series*
- Shefelman, Janice. ***I, Vivaldi***. Eerdmans Books, 2008. This picture book biography describes how Vivaldi grew to be a famous musician, despite his mother's vow for him to become a priest.
- Silverstein, Shel. ***Every Thing On It: Poems and Drawings***. Harper, 2011. Enjoy another remarkable collection of playful poems by the magical Shel Silverstein.
- Singer, Marilyn. ***Follow, Follow: A Book of Reverso Poems***. Dial Books, 2013. A collection of clever poems that can be read backward and forward, often opposite in their meaning – all of familiar fairy tales.
- Smith, Jr. Charles R. ***Brick by Brick***. Amistad, 2013. This beautifully illustrated picture book in verse provides a window to the construction of the original White House and highlights the contributions of the slaves who toiled so hard and who learned new skills in order to work for wages and buy their freedom.
- Spielman, Gloria. ***Marcel Marceau: Master of Mime***. Kar-Ben, 2011. A picture book biography of Marcel Marceau shows how Charlie Chaplin influenced his desire to become a silent actor, looks at how he used his talents during World War II to help the Jews, and discusses his development into the world's best-known mime.
- Spiers, Ashley. ***Binky the Space Cat***. Kids Can Press, 2009. Binky's blast-off into outer space (outside) to battle aliens (bugs) is delayed when he realizes he's left something behind –and it's not the anti-gravity kitty litter. *Series*
- Sternberg, Julie. ***Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake***. Amulet Books, 2014. A new girl at school throws nine-year-old Eleanor's relationship with her best friend Pearl into disarray. *Series*
- Tarshis, Lauren. ***The Destruction of Pompeii, A.D. 79***. Scholastic, 2014. During the infamous eruption of Mount Vesuvius, one boy struggles to escape. *Series*
- Temple, Bob. ***The Titanic: An Interactive History Adventure***. Capstone, 2008. Describes the events surrounding the sinking of the ship Titanic in 1912, revealing the historical details from the perspective of a first-class passenger, a third-class passenger, and a crew member. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 3 and Grade 4

- Van Allsburg, Chris. ***Queen of the Falls***. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. This biography tells about Annie Edson Taylor, a retired instructor of a charm school, who decided to attempt to go over Niagara Falls in a wooden barrel at the age of sixty-two.
- Vande Velde, Vivian. ***8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel Divided by 1 Dog = Chaos***. Holiday House, 2012. Twitch, the school yard squirrel, is chased into the building by the principal's dog and is now locked in for a dangerous and disastrous night where a group of small animals turns an elementary school into a real zoo.
- Wallace, Bill. ***Upchuck and the Rotten Willy***. Aladdin, 1998. Chuck, the cat, lonesome since his Katie goes to college, ventures out and meets a beast, big and black, named Rotten Willy, who has a heart of gold. *Series*
- Winter, Jonah. ***Joltin' Joe DiMaggio***. Atheneum, 2014. In the golden age of baseball, sports announcers ruled the radio, winning and losing was front-page news, and just about every young boy wanted to grow up to wear Yankee pinstripes, including Giuseppe Paolo DiMaggio, Jr., a first generation Italian from San Francisco.
- Winter, Jonah. ***You Never Heard of Willie Mays?*** Schwartz & Wade, 2013. A visual profile of baseball star Willie Mays, tracing his Birmingham childhood, achievements in the Negro Leagues, and fame as a center fielder for the Giants.
- Yolen, Jane and Rebecca Dotlich. ***Grumbles from the Forest: Fairy Tale Voices with a Twist: Poems***. WordSong, 2013. Characters from fairy tales give their versions in paired poems.
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Compiled by:

Christa Pryor (Chair), *River Oaks Baptist School*
Mary Jane Covington, *Corpus Christi Catholic School*
Jillian Cox, *Kinkaid School*
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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 5

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Appelt, Kathi. ***The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp***. Atheneum, 2013. Twelve-year-old Chap Brayburn, ancient Sugar Man, and his raccoon-brother Swamp Scouts Bingo and J'miah, try to save Bayou Tourterelle from feral pigs Clydine and Buzzie, greedy Sunny Boy Beaucoup, and world-class alligator wrestler and would-be land developer Jaeger Stitch in this hilarious tall tale from a Texas swamp.
- Applegate, Katherine. ***The One and Only Ivan***. Harper, 2012. When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.
- Bell, Cece. ***El Deafo***. Amulet Books, 2014. This empowering graphic novel memoir of the author/illustrator's childhood struggle being accepted and finding friends with her severe deafness received a 2015 Newbery Honor.
- Colfer, Eoin. ***The Atlantis Complex***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. When an army of fairy space probes programmed to destroy Atlantis returns to Earth, Artemis Fowl attempts to stop the destruction of the city while dealing with his own delusional and obsessive-compulsive disorders. *Series*
- Creech, Sharon. ***The Great Unexpected***. Joanna Cotler, 2012. Orphans Naomi and Lizzie are best friends, but Naomi has a knack for being around when trouble happens, and she knows all the peculiar people in town. Into their lives drops the strangely charming Finn boy. Across the sea, on a grand estate in Ireland, an elderly lady has a plan. These two worlds weave together with the great unexpected gifts of love and forgiveness.
- Delano, Marfe Ferguson. ***Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher***. National Geographic, 2008. Annie Sullivan grew up in extreme poverty with her own eye problems. Her first and only job was teaching Helen Keller how to "see" despite the fact that she was blind, deaf, and mute.
- Graff, Lisa. ***Absolutely Almost***. Philomel, 2014. Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but his new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.
- Flanagan, John. ***The Royal Ranger***. Philomel, 2013. Will Treaty is a shell of his former self, and his first apprentice may be the only one who can save him. *Series*
- Foxlee, Karen. ***Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Ophelia, a timid eleven-year-old girl grieving her mother, suspends her disbelief in things non-scientific when a boy, locked in the museum where her father is working, asks her to help him complete an age-old mission.
- Hannigan, Katherine. ***True (...Sort Of)***. Greenwillow, 2011. For most of her eleven years, Delly has been in trouble without knowing why. Her little brother, R.B., and a strange, silent new friend, Ferris, help her find a way to be good -- and happy -- again.

HASLNLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 5

- Johnson, Varian. ***The Great Greene Heist***. Arthur A. Levine, 2014. Jackson Greene has a reputation as a prankster at Maplewood Middle School, but after the last disaster he is trying to go straight -- but when it looks like Keith Sinclair may steal the election for school president from Jackson's former best friend Gabriela, he assembles a team to make sure Keith does not succeed.
- Kehret, Peg. ***Ghost Dog Secrets***. Dutton, 2010. Sixth-grader Rusty is determined to help an injured dog that is chained outdoors in frigid weather with no food, water, or shelter. He calls animal control and takes matters into his own hands, aided by his best friend and a ghost collie that leads Rusty to an even deeper secret.
- Kelly, Lynne. ***Chained***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. To work off a family debt, ten-year-old Hastin leaves his desert village in India to work as a circus elephant keeper; but many challenges await him, including trying to keep Nandita, a sweet elephant, safe from the cruel circus owner.
- Kirby, Matthew J. ***Icefall***. Scholastic, 2011. Princess Solveig and her army are trapped in a hidden fortress between towering mountains and a frozen fjord. As they await news of the king's victory and for the all-encompassing ice to break, acts of treachery make it clear that a traitor lurks in their midst.
- Lai, Thanhha. ***Inside Out and Back Again***. Harper, 2011. Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.
- Lloyd, Natalie. ***A Snicker of Magic***. Scholastic, 2014. The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic -- but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend Jonah the Beetle, she hopes to bring the magic back.
- Lord, Cynthia. ***Half a Chance***. Scholastic, 2014. When twelve-year-old Lucy enters a photography contest, she must decide if the picture that she wants to use showing Nate's grandmother's face and the telltale signs of early dementia is worth the truth it portrays.
- Magnin, Joyce. ***Cake***. Zonderkidz, 2012. Wilma Sue is wary of the eccentric sisters, Ruth and Naomi, at her new foster home, but wonders if she might have a true home with them, baking and delivering cakes and tending their chickens, until she is implicated in a series of neighborhood crimes.
- Messner, Kate. ***Hide and Seek***. Scholastic, 2013. For five hundred years the Jaguar Cup, sacred to the Silver Jaguar Society, was hidden in a cave on the coast of Costa Rica--so when a fake copy shows up on display in America, it is up to Jose, Anna, and Henry, junior members of the society, to travel to Costa Rica and rescue the real cup from thieves. *Series*
- Mull, Brandon. ***Sky Raiders***. Aladdin, 2014. Whisked through a portal to The Outskirts, an in-between world, sixth-grader Cole must rescue his friends and find his way back home before his existence is forgotten. *Series*.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 5

- Newman, Patricia. ***Plastic, Ahoy! : Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.*** Millbrook, 2014. Informative book about how our overuse of plastics is affecting ocean life and has created the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Lots of photographs help tell the story of three female scientists doing research onboard ship in the middle of the patch.
- O'Connell, Caitlin and Donna M. Jackson. ***The Elephant Scientist.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2011. While on assignment to study elephants in Namibia, scientist Caitlin O'Connell uncovers fascinating new information about elephant communication. Beautiful photographs of the African landscape and elephants along with the story of a woman's journey to find her professional calling make this a fascinating read.
- O'Connor, Barbara. ***On the Road to Mr. Mineo's.*** Frances Foster Books, 2012. From the moment she sees Sherman, a one-legged pigeon, Stella and everyone in town wants to catch him. This small southern town is aflutter with the antics of a pigeon and a little brown dog.
- O'Connor, George. ***Hera, the Goddess and Her Glory.*** First Second, 2011. Recounts the stories of the many heroes who sought and won the approval and patronage of Hera, the Queen of the Gods, including the story of Heracles. *Series*
- Oppel, Kenneth. ***The Boundless.*** Simon & Schuster, 2014. In 1885 Will uses his wits and courage to face dangerous men and mythical creatures on his ride across the Canadian frontier on The Boundless, the greatest train ever built.
- Palacio, R.J. ***Wonder.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, where he endures the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.
- Paterson, Katherine and John. ***The Flint Heart: A Fairy Story.*** Candlewick, 2011. A magical amulet, created by a Stone Age magic man for an ambitious individual wishing to take control of his tribe, brings power and despair to those who touch it. When the amulet reemerges, Charles and his sister Unity must find a way to rescue the humans, fairies, and animals from the mysterious object.
- Perl, Erica S. ***Aces Wild.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Eleven-year-old Zelly Fried's parents will not allow her to have a slumber party until she teaches her mischievous puppy, Ace, to behave, but with Grandpa Ace around nothing is ever simple.
- Philbrick, Rodman. ***Zane and the Hurricane: a Story of Katrina.*** Blue Sky Press, 2014. On a visit to New Orleans to visit his great-grandmother for the first time, Zane Dupree and his dog Bandy are caught in Hurricane Katrina. After weathering the storm, they face many challenges to survive in the aftermath while searching for his grandmother.
- Potter, Ellen. ***The Humming Room.*** Feiwel and Friends, 2012. Twelve-year-old orphan Roo Fanshaw is sent to live with an uncle she never knew in a largely uninhabited mansion on Cough Rock Island and discovers a wild river boy, an invalid cousin, and the mysteries of a hidden garden.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 5

