

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Grade 6

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Abbott, Tony. ***The Copernicus Legacy: The Forbidden Stone***. Katherine Tegen, 2014. Wade, Lily, Darrell, and Becca fly from Texas to Germany for the funeral of an old family friend. But instead of just paying their respects, they wind up on a dangerous, mind-blowing quest to unlock an ancient, guarded secret that could destroy the fate of the world. *Series*
- Alexander, Kwame. ***The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. Award-winning author offers his motivational rule book on winning the “game of life,” drawn from the world of sports heroes and other inspirational figures.
- Allen, Crystal. ***The Laura Line***. Balzar + Bray, 2013. When Laura Dyson’s seventh grade history teacher schedules a class trip to the slave shack on her grandmother’s farm, Laura is forced to come to terms with her family’s past and what it means for her future.
- Anderson, John David. ***Ms. Bixby’s Last Day***. HarperCollins, 2016. When Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she is very sick and won't be able to finish the school year, three students come up with a hilarious and heart-warming plan to tell her how much she means to them.
- Appelt, Kathi. ***Maybe a Fox***. Atheneum, 2016. An otherworldly fox is born to help eleven-year-old Jules, who is grieving over the death of her sister. The delicate handling of important themes offers comfort and hope.
- Avi. ***Catch You Later, Traitor***. Algonquin, 2015. It’s 1951, and twelve-year-old Pete is a regular kid in Brooklyn, New York, who loves Sam Spade novels, detective books, and radio crime dramas. But when FBI agents show up on Pete’s doorstep accusing Pete’s father of being a Communist, Pete is caught in a real-life mystery.
- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. ***Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. In 1906, Irish immigrant Mary Mallon was a cook for some of the wealthiest families in New York City, never realizing she was passing on the typhoid disease through the food she cooked. Once health officials discovered she was a carrier, Mary was unwillingly imprisoned for much of her life to be studied by medical professionals, raising questions of human and civil rights for those who are held against their will in the name of science.
- Bausum, Ann. ***Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I’s Bravest Dog***. National Geographic, 2014. Smuggled onto a naval ship heading to battle in France by his faithful human friend, Stubby earns his place in World War I history by warning troops of gas attacks, killing rats that plagued the soldiers’ barracks, and even capturing a German soldier by biting the seat of his pants.
- Benjamin, Ali. ***The Thing About Jellyfish***. Little, Brown, 2015. Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend’s death.

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- Blakemore, Megan Frazer. ***The Spy Catchers of Maple Hill***. Bloomsbury, 2014. Amidst the fervor of Cold War era McCarthyism, Hazel Kaplansky and new student Samuel Butler investigate rumors that a Russian spy has infiltrated their small Vermont town, but more is revealed than they could ever have imagined.
- Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. ***The War That Saved My Life***. Dial Books, 2015. A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. *Series*
- Bragg, Georgia. ***How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous***. Walker, 2011. “If you don’t have the guts for gore, do not read this book.” This caveat from the publisher warns the reader that they will encounter lots of gory details of the deaths of nineteen famous people . . . fun and informative, too.
- Cherrix, Amy. ***Eye of the Storm: NASA, Drones, and the Race to Crack the Hurricane Code***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. From the acclaimed series *Scientists in the Field*, this first contribution solely about weather covers a program using drones to learn more about hurricanes, plus a poignant narrative from Hurricane Sandy.
- DeFelice, Cynthia. ***Fort***. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015. Wyatt and his friend Augie are enjoying the fort they built, but when two older boys mess with it and with another kid who can’t fight back, they launch Operation Doom to get back at the bullies.
- Draper, Sharon. ***Out of My Mind***. Atheneum, 2010. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient, young girl with cerebral palsy discovers a way for her to speak for the first time.
- Engle, Margarita. ***Lion Island: Cuba’s Warrior of Words***. Atheneum, 2016. A biographical novel about Antonio Chuffat, a Chinese-African-Cuban messenger boy in 1870s Cuba who becomes a translator and documents the freedom struggle indentured Chinese laborers in this country faced.
- Flanagan, John. ***The Outcasts***. Philomel, 2011. In this action-packed companion series to Flanagan’s *Rangers Apprentice* books, a sixteen-year-old Skandian-Araluen named Hal and his group of misfit friends compete against two other, more powerful, brotherbands, enduring three months of grueling training in seamanship, weapons, and battle tactics to determine who will win the coveted prize. *Series*
- Fox, Janet. ***The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle***. Puffin, 2017. In 1940 during the London Blitz, Katherine, Robbie and Amelie Bateson are sent north to a private school at Rookskill Castle in Scotland, a brooding place, haunted by dark magic from the past--but when some of their classmates disappear, Katherine has to find out if the cause is hidden in the past or very much in the present.

