

## H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2010

### 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.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Fever, 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.
- Avi. ***The Seer of Shadows***. Harper Collins, 2008. In this intriguing historical ghost story, which is 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.
- Barry, Dave. ***Peter and the Secret of Rundoon***. Hyperion, 2007. Fearing that the sinister Lord Ombra was not destroyed, Peter and Molly travel to the land of Rundoon, which is ruled by the evil King Zarboff. *Series*
- 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 his snobbish mother.
- 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.
- Casanova, Mary. ***The Klipfish Code***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Sent with her younger brother to an island to live with her aunt and grandfather after the Germans bomb Norway in 1940, ten-year-old Merit finds a way to help the Resistance.
- 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 severe losses of freedom and injustices 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.

## HASLNLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2010

### 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.
- Dakin, Glenn. ***The Society of Unrelenting Vigilance***. Egmont, 2009. Thirteen-year-old Theo, who has lived in seclusion his entire life, discovers he is the descendant of the Candle Man, a Victorian vigilante with the ability to melt criminals with a single touch. *First of The Candle Man Series*.
- Dee, Barbara. ***Solving Zoe***. McElderry, 2009. Zoe worries that she lacks the talents of her siblings, her best friend Dara, and the other kids at her elite private school, but then she becomes friendly with a strange new student named Lucas who introduces her to his obsession with codes and ciphers. (Answer key for the ciphers are at the back of the book).
- Dowd, Siobhan. ***The London Eye Mystery***. David Fickling Books, 2008. 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.
- Dubosarsky, Ursula. ***The Word Snoop***. Dial, 2009. Brimming with humor, puzzles, and more, this book offers an entertaining look at the English language, from the origins of the alphabet to today's sometimes cryptic text.
- Durrant, Lynda. ***My Last Skirt: The Story of Jennie Hodgers, Union Soldier***. Clarion, 2006. Jennie Hodgers, a poor Irish immigrant girl, disguises herself as a boy to survive in the New York City of the 1850s. She escapes from New York to go to Ohio, enlists as a Union soldier in the Civil War, and lives to draw her soldier's pension.
- 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.
- 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.
- Flanagan, John. ***The Siege of Macindaw***. Philomel, 2008. Will, who has become a protector of his first fief after many years as a Ranger's apprentice, is faced with many challenges when Keren, a renegade knight, takes over Castle Macindaw and forges a secret alliance with the ruthless Scotti. *Rangers Apprentice Series*

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2010

### Grade 6

- 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.
- French, S. Terrell. ***Operation Redwood***. Amulet, 2009. In northern California, Julian Carter-Li and his friends old and new fight to save a grove of redwoods from an investment company that plans to cut them down.
- 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.
- Hahn, Mary Downing. ***Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story***. Clarion, 2007. When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.
- Hesse, Karen. ***Brooklyn Bridge***. Feiwel and Friends, 2008. Joe, fourteen, is the first member of his Russian-Jewish family born in the United States. He wonders if he will ever get to go to Coney Island, but in 1903 his life changes when his parents turn their apartment into a teddy-bear factory. The story alternates, and eventually becomes linked, between Joe's life and the lives of vagrant children who live under the Brooklyn Bridge.
- Hiaasen, Carl. ***Scat***. Knopf, 2009. Nick and Marta are determined to find what happened to the biology teacher after she disappears on a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp resulting in a fast paced ecological mystery involving the Florida Panther and a cast of unique characters.
- Horvath, Polly. ***My One Hundred Adventures***. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. Twelve-year-old Jane lives in an old beach house with her mother and three younger siblings. She has a busy summer meeting her mother's old boyfriends, helping a neighbor deliver Bibles, and being talked into baby-sitting a neighbor's rambunctious children.
- Jackson, Ellen. ***The Mysterious Universe: Supernovae, Dark Energy, and Black Holes***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. A fascinating and mysterious look at the universe with beautiful photographs, this book discusses various space phenomena.
- Jackson, Donna M. ***Phenomena: Secrets of the Senses***. Little, Brown, 2008. This overview of sensory perception explores the myths, facts, and controversial topics related to such issues as psychic powers and animal intuition.

## HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2010

### Grade 6

- Kadohata, 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 they feel when one sister becomes terminally ill. Newbery Medal 2005
- 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
- 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.
- 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
- McCaughrean, Geraldine (retold by). ***Odysseus***. Cricket, 2003. 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, Carla Killough. ***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.
- Mebus, Scott. ***Gods of Manhattan***. Dutton, 2008. Rory, thirteen, discovers a spirit world which exists in contemporary New York City. It is peopled with "gods and goddesses," famous and infamous people from the past who have chosen Rory for a special mission.
- 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.
- 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.
- Neff, Henry H. ***The Hound of Rowan***. Random House, 2007. After glimpsing a hint of his destiny in a mysterious tapestry, twelve-year-old Max McDaniels becomes a student at Rowan Academy where he trains in "mystics and combat" in

## HASL N RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2010

### Grade 6

preparation for war with an ancient enemy that has been kidnapping children like him. *Series*

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***. Hyperion, 2005. Allie Kimball discovers that middle school is a very different place than fifth grade and struggles to learn ways to fit in.

Olson, Tod. ***How to Get Rich in the California Gold Rush: An Adventurer's Guide to the Fabulous Riches Discovered in 1848***. National Geographic, 2008. Presents a fictional account of the adventures and experiences of young Thomas Hartley as he and his two companions set off in 1850 for the California gold fields.

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 instead gets a strong jolt of magic, but, 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***. 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. ***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.

Shearer, Alex. ***Canned***. Scholastic, 2006. Fergal Bamfield has a unique hobby: collecting tin cans without labels. He meets Charlotte, a fellow can collector, and they find some gruesome things inside the cans, like an ear and a human finger! Together, Fergal and Charlotte set out to learn the origins of these mysterious cans. Despite the macabre subject matter, *Canned* is a funny, quirky read.

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 Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy***. HarperCollins, 2008. Zoe and her twin brother J.D. and big sister Franny are all accepted to Allbright Academy, an elite boarding school training the country's future leaders, and while everything appears perfect, Franny uncovers a mystery involving the students' perfection.

## HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2010

### Grade 6

- 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; all earned high scores in preliminary tests; one had more hours in the air than John Glenn or Scott Carpenter. They were not accepted, but the story is riveting.
- 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.
- 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.
- Wilson, Nathan D. ***The 100 Cupboards.*** Random House, 2007. Twelve-year-old Henry York and his cousin Henrietta discover one hundred hidden portals to other worlds in the bedroom wall of his aunt and uncle's house.
- 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.

---

Compiled by:

Dorcas Hand (Chair), *Annunciation Orthodox School;*

Aria Tatelman, *Duchesne Academy;*

Jamie Williams, *St. Francis Episcopal Day School;*

Jenny Filardo, *Presbyterian School;*

Melanie Wallace, *St. Francis Episcopal Day School;*

Susan Gerding, *John Cooper School.*

Copyright ©2010 Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network