- Riordan, Rick. ***The Lost Hero***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. *Series*
- Ross, Stewart. ***Into the Unknown: How Great Explorers Found Their Way By Land, Sea, and Air***. Candlewick, 2011. Fourteen amazing journeys by explorers throughout history and the methods they used by land, sea, and sky to find their way. Includes unfolding cross sections of vessels.
- Rusch, Elizabeth. ***Eruption: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. An account of the work of volcanologists Andy Lockhart, John Pallister, and their team describes their life-risking efforts to investigate dangerous volcanoes that pose threats to more than one billion people worldwide.
- Say, Allen. ***Drawing from Memory***. Scholastic, 2011. Using watercolor paintings, original cartoons, vintage photographs, and maps, Caldecott medalist Allen Say chronicles his experiences as an artist during World War II and describes his relationship with his mentor Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist.
- Scattergood, Augusta. ***Glory Be***. Scholastic, 2012. In the summer of 1964 as she is about to turn twelve, Glory's town of Hanging Moss, Mississippi, is beset by racial tension when town leaders close her beloved public pool rather than desegregate it. Based on real-life events, this is a story of family, friendship, and some of life's tough choices.
- Selfors, Suzanne. ***The Sasquatch Escape***. Little, Brown, 2013. Spending the summer in his grandfather's rundown town, ten-year-old Ben meets an adventurous local girl and together they learn that the town's veterinarian runs a secret hospital for imaginary creatures.
- Selznick, Brian. ***Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures***. Scholastic, 2011. Rose and Ben are deaf children living fifty years and worlds apart, yet both marvel and connect with the world around them. The American Museum of Natural History links their separate stories – one narrated in text and the other through cinematic illustrations.
- Sherry, Maureen. ***Walls Within Walls***. Katherine Tegen, 2010. When the Smithfork family moves into a lavish Manhattan apartment building, they discover clues to a decades-old mystery hidden behind the walls of their new home.
- Snicket, Lemony. ***"Who Could That Be at This Hour?"*** Little, Brown, 2012. Thirteen-year-old Lemony Snicket begins his apprenticeship with S. Theodora Markson of the secretive V.F.D. in the tiny dot of a town called Stain'd By The Sea, where he helps investigate the theft of a statue.
- Sovern, Megan Jean. ***The Meaning of Maggie***. Chronicle Books, 2014. Eleven-year-old Maggie Mayfield is an A-plus student with big plans for herself, but at this moment she is facing a lot of problems such as starting middle school and figuring out how to help her father who is out of work and in a wheelchair.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 5

- Spinelli, Jerry. ***Jake and Lily***. Balzer + Bray, 2012. Twins Jake and Lily have a very close relationship, but when they turn eleven, their parents give them separate bedrooms and Jake begins to spend time with a group of neighborhood boys. Lily is devastated as she struggles to make friends, and Jake is faced with a bully.
- St. John, Lauren. ***The White Giraffe***. Dial Books, 2006. After losing her parents in a tragic fire, eleven-year-old Martine must live with a grandmother she has never met on a wildlife preserve in Africa where she learns about a mystical white giraffe.
- Standiford, Natalie. ***The Secret Tree***. Scholastic, 2012. Sixth-graders Minty and her new friend Raymond discover a tree with a hollow trunk that holds the secrets of the people in their neighborhood. While watching their neighbors to solve the mysteries of the secrets and break a curse, the friends will have to work through some of their own secrets as well.
- Stead, Rebecca. ***When You Reach Me***. Wendy Lamb, 2009. As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980's television game show "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy laws of time and space. Newbery Award, 2010
- Stewart, Trenton Lee. ***The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict***. Little, Brown, 2012. Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict is moved to one more orphanage: this one filled with nasty bullies who target him, a suspicious orphanage director, and a mystery about lost treasure. Using his superior intellect and fierce determination, Nicholas strives to solve the mystery and makes a couple of fast friends in the process. *Series*
- Telgemeier, Raina. ***Sisters***. Graphix, 2014. Raina wants a baby sister until she has one who tends to be cranky and difficult. When it appears that their parents are having issues, the girls must figure out how to get along. This humorous look at relationships between siblings will resonate with readers.
- Turnage, Sheila. ***The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing***. Kathy Dawson Books, 2014. When Miss Lana accidentally buys a haunted inn at the Tupelo Landing town auction, Desperado Detectives – aka Mo LoBeau and her best friend Dale – open up a paranormal division to solve the ghost's identity before the town's big 250th anniversary bash. *Series*
- VanHecke, Susan. ***Raggin' Jazzin' Rockin': A History of American Musical Instrument Makers***. Boyds Mills, 2011. A history of American musical instrument makers and the contributions they made to the changing sound of music.
- Weeks, Sarah. ***Pie***. Scholastic, 2011. Alice's Aunt Polly passes away and entrusts the recipe for her world-famous pie crust to her cat, which she leaves in Alice's care. As everyone, including Alice, tries to discover the secret ingredients, Alice learns some important lessons about faith, love, and family.
- Wood, Maryrose. ***The Mysterious Howling***. Balzer + Bray, 2010. Three wild children who were raised by wolves and their young governess, Penelope, are caught up in the mysteries of Ashton Place and the people who live there. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 5

Ziegler, Jennifer. ***Revenge of the Flower Girls***. Scholastic, 2014. Triplets try to thwart their older sister's wedding plans when they think she should marry someone else. Will their antics help or hinder the wedding?

Compiled by:

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Jenny Filardo, *Presbyterian School*
Diane King, *Westbury Christian School*
Judann Luening, *Kinkaid School*
Gina Lunsford, *The Woodlands Christian Academy*
Desiree McConnell, *St. Francis Episcopal Day School*
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Aria Tatelman, *formerly at Duchesne Academy*

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 6

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Abbott, Tony. ***The Copernicus Legacy: The Forbidden Stone***. Katherine Tegen, 2014. Wade, Lily, Darrell, and Becca fly from Texas to Germany for the funeral of an old family friend. But instead of just paying their respects, they wind up on a dangerous, mind-blowing quest to unlock an ancient, guarded secret that could destroy the fate of the world. *Series*
- Allen, Crystal. ***The Laura Line***. Balzar + Bray, 2013. When Laura Dyson's seventh grade history teacher schedules a class trip to the slave shack on her grandmother's farm, Laura is forced to come to terms with her family's past and what it means for her future.
- Auxier, Jonathan. ***The Night Gardener***. Amulet Books, 2014. Irish orphans, Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be. Soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house. Spooky atmosphere abounds!
- Balliett, Blue. ***Hold Fast***. Scholastic, 2013. On a cold winter day in Chicago, Early's father disappeared. Now she, her brother, and mother have been forced to flee their apartment and join the ranks of the homeless – leaving it up to Early to hold her family together and solve the mystery surrounding her father.
- Bauer, Joan. ***Close to Famous***. Viking, 2011. Twelve-year-old Foster dreams of growing up to become a celebrity chef despite her reading disability. Can the quirky townsfolk of tiny Culpepper help Foster succeed?
- Blakemore, Megan Frazer. ***The Spy Catchers of Maple Hill***. Bloomsbury, 2014. Hazel Kaplansky and new student Samuel Butler investigate rumors that a Russian spy has infiltrated their small Vermont town, amidst the fervor of Cold War era McCarthyism, but more is revealed than they could ever have imagined.
- Bragg, Georgia. ***How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous***. Walker, 2011. "If you don't have the guts for gore, do not read this book." This caveat from the publisher warns the reader that they will encounter lots of gory details of the deaths of nineteen famous people . . . fun and informative too.
- Brown, Don. ***The Great American Dust Bowl***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. This graphic novel explores the American plains in the 1930's when millions of kinetic dust particles "rained down" causing the catastrophe known as the Dust Bowl.
- Calkhoven, Laurie. ***Will at the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863***. Dutton, 2011. In 1863, twelve-year-old Will, who longs to be a drummer in the Union army, is stuck in his sleepy hometown of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. However, when the Union and Confederate armies meet right there in his town, he and his family are caught up in the fight, and Will learns about the horrors of war. *Series*
- Creech, Sharon. ***The Boy on the Porch***. Joanna Cotler, 2013. One day a young couple finds a boy asleep on their porch. He is unable to speak or explain who he is, but they choose to care for the boy and embrace his exuberant spirit and talents. A simple tale that touches the heart and asks questions about the real meaning of family.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 6

- DeFelice, Cynthia. **Wild Life.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011. A gripping adventure story about a boy named Erik and a rescued dog living in the Middle of Nowhere, North Dakota, with grandparents he hardly knows, while his parents have been deployed to Iraq.
- Draper, Sharon. **Out of My Mind.** Atheneum, 2010. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient, young girl with cerebral palsy discovers a way for her to speak for the first time.
- Ellis, Leanne Statland. **The Ugly One.** Clarion, 2013. At the height of the Incan Empire, a girl called the Ugly One because of a disfiguring scar on her face seeks to have the scar removed but finds a life path as a shaman instead.
- Erskine, Kathryn. **Mockingbird: (Mok'ing-burd).** Philomel, 2010. Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.
- Flanagan, John. **The Outcasts.** Philomel, 2011. In this action-packed companion series to Flanagan's *Rangers Apprentice* books, a sixteen-year-old Skandian-Araluen named Hal and his group of misfit friends compete against two other, more powerful, brotherbands, enduring three months of grueling training in seamanship, weapons, and battle tactics to determine who will win the coveted prize. *Series*
- Fleming, Candace. **The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum.** Schwartz & Wade, 2009. Filled with reproductions of old photographs, circus posters, and museum flyers, this fascinating biography of the life of showman Phineas Taylor Barnum will both engage and entertain readers.
- Freedman, Russell. **Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship.** Clarion, 2012. This fascinating account focuses on the lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, including their friendship and its effect on emancipation and the Civil War.
- Gibbs, Stuart. **Space Case: a Moon Base Alpha Novel.** Simon & Schuster, 2014. You'd think it would be awesome to be the first people to live on the moon, right? For 12-year old Dashiell Gibson and the other civilians on the base, however, life is extremely dull until the base's top scientist is found dead. Dash takes it upon himself to solve the mystery and find out what exactly happened to the doctor.
- Graff, Lisa. **Tangle of Knots.** Philomel, 2013. Destiny leads eleven-year-old Cady to a peanut butter factory, a family of children searching for their own Talents, and a Talent Thief who will alter her life forever.
- Greenberg, Jan. **The Mad Potter: George E. Ohr, Eccentric Genius.** Roaring Brook, 2013. Filled with historical photographs and over fifty color reproductions of Ohr's ceramics, this fifty three page biography takes an interesting look into the development of a larger-than-life artist.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 6

- Haskell, Merrie. ***Handbook for Dragon Slayers***. Harper, 2013. Yearning for life in a cloistered scriptorium, thirteen-year-old Princess Matilda, whose lame foot brings fear of the evil eye, escapes her scheming cousin Ivo and joins her servant Judith and an old friend, Parz, in hunting dragons and writing about them. Schneider Family Book Award for 2014.
- Hiaasen, Carl. ***Chomp***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. A combination of wild animals and reality TV is mixed with a dose of humor, adventure, and mystery when the fame-seeking star of the show disappears in the Florida Everglades and Wahoo Cray, the young animal wrangler, and his new friend Tuna are the only ones who can find him.
- Hoose, Phillip. ***Moonbird: A Year on the Wind With the Great Survivor B95***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Documents the survival tale of an intrepid shorebird who has endured annual migrations between Argentina and the Canadian Arctic throughout the course of a long lifetime while his species continues to decline.
- Hopkinson, Deborah. ***The Great Trouble: a Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spread through water, and not poisonous air, when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood in 1854.
- Johnson, Jaleigh. ***The Mark of the Dragonfly***. Delacorte, 2014. Since her father's death in a factory in the Dragonfly territories, thirteen-year-old Piper has eked out a living as a scrapper in Merrow Kingdom, but the arrival of a mysterious girl sends her on a dangerous journey to distant lands.
- Johnson, Rebecca L. ***Journey into the Deep: Discovering New Ocean Creatures***. Millbrook, 2011. Travel with oceanographers discovering new animals during a ten-year project documenting sea life. Learn about new species of interesting creatures such as jellyfish, octopuses, squids, and sea worms found along coral reefs, ocean mountain ranges, and in the deepest, darkest zones of the ocean floor.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. ***The Thing About Luck***. Atheneum, 2013. Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.
- Kennedy, Caroline, ed. ***Poems to Learn by Heart***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. A wonderful selection of poems -- some old favorites, some new -- arranged by everyday subjects like school, family, self, sports, etc., accompanied by watercolor illustrations so charmingly done by Jon J. Muth. A book to treasure and share!
- Kidd, Chip. ***Go: a Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design***. Workman, 2013. This is an appealing introduction to graphic design with chapters covering: form, typography, content, and concepts, including 10 design projects for you to try.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 6

