

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

### Grade 5

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable*

- Allen, Thomas B. ***George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War***. National Geographic, 2004. This illustrated biography of the Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focuses on his use of spies to gather the intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.
- Appelt, Kathi. ***The Underneath***. Atheneum, 2008. An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free. Newbery Honor 2009. National Book Award Finalist 2008.
- Armstrong, Alan W. ***Whittington***. Random House, 2005. Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.
- Avi. ***Never Mind! : A Twin Novel***. HarperCollins, 2004. Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.
- Balliett, Blue. ***Chasing Vermeer***. Scholastic Press, 2004. When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.
- Bolden, Tanya. ***George Washington Carver***. Abrams, 2008. Born a slave during the Civil War and raised by his mother's owners, George Washington Carver, also known as the "Peanut Man," became an important African American conservationist, scientist, researcher, and teacher.
- Broach, Elise. ***Masterpiece***. Holt/Christy, 2008. Marvin, a beetle, and his family live in the home of eleven-year-old James and his family. When James' birthday party fails miserably, Marvin surprises James with an elaborately intricate pen and ink drawing Marvin has created. Trouble is, the drawing is mistaken for James' work, which sets off action that leads to a fast-paced mystery featuring an unlikely friendship, the discovery of art forgery, and thievery.
- Carman, Patrick. ***Atherton***. Little Brown, 2007. Edgar, a natural climber, discovers a mysterious book and goes on a fast-paced adventure to discover what is happening to Atherton, a man-made multi-level world orbiting earth.
- Cheng, Andrea. ***Shanghai Messenger***. Lee & Low, 2005. A free-verse novel about eleven-year-old Xiao Mei's visit with her extended family in China, where the Chinese-American girl not only finds many differences, but also the similarities that bind a family together.

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- Choldenko, Gennifer. ***Al Capone Does My Shirts***. Putnam, 2004. A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. Newbery Honor.
- Codell, Esme Raji. ***Sahara Special***. Hyperion, 2003. Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.
- Corbett, Sue. ***Free Baseball***. Dutton, 2006. Baseball is in eleven-year-old Felix Piloto's blood. His Cuban father plays professionally, but Felix knows little else about him. When he runs away to serve as a batboy for a professional baseball team, Felix ultimately discovers his father's story, as well as his love for his mother, a dog, and of course, the game.
- Coville, Bruce. ***William Shakespeare's Hamlet***. Dial, 2004. A simplified prose retelling of Shakespeare's play about the prince of Denmark who seeks revenge for his father's murder.
- Creech, Sharon. ***Heartbeat***. Joanna Cotler, 2004. Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.
- Delano, Marfe Ferguson. ***Helen's Eyes***. National Geographic, 2008. Annie Sullivan grew up in extreme poverty with her own eye-problems. Her first and only job was teaching Helen Keller how to "see" despite the fact that she was blind, deaf, and mute.
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane***. Candlewick, 2006. Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.
- Dixon, Dougal. ***The Future Is Wild***. Firefly Books, 2002. This companion book to the Animal Planet series uses a variety of scientific principles to imagine how life on planet Earth may evolve over the next 200 million years.
- Feldman, Jody. ***The Gollywopper Games***. Greenwillow, 2008. When the Golly Toy & Game Company announces the Gollywhooper Games, Gil Goodson wants to be the lucky winner; this could be the perfect opportunity for his family to move away from Orchard Heights. Can he solve the puzzles and complete the stunts? This may remind you of a modern day *Charlie and Chocolate Factory*!
- Florian, Douglas. ***Omnibeasts***. Harcourt, 2004. In this treasure chest of wit and charm, the author weaves information into each poem, combining fun and fact. This collection of poems and art is selected from the author's whimsical, pun-filled previous books.
- Forester, Victoria. ***The Girl Who Could Fly***. Fiewel and Friends, 2008. "Piper decided to jump off the roof. It wasn't a rash decision on her part." And so we meet a strong-willed, generous girl with extraordinary talents.

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- George, Jean Craighead. ***Tarantula in my Purse***. Harper, 1997. The unusual George household welcomes animals of all species into their home. This is a collection of autobiographical stories about raising a houseful of children and wild pets including crows, skunks, and raccoons.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly. ***Eleven***. Wendy Lamb, 2008. When Sam, who can barely read, discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his eleventh birthday, it brings forth memories from his past, and, with the help of a new friend at school and the castle they are building for a school project, his questions are eventually answered.
- Gutman, Dan. ***Satch and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure***. HarperCollins, 2006. With his ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe takes Flip with him to find out whether Satchel Paige really was the fastest pitcher ever.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Just Ella***. Simon & Schuster, 1999. Fifteen-year old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in such a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette that she plots her escape.
- Hale, Shannon. ***Rapunzel's Revenge***. Bloomsbury, 2008. In this graphic novel, Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the ruin of the world beyond her home. She is able to escape and with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land and find her true mother.
- Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Tales of the Cryptids***. Darby Creek Publishing, 2006. Be the judge: are the many mysterious and legendary animals, including Bigfoot and assorted sea serpents, real based on the descriptions, photographs and drawings?
- Hannigan, Katherine. ***Ida B: ...And Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World***. Greenwillow, 2004. In Wisconsin, Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.
- Hobbs, Will. ***Jackie's Wild Seattle***. HarperCollins, 2003. Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother Cody spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle.
- Horvath, Polly. ***The Pepins and Their Problems***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family's unusual problems, which include having a cow that creates lemonade rather than milk and having to cope with a competitive neighbor.
- Ibbotson, Eva. ***Dragonfly Pool***. Dutton, 2008. Tally organizes a ragtag dance troupe so the school can participate in an international folk dancing festival in Bergania in the summer of 1939. There she befriends Karil, the crown prince, who would love nothing more than to have ordinary friends. During their visit, the Nazis arrive, and Tally's dancer friends must find a way to help Karil escape.

