

HAI SLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2010

Grade 7 and Grade 8

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Abbott, Tony. ***The Postcard***. Little, Brown, 2008. Thirteen-year-old Jason finds an old postcard at his recently-deceased grandmother's house leading him on an adventure that blends figures from an unfinished detective story with his family's past.
- Adlington, L.J. ***Diary of Pelly D***. Greenwillow, 2005. Toni V, a construction worker on a futuristic colony, finds the diary of a teenage girl whose life has been turned upside-down by holocaust-like events, and he begins to question his own beliefs.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Chains***. Simon & Schuster, 2008. After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.
- Aronson, Marc. ***Robert F. Kennedy: A Twentieth-Century Life***. Viking, 2007. This is a behind the scenes glimpse at how the "runt" of a wealthy and powerful political family came to represent the poor in the race for the Presidency in the late 1960s.
- Asimov, Isaac. ***The Stars, Like Dust***. First published 1951. At the death of his father, Biron Farrill becomes involved in the plot to rebel against the Tyranni who have conquered many worlds.
- Bauer, Joan. ***Peeled***. Putnam, 2008. In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle is determined to be a reporter who her father would have been proud of, but she finds herself pitted against psychics and unexplained phenomenon.
- Bloor, Edward. ***Tangerine***. Harcourt, 1997. Twelve-year-old Paul's family revolves around his football-hero brother, and fails to notice Paul as he fights for the right to play soccer after his bad eyesight disqualified him.
- Bryant, Jen. ***Pieces of Georgia: A Novel***. Knopf, 2006. In journal entries to her mother, a gifted artist who died suddenly, thirteen-year-old Georgia McCoy reveals how her life changes after she receives an anonymous gift membership to a nearby art museum.
- Budhos, Marina. ***Ask Me No Questions***. Atheneum, 2006. After September 11th, 2001, Nadira's Bangladesh family members, living in New York City, become extremely anxious when their visas expire, leading to a series of actions and reactions that bring terror and sorrow.
- Cabot, Meg. ***Airhead***. Point, 2008. Sixteen-year-old Emerson Watts, an advanced placement student with a disdain for fashion, is the recipient of a "whole body transplant" and finds herself transformed into one of the world's most famous teen supermodels.
- Card, Orson Scott. ***Ender's Game***. Tor, 1984. Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, who spends his childhood at military school in outer space, believes he is playing computer-simulated war games; in fact, he is commanding the last great fleet of Earth. Hugo Award; Nebula Award

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- Carey, Janet Lee. ***Dragon's Keep***. Harcourt, 2007. In 1145 A.D., as foretold by Merlin, fourteen-year-old Rosalind will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island. But she has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, all the while hiding from her people the dragon's claw she was born with.
- Chima, Cinda Williams. ***Demon King***. Disney/Hyperion, 2009. The first in a high fantasy series that tells of the intertwining fates of former street gang leader Han Alister and headstrong Princess Raisa, as Han takes possession of an amulet that once belonged to an evil wizard and Raisa uncovers a conspiracy in the Grey Wolf Court.
- Christie, Agatha. ***And Then There Were None*** (alternate title: ***Ten Little Indians***). First published 1940. Ten people, each with something to hide and something to fear, are invited to a lonely mansion on Indian Island by a host who, surprisingly, fails to appear. And then, one by one, they begin to die.
- Colfer, Eoin. ***Airman***. Hyperion, 2008. In the late nineteenth century on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king. He is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design and build.
- Cooney, Caroline. ***Diamonds in the Shadow***. Delacorte, 2007. The Amabo family, refugees from a tyrannical regime in an African country, are beginning to adjust to their new lives with a good-hearted American family—even as another African refugee is pursuing a dangerous course that will impact both families.
- Crane, E. M. ***Skin Deep***. Delacorte, 2008. Andrea Anderson, high school student and outsider, struggles with her place in the world until she meets an artistic neighbor and her dog, who together demonstrate how much she means to them.
- Crossley-Holland, Kevin. ***The Seeing Stone***. Arthur A. Levine, 2001. Arthur, a thirteen-year-old boy in late twelfth-century England, tells how Merlin gave him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur.
- Cummings, Priscilla. ***Red Kayak***. Dutton, 2004. Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. ***Bucking the Sarge***. Wendy Lamb, 2004. Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.
- Deuker, Carl. ***Gym Candy***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Freshman running back Mick Johnson works hard to make his dream of football stardom come true, finding the edge he needs to become bigger, stronger, and faster with the help of steroids—despite consequences to his health and social life.

