

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grades 1 and 2

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

*\*Beginning readers are marked with an asterisk.*

- Adler, David. ***President George Washington***. Holiday House, 2005. From Washington's youth to his death, this book gives enough details and background to make it an enjoyable biography for new readers.
- \*Adler, David. ***Young Cam Jansen and the Lion's Lunch Mystery***. Penguin, 2007. On a trip to the zoo, Cam Jansen uses her photographic memory to help solve what happened to Danny's lunch. *Series*
- Arnold, Tedd. ***The Twin Princes***. Dial, 2007. Two chicken princes who are twins take part in a contest to determine which one will inherit the throne.
- Bailey, Linda. ***Stanley's Party***. Kids Can Press, 2003. Stanley is a good dog, but when his people go out at night, he begins to wonder what it would be like to taste the forbidden pleasure of sitting on the couch, and when he tries it, one thing leads to another.
- \*Baker, Keith. ***More Mr. and Mrs. Green***. Harcourt, 2004. The two happy alligators have a wonderful day fishing with special bait, a day painting pictures, and a sunny play day in the park. *Series*
- \*Bang-Campbell, Monika. ***Little Rat Rides***. Harcourt, 2004. Little Rat overcomes her fears and learns how to ride Pee Wee, the very big horse who doesn't always do what Little Rat expects. *Series*
- Barber, Tiki. ***Game Day***. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Brothers Tiki and Ronde Barber, two NFL superstars, tell their story and explain how loyalty, determination, and the power of teamwork help all succeed.
- Blackwood, Gary L. ***The Just-so Woman***. Harper Collins, 2006. "The Just-So Woman" who likes to have everything just right, learns an important lesson for her neighbor the Any-Way Man.
- Brennan-Nelson, Denise. ***My Teacher Likes to Say***. Sleeping Bear Press, 2004. Presents visual interpretations of what a child might be thinking when his teacher uses amusing, confusing expressions such as "Put on your thinking cap" or "Two heads are better than one."
- Brett, Jan. ***Hedgie Blasts Off!*** Putnam, 2006. When the spectacular, sparkling explosions at a popular tourist site slow down, Hedgie the hedgehog is the only one capable of flying to tiny planet Mikkop to see what is wrong.
- Chaconas, Dori. ***Cork & Fuzz: Short and Tall***. Viking, 2006. The friendship between Cork, a muskrat, and Fuzz, a possum, is in trouble when Cork decides that, since he is older, he has to be taller than Fuzz.
- Cronin, Doreen. ***Diary of a Spider***. Joanna Cotler Books, 2005. In this sequel to *Diary of a Worm*, worm's friend spider gives his view of the world. He discovers that there is a lot to learn about being a spider, including spinning webs, avoiding vacuum cleaners and never falling asleep in a shoe.

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- Crummel, Susan Stevens. **City Dog, Country Dog**. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. Two French dogs, Henri and Vincent, meet at art school and become good friends despite their differences.
- Danneberg, Julie. **First Year Letters**. Whispering Coyote, 2003. Through a series of letters sent to Mrs. Hartwell in the classroom mailbox, we experience the sometimes hilariously funny pleasures and pains of a normal group of kids and an innovative first-year teacher.
- \*Danziger, Paula. **Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown**. Putnam, 2004. Amber Brown loves the second grade but wonders if she will ever receive an award from Deskarina, the desk fairy, for keeping her desk clean. *Series*
- Davies, Nicola. **Surprising Sharks**. Candlewick Press, 2003. Sharks come in all shapes and sizes. Many species from the smallest to the scariest are described in this informative picture book.
- De Paola, Tomie. **Stagestruck**. Putnam, 2005. Tomie does not get the leading role of Peter Rabbit in the class play. He is so disappointed he decides to get the audience's attention by making his character, Mopsy, the star!
- Dicamillo, Kate. **Mercy Watson Princess in Disguise**. Candlewick, 2007. Persuaded by the "treating" to dress up as a princess for Halloween, Mercy the pig's trick-or-treat outing has some very unexpected results. *Series*
- Florian, Douglas. **Bow Wow Meow: It's Rhyming Cats and Dogs**. Harcourt, 2003. It's rhyming cats and dogs in Douglas Florian's furr-ocious collection of twenty-one original poems and paintings about our favorite animal friends.
- Fraee, Marla. **Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?** Dial, 2006. The pictures practically speak for themselves when fourteen contemporary children's book illustrators offer their unique answers to this age-old question.
- Gibbons, Gail. **The Vegetables We Eat**. Holiday House, 2007. A clear, informative introduction to eight groups of vegetables, categorized by the part of the plant that is eaten.
- \*Guest, Elissa Haden. **Iris and Walter and the Field Trip**. Harcourt, 2005. When best friends Iris and Walter go on a field trip to an aquarium, Walter gets lost and a worried Iris helps Miss Cherry look for him. *Series*
- Hoberman, Mary Ann. **You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together**. Little, Brown, 2004. This title presents short retellings of familiar fairy tales, each told in two voices, designed especially for young children and adults to read together. *Series*.
- \*Hoff, Syd. **Danny and the Dinosaur Go To Camp**. HarperCollins, 1996. When Danny brings his favorite dinosaur to camp, the two friends enjoy boating, hiking, and roasting marshmallows. *Series*
- \*Holub, Joan. **Why Do Birds Sing?** Dial, 2004. This colorful book explains why birds sing and presents important facts about bird behavior and characteristics.



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- Hort, Lenny. ***Did Dinosaurs Eat Pizza? Mysteries Science Hasn't Solved.*** Holt, 2006. While much is known about dinosaur anatomy, behavior, and habitat, the author points out the many mysteries that remain to be answered about these extinct creatures.
- \*Howe, James. ***Houndsley and Catina.*** Candlewick, 2006. Friends Houndsley and Catina are sad because they do not know when their birthdays are, but they solve the problem in a thoughtful and creative way. *Series*
- Isadora, Rachel. ***Nick Plays Baseball.*** Putnam, 2001. The story of Nick and his teammates' championship baseball game provides an introduction to the aspects of the game of baseball including equipment, player positions, and rules.
- Karas, G. Brian. ***On Earth.*** Putnam, 2005. The earth and its cycles are simply and beautifully illustrated in this poetic text. Difficult concepts are explained through children's real life experiences.
- Katz, Alan. ***Are You Quite Polite? : Silly Dilly Manners Songs.*** McElderry, 2006. Presenting humorous lyrics to such familiar children's songs as "Pop Goes the Weasel," "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," and "Hey Diddle Diddle," Katz presents examples of behavior both good and bad.
- Kennedy, Senator Edward M. ***My Senator and Me: A Dog's Eye View of Washington D.C.,*** Scholastic, 2006. Illustrated by David Small and narrated by Splash, the Portuguese Water Dog, this is a clear and concise introduction to the American political process.
- Kimmel, Eric A. ***Anansi and the Magic Stick.*** Holiday House, 2001. Part trickster tale, part sorcerer's apprentice story, this cheerful picture book about Anansi the Spider is loosely based on the West African story "The Magic Hoe."
- Knudsen, Michelle. ***Library Lion.*** Candlewick, 2006. A lion starts visiting the local library, but runs into trouble as he tries to both obey the rules and help his librarian friend.
- Krensky, Stephen. ***Milo the Really Big Bunny.*** Simon & Schuster, 2006. A misfit bunny finds out that the characteristic that makes him different helps the Easter Bunny save the day.
- Kuskin, Karla. ***Toots the Cat.*** Holt, 2005. In this series of simple but vivid poems we meet Toots, the calico cat who has adopted the poet's family. Toots is charming, frustrating, quirky, and totally cat. This is for all cat lovers.
- \*Labatt, Mary. ***Sam Gets Lost.*** Kids Can Press, 2004. Sam's fun trip downtown turns scary after he hops out of the car and gets lost in the city. *Series*
- Landry, Leo. ***Sea Surprise.*** Holt, 2005. Kate, a mermaid, and her best friend Dave, a shark, have planned a special surprise for their best friend Ed who has lost his zap. A funny story with silly illustrations makes this a delightful tale of friendship.
- Lester, Helen. ***Batter Up Wombat.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2006. An Australian wombat joins the Champs baseball team, and even though he is disastrously ignorant of the game, his innate talents save everyone when a tornado strikes.

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- \*Lobel, Arnold. ***Frog and Toad Are Friends***. HarperCollins, 1970. Be entertained by the classic, short, delightful tales about best friends Frog and Toad. *Series*
- MacLachlan, Patricia and Emily MacLachlan Charest. ***Once I Ate a Pie***. Joanna Cotler, 2006. Fourteen free-verse poems and beautiful oil paintings capture the personality of each dog in these examples of a dog's life from the perspective of the animals.
- Markle, Sandra. ***Spiders: Biggest! Littlest!*** Boyds Mills, 2004. From the Goliath Bird Spider to the Crab Spider, amazing photographs show how spiders benefit from their size. Includes a map of where spiders live.
- \*Marshall, James. ***Fox on the Job***. Puffin, 1988. Fox tries several different jobs to earn money. *Series*
- McBrier, Page. ***Beatrice's Goat***. Atheneum, 2001. A young girl's dream of attending school in her small Ugandan village is fulfilled after her family is given an income-producing goat. Based on a true story about the work of the Heifer Project.
- McCall, Francis. ***A Huge Hog is a Big Pig: A Rhyming Word Game***. Greenwillow, 2002. A variety of mostly farm animals are introduced with such phrases as a granny nanny, a soggy doggy, and a loose goose.
- McDermott, Gerald. ***Jabuti the Tortoise: A Trickster Tale from the Amazon***. Harcourt, 2001. All the birds enjoy the song-like flute music of Jabuti, the tortoise, except Vulture who is jealous because he cannot sing. He tricks Jabuti into riding on his back toward a festival planned by the King of Heaven.
- McDonald, Megan. ***Stink and the World's Worst Super-Stinky Sneakers***. Candlewick, 2007. A class visit to the Gross-Me-Out exhibit at the science museum inspires Stink Moody to create a variety of terrible smells to put on the sneakers he plans to enter in the World's Worst Super-Stinky Sneaker contest. *Series*
- McKissack, Patricia. ***Precious and the Boo Hag***. Atheneum, 2005. Home alone with a stomach ache while the family works in the fields, a young girl faces up to the horrifying Boo Hag that her brother warned her about.
- McNulty, Faith. ***If You Decide to Go to the Moon***. Scholastic, 2005. This book tells you how to get to the moon, what to do after you land, and most importantly, how to get back home.
- \*Miller, Sara Swan. ***Three Stories You Can Read to Your Teddy Bear***. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. If your teddy bear seems quiet and just sits on your bed staring, maybe he is bored and needs to be entertained. This book has perfect stories for teddy bears to hear.
- Murphy, Stuart J. ***Lemonade for Sale***. Harper Collins, 1998. The Elm Street Kid's Club decides to sell lemonade to earn money to fix up their clubhouse and they use a graph to keep track of their sales. *MathStart series*
- Muth, Jon. ***Zen Shorts***. Scholastic, 2005. Stillwater, a talking panda, shares Zen stories with three children. Each story matches the mood and character of the child.



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- \*Nixon, Joan Lowery. **Gus and Gertie and the Lucky Charms**. SeaStar, 2002. Fine-feathered heroes Gus and Gertie return for another slapstick, easy-to-read mystery as they arrive at the Animals' Winter Olympics with dreams of winning gold as Antarctica's first synchronized swimming team. *Series*
- O Flatharta, Antoine. **Hurry and the Monarch**. Knopf, 2005. On her way from Canada, a monarch butterfly lands on Hurry the tortoise in Wichita Falls, Texas. Through their friendship, Hurry witnesses the life cycle of a monarch. This story has strong Texas connections and the illustrations depict the beauty of the Monarch and Texas springtime.
- \*Parish, Herman. **Amelia Bedelia Under Construction**. Greenwillow, 2006. Anytime Amelia Bedelia baby-sits for the Hardy family, trouble is sure to follow, this time leading up to some unexpected remodeling of the Hardy's house. *Series*
- Polacco, Patricia. **Thank You Mr. Faulker**. Philomel, 1998. At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problems.
- Recorvits, Helen. **My Name is Yoon**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. Disliking her name as written in English, Korean-born Yoon, or "shining wisdom," refers to herself as "cat," "bird," and "cupcake," as a way to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country.
- 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.
- \*Roberts, Bethany. **Ogre Eats Everything**. Dutton, 2005. A sequel to Maybelle and Ogre, this humorous easy to read chapter book tells a story about friendship, especially when Maybelle tries to teach Ogre to read.
- Rodman, Mary Ann. **My Best Friend**. Viking, 2005. At the local swimming pool six-year-old Lily is doing her best to impress seven-year-old Tamika because she wants Tamika to be her best friend. No matter how hard Lily tries, Tamika either ignores her or teases her. Could there be another best friend?
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons**. HarperCollins, 2006. Cookies provide the framework for this clever book, but the focus is on life lessons to be learned about sharing, regret, cooperation, and patience, terms which are defined in simple, relevant text and made clear by sweet illustrations.
- Ryder, Joanne. **Toad by the Road**. Holt, 2007. A poetic and illustrated description of the toad's life cycle through the course of a year.
- \*Rylant, Cynthia. **Annie & Snowball and the Dress-Up Birthday**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Annie and her bunny Snowball invite Henry & Mudge to a dress-up party. *Series*
- \*Rylant, Cynthia. **Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover**. Simon & Schuster, 2006. Henry and his dog Mudge are invited to a sleepover in Patrick's attic, where they watch monster movies, eat pizza, and enjoy a contest to determine whose dog is the best popcorn catcher. *Series*

