

HAISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2017

Grade 11 and Grade 12

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Alexie, Sherman. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***. Little, Brown, 2007. Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the “rez” to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. *National Book Award for Young People’s Literature 2007*
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***The Impossible Knife of Memory***. Viking, 2014. Hayley and her father, who suffers from PTSD, return to their hometown to start over, but the Iraq war continues to haunt him and threatens to disrupt their lives.
- Backman, Fredrik. ***A Man Called Ove***. Translated from the Swedish by Henning Kock. Atria Books, 2014. A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary, well-ordered world turned on its head when a boisterous young family and their two daughters move in next door.
- Bardugo, Leigh. ***Six of Crows***. Holt, 2015. Six outcasts sign up for a dangerous heist that will not only fill their pockets but also save the world from its current path towards darkness and destruction. Each of these characters has a story to tell, but can they unite long enough to complete the mission? *Series*
- Barry, Max. ***Lexicon***. Penguin Press, 2013. Emily Ruff belongs to a secret organization whose “poets” can break down individuals by psychographic markers in order to take control of their thoughts. Then she makes a catastrophic mistake and falls in love, breaking her organization's rules. *Alex Award 2013*
- Brontë, Charlotte. ***Jane Eyre***. First published 1847. Jane finds terror and romance when she becomes a governess in a mysterious mansion.
- Brown, Dan. ***Inferno: A Novel***. Doubleday, 2013. Harvard professor Robert Langdon is once again drawn into a deadly quest, this time based on clues from Dante’s *Inferno*.
- Brown, Daniel James. ***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics***. Viking, 2013. In Depression era America, nine dirt-poor, unskilled rowers at the University of Washington join the rowing team - and move on to compete in the Hitler Olympics.
- Cain, Susan. ***Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking***. Crown, 2012. In our American culture that values extroversion, the value of “quiet” people is often overlooked, but the one third of the population that fits the definition of introvert has much to offer.
- Carey, M.R. ***The Girl with All the Gifts***. Orbit, 2015. Not every gift is a blessing. Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class. When they come for her, Sergeant Parks keeps his gun pointing at her while two of his people strap her into the wheelchair. She thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite. But they don't laugh. Melanie is a very special girl.

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- Chamberlain, Diane. ***Necessary Lies***. St. Martin's Press, 2013. On a tobacco farm in rural North Carolina in the 1960s, fifteen-year-old Ivy Hart struggles with her grandmother's aging, her sister's mental illness, and her own epilepsy. When Jane Forrester takes a position as Grace County's newest social worker, she is asked to recommend which of her clients should be sterilized due to poverty, illness, or is in some other way unfit to have children. Based on real cases, this is the story of two young women who seem worlds apart, but are both faced with a life-changing battle.
- Chandler, Raymond. ***The Long Goodbye***. First published 1953. A classic hard-boiled detective story where Philip Marlowe, private eye, deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city. *Edgar Award 1955*
- Choo, Yangsze. ***The Ghost Bride***. William Morrow, 2013. When she agrees to become a ghost bride for the wealthy Lim family's son, who recently died under mysterious circumstances, Li Lan must dive into a shadowy parallel world of the Chinese afterlife to find the truth about the son's death.
- Chwast, Seymour. ***Dante's Divine Comedy***. Bloomsbury, 2010. Chwast retells Dante's Divine Comedy in a graphic format. The visual presentation of all three stages of Dante's epic is appealing and humorous. The illustrations depict the details and complexity of this classic tale.
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. ***Between the World and Me***. Spiegel & Grau, 2015. Written as a letter to his teenage son, Coates confronts racism through the ages in America. This book covers many uncomfortable but pertinent social issues, encouraging the reader to wrestle with the questions. *National Book Award 2015, Alex Award 2016*
- Collins, Billy. ***Ballistics: Poems***. Random House, 2008. A notable collection of verse from the U.S. Poet Laureate, expressing love, joy, and death in his inimitable language.
- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. ***Before We Visit the Goddess***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. Life choices around love are powerful ones that have the potential to alter lives dramatically. Three generations of Indian mothers and daughters share their interconnected stories, even if they are themselves separated by thousands of miles.
- Doerr, Anthony. ***All the Light We Cannot See***. Scribner, 2014. The paths of a blind French girl and a young Nazi soldier collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. *Alex Award 2015, National Book Award for Fiction 2014, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2015*
- Fink, Joseph and Jeffrey Cranor. ***Welcome to Night Vale: A Novel***. Harper Perennial, 2015. Stephen King meets *Tales from Lake Wobegon* in this first novel based on the hit podcast of the same name. In a city where all conspiracy theories are true, two women search for a hidden city and answers to mysteries in their own lives.
- Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. ***Chronicle of a Death Foretold***. Translated from the Spanish by Gregory Rabassa. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. Nearly thirty years later, a

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man returns to town in an attempt to discover the truth behind the jumbled murder of Santiago Nasar.

Hannah, Kristin. ***The Nightingale***. St. Martin's Press, 2015. During the Nazi occupation of France in World War II, sisters Vianne and Isabelle find very different ways of surviving the atrocities.

Hillenbrand, Laura. ***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption***. Random House, 2010. This biography chronicles the life of World War II bombardier Louis Zamperini from his wild youth to becoming a world-class runner in the 1936 Olympic Games to his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force where he must survive for forty-seven days in the Pacific Ocean after his plane goes down.

Hosseini, Khaled. ***And the Mountains Echoed: A Novel***. Riverhead Books, 2013. Pari and Abdullah are siblings and best friends. When their father takes them across the desert in a red wagon to Kabul, Abdullah loses Pari and is forced to return to the village without her. The children live separate lives, but Abdullah never loses hope that he will find Pari. The children's separate lives unfold with incidents of love and hate, bravery and cowardice, want and fulfillment.

Johnson, James Weldon. ***The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man***. First published 1912. In this emotionally gripping and poignant look into race relations, a half-white, half-black man of very light complexion must choose between his heritage and the art that he loves or the ability to escape the inherent racism that he faces by passing as a white.

Kean, Sam. ***The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements***. Little, Brown, 2010. Sam Kean presents the rationale behind the organization of the periodic table of the elements as well as many interesting anecdotes about the elements and the scientists who discovered them.

Kibler, Julie. ***Calling Me Home: A Novel***. St. Martin's Press, 2013. In a novel based on a family story of her grandmother's forbidden love in 1930's Kentucky, the author chronicles the journey of an elderly woman and her hairdresser en route to a funeral and explores race relations both then and now.

Kline, Christina Baker. ***Orphan Train***. William Morrow, 2013. Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer, a foster child in Maine, and elderly widow Vivian Daley who, as a child, had been sent by train from New York City to depression era Minnesota, discover they have much in common.

Knisley, Lucy. ***Relish: My Life in the Kitchen***. First Second, 2013. This graphic novel is a humorous memoir of cartoonist Lucy Knisley, the daughter of a chef and a gourmet, and her obsession with cooking and food. *Alex Award 2014*

Koontz, Dean. ***The City***. Bantam, 2014. In a musically talented African American family living in New York in the sixties, a mother, her young son, and his grandfather lovingly interact with each other as well as with their diverse neighbors. However, something sinister threatens them all. Woven into the plot are a crime story and a thread of the supernatural.

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- Krueger, William Kent. **Ordinary Grace**. Atria Books, 2013. A boy on the threshold of adulthood observes the tumultuous world around him, and learns about loss, love, lies, mystery, wisdom and grace. The small town characters are authentic and the story revolves around four mysterious deaths. *Edgar Award 2014*
- Larson, Erik. **Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania**. Crown, 2015. With a false sense of security, the luxury ocean liner sailed on May 1, 1915, during World War I. The author tells the story of the many individuals who lost their lives or played a part in this famous maritime disaster involving an enemy torpedo. The story also offers a glimpse of the Progressive Era in the United States.
- Levithan, David. **Every Day**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Every morning, A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached. Life goes along smoothly until A wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. *Series*.
- Liu, Cixin, translated by Ken Liu. **The Three-Body Problem**. Tor Books, 2014. At the height of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, a young scientist sends a signal to an alien world knowing it will lead an invasion force to Earth and end the human race. Forty years later, humanity's first chance to avert destruction emerges. *Hugo Award 2015*
- Marra, Anthony. **A Constellation of Vital Phenomena**. Hogarth, 2013. Behind the backdrop of the Chechen conflicts, two doctors protect a girl named Havaa as they provide triage healthcare to a society experiencing loss and trauma from the atrocities of war. Both the extraordinary determination of the human spirit and its dark side are evident throughout the novel.
- McBride, Laura. **We Are Called to Rise**. Simon & Schuster, 2014. An immigrant youth struggling to assimilate, a middle-aged housewife with a troubled marriage, a Vegas social worker, and a wounded soldier connect with each other and rescue themselves in the wake of an unthinkable incident.
- McCarthy, Cormac. **The Road**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. In a post-apocalyptic landscape, a man and a boy struggle toward the unknown. This dark and doomed quest offers a spiritual sense of soul and humanity. *Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 2007*
- McCullough, David. **The Wright Brothers**. Simon & Schuster, 2015. An award-winning historian helps us understand the lives of these two modest men as they journey from a bike shop to aviation history.
- McDermott, Alice. **Someone**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. Scattered recollections -- of childhood, adolescence, motherhood, and old age -- come together in this transformative narrative, stitched into a vibrant whole by McDermott's deft, lyrical voice.
- McEwan, Ian. **Atonement: A Novel**. Doubleday, 2001. In the summer of 1935, the lives of three people are changed forever by a young girl's scheming imagination.
- McLain, Paula. **Circling the Sun**. Ballantine Books, 2015. This novel is based on the life of Beryl Markham, who grew up training horses on her father's ranch in Nairobi, Africa in the 1920s. She led a full and sometimes difficult life,

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- befriending Karen Blixen and Denys Finch Hatton from *Out of Africa* fame. Being a strong woman for her times, Beryl's relationships were complicated, but her passion for flying was ignited by the friendships she made.
- Miranda, Lin-Manuel and Jeremy McCarter. ***Hamilton: the Revolution***. Grand Central, 2016. Includes the complete libretto of the Broadway musical with a true account of its creation and concise remarks on hip-hop, the power of stories and the new America.
- Miranda, Megan. ***All the Missing Girls***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. After graduating high school Nicolette 'Nic' Farrell leaves to get away from her small town life and the mystery of her best friend's death. Ten years later she comes home and the town is looking into another girl's disappearance. The story is told backwards from day 15 to day 1, and Nic finds out much more than she expected.
- Morgenstern, Erin. ***The Night Circus***. Doubleday, 2011. The circus arrives without warning, and what looks like clever illusions are actually magic. The two principal illusionists, Celia and Marco, have unknowingly been involved in a deadly contest created by their mentors. When they fall in love, it complicates the circus and their teachers' plans. *Alex Award 2012*
- Morrison, Toni. ***The Bluest Eye***. First published in 1970. Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Morrison's first novel is the story of eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove, a black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others. Pecola, who prays for her eyes to turn blue so she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning, and the tragedy of its fulfillment.
- Moyes, Jojo. ***Me Before You: A Novel***. Viking, 2012. A twenty-seven-year-old woman accepts a job caring for a paraplegic man, unaware that the experience will allow her to learn new skills, consider a bigger life than she could have ever imagined, and break her heart.
- Nelson, Jandy. ***I'll Give You the Sun***. Dial Books, 2014. A story of first love, family secrets, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her gay twin brother, Noah. *Printz Award 2015*
- Niven, Jennifer. ***All the Bright Places***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. When Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, both teetering on the edge, it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another.
- Percer, Elizabeth. ***An Uncommon Education***. Harper, 2012. In this coming-of-age story, Naomi Feinstein dreams of attending Wellesley College and being a doctor; everything changes in her life when she is introduced to the oldest honor society, the mysterious Shakespeare Society.
- Perkins, Stephanie, ed. ***Summer Days and Summer Nights: Twelve Love Stories***. St. Martin's Griffin, 2016. Maybe it's the long, lazy days, or maybe it's the heat

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making everyone a little bit crazy. Whatever the reason, summer is the perfect time for love to bloom.

- Rowell, Rainbow. **Fangirl**. St. Martin's Griffin, 2013. Feeling cast off when her twin sister outgrows their shared love for a favorite fictional character, Cath, a dedicated fan-fiction writer, struggles to survive on her own in her first year of college while avoiding a surly roommate, bonding with a handsome classmate who only wants to talk about words, and worrying about her fragile father.
- Ruby, Laura. **Bone Gap**. Balzer + Bray, 2015. Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza. His inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying. *Printz Award 2016*
- Schneider, Robyn. **The Beginning of Everything**. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Star athlete and prom king Ezra Faulkner's life is irreparably transformed by a tragic accident and the arrival of eccentric new girl Cassidy Thorpe.
- Schwab, V. E. **A Darker Shade of Magic**. Tor Books, 2015. Follow Kell, one of the last Antari, as he travels through parallel Londons in this urban fantasy. After colliding with Delilah Bard, a pickpocket roaming the streets of Grey London, Kell realizes he needs her help to stay alive amidst an invasion of dark magic. *Series*
- Sepetys, Ruta. **Out of the Easy**. Philomel, 2013. Josie, the seventeen-year-old daughter of a French Quarter prostitute, is striving to escape 1950s New Orleans and enroll at prestigious Smith College when she becomes entangled in a murder investigation.
- Shusterman, Neal. **Challenger Deep**. HarperTeen, 2015. A powerfully authentic and moving story about mental illness. This book has a heart and a soul and takes the reader on a journey to the deepest part of the ocean and the deepest corners of the mind. *National Book Award 2015*
- Simic, Charles. **The Voice at 3:00 A.M.: Selected Late & New Poems**. Harcourt, 2003. These poems convey vivid and quirky imagery. From "Sunday Papers" to "Frightening Toys" to "Blood Orange," the originality and sly humor of "everydayness" cheers the reader of this award-winning poet's work.
- Simsion, Graeme. **The Rosie Project**. Simon & Schuster, 2013. A college professor's analytical survey to find the perfect wife leads to a relationship with Rosie Jarman even though she is the opposite of his scientific criteria for a wife. *Series*
- Sittenfeld, Curtis. **Sisterland: A Novel**. Random House, 2013. Identical twins Kate and Violet have always been different -- able to sense other people's secrets and know about future events. As they grow up, Vi embraces her gift and pursues a career as a psychic medium, while Kate denies it and settles down with a family. An earthquake in their hometown of Saint Louis and Vi's vision of a more devastating quake to come, forces Kate to reconcile the strained relationship with her twin and come to grips with the truth about herself.
- Skloot, Rebecca. **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**. Crown, 2010. "HeLa" cells, named after Henrietta Lacks, a poor African American woman born in 1920, were

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taken from a tumor removed during Lacks' treatment for cervical cancer. While she died from the disease, her cancer cells proved uncommonly robust, reproducing at a rapid rate. Years later, billions of these cells are used in laboratories around the world.

- Sloan, Robin. ***Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Clay Jannon is released from his job in San Francisco during the Great Recession and accepts a position working the night shift at a local bookstore. Clay soon realizes that there is something very strange and mysterious about that bookstore. *Alex Award 2013*
- Stanley, Shalanda. ***Drowning is Inevitable***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. After seventeen-year-old Olivia and her friend Jamie accidentally kill Jamie's abusive father, two other friends, Max and Maggie, join them in running away from St. Francisville, Louisiana, to hide out in New Orleans while they try to figure out what to do next.
- Stein, Garth. ***The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel***. HarperCollins, 2008. Enzo is an old soul who just happens to be a dog. He is devoted to Denny who is a race car driver. The reader will be captivated as Enzo tells his master's story and prepares for his next life...as a human.
- Steinbeck, John. ***The Grapes of Wrath***. First published 1939. Forced out of their home in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl by economic desperation, a family of Oklahoma farmers drives west to California in search of work as migrant fruit pickers. *Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1940*
- Szyborska, Wislawa. ***Monologue of a Dog: New Poems***. Translated from the Polish by Clare Cavanagh and Stanislaw Baranczak. Harcourt, 2006. Crisp, elegant poetry is presented in original Polish alongside its English translation. Clouds, current events, and revolution are just a few of the themes addressed in this marvelous collection of twenty-six thought-provoking poems.
- Thoreau, Henry David. ***Walden***. First published 1854. Thoreau's observations on nature and life were penned during his solitary stay at Walden Pond, outside Concord, Massachusetts, from 1845 to 1847.
- Towles, Amor. ***Rules of Civility***. Viking, 2011. In 1938 Katey Kontent moves to New York City to find her first job. With a group of newly acquired friends she enjoys the jazz and glamour of the city and the adventure that comes with youth, relationships, and differing social classes.
- Vance, Jack. ***The Moon Moth***. Graphic novel adaptation by Humayoun Ibrahim. First Second, 2012. Lovers of the science fiction genre and graphic novels will enjoy Vance's classic short story set on planet Sirene where aliens wear masks to indicate their social status and communicate by playing musical instruments. Edwer Thissell is sent to Sirene to solve a murder and find the killer in a world where every face is hidden.
- Walton, Jo. ***Among Others***. Tor Books, 2012. Morwenna Phelps' twin has been killed in an evil magical battle that has left Morwenna crippled. Now at a boarding school, where everyone avoids her, she discovers another magic – science fiction,

