

2007 Readers' Choices for Grades 5 & 6  
compliments of Windham County Reads

**Abrahams, Peter.** *Down the Rabbit Hole.* 2005. Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her home town of Echo Falls.

**Blume, Judy.** *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing.* 1972. Peter's three-year-old brother Fudge is disgustingly cute, and he's always getting into Peter's things. What's a boy to do when his parents won't make Fudge behave?

**Brashares, Ann.** *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants.* 2001. Four best friends share a pair of magical jeans that fit all of them perfectly, despite their different sizes. When summer takes them in four different directions, they decide the pants will spend two weeks with each one of them. A lot of growing up takes place in this first of four books in a very popular series.

**Byng, Georgia.** *Molly Moon Stops the World.* 2003. In this page turner with a white-knuckle conclusion, the irrepressibly plucky Molly Moon must stop a megalomaniac master hypnotist named Primo Cell from taking over the world. Read the first Molly Moon book, too!

**Cabot, Meg.** *The Princess Diaries.* 2000-2006. This eight book series begins with Mia, an average ninth-grader, who suddenly discovers that her father is the prince of a small country and she's his only heir. Wonderfully wacky books with lots of pop culture references.

**Clements, Andrew.** *A Week in the Woods.* 2003. Mark isn't even trying to make friends or do any work at his new school. During the annual environmental campout, a showdown between Mark and his science teacher leads to a suspenseful pursuit in the woods that will have readers on the edge of their seats!

**Collins, Suzanne.** *Gregor the Overlander.* 2003. Gregor's two-year-old sister crawls into an air vent in the laundry room, and when he goes after her they are sucked into the Underland, a fantastic subterranean world of translucent-skinned, violet-eyed humans, giant talking cockroaches, bats, spiders and an army of rats. A great read for fantasy fans.

**Creech, Sharon.** *Chasing Redbird.* 1997. Zinny is the quiet and often overlooked middle child in a busy family. As she clears every inch of a hidden, overgrown path at the edge of the farm, she journeys into her family's mysterious past and finds her own way into adulthood.

**Deem, James.** *Bodies From the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii.* 2005. A dramatic photo essay chronicles the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 C.E., when ash, pumice and volcanic rubble obliterated Pompeii's 20,000 residents, and describes the 1863 discovery of this tragedy.

**Funke, Cornelia.** *Inkheart.* 2003. *Inkspell.* 2005. Just imagine being able to bring book characters to life by reading out loud! Conversely, real people can also get read *into* books and become trapped there. Fans are eagerly anticipating the final book in this trilogy.

**George, Jean Craighead.** *Julie of the Wolves.* 1972. *Julie.* 1994. *Julie's Wolf Pack.* 1998. Miyax is a thirteen-year-old orphan and unwilling bride when she runs away, becomes lost on the vast Alaskan tundra and joins a pack of wolves. Sequels continue her amazing story.

**Grover, Lorie. *On Pointe*. 2004.** Clare, a talented ballet student who dreams of a place in the City Ballet Company, is “too tall” to be a successful dancer. Told in free verse, this novel explores body image and pushy parents, as Clare gradually learns she can’t let external forces stifle that which gives her joy.

**Hannigan, Katherine. *Ida B and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World*. 2004.** Ida B is homeschooled on the family farm and acres of apple trees are her friends. When her mother develops cancer, part of the orchard must be sold to pay the bills, and Ida, fiercely angry and feeling betrayed, has to go to public school.

**Hiaasen, Carl. *Hoot*. 2002.** Apparently bullies *do* serve a greater purpose in the universe, because if it wasn’t for that thick-headed bully Dana Matherson, Ron would never have discovered the nest of burrowing owls . . . and he’d have missed the adventure of a lifetime!

**Hunter, Erin. *Into the Wild*. 2003.** The first book in Hunter’s *Warrior* series introduces us to her intriguing world of feral cats with its intricate structure, mythology and rival gangs. Fans of Brian Jacques’ *Redwall* series will enjoy this one, too.

**Jacques, Brian. *Redwall* series. 1987-2007.** Jacques apparently has an endless reservoir of stories to tell and his many fans are glad that’s the case. *High Rhulain* is the most recent title in the series and *Eulalia!* comes out in October.

**Levine, Gail Carson. *Fairest*. 2006.** Fifteen-year-old Aza feels like an ugly ox, even though she has a talent for singing and mimicry that no one can match. A complex fairy-tale setting illuminates the real-life problems of living in an appearance-obsessed society.

**Mazer, Harry. *The Last Mission*. 1979.** In 1944, an underage Jewish boy in the United States manages to enlist in the Air Corps and is taken prisoner by the Germans. ***A Boy at War*. 2002.** The quick pace, graphic detail and nonstop action will keep readers riveted as fourteen-year-old Adam witnesses the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

**Myracle, Lauren. *Eleven*. 2004. *Twelve*. 2007.** “Omg, I love this book! I am 12 too, so this was perfect. I read 11, and was hooked! I finished 12 in less than a day; I couldn’t get my nose out of it. There better be a 13, because the last sentence made me want to read on and on!”

**Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon*. 2002. *Eldest*. 2005.** According to Christopher Paolini, “Writing is the heart and soul of my being. There is nothing like putting words on a page and knowing they will summon certain emotions and reactions from the reader.” One more book to come!

**Paulsen, Gary. *Brian’s Hunt*. 2003.** Paulsen wrote this after saying he was done with Brian, so fans *do* have power. Full of the kind of gritty and even gruesome details readers have come to expect, and based on personal experiences and extensive knowledge of the wild side of nature.

**Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter* series. 1998-2007.** The world awaits the release of the seventh and final book in this sensational series that turned the publishing world upside down.

**Snicket, Lemony. *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. 1999-2006.** Author Daniel Handler says the thirteenth book is the absolute last, and this “unlucky” number seems like good place to stop.

**Wright, Betty Ren. *The Secret Window*. 1982.** Meg is afraid to tell anyone when her dreams literally start coming true, but she needs help before she can learn to use her gift of seeing into the future.