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- \*Rylant, Cynthia. ***The High-Rise Private Eyes: the Case of the Desperate Duck.*** Greenwillow, 2005. In their latest case, animal detectives Bunny and Jack help Mabel the duck find out who stole the sugar cubes from her tea room. *Series*
- Sayre, April Pulley. ***Army Ant Parade.*** Holt, 2002. The animals in the forest prepare for the army ants to swarm over the ground in a thick stream, searching for food.
- Schorter, Roni. ***The Boy Who Loved Words.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2006. Selig loves and collects words in this charming story of a boy who finds his life's purpose through his passion for words.
- Schwartz, David. ***If You Hopped Like a Frog.*** Scholastic, 1999. David Schwartz introduces the concept of ratio by comparing what humans would be able to do if they had bodies like different animals.
- \*Sharmat, Marjorie. ***Nate the Great Talks Turkey.*** Delacorte, 2006. Nate the Great and his cousin Olivia are on the case of a runaway turkey, but unfortunately the clues appear to contradict each other. *Series*
- Silverman, Erica. ***Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Partners.*** Harcourt, 2006. Cocoa the horse herds the cows with Cowgirl Kate, helps her practice her roping skills, and wishes he could wear boots instead of horseshoes. *Series*
- Sis, Peter. ***Train of States.*** Greenwillow, 2004. An imaginative look at the fifty states using circus trains to display the information. State facts are presented in intricate detail.
- Smothers, Ethel Footman. ***Hard-Times Jar.*** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. Emma, the daughter of poor migrant workers, longs to own a real book. When she turns eight and must attend school for the first time, she is amazed to discover a whole library in her classroom.
- Stanley, Diane. ***Goldie and the Three Bears.*** HarperCollins, 2003. In this fractured Goldilocks tale, Goldie, who has yet to find a friend to love with all her heart, makes an unplanned visit to the house of some bears.
- Steig, William. ***The Amazing Bone.*** First published 1976. On her way home from school, Pearl finds an unusual bone that has unexpected powers.
- Stowell, Penelope. ***The Greatest Potatoes.*** Hyperion, 2005. George Crum, son of a former slave and a Native American was a chef in Saratoga, New York in 1853. As a practical joke, George created the worst fried potatoes in the world. The Saratoga flaky fried potatoes became an instant hit.
- Sturges, Philemon. ***She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain.*** Little, Brown, 2004. New words to the traditional tune describe a camper-driving, "hooting" and "shouting" guest and the party that will begin when she arrives.
- \*Sutcliffe, Jane. ***Jesse Owens.*** Carolrhoda, 2001. This is a biography of track-and-field athlete Jesse Owens, from his childhood in Alabama to his athletic career which culminated in his winning four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany.



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- Swope, Sam. **Gotta Go! Gotta Go!** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2000. Although she doesn't know how or why, a small creepy-crawly bug is certain that she must make her way to Mexico.
- Tavares, Matt. **Mudball.** Candlewick, 2005. The year is 1903. Andy Oyler, the shortest player in his baseball league, is batting with two outs and rain is falling hard. Andy's bat connects with the ball, but will it be hard enough to bring in the runs and win the game?
- Teague, Mark. **Detective LaRue: Letters from the Investigation.** Scholastic, 2004. While on vacation, Mrs. LaRue receives letters from her dog, Ike, who has been falsely accused of harming the neighbor's cats and is trying to clear his name.
- \*Thomas, Shelley Moore. **Take Care, Good Knight.** Dutton, 2006. The three little dragons have agreed to take care of the old wizard's cats while he is away, but their inability to read his instructions causes problems until their friend, the Good Knight, save the day. *Series*
- Uhlberg, Myron. **Dad, Jackie and Me.** Peachtree, 2005. In 1947, Jackie Robinson is playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers, the first black man to play in major league baseball. The author and his deaf father become fans and share the thrill of Jackie's incredible season.
- \*Van Leeuwen, Jean. **Oliver the Mighty Pig.** Dial, 2004. Oliver feels like the superhero Mighty Pig when he wears his Mighty Pig cape, but he finds that being a superhero in the real world has some complications. *Series*
- Weatherby, Brenda. **The Trucker.** Scholastic, 2004. Wesley dreams his toy semi-flatbed truck grows big enough for him to have a trucking adventure but wakes to find he is in the back of his father's truck.
- Whatley, Bruce. **Wait! No Paint!** HarperCollins, 2001. Full of surprises, interaction between the illustrator and the characters, and hilarious wordplay, this quirky retelling of "The Three Little Pigs" encourages readers to look at this favorite story in a whole new way.
- Whybrow, Ian. **Badness for Beginners: A Little Wolf and Smellybreff Adventure.** Carolrhoda, 2005. Little Wolf and his brother Smellybreff get lessons in badness from their Mom and Dad. They just can't be naughty enough to suit their parents.
- Willems, Mo. **Edwina the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct.** Hyperion, 2006. Edwina the friendly neighborhood dinosaur, friend to children and grown-ups alike, finds a foe in young Reginald Von Hoobie-Doobie, who insists that she is extinct.
- Winter, Jonah. **Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates.** Atheneum, 2005. This is the story of Roberto Clemente, a young Puerto Rican who followed his baseball dream to the big leagues and went on to help the poor in his homeland.
- Wong, Janet. **Alex and the Wednesday Chess Club.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2004. Alex tries lots of different activities — swim team, football, piano lessons — but the Wednesday chess club is his favorite. At the tournament, he tries very hard to win but discovers having fun is more important.

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**Grades 1 and 2**

- Yolen, Jane. ***Count Me a Rhyme***. Wordsong, 2006. This handsome rhyming counting book is filled with full-color photographs of animals together with poems that tell stories about them.
- Yolen, Jane. ***Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry***. Candlewick Press, 2007. A collection of poems for children with the various themes of self, family, going outside, and when it is time for bed.
- Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner. ***Did Dinosaurs Have Feathers?*** HarperCollins, 2004. This book discusses the discovery and analysis of Archaeopteryx, a feathered dinosaur, which may have been an ancestor of modern birds.
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**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 3 and Grade 4**

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

- Adler, David A. ***Satchel Paige: Don't Look Back***. Harcourt, 2007. Eventually overcoming racism and the social limitations of the early 1940's, Satchel Paige enjoyed a career in baseball for over 40 years.
- Asch, Frank. ***Star Jumper: Journal of a Cardboard Genius***. Kids Can Press, 2006. Alex plans to leave planet Earth and his annoying little brother in Star Jumper – the spaceship he designed and built entirely of cardboard, duct tape, and old items from the basement.
- Aston, Dianna. ***A Seed is Sleepy***. Chronicle Books, 2007. Beautifully illustrated, this book includes an intriguing array of seed and plant facts.
- Atwater, Richard. ***Mr. Popper's Penguins***. First published 1938. The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortune of Mr. Popper. Newbery Honor book.
- Avi. ***Poppy's Return***. HarperCollins, 2005. In this ongoing Dimwood Forest adventure, Poppy travels to her childhood home to save the other mice there from destruction by a bulldozer. *Series*
- Babbitt, Natalie. ***Jack Plank Tells Tales***. Michael di Capua Books, 2007. Because he is too nice to be a pirate, Jack Plank looks for a new career, but each night he tells tales of why the one job he looked into that day is wrong.
- Barshaw, Ruth. ***Ellie McDoodle: Have Pen, Will Travel***. Bloomsbury, 2007. Armed only with humor, a pen and a sketchbook, eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle chronicles her adventures and mishaps while camping with her cousins, aunt and uncle.
- Bauer, Marion Dane. ***Secret of the Painted House***. Random House, 2007. When her family moves from Chicago to the country, nine-year-old Emily is drawn to a mysterious playhouse she finds in the woods, and she soon meets its sad, lonely inhabitant.
- Birney, Betty. ***Friendship According to Humphrey***. Putnam, 2005. When Humphrey the hamster returns to Mrs. Brisbane's class after the winter break, he finds a new class pet. *Series*
- Boniface, William. ***The Extraordinary Adventures of Ordinary Boy: the Hero Revealed***. HarperCollins, 2006. Ordinary Boy is the only person in Superopolis that doesn't have superpower, which definitely means trouble when he finds himself in the clutches of arch villain Professor Brain-Drain.
- Bregoli, Jane. ***The Goat Lady***. Tilbury House, 2004. Children of a small Massachusetts town convince their community to love and accept a kind, elderly French Canadian woman, despite her messy yard and noisy goats.
- Brooks, Gwendolyn. ***Bronzeville Boys and Girls***. HarperCollins, 2007. The universal joys and experiences of children are celebrated in this newly illustrated collection of poetry from one of America's most beloved poets.

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**Grade 3 and Grade 4**

- Bunting, Eve. **Reggie**. Cricket, 2006. Eight-year-old Alex is determined to keep the toy mouse he finds tied to a balloon, even after posters appear asking for its return. But when his dog Patch disappears, Alex discovers what it is like to lose something you love more than anything.
- Byars, Betsy. **Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society**. Holt, 2007. At the first annual meeting of WOOF – Words of Our Friends – assorted dogs share tales of dogs throughout history.
- Byrd, Robert. **The Hero and the Minotaur**. Dutton, 2005. This re-telling follows the Greek hero Theseus as he overcomes challenges on the road, defeats the Minotaur, and becomes the wise and just ruler of Athens.
- Child, Lauren. **Clarice Bean Spells Trouble**. Candlewick Press, 2005. Spelling causes lots of trouble for Clarice. *Series*
- Cleary, Beverly. **Ribsy**. First published in 1964. When Ribsy gets lost from his family at the shopping center, he begins humorous escapades and wanderings in his quest to find his family. *Series*
- Clements, Andrew. **No Talking**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. The noisy fifth grade class of Laketon Elementary becomes suspiciously quiet when the boys challenge the girls to a “no talking” contest.
- Clements, Andrews. **Dogku**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Haiku is used to tell the story about a dog named Mooch who rides in a car, barks at the neighbors, and chews on dirty socks.
- Colfer, Eoin. **Eoin Colfer’s Legend of the Worst Boy in the World**. Hyperion, 2007. Will Woodman has a hard time getting anyone in his family to listen to him, so he turns to his grandfather, who, it turns out, has more terrible sob stories than Will does.
- Cook, Sally. **Hey Batta Batta Swing! The Wild Old Days of Baseball**. McElderry Books, 2007. This non-fiction title describes the old days of baseball before there were pitching mounds, and contains trivia about players’ nicknames, team names, and the design of the uniforms.
- Coombs, Kate. **The Secret-Keeper**. Atheneum, 2006. Kalli is entrusted with everyone’s secrets until the potter’s son reveals the best secret of all.
- Coren, Stanley. **How Dogs Think: Understanding the Canine Mind**. Kids Can Press, 2006. Everything you want to know about how dogs think, talk, and see the world can be found in this short, illustrated book with a question-and-answer format.
- Coville, Bruce. **Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher**. Jane Yolen Books, 1991. In this sequel to **The Monster’s Ring**, Jeremy purchases a strange egg which turns out to be a dragon that only he and Mary Lou can see. *Series*
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Mr. Chickee’s Funny Money**. Wendy Lamb, 2005. In this first book of a new series, Flint Future Detective Club members Steven Carter, his friend Russell, and Russell’s dog (Zoopy) solve the mystery of a quadrillion-dollar bill with the image of James Brown on it.



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**Grade 3 and Grade 4**

- Dahl, Roald. **Matilda**. Viking, 1988. Matilda applies her mental powers to rid the school of the evil headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore Miss Honey, her nice teacher, to financial security.
- Davies, Nicola. **Extreme Animals: the Toughest Creatures on Earth**. Candlewick, 2006. This amazing natural history book reveals how animals adapt to and survive the harshest of conditions that would kill any human.
- Deans, Karen. **Playing to Win: The Story of Althea Gibson**. Holiday House, 2007. Growing up in Harlem, Althea Gibson overcame odds to become the first African American woman to be ranked as the number one tennis player in the world.
- DiCamillo, Kate. **Because of Winn-Dixie**. Candlewick, 2000. India Opal Buloni, age 10, describes her first summer in Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog, Winn-Dixie. Newbery Honor Book
- DiSalvo, Dyanne. **The Sloppy Copy Slipup**. Holiday House, 2006. Brian has to think fast to salvage the situation when he has not done his sloppy copy writing assignment for the second time and faces another zero in Miss Fromme's class.
- Eilenberg, Max. **Beauty and the Beast**. Candlewick, 2006. This beautifully illustrated version of the classic tale includes such interesting family members as Beauty's two spoiled sisters and her proud, adoring father.
- Fleischman, Paul. **Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella**. Holt, 2007. This colorful version of the classic fairy tale blends together tidbits of over twenty Cinderella stories from around the world.
- Florian, Douglas. **Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars**. Harcourt, 2007. Information about our solar system is presented through a delightful mix of poetry, art and creative design.
- Friedman, Laurie and Tamara Schmitz. **Mallory on Board**. Carolrhoda, 2007. A cruise would seem to be an unlikely place for Mallory to be unhappy, but the wedding on board of her two best friends' parents causes her to feel left out. *Series*
- Gardiner, John R. **Stone Fox**. First published 1980. Willie hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.
- Gifford, Peggy. **Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little**. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. While Moxy is procrastinating about beginning her summer reading assignment, **Stuart Little**, her twin brother is documenting her many diversions with his new camera.
- Greenwald, Sheila. **Rosy Cole's Memoir Explosion**. Farrar, 2006. Rosy is surprised when her friends are not thrilled with her memoir project for school. *Series*
- Greenwood, Marie. **Explorer**. Dorling Kindersley, 2006. All types of explorers from the earliest world navigators to astronauts are introduced through colorful photographs and entertaining text.
- Grimes, Nikki. **Thanks a Million**. Greenwillow, 2006. The importance of being thankful and expressing our gratitude are demonstrated in sixteen different ways through poetry.