- Kirby, Matthew. **Spell Robbers**. Scholastic, 2014. Ben Warner is invited to join a "science camp" led by a quantum physicist. With his new friend Peter he discovers the secret art of Actuation--the ability to change reality by imagining it differently--but he also finds that there are people willing to kill for that secret. Book One of the exciting spy, sci-fi adventure, *The Quantum League*.
- Korman, Gordon. **The Hypnotists**. Scholastic, 2013. Twelve-year-old Jackson Opus is descended from two powerful hypnotist bloodlines, but he has just begun to realize that he can control other people's actions with sometimes frightening results- especially when the head of the Sentia Institute plans to use Jackson for his own benefit. *Series*
- LeGrand, Eric. **Believe: the Victorious Story of Eric LeGrand**. HarperCollins, 2012. Eric LeGrand reflects on his life, discussing his childhood, family, success in high school and college sports, and the football injury which resulted in paralysis, rehabilitation, and more.
- Levine, Kristin. **The Lions of Little Rock**. Putnam, 2012. In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.
- Leyson, Leon. **The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List**. Antheneum, 2013. This memoir recounts the life and perseverance of the youngest survivor on Schindler's list. Mr. Leyson's incredible remembrances remind us of the atrocities of war and the humanity that one person can show to make a difference.
- Loftin, Nikki. **Nightingale's Nest**. Razorbill, 2014. In this twist on "The Nightingale," Little John, despite his own poverty and grief, reaches out to Gayle, an unhappy foster child living next-door who sings beautifully and hides a great secret.
- Lopez, Diana. **Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel: a Novel**. Little Brown, 2013. A genius young sister and keeping up with a boyfriend wish list are the biggest problems in Chia's life when she learns her mom has cancer. Will God help her keep a big promise?
- Lupica, Mike. **Fantasy League**. Philomel, 2014. Twelve-year-old Charlie gets a chance to work with a real NFL owner once his skills for picking Fantasy Football winners is discovered. On the field, the game is much more challenging.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. **Treasury of Egyptian Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Monsters & Mortals**. National Geographic, 2014. Presents illustrated retellings of Egyptian myths, sharing the stories of Ra, Isis, Osiris, Anubis, and Bastet with sidebars for each god, goddess, monster and mortal that link the tales to history, geography, and culture, and includes a timeline and other resources.
- O'Connor, George. **Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess**. First Second, 2010. Action and adventure are in store for the Greek goddess Athena in this graphic portrayal that is told through five myths. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 6

- Pearsall, Shelly. ***Jump into the Sky***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. In 1945, thirteen-year-old Levi is sent to find the father he has not seen in three years. He travels from Chicago to segregated North Carolina and finally to Pendleton, Oregon, where he learns that his father's unit, the all-Black 555th paratrooper battalion, will never see combat but finally has a mission. Includes historical notes.
- Preus, Margi. ***Shadow on the Mountain***. Amulet Books, 2012. In Nazi-occupied Norway, fourteen-year-old Espen joins the resistance movement, graduating from deliverer of illegal newspapers to courier and spy. Based on the real-life adventures of a Norwegian boy.
- Riordan, Rick; adapted by Orpheus Collar. ***The Red Pyramid: Graphic Novel***. Disney-Hyperion, 2012. Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its link to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.
- Shusterman, Neil and Eric Elfman. ***Tesla's Attic***. Disney-Hyperion, 2014. With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor, Nikola Tesla. *Series*
- Scott, Elaine. ***Space, Stars, and the Beginning of Time: What the Hubble Telescope Saw***. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. Amazing photographs from space illustrate this history of telescopes, astronomy, black holes and the Big Bang theory.
- Sloan, Holly Goldberg. ***Counting by 7s***. Dial, 2013. Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream***. Candlewick, 2009. A chronicle of the thirteen women who tried to become NASA's first women astronaut trainees in the early 1960s. All were pilots; each earned high scores in preliminary tests. They were not accepted into the program, but their story is riveting.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Courage Has No Color: the True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers***. Candlewick, 2013. Examines the role of African-Americans in the military through the history of the Triple Nickles, America's first black paratroopers, who fought against attacks perpetrated on the American West by the Japanese during World War II.
- Tubb, Kristin O'Donnell. ***Selling Hope***. Feiwel and Friends, 2010. This story, set in 1905, is about a smart, savvy girl named Hope who travels the vaudeville circuit with her magician dad and a cast of quirky characters (including Buster Keaton and his family) and invents anti-comet pills in an effort to make money and to save people from Haley's Comet, which some people believe is about to hit the earth.
- Turnage, Sheila. ***Three Times Lucky***. Dial Books, 2012. Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 6

Wiles, Deborah. ***Revolution***. Scholastic, 2014. It's 1964 in Greenwood, Mississippi, and Sunny's town is being invaded by people from up north who are coming to help people register to vote. Her personal life isn't much better, as a new stepmother, brother, and sister are crowding into her life, giving her little room to breathe.

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

Compiled by:

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HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem. ***Sasquatch in the Paint***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. Eighth-grader Theo Rollins' growth spurt has Coach Mandrake trying to transform him into a basketball star, but training time is hurting the science club's chances of winning the "Aca-lympics," and being accused of stealing could mean Theo is off both teams.
- Acampora, Paul. ***I Kill the Mockingbird***. Roaring Brook, 2014. When best friends Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see the book ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** included ... but not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. So the three friends hatch a plot to get the entire town talking about the well-known Harper Lee classic.
- Aguirre, Ann. ***Enclave***. Feiwel and Friends, 2011. Following her fifteenth birthday, Huntress Deuce is sent with topsider Fade to determine the fate of a neighboring enclave. After a shocking discovery, the pair is banished by their own enclave's elders and must face the darkness and dangers unlike any ever seen. *Series*
- Aronson, Marc. ***If Stones Could Speak: Unlocking the Secrets of Stonehenge***. National Geographic, 2010. Texts, photographs, and explanatory maps and illustrations document archaeologist Mike Parker Pearson's study of Stonehenge and the surrounding area, describing what he found and what the artifacts reveal about the site and its history.
- Asimov, Isaac. ***The Stars, Like Dust***. First published 1951. At the death of his father, Biron Farrill becomes involved in the plot to rebel against the Tyranni who have conquered many worlds. *Series*
- Barrett, Tracy. ***The Stepsister's Tale***. Harlequin Teen, 2014. Jane and her sister struggle to live with their slightly deranged mother in a decaying mansion when their mother surprises them both by marrying again and bringing home not only a new husband but also a spoiled, exasperating stepsister.
- Barton, Chris. ***Can I See Your ID? : True Stories of False Identities***. Dial Books, 2011. From the impoverished young woman who enchanted nineteenth-century British society as a faux Asian princess to the lonely but clever Frank Abagnale of "Catch Me if You Can" fame, these ten true vignettes offer riveting insight into mind-blowing masquerades.
- Bascomb, Neal. ***The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi***. Arthur Levine, 2013. Recounts how, sixteen years after the end of World War II, a team of undercover Israeli agents captured the Nazi war criminal, Adolf Eichmann, in a remote area of Argentina and brought him to trial in Israel for crimes committed during the Holocaust.
- Bauer, Joan. ***Almost Home***. Viking, 2012. When twelve-year-old Sugar's grandfather dies and her gambling father takes off, yet again, Sugar and her mother lose their home in Missouri. They head to Chicago for a fresh start, only to discover that fresh starts are not so easy to come by for the homeless.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Benway, Robin. ***Also Known As***. Walker Books, 2013. As the active-duty daughter of international spies, sixteen-year-old safecracker Maggie Silver never attended high school. So when she and her parents are sent to New York for her first solo assignment, Maggie is introduced to cliques, school lunches, and maybe even a boyfriend. *Series*
- Black, Holly. ***Doll Bones***. McElderry Books, 2013. Three middle school friends, who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl, but nothing goes according to plan. As their adventure turns into an epic journey, creepy things begin to happen. Newbery Honor 2014
- Bondoux, Anne-Laure. ***A Time of Miracles***. Translated from the French by Y. Maudet. Delacorte, 2010. In the early 1990s, a boy with a mysterious past and the woman who cares for him endure a five-year journey across the war-torn Caucasus and Europe, weathering hardships and welcoming unforgettable encounters with other refugees searching for a better life. Batchelder Award Winner 2011
- Bow, Erin. ***Sorrow's Knot***. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2013. Otter is a girl of the Shadowed People, and she is born to be a binder, a woman whose power it is to tie the knots that bind the dead - the only thing that keeps the living safe; but something is terribly wrong in their tribe. Can Otter find a way to save her people?
- Britt, Fanny. ***Jane, the Fox & Me***. Translated from the French by Christine Morelli and Susan Ouriou. Groundwood Books, 2013. H el ene seeks solace in the pages of ***Jane Eyre*** while the girls who were once her friends ostracize her; but when she is humiliated on a class trip in front of her entire grade, she needs more than a fictional character to allow her to see herself as a person deserving of laughter and friendship.
- Bullard, Lisa. ***Turn Left at the Cow***. Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Travis runs away from his home in California to his grandmother's home in rural Minnesota to find out about his father whom he never knew, and finds himself enmeshed in a mystery about his father, as well as trying to deal with the kids next door.
- Carriger, Gail. ***Etiquette & Espionage***. Little, Brown, 2013. In an alternate England of 1851, spirited fourteen-year-old Sophronia is enrolled in a finishing school where she is surprised to learn that lessons include not only the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette, but also diversion, deceit, and espionage. *Series*
- Carson, Rae. ***The Girl of Fire and Thorns***. Greenwillow, 2011. Princess Elisa has been married off to a neighboring king. Unsure about who she is and what to do, she is kidnapped and catapulted into an adventure where she has to blend her own fate with that of her people. *Series*
- Catmull, Katherine. ***Summer and Bird***. Dutton, 2012. In the world of Down, young sisters Summer and Bird are separated and go in very different directions as they seek their missing parents, try to vanquish the evil Puppeteer, lead the talking birds back to their Green Home, and discover the identity of the true bird queen.