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- Jackson, Donna. M. ***ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room***. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. This book discusses the life in an animal ER hospital from the point of view of the veterinarians, the vet technicians, the owners, and their pets.
- Karr, Kathleen. ***Exiled: Memoirs of a Camel***. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. This first-person narrative is told from a camel's viewpoint. He tells how he was sent from Egypt to serve in the United States Camel Corps and of his life on the Mojave Desert before and during the Civil War.
- Kerley, Barbara. ***Walt Whitman: Words for America***. Scholastic, 2004. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief after Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse.
- Konigsberg, E.L. ***The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place***. Atheneum, 2004. Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her great-uncles have been building in their backyard for over forty years.
- Kraske, Robert. ***Marooned: The Strange but True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk, the Real Robinson Crusoe***. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. Presents the story of Scottish mariner Alexander Selkirk and his experiences while marooned on a South Pacific island for four years.
- Lasky, Kathryn. ***The Man Who Made Time Travel***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. The need for sailors to be able to determine their position at sea led to the efforts of John Harrison, an eighteenth-century man who spent his life refining instruments to enable them to do this.
- Lowry, Lois. ***The Willoughbys***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. The four Willoughby children devise a plan to become orphans, unaware that their despicable parents are trying to lose them. The humorous glossary and annotated reading list of classic children's literature are not to be missed.
- Montgomery, Sy. ***The Quest for the Tree Kangaroo***. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Wonderful color photographs and an excellent text provide details of the search for the tree kangaroo in Papua New Guinea's cloud forest.
- Morpurgo, Michael. ***Beowulf***. Candlewick, 2006. An illustrated retelling of the oldest English epic, Beowulf, in which a Norse hero saves Denmark's royal house from monsters, and then his own house from dragons.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. ***The King of Mulberry Street***. Wendy Lamb, 2005. When nine-year-old Beniamino, a Jewish boy from Naples, is smuggled onto a ship, he assumes his mother is also on the ship. When he ends up alone in New York, he has to deal with his fear and sadness on the one hand and figure out how to get food and shelter on the other as he makes his way in the New World.
- Peck, Richard. ***On the Wings of Heroes***. Dial, 2007. Set in the time period of World War II, Davy Bowman has two heroes: his dad who fought in World War I and his brother who is currently in the Air Force.

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- Rowling, J.K. ***The Tales of Beedle the Bard***. Scholastic, 2008. Readers are first introduced to *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* as the book bequeathed to Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. The five wizard fairy tales are cleverly footnoted and commented upon by Dumbledore.
- Smith, Roland. ***Cryptid Hunters***. Hyperion, 2005. Twins Grace and Mary are sent to live with their mysterious Uncle Travis Wolfe, a veterinarian and mythical creature expert, and as a result of their uncle's secret mission, the twins become involved in a fast-paced action adventure in the Congo to find a mysterious dinosaur cryptid before they all end up in the evil hands of Dr. Blackwood, also known as the cryptid hunter.
- Springer, Nancy. ***The Case of the Missing Marquess: an Enola Holmes Mystery***. Sleuth Philomel, 2006. Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, escapes to London in disguise to find her missing mother. Along the way, she uses her considerable deductive skills to determine the whereabouts of a young Viscount. This is the first in a series of four books starring Enola Holmes.
- St. John, Lauren. ***The White Giraffe***. Dial, 2007. After losing her parents in a tragic fire, eleven-year-old Martine must live with a grandmother she has never met on a wildlife preserve in Africa, where she learns about a mystical white giraffe.
- Stone, Jeff. ***Eagle***. Random House, 2008. After attacking and killing his former grandmaster, sixteen-year-old Ying realizes he has been betrayed in addition to being wanted for treason, and consequently is forced to turn to Hok, his old temple sister, for help.
- Townley, Roderick. ***The Great Good Thing***. Atheneum, 2001. Nothing ever changes inside the storybook kingdom inhabited by twelve-year-old Princess Sylvie, her parents, and many other characters until Sylvie discovers that by allying herself with the Reader she can experience new adventure beyond the confines of the book. Sequel is *Into the Labyrinth: a Novel*.
- Walker, Alice. ***Langston Hughes, American Poet***. HarperCollins, 2002. An illustrated biography of the Harlem poet whose works gave voice to the joy and pain of the black experience in America.
- Wiles, Deborah. ***Each Little Bird that Sings***. Harcourt, 2005. Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the funeral parlor in their small southern town, but even so, the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events triggered by the sudden death of her beloved great-uncle Edisto.
- Zimmer, Tracie Vaughan. ***42 Miles***. Clarion, 2008. JoEllen is Joey with her father on weekends in the country and Ellen with her mother in the city. The forty-two miles that separate her two homes and her two lives becomes a shorter distance as JoEllen discovers who she is in the world. Linked free-verse poems and illustrations depict the challenges a young girl faces as she grows up and tries to determine who she really wants to be and how she can remain true to herself.

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