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**Grade 3 and Grade 4**

- Graff, Lisa. ***The Thing About Georgie***. Laura Geringer Books, 2006. Georgie's dwarfism causes problems, but he could always rely on his parents, his best friend, and classmate Jeanie the Meanie's teasing, until a surprising announcement, a new boy in school, and a class project shake things up.
- Gutman, Dan. ***The Homework Machine***. Simon & Schuster, 2006. When three classmates of fifth grade computer geek, Brandon, find out that he has invented a machine that does homework in his own handwriting, they all use it secretly with disastrous consequences.
- Haas, Jessie. ***Jigsaw Pony***. Greenwillow, 2005. Twins Kiera and Fran have never agreed on anything until their father surprises them with a pony.
- Hamilton, Virginia. ***The Girl Who Spun Gold***. Scholastic, 2000. This beautifully illustrated folk tale is a West Indian variant of the Rumpelstiltskin story.
- Hansen, Rosanna. ***Caring for Cheetahs: My African Adventure***. Boyds Mill, 2007. Pounce into this colorful photo essay about protecting endangered cheetahs at a nature reserve owned by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa.
- Hanson, Mary. ***How to Save Your Tail***. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2007. Take a romp with Bob the rat, who survives capture by two cats by sharing both fresh-baked cookies and fractured fairy tales about his ancestors.
- Hatkoff, Juliana, Isabella and Craig. ***Knut: How One Little Polar Bear Captivated the World***. Scholastic, 2007. When Knut was born, his mother couldn't take care of him, so a zookeeper at Zoo Berlin becomes his foster father.
- Hobbs, Valerie. ***Sheep***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006. A young border collie is sold when his sheep-ranching family falls on hard times, leading him to a series of new owners, new names, and a mixed-bag of new adventures.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***Piper Reed, Navy Brat***. Henry Holt, 2007. Piper is sad about leaving her home and friends behind when her father, a Navy aircraft mechanic, is transferred yet again. But with help from her often-annoying sisters and a surprise from their parents, she finds happiness in their new home in Pensacola, Florida.
- Howe, James. ***Bunnica: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery***. First published in 1979. Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire. *Series*
- Hurwitz, Johanna. ***PeeWee's Tale***. SeaStar, 2000. Pee Wee is an extraordinary guinea pig who learns to read from the newspaper scraps in his cage and finds himself in New York City's Central Park where he needs survival skills. *Series*
- James, Helen Foster. ***S is for S'mores***. Sleeping Bear Press, 2007. No camping trip will be complete without this fun alphabet book full of camping trivia, including the perennial favorite – s'mores.
- Jenkins, Emily. ***Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic***. Schwarz & Wade, 2006. Six stories relate the adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys.



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 3 and Grade 4**

- Jenkins, Steve. ***Dogs and Cats, Cats and Dogs***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Illustrated with eye-catching collage, this book presents a wealth of information about both dogs and cats in an enticing read and flip-it-over format.
- Kelly, Katy. ***Lucy Rose: Working Myself to Pieces and Bits***. Delacorte, 2007. In her diary, fourth grader Lucy Rose, who is a lover of palindromes and big words, records her adventures with friends Jonique and Melonhead, including their unorthodox ways of raising money so that the McBees can remodel their bakery. *Series*
- Ketteman, Helen. ***Waynetta and the Cornstalk: A Texas Fairy Tale***. Whitman, 2007. This humorous retelling of “Jack and the Beanstalk” with a Texas twist is pure fun.
- Kimmel, Eric. ***A Picture for Marc***. Random, 2007. Marc, an imaginative Russian boy, discovers his talent for drawing and, with the encouragement of a friend and an art teacher, decides to become an artist and grows up to be a famous artist.
- King-Smith, Dick. ***The Golden Goose***. Knopf, 2005. A golden goose seems to have magical powers which bring much good luck and joy to a farmer and his family.
- Kline, Suzy. ***Herbie Jones Moves On***. Putnam's, 2005. Readers will be surprised by the ending of this book as Herbie and his friend Raymond, whose family is moving, try to thwart the sale of Raymond's house. *Series*
- Levine, Ellen. ***Henry's Freedom Box***. Scholastic, 2007. This is a fictionalized account of how in 1849, a Virginia slave, Henry “Box” Brown escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.
- Lin, Grace. ***The Year of the Dog***. Little, Brown, 2006. Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog to her own life.
- Look, Lenore. ***Ruby Lu: Empress of Everything***. Atheneum, 2006. Ruby Lu's life becomes challenging after her deaf cousin arrives from China. *Series*
- Lowry, Lois. ***Gooney Bird and the Room Mother***. Houghton, 2005. In this second story about Gooney Bird Greene, the heroine saves the day by finding her class a surprise room mother. *Series*
- Lubar, David. ***Punished!*** Darby Creek, 2006. Because he was playing tag in the reference section of the library, Logan is punished by Professor Wordsworth, who puts a spell on him that is broken only by finding anagrams, palindromes, and oxymorons.
- MacDonald, Alan. ***Trolls Go Home!*** Bloomsbury, 2007. When the Trolls move in next door to the Priddles, each family finds the other strange, which causes many misunderstandings.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. ***Edward's Eyes***. Atheneum, 2007. Edward has a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other. When he unexpectedly dies and his parents donate his organs, his wonderful eyes go to the perfect recipient.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 3 and Grade 4**

- Mannis, Celeste. ***Julia Morgan Built a Castle***. Viking, 2006. Following her dream to build buildings, Julia Morgan overcame great obstacles to become the first woman licensed architect in California and the builder of the magnificent Hearst Castle.
- Markle, Sandra. ***Little Lost Bat***. Charlesbridge, 2006. A baby Mexican free-tailed bat lives in a cave in Texas and manages to survive after losing its mother.
- Marsden, Carolyn. ***Bird Springs***. Viking, 2007. Ten-year-old Gregory and his family move from the Bird Springs Reservation into a motel in Tucson. He struggles to adjust to a very different way of life with the help of a new friend and his art therapy teacher.
- McCully, Emily. ***Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor***. Farrar, 2006. Margaret E. Knight's inventions ranged from foot warmers to the first paper bag machine and won her the title "Lady Edison".
- McDonald, Megan. ***Judy Moody Around the World in 8 ½ Days***. Candlewick, 2006. Judy Moody's new friendship causes problems with her old friends as they try to work together on a school project. *Series*
- McDonough, Yona. ***Hammerin' Hank: The Life of Hank Greenberg***. Walker, 2006. This picture book biography of Hall of Fame baseball player Hank Greenberg has a winning combination of illustrations and text.
- Mills, Claudia. ***Being Teddy Roosevelt***. Farrar, 2007. When he is assigned Teddy Roosevelt as his biography project in school, fourth-grader Riley finds himself inspired by Roosevelt's tenacity and perseverance and resolves to find a way to get what he most wants--a saxophone and music lessons.
- Nagda, Ann Whitehead. ***Meow Means Mischief***. Holiday House, 2003. A stray kitten turns out to be the perfect way to help Rana make friends in her new school and to feel more comfortable with her grandparents, who are visiting from India while her parents are away.
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Patches and Scratches***. Marshall Cavendish Children, 2007. Sarah takes on the problem of finding a pet for her friend Peter that both he and his grandmother will like. *Series*
- Nicola-Lisa, W. ***How We Are Smart***. Lee & Low, 2006. Famous people are smart in many different ways – eight to be exact according to the author.
- Nolan, Lucy. ***On the Road***. Marshall Cavendish, 2005. A dog who thinks her name is "Down Girl" goes on a car ride to the beach, goes camping in the woods, and reluctantly pays a visit to the vet with her master, "Rruff". *Series*
- Osborne, Mary Pope. ***Pompeii Lost & Found***. Knopf, 2006. This fresco-illustrated book answers questions about the effect of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius on the people of Pompeii and their life before the disaster.
- Park, Linda Sue. ***Archer's Quest***. Clarion, 2006. Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Chu-mong, a legendary king of ancient Korea, return to his own time.
- Patterson, Nancy Ruth. ***The Winner's Walk***. Farrar, 2006. Surrounded by a multi-talented family, nine-year-old Case Callahan feels driven to succeed, but his failed attempts at various competitions discourage him until he finds a stray dog with a surprising past.



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 3 and Grade 4**

- Paulsen, Gary. **Lawn Boy**. Wendy Lamb Books, 2007. Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.
- Pennypacker, Sara. **Talented Clementine**. Hyperion, 2007. In this second book about her, eight-year-old Clementine is convinced that she has no talent and tries to find a way to avoid participating in the class talent show. *Series*
- Perkins, Mitali. **Rickshaw Girl**. Charlesbridge, 2007. When her family faces financial difficulties, Naima seeks to find a way to help while remaining true to her Bangladeshi heritage and her own artistic talent.
- Perry, Andrea. **The Snack Smasher and Other Reasons Why It's Not My Fault**. Atheneum, 2007. Sneaky villains cause life's little annoyances in this collection of poems.
- Polacco, Patricia. **Something About Hensley's**. Philomel, 2006. Old John, the manager of Hensley's General Store, sells just about anything a person could want, but also freely supplies kindness and a helping hand to the townsfolk.
- Prelutsky, Jack. **Good Sports**. Knopf, 2007. Rhymes and verses about various sports activities are included in this illustrated collection of poems for children.
- Rosen, Michael J. **Balls!** Darby Creek, 2006. This illustrated book includes history, science, records, and some well-rounded trivia about some of your favorite sports balls.
- Ryder, Joanne. **A Pair of Polar Bears: Twin Cubs Find a Home at the San Diego Zoo**. Simon & Schuster, 2006. In a factual, yet entertaining account, two orphaned polar bear cubs are rescued and flown to the San Diego Zoo where they find both safety and care in their new home.
- Rylant, Cynthia. **The Journey: Stories of Migration**. Blue Sky, 2006. Six migratory animals from the insect, mammal, bird, and fish groups make incredible migrations from one habitat to another every year.
- Scieszka, Jon. **Oh Say, I Can't See**. Penguin, 2005. Samantha, Joe, and Fred time warp to Revolutionary War days where they must convince George Washington and his men to cross the Delaware. *Series*
- Simon, Seymour. **Horses**. HarperCollins, 2006. Horse-lovers will enjoy this book of photographs and accompanying text which provides interesting information about horses.
- St. George, Judith. **Make Your Mark, Franklin Roosevelt**. Philomel, 2007. Meeting Groton headmaster, Endicott Peabody, was a turning point in young Franklin Roosevelt's life and set him on his way to becoming one of our most influential presidents.
- Star, Fleur. **Rain Forest: Around the Clock with Animals of the Rain Forest**. Dorling Kindersley, 2006. With fascinating facts and elaborate photography, many rainforest animals are tracked over a twenty-four hour period.
- Stewart, Melissa. **A Place for Butterflies**. Peachtree, 2006. Using specific species of butterflies, the author effectively explains how the actions and inactions of humans affect the butterfly populations in the United States.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 3 and Grade 4**

- Tang, Greg. ***Math Potatoes***. Scholastic, 2005. Colorful rhymes and riddles help make math more accessible and fun.
- Truss, Lynne. ***The Girl's Like Spaghetti: Why You Can't Manage Without Apostrophes***. Putnam, 2007. Using or not using an apostrophe can change the meaning of a sentence dramatically.
- Urbigkit, Cat. ***Brave Dogs, Gentle Dogs: How They Guard Sheep***. Boyds Mills, 2005. Guardian dogs are trained to guard farm animals and protect them from outside dangers.
- Vande Velde, Vivian. ***Three Good Deeds***. Harcourt, 2005. Caught stealing some goose eggs from a witch, Howard is cursed and turned into a goose himself. He can only become human again by performing three good deeds.
- Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***Shredderman: Meet the Gecko***. Random, 2005. Nolan, a true hero, helps his favorite TV hero outsmart a reporter who has been stalking him. *Series*
- Willey, Margaret. ***Clever Beatrice and the Best Little Pony***. Atheneum, 2004. Clever Beatrice seeks out the village bread maker to come up with a plan to protect her pony. *Series*
- Wisniewski, David. ***The Secret Knowledge of Grown-ups: The Second File***. HarperCollins. 2001. Creative reasons behind rules made by grownups for children are laugh-out-loud funny.
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Compiled by:  
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## HASLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

