

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2009

Grade 9 and Grade 10

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Abadzis, Nick. ***Laika***. Roaring Brook, 2007. An abandoned puppy, Laika, was destined to become Earth's first space traveler in the Soviet Union's Sputnik program. This non-fiction graphic novel portrays the preparation for her fatal journey and the agony of her special handler, who knows that there are no plans for her to come back.
- Alexie, Sherman. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian***. Little, Brown, 2007. Talented Arnold Spirit leaves the reservation school to go to an academically superior one located many miles away. How he copes with this change, both at school and on the reservation, is realistic, thought provoking, and laugh-out-loud funny. National Book Award Young People's Literature 2007; Book Sense Book of the Year 2008
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Speak***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1999. A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.
- Berra, Tim M. ***Charles Darwin: The Concise Story of an Extraordinary Man***. Johns Hopkins University, 2009. Although Darwin was born into a family of physicians and scientists, and targeted by his father for the clergy, he gravitated toward studying plants, animals, and geology at university. An invitation to join the *Beagle* on its second voyage set the direction of his life. Though plagued with poor health, he ushered in the study of modern biology with his groundbreaking work, "The Origin of the Species".
- Beschloss, Michael. ***Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. A presidential scholar provides historical examples of presidents, including Jackson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, FDR, Truman, Kennedy, and Reagan, who faced adversity with courage and wisdom to change the future of the country.
- Bissinger, H. G. ***Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream***. HarperCollins, 1991. In this book that inspired the TV series, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author penetrates the culture of high school football as it is lived in Odessa, Texas.
- Bray, Libba. ***A Great and Terrible Beauty***. Delacorte, 2003. After her mother dies mysteriously in 1895 India, Gemma is sent to a finishing school in England where she becomes aware of her magical powers. *Series*
- Cather, Willa. ***Death Comes for the Archbishop***. First published 1927. In the mid-nineteenth century, two French missionaries make their way into the harsh, unexplored, mountainous region of New Mexico hoping to revive the religion brought by Spanish priests and then left to decay in the hands of an insubordinate and materialistic clergy.

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- Cavanagh, Thomas B. **Head Games**. St. Martin's, 2007. The lead singer of a popular boys' band disappears. A lucrative reward is offered by the band's manager, a retired police detective, with two ex-wives, a teenage daughter, and a brain tumor he's named "Bob." *Series*
- Cooper, Brenda. **The Silver Ship and the Sea**. Tor, 2007. Abandoned on an environmentally dangerous colony planet where the citizens are hostile toward genetic engineering, six genetically enhanced children must learn to use their special talents to either survive and make the planet their home, or find a way to escape in the abandoned silver space ship that lies in the Grass Plains. *Series*
- Crutcher, Chris. **Deadline**. Greenwillow, 2007. Eighteen-year-old Ben Wood has been given less than a year to live, but chooses not to tell anyone so his senior year will be as normal as possible. This surprisingly humorous story tracks that final year as Ben goes out for football, finds romance, and realizes that his secret has a serious impact on others.
- Earley, Tony. **The Blue Star: A Novel**. Little, Brown, 2008. In the sequel to *Jim the Boy*, set in the period before Pearl Harbor, Jim moves through his final year of high school into a grown-up world at war.
- Ettlinger, Steve. **Twinkie Deconstructed: My Journey to Discover How the Ingredients Found in Processed Foods Are Grown, Mined (Yes, Mined), and Manipulated into What America Eats**. Penguin, 2007. Drawing on interviews with industry professionals, we discover that snack cakes and other popular food products are concocted from by-products of chlorine bleaching, gypsum mining, petroleum processing, and other non-food chemicals.
- Giles, Gail. **Shattering Glass**. Roaring Brook, 2002. A group of cool high school boys transform Simon Glass, the school nerd, into one of the most popular boys in school. Then they kill him.
- Haddon, Mark. **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**. Random House, 2003. An autistic boy keeps a diary of his efforts to solve the mystery of who killed his neighbor's dog. This funny, touching novel is a revealing look into the mind of an autistic person. Alex Award 2004
- Hemingway, Ernest. **A Farewell to Arms**. First published 1929. A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.
- Herbert, Frank. **Dune**. First published 1965. The Atreides family is banished to planet Dune where the ferocious Fremen live. *Series*
- Hornby, Nick. **Slam**. Putnam, 2007. When fifteen-year-old skateboarder Sam "Slam" Jones learns that his ex-girlfriend is pregnant, he turns to the only person he feels can help—his hero, skating legend Tony Hawk. Since Tony is only a poster, he doesn't offer answers, so it's up to Sam, thrust suddenly into maturity, to figure out the right thing to do.