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- Gibbs, Stuart. ***Space Case: A Moon Base Alpha Novel***. Simon & Schuster, 2014. You'd think it would be awesome to be the first people to live on the moon, right? For 12-year old Dashiell Gibson and the other civilians on the base, however, life is extremely dull until the base's top scientist is found dead. Dash takes it upon himself to solve the mystery and find out what exactly happened to the doctor. *Series*
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Under Their Skin***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. Twelve-year-old twins Nick and Eryn investigate why their mother and new stepfather are keeping secrets; why they are forbidden to meet their stepsiblings; and most importantly, why their lives are in danger. *Series*
- Hale, Nathan. ***The Underground Abductor***. Amulet Books, 2015. With his characteristic humor and clever illustrations, the author relates the story of Harriet Tubman and her work with the Underground Railroad in this fifth book of the popular graphic novel series. *Series*
- Hoffman, Alice. ***Nightbird***. Wendy Lamb, 2015. Due to a 200-year-old curse on her family and an enormous secret, twelve-year-old Twig and her mother avoid people and certainly do not have friendships in their quaint hometown of Sidwell, Massachusetts; yet when the descendants of the witch who placed the curse move into the house next door, big changes begin to blossom.
- Hopkinson, Deborah. ***The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spread through water, and not poisonous air, when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood in 1854.
- Jamieson, Victoria. ***All's Faire in Middle School***. Dial Books, 2017. In her quest to train as an official squire for the Renaissance Faire (her parents' passion), homeschooled Impy takes on the challenge of public middle school and discovers that fitting in is harder than she imagined.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. ***The Thing About Luck***. Atheneum, 2013. Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.
- Kennedy, Caroline, ed. ***Poems to Learn by Heart***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. A wonderful selection of poems -- some old favorites, some new -- arranged by everyday subjects like school, family, self, sports, etc., accompanied by watercolor illustrations charmingly painted by Jon J. Muth. A book to treasure and share!
- Kidd, Chip. ***Go: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design***. Workman, 2013. This is an appealing introduction to graphic design with chapters covering form, typography, content, and concepts, including 10 design projects for you to try.

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- Korman, Gordon. ***Masterminds***. Balzer + Bray, 2015. The tiny town of Serenity, New Mexico, appears to be the most perfect town in the world; however, when thirteen-year-old Eli and his friend try to leave the city limits for the first time, Eli gets his first clue that all may not be as it seems, and that something sinister is going on all around them. *Series*
- LeGrand, Eric. ***Believe: The Victorious Story of Eric LeGrand (Young Readers' Edition)***. HarperCollins, 2012. Eric LeGrand reflects on his life, discussing his childhood, family, success in high school and college sports, and the football injury which resulted in paralysis, rehabilitation, and more.
- Leyson, Leon. ***The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List***. Atheneum, 2013. This memoir recounts the life and perseverance of the youngest survivor on Schindler's list. Mr. Leyson's incredible remembrances remind us of the atrocities of war and the humanity that one person can show to make a difference.
- Lupica, Mike. ***Fantasy League***. Philomel, 2014. Twelve-year-old Charlie gets a chance to work with a real NFL owner once his skills for picking Fantasy Football winners is discovered. On the field, the game is much more challenging.
- MacHale, D.J. ***Curse of the Boggin***. Random House, 2016. When supernatural spirits start following Marcus O'Mara around, he discovers a key that leads to The Library, a place where all the stories of the living and dead are kept that help him and his friends solve a terrifying mystery. *Series*
- Messner, Kate. ***The Exact Location of Home***. Bloomsbury, 2017. Believing his long-absent father is missing and leaving clues behind through geocaching, Zig, thirteen, relies on his love of electronics, a garage sale GPS unit, and his best friend Gianna to search for answers.
- Methods, Bryan. ***The Thief's Apprentice***. Carolrhoda, 2016. Oliver, the neurotic son of a wealthy British industrialist, discovers his family butler, Mr. Scant, is a notorious thief who soon takes on Oliver to become an apprentice vigilante.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Treasury of Egyptian Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Monsters & Mortals***. National Geographic, 2014. Presents illustrated retellings of Egyptian myths, sharing the stories of Ra, Isis, Osiris, Anubis, and Bastet with sidebars for each god, goddess, monster and mortal that link the tales to history, geography, and culture. Includes a timeline and other resources.
- Nelson, S.D. ***Sitting Bull: Lakota Warrior and Defender of His People***. Abrams Books, 2015. Native American author combines archival images and his own drawings in the style of a 19th century Lakota ledger book of art to enhance this life story of one of the most important Lakota/Sioux chiefs to ever live, Sitting Bull.