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Charlton, Blake. ***Spellwright***. Tor Books, 2010. A wizard's apprentice, Nicodemus Weal, has trouble controlling his spells because he is dyslexic. To make matters worse, he is named a suspect in the murder of a powerful wizard and must race against time to clear his name and uncover who is responsible for that crime as well as the destruction of the city around him. *Series*
- Choldenko, Jennifer. ***No Passengers Beyond This Point***. Dial Books, 2011. With their house in foreclosure, sisters India and Mouse and their brother Finn are sent to stay with an uncle in Colorado until their mother can join them. However, when the plane lands, the children are welcomed by cheering crowds to a strange place where each of them has a perfect house and a clock that is ticking down the time.
- Constable, Cathryn. ***The Wolf Princess***. Scholastic, 2013. Sophie Smith is an orphan stuck in a boarding school in London, but at night she dreams of Russia and wolves – then, on a class trip to Saint Petersburg, she finds herself and her two friends deliberately separated from the group and whisked off into the silver forest of her dreams, where a mystery awaits.
- Crossan, Sarah. ***The Weight of Water***. Bloomsbury, 2013. Told in verse, this story is about twelve-year-old Kasienska who immigrates to England from Poland with her mother in search of Kasienska's father. Sadly, everyone is not friendly except for one neighbor and a cute boy she meets at the swimming pool, which is her only refuge from bullies and an unfamiliar society.
- Davies, Stephen. ***Outlaw: A Novel***. Clarion, 2011. The children of Britain's ambassador to Burkina Faso, fifteen-year-old Jake, who loves technology and adventure, and thirteen-year-old Kas, a budding social activist, are abducted and spend time in the Sahara desert with Yakuuba Sor, who some call a terrorist but others consider a modern-day Robin Hood.
- Delaney, Joseph. ***The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch***. Greenwillow, 2005. Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts to work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties." *Series*
- Dixon, Heather. ***Entwined***. Greenwillow, 2011. Confined to their dreary castle while mourning their mother's death, Princess Azalea and her eleven sisters join The Keeper, trapped in a magic passageway in a nightly dance that soon involves romance, mystery and eventually a nightmare!
- Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir. ***The Hound of the Baskervilles***. First published 1902. Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a mysterious death and a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.
- Eulberg, Elizabeth. ***Take a Bow***. Scholastic, 2012. The Senior Showcase recital at a performing arts high school in New York is approaching: Sophie is grateful for the support of her friends and boyfriend; Emme and Ethan wonder whether they could be more than friends and band-mates; and Carter does not know how to admit that he would rather be a painter than a performer.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Falkner, Brian. ***The Assault***. Random House, 2012. In the year 2030, six teens have been modified to look like the aliens who are battling for control of Earth. Their mission: to go behind enemy lines to uncover and destroy a shocking, secret alien project. *Series*
- Fforde, Jasper. ***The Last Dragonslayer***. Harcourt, 2012. Jennifer Strange runs an agency for underemployed magicians in a world where magic is fading away, but when visions of the death of the world's last dragon begin, all signs point to Jennifer--and Big Magic. *Series*
- Fleming, Candace. ***The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, & the Fall of Imperial Russia***. Schwartz & Wade, 2014. This book recounts the true story of the Romanovs, as both an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and as a compelling account of the family's and Czarist Russia's fall. Contains many photos and first person accounts.
- Freedman, Russell. ***Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty***. Holiday House, 2013. This introduction to the life of young Benjamin Franklin describes how, as a rebellious teen in 1732, he ran away from his family and a Boston apprenticeship to Philadelphia, and how throughout subsequent decades he rose to become a distinguished statesman, renowned author, and world-famous scientist.
- Frost, Mark. ***The Paladin Prophecy***. Random House, 2012. Will West is careful to live life under the radar, but now he finds himself in the middle of a millennia-old struggle between titanic forces, as he is recruited by an exclusive prep school and followed by sinister agents. *Series*
- Gansworth, Eric L. ***If I Ever Get Out of Here***. Arthur A. Levine, 2013. Seventh-grader Lewis "Shoe" Blake from the Tuscarora Reservation has a new friend, George Haddonfield from the local Air Force base, but in 1975 upstate New York there is tension between Native Americans and Whites, and in spite of their friendship, Lewis hides many facts about his life.
- Gewirtz, Adina. ***Zebra Forest***. Candlewick, 2013. Eleven-year-old Annie and her younger brother are being raised by their Gran and are surrounded by family secrets, but everything changes when an escaped criminal shows up at their house and takes them all hostage. There is an interesting thematic connection to the classic ***Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stevenson, which the children read throughout the story.
- Gier, Kerstin. ***Ruby Red***. Translated from the German by Anthea Bell. Holt, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Gwyneth Shepherd unexpectedly travels through time to the eighteenth century where she discovers a mystery about her real birth date and finds to her dismay that she must work with Gideon -- another time traveler who hates her! *Series*
- Gleason, Colleen. ***The Clockwork Scarab***. Chronicle Books, 2013. In 1889 London, Evaline Stoker, sister of vampire hunter Bram Stoker, and Mina Holmes, niece of Sherlock Holmes, are summoned to investigate the disappearance of young society women using only an Egyptian scarab as a clue. Murder, time travel, and rivalries abound. *Series*

HAISSLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Gleitzman, Morris. **Once**. Holt, 2010. After living in a Catholic orphanage for nearly four years, a naive Jewish boy runs away and embarks on a journey across Nazi-occupied Poland to find his parents. *Series*
- Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. **The Red Umbrella**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. In 1961, fourteen-year-old Lucia's comfortable life in Cuba ends when communists take control of the country. Lucia and her younger brother are sent by their parents to live with a foster family in Nebraska and must adapt to a new language and way of life.
- Grimes, Nikki. **Planet Middle School**. Bloomsbury, 2011. A series of poems describes all the baffling changes at home and at school in twelve-year-old Joylin's transition from tomboy basketball player to not-quite-girly girl.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Game Changer**. Simon & Schuster, 2012. While playing in the championship softball game, star pitcher KT Sutton blacks out and awakes to a changed world where the roles of academics and sports at her middle school have flipped, making talented athletes, such as KT, outcasts and brainy nerds popular.
- Hale, Nathan. **One Dead Spy: The Life, Times, and Last Words of Nathan Hale, America's Most Famous Spy**. Amulet Books, 2012. After being swallowed by a giant history book moments before his own execution, Nathan Hale is given the chance to tell his own story as well as many other stories from American History. *Series*
- Harrington, Kim. **The Dead and Buried**. Point, 2012. High School senior Jade is horrified to learn her father and stepmother have bought the house of a girl who was mysteriously killed just the year before they moved to town. She is even more horrified to realize the house is being haunted by the dead girl's very mean-spirited ghost.
- Hartman, Rachel. **Seraphina**. Random House, 2012. Seraphina is half dragon and half human and, if people knew, would be considered an abomination. She lives a life in the shadows until her musical talent, a mysterious death, and her attraction to a handsome prince bring her life to a crisis. Morris Award for Best YA Debut Novel
- Hinds, Gareth. **The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel**. Candlewick, 2010. Homer's epic tale of Odysseus - the ancient Greek hero who encounters witches and other obstacles on his journey home after fighting in the Trojan War - is retold in graphic novel format.
- Jablonski, Carla. **Resistance: Book 1**. First Second, 2010. After trying to hide their Jewish friend Henri when his parents disappear, Paul and Marie are asked to join the French resistance. They experience the horrors of World War II in Vichy France as their own father is held by the Nazis. *Series*
- Kibuishi, Kazu, ed. **Explorer: Mystery Boxes**. Amulet Books, 2012. Seven popular authors contribute wildly different graphic stories revolving around the mysterious contents of a box.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Kincaid, S.J. ***Insignia***. Katherine Tegen, 2012. Tom, a fourteen-year-old genius at virtual reality games, is recruited by the United States Military to begin training at the Pentagon Spire as a Combatant in World War III, controlling the mechanized drones that do the actual fighting off-planet. *Series*
- King, Wesley. ***The Vindico***. Putnam's, 2012. When supervillains of the Vindico realize they are getting too old to fight the League of Heroes, they kidnap and begin training five teens, but James, Lana, Hayden, Emily, and Sam will not become the next generation of evil without a fight. *Series*
- LaFleur, Suzanne M. ***Listening for Lucca***. Wendy Lamb, 2013. When her younger brother, Lucca, stopped talking, Siena's family moved to Maine in hopes of a fresh start. Their home on the beach, however, has ghostly secrets of its own that connect Siena with a boy and girl who lived there during World War II.
- Landy, Derek. ***Skulduggery Pleasant***. HarperCollins, 2007. When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones. *Series*
- Leavitt, Lindsey. ***Going Vintage***. Bloomsbury, 2013. When sixteen-year-old Mallory learns that her boyfriend, Jeremy, is cheating on her with his cyber "wife," she rebels against technology and starts following her grandmother's list of goals from 1962, with help from her younger sister, Ginnie.
- Lu, Marie. ***Legend***. Putnam's, 2011. In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy. *Series*
- Maguire, Gregory. ***Egg & Spoon***. Candlewick, 2014. Impoverished Russian peasant Elena Rudina and the aristocratic Ekaterina meet and set in motion an escapade that includes mistaken identity, a monk locked in a tower, a prince traveling incognito, and the witch Baba Yaga.
- McMann, Lisa. ***The Unwanteds***. Aladdin, 2011. In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated -- one to attend University while the other, supposedly Eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic. *Series*
- McNeal, Tom. ***Far Far Away***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. When Jeremy Johnson Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate, Ginger Boultinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown. National Book Award Finalist 2013
- Meloy, Maile. ***The Apothecary***. Putnam's, 2011. During the early days of the Red Scare, Janie and her family must leave their home in Los Angeles and move to London. There, she encounters a fascinating boy named Benjamin Burrows who wants to become a spy. When Benjamin discovers his father has some secrets of his own, Janie and Benjamin begin a race against the Russians to prevent a global disaster. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Meyer, Marissa. **Cinder**. Feiwel and Friends, 2012. Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing. When Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle. *Series*
- Monaghan, Annabel. **A Girl Named Digit**. Houghton Mifflin, 2012. After identifying a terrorist plot by cracking their codes, Digit, a brilliant girl from Santa Monica, California, gets involved with the young FBI agent who is trying to ensure her safety. *Series*
- Mull, Brandon. **A World Without Heroes**. Aladdin, 2011. Fourteen-year-old Jason Walker is transported to a strange world called Lyrian, where he joins Rachel and a few rebels to piece together the Word that can destroy the malicious wizard emperor. *Series*
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. **Wisdom's Kiss: A Thrilling and Romantic Adventure, Incorporating Magic, Villainy, and a Cat**. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. Princess Wisdom has been betrothed to the Duke of Farina. Unfortunately, she falls in love with a circus acrobat whose heart already belongs to another. Despite all this, they must band together, along with Magic the cat (to whom there is more than meets the eye), in order to preserve the kingdom and save it from almost certain ruin.
- Nelson, Marilyn. **How I Discovered Poetry**. Dial Books, 2014. Looking back on her childhood in the 1950s, the author tells the story of her development as an artist and young woman through fifty eye-opening poems that also offer a larger view of the world around her: racial tensions, the Cold War era, and the first stirrings of the feminist movement.
- Nix, Garth. **Sabriel**. Eos, first published 1995. Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead. *Series*
- O'Neal, Eilis. **The False Princess**. Egmont USA, 2011. Nalia has been raised as the Princess of Thorvaldor, but on her sixteenth birthday she learns that her real name is Sinda and that she is part of a complicated plot that would change the future of her country forever.
- Oliver, Mary. **Dog Songs: Thirty-five Dog Songs and One Essay**. Penguin, 2013. A collection of poems and one essay about dogs and their relationships with their owners.
- Oppel, Kenneth. **This Dark Endeavor**. Simon & Schuster, 2011. Victor Frankenstein, his twin brother, and his cousin explore the dark and forbidden depths of the Frankenstein castle, stumbling across the ancient magical texts that Victor later hopes will save his brother's life. A precursor to the classic character first introduced by Mary Shelley in 1818. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Ottaviani, Jim. ***Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas***. First Second, 2013. In graphic novel format, this nonfiction book explores the lives and work of scientists Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas, who lived with and studied chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans, respectively, in their natural habitats, creating between them a body of work that has greatly improved our understanding of primates, including humans.
- Park, Linda Sue. ***A Long Walk to Water***. Clarion, 2010. Young Salva survives many dangers growing up in war-torn Sudan and dedicates his life to making a difference for those who live in his native land. Based on a true story.
- Patchin, Justin W. and Sameer Hinduja. ***Words Wound: Delete Cyberbullying and Make Kindness Go Viral***. Free Spirit Publishing, 2014. Two expert researchers on bullying prevention speak directly to teens about how they can end cyberbullying. The book provides numerous peer anecdotes and strategies teens can use to help create kinder schools and communities.
- Peterfreund, Diana. ***For Darkness Shows the Stars***. Balzer + Bray, 2013. In the dystopian future, a genetic experiment has devastated humanity and a new class system has emerged under the absolute control of the Luddites. Elliot is a dutiful Luddite but longs for her first love Cai, even knowing her love for him betrays everything she has been raised to believe is right.
- Petrucha, Stefan. ***Ripper***. Philomel, 2012. Adopted by famous Pinkerton Agency Detective Hawking in 1895 New York, fourteen-year-old Carver Young hopes to find his birth father, but when he becomes involved in the pursuit of notorious killer Jack the Ripper, Carver discovers that finding the truth can be worse than ignorance.
- Pratchett, Terry. ***Dodger***. HarperCollins, 2012. In an alternative version of Victorian London, seventeen-year-old Dodger, a cunning and cheeky street urchin, unexpectedly rises in life when he saves a mysterious girl, meets Charles Dickens, and unintentionally puts a stop to the murders of Sweeny Todd. Printz Honor Award 2013
- Preus, Margi. ***West of the Moon***. Amulet Books, 2014. Norwegian folktale and myth are woven into the story of Astri, a young girl whose evil aunt sells her to a goat herder. Astri plots to make a daring escape, rescue her younger sister and embark on a quest to find their father.
- Rice, Condoleezza. ***Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Family and Me***. Delacorte, 2011. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice shares stories of growing up in a black middle class family during the racially turbulent 1950s and 1960s.
- Riggs, Ransom. ***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children***. Quirk Books, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Jacob, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and, after some investigating, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined but may also still be alive. Haunting vintage photographs are dispersed throughout the book, giving the story a hint of creepiness. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Ruiz Zafón, Carlos. ***The Prince of Mist***. Little, Brown, 2010. In 1943, in a seaside town where their family has gone to be safe from war, thirteen-year-old Max Carver and his fifteen-year-old sister Alicia, along with new friend Roland, face off against an evil magician who is striving to complete a bargain made before he died.
- Rusch, Elizabeth. ***The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity***. Houghton Mifflin, 2012. The story of the two robot vehicles, Spirit and Opportunity, that were sent to explore Mars, lasting far past their projected lives of three months and sending back invaluable images of the environmentally hostile planet.
- Schmatz, Pat. ***Bluefish***. Candlewick, 2011. Longing for the country and his missing dog Roscoe, Travis tries to survive in a new school while living with his alcoholic grandfather and burdened by a painful secret. Hope comes in the form of a teacher and a new friend named Velveeta.
- Schmidt, Gary D. ***Okay for Now***. Clarion, 2011. Fourteen-year-old Doug has just moved to a new town. A new town means another chance to start over. Will everyone assume he is like his thug of an older brother? Will everyone assume he is like his corrupt, abusive father? All Doug wants is to be treated fairly and, thanks to a couple of new friends, Doug may just find out what it is like to be "okay for now."
- Sedgwick, Marcus. ***She Is Not Invisible***. Roaring Brook, 2014. When her father disappears, a blind London teenager kidnaps her younger brother -- her eyes to the world -- and embarks on a quest to find her father and solve the mystery of his disappearance.
- Sepeyts, Ruta. ***Between Shades of Gray***. Philomel, 2011. On a calm, beautiful night in 1941 Lithuania, fifteen-year-old Lina's life is torn apart as she and her family are forced from their home and sent to work in labor camps along the harsh Arctic Circle as part of Stalin's forced relocation program.
- Sheinkin, Steve. ***Lincoln's Grave Robbers***. Scholastic, 2012. An account of how counterfeiter Benjamin Boyd's gang stole the body of Abraham Lincoln, their demand for Boyd's release from jail as well as two hundred thousand dollars as ransom, and the efforts of the Secret Service to recover the remains.
- Shusterman, Neal. ***Unwind***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen. *Series*
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Treasure Island***. First published 1883. A classic pirate story reproduced in movies and TV shows more than any other, *Treasure Island* tells the tale of the quest for treasure by Jim Hawkins and pirate Long John Silver. The book also introduced the now infamous pirate song "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest--Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"
- Stiefvater, Maggie. ***The Scorpio Races***. Scholastic, 2011. Some race for fame. Some race for fortune. Then there is the story of Puck Connolly who, for the sake of her family, willingly risks her life as she races the legendary water horses in the bloody and brutal Scorpio Races. Printz Honor 2012