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libraries, and book clubs. All is recorded in a series of poignant, funny journal entries. *Hugo Award for Best Novel 2012*

- Wecker, Helene. ***The Golem and the Jinni***. Harper, 2013. Two magical creatures -- Chava, a golem made out of clay, and Ahmad, a jinni made of fire -- find themselves in New York City in 1899 in unfamiliar surroundings. The two eventually meet and form an unlikely friendship, only to realize the looming threat to their lives and to those around them.
- Weir, Andy. ***The Martian***. Crown, 2014. Astronaut Mark Watney, having been stranded on Mars during a dust storm, relies on his ingenuity and engineering skills to stay alive and try to contact NASA. *Alex Award 2015*
- Weisgarber, Ann. ***The Promise***. Skyhorse, 2014. 1900. Young pianist Catherine Wainwright flees the fashionable town of Dayton, Ohio, in the wake of a terrible scandal. Heartbroken and facing destitution, she finds herself striking up correspondence with a childhood admirer, the recently widowed Oscar Williams. In desperation, she agrees to marry him. But when Catherine travels to Oscar's farm on Galveston Island, Texas - a thousand miles from home - she finds she is little prepared for the life that awaits her.
- Wilson, August. ***Two Trains Running***. Plume, 1992. This historical African-American drama, part of a ten-part series by a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright, takes place during the Civil Rights movement in Memphis Lee's diner in Pittsburgh, 1969. Characters wrestle with the changing political and social landscape of this American era expressed through everyday conversations as they gather in booths and the lunch counter. They exude strength with dignity and hope for a better future.
- Womack, Gwendolyn. ***The Memory Painter***. Picador, 2015. Bryan Pierce is an internationally famous artist whose paintings have dazzled the world. But there's a secret to his success: every canvas is inspired by an unusually vivid dream. When Bryan awakes, he possesses extraordinary new skills, like the ability to speak obscure languages and an inexplicable genius for chess. All his life, he has wondered if his dreams are recollections, or if he is re-experiencing other people's lives. A taut thriller and a timeless love story spanning six continents and 10,000 years of history, this is a riveting debut novel unlike any you've ever read.
- Wynne-Jones, Tim. ***The Emperor of Any Place***. Candlewick, 2015. When Evan's father dies suddenly, Evan finds a hand-bound yellow book on his desk—a book his dad had been reading when he passed away. The book is the diary of a Japanese soldier stranded on a small Pacific island in WWII. Why was his father reading it? What is in this account that Evan's grandfather, whom Evan has never met before, fears so much that he will do anything to prevent its being seen? And what could this possibly mean for Evan?
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***Boxers***. First Second, 2013. Companion volume to ***Saints***. In 1898 during the Boxer Rebellion, a boy named Little Bao recruits an army of Boxers to rid China of foreign missionaries and soldiers who bully and rob Chinese peasants.

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- Yang, Gene Luen. **Saints**. First Second, 2013. Companion volume to **Boxers**. In 1898 during the Boxer Rebellion, a girl named Vibiana, who is unwanted and unwelcome, turns to Christianity, but she finds herself torn between her nation and her Christian friends who are being murdered by bands of young men.
- Zevin, Gabrielle. **The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry**. Algonquin, 2014. Bookstore owner A.J. Fikry's prized book of rare Poe poems disappears, and he becomes increasingly isolated until a package in the mail compels him to rethink his life.
- Zusak, Markus. **The Book Thief**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl, whose book stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family, the Jewish man they are hiding, and her neighbors. *National Jewish Book Award 2006*

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