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- Johnson, Maureen. **13 Little Blue Envelopes**. HarperCollins, 2005. Ginny's beloved, quirky Aunt Peg sends her on one more adventure when she dies, leaving Ginny a series of envelopes. The envelopes lead Ginny on a whirlwind tour of Europe where she finds answers to important questions about her aunt and about herself.
- Johnson, Steven. **The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—And How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World**. Penguin, 2006. In 1854, when the existence of bacteria and the concept of waterborne disease are still unknown, two men, one a physician and the other a clergyman, successfully trace the source of a cholera epidemic to a contaminated well in an impoverished part of London.
- Jordan, Robert. **Eye of the World**. Tor, 1990. During the Third Age, the Age of Prophecy, the world and time itself hang in the balance in danger of falling under the Shadow. *Series*
- Llewellyn, Sam. **The Return of Death Eric**. Walker, 2006. Death Eric was your parents' favorite rock band, but the band's leader, Eric Thrashmettle, retired because he thought he was cursed. When his bank account runs dry, Eric's children convince him and the other former band members to reunite for a blazing comeback.
- Lutz, Lisa. **The Spellman Files**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Izzy Spellman, an irrepressible twenty-eight-year-old sleuth, works for her parents' San Francisco PI firm. The dysfunctional and relentlessly nosy Spellman clan spends as much time spying on each other as they do working their cases. *Series*. Alex Award 2008; Anthony Award 2008
- Marillier, Juliet. **Wildwood Dancing**. Knopf, 2007. Every full moon, five sisters who live with their father in Transylvania use a hidden portal to cross over into a magical world, the Wildwood, where they dance until morning with the creatures who live there.
- Marr, Melissa. **Wicked Lovely**. HarperTeen, 2008. Urban faeries can be really mean! Aislinn's grandmother warns her not to admit she can see them, but that is hard to do when their king is convinced that she is their rightful queen. A smart, funny series sure to delight Twilight fans. Rita Award/Capitol Choices
- Martel, Yann. **The Life of Pi: A Novel**. Harcourt, 2002. Sixteen-year-old Pi Patel, his family, and their zoo animals emigrate from India to North America aboard a cargo ship. The ship sinks, and Pi finds himself sharing a lifeboat with a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Man Booker Prize 2002
- McCloud, Scott. **Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga and Graphic Novels**. HarperCollins, 2006. Focusing on the storytelling aspects of drawing comics, the author's avatar uses a skillful mix of dry humor and instruction to offer insights into designing and drawing a comic strip.
- Meyer, Stephanie. **Twilight**. Little, Brown, 2005. After transferring to a new school in Forks, Washington, seventeen-year-old Bella is attracted to an exquisitely handsome boy who, she comes to realize, is not wholly human. *Series*

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

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

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- Shaw, George Bernard. ***Pygmalion***. First published 1913. Shaw's satire on British class divisions is based on the classical myth of Pygmalion, in which the sculptor falls in love with his own creation. The witty transformation of Eliza Doolittle from guttersnipe to sophisticate leaves Professor Henry Higgins, our Pygmalion, without his educated Cinderella.
- Sivertsen, Linda and Tosh. ***Generation Green : the Ultimate Teen Guide to Living anEeco-Friendly Life***. Simon Pulse, 2008. This engaging, how-to guide for environmentally conscious living provides pragmatic "green" solutions to everyday problems, such as purchasing consumer goods, powering household appliances, traveling, reusing and recycling, and eating.
- Sofer, Dalia. ***The Septembers of Shiraz: a Novel***. HarperCollins, 2007. Following the 1981 revolution against the Shah of Iran, Isaac Amin, a Jewish gem dealer, is imprisoned because of his religion and personal wealth, and members of his family are forced to wrestle with the radical changes forced upon them.
- Tan, Shaun. ***The Arrival***. Scholastic, 2007. A man leaves his troubled homeland and travels to an unfamiliar place where he makes a new life and sends for his family. This wordless book's sepia drawings look like surrealistic snapshots, poignantly expressing the timeless and universal courage of migrants.
- Thompson, Kate. ***The New Policeman***. HarperTeen, 2007. Where does the time go? J.J. Liddy's mom just wants more time for her birthday. J.J. finds out that there really is less time than there used to be because there's a leak between the real world and the faeire kingdom. As he begins to unravel the secrets of his history, both recent and distant, the legends of Ireland come to life around him. Parents Choice Award 2007
- Tisserand, Michael. ***The Sugarcane Academy: How a New Orleans Teacher and His Storm-Struck Students Created a School to Remember***. Harvest, 2007. Author Michael Tisserand and his wife think that they have left New Orleans for a brief flight from Hurricane Katrina. However, they quickly find that they must create a stable life in a very abnormal time for their children. Banding together with other families who have fled from their neighborhood, they start a school with a gifted teacher and help their children deal with the trauma from the storm. A touching, human look at the unimaginable changes that Katrina made in so many lives.
- Vaughn, Brian K. ***Pride of Baghdad***. DC Comics, 2006. This graphic novel is based on the true story of a pride of lions that escaped the Baghdad Zoo during an American bombing raid. Vibrant colors of brown, yellow, and gray illustrating the aftermath of war-torn Iraq vividly evoke the smell of fire, decay, and fear.
- Vonnegut, Kurt. ***Slaughterhouse Five***. First published 1969. After surviving the bombing of Dresden in World War II, Billy Pilgrim returns to civilian life and has a successful career until he is kidnapped by aliens and displayed in a zoo on the planet of Trafalador.

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- Westerfield, Scott. **PEEPS**. Allyn & Bacon, 2006. Cal, a partially immune carrier of a parasitic disease that leaves the majority of its victims in a state of zombie-like vampirism, is on a quest. Working for New York's underground public health bureau, he tracks parasite positives, or "peeps," while simultaneously aiming to unravel the mystery behind the illness and the woman who infected him.
- Wiess, Laura. **Such a Pretty Girl**. Pocket/MTV, 2007. Meredith's father, who was sent to jail for molesting her, has just been released from prison, and her oblivious mother wants them to become a family again. Meredith, a victim turned heroine, tries to save herself and other young people from her predatory father.
- White, T. H. **The Once and Future King**. First published 1958. The chivalry and romance of Arthurian England are transported to the modern world.
- Wooten, Jim. **We Are All the Same: A Story of a Boy's Courage and a Mother's Love**. Penguin, 2004. The global battle against AIDS is set against the life and death of Nkosi Johnson, a young South African boy. Having been born with AIDS, he comes to symbolize the struggle against the disease and the strength of the human spirit.
- Wright, Richard. **Native Son**. First published 1940. A young African American man is trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, finding release only in acts of violence.
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Compiled by:

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