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Strohmeier, Sarah. ***Smart Girls Get What They Want***. Balzer + Bray, 2012. Who says smart girls can't have fun? Three brainiac high school best friends decide to branch out - with mixed results.
- Stroud, Jonathan. ***The Screaming Staircase***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. All across London, ghosts, ghouls, and other otherworldly apparitions are appearing with malevolent intent. Only children can see and deal with them, so three capable young operatives form a Psychic Detection Agency to battle this frightening epidemic. *Series*
- Supplee, Suzanne. ***Somebody Everybody Listens To***. Dutton, 2010. When Retta Lee Jones graduates from high school and leaves her small town in search of a big break in Nashville, she encounters warmth and kindness along with cruelty and violence.
- TenNapel, Doug. ***Ghostopolis***. Graphix, 2010. Welcome to the afterlife. Terminally ill Garth Hale is accidentally transported to Ghostopolis before his time, and now it is up to washed-up, ghost-wrangler Frank Gallows and Garth's own deceased grandfather to get the boy back among the living in this action-packed, graphic-novel adventure.
- Thompson, Holly. ***Orchards***. Ember, 2011. Sent to Japan for the summer after an eighth-grade classmate's suicide, half-Japanese, half-Jewish Kana Goldberg tries to fit in with relatives she barely knows and reflects on the guilt she feels over the tragedy back home.
- Thomson, Jamie. ***Dark Lord, the Early Years***. Walker, 2012. Evil Dark Lord tries to recover his dignity, his power, and his lands when an arch-foe transports him to a small town and into the body of a thirteen-year-old boy. *Series*
- Tolkien, J. R. R. ***The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again***. First published 1937. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. *Series*
- Wagenen, Maya Van. ***Popular: A Memoir: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek***. Dutton, 2014. Stuck at the bottom of the social ladder at "pretty much the lowest level of people at school who aren't paid to be here," Maya Van Wagenen decided to begin a unique social experiment: spend her eighth grade year following a 1950s popularity guide written by a former teen model. She documents her experience in this memoir.
- Walker, Sally M. ***Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man and the Paleoamerican World***. Carolrhoda Books, 2012. This book explores the discovery and controversy surrounding the identification of the Kennewick Man, a nine thousand year old skeleton whose remains were found in a riverbed in Washington State in 1996.
- Watson, Jude. ***Loot: How to Steal a Fortune***. Scholastic, 2014. When Alfie McQuinn, the notorious jewel thief, is killed on a job, his last words to his son, March, are to "find jewels" and this instruction leads the boy to Jules, the twin sister he never knew he had - and the perfect partner to carry on the family business.

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 7 and 8

- Wright, Barbara. **Crow**. Random House, 2012. Moses Thomas's summer vacation in 1898 North Carolina does not go as planned, and while he deals with family problems and fickle friends, he feels the mounting tension between the African American and white communities.
- Zettel, Sarah. **Palace of Spies: Being a True, Accurate, and Complete Account of the Scandalous and Wholly Remarkable Adventures of Margaret Preston Fitzroy, Counterfeit Lady, Accused Thief, and Confidential Agent at the Court of His Majesty, King George I**. Harcourt, 2013. In 1716 London, an orphaned sixteen-year-old girl from a good family impersonates a lady-in-waiting only to discover that the real girl was murdered, the court harbors a nest of spies, and the handsome young artist who is helping her solve the mystery might be a spy himself.
- Zinn, Bridget. **Poison**. Hyperion, 2013. Kyra is a potions master, so when she tries to save the kingdom by killing her best friend, the princess, she becomes a fugitive pursued by the king's army and her ex-boyfriend Hal.
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Compiled by:

Sally Hilliard (Chair), *River Oaks Baptist School*
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Christina Bell, *The Kinkaid School*
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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 9 and Grade 10

