

Reading Can Take You Anywhere!

2009 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES 5 - 6 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

Abrahams, Peter. *Into the Dark*. 2008. This newest edition of the Echo Falls series, a DCF book for 2009-10, is welcomed by mystery fans. If you haven't already read the previous two books, *Down the Rabbit Hole* and *Behind the Curtain*, you may want to do so first.

Carbone, Elisa. *Blood on the River: James Town, 1607*. 2006. Young orphan Samuel Collier narrates this gripping historical fiction from his viewpoint as Captain John Smith's page. Over 20 Reading Challenge participants chose this book as their favorite.

Clements, Andrew. *No Talking*. 2008. Clements' 2008-09 DCF contender has many kids talking, and also has many challenging themselves to "no talking." A story about language and the importance of the power of words or lack thereof.

Colfer, Eoin. *Artemis Fowl series*. Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of bedtime stories -- these fairies are armed and they're dangerous. Artemis thinks he's got them just where he wants them, but then they stop playing by the rules. The first book in this series is now also available in graphic novel format.

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. 2008. In a postapocalyptic North America that combines a yesteryear feel with futuristic technology, the government demands a tribute of two children who must fight to the death in a televised match. Can Katniss hang on to her humanity in a world where she must be ruthless to survive? This 2009-10 DCF title has a much anticipated sequel, *Catching Fire*, coming out in September.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud Not Buddy*. 1999. Wonderfully humorous historical fiction tells us the story of Bud Caldwell, a 10-year-old from Flint, Michigan, who goes in search of his unknown father in 1936. Will jazz musician Herman Calloway of Herman Calloway and the Dusky Devastators of the Depression turn out to be his dad?

Dahl, Roald. *BFG*. 1988. The Big Friendly Giant snatches Sophie from her bed and takes her away to giant land. Soon Sophie realizes that he isn't really all that big compared with other giants. She also learns that he is much friendlier when other giants mock and bully the BFG.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Flush*. 2005. Set in the Florida keys, Hiaasen's ecological mystery/adventure is both thought-provoking and humorous. His first novel for young readers, *Hoot*, won a Newbery Honor.

Howe, James. *Bunnacula*. 1979. Imagine a vampire bunny. Now imagine a cat named Chester becoming distraught over the safety of his family because of this vampire bunny. Narrated by the family dog, this lively tale is full of misunderstandings that result in a hilarious story.

Hunter, Erin. *Into the Wild*. 2003. If you are a lover of animal adventure/fantasy, this might be the perfect book for you. There are many more titles in Hunter's popular *Warriors* series.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Cracker!* 2007. Cracker is the story of a show dog who has broken a leg and can no longer compete. Instead, she becomes part of a military canine unit and sniffs out booby traps in Vietnam. When her 17-year-old handler gets wounded and is sent home, both are anxious to be reunited.

Keene, Carolyn. *Nancy Drew mysteries.* This mystery series with a young teen sleuth has been a favorite of young girls for many decades. The dozens of titles are great for readers of both genders who have just discovered mysteries.

Kinney, Jeff. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid.* 2007. Kinney's first book in a wildy popular series is written from the perspective of middle school student Greg, and takes us through a whole year of school. Cartoon artwork and journal entries distinguish this title and the two sequels that follow.

Lupica, Mike. *Heat, Travel Team, Miracle on 49th Street, etc.* Lupica writes many wonderful sports genre titles that will appeal to youngsters and oldsters alike.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Starting with Alice.* 2002. In the first of a trilogy of prequels to the well-loved Alice series, readers get to know the indomitable Alice as an eight-year-old. They will want to follow her through all the rest of her school years.

Paolini, Christopher. *Brisingsr.* 2008. The story begun in *Eragon* and *Eldest* continues in a book that features Eragon struggling with promises he may not be able to keep. The series does not end here as expected, so fans will again be awaiting another installment.

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet series.* When Brian's plane crashes lands in the Canadian wilderness, he is forced to survive on his own. The first in a connected series, this book is a must-read for all elementary and middle school students.

Peck, Robert Newton. *A Day No Pigs Would Die.* 1972. In this witty and charming story, a 13-year-old Vermont farm boy is given a pig by another farmer as a thank you for delivering a calf. He names his pig Pinky, loves him, and is faced with a difficult, life changing decision.

Sacher, Louis. *Holes.* 1998. Stanley Yelnats is unjustly sent to Camp Green Lake, which isn't a camp at all, nor is it on a lake. There he and other boys are sentenced to dig holes, supposedly to "build character." The warden really has them digging to find a valuable item she wants.

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret.* 2007. A 12-year-old orphan named Hugo lives in a train station, where he tends to the clocks and pilfers what he needs to survive. All action in this unique book is conveyed through masterful wordless illustrations that pick up where the preceding narrative leaves off. In a class of its own!

Smith, Roland. *Elephant Run.* 2007. In 1941, Nick's mother decides to send her son to live on the family plantation in Burma to escape the bombing that occurs in London. Instead, the Japanese invade Burma, take Nick's dad prisoner and become Nick's overseers when he is forced to be their servant. Nick decides to take a timber elephant and escape.

Tolan, Stephanie. *Listen.* 2006. The summer after her mother dies, Charley is also recovering from injuries she sustained in a car accident. While out walking, she finds a stray dog who needs healing every bit as much as she does. The connection these two have is sweet and gentle. This wonderful story will give you a few goosebumps and leave you feeling satisfied.