

2007 Readers' Choices for Adults
compliments of Windham County Reads

Baker, Steven. *How to Live with a Neurotic Dog.* 2003. Here's a comical approach to dog ownership for people whose pooches don't display textbook behavior.

Bryson, Bill. *A Short History of Nearly Everything.* 2004. Bill Bryson loves science but hated the way school taught about it. This book is his lively explanation of the history of life itself.

Canfield, Jack. *You've GOT to Read this Book.* 2006. Fifty-five mini biographies of successful people discussing the books that changed their lives for the better.

Cresswell, Jasmine. *The Third Wife.* 2002. Anna escapes from a forced polygamous marriage at age seventeen by stealing her husband's car on their wedding night. Years later, working as a probation officer, Anna is pulled back into her past by a murder investigation.

Cross, Donna. *Pope Joan.* 1997. This is a fictional account of a real woman's ascent to the papacy during Europe's Dark Ages.

Denton, Sally. *American Massacre: The Tragedy at Mountain Meadows, September 1857.* 2004. On September 11, 1857, a group of Mormons killed a pioneering group that was passing through Utah. This nonfiction account looks at exactly what happened and examines why.

Edwards, Kim. *The Memory Keeper's Daughter.* 2006. In 1964 a woman gives birth to twins—a healthy boy and a girl with Down Syndrome. Her devastated husband tells her the girl died at birth, setting in motion a deception that will haunt this family forever.

Esquith, Rafe. *Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire.* 2007. Rafe Esquith, an inner city fifth grade teacher, has been honored by the Dalai Lama, featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show, and awarded the president's National Medal of the Arts. In this book Rafe shares his enthusiasm for teaching and his ideas for making the classroom a more innovative place.

Evans, Karin. *The Lost Daughters of China.* 2001. Part history, part autobiography, this book explores China's outlook on women and the current Chinese adoption process.

Gilbert, Elizabeth. *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia.* 2007. After a terrible divorce, the author travels across three countries for an entire year, indulging in the amazing cuisine of Italy, finding peace and inner solitude in Indian ashrams and entering a love affair in Indonesia.

Gregory, Philippa. *The Other Boleyn Girl.* 2004. Sisters Anne and Mary Boleyn come to King Henry VIII's court at an early age and he is soon smitten with both. Based on fact, this book explores the sisters' complicated relationship and their obsession with the king.

Grisham, John. *The Innocent Man.* 2006. In his first crack at nonfiction, Grisham chronicles the tale of Ron Williamson, falsely accused of rape and murder and sentenced to death.

Gruen, Sara. *Water for Elephants.* 2006. Jacob drops out of veterinary school after his parents die in a car crash and tries to lose himself in the mystique and mayhem of the 1930s circus.

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner.* 2005. A look at the past 30 years of Afghani history through the fictional relationship of two boys—one wealthy, the other a servant's son.

Jamison, Kay Redfield. *An Unquiet Mind.* 1997. Kay Redfield Jamison is one of the world's leading experts on manic depression. Here she writes about this terrifying and fascinating illness, her personal struggle with it and the unique qualities shared by sufferers.

Jones, Edward P. *The Known World.* 2006. Henry Townsend's freedom was purchased by his parents before the Civil War, and they watch in horror as he buys his own slaves as soon as he is able. A masterpiece of overlapping plot lines, time shifts and heartbreaking details of slavery.

Krauss, Nicole. *The History of Love.* 2006. Leo wrote a novel called *The History of Love* and fourteen-year-old Alma was named after its heroine. This book follows the twists and turns of their two lives and their mysterious relationship to each other.

Maguire, Gregory. *Son of a Witch.* 2006. This sequel to *Wicked* is the story of Liir, who may or may not be son of the Wicked Witch of the West, his quest for his half sister Nor and a series of bizarre murders taking place across Oz.

Mayor, Archer. *The Second Mouse.* 2006. Joe Gunther has reason to believe Michelle Fisher's death may be murder but his investigation gets him snagged in political turmoil.

Niffenegger, Audrey. *The Time Traveler's Wife.* 2005. Henry is a librarian who is whisked around in time. Along the way he meets Clare, a wealthy teenager who captures his heart. This offbeat story is beautifully written and has won incredible fanfare.

Obama, Barack. *The Audacity of Hope.* 2006. The presidential hopeful discusses faith, the American dream, politics and ideals in his book about America and its possible futures.

Renner, Rachel Naomi. *Kitchen Table Wisdom.* 2006. Used as a textbook in many medical schools' introductory classes, this collection of spiritual essays won the Wilber Award.

Peltzer, Dave. *A Child Called It.* 1995. Peltzer's autobiography recounts the systematic starvation, poisoning, beatings and stabbings he endured at his mother's hands, while his father did nothing to protect him. Fortunately, he was rescued by an observant teacher.

Picoult, Jodi. *The Pact: A Love Story.* 2006. Two families live as neighbors and best friends for years and their teenage children fall in love. Soon one of them is dead, apparently shot by the other as part of a suicide pact.

Setterfield, Diane. *The Thirteenth Tale.* 2006. Vida Winter has lived a truly amazing life, but over the past two years she has told nineteen different versions of it. Margaret Lea has the difficult task of sorting fact from fiction in this intriguing gothic story.

Sparks, Nicholas. *The Guardian.* 2005. Only 25 years old and just widowed, Julie finds a Christmas present from her husband on her doorstep—a dog. The great dane pup helps Julie navigate through the next several years and her would be suitors.

Vaccario, Mike. *Emperors and Idiots: The Hundred Year Rivalry Between the Yankees and Red Sox, From the Very Beginning to the End of the Curse.* 2006. The title says it all! Well written and well researched, if you are a baseball aficionado, this book is for you.