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- Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. ***The Sign of the Four***. First published 1890. Sherlock Holmes is asked by Miss Morstan to investigate the strange disappearance of her father ten years ago and to find out why she has been receiving a large, beautiful pearl for her birthday every year since.
- Doyle, Marissa. ***Bewitching Season***. Holt, 2008. Persephone and Penelope, seventeen-year-old twins, are to be presented at court in London and meet Princess Victoria, when they suddenly are catapulted into a romantic adventure involving their governess (a magician tutor), and a sinister Irish magician.
- Draper, Sharon M. ***Fire from the Rock***. Penguin, 2007. In 1957, honor student Sylvia Patterson is thrilled to be chosen to be among the first African American students to attend the all-white Central High School in Little Rock Arkansas, but threats of violence by racist mobs cause Sylvia to reconsider.
- Dumas, Alexandre. ***The Three Musketeers***. First published 1844. Young d'Artagnan comes to Paris to join the Musketeers; there he and his new friends Athos, Porthos, and Aramis, serve King Louis XIV and try to foil the evil plots of Cardinal Richelieu. Lots of swordplay!
- Farmer, Nancy. ***The House of the Scorpion***. Atheneum, 2002. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.
- Feinstein, John. ***Cover-Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl***. Knopf, 2007. Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson, high school reporters, learn that every player on the offensive line of a pro football team slated to play in the Super Bowl has failed his drug test and that the team owner has covered it up. Now they must find a way to prove it.
- Flinn, Alex. ***Beastly***. HarperTeen, 2007. Kyle Kingsbury, a vain, spoiled, private school student who judges others by their appearances, is turned into a frightening monster by a girl he humiliates. In order to break the spell, Kyle must find true love.
- Frank, Mitch. ***Understanding the Holy Land: Answering Questions about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict***. Viking, 2005. Using basic questions and answers, the current conflict is explained in a balanced, organized and understandable approach ending with some hopeful ways teens can add peace to their own lives.
- Gaiman, Neil. ***The Graveyard Book***. HarperCollins, 2008. Toddler Bod, short for Nobody, stumbles into a graveyard after his family is brutally murdered, and is raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen by the graveyard's ghosts and otherworldly creatures. Newbery Award 2009
- Galante, Cecilia. ***The Patron Saint of Butterflies***. Bloomsbury, 2008. With her grandmother at the wheel of the car, fourteen-year-old Agnes, her younger brother, and her best friend Honey escape from a religious commune. Agnes clings to the faith she loves while Honey longs to be free from the rigid control of the commune's strict charismatic leader, Emmanuel.

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- Gardner, Sally. ***Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution***. Dial, 2008. In the late eighteenth-century, Sido, the twelve-year-old daughter of a self-indulgent marquis, and Yann, a fourteen-year-old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.
- Grandits, John. ***Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems***. Clarion, 2007. A fifteen-year-old girl named Jessie expresses her sarcastic and hilarious take on high school life using concrete poetry.
- Grant, K.M. ***How the Hangman Lost His Heart***. Walker, 2007. When her Uncle Frank is executed for treason against England's King George in 1746 and his severed head is mounted on a pike for public viewing, daring Alice tries to reclaim the head for a proper burial, finding an unlikely ally in the soft-hearted executioner.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Uprising***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Newly arrived in New York from Italy in 1911, Bella gets a job at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory working long hours under terrible conditions alongside hundreds of other immigrants. When a spark ignites a bit of cloth, the factory becomes engulfed in flames.
- Hale, Marian. ***Dark Water Rising***. Holt, 2006. In a fictionalized account of the hurricane that devastated Galveston in 1900, actual eyewitness accounts are incorporated into the story.
- Hale, Shannon. ***Book of a Thousand Days***. Bloomsbury, 2007. Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, and the two prepare for a long, dark imprisonment. Saren's two suitors—one welcome, and the other decidedly less so—arrive outside the tower, bringing both hope and danger.
- Hartnett, Sonya. ***The Silver Donkey***. Candlewick, 2004. In France during World War I, four French children learn about honesty, loyalty, and courage from an English army deserter who tells them a series of stories related to his small, silver donkey charm.
- Hoffman, Alice. ***Incantation***. Little, Brown, 2006. During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic.
- Hoffman, Mary. ***Falconer's Knot: A Story of Friars, Flirtation, and Foul Play***. Bloomsbury, 2007. Silvano and Chiara, teens sent to live in a friary and a nunnery in Renaissance Italy, dream of a future together, but when murders are committed in the friary, they must discover who is behind the crimes before they can realize their love.
- Horowitz, Anthony. ***Nightrise***. Scholastic, 2007. After telepathic twins Jamie and Scott are attacked by the evil Nightrise Corporation, one of them is imprisoned while the other escapes left to fight with the other three gatekeepers against the evil Old Ones in order to save his sibling and prevent the destruction of humanity.

