

# Reading Can Take You Anywhere!

2009 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES 3 - 4 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

**Blume, Judy.** *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing.* 1972. In the first of a series of entertaining stories, Peter must deal with his younger brother Fudge's disgusting cuteness, his constant meddling with Peter's stuff and other grave offenses. All these incidents are presented with big-hearted humor and an unfailing ear for how children think and talk.

**Christopher, Matt.** *Return of the Homerun Kid.* 1992. A new baseball season has started, but Sylvester Coddmyer III is not hitting homeruns like last year. In fact, he is hardly hitting the ball at all, until mysterious Cheeko appears and teaches Syl about aggression on the field.

**Clements, Andrew.** *A Week in the Woods.* 2002. What begins as a school camp out turns into a terrifically suspenseful survival story. Readers will be on the edges of their seats!

**Curtis, Christopher Paul.** *Bud Not Buddy.* 1999. Bud Caldwell is an orphan on the run from abusive foster homes in 1930s Michigan. The idea that's planted itself in his head is that Herman E. Calloway, standup-bass player for the Dusky Devastators of the Depression, is actually his father.

**Dahl, Raold.** *Matilda.* 1988. Matilda Wormwood, an intelligent child who has a great love for reading, is born to two rather awful parents who have no interest whatsoever in their young daughter. She engages in a series of practical jokes every time her parents are beastly or dishonest, which happens on a rather regular basis.

**Fitzhugh, Louise.** *Harriet the Spy.* 1964. Arguably one of the best childrens' books ever written, this book feels as though it were written today. Harriet spys on people and writes about them in her notebook. Perhaps she isn't so loveable, but she certainly is unforgettable.

**Hiassen, Carl.** *Hoot.* 2002. Roy, who has recently moved to Florida from Montana, befriends a homeless boy who is nicknamed Mullet Fingers. Together they try to save the burrowing owls on the corner of East Oriole Avenue from losing their habitat to a pancake house.

**Howe, James.** *Bunnicula.* 1979. Harold the dog tells the story of his human family, the Monroes, and the baby rabbit they adopt and name Bunnicula. Could this little ball of soft fur really be a vampire bunny?

**Hunter, Erin.** *Dark River.* 2007. This suspenseful adventure story is certain to please any young reader who has ever wondered if dreams of grandeur haunt the family cat.

**Kessler, Liz.** *Tail of Emily Windsnap.* 2004. Seventh-grader Emily Windsnap has never learned to swim, in spite of the fact that she and her mother live on a houseboat. When she finally takes a swimming class at school, her legs turn into a fishtail. Just imagine her adventures as a mermaid!

**Kinney, Jeff.** *Diary of a Wimpy Kid.* 2007. In this illustrated novel, middle school student Greg Heffley takes readers through a school year's worth of drama. Greg's mother forces him

to keep a diary, and in it he loosely recounts each day's events, interspersed with his comic illustrations.

**Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie.** *As Long as There are Mountains.* 1997. Iris loves her family farm in the Green Mountains of Vermont. If only her father would realize that she, not her older brother, Lucien, is the farmer in the next generation. When the barn burns down and their father is seriously hurt in a logging accident, it looks as though the farm will have to be sold.

**Lasky, Kathryn.** *To Be a King.* 2006. In this final book of the Legends trilogy, Hoole reclaims the throne of his father and goes on to wage a war against the forces of chaos, greed and oppression led by the powerful warlord-tyrants.

**LeGuin, Ursula.** *Catwings.* 1987. At first Mrs. Jane Tabby can't understand why her four kittens have been born with wings. Then she realizes that they will be able to fly away from their dreary and dangerous city neighborhood. This is the first book in a popular series.

**Paulsen, Gary.** *Hatchet.* 1987. When the pilot of a small, two-person plane has a heart attack and dies, Brian has to crash land in the middle of the Canadian wilderness. Then he must figure out how to survive with only his clothing, a tattered windbreaker and the hatchet his mother has given him as a present.

**Pilkey, Dav.** *Captain Underpants series.* This wacky series features the tightly-whitey-wearing superhero who fights for Truth, Justice, and all that is Pre-Shrunk and Cottony!

**Roy, Ron.** *The White Wolf.* 2005. Newly independent readers will enjoy this appealing and intriguing mystery choice from the A to Z Mystery series.

**Sewall, Ann.** *Black Beauty.* 1877. Written over 140 years ago, yet still perfect for horse lovers of today, this classic is ranked as the sixth bestseller in the English language.

**Smith, Jeff.** *Bone series.* The adventures of the Bone cousins -- plucky Fone Bone, scheming Phony Bone, and easygoing Smiley Bone -- are chronicled in this graphic novel series. When the three leave their home of Boneville, they are swept up in a Tolkienesque epic of royalty, dragons and unspeakable evil forces out to conquer humankind.

**Spinelli, Jerry.** *Loser.* 2002. Donald Zinkoff is one of the greatest kids you could ever hope to meet. He laughs easily, he likes people, he loves school, he tries to rescue lost girls in blizzards, he talks to old ladies. The only problem is, he's a loser. The reader, like Zinkoff's parents and his favorite teacher, will appreciate this boy's oblivious joie de vivre and his divine quirks.

**Watterson, Bill.** *Calvin and Hobbes series.* Calvin, a six-year-old dirty trickster and master of indignation and Hobbes, his cuddly philosopher sidekick, will entertain kids of all ages.

**White, E.B.** *Charlotte's Web.* 1952. An affectionate, sometimes bashful pig named Wilbur befriends a spider named Charlotte who lives in the rafters above his pen. Wilbur is devastated when he learns of the destiny of spring pigs. Determined to save her friend, Charlotte spins a web that reads "Some Pig," convincing the farmer and surrounding community that Wilbur is no ordinary animal.