

# Reading Can Take You Anywhere!

## 2009 READERS' CHOICES FOR ADULTS • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

**Coleman, Rowan.** *The Accidental Mother.* 2005. Super organized Sophie Mills' career is all consuming, just as she wants it to be. When her best friend suddenly dies and Sophie becomes the guardian of two young children, she is forced to jump into life rather than planning it from a safe distance.

**Gilbert, Elizabeth.** *Eat, Pray, Love.* 2006. After a difficult divorce, the author of this popular memoir embarked on a long trip of recovery with three main stops: Italy for gastronomic pleasure; an ashram in India for spiritual searching; and Indonesia for "balancing" and love.

**Gregory, Philippa.** *The Other Queen.* 2008. This novel explores the life of Mary, Queen of Scots while she was in captivity. Intrigue, scheming and rebellion touch all around her, even those most loyal to Queen Elizabeth.

**Grisham, John.** *The Appeal.* 2008. Opening with the verdict against a chemical company, this legal thriller exposes greed and corruption in big business, America's electoral system and even among judges.

**Gunning, Sally.** *Widow's War.* 2006. When Lyddie Berry's husband drowns in 1761, her grief is compounded by the discovery that he's willed her the widow's share -- one third use, but not ownership of his estate. We watch her rebellion, just as the Colonies began theirs.

**Jacobs, Kate.** *The Friday Night Knitting Club.* 2007. Georgia's entire life is wrapped up in running her yarn store and caring for her 12-year-old daughter Dakota. With the help of a lively widow in her seventies, Georgia starts the Friday night knitting club, drawing in loyal customers and a few odd balls. This yarn explores the members and their lives, and an unexpected tragedy makes it impossible to put down.

**Jones, Howard.** *The Bay of Pigs.* 2008. Here is a readable and concise study of the events leading to the military and political disaster of April 1961. The author's impressively crafted history of this tragic event should stand as the definitive treatment for years to come.

**Kingsolver, Barbara.** *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle.* 2007. The Kingsolver family moved to a Virginia farm, where for one year they bought only local foods and grew and raised the rest. This practical vision of how we might eat is as fresh as just picked corn.

**le Carre, John.** *A Most Wanted Man.* 2008. In Hamburg, Germany, a Turkish Muslim boxer and his mother take in a street person, setting off a chain of events that implicates intelligence agencies from three countries. Hidden identities, terrorist intentions and mysterious bank portfolios are threaded through this fast-paced thriller.

**Larsson, Stieg.** *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.* 2008. In the first of a trilogy, we are introduced to a disgraced financial journalist and a multipierced and tattooed super-hacker. They are hired by an octogenarian industrialist who wants to find out what happened to his great-niece.

**Lee, Harper.** *To Kill a Mockingbird.* 1949. Set in a small Southern town during the Great Depression, this novel follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother Jem, and their father, Atticus. A tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, courage and the pain of growing up.

**Lehane, Dennis.** *The Given Day.* 2008. Danny, an Irish cop, and Luther, a black man on the run from a crime boss, gradually find family in one another in this masterful foray into historical fiction. Set in Boston just after World War I, author Lehane explores many of the pivotal events of the time.

**Patchett, Ann.** *Run.* 2007. Ten years after having a son, Doyle and Bernadette adopt two African-American children. When they are just four years old, Bernadette dies, and relationships begin to both emerge and unravel, disclosing secrets, hopes, and fears.

**Patterson, James, and Howard Roughan.** *The Honeymoon.* 2005. This well-paced thriller pits undercover FBI agent John O'Hara against Nora Sinclair, a charming serial killer. Told from alternating points of view, the novel delves into the psychology of both characters, allowing the reader to know more about each of them than they do.

**Pausch, Randy.** *The Last Lecture.* 2008. Professors are often asked to consider their demise and to speak on what matters most to them. When computer science professor Randy Pausch was asked to give such a lecture, he was already terminally ill. This book, based on the lecture he gave, was written for his three young children.

**Picoult, Jodi.** *My Sister's Keeper.* 2004. Genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister, thirteen-year-old Anna hires a lawyer to represent her in a medical emancipation suit. Many questions are raised and readers will still be thinking about possible answers long after they finish this book.

**Schlink, Bernhard.** *The Reader.* 1997. Like a fine play, this book evolves through three acts. First, young Michael falls in love with an older woman named Hanna and reads to her. Then she is found guilty of war crimes as a member of the Nazi Party. Finally, Hanna and Michael meet again, 18 years later, in an ending that is both tragic and just.

**Shaffer, Mary Ann and Barrows, Annie.** *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.* 2008. An unusual society suddenly comes into being to save several residents of Guernsey from their German occupiers during World War II. The courageous and quirky men and women in this novel quickly work their way into the reader's heart.

**Stein, Garth.** *The Art of Racing in the Rain.* 2008. Enzo, a Lab and Terrier mix who rides shotgun with race car driver Denny Swift, teaches Denny and the reader that persistence and joie de vivre will see them through the checkered flag.

**Vanderbilt, Tom.** *Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do.* 2008. Want to know how much city traffic is just people looking for parking? Why street signs don't work, or why new cars crash more than old ones do? This book is full of fascinating facts and surprising answers to traffic questions and conundