

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2013

Grade 6

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Avi. ***The Seer of Shadows***. HarperCollins, 2008. In this intriguing historical ghost story set in New York City in 1872, Horace Carpetine becomes an apprentice to a local society photographer and learns more about deception, ghosts, and photography than he could ever have imagined.
- Bauer, Joan. ***Close to Famous***. Viking, 2011. Twelve-year-old Foster dreams of growing up to become a celebrity chef despite her reading disability. Can the quirky townsfolk of tiny Culpepper help Foster succeed?
- Birdsall, Jeanne. ***The Penderwicks at Point Mouette***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2011. When the three younger Penderwick sisters go to Maine with Aunt Claire and are separated from oldest sister Rosalind for the first time in their lives, an uncertain Skye is left in charge as the OAP – oldest available Penderwick. *Series*
- Bowen, Fred. ***Throwing Heat***. Peachtree, 2010. Eighth-grader Jack Lerner relies on pitching fast balls until a young college coach teaches him that throwing the heat may not be the best way to win games.
- 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.
- Burg, Shana. ***A Thousand Never Evers***. Delacorte, 2008. Addie Ann Pickett, an African American girl in 1963 Kuckachoo, Mississippi, journals about her family, the racial injustices they face, and her fears for her older brother Elias when he goes missing due to her own carelessness.
- Calkhoven, Laurie. ***Will at the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863***. Dutton, 2011. In 1863, twelve-year-old Will, who longs to be a drummer in the Union army, is stuck in his sleepy hometown of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. However, when the Union and Confederate armies meet right there in his town, he and his family are caught up in the fight, and Will learns about the horrors of war. *Series*
- Cody, Matthew. ***Powerless***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Soon after moving to Noble's Green, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Daniel learns that his new friends have super powers that they will lose when they turn thirteen, unless he can use his brain power to protect them.
- Compestine, Ying Chang. ***Revolution is Not a Dinner Party: A Novel***. Holt, 2007. During the Cultural Revolution in China, Ling struggles to make sense of injustice and severe losses of freedom that both she and her well-educated family must endure.
- Connor, Leslie. ***Waiting for Normal***. Katherine Tegen, 2008. Addie would like a normal life. Not only does she live in a trailer in Schenectady, New York, with her mother, who is not at all responsible or parental, but also she is separated from her kind and loving stepfather and younger half-sisters. Schneider Family Book Award, 2009

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- Creech, Sharon. ***The Great Unexpected***. Joanna Cotler, 2012. Orphans Naomi and Lizzie are best friends, but Naomi has a knack for being around when trouble happens, and she knows all the peculiar people in town. Into their lives drops the strangely charming Finn boy. Across the sea, on a grand estate in Ireland, an elderly lady has a plan. These two worlds weave together with the great unexpected gifts of love and forgiveness.
- Crilley, Paul. ***Rise of the Darklings***. Egmont USA, 2010. Twelve-year-old Emily Snow, who sells watercress on the streets of London to support herself and her younger brother, takes the fate of humanity into her hands when she unknowingly involves herself in a war between two factions of piskies -- small, sarcastic fey creatures fighting for control over England -- by rescuing one. *Series*
- DeFelice, Cynthia. ***Wild Life***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011. A gripping adventure story about a boy named Erik and a rescued dog living in the Middle of Nowhere, North Dakota, with grandparents he hardly knows, while his parents have been deployed to Iraq.
- Dowd, Siobhan. ***The London Eye Mystery***. David Fickling Books, 2007. When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.
- 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.
- Dubosarsky, Ursula. ***The Word Snoop***. Dial Books, 2009. Brimming with humor, puzzles, and more, this book offers an entertaining look at the English language, from the origins of the alphabet to texting.
- Engle, Margarita. ***Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba***. Holt, 2009. Escaping from Nazi Germany to Cuba in 1939, a young Jewish refugee dreams of finding his parents again, befriends a local girl with painful secrets of her own, and discovers that the Nazi darkness is never far away.
- Erskine, Kathryn. ***Mockingbird: (Mok'ing-burd)***. Philomel, 2010. Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.
- Flanagan, John. ***The Outcasts***. Philomel, 2011. In this action-packed companion series to Flanagan's *Rangers Apprentice* books, a sixteen-year-old Skandian-Araluen named Hal and his group of misfit friends compete against two other, more powerful, brotherbands, enduring three months of grueling training in seamanship, weapons, and battle tactics to determine who will win the coveted prize. *Series*
- 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 story is a classic rags-to-riches story with plenty of personality to spare.

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- Fleming, Candace. ***The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum.*** Schwartz & Wade, 2009. Filled with reproductions of old photographs, circus posters, and museum flyers, this fascinating biography of the life of showman Phineas Taylor Barnum will both engage and entertain readers.
- Gibbs, Stuart. ***The Last Musketeer.*** Harper, 2011. On a family trip to Paris to sell family heirlooms, fourteen-year-old Greg and his parents are whisked back to 1615 Paris, and Greg teams up with the soon-to-become Three Musketeers in an attempt to free his imprisoned parents from imminent death. *Series*
- Grant, Katy. ***Hide & Seek.*** Peachtree, 2010. This survival story is set in the isolated Arizona mountains and involves a boy, geocaching, and a puzzling message.
- Hiaasen, Carl. ***Chomp.*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. A combination of wildlife animals and reality TV is mixed with a dose of humor, adventure, and mystery when the fame-seeking star of the show disappears in the Florida Everglades and Wahoo Cray, the young animal wrangler, and his new friend Tuna are the only ones who can find him.
- Holm, Jennifer L. ***The Trouble with May Amelia.*** Atheneum, 2011. Set on a farm in Washington State in the year 1900, May Amelia is the only girl in a Finnish family with seven brothers, so she is often the one in trouble and is looking to gain her Papa's respect, despite his feeling that girls are useless.
- Johnson, Rebecca L. ***Journey into the Deep: Discovering New Ocean Creatures.*** Millbrook, 2011. Travel with oceanographers discovering new animals during a ten-year project documenting sea life. Learn about new species of interesting creatures such as jellyfish, octopuses, squids, and sea worms found along coral reefs, ocean mountain ranges, and in the deepest, darkest zones of the ocean floor.
- Kelly, Jacqueline. ***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate.*** Holt, 2009. Calpurnia struggles with growing up as she spends more of her free time with her grandfather, an avid naturalist, examining the beauty of nature, while at the same time her mother wants to teach her the responsibilities of a young woman during the turn of the century in Central Texas. Newbery Honor, 2010
- Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. ***The Reinvention of Moxie Roosevelt.*** Dial Books, 2010. Tired of her ordinary self, Moxie complicates her life and runs into trouble when she decides to take on a variety of personas at her new boarding school.
- Landon, Kristen. ***The Limit.*** Aladdin, 2010. When his family exceeds its legal debt limit, thirteen-year-old Matt is sent to the Federal Debt Reduction Agency workhouse where he discovers illicit activities are being carried out using children who have been placed there.
- Mass, Wendy. ***The Candymakers.*** Little, Brown, 2010. Four gifted twelve-year-olds, including Logan, the candymaker's son, are set to be contestants in the Confectionary Association's national competition to determine the nation's tastiest sweet, but nobody anticipates that a friendship will form between the children.

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- Miller, Sarah. ***Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller***. 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.
- O'Connor, George. ***Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess***. First Second, 2010. Action and adventure are in store for the Greek goddess Athena in this graphic portrayal that is told through five myths. *Series*
- Pennypacker, Sara. ***Summer of the Gypsy Moths***. Balzar + Bray, 2012. A foster child named Angel and twelve-year-old Stella, who are living with Stella's great-aunt Louise at the Linger Longer Cottage Colony on Cape Cod, secretly assume responsibility for the vacation rentals when Louise unexpectedly dies and the girls are afraid of being returned to the foster care system.
- Prineas, Sarah. ***The Magic Thief***. HarperCollins, 2008. Conn's life is forever changed when he tries to pick the pocket of the wizard Nevery and gets a strong jolt of magic. Instead of punishing the boy, Nevery takes Conn under his wing, teaches him magic, and enlists his help in finding the person responsible for stealing the city's dwindling magic supply. *Series*
- Rex, Adam. ***The True Meaning of Smekday***. Disney-Hyperion, 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. ***The Dreamer***. Scholastic, 2010. A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but still became one of the most widely-read poets in the world.
- Scott, Elaine. ***Space, Stars, and the Beginning of Time: What the Hubble Telescope Saw***. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. Amazing photographs from space illustrate this history of telescopes, astronomy, black holes and the Big Bang theory.
- Selznick, Brian. ***Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures***. Scholastic, 2011. Rose and Ben are deaf children living fifty years and worlds apart, yet both marvel and connect with the world around them. The American Museum of Natural History links their separate stories – one narrated in text and the other through cinematic illustrations.
- Smith, Roland. ***Tentacles***. Scholastic, 2009. After the mysterious disappearance of their parents, Marty and Grace go to live with their scientist uncle and accompany him on what soon becomes an increasingly dangerous expedition to New Zealand to track a giant squid.
- Stanley, Diane. ***The Silver Bowl***. Harper, 2011. From the age of seven when she became a scullery maid in a castle, Molly has seen visions of the future which, years later, lead her and friend Tobias on an adventure to keep the heir to the throne, Prince Alaric, safe from a curse on the royal family.

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- Stephens, John. ***The Emerald Atlas***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2011. Using an enchanted atlas, Kate, Michael, and Emma battle evil as they seek to be reunited with their parents in a magical world. *Series*
- Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream***. Candlewick, 2009. A chronicle of the thirteen women who tried to become NASA's first women astronaut trainees in the early 1960s. All were pilots; each earned high scores in preliminary tests; one had more hours in the air than John Glenn or Scott Carpenter. They were not accepted into the program, but their story is riveting.
- Tanner, Lian. ***The Museum of Thieves***. Delacorte, 2010. Goldie, an impulsive and bold twelve-year-old, escapes the oppressive city of Jewel, where children are required to wear guardchains for their protection. She finds refuge in the extraordinary Museum of Dunt, an ever-shifting world where she discovers a useful talent for thievery as well as mysterious secrets that threaten her city and everyone she loves. *Series*
- Thor, Annika. ***A Faraway Island***. Delacorte, 2009. Living with two separate host families on a small island off the coast of Sweden in order to escape the Nazis, two German Jewish sisters, Nellie and Stephanie, face daily life without their parents. Each sister adapts differently to their challenges, not knowing if they will see their parents as planned or when the war will end.
- Tubb, Kristin O'Donnell. ***Selling Hope***. Feiwel and Friends, 2010. This story, set in 1905, is about a smart, savvy girl named Hope who travels the vaudeville circuit with her magician dad and a cast of quirky characters (including Buster Keaton and his family) and invents anti-comet pills in an effort to make money and to save people from Haley's Comet, which some people believe is about to hit the earth.
- Wiles, Deborah. ***Countdown***. Scholastic, 2010. As eleven-year-old Franny Chapman deals with drama at home and with her best friend in 1962, she tries to understand the larger problems in the world after President Kennedy announces that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba.

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