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- Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***The Mark of the Thief***. Scholastic, 2015. In this fast-paced historical fantasy, Nic is a slave in the Roman mines who finds a magical amulet that once belonged to Julius Caesar. He learns very quickly that there are others who seek the amulet who want to use its powers to overthrow the Emperor and control Rome. *Series*
- O'Connor, George. ***Apollo: The Brilliant One***. FirstSecond, 2016. Mighty Apollo is known by all as the god of the sun, but there's more to this Olympian than a bright smile and a shining chariot. *Graphic novel*
- Pearsall, Shelley. ***The Seventh Most Important Thing***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. In 1963, thirteen-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at the old man's head in a moment of rage, but the junk he collects might be more important than he suspects. Inspired by the work of American folk artist James Hampton.
- Saujani, Reshma. ***Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World***. Viking, 2017. Introduces the relevance of coding and shares down-to-earth explanations about coding principles and real-life stories of women programmers who work at such places as Pixar and NASA.
- Shepherd, Megan. ***The Secret Horses of Briar Hill***. Delacorte, 2016. Beautifully combining a historical setting and a little magic, this book is destined to be a favorite for those lucky enough to be drawn into its pages. Living in a children's hospital during World War II, Emmaline discovers that a winged horse has entered her world and desperately needs her help.
- Shusterman, Neal, and Eric Elfman. ***Tesla's Attic***. Disney-Hyperion, 2014. With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor Nikola Tesla. *Series*
- Sloan, Holly Goldberg. ***Short***. Dial Books, 2017. Very short for her age, Julia grows into her sense of self while playing a Munchkin in a summer regional theater production of The Wizard of Oz.
- Smith, Roland. ***The Edge***. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. Fifteen-year-old Peak Marcello is invited to participate in an "International Peace Ascent" in the Hindu Kush, with a team made up of under-eighteen-year-old climbers from around the world—but from the first, something seems wrong, so when the group is attacked, and most of the climbers are either killed or kidnapped, Peak finds himself caught up in a struggle to survive, shadowed by the Shen, a mysterious snow leopard. *Series*
- Snyder, Laurel. ***Orphan Island***. Walden Pond Press, 2017. A group of orphans wait each year for a boat to arrive on their island, replacing the eldest with the youngest, never to be seen again, as each remaining child learns what it means to say goodbye to childhood forever.
- Sonnenblick, Jordan. ***The Secret Sheriff of Sixth Grade***. Scholastic, 2017. Armed with the toy sheriff badge his dad gave him years ago, Maverick learns that standing up for yourself and others makes everybody's life better, and despite the challenges of bullies and a troubled home life, he can be a hero, just like his dad.

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Stevens, Robin. ***Poison is Not Polite***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. In 1930s England, schoolgirl detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are at Daisy's home for the holidays when someone falls seriously, mysteriously ill at a family party, but no one present is what they seem--and everyone has a secret or two--so the Detective Society must do everything they can to reveal the truth . . . no matter the consequences. *Series*

When on Earth: History as You've Never Seen It Before. DK, 2015. Divided into four sections covering the ancient, medieval, and modern worlds, this book features beautiful illustrations, 3-D graphics, clear text boxes, and fun facts that bring history to life and show how it fits into the world at large.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. ***Clayton Byrd Goes Underground***. Amistad, 2017. Harmonica-playing Clayton is one cool guy, just like his grandpa "Cool Papa Byrd," but he struggles to find his place in the world after his grandfather's death. At home with his mother, who does not appreciate his "runaway" underground adventure on the New York subways, he is equally lost, searching for the Bluesmen in Washington Square Park.

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

*All book summaries are provided by the publisher or
written by committee members.*

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