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Archer, Jennifer. ***Through Her Eyes***. HarperTeen, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Tansy is used to moving every time her mother starts writing a new book. However, in the small Texas town where her grandfather grew up, she is lured into the world of a troubled young man whose death sixty years earlier is shrouded in mystery.
- Asher, Jay. ***Thirteen Reasons Why: A Novel***. Razorbill, 2007. When Hannah Baker commits suicide, she leaves behind thirteen cassette tapes to the people she feels contributed to her decision to end her life.
- Auburn, David. ***Proof: A Play***. Faber and Faber, 2001. This play explores the unknowability of love and the mysteries of mathematics. Pulitzer Prize, Drama 2001
- Barber, Nathan. ***Resurrecting Lazarus, Texas***. CreateSpace, 2012. When Coach Gabe Lewis accepts a job as girls' basketball coach at Lazarus High School, he cannot anticipate the struggles he will face both on and off the court or the personal investment he will end up making when his team needs him to be more than their coach. A tragedy occurs that rocks not only the team, but also the entire town. The girls might be the spark that can bring life back to Lazarus.
- Bardugo, Leigh. ***Shadow and Bone***. Holt, 2012. Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkov is taken from obscurity and away from her only friend, Mal, to become the protégé of the mysterious Darkling, who trains her to join the magical elite in the belief that she can destroy the monsters of the Fold. *Series*
- Blake, Kendare. ***Anna Dressed in Blood***. Tor Books, 2011. Cas Lowood, armed with his late father's mysterious athame, sets out to kill a ghost known as Anna Dressed in Blood, but what he believes will be a routine task turns deadly when he discovers Anna is unlike any ghost he has ever encountered before. *Series*
- Bracken, Alexandra. ***The Darkest Minds***. Hyperion, 2012. Sixteen-year-old Ruby breaks out of a government-run rehabilitation camp for teens who acquired dangerous powers after surviving a virus that wiped out most American children. *Series*
- Bradley, Alan. ***A Red Herring Without Mustard***. Delacorte, 2011. Eleven-year-old detective Flavia de Luce sorts through clues trying to solve various mysteries involving a missing child, a fortune-teller, and a dead body found in Flavia's own backyard. *Series*
- Cameron, Sharon. ***The Dark Unwinding***. Scholastic, 2012. In 1852, when seventeen-year-old Katharine is sent to her family's estate to prove that her uncle is insane, she finds he is an inventor whose work creating ingenious clockwork figures supports hundreds of families; strange occurrences soon have her doubting her own sanity.
- Card, Orson Scott. ***Ender's Game***. Tor Books, 1985. A very young Ender Wiggin might be the human race's last chance to defeat a deadly alien invasion. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Carleson, J. C. ***The Tyrant's Daughter***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Exiled to the United States after her father, a Middle Eastern dictator, is killed in a coup, fifteen-year-old Laila must cope with a completely new way of life, the truth of her father's regime, and her mother's and brother's ways of adjusting.
- Coelho, Paulo. ***The Alchemist***. Translated from the Portuguese by Alan R. Clarke. HarperCollins, 1993. In this uplifting fable, Santiago takes a journey to find his personal legend and live the life he is meant to live, meeting friends along the way who provide him with the wisdom he needs to fulfill his dreams.
- Crandall, Susan. ***Whistling Past the Graveyard: A Novel***. Gallery Books, 2013. Determined to get to Nashville to find her mother in 1963, nine-year-old spitfire Starla Claudelle runs away from her strict grandmother's Mississippi home, eventually accepting a ride from Eula, a black woman traveling alone with a white baby.
- Crewe, Megan. ***The Way We Fall***. Hyperion, 2012. Sixteen-year-old Kaelyn challenges her fears, finds a second chance at love, and fights to keep her family and friends safe as a deadly new virus devastates her island community. *Series*
- Flack, Sophie. ***Bunheads***. Little, Brown, 2011. A young dancer must decide if she wants to continue to devote her whole life to ballet when a handsome musician enters the picture. The author danced with the New York City Ballet for nine years and gives the reader an authentic glimpse into the world of ballet.
- Gagnon, Michelle. ***Don't Turn Around***. Harper, 2012. After waking up on an operating table with no memory of how she got there, Noa must team up with computer hacker Peter to stop a corrupt corporation with a deadly secret. *Series*
- Gaiman, Neil. ***The Ocean at the End of the Lane: A Novel***. William Morrow, 2013. A man returns to his childhood home and relives the harrowing summer when a girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her family save him from the darkness and evil that were unleashed by a suicide that occurred near the pond at the end of their street.
- Galloway, Steven. ***The Cellist of Sarajevo***. Riverhead Books, 2008. The lives of four people -- a baker, a young father, a sniper, and a cellist who commits to playing Albinoni's "Adagio" once a day for twenty-two days in memory of his neighbors who were killed -- are chronicled as they try to adjust to their new daily routines in war-torn Sarajevo. Inspired by a true story, this novel explores how war can change one's definition of humanity and how music affects our emotional endurance.
- Gardner, Sally. ***Maggot Moon***. Candlewick, 2012. Friendship and trust inspire Standish to rise up against an oppressive regime and expose the truth about a planned moon landing. *Printz Honor Book 2014*
- Garfield, Simon. ***Just My Type: A Book About Fonts***. Gotham Books, 2010. The author explores the history of type with sharp wit and charm answering questions you never knew to ask such as *Can a font make me cool?* or *Can a font be Jewish or German?*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Gautreaux, Tim. ***Welding With Children***. Picador, 2009. Set in the hot days and nights of Louisiana, these eleven short fiction stories will make you laugh, cry, and marvel as ordinary people try to survive what life throws at them, whether it be memory loss, a crazed bull, or a thief with a big blade and bad intentions.
- Green, John, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle. ***Let It Snow! Three Holiday Romances***. Speak, 2008. In three intertwining short stories, several high school couples experience the trials and tribulations along with the joys of romance during a Christmas Eve snowstorm in a small town.
- Green, Sally. ***Half Bad***. Viking, 2014. In modern-day England where witches live alongside humans, Nathan, son of a White Witch and the most powerful Black Witch, must escape captivity before his seventeenth birthday to receive the gifts that will determine his future. *Series*
- Gregory, Philippa. ***Changeling***. Simon Pulse, 2012. In 1453, seventeen-year-old Luca Vero, accused of heresy and expelled from his monastery, is recruited to help investigate evil across Europe.
- Hemingway, Ernest. ***A Farewell to Arms***. First published 1929. A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.
- Herbert, Frank. ***Dune***. First published 1965. The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained. *Series*
- Howe, Katherine. ***Conversion***. Putnam's, 2014. When girls at Colleen's high school start experiencing strange tics and other mysterious symptoms, the small town of Danvers, Massachusetts, falls victim to rumors that lead to full-blown panic. Only Colleen connects their fate to Salem Village where three centuries earlier another group of girls suffered a similarly bizarre epidemic.
- Jennings, Ken. ***Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks***. Scribner, 2011. Jennings, former software engineer turned multimillionaire *Jeopardy* game show winner, used his lifelong obsession with geography to pen this book about geography with topics ranging from historical maps to current geographical trends such as Google Earth and geocaching.
- Johnson, Maureen. ***The Name of the Star***. Putnam's, 2011. An American girl, Rory, enrolls in a London boarding school for her senior year of high school and encounters a suspenseful ghost mystery closely tied to the Jack the Ripper murders of old. *Series*
- Khoury, Jessica. ***Origin***. Razorbill, 2012. Set in the lush and dangerous Amazon rain forest, this story follows Pia, an immortal girl bred to create an immortal race, and the team of scientists responsible for her mission. Pia, however, starts to question her destiny when she falls for a boy she meets in the jungle.
- Klavan, Andrew. ***If We Survive***. Thomas Nelson, 2012. When revolutionaries seize control of a country in Central America where sixteen-year-old Will is serving as a missionary, he and the other volunteers find themselves in a desperate race to escape the violence and return home.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Konigsberg, Bill. ***Openly Straight***. Arthur A. Levine, 2013. Rafe plays soccer, wins skiing prizes, likes to write, and hates tofu. In his junior year of high school, Rafe, tired of being known as “that gay guy,” transfers across the country to an all-boys’ boarding school and decides to be “openly straight.” His scheme is wildly successful but gets complicated when he falls in love with one of his new friends.
- Kontis, Alethea. ***Enchanted***. Harcourt, 2012. When Sunday Woodcutter, the youngest of seven sisters, each named for a day of the week, kisses an enchanted frog, he transforms into Rumbold, the crown prince of Arilland - and a man Sunday’s family despises. *Series*
- Kooser, Ted. ***Delights & Shadows: Poems***. Copper Canyon Press, 2004. This collection of poems by former Poet Laureate of the United States describes the habits and struggles of daily life.
- Laybourne, Emmy. ***Monument 14***. Feiwei and Friends, 2012. A strange weather phenomenon drives students into a superstore where fourteen kids take refuge while the world outside gets torn apart from a series of escalating disasters. *Series*
- Li, Cunxin. ***Mao’s Last Dancer***. Penguin Press, 2003. The autobiography of Houston Ballet soloist Li Cunxin details his rise from poverty in Communist China to dance stardom and a defection that caused an international incident.
- Lockhart, E. ***We Were Liars***. Delacorte, 2013. Spending summers on her family’s private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.
- Luttrell, Marcus. ***Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10***. Little, Brown, 2007. American Navy SEAL and team leader Marcus Luttrell tells his story of the loss of his teammates in July 2005 along the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border to al-Qaida insurgents.
- Maberry, Jonathan. ***Rot & Ruin***. Simon & Schuster, 2010. In a post-apocalyptic world in which zombies have overtaken civilization, fences and border patrols guard the few remaining people. Fifteen-year-old Benny Imura becomes convinced that he must follow in his older brother’s footsteps and become a bounty hunter. *Series*
- Morpurgo, Michael. ***Private Peaceful***. Scholastic, 2003. Thomas Peaceful was only fifteen when he joined the British Forces in World War I to fight with his older brother. One unexpected horror separates them.
- Ness, Patrick. ***The Knife of Never Letting Go***. Candlewick, 2008. Settlers on Todd’s planet are infected with a virus that kills all the women and causes survivors to hear the thoughts of men and animals. This coming-of-age survival story reveals the psychological impact of being unable to shut out other people’s thoughts or to hide one’s own. *Series*
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***The False Prince***. Scholastic, 2012. To avoid a civil war, four orphans engage in a brutal competition masterminded by a devious nobleman to determine who will impersonate the king’s long-missing son. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Ogawa, Yoko. ***The Housekeeper and the Professor***. Translated from the Japanese by Stephen Snyder. Picador, 2009. A once brilliant math professor suffers the effects of a head trauma that erases his short term memory every eighty minutes, and he must repeatedly be re-introduced to his housekeeper. However, past equations in the professor's mind enable him to discover surprising connections.
- Oliver, Mary. ***Swan: Poems and Prose Poems***. Beacon Press, 2010. Mary Oliver's adoration and awe of nature shines through in this slim collection of beautiful poetry evocative of the beauty, brutality, and mysteries found in the natural world.
- Patrick, Cat. ***Forgotten***. Little, Brown, 2011. Each night at precisely 4:33 am, while sixteen-year-old London Lane is asleep, her memory of that day is erased. She relies on reminder notes and a trusted friend to get through the day, but things get complicated when a new boy at school enters the picture.
- Perkins, Mitali, ed. ***Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices***. Candlewick, 2013. Using a mix of diverse styles and perspectives, ten authors of non-Caucasian background share their personal views on the ways race and discrimination affect children and teenagers.
- Rowell, Rainbow. ***Eleanor & Park***. St. Martin's Griffin, 2013. Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits -- smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. Michael L. Printz Honor Book 2014
- Salinger, J. D. ***The Catcher in the Rye***. First published 1951. Holden Caulfield is an alienated, disillusioned youth who drops out of school and spends three days and nights in New York City on a quest for self-discovery.
- Sheinkin, Steve. ***Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon***. Roaring Brook, 2012. Scientists and spies are central characters in this engaging and informative book describing the process of creating the first atomic weapons. Newbery Honor Book 2013, National Book Award Finalist 2013, Sibert Medal 2013.
- Shusterman, Neal. ***Bruiser***. HarperTeen, 2010. Bruiser was the guy nobody knew -- or wanted to know. Then Brontë includes him in her group of friends and unusual things start to happen.
- Sowa, Marzena. ***Marzi: A Memoir translated from the French by Anjali Singh***. DC Comics, 2011. This memoir, structured as a series of vignettes that build on one another, is a coming-of-age story that portrays the harsh realities of life behind the Iron Curtain while maintaining the everyday wonders and curiosity of childhood.
- Steinbeck, John. ***Cannery Row***. First published 1945. The antics of Steinbeck's down-at-heel misfit characters bring mirth and sensitivity to a rollicking good read.
- Stiefvater, Maggie. ***The Raven Boys***. Scholastic, 2012. Though she is from a family of clairvoyants, Blue Sargent's only gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger. When she meets Gansey, one of the Raven Boys from the expensive Aglionby Academy, she discovers that he has talents of his own and that together their talents are a dangerous mix. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Taylor, Laini. ***Daughter of Smoke & Bone***. Little, Brown, 2011. Karou, a seventeen-year old art student at a Prague boarding school, seems mysterious to her friends. Her frequent disappearances and her sketch book of terrifying drawings add to the mystery surrounding her. This fast-paced fantasy of mystery and family history, combined with beautiful descriptions of Prague's architecture and country-side, is a real page-turner. *Series*
- Thompson, Holly. ***The Language Inside***. Delacorte, 2013. Emma's mother contracts cancer and the American international high school sophomore moves from Japan to Massachusetts with her family for necessary medical treatment. This novel-inverse touches on feelings of homesickness, but ends in hope as Emma develops new friendships and finds her way in her home country.
- Tittle, Y. A. with Kristine Setting Clark. ***Nothing Comes Easy***. Triumph Books, 2009. Experience the early hard-hitting, blood-spilling days of the NFL *before* fancy helmets and a lot of protective padding were used. This autobiography of Yelberton Abraham Tittle, who grew up during the Depression in Marshall, Texas, is a history of the NFL and includes game records and statistics.
- Vonnegut, Kurt. ***Slaughterhouse-Five, or, The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance with Death***. First published 1969. After surviving the bombing of Dresden in World War II, Billy Pilgrim returns to civilian life and has a successful career until he is kidnapped by aliens and displayed in a zoo on the planet of Tralfamadore.
- Wein, Elizabeth. ***Code Name Verity***. Hyperion, 2012. In World War II, Maddie, a British transport pilot, attempts to deliver her best friend and Resistance spy, Julie (Code Name Verity), into Nazi-occupied France, but the plane crashes. Love, courage, bravado, and intrigue drive the story to its stunning conclusion.
- Wells, Robison. ***Variant***. HarperTeen, 2011. Benson Fisher hopes for a brighter future after being accepted to Maxfield Academy. Shortly after arriving, he realizes that the school is more like a prison because it is run by teens of various warring factions. No one ever escapes, but they do disappear.
- Wilder, Thornton. ***Our Town: A Play in Three Acts***. First published 1938. With the well-earned reputation of an American classic, this play brings themes of growing up, love, marriage, and death to the stage and portrays the dignity of the human spirit through life in Grover's Corner.
- Wilson, Daniel H. ***Robocalypse***. Doubleday, 2011. An artificial intelligence program has taken over the world, uniting all the computer programs residing in everything from dolls and toys to domestic service robots, airplanes, and military weapons. Its aim is to destroy all human life . . . and the robots are winning. Alex Award 2012. *Series*
- Yancey, Rick. ***The 5th Wave***. Putnam's, 2013. Cassie Sullivan, the survivor of an alien invasion, must rescue her young brother from the enemy with help from a boy who may be one of them. *Series*
- Young, Moira. ***Blood Red Road***. McElderry Books, 2011. Saba has spent her whole life in Silverlake, a dried-up wasteland. When a monster sandstorm arrives along with four cloaked horsemen, Saba's world is shattered. Her beloved twin brother Lugh is captured, and Saba embarks on an epic quest to get him back. *Series*

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 9 and Grade 10

Zuckoff, Mitchell. ***Frozen in Time: An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of World War II.*** Harper, 2013. One search-and-rescue team is caught in a storm and crashes into the Greenland ice cap, leaving its members struggling to stay alive in the extreme, bitterly cold conditions. A second search-and-rescue team flies into a storm and vanishes. Parallel stories alternate between the crashed teams and a 2012 storyline of an expedition trying to solve the mystery of the vanished plane.

Compiled by:

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Sara Bracht, *Frassati Catholic High School*

Elizabeth Dronet, *St. John XXIII College Preparatory*

Krystal Irven, *Episcopal High School*

Dorian Myers, *The Kinkaid School*

Peg Patrick, *St. John's School*

Jean Pfluger, *Duchesne Academy*

Kelli Robertson, *Westbury Christian School*

Marylin Sharp, *St. John's School*

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HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 11 and Grade 12

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Albright, Madeleine. ***Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948***. Harper, 2012. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright shares her childhood experiences in Czechoslovakia amid the horrors of World War II and the discovery of her family's Jewish ancestry.
- Alexie, Sherman. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***. Little, Brown, 2007. Alexie tells the story of Junior a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the "rez" to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. *National Book Award for Young People's Literature 2007*
- Allison, Will. ***Long Drive Home***. Free Press, 2011. In this emotional psychological thriller, a father is driving his six-year-old daughter home when a young driver provokes him to road rage, and a fatal crash ensues. Will his subsequent lies fix the problems that rapidly accumulate?
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***The Impossible Knife of Memory***. Viking, 2014. Hayley and her father, who suffers from PTSD, return to their hometown to start over, but the Iraq war continues to haunt him and threatens to disrupt their lives.
- Backman, Fredrik. ***A Man Called Ove***. Translated from the Swedish by Henning Kock. Atria Books, 2014. A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary, well-ordered world turned on its head when a boisterous young family and their two daughters move in next door.
- Barbery, Muriel. ***The Elegance of the Hedgehog***. Translated from the French by Alison Anderson. Europa, 2008. Laugh out loud at the unlikely friendship among a secretly educated concierge, a precocious twelve-year-old girl with a philosophical bent, and an older Japanese gentleman in a Paris apartment.
- Barry, Max. ***Lexicon***. Penguin Press, 2013. Emily Ruff belongs to a secret organization whose "poets" can break down individuals by psychographic markers in order to take control of their thoughts. Then she makes a catastrophic mistake and falls in love, breaking her organization's rules. *Alex Award 2013*
- Bartlett, Allison Hoover. ***The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession***. Riverhead Books, 2009. This true crime story discloses the world of rare book dealers and the mind of a serial book thief as it follows the detective who tracks the mysterious and obsessive culprit.
- Brontë, Charlotte. ***Jane Eyre***. First published 1847. Jane finds terror and romance when she becomes a governess in a mysterious mansion.
- Brooks, Geraldine. ***Caleb's Crossing***. Viking, 2011. Bethia Mayfield befriends Caleb, the son of a Wampanoag chieftain, as she grows up near Martha's Vineyard in the mid-seventeenth century, and watches her minister father's attempts to convert the Native Americans. The fates of the children are tied together as Bethia's father encourages the education of Caleb, a privilege Bethia has always wanted.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Brown, Dan. ***Inferno: A Novel***. Doubleday, 2013. Harvard professor Robert Langdon is once again drawn into a deadly quest, this time based on clues from Dante's *Inferno*.
- Brown, Ian. ***The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Journey to Understand His Extraordinary Son***. St. Martin's Press, 2009. Ian Brown, a Canadian journalist, chronicles his life as he and his wife care for their son who was born with a rare and severe genetic disorder. Brown candidly shares the extreme challenges and blessings their special son has brought to their lives.
- Cain, Susan. ***Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking***. Crown, 2012. In our American culture that values extroversion, the value of "quiet" people is often overlooked, but the one third of the population that fits the definition of introvert has much to offer.
- Carey, Peter. ***Parrot and Olivier in America***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. An imaginative re-invention of the French aristocrat Alexis de Tocqueville's 1830 visit to America, with rich description, strong characters and amusing events.
- Chamberlain, Diane. ***Necessary Lies***. St. Martin's Press, 2013. On a tobacco farm in rural North Carolina in the 1960s, fifteen-year-old Ivy Hart struggles with her grandmother's aging, her sister's mental illness, and her own epilepsy. When Jane Forrester takes a position as Grace County's newest social worker, she is asked to recommend which of her clients should be sterilized due to poverty, illness, or is in some other way unfit to have children. Based on real cases, this is the story of two young women who seem worlds apart, but are both faced with a life-changing battle.
- Chandler, Raymond. ***The Long Goodbye***. First published 1953. A classic hard-boiled detective story where Philip Marlowe, private eye, deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city. Edgar Award 1955
- Choo, Yangsze. ***The Ghost Bride***. William Morrow, 2013. When she agrees to become a ghost bride for the wealthy Lim family's son, who recently died under mysterious circumstances, Li Lan must dive into a shadowy parallel world of the Chinese afterlife to find the truth about the son's death.
- Chwast, Seymour. ***Dante's Divine Comedy***. Bloomsbury, 2010. Chwast retells Dante's Divine Comedy in a graphic format. The visual presentation of all three stages of Dante's epic is appealing and humorous. The illustrations depict the details and complexity of this classic tale.
- Cline, Ernest. ***Ready Player One***. Crown, 2011. In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS. When Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday, he finds he must compete with thousands of others -- including those willing to commit murder -- in order to claim the prize of a massive fortune. Alex Award 2012
- Collins, Billy. ***Ballistics: Poems***. Random House, 2008. A notable collection of verse from the U.S. Poet Laureate, expressing love, joy, and death in his inimitable language.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Cronin, Justin. ***The Passage***. Ballantine Books, 2010. In a dystopian future, a virus found in a South American jungle was used to create a super soldier with great strength and healing abilities. The virus becomes an epidemic, and infected people become bloodthirsty monsters. Normal humans are hiding in fortresses trying to survive.
- Cruz, Nilo. ***Anna in the Tropics***. Theatre Communications Group, 2003. In this play set in 1929 Florida in a Cuban-American cigar factory, a new lector unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners.
- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. ***Leaving Yuba City: New and Selected Poems***. Anchor, 1997. Little stories about life in India and the Indian immigrant experience in America told through accessible and enlightening poetry.
- Doerr, Anthony. ***All the Light We Cannot See***. Scribner, 2014. The paths of a blind French girl and a young Nazi soldier collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. *Alex Award 2015, National Book Award for Fiction 2014*
- Donovan, Jim. ***The Blood of Heroes: The 13-day Struggle for the Alamo -- and the Sacrifice That Forged a Nation***. Little, Brown, 2012. Exhaustively researched and based on new primary sources in U.S. and Mexican archives, this book is the definitive account of this epic battle and is populated with larger-than-life characters, audacity, valor, and redemption.
- Egan, Timothy. ***Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis***. Houghton Mifflin, 2012. Edward Curtis was charismatic, handsome, a passionate mountaineer, and a famous portrait photographer. In 1900, when he was thirty-two years old, he gave it all up to pursue his Great Idea: to capture on film the continent's original inhabitants before the old ways disappeared. Curtis spent the next three decades documenting the stories and rituals of more than eighty North American tribes, thus creating the most definitive archive of the American Indian.
- Foer, Joshua. ***Moonwalking With Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything***. Penguin Press, 2011. Journalist Joshua Foer's informative book on human memory is as entertaining as it is educational. He expounds on the history of human memory and chronicles his experience of training to become the 2006 USA Memory Champion.
- Follett, Ken. ***Fall of Giants***. Dutton, 2010. A historical fiction epic that follows the lives of five interrelated families – American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh – around the time of World War I. *Series*
- Fromm, Pete. ***Indian Creek Chronicles: A Winter in the Bitterroot Wilderness***. Lyons & Burford, 1993. The author recounts his seven months working for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in an isolated location that changed him from a college kid to a man.
- Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. ***Chronicle of a Death Foretold***. Translated from the Spanish by Gregory Rabassa. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. Nearly thirty years later, a man returns to town in an attempt to discover the truth behind the jumbled murder of Santiago Nasar.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Green, John. ***The Fault in Our Stars***. Dutton, 2012. Sixteen-year-old Hazel meets Augustus at a kids-with-cancer support group and, as they fall in love, they both wonder how they will be remembered.
- Harbach, Chad. ***The Art of Fielding***. Little, Brown, 2011. Henry, the star of a small college baseball team located on the shore of Lake Michigan, is overcome with self-doubt which threatens his future; meanwhile, four other teammates also find themselves forced to confront their own secrets.
- Hawking, Stephen and Leonard Mlodinow. ***The Grand Design***. Bantam, 2010. The authors present a new discussion of the laws of the universe and the nature of reality. The journey includes thoughts of the great philosophers and scientists over the centuries as well as questions such as "Are the laws of nature suspended when miracles occur?" Well-placed, clever cartoons provide balance to the weighty discussions.
- Hillenbrand, Laura. ***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption***. Random House, 2010. This biography chronicles the life of World War II bombardier Louis Zamperini from his wild youth to becoming a world-class runner in the 1936 Olympic Games to his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force where he must survive for forty-seven days in the Pacific Ocean after his plane goes down.
- Hosseini, Khaled. ***And the Mountains Echoed: A Novel***. Riverhead Books, 2013. Pari and Abdullah are siblings and best friends. When their father takes them across the desert in a red wagon to Kabul, Abdullah loses Pari and is forced to return to the village without her. The children live separate lives, but Abdullah never loses hope that he will find Pari. The children's separate lives unfold with incidents of love and hate, bravery and cowardice, want and fulfillment.
- Ishiguro, Kazuo. ***Never Let Me Go***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. A dark secret lurks behind the nurturing façade of Hailsham, a private school in the English countryside where Kathy, now thirty-one years old, lived as a child. Alex Award 2006
- Ivey, Eowyn. ***The Snow Child: A Novel***. Little, Brown, 2012. Homesteaders Jack and Mabel struggle to survive in the harsh Alaskan wilderness, but the couple's quiet life of hard work and routine suddenly changes when a small girl named Faina magically appears on their doorstep.
- Jacobs, Harriet A. ***Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl***. First published 1861. This autobiographical account by a former slave is one of the few extant narratives written by a woman. It delivers a powerful portrayal of the brutality of slave life. Jacobs speaks frankly of her master's abuse and her eventual escape, in a tale of dauntless spirit and faith.
- Johnson, James Weldon. ***The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man***. First published 1912. In this emotionally gripping and poignant look into race relations, a half-white, half-black man of very light complexion must choose between his heritage and the art that he loves or the ability to escape the inherent racism that he faces by passing as a white.
- Kean, Sam. ***The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements***. Little, Brown, 2010. Sam Kean presents the rationale behind the organization of the periodic table of the elements as well as many interesting anecdotes about the elements and the scientists who discovered them.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Kibler, Julie. ***Calling Me Home: A Novel***. St. Martin's Press, 2013. In a novel based on a family story of her grandmother's forbidden love in 1930's Kentucky, the author chronicles the journey of an elderly woman and her hairdresser en route to a funeral and explores race relations both then and now.
- King, Stephen. ***11/22/63: A Novel***. Scribner, 2011. What if you could go back in time and change the course of American history? High school English teacher Jake Epping finds himself in this exact place and has as his mission stopping Lee Harvey Oswald from assassinating President John F. Kennedy.
- Kline, Christina Baker. ***Orphan Train***. William Morrow, 2013. Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer, a foster child in Maine, and elderly widow Vivian Daley who, as a child, had been sent by train from New York City to depression era Minnesota, discover they have much in common.
- Knisley, Lucy. ***Relish: My Life in the Kitchen***. First Second, 2013. This graphic novel is a humorous memoir of cartoonist Lucy Knisley, the daughter of a chef and a gourmet, and her obsession with cooking and food. Alex Award 2014
- Koontz, Dean. ***The City***. Bantam, 2014. In a musically talented African American family living in New York in the sixties, a mother, her young son, and his grandfather lovingly interact with each other as well as with their diverse neighbors. However, something sinister threatens them all. Woven into the plot are a crime story and a thread of the supernatural.
- Kostova, Elizabeth. ***The Historian: A Novel***. Little, Brown, 2005. A young woman discovers an ancient book and a cache of old letters in her father's library; and thus begins her adventurous quest for the truth about Vlad the Impaler, a search that will span continents and generations as well as a confrontation with the darkest powers of evil.
- Lanagan, Margo. ***The Brides of Rollrock Island***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. On remote Rollrock Island, men go to sea to make their livings and to catch a wife. The witch Misskaella knows the way of drawing a girl from the heart of a seal, of luring the beauty out of the beast, and, for a price, a man may buy a lovely sea-wife for himself.
- Lane, Harriet. ***Allys, Always: A Novel***. Scribner, 2012. After sitting with a woman dying in a car crash, Frances Thorpe's attempts to comfort the bereaved family have consequences, leading her to become involved in the family and affecting the relationships among all concerned. A psychological thriller in the manner of Du Maurier's classic *Rebecca*.
- Lansdale, Joe. ***Edge of Dark Water***. Mulholland Books, 2012. Teenagers Sue Ellen, Terry, and Jinx dig up the body of their friend May Lynn in order to burn her body and spread her ashes in Hollywood; but on their journey they are chased by the sheriff who is after the money they stole for the trip and by a legendary killer who just wants them dead.
- Larson, Erik. ***In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin***. Crown, 2011. Experience the rise of Hitler in this nonfiction thriller. It is 1933 Berlin and Hitler is in power when a new U.S. Ambassador, William E. Dodd, arrives. Dodd must find ways to deal with the regime, communicate his concerns to the State Department, and keep his family safe.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015
Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Lawrenson, Deborah. ***The Lantern: A Novel***. Harper, 2011. Newly married Eve finds herself in a foreign country with a suddenly moody and uncommunicative husband. This is a modern ghost story of mystery, romance, and murder set in the lavender-covered hillsides of Provence.
- Levithan, David. ***Every Day***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Every morning, A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached. Life goes along smoothly until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon.
- Marra, Anthony. ***A Constellation of Vital Phenomena***. Hogarth, 2013. Behind the backdrop of the Chechen conflicts, two doctors protect a girl named Havaa as they provide triage health care to a society experiencing loss and trauma from the atrocities of war. Both the extraordinary determination of the human spirit and its dark side are evident throughout the novel.
- Mathieu, Jennifer. ***The Truth About Alice***. Roaring Brook, 2014. When ugly rumors and lies about Alice Franklin start after one of the guys she allegedly slept with at a party dies in a car accident, questions about truth arise in her small town.
- McCarthy, Cormac. ***The Road***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. In a post-apocalyptic landscape, a man and a boy struggle toward the unknown. This dark and doomed quest offers a spiritual sense of soul and humanity. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 2007
- McCullough, David G. ***1776***. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Based upon both American and British historical documents, the author presents a comprehensive history of the American Revolution in 1776, including George Washington and those who followed him.
- McDermott, Alice. ***Someone***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. Scattered recollections -- of childhood, adolescence, motherhood, and old age -- come together in this transformative narrative, stitched into a vibrant whole by McDermott's deft, lyrical voice.
- McEwan, Ian. ***Atonement: A Novel***. Doubleday, 2001. In the summer of 1935, the lives of three people are changed forever by a young girl's scheming imagination.
- Morgenstern, Erin. ***The Night Circus***. Doubleday, 2011. The circus arrives without warning, and what looks like clever illusions are actually magic. The two principal illusionists, Celia and Marco, have unknowingly been involved in a deadly contest created by their mentors. When they fall in love, it complicates the circus and their teachers' plans. Alex Award 2012
- Morrison, Toni. ***Beloved***. First published 1987. The Nobel prize-winning author's lyrical expression of the slave experience is built around Sethe, her memories of Sweet Home, and the ghost of her baby. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1988
- Morton, Kate. ***The Secret Keeper***. Atria Books, 2012. Fifty years after she witnessed a shocking crime at her family's farm in the English countryside, Laurel, now a successful London actress, returns to the farm and is overwhelmed by family secrets she has not thought of in decades.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Mosley, Walter. ***The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey***. Riverhead Books, 2010. Ptolemy Grey, an elderly man, falls further into his solitary existence and dementia, when his grandnephew -- his only real connection to the outside world -- dies in a drive-by shooting. Robyn, his niece's lodger, motivates him and introduces him to a doctor who is touting an experimental drug that may give Ptolemy a temporary burst of clarity and energy, leading Ptolemy to think of a way to leave a memorable legacy.
- Moyes, Jojo. ***Me Before You: A Novel***. Viking, 2012. A twenty-seven-year-old woman accepts a job caring for a paraplegic man, unaware that the experience will allow her to learn new skills, consider a bigger life than she could have ever imagined, and break her heart.
- Mullin, Mike. ***Ashfall***. Tanglewood, 2011. When the eruption of the Yellowstone supervolcano destroys his city and its surroundings, fifteen-year-old Alex must journey from Cedar Falls, Iowa, to Illinois to find his parents and sister. He struggles to survive in a transformed landscape and a new society in which all the old rules of living have vanished.
- Patchett, Ann. ***State of Wonder***. Harper, 2011. Anders Eckman has mysteriously died while working on a ground-breaking miracle drug in a remote location in the Amazon rainforest, and Dr. Marina Singh, a friend and colleague, is sent to take his place. The investigation of his death leads her on a gripping adventure that will have her questioning what is right and wrong and how far people are willing to go for science and discovery.
- Percer, Elizabeth. ***An Uncommon Education***. Harper, 2012. In this coming-of-age story, Naomi Feinstein dreams of attending Wellesley College and being a doctor; everything changes in her life when she is introduced to the oldest honor society, the mysterious Shakespeare Society.
- Petry, Ann. ***The Street***. First published in 1946. Lutie Johnson, a single African American mother in 1940s Harlem, struggles to raise her young son Bub in a world of racism and socioeconomic inequality. Based on a true story.
- Powell, Goran. ***Chojun: A Novel***. YMAA, 2012. Kenichi Ota accompanies Chojun Miyagi to China searching for the meaning of karate. Upon their return to Okinawa they learn that the Japanese have just destroyed Pearl Harbor, forcing both of them to adapt to a new world order, to rebuild their island, and to preserve Miyagi's brand of karate. *International Book Award Finals 2013*
- Rock, Peter. ***My Abandonment***. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Thirteen-year-old Caroline lives with her father "off the grid" in a makeshift structure in a Pacific Northwest forest. The forest seems to fulfill their basic needs and hides them from the rest of humanity. The world eventually intrudes upon their solitude, and what Caroline thought was real is not. Alex Award 2010
- Rowell, Rainbow. ***Fangirl***. St. Martin's Griffin, 2013. Feeling cast off when her twin sister outgrows their shared love for a favorite fictional character, Cath, a dedicated fan-fiction writer, struggles to survive on her own in her first year of college while avoiding a surly roommate, bonding with a handsome classmate who only wants to talk about words, and worrying about her fragile father.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Ruiz Zafón, Carlos. ***The Shadow of the Wind***. Translated from the Spanish by Lucia Graves. Penguin Press, 2004. In 1945 Spain, the young son of an antique-book dealer searches for more books by Julian Carax, an author he has recently discovered, and finds that everything Carax has ever written has been destroyed . . . and that his search has put his friends and family in danger.
- Sales, Leila. ***This Song Will Save Your Life: A Novel***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. Nearly a year after a failed suicide attempt, sixteen-year-old Elise discovers that she has the passion and talent to be a disc jockey. This is a novel about identity, friendship, and the power of music to bring people together.
- Schneider, Robyn. ***The Beginning of Everything***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Star athlete and prom king Ezra Faulkner's life is irreparably transformed by a tragic accident and the arrival of eccentric new girl Cassidy Thorpe.
- Semple, Maria. ***Where'd You Go Bernadette: A Novel***. Little, Brown, 2012. When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her. Alex Award 2013
- Sepetys, Ruta. ***Out of the Easy***. Philomel, 2013. Josie, the seventeen-year-old daughter of a French Quarter prostitute, is striving to escape 1950s New Orleans and enroll at prestigious Smith College when she becomes entangled in a murder investigation.
- Simic, Charles. ***The Voice at 3:00 A.M.: Selected Late & New Poems***. Harcourt, 2003. These poems convey vivid and quirky imagery. From "Sunday Papers" to "Frightening Toys" to "Blood Orange," the originality and sly humor of "everydayness" cheers the reader of this award-winning poet's work.
- Simsion, Graeme. ***The Rosie Project***. Simon & Schuster, 2013. A college professor's analytical survey to find the perfect wife leads to a relationship with Rosie Jarman even though she is the opposite of his scientific criteria for a wife.
- Sittenfeld, Curtis. ***Sisterland: A Novel***. Random House, 2013. Identical twins Kate and Violet have always been different -- able to sense other people's secrets and know about future events. As they grow up, Vi embraces her gift and pursues a career as a psychic medium, while Kate denies it and settles down with a family. An earthquake in their hometown of Saint Louis and Vi's vision of a more devastating quake to come force Kate to reconcile the strained relationship with her twin and come to grips with the truth about herself.
- Skloot, Rebecca. ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks***. Crown, 2010. "HeLa" cells, named after Henrietta Lacks, a poor African American woman born in 1920, were taken from a tumor removed during Lacks' treatment for cervical cancer. While she died from the disease, her cancer cells proved uncommonly robust, reproducing at a rapid rate. Years later, billions of these cells are used in laboratories around the world.
- Sloan, Robin. ***Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Clay Jannon is released from his job in San Francisco during the Great Recession and accepts a position working the night shift at a local bookstore. Clay soon realizes that there is something very strange and mysterious about that bookstore. Alex Award 2013

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Stedman, M. L. ***The Light Between Oceans***. Scribner, 2012. A childless couple quietly runs a lighthouse on a remote Australian island until a boat with a baby washes ashore, changing their lives forever.
- Stein, Garth. ***The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel***. HarperCollins, 2008. Enzo is an old soul who just happens to be a dog. He is devoted to Denny who is a race car driver. The reader will be captivated as Enzo tells his master's story and prepares for his next life...as a human.
- Steinbeck, John. ***The Grapes of Wrath***. First published 1939. Forced out of their home in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl by economic desperation, a family of Oklahoma farmers drives west to California in search of work as migrant fruit pickers. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1940
- Szyborska, Wislawa. ***Monologue of a Dog: New Poems***. Translated from the Polish by Clare Cavanagh and Stanislaw Baranczak. Harcourt, 2006. Crisp, elegant poetry is presented in original Polish alongside its English translation. Clouds, current events, and revolution are just a few of the themes addressed in this marvelous collection of twenty-six thought-provoking poems.
- Thoreau, Henry David. ***Walden***. First published 1854. Thoreau's observations on nature and life were penned during his solitary stay at Walden Pond, outside Concord, Massachusetts, from 1845 to 1847.
- Towles, Amor. ***Rules of Civility***. Viking, 2011. In 1938 Katey Kontent moves to New York City to find her first job. With a group of newly acquired friends she enjoys the jazz and glamour of the city and the adventure that comes with youth, relationships, and differing social classes.
- Vance, Jack. ***The Moon Moth***. Graphic novel adaptation by Humayoun Ibrahim. First Second, 2012. Lovers of the science fiction genre and graphic novels will enjoy Vance's classic short story set on planet Sirene where aliens wear masks to indicate their social status and communicate by playing musical instruments. Edwer Thissel is sent to Sirene to solve a murder and find the killer in a world where every face is hidden.
- Wecker, Helene. ***The Golem and the Jinni***. Harper, 2013. Two magical creatures -- Chava, a golem made out of clay, and Ahmad, a jinni made of fire -- find themselves in New York City in 1899 in unfamiliar surroundings. The two eventually meet and form an unlikely friendship, only to realize the looming threat to their lives and to those around them.
- Wilson, August. ***Two Trains Running***. Plume, 1992. This historical African-American drama, part of a ten-part series by a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright, takes place during the Civil Rights movement in Memphis Lee's diner in Pittsburg, 1969. Characters wrestle with the changing political and social landscape of this American era expressed through everyday conversations as they gather in booths and the lunch counter. They exude strength with dignity and hope for a better future.
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***Boxers***. First Second, 2013. Companion volume to ***Saints***. In 1898 during the Boxer Rebellion, a boy named Little Bao recruits an army of Boxers to rid China of foreign missionaries and soldiers who bully and rob Chinese peasants.

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2015

Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Yang, Gene Luen. **Saints**. First Second, 2013. Companion volume to **Boxers**. In 1898 during the Boxer Rebellion, a girl named Vibiana who is unwanted and unwelcome turns to Christianity, but she finds herself torn between her nation and her Christian friends who are being murdered by bands of young men.
- Zevin, Gabrielle. **The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry**. Algonquin, 2014. Bookstore owner A.J. Fikry's prized book of rare Poe poems disappears, and he becomes increasingly isolated until a package in the mail compels him to rethink his life.
- Zusak, Markus. **The Book Thief**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl, whose book stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family, the Jewish man they are hiding, and her neighbors. National Jewish Book Award 2006
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