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

- Amirrezvani, Anita. ***The Blood of Flowers***. Little, Brown, 2007. Following the death of her father, a fourteen-year-old girl, living in seventeenth-century Persia, is left without a dowry. She and her mother, a master storyteller, toil as servants in the home of her uncle where she becomes a skillful rug designer.
- Austen, Jane. ***Pride and Prejudice***. First published 1813. Elizabeth and Jane Bennet overcome obstacles to their happiness with Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley in this comedy of manners set in early nineteenth-century England.
- Baldwin, James. ***Go Tell It On the Mountain***. First published 1953. In 1935, in the tenements of Harlem, young John Grimes searches for God while struggling with his identity as the stepson of a stern evangelist preacher in a storefront church.
- Beah, Ishmael. ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier***. Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2007. A twelve-year old boy first flees from attacking rebels with his friends, but later is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone between 1991 and 1998 and his rehabilitation. Alex Awards 2008
- Bodanis, David. ***Electric Universe***. Crown, 2005. This enlightening cultural and scientific account of the discovery and development of electricity features entertaining historical and biographical vignettes. Aventis Prize 2006
- Caletti, Deb. ***Honey, Baby, Sweetheart***. Simon & Schuster, 2004. Ruby McQueen, high school junior, focuses on the relationships in her life. Conflicts arise with teenage issues, her thieving first boyfriend, her parents' separation, and a book club called the Casserole Queens.
- Capote, Truman. ***In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences***. First published 1965. The senseless, brutal murder of four members of the Clutter family by two psychotic young men shocked their small-town community of Holcomb, Kansas and the entire country. Edgar Award 1966
- Chabon, Michael. ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay: A Novel***. Random House, 2000. Comic strip adventures are interwoven with an actual escape from war-torn Europe and the coming of age for two charming and talented young men. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2001
- Chandler, Raymond. ***The Long Goodbye***. First published 1953. In this classic "hard-boiled" detective story, Philip Marlowe, private eye, deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city. Edgar Award 1955
- Chbosky, Stephen. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***. MTV Books, 1999. In this controversial, coming-of-age novel, Charlie's collection of letters to an unspecified recipient details the humorous trials and tribulations of trying to discover who he is and who he might become.
- Coben, Harlan. ***Tell No One***. Delacorte, 2001. After years of struggling with grief over his wife's murder by a serial killer, Dr. David Beck receives a mysterious e-mail that includes a secret word only known to his wife and himself.

## HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Collins, Billy. ***Sailing Alone Around the Room***. Random House, 2001. Former Poet Laureate Collins treats us to poems about his daily life with truth, humor, and descriptive language.
- Cone, Marla. ***Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic***. Grove Press, 2005. Traditionally thought of as the last great, unspoiled territory on Earth, the Arctic is actually home to some of the most contaminated people and animals on the planet.
- Connolly, John. ***The Book of Lost Things: a Novel***. Atria, 2006. After the death of his mother, David retreats to his attic bedroom, where the books on his shelf begin whispering to him, dragging him into another world. Alex Awards 2007
- Cox, Lynne. ***Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long-Distance Swimmer***. Knopf, 2004. Lynne Cox chronicles her quest to swim the most challenging waters of the world, including the Bering Sea, the Strait of Magellan, the Cape of Good Hope, and the coast of Antarctica. Alex Awards 2005
- Dean, Debra. ***The Madonnas of Leningrad***. HarperCollins, 2006. During the 1941 siege of Leningrad, Marina, a docent at the Hermitage Museum, helped to remove paintings for safekeeping. Decades later as she prepares for her granddaughter's wedding, Marina, now suffering from Alzheimer's, vividly recalls details of those paintings.
- Desai, Kiran. ***The Inheritance of Loss: A Novel***. Grove/Atlantic, 2005. During the mid-1980s, a crusty old magistrate finds his retirement to a desolate house at the foot of the Himalayas near India's border with Nepal disrupted by an orphaned granddaughter and, eventually, a Nepalese insurgency. Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2006; National Book Critics Circle Fiction Award 2007
- Doctorow, E. L. ***The March***. Random House, 2005. Toward the end of the Civil War, General William Tecumseh Sherman is joined by characters both historical and fictional as he marches 60,000 Union troops on a sixty-mile wide path of pillage and destruction through Georgia and the Carolinas. Among the memorable characters are fifteen-year-old Pearl, a light-skinned former slave, and Arly, a scheming Rebel soldier. National Book Critics Circle Fiction Award 2005; Pen/Faulkner Award 2006
- Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. ***Crime and Punishment***. First published 1866. Raskalnikov, a student who believes that his own intellectual and spiritual superiority place him above the masses, tests his theory of invincibility by committing murder.
- Edwards, Kim. ***The Memory Keeper's Daughter***. Penguin, 2005. During a 1964 blizzard, Dr. David Henry is forced to deliver his own twins. Seeing that one twin is normal and the other has Down syndrome, he makes a split-second decision that forever alters the family's life.
- Egan, Timothy. ***The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl***. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. A Pulitzer Prize-winning author follows half-dozen families and their communities during the darkest years of the Depression, when the people of America's High Plains were terrorized by relentless dust storms unlike any ever seen before or since. National Book Award for Nonfiction 2006
- Erlbaum, Janice. ***Girlbomb: A Halfway Homeless Memoir***. Villard, 2006. In 1983, at age fifteen, Janice Erlbaum walks away from her dangerous home life and into the streets of New York determined to make it on her own in this unflinching portrait of being underprivileged, underage, and underdressed.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Gaiman, Neil. **Anansi Boys**. William Morrow, 2005. Fat Charlie Nancy's normal life ended the moment his father dropped dead on a Florida karaoke stage. Charlie didn't know his dad was a god, and he never knew he had a brother. Now brother Spider is about to make Fat Charlie's life more interesting and more dangerous. Alex Awards 2006
- Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. **Love in the Time of Cholera**. Knopf, 1988. In a tale of unrequited love lasting over fifty years, Florentino Ariza has the bad grace to declare his undying love for Fermina Daza at the funeral of her husband, the illustrious physician and leader in the fight against cholera in their South American country.
- Gladwell, Malcolm. **The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference**. Little, Brown, 2002. Ideas, behavior, messages, and products often spread like outbreaks of infectious disease. The moment when these social epidemics take off is the Tipping Point.
- Green, John. **Looking for Alaska**. Dutton, 2005. At sixteen, Miles Halter transfers to a boarding school in Alabama and develops friendships with Chip and Alaska, a girl who leads them into pranks and schemes with serious consequences. Printz Award 2006
- Greenblatt, Stephen. **Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare**. Norton, 2004. A noted scholar describes the influences on Shakespeare and the steps in his becoming the great poet and playwright of the English language.
- Gruen, Sara. **Water for Elephants: A Novel**. Algonquin, 2006. Jacob Jankowski, a penniless orphan forced to drop out of veterinary school during the Great Depression, joins a traveling circus. He forges a bond with Rosie the elephant and Marlena, the beautiful star of an equestrian act, whose husband is a handsome circus boss with a violent temper. Alex Awards 2007
- Haley, Alex. **The Autobiography of Malcolm X**. First published 1965. If there was any one man who articulated the anger, the struggle, and the beliefs of African Americans in the 1960s, that man was Malcolm X. His autobiography is the result of a unique collaboration between Alex Haley and Malcolm X, whose voice and philosophy resonate from every page.
- Hall, Donald. **White Apples and the Taste of Stone: Selected Poems, 1946-2006**. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. In this representative work, the Poet Laureate collects 226 poems from sixty celebrated years of published writing.
- Hamamura, John. **The Color of the Sea**. St Martin's, 2006. Sam, a Hawaii-born Japanese American, meets and falls in love with Keiko, daughter of traditional Japanese parents. The bombing of Pearl Harbor and the subsequent dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima bring unforeseen consequences into their lives. Alex Awards 2007
- Hosseini, Khaled. **The Kite Runner**. Riverhead, 2003. Amir, haunted by his shocking betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a Taliban official.
- Hyland, M. J. **Carry Me Down**. Canongate, 2006. With the body of a grown man and the voice of a giant, eleven-year-old John Egan is convinced of his ability to detect lies and is obsessed with keeping track of them until a crisis arises.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Isaacson, Walter. ***Einstein: His Life and Universe***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. The life of Einstein the man and celebrated scientist is explored, including some of the contradictions inherent in Einstein's personal beliefs.
- Ishiguro, Kazuo. ***Never Let Me Go***. Knopf, 2005. A dark secret lurks behind the nurturing façade of Hailsham, a private school in the English countryside where Kathy, now thirty-one years old, lived as a child. Alex Awards 2006
- James, Henry. ***Washington Square***. First published 1881. Loss of innocence and strength of character are revealed as the story of a rigid father, a naïve daughter, and a handsome suitor unfolds. In drama and film, this classic tale is also known as "The Heiress."
- Jin, Ha. ***Waiting***. Pantheon, 1999. For seventeen years, Lin Kong, a devoted and ambitious Chinese doctor, has been in love with Manna Wu, an educated, modern woman. He has repeatedly and unsuccessfully tried to divorce the compliant wife his family chose for him back in his home village. National Book Award 1999
- Krakauer, Jon. ***Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith***. Doubleday, 2003. On July 24, 1983, a woman and her infant daughter were murdered by two brothers who believed they were ordered to kill by God. The roots of their crime lie deep in the history of an American religion practiced by millions.
- Kurson, Robert. ***Shadow Divers: True Adventures of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II***. Random House, 2004. Two weekend scuba divers flirt with danger and intrigue in their six-year quest to learn more about a sunken World War II German U-boat they discovered sixty miles off the New Jersey coast. Alex Awards 2005
- Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***The Namesake***. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. Gogol Ganguli, grows up in Cambridge, Massachusetts with his immigrant family, resenting both his strange name and the Indian culture imposed by his family.
- Larson, Erik. ***Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America***. Crown, 2003. The fates of an architect and a serial killer were linked by the greatest fair in American history: the Chicago World's Exposition of 1893, nicknamed "The White City." Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime 2004
- Le Couteur, Penny and Jay Burreson. ***Napoleon's Buttons: 17 Molecules That Changed History***. Putnam, 2003. Chemically, tin falls apart in very cold temperatures. That Napoleon's army used tin for many ordinary items, such as buttons, may have hastened his defeat by the Russian Army. This and sixteen additional stories illustrate the impact of chemistry on history.
- Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. ***Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything***. William Morrow, 2005. Using analytical tools from economics, the authors find quirky ways to tie economics to a range of emotional forces affecting human behavior, from cheating sumo wrestlers to the relative dangers of guns versus swimming pools.
- Lewis, Michael. ***The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game***. Norton, 2006. The development of the offensive left tackle position to protect a quarterback in the National Football League is presented in combination with the story of Michael Oher, who lived in a Memphis ghetto until he was taken under protection of a wealthy, loving family. Alex Awards 2007



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Lynch, Chris. ***Inexcusable***. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Because he thinks of himself as a “good guy,” senior football star Keir Sarafian is able to rationalize the tackle that cripples an opponent, his recreational drinking, his defacement of a town statue, and the date rape of Gigi Boudakian.
- Márai, Sándor. ***Embers***. Knopf, 2001. In 1940, in an old castle in the Carpathian Mountains, two very old men, Konrad and Henrik, meet together to examine questions of honor, truth, friendship, and forgiveness as they discuss the betrayal that separated them for more than 40 years.
- Margonelli, Lisa. ***Oil on the Brain: Adventures from the Pump to the Pipeline***. Doubleday, 2007. A journalist visited domestic oil industry insiders from the drilling rig to the independent gas station and traveled to international producers. The results of her journeys and research are lively anecdotes and descriptions of the history and politics of the global oil industry.
- Martinez, A. Lee. ***Gil’s All Fright Diner***. Tor, 2005. Vampire Earl and Werewolf Duke stop at a diner in the desert town of Rockwood, Texas, where they help Loretta dispose of her zombie problem and agree to stay on to help the town with its other supernatural issues. Alex Awards 2006
- McCarthy, Cormac. ***The Road***. Knopf, 2006. In a post apocalyptic landscape a man and a boy struggle toward the unknown. This dark and doomed quest offers a spiritual sense of soul and humanity. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2007
- McDermott, Alice. ***Child of My Heart***. Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2002. Theresa, the beautiful child of older parents, lives on Long Island among the summer houses of the rich. She is the town’s most sought-after babysitter because she is cheerful, poised, an effortless storyteller, and a wonder with children and animals, but she is also a solitary soul already attuned to the paradoxes and compromises of adult life.
- McEwan, Ian. ***Atonement: A Novel***. Doubleday, 2001. The lives of three people are changed forever by a young girl’s scheming imagination during the summer of 1935. National Book Critics Circle Award 2002
- Meyers, Kent. ***The Work of Wolves***. Harcourt, 2004. A Lakota teenager and a German exchange student join a horse trainer to save a group of abused horses from a land baron. Alex Awards 2005
- Mitchell, David. ***Black Swan Green: A Novel***. Random House, 2006. During a pivotal year in his life, Jason Taylor, a thirteen-year-old English boy, battles his stammer, his place amongst his bullying peers, and his parents’ divorce. A challenging book that could be paired with *The Lord of the Flies*. Alex Awards 2007
- Moehringer, J. R. ***The Tender Bar: A Memoir***. Hyperion, 2005. While growing up, young J.R. found his male role models among the flamboyant characters who were regulars at Publicans, a Long Island bar owned by his uncle.
- Morrison, Toni. ***The Bluest Eye***. First published 1969. A young Black girl yearns for beautiful blue eyes like the little white girls she sees in this Nobel Prize-winning author’s novel.
- Neruda, Pablo. ***Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair***. First published 1924. This collection of romantic poems was originally published when the Nobel Laureate was just nineteen.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Packer, Z. Z. ***Drinking Coffee Elsewhere***. Riverhead, 2003. Eight short stories revolve around young African Americans, from little girls in a Brownie troop to a young man accompanying his father on the Million Man March.
- Palwick, Susan. ***The Necessary Beggar***. Tor, 2005. The young merchant Darroti and his family are banished to a harsh and hostile land known as America, where they are remanded to an internment camp in the Nevada desert along with thousands of other refugees. The strain of adapting to their new life begins to tear the family apart. Alex Awards 2006
- Pamuk, Orhan. ***Snow***. Knopf/Random House, 2004. Upon returning from exile to the city of Kars, a Turkish poet named Ka discovers that Ipek, the beautiful girl he loved as a child, is still there and that a rash of suicides by zealously religious girls has shocked the town. Author won Nobel Prize for Literature 2006.
- Philbrick, Nathaniel. ***Mayflower: a Story of Courage, Community, and War***. Viking, 2006. Philbrick's historical account of the Pilgrims preparations, voyages, and colonial settlements in New England convey a realistic and lively story of remarkable events.
- Picoult, Jodi. ***Nineteen Minutes***. Atria, 2007. The residents of a small, ordinary New Hampshire town seek justice in the aftermath of a shocking school shooting carried out by a teenage boy who had been bullied since kindergarten.
- Pink, Daniel H. ***A Whole New Mind: Why Right Brainers Will Rule the Future***. Riverhead, 2005. The future belongs to a different kind of person with a different kind of mind: artists, inventors, storytellers—creative and holistic "right-brain" thinkers whose abilities mark the fault line between who gets ahead and who doesn't.
- Plath, Sylvia. ***The Bell Jar***. First published 1963. This autobiographical novel describes an ambitious and brilliant young woman's search for values and her eventual breakdown. The 2004 edition includes additional poems.
- Reed, Kit. ***Thinner than Thou***. Tor, 2005. In a clever science fiction take on our culture's pursuit of youth and physical perfection as the new true religion, food—not sex—is society's forbidden fruit.
- Roth, Philip. ***The Plot Against America***. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. In this semi-autobiographical fantasy, Charles Lindbergh defeats President Roosevelt in the 1940 Presidential election and then acts on his anti-Semitic leanings.
- Saramago, Jose. ***The Cave***. Harcourt, 2000. Cipriano Algor, a Portuguese potter, finds his business crumbling, moves in with his daughter and son-in-law but discovers a Utopia with mysterious places and agendas. Following the themes of Plato's story *The Cave*, this tale's social and political critiques mirror modern day values. Nobel Laureate writer.
- See, Lisa. ***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan: A Novel***. Random House, 2005. Snow Flower and Lily find solace in their bond of friendship as they face isolation, arranged marriage, motherhood, and loss in nineteenth-century China.
- Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. ***One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich***. Knopf, 1995. Although innocent of any crime, Ivan Denisovich Shukhov is convicted of treason and sentenced to serve ten years in a Soviet work camp in Siberia.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Steinbeck, John. ***The Grapes of Wrath***. First published 1939. Forced out of their home in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl by economic desperation, a family of Okie farmers drives west to California in search of work as migrant fruit pickers. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1940.
- Steinhofel, Andreas. ***Center of the World***. Delacorte, 2005. Seventeen-year-old Phil, growing up in a provincial German town, learns to cope with his homosexuality, an unconventional mother, a willful twin sister, an unknown father, and betrayal by his best friend Katja.
- Sullivan, Robert. ***Rats: Observations on the History and Habitat of the City's Most Unwanted Inhabitants***. Bloomsbury, 2004. Sullivan overlays his observations and study of the brown rat onto the history of New York City in a narrative which details the rat's seemingly inexhaustible number of connections to mankind.
- Thoreau, Henry David. ***Walden***. First published 1854. His observations on nature and life were penned during the author's solitary stay at Walden Pond, outside Concord, Massachusetts, from 1845 to 1847.
- Tolan, Sandy. ***The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East***. Bloomsbury, 2006. An account of the Israeli and Palestinian conflicts is compiled from interviews with Arab and Israeli families and bound together with the fragile symbol of the lemon tree as hope for peace in these troubled lands.
- Turgenev, Ivan. ***Fathers and Sons***. First published 1862. In this portrayal of conflicts between the older aristocratic generation and the new Russian intelligentsia of the nineteenth century, a young graduate student returns home accompanied, much to the discomfort of his father and uncle, by a friend who does not acknowledge any authorities and who refuses to accept any principle on faith.
- Tyler, Anne. ***Digging to America***. Knopf, 2006. Two Korean babies are flown to Baltimore and adopted into very different American families. Each experiences acculturation, family life, contrasting ideas of what is important, and two very different approaches to adolescence, all the while sharing birthday and holiday celebrations.
- Walls, Jeannette. ***The Glass Castle***. Scribner's, 2005. The successful gossip columnist, who "made it" against all odds, shares her astonishing memoir of a childhood lived in a seriously dysfunctional, but uniquely vibrant, family. Alex Awards 2006
- Weber, Katherine. ***Triangle: A Novel***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006. The death of the last survivor of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire raises questions about the event for her granddaughter and ultimately reveals long-hidden secrets in this historical fiction account.
- Wiggins, Marianne. ***The Shadow Catcher***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Two fictional threads are woven from real people and facts—the photographer Edward Curtis (1868-1952) who documented Native Americans of the early 20th century and the character depicted as the author's father, John Wiggins (1920-1970), a fellow wanderer in a later era.
- Wilson, August. ***Fences***. Plume, 1986. In the pre-television, pre-air-conditioned era of the fifties when families spent time on their porches and back yards, Troy Maxson, a tough Black man who has struggled against the reality of unequal opportunities in America, spins yarns and tells stories to his circle of family and friends in this play about fences, which are built to keep things and people out or in. Pulitzer Prize for Drama 1987

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 11 and Grade 12

- Wilson, Edward O. ***The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth***. Norton, 2006. Wilson, a lifelong biologist, is the world's expert on insects, particularly ants. After many years of teaching at Harvard and studying all over the world, he fears environmental disaster is looming and asks that science and religion join together to avoid environmental collapse of the planet.
- Wright, Lawrence. ***The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11***. Knopf, 2006. A sweeping narrative history of the events leading to 9/11 features a groundbreaking look at the people and ideas, the terrorist plans, and the Western intelligence failures that culminated in the assault on America. Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction 2007
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***American Born Chinese***. First Second, 2006. A graphic novel depicts Chinese myths and legends that influence the life of a high school boy as he struggles to fit in with his peers. Printz Award 2007.
- Zusak, Markus. ***The Book Thief***. Knopf, 2006. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl, whose book stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family, the Jewish man they are hiding, and her neighbors. National Jewish Book Award 2006
- 

Compiled by:

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## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 5

### HAISLN

### Recommended Reading List

2008

### 5th grade

2008

For many years, summer reading has been an essential part of an AOS education. Incoming students to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are expected to read four books over the summer including **two** required books: *Our Only May Amelia* by Jennifer Holm (ISBN 0064408566) AND *How I Came to be a Writer* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (ISBN 00689838875). They should select two additional books from the HAISLN list for 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The Fifth Grade teachers will begin the school year with discussions of common themes in these required books, and students will be expected to report the title of the self-selected books during the first week of school.



Compiled by:  
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AOS Library staff assisted  
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Preschool-Grade 12 Lists.

<http://www.haisln.org/ReadingLists.htm>

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The Texas Bluebonnet Award  
<http://www.txla.org/groups/tba/nominees.html> is voted by children in Texas in grades 3-6 each January from a list of 20 nominees. The list is selected by librarians across the state from recently published books. In order to vote, a child must read at least five of the nominees. AOS third, fourth, and fifth grade students will be voting next January. Students may enjoy to read titles from this list as part of their summer reading requirement. The list is included here.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 5**

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable*

Allen, Thomas B. **George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War.** National Geographic, 2004. This illustrated biography of the Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focuses on his use of spies to gather the intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.

Armstrong, Alan W. **Whittington.** Random House, 2005. Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.

Avi. **Never Mind! : A Twin Novel.** HarperCollins, 2004. Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.

Balliett, Blue. **The Wright 3.** Scholastic, 2006. Spring semester at the Lab School in Hyde Park finds Petra and Calder drawn into another mystery when unexplainable accidents and ghostly happenings throw a spotlight on Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House, and it's up to the two junior sleuths to piece together the clues. Sequel to *Chasing Vermeer*.

Bode, N.E. **The Somebodies.** HarperCollins, 2006. Continuing her magical adventures, Fern travels with Howard to an underground city to save the Anybodies from the horrible Blue Queen who sucks the souls out of books.

Carman, Patrick. **Atherton.** Little Brown, 2007. Edgar, a natural climber, discovers a mysterious book and goes on a fast-paced adventure to discover what is happening to Atherton, a man-made multi-level world orbiting earth.

Cheng, Andrea. **Shanghai Messenger.** Lee & Low, 2005. A free-verse novel about eleven year-old Xiao Mei's visit with her extended family in China, where the Chinese-American girl not only finds many differences, but also the similarities that bind a family together.

Choldenko, Jennifer. **Al Capone Does My Shirts.** Putnam, 2004. A twelve-year old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. Newbery Honor.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 5

Codell, Esmé Raji. **Sahara Special.** Hyperion, 2003. Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.

Coville, Bruce. **William Shakespeare's Hamlet.** Dial, 2004. A simplified prose retelling of Shakespeare's play about the prince of Denmark who seeks revenge for his father's murder.

Creech, Sharon. **Heartbeat.**

Joanna Cotler, 2004. Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

DiCamillo, Kate. **The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.**

Dutton, 2006. Baseball is in eleven-year-old Felix Piloto's blood. His Cuban father plays professionally, but Felix knows little else about him. When he runs away to serve as a batboy for a professional baseball team, Felix ultimately discovers his father's story, as well as his love for his mother, a dog, and of course, the game.

Dutton, 2006. Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

Dixon, Dougal. **The Future Is Wild.** Firefly Books, 2002. This companion book to the Animal Planet series uses a variety of scientific principles to imagine how life on planet Earth may evolve over the next 200 million years.

Frederick, Heather Vogel. **For Your Paws Only.** Simon & Schuster, 2005. In this "James Bond"-style story, mice and humans save the world from rats.

Florian, Douglas. **Omnibeasts.** Harcourt, 2004. In this treasure chest of wit and charm, the author weaves information into each poem, combining fun and fact. This collection of poems and art is selected from the author's whimsical, pun-filled previous books

George, Jean Craighead. **Charlie's Raven.** Dutton, 2004. Having heard from his Teton Sioux Indian friend that ravens can cure people, Charlie brings home a baby raven in hopes of helping his ailing grandfather, setting the stage for a learning experience that brings new life to everyone in his family.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 5

Giff, Patricia Reilly. ***Willow Run***. Random House, 2005. Set during World War II, eleven-year-old Meggie learns about different kinds of bravery from all of the people around her after moving with her parents to Willow Run, Michigan, where her father gets a job in the B-24 bomber-building factory.

Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Tales of the Cryptids***. Darby Creek Publishing, 2006. Be the judge: are the many mysterious and legendary animals including Bigfoot and assorted sea serpents real based on the descriptions, photographs and drawings?

Hobbs, Will. ***Jackie's Wild Seattle***. HarperCollins, 2003. Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother, Cody, spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle.

Gutman, Dan. ***Satch and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure***.

HarperCollins, 2006. With his ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe takes Flip with him to find out whether Satchel Paige really was the fastest pitcher ever.

Haven, Paul. ***Two Hot Dogs with Everything***. Random, 2006.

Although everyone credits him and his superstitions for the Sluggers' first winning streak in 108 baseball seasons, eleven-year-old Danny Gurkin believes his discovery of a secret from the team's past is the real reason for the team's success.

Horvath, Polly. ***The Pepins and Their Problems***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family's unusual problems, which include having a cow that creates lemonade rather than milk and having to cope with a competitive neighbor.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Just Ella***. Simon & Schuster, 1999.

Fifteen-year old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in such a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette that she plots her escape.

Ibbotson, Eva. ***Haunting of Granite Falls***. Penguin, 2005.

When twelve-year old Alex's Scottish castle of Carra is sold, dismantled, and moved to Texas, the ghosts that raised him from a child have difficulty relocating.

Hannigan, Katherine. ***Ida B: ...And Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World***. Greenwillow, 2004. In Wisconsin, Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 5

- Jackson, Donna. M. ***ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room***. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. This book discusses the life in an animal ER hospital, from the point of view of the veterinarians, the vet technicians, the owners, and their pets.
- Karr, Kathleen. ***Exiled: Memoirs of a Camel***. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. This first-person narrative is told from a camel's viewpoint. He tells how he was sent from Egypt to serve in the United States Camel Corps and of his life on the Mojave Desert before and during the Civil War.
- Konigsberg, E.L. ***The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place***. Atheneum, 2004. Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.
- Koppes, Steven N. ***Killer Rocks from Outer Space: Asteroids, Comets, and Meteorites***. Lerner, 2004. Describes the role that collisions with meteors, comets, and asteroids have played in the history of Earth and other planets in the solar system and examines what is being done to protect Earth from future collisions.
- Kraske, Robert. ***Marooned: The Strange but True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk, the Real Robinson Crusoe***. Clarion, 2005. Presents the story of Scottish mariner Alexander Selkirk and his experiences while marooned on a South Pacific island for four years.
- Lasky, Kathryn. ***The Man Who Made Time Travel***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. The need for sailors to be able to determine their position at sea led to the efforts of John Harrison, an eighteenth-century man who spent his life refining instruments to enable them to do this.
- Montgomery, Sy. ***The Quest for the Tree Kangaroo***. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Wonderful color photographs and an excellent text provide details of the search for the tree kangaroo in Papua New Guinea's cloud forest.
- Morgan, Clay. ***The Boy Who Spoke Dog***. Penguin, 2005. After being marooned on an island near New Zealand, Jack, an orphaned cabin boy from San Francisco, becomes allied with a group of dogs that protect the local sheep from wild dogs.
- Kerley, Barbara. ***Walt Whitman: Words for America***. Scholastic, 2004. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief after Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 5

Morpurgo, Michael. ***Beowulf***. Candlewick, 2006. An illustrated retelling of the oldest English epic, Beowulf, in which a Norse hero saves Denmark's royal house from monsters, and then his own house from dragons.

Riordan, Rick. ***The Lightning Thief***. Hyperion, 2005. Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is literally a Greek god. Percy is sent to Camp Half blood where he is befriended by a satyr and begins a journey to retrieve Zeus' lightning bolt. First of a series.

Sidman, Joyce. ***This is Just to Say***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. A collection of poems written by a number of sixth grade students as poems of apology to someone, and a collection of poetic responses to the apologies.

Napoli, Donna Jo. ***The King of Mulberry Street***. Wendy Lamb, 2005. When nine-year-old Beniamino, a Jewish boy from Naples, is smuggled onto a ship, he assumes his mother is also on the ship. When he ends up alone in New York, he has to deal with his fear and sadness on the one hand and figure out how to get food and shelter on the other as he makes his way in the New World

Roberts, Willo Davis. ***Hostage***. Simon & Schuster, 2001. When eleven-year-old Kaci interrupts burglars in the process of robbing her house, she and her nosy elderly neighbor Mrs. Banducci are kidnapped and held hostage by the desperate and ruthless criminals.

Springer, Nancy. ***Rowan Hood Returns: The Final Chapter***. Philomel, 2005. When she finds out who murdered her mother, Celandine, Rowan Hood returns to her former home to seek revenge.

Peck, Richard. ***On the Wings of Heroes***. Dial, 2007. Davy Bowman has two heroes: his dad who fought in World War I and his brother who is in the Air Force now, during World War II.

Selznick, Brian. ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret***. Scholastic, 2007. Hugo Cabret, a clever mechanically-minded orphan living in Paris in the 1930's, has fascinating secrets and amazing adventures in the train station where he lives. Sequences of text and drawings combine to tell this suspenseful tale. Caldecott Medal 2008.

St. John, Lauren. ***The White Giraffe***. Dial, 2007. After losing her parents in a tragic fire, eleven-year-old Martine must live with a grandmother she has never met on a wildlife preserve in Africa, where she learns about a mystical white giraffe.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 5

Stone, Jeff. **Crane**. Random, 2007.

In this fourth in a Kung Fu series set in China in the mid-seventeenth century, twelve-year-old Hok is disguised as a boy for most of her life but must assume her proper identity to save her brothers' lives in the notorious Jinan City Fight Club.

White, Ruth. **Buttermilk Hill**.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. When her parents divorce and gradually begin to make new lives for themselves, Piper faces the difficult changes by finding solace and a means of self-expression through her poetry.

Wiles, Deborah. **Each Little Bird**

**that Sings**. Harcourt, 2005. Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the funeral parlor in their small southern town, but even so, the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events triggered by the sudden death of her beloved great-uncle Edisto.

Townley, Roderick. **The Great Good Thing**. Atheneum, 2001.

Nothing ever changes inside the storybook kingdom inhabited by twelve-year-old Princess Sylvie, her parents, and many other characters until Sylvie discovers that by allying herself with the Reader she can experience new adventure beyond the confines of the book. Sequel is *Into the Labyrinth: a Novel*.

Walker, Alice. **Langston Hughes**,

**American Poet**. HarperCollins, 2002. An illustrated biography of the Harlem poet whose works gave voice to the joy and pain of the black experience in America.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 6

#### HAISLN

### Recommended Reading List

2008

#### 6th grade

2008



Compiled by:  
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Aria Tatelman, *Duchesne Academy*

AOS Library is a member of the  
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AOS Library staff assisted  
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Preschool-Grade 12 Lists.

<http://www.haisln.org/ReadingLists.htm>

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For many years, summer reading has been an essential part of an AOS education. Incoming students to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are expected to read four books over the summer. Two of the four are required books: *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls (ISBN 0440412676) and *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi (ISBN 9780380728855). Students must select two additional age-appropriate books. The HAISLN list for 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grades is a good source for these free choice titles. The HAISLN Recommended Reading List will be available beginning April 20 on the AOS web site <http://www.aoshouston.org>. Look under "Library" for "Booklists". For your convenience, we also include with this letter a paper copy of the appropriate section of the list for your convenience.

The Texas Bluebonnet Award

<http://www.txla.org/groups/tba/nominees.html> is voted by children in Texas in grades 3-6 each January from a list of 20 nominees. The list is selected by librarians across the state from recently published books. In order to vote, a child must read at least five of the nominees. AOS third, fourth, and fifth grade students will be voting next January. Students may enjoy to read titles from this list as part of their summer reading requirement. The list is included here.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 6

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

Allen, Thomas B. ***Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War.*** National Geographic, 2006. Tells the story of Harriet Tubman and other slaves and free African-Americans who risked death to gather information about the Confederacy for the Union during the Civil War.

Avi. ***The Book Without Words: A Fable of Medieval Magic.*** Hyperion, 2005. Sybil is a servant girl working for Thorston, an alchemist, who has spent his life trying to figure out the secret to immortality, which can be found in *The Book without Words*. Just as he is about to succeed, he drops dead, leaving Sybil and Odo, a talking raven, to reap the rewards of his work.

Compstine. ***Revolution is Not a Dinner Party.*** Holt, 2007. During the Cultural Revolution in China, Ling struggles to make sense of severe losses of freedom and injustices that both she and her well-educated family must endure.

Allison, Jennifer. ***Gilda Joyce.*** Dutton, 2005. During the summer before ninth grade, intrepid Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his thirteen-year-old daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower.

Barry, Dave. ***Peter and the Starcatchers.*** Hyperion, 2004. Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep a secret trunk full of "starstuff" from falling into the hands of the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin.

Cooper, Susan. ***Victory.*** McElderry, 2006. Molly, upset by her family's move from London to the U.S., is strangely drawn to an old book about the life of Admiral Lord Nelson, and soon finds her life intertwined with that of Sann, a boy her age who served with Nelson aboard the HMS "Victory" a century earlier.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Feuer, 1793.*** Simon & Schuster, 2000. In 1793, Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, who is separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Birdsall, Jeanne. ***The Penderwicks, A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy.*** Knopf, 2005. Four lovable sisters and their father spend their summer vacation in the Berkshire Mountains. While there, they share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of their snobbish mother.

Couloumbis, Audrey. ***Maude Marche on the Run!*** Random, 2007. Due to a misunderstanding over her involvement in a botched robbery, Maude with younger sister Sallie hides out at the home of an uncle until she is discovered and arrested. The sisters flee across the Wild West of the late nineteenth century in a madcap series of adventures.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 6

- Curlee, Lynn. ***Seven Wonders of the Ancient World***. Atheneum, 2002. This book explores the mystery and wonder associated with the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Colossus of Rhodes, the Great Pyramid at Giza, and other incredible structures from ancient times.
- Cushman, Karen. ***Rodzina***. Clarion, 2003. A twelve-year-old Polish American girl is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid slavery.
- Durrant. ***My Last Skirt***. Clarion, 2006. Jennie Rodgers, a poor Irish immigrant girl, disguises herself as a boy to survive in the New York City of the 1850's. She escapes from New York to go to Ohio, and enlists as a Union soldier in the Civil War, and lives to draw her soldier's pension.
- Fleischman, Sid. ***Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini***. Greenwillow, 2006. Born Ehrich Weiss into a poor and struggling family, Harry Houdini sought out fame and went on to perform some of the world's most astonishing magic tricks. Houdini's is a classic rags to riches story with plenty of personality to spare.
- Funke, Cornelia Caroline. ***Inkspell***. Scholastic, 2005. In this sequel to *Inkheart*, Meggie finds herself more and more drawn to the world of the book *Inkheart*, and longs to go there. She gets a chance when the fire-eater's apprentice, Farid, comes to her with a request to read him into the story using the script written by a mysterious man named Orpheus.
- George, Jessica Day. ***Dragon Slippers***. Bloomsbury, 2007. Creel, a poor but brave and clever orphan, befriends a dragon and selects a pair of remarkable slippers that lead her into the center of a struggle between longtime rivals.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly. ***Water Street***. Wendy Lamb Books, 2006. As the Brooklyn Bridge is being built, Bird Mallon and her new neighbor Thomas try to make decisions about what they will do with their lives.
- Hjaasen, Carl. ***Flush***. Knopf, 2005. With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.
- Ibbotson, Eva. ***Journey to the River Sea***. Dutton, 2001. Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River.
- Johnson, Angela. ***Bird***. Dial, 2004. Devastated by the loss of a second father, thirteen-year-old Bird follows her stepfather from Cleveland to Alabama in hopes of convincing him to come home, and along the way helps two boys cope with their difficulties.
- Feiler, Bruce. ***Walking the Bible***. HarperCollins, 2004. An illustrated journey for kids through the greatest stories ever told. The author describes his journey through places mentioned in the Old Testament.



HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008  
Grade 6

- Kadonata, Cynthia. ***Kira-Kira***. Atheneum, 2004. This is the story of a close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill. Newbery Medal
- Lester, Julius. ***Day of Tears***. Hyperion, 2005. This powerful and engaging historical novel is told in dialogue and through monologues by various fictional characters as they look back at the largest slave auction in United States history. Coretta Scott King Award
- Levine, Ellen. ***Catch a Tiger by the Toe***. Viking, 2005. In the Bronx, New York, during the McCarthy era, twelve-year old Jamie keeps a terrible secret about her family, but when the truth is exposed, her parents lose their jobs and she is fired from the school newspaper.
- Matthews, L. S. ***Fish***. Delacorte, 2004. As fighting closes in on the village where Tiger's parents have been working, the three of them and a mysterious guide set out on a difficult journey to safety.
- McCaughreen, Geraldine (retold by). ***Odysseus***. Cricket, 2004. Odysseus begins his long journey home after years of fighting during the Trojan War, but he and his men encounter monsters and ghastly creatures, are imprisoned, and face raging seas that threaten their safe return.
- McClafferty. ***Something out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006. This biography of Marie Curie covers her childhood in Poland, her studies in France, her happy marriage, and her discovery of radium which led to two Nobel Prizes.
- McKay, Hilary. ***Saffy's Angel***. Margaret K. McElderry, 2002. Thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes when she finds out she was adopted, until they help her return to her birthplace in Italy to bring back a special memento of her past.
- Meltzer, Milton. ***Ten Kings: And the Worlds They Ruled***. Orchard, 2002. Presents illustrated profiles of ten legendary kings who used their power to change the course of history, including Hammurabi, King David, Kublai Khan, and others.
- Miller, Sarah. ***Miss Spitfire***. Atheneum, 2007. This is Annie Sullivan's story of challenge and determination as she tries to become a teacher of the child Helen Keller who is blind, deaf, and overindulged by her desperate parents.
- Lawrence, Caroline. ***The Pirates of Pompeii***. Roaring Brook Press, 2003. At a refugee camp following the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius which buried Pompeii, Flavia and her friends discover that children are disappearing and a very powerful citizen might be involved.
- Ketchum, Lisa. ***Into a New Country: Eight Remarkable Women of the West***. Little, Brown, 2000. Born into different cultures and backgrounds, each of these eight women challenged the rules and broke the barriers set down for women of their time. Their extraordinary lives offer inspiring examples of courage and determination.
- Klages, Ellen. ***The Green Glass Sea***. Viking, 2006. In 1943 when her grandmother is incapacitated by a stroke, Dewey must move to "The Hill", now known as Los Alamos, New Mexico, because her father is a brilliant mathematician working there on a secret army project.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 6

Murphy, Jim. ***A Young Patriot: The American Revolution As Experienced By One Boy***. Clarion, 1995. Joseph Plumb Martin, who enlisted in the summer of 1776 at the age of fifteen, details key battles and the life of a soldier during the American Revolution in this memoir retold by Jim Murphy.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***The Greatest: Muhammad Ali***. Scholastic, 2001. A biography of one of the world's greatest boxers chronicles his childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battle against Parkinson's disease.

Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Bound***. Atheneum, 2004. In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well.

Nelson, Marilyn. ***Carver: A Life in Poems***. Front Street, 2001. A collection of poems provides a portrait of the life of African-American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver.

Newbery, Linda. ***At the Firefly Gate***. D. Fickling, 2004. After moving to Suffolk with his parents, Henry meets Grace and her great-aunt, and he sees another Henry, one who flew for the RAF in 1943, waiting at "the Firefly Gate" for his girl.

Nye, Naomi Shihab, ed. ***Is This Forever or What?: Poems and Paintings from Texas***. Greenwillow, 2004. Full-color artwork accompanies a collection of poems by 140 Texans.

Papademetriou, Lisa. ***Sixth Grade Glommers, Norks, and Me***. Hypertion, 2005. Allie Kimball discovers that middle school is a very different place than fifth grade and struggles to learn ways to fit in.

Peck, Richard. ***The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts***. Dial, 2004. In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies" and Russell's older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse.

Rex, Adam. ***The True Meaning of Snekday***. Hypertion, 2007. Aliens called "The Boov" abduct Gratuity "Tip" Tucci's mother, leading Tip to begin a wild adventure to rescue her mother with the help of her cat named "pig" and a friendly Boov named J.Lo.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. ***Becoming Naomi Leon***. Scholastic, 2004. When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

Sidman, Joyce. ***Eureka! : Poems about Inventors***. Millbrook, 2002. In sixteen poems, the lives about famous and relatively unknown inventors from ancient times to the present are told from the inventor's point of view.

Skye, Obert. ***Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo***. Shadow Mountain, 2005. Fate brings fourteen-year-old Leven Thumps and thirteen-year-old Winter together as they discover that, for mankind to continue dreaming, the gateway between reality and the land of dreams and hopes must be found and demolished.



## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008

### Grade 6

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. ***The Unseen***. Delacorte, 2004. Feeling angry and out of place in her large family, twelve-year-old Xandra finds a magical key to a world of ghosts, sometimes frightening, phantoms that help her see herself and her siblings more clearly.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***Swear to Howdy***. Knopf, 2003. Two thirteen-year-old boys share neighborhood adventures, complaints about their older sisters, family secrets, and even guilt that bind them together in a special friendship.

Velmans, Hester. ***Isabel of the Whales***. Delacorte, 2005. On a whale watch trip with her class off the coast of Cape Cod, Isabel, who has always had an affinity for whales, falls overboard and discovers as she finds herself swimming underwater with whales all around her that she is one of the Chosen who can change shape from human to whale and back again.

Warren, Andrea. ***Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. Chronicles the experiences of an orphaned half-Vietnamese, half-American boy from his birth and early childhood in Saigon, through his departure from Vietnam in the 1975 Operation Babylift, and his subsequent life as the adopted son of an American family in Ohio.

Whelan, Gloria. ***Chu Ju's House***. HarperCollins, 2004. In order to save her baby sister, fourteen-year-old Chu Ju leaves her rural home in modern China and earns food and shelter by working on a sampan, tending silk worms, and planting rice seedlings, all the while wondering if she will ever see her family again.

Whitehouse, Howard. ***The strictest school in the world : being the tale of a clever girl, a rubber boy and a collection of flying machines, mostly broken***. Kids Can, 2006. Fourteen-year-old Emmaline Cayley, a tomboy and flying machine inventor, has been sent to St. Grenilda's School for Girls with the hope that the school can make her into a lady.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. ***Counting on Grace***. Wendy Lamb, 2006. After twelve-year-old Grace is forced to leave school to work in a textile mill, she and her friend Arthur work with their teacher to have the laws changed.

### ***About the HAISLN Recommended Reading List***

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

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

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

Students may find that some titles that are required reading for their classes appear on this list. Be advised that if a book for required reading is selected for independent reading, it may have to be re-read with the class at a later date. This list is offered as one possible source of reading guidance. Additional lists of award winners and recommended books may be obtained from your school or public librarian. We hope that books from this list bring students many hours of enjoyment and encourage the life-long love of reading.

*Houston, Texas  
March, 2008*



**HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 7 and Grade 8**

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

- Abrahams, Peter. ***Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery***. Laura Geringer Books, 2005. Eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill idolizes Sherlock Holmes, so it is not surprising when, stumbling across a murder, she opts to keep what she knows a secret and tries to solve the crime herself. First in a series.
- Ahmedi, Farah with Tamin Ansary. ***The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky***. Simon Spotlight, 2005. Farah Ahmedi, a victim of a land mine at twelve, tells of her childhood before and during the Taliban rule in Afghanistan, and how she and her mother coped after coming to America.
- Batson, Wayne Thomas. ***The Door Within***. Thomas Nelson, 2005. Three ancient scrolls beckon high school student Aidan Thomas to enter a realm of knights, kings, and unusual creatures, but he must rely on instinct and his latent athletic ability to deal with the terror, tempest, and treason offered by this new world.
- Bauer, Joan. ***Best Foot Forward***. Putnam, 2005. This book continues the story from ***Rules of the Road***, about Jenna, Gladstone Shoes salesman extraordinaire, and her many personal and business challenges, now faced with unscrupulous business partners.
- Bell, Hilari. ***A Matter of Profit***. HarperCollins, 2001. Sick of the horrors of conquering beings on other planets, Ahvrem will end his service as a soldier and save his sister from an unhappy marriage if he can discover who is behind a rumored plot to assassinate the Emperor.
- Blackwood, Gary. ***The Shakespeare Stealer***. Dutton, 1998. A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of *Hamlet*.
- Bloor, Edward. ***Tangerine***. Harcourt, 1997. Twelve-year-old Paul's family revolves around his football-hero brother, failing to notice as Paul fights for the right to play soccer when disqualified by his bad eyesight.
- Bradley, James; adapted for young people by Michael French. ***Flags of our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima***. Delacorte, 2001. James Bradley examines the lives of the six young men (one of them Bradley's father) who raised the American flag over Iwo Jima in February 1945 and were immortalized by a famous photograph.
- Broach, Elise. ***Shakespeare's Secret***. Henry Holt and Company, 2005. Hero, named after the character in a Shakespeare play, moves into a new home and suddenly finds a connection between Shakespeare, her new home, a diamond hidden in the house with the help of a neighbor and a popular boy from school.
- Budhos, Marina. ***Ask Me No Questions***. Atheneum, 2006. After September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Nadira's Bangladesh family, living in New York City, become extremely anxious when their visas expire, leading to a series of actions and reactions that bring terror and sorrow.
- Cabot, Meg. ***All-American Girl***. HarperCollins, 2002. Sophomore Samantha Madison stops a presidential assassination attempt, is appointed teen ambassador to the United Nations, and catches the eye of the very cute First Son.

**HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 7 and Grade 8**

- Cadnum, Michael. ***Ship of Fire***. Viking Penguin, 2003. In 1587, sailing to Spain on board Sir Francis Drake's ship "Elizabeth Bonaventure," seventeen-year-old surgeon's apprentice Thomas Spyre finds that, with the sudden death of his master, he must take over as ship's surgeon and prove his skill not only as a doctor but also as a fighter when he is enlisted by Drake to face battle.
- Carbone, Elisa. ***Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607***. Viking, 2006. Samuel Collier comes to the New World as Captain John Smith's page: his experiences in the founding of Jamestown, and the evolving relationship with the Algonquin tribes nearby, make for a fascinating book with many details culled from first-hand accounts.
- Card, Orson Scott. ***Ender's Game***. Tor, 1984. Andrew "Ender" Wiggins, who spends his childhood at military school in outer space, believes he is playing computer-simulated war games; in fact, he is commanding the last great fleet of Earth. First in a science fiction series. Hugo Award; Nebula Award
- Chima, Cinda Williams. ***The Wizard Heir***. Hyperion, 2007. Sixteen-year-old Seph McCauley is sent to the Havens, a boys' school in Maine, after being kicked out of several private schools for his untrained magical powers; but his headmaster, Gregory Leicester, has his own mysterious agenda when he agrees to help Seth channel his magic. Sequel to: ***The Warrior Heir***.
- Christie, Agatha. ***A Pocket Full of Rye***. First published 1953. The wealthy Rex Fortescue falls dead at a normal tea shortly after partaking of the fare, and when the only clue is rye in his pocket, Miss Marple uses the old nursery rhyme "Sing a Song of Sixpence" to help solve the murder.
- Colfer, Eoin. ***Supernaturalist***. Hyperion, 2004. In the futuristic Satellite City, Cosmo Hill escapes from an orphanage, teams up with three other teens and tries to determine what the swarming blue creatures are that no one else seems to be able to see.
- Cooper, Michael. ***Dust to Eat: Drought and Depression in the 1930s***. Clarion, 2004. Michael Cooper focuses on the conditions of the people so affected by first the Great Depression and then the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, using photographs and literary quotations to highlight the text.
- Cooper, Susan. ***The Dark is Rising***. Margaret K. McElderry, 1973. On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark. ***Dark is Rising*** series. Newbery Honor
- Crossley-Holland, Kevin. ***The Seeing Stone***. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2001. During the late twelfth century, thirteen-year-old Arthur enjoys looking at the legendary King Arthur through his seeing stone, a gift from Merlin, and notices the parallels with his own life.
- Crowe, Chris. ***The Mississippi Trial, 1955***. Putnam Penguin, 2002. In Mississippi in 1955, a sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African-American from Chicago.
- Cummings, Priscilla. ***Red Kayak***. Dutton Children's Books, 2004. Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 7 and Grade 8**

- Deuker, Carl. **High Heat**. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. When sophomore Shane Hunter's father is arrested for money laundering at his Lexus dealership, the star pitcher's life of affluence and private school begins to fall apart.
- Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. **Sign of the Four**. First published 1890. Sherlock Holmes is asked by a Miss Morstan to investigate the strange disappearance of her father ten years ago, and why she has been receiving a beautiful and very large pearl for her birthday every year since!
- Ellis, Deborah. **Parvana's Journey**. Groundwood, 2002. Parvana buries her father and sets out across Afghanistan, dressed as a boy to protect against attacks from the Taliban, determined to find her mother and the rest of her family.
- Farmer, Nancy. **House of the Scorpion**. Atheneum, 2002. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.
- Feinstein, John. **Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery**. Knopf, 2005. Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson, eighth grade sports writers, uncover a blackmail mystery while covering the Final Four College Basketball Tournament.
- Fields, Terri. **After the Death of Anna Gonzalez**. Holt, 2002. Poems written in the voices of forty-seven people (including students, teachers, and other school staff) record the aftermath of a high school student's suicide and the preoccupations of teen life.
- Fletcher, Susan. **Shadow Spinner**. Atheneum, 1998. When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Scheherazade the stories which will save the queen's life.
- Fleischman, Paul. **Whirligig**. Holt, 1998. Brian travels to the four corners of the US to build a whirligig in memory of a girl he killed while he was driving drunk.
- Fox, Helen. **Eager**. Wendy Lamb, 2004. Eager, the Bell family's new robot is very different from all the other new robots in that it does learn from its experiences and it looks like the Michelin Man instead of all the sleek, but somewhat sinister robots that seem to be taking over.
- Frank, Mitch. **Understanding the Holy Land: Answering Questions about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**. Viking, 2005. Using basic questions and answers, the current conflict is explained in a balanced organized and understandable approach ending with some hopeful ways teens can add peace to their own lives.
- Gallo, Donald. **First Crossing: Stories about Teen Immigrants**. Candlewick, 2004. This is a collection of short, fictional stories about the extreme challenges often faced by many teen immigrants in America. Contributors are prominent authors of young-adult literature such as Pam Muñoz Ryan, Lindsey Namioka, David Lubar, and Elsa Marston.
- Gardner, Sally. **I, Coriander**. Dial, 2005. Coriander, a seventeenth century Londoner, finds herself friendless after her mother dies and her father leaves her to her Puritanical stepmother, or is she really a fairy like her mother?
- Grandits, John. **Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems**. Clarion, 2007. This is a collection of poems about a girl named Jessie, who mocks the school that she attends.

**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 7 and Grade 8**

- Grant, K.M. ***How the Hangman Lost His Heart***. Walker, 2007. When her Uncle Frank is executed for treason against England's King George in 1746 and his severed head is mounted on a pike for public viewing, daring Alice tries to reclaim the head for a proper burial, finding an unlikely ally in the soft-hearted executioner.
- Grimes, Nikki. ***The Road to Paris***. Putnam, 2006. Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, eight-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family but just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Double Identity***. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.
- Hale, Shannon. ***Princess Academy***. Bloomsbury, 2005. The king's priests divine that the prince must choose his bride from among the young girls who live in a small mountain village, and the girls are then ordered to attend a special academy established to train them in the ways of royalty. When bandits attempt to kidnap and hold the future princess as ransom, Miri, one of the mountain girls, realizes that she can mindspeak and saves herself and the others from harm. Newbery Honor 2006
- Hatch, Robert. ***The Hero Project***. McGraw-Hill, 2005. Brothers Robert and William Hatch embarked on an ambitious project of interviewing their modern-day heroes, asking them, "How have you made America a better place?" Interviewees include Lance Armstrong, Yo-Yo Ma, Jackie Chan, Madeleine L'Engle, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.
- Hobbs, Will. ***Wild man Island***. HarperCollins, 2002. After fourteen-year-old Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the wilderness site of his archaeologist father's death, a storm strands him on Admiralty Island, Alaska, where he manages to survive, encounters unexpected animal and human inhabitants, and looks for traces of the earliest prehistoric immigrants to America.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***Keeper of the Night***. Henry Holt & Co., 2003. Isabel, a thirteen-year-old girl living on the island of Guam, and her family try to cope with the death of Isabel's mother who committed suicide.
- Horowitz, Anthony. ***Stormbreaker***. Puffin Books, 2000. When his uncle dies, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is asked to continue in his uncle's footsteps—as a spy for the British intelligence agency.
- Hughes, Dean. ***Soldier Boys***. Atheneum, 2001. Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.
- Kerr, P.B. ***Children of the Lamp: The Akhenaten Adventure***. Orchard, 2004. Can John and Phillippa Gaunt, 12-year-old twins who have just discovered they are from a long line of djinn, be strong, skilled, and clever enough to outwit the most evil djinn in the universe!?
- Klass, David. ***Danger Zone***. Scholastic, 1996. When he joins a predominantly black "Teen Dream Team" that will be representing the United States in an international basketball tournament in Rome, Jimmy Doyle makes some unexpected discoveries about prejudice, racism, and politics.



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 7 and Grade 8**

- Kolosov, Jacqueline. *The Red Queen's Daughter*. Hyperion, 2007. Sixteen-year-old Mary Seymour, a white magician in Queen Elizabeth's court, has vowed never to fall in love, but her attraction to her darkly handsome cousin Edmund, a black magician who seems to understand her better than anyone, cannot be denied, and she finds her beliefs tested when he becomes involved in a plot against the queen.
- Konigsburg, E. L. *Silent to the Bone*. Atheneum, 2000. When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.
- Koss, Amy Goldman. *The Girls*. Dial, 2000. Individually the girls are proud to be part of the "in" clique, but some of them question the benefits of belonging to the group when they see through the charming but manipulative leader.
- Lawrence, Iain. *B for Buster*. Delacorte, 2004. Sixteen-year-old Kak, escaping his tyrannical parents, lies about his age and enlists in the Canadian Royal Air Force and soon finds himself based in England flying bombing raids over Germany.
- LeGuin, Ursula. *The Wizard of Earthsea*. First published 1968. After pride causes him to unleash a demon, Zed is compelled to chase or escape from the ever-pursuing shadow. *Earthsea Trilogy*
- Levine, Gail Carson. *Fairest*. Harper Collins, 2006. Aza who is *not* the fairest, is valued for her beautiful singing voice in this fairy tale that include gnomes, magic mirrors and a bumbling good fairy, Lucinda.
- Lisle, Janet Taylor. *Black Duck*. Philomel, 2006. When Ruben and Jed find a dead body on a Rhode Island beach they inadvertently become involved in a turf war between two rival liquor smuggling gangs during the prohibition era.
- Littman, Sarah Darer. *Confessions of a Closet Catholic*. Dutton Juvenile, 2005. Eleven-year-old Justine Silver has given up being Jewish for Lent. A series of events leads Justine to find faith in the most important place—herself.
- London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild*. First published 1931. Set during the Gold Rush, this is the story of Buck, a dog stolen from his home and transported to Alaska where he must survive in a pack of wolves.
- Lupica, Mike. *Heat*. Philomel Books, 2006. Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.
- Maguire, Gregory. *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister*. ReganBooks, 1999. A challenging and highly absorbing retelling of Cinderella set in 17<sup>th</sup> century Harleem (Holland).
- Martin, Ann M. *A Corner of the Universe*. Scholastic, 2002. The summer Hattie turns twelve, she meets Adam, a childlike uncle she never knew existed, and who lifts the corners of her universe. Newbery Honor
- Mazer, Harry. *Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor*. Simon & Schuster, 2001. While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and, through the chaos of the subsequent days, tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona.

**HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 7 and Grade 8**

- McKinley, Robin. ***Spindle's End***. Putnam, 2000. The infant princess Briar Rose is cursed on her name day by Pernicia, an evil fairy, and then whisked away by a young fairy to be raised in a remote part of a magical country, unaware of her real identity and hidden from Pernicia's vengeful powers.
- Meyers, Ann. ***Assassin***. Walker & Co., 2005. In alternating chapters, a young White House seamstress named Bella and the actor, John Wilkes Booth, give personal accounts of the days and events that lead up to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.
- Miklowitz, Gloria. ***Secrets in the House of Delgado***. Eerdmans, 2001. In Spain in 1492, fourteen-year-old Maria, a Catholic orphan, becomes a servant to a wealthy family of Conversos, converted Jews, at a time when the Jews are being expelled from the country and when the Inquisition is diligently searching for religious heretics.
- Murphy, Jim. ***An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793***. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. In 1793, a yellow fever epidemic swept through Philadelphia, creating chaos as people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services. Physicians, the Free African Society, and others stayed on to care for the sick.
- Namioka, Lensey. ***Ties That Bind, Ties That Break***. Delacorte 1999. Ailin, rebelling against the ancient Chinese tradition of binding girls' feet, loses her family's support and makes a new life in the United States.
- Nelson, Peter. ***Left for Dead. A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis***. Delacorte, 2002. Fifty years after the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, a young boy helps the survivors set the record straight, bringing to light the Navy cover-up and an unfair court-martial of the ship's captain.
- Nix, Garth. ***Abhorsen***. HarperCollins, 2003. Abhorsen-in-Waiting Lirael and Prince Sameth, a Wallmaker, must confront and bind the evil spirit Oranis before it can destroy all life. Sequel to: *Sabriel* and *Lirael*
- Nye, Naomi Shabib. ***You & Yours***. BOA Editions, 2005. Nye's poetry is firmly grounded in two geographical locations, small moments in her Texas home, and many larger themes in the Middle East, where part of her family hails from.
- Oppel, Kenneth. ***Airborne***. Eos, 2004. Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an enormous airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures and to fight pirates.
- Oppenheim, Joanne. ***Dear Miss Breed***. Scholastic, 2006. Through letters and photographs, this book illuminates the relationships between Clara Breed, a librarian in San Diego during World War II, and Japanese-American children being held in internment camps.
- Paolini, Christopher. ***Eragon***. Random House, 2003. In Aegaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.
- Park, Linda Sue. ***Project Mulberry, a novel***. Clarion, 2005. Korean-American seventh grader Julia Song learns a lot about friendship, prejudice, patriotism and biology as she and best friend Patrick develop an original silkworm project on her suburban townhouse porch for the State Fair.



**HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 7 and Grade 8**

- Patterson, James. *Maximum Ride, the Angel Experiment*. Little Brown, 2005. After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids" take off in pursuit and find themselves battling their seemingly evil creators.
- Philbrick, Rodman. *The Young Man and the Sea*. Blue Sky Press, 2004. Motherless Skiff Beaman embarks alone on a dangerous trip to catch a giant blue fin tuna in order to earn enough money to buy a new engine for his father's boat.
- Pierce, Tamora. *Trickster's Choice*. Random House, 2003. Alianne, kidnapped and put into slavery, calls forth her mother's courage and her father's spying skills in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy. Sequel: *Trickster's Queen*
- Rees, Celia. *Sorceress*. Candlewick, 2003. Eighteen-year-old Agnes, a Mohawk Indian descended from a line of shamanic healers, uses her own newly-discovered powers to uncover the story of her ancestor, a seventeenth-century New England English healer who fled charges of witchcraft. Sequel to *Witch Child*
- Riordan, Rick. *Lightning Thief*. Miramax, 2005. Percy Jackson can't figure out why he has such problems with his anger, or why some people seem to be trying to destroy him until he learns that his father is a Greek god.
- Ritter, John H. *Under the Baseball Moon*. Philomel Books, 2006. Andy Ramos dreams of making it big with his trumpet on the jazz scene but is it worth giving up an unexpected first love with potential soul mate-Glory Martinez, hopeful Olympic softball pitcher?
- Rylant, Cynthia. *Boris*. Harcourt, 2005. The narrator of these nineteen poems speaks directly to her cat, Boris, about his life and her own, since his arrival at her door. This book is a good introduction for newcomers to poetry, and especially appropriate for cat lovers.
- Salisbury, Graham. *Eyes of the Emperor*. Random, 2005. Eddy Okubo graduates from high school at sixteen and promptly volunteers for the army few weeks before the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. Immediately Eddy and all his Japanese-descent friends are separated from the rest of the army, repeatedly humiliated and finally they are all shipped of to the Gulf Coast to act as bait in a dog training experiment.
- Scieszka, Jon, ed. *Guys Write for Guys Read*. Viking, 2005. Contains a collection of short stories, drawings, comics, poems, and memoirs from well-known writers of "guy" fiction, written by boys, for boys. Includes pieces by Daniel Pinkwater, Neil Gaiman, Will Hobbs, Stephen King, Gary Paulsen, among others.
- Shulman, Polly. *Enthusiasm*. Putnam, 2006. Julia's best friend Ashleigh has decided that this year Jane Austen's world will be theirs: so, they learn the proper forms of dancing, speech and behavior (sort-of) for the early nineteenth century, then set off to find the boys of their dreams at the exclusive boy's prep boarding school in town.
- Siegelson, Kim L. *Trembling Earth*. Philomel, 2004. In 1864, two boys, one an escaped slave running toward freedom and the other one a white boy hoping to collect the bounty money for capturing him, make their way through Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp.
- Smith, D. James. *The Boys of San Joaquin*. Atheneum, 2005. In a small California town in 1951, twelve-year-old Paolo and his deaf cousin Billy get caught up in a search for money missing from the church collection, leading them to complicated discoveries about themselves, other family members, and townspeople they thought they knew.

**HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 7 and Grade 8**

- Smith, Roland. **Peak**. Harcourt, 2007. Plucked by police from the top of a New York skyscraper, a 14-year-old boy and mountain climber wannabe finds himself facing the challenge of his life, climbing Mt. Everest.
- Spinelli, Jerry. **Stargirl**. Knopf, 2000. Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform.
- Spinner, Stephanie. **Quiver**. Knopf, 2002. Atalanta, abandoned as an infant, has grown to become a renowned archer and swiftest mortal alive due to the intervention of Artemis, goddess of the hunt, so when the father who forsook her so many years before issues an ultimatum that Atalanta marry and produce an heir, she counters with the condition that the man she weds must be able to best her in a footrace or die.
- Stroud, Jonathan. **Amulet of Samarkand**. Miramax, 2003. Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, calls up the djinni Bartimaeus to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from another magician, and they both get caught up in a vast conspiracy of treason and murder. First in a series: *The Bartimaeus Trilogy*
- Taylor, Mildred. **The Land**. Fogelman, 2001. Paul-Edward, the son of a part Indian, part-African slave mother and a white plantation owner father, finds himself caught between the two worlds of his parents as he pursues his dream of owning land in the aftermath of the Civil War. Prequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry*
- 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.
- Trueman, Terry. **Stuck in Neutral**. HarperCollins, 2000. Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.
- Updale, Eleanor. **Montmorency, Thief, Liar, Gentleman?** Orchard, 2004. In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gained in prison and from scientific lectures he attended as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself.
- Ursu, Anne. **Shadow Thieves**. Atheneum, 2006. After her cousin Zee arrives from England, thirteen-year-old Charlotte and he must set out to save humankind from denizens of the underworld, Nightmares, Death, Pain, and a really nasty guy named Phil.
- Verne, Jules. **20,000 Leagues Under the Sea**. First published 1869. This is a nineteenth-century science fiction tale of an electric submarine, its eccentric captain, and undersea world, which anticipated many of the scientific achievements of the twentieth century.
- Warren, Andrea. **Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps**. HarperCollins, 2001. This is a biography of Jack Mandelbaum, from his teenage years starting as a twelve-year-old in Poland in 1939, to the end of the World War II, three years of which he spent in concentration camps.
- Wells, H.G. **War of the Worlds**. First published 1898. Martians invade late 19<sup>th</sup> century England and create havoc.



**H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2008**  
**Grade 7 and Grade 8**

- Whelen, Gloria. ***Listening for Lions***. HarperCollins, 2005. Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a dead girl's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.
- Wolff, Virginia Euwer. ***True Believer***. Holt, 2001. Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn finds that life is what you make of it--an occasion to rise to. Sequel to ***Make Lemonade***
- Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Hush***. Penguin, 2002. Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life radically changed when her family must enter the witness protection program.
- Wrede, Patricia. ***Sorcery & Cecelia, or, the Enchanted Chocolate Pot***. Harcourt, 2003. In 1817 in England, two young cousins, Cecilia living in the country and Kate in London, write letters to keep each other informed of their exploits, which take a sinister turn when they find themselves confronted by evil wizards.
- Yancey, Richard. ***The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp***. Bloomsbury, 2005. Orphaned and incurably-geeky teen Alfred Kropp is coerced by his unscrupulous uncle into stealing a valuable sword that turns out to be Excalibur, and he is drawn into a dangerous and violent misadventure.
- Yee, Lisa. ***Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time***. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2005. Named after his father's alma mater, Stanford Wong has big expectations to fulfill academically and as the star of his basketball team. When he flunks 6<sup>th</sup> grade, has to go to summer school and can't go to basketball camp he must hide his secret from his friends and get tutored by his arch enemy.
- Yolen, Jane. ***Girl in a Cage***. Philomel, 2002. Marjorie Bruce, daughter of Robert the Bruce of Scotland, has been captured in 1306 by Edward I (Longshanks) of England and placed in a cage on public display for months.
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