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- Hughes, Dean. ***Soldier Boys***. Atheneum, 2001. Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.
- Ibbotson, Eva. ***A Countess below Stairs***. Speak, 2007. First published 1981. Anna, a young Russian countess forced to flee to England with her governess during the Russian Revolution, conceals her past in order to gain a much-needed job as a maid in the Westerholme household. The growing attraction between her and Rupert, the handsome Earl of Westerholme, begins to cause trouble.
- Jinks, Catherine. ***Evil Genius***. Harcourt, 2005. Child prodigy Cadel Piggot, an antisocial computer hacker, discovers his true, shocking identity when he enrolls as a first-year student at an advanced crime academy.
- Kerr, P. B. ***The Cobra King of Kathmandu***. Orchard, 2007. Djinn twins John and Phillipa go to India to search for the cobra talisman which gives the person who wields it power over their friend Mr. Rakshasas, a very elderly djinn.
- Kipling, Rudyard. ***The Jungle Book***. First published in magazines 1893-1895. This is a collection of stories which center around Mowgli, a “man-cub,” raised by wolves. His journey to adulthood is aided by Baloo the bear and Bagheera the black panther. Also included is the story of a mongoose, Riki- Tiki- Tavi.
- Kolosov, Jacqueline. ***The Red Queen’s Daughter***. Hyperion, 2007. Sixteen-year-old Mary Seymour, a white magician in Queen Elizabeth’s court, has vowed never to fall in love. But her attraction to her darkly handsome cousin Edmund, a black magician who seems to understand her better than anyone, cannot be denied. She finds her beliefs tested when he becomes involved in a plot against the queen.
- Korman, Gordon. ***Pop***. Balzer + Bray, 2009. Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.
- Lawrence, Iain. ***The Convicts***. Delacorte, 2005. His efforts to avenge his father's unjust imprisonment force fourteen-year-old Tom Tin into the streets of nineteenth-century London. But soon after, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to a prison ship. *First in series*
- Leavitt, Martine. ***Keturah and Lord Death***. Front Street, 2006. Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah when she is lost and starving in the King's Forest, but she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love.
- LeGuin, Ursula. ***The Wizard of Earthsea***. First published 1968. After pride causes him to unleash a demon, Zed is compelled to either chase or escape from the ever-pursuing shadow.

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- Li, Moying. ***Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China during the Cultural Revolution***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2008. Studying at a prestigious language school in Beijing, Moying Li seems destined for a promising future until the Cultural Revolution sweeps across China and student Red Guards orchestrate brutal assaults, public humiliations, and forced confessions throughout the country.
- Lisle, Janet Taylor. ***Black Duck***. Philomel, 2006. When Ruben and Jeddy find a dead body on a Rhode Island beach, they inadvertently become involved in a turf war between two rival gangs smuggling liquor during the Prohibition Era.
- Lupica, Mike. ***Heat***. Philomel, 2006. Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball. Rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, but he has no parents to offer them proof.
- Maguire, Gregory. ***Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister***. ReganBooks, 1999. Set in 17th-century Holland, this retelling of the Cinderella story is full of surprises.
- Murphy, Jim. ***The Real Benedict Arnold***. Clarion, 2007. Brilliant military strategist Benedict Arnold, although maligned and branded 'traitor,' was a man for whom honor meant a great deal.
- Nelson, Peter. ***Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis***. Delacorte, 2002. Fifty years after the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, a young boy helps the survivors set the record straight, bringing to light the Navy cover-up and an unfair court-martial of the ship's captain.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab. ***You & Yours***. BOA Editions, 2005. Nye's poetry is firmly grounded in two geographical locations, small moments in her Texas home, and many larger themes from the war-torn Middle East.
- Oppel, Kenneth. ***Airborn***. Eos, 2004. Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an enormous airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures and to fight pirates.
- Pearson, Mary E. ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***. Holt, 2008. Jenna survives a horrific car accident thanks to her scientist father, but at what cost?
- Parker, Robert B. ***Edenville Owls***. Philomel, 2007. Fourteen-year-old Bobby, living in a small Massachusetts town just after World War II, faces new challenges as he tries to pull together the Owls basketball team, handle new feelings for his old friend Joanie, and discover the identity of a mysterious stranger who appears to be threatening his pretty new English teacher.
- Patterson, James. ***Maximum Ride, the Angel Experiment***. Little, Brown, 2005. After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids" take off in pursuit and find themselves battling their seemingly evil creators.
Maximum Ride Series
- Pierce, Tamora. ***Trickster's Choice***. Random House, 2003. Alianne, kidnapped and put into slavery, calls forth her mother's courage and her father's spying skills in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy.

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- Rylant, Cynthia. **Boris**. Harcourt, 2005. The narrator of these nineteen poems speaks directly to her cat, Boris, about his life and her own, since his arrival at her door. This book is a good introduction for newcomers to poetry and is especially appealing to cat lovers.
- Salisbury, Graham. **Eyes of the Emperor**. Random House, 2005. Eddy Okubo, a high school graduate at age sixteen, volunteers for the army a few weeks prior to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and soon finds himself—along with his friends of Japanese descent—isolated from the rest of the army, humiliated repeatedly, and shipped off to the Gulf Coast. *Series*
- Schmidt, Gary D. **Trouble**. Clarion, 2008. Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. But fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin.
- Scieszka, Jon, ed. **Guys Write for Guys Read**. Viking, 2005. This collection of short stories, drawings, comics, poems, and memoirs from well-known writers of “guy” fiction, written by boys, for boys includes pieces by Daniel Pinkwater, Neil Gaiman, Will Hobbs, Stephen King, Gary Paulsen, and others.
- Scieszka, Jon. **Knucklehead: Tale Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka**. Viking, 2008. Part memoir, part scrapbook, this is a very funny autobiography of growing up in a family of six boys in the 1950's.
- Shulman, Polly. **Enthusiasm**. Putnam, 2006. Julia's best friend Ashleigh has decided that this year Jane Austen's world will be theirs. They try to master the proper forms of dancing, speech and behavior (sort-of) for the early nineteenth century, and then they set off to find the boys of their dreams at the local exclusive boys prep boarding school.
- Shusterman, Neal. **Unwind**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives “unwound” and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs—and, perhaps, save their own lives.
- Smith, D. James. **The Boys of San Joaquin: A Novel**. Atheneum, 2005. In a small California town in 1951, twelve-year-old Paolo and his deaf cousin Billy get caught up in a search for money missing from the church collection, leading them to complicated discoveries about themselves, other family members, and townspeople they thought they knew.
- Smith, Roland. **Peak**. Harcourt, 2007. Plucked by police from the top of a New York skyscraper, a fourteen-year-old boy and mountain climber wannabe finds himself facing the challenge of his life: climbing Mt. Everest.
- Stroud, Jonathan. **Heroes of the Valley**, Disney/Hyperion, 2009. Halli Sveinsson, a mischievous young man who does not fit in with his peers and siblings, plays a trick on Ragnar that goes too far, forcing Halli to embark on a hero's quest in which he will face highway robbers, monsters, an intriguing girl, and truths about his family and the legends he grew up with.

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- Swanson, James L., ***Chasing Lincoln's Killer***. Scholastic, 2009. This is a nail-biting and detailed telling of the assassination of Lincoln and all the accompanying chaos of the struggle to catch his killer.
- Tolkien, J. R. R. ***The Hobbit, or There and Back Again***. First published 1937. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.
- Ursu, Anne. ***Shadow Thieves***. Atheneum, 2006. After her cousin Zee arrives from England, thirteen-year-old Charlotte and he must set out to save humankind from denizens of the underworld, Nightmares, Death, Pain, and a really nasty guy named Phil.
- Vande Velde, Vivian. ***Remembering Raquel***. Harcourt, 2007. Suicide or accident? The life of Raquel Falcone, an unpopular, overweight high school freshman, is recalled by classmates, her parents, and the driver who struck and killed her as she walked home from an animated film festival.
- Verne, Jules. ***20,000 Leagues under the Sea***. First published 1869. This is a nineteenth-century science fiction tale of an electric submarine, its eccentric captain, and an undersea world, which anticipated many of the scientific achievements of the twentieth century.
- Warren, Andrea. ***Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps***. HarperCollins, 2001. At age fifteen, Jack Mandelbaum was placed in a Nazi concentration camp and managed to overcome intolerable conditions in order to avoid becoming a victim of Hitler's Final Solution.
- Wells, H.G. ***War of the Worlds***. First published 1898. Martians invade late 19th century England and create havoc in this classic science fiction story.
- Westerfeld, Scott. ***Uglies***. Simon Pulse, 2005. The sixteenth birthday means a body makeover in Tally's world, but Tally begins to question this procedure when she is forced to spy on a friend who does not want to transform her own body.
- Whelan, Gloria. ***Listening for Lions***. HarperCollins, 2005. Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a dead girl's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.
- Wrede, Patricia. ***Sorcery & Cecelia, or, the Enchanted Chocolate Pot***. Harcourt, 2003. In 1817 in England, two young cousins, Cecelia living in the country and Kate in London, write letters to keep each other informed of their exploits, which take a sinister turn when they find themselves confronted by evil wizards.
- Yancey, Richard. ***The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp***. Bloomsbury, 2005. Orphaned and incurably-geeky teen Alfred Kropp is coerced by his unscrupulous uncle into stealing a valuable sword that turns out to be Excalibur, and he is drawn into a dangerous and violent misadventure.

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Yee, Lisa. ***Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time***. Arthur A. Levine, 2005. When Stanford Wong, named for dad's alma mater, flunks 6th grade, he must attend summer school instead of basketball camp, be tutored by his arch enemy, and somehow keep all of this a secret from his friends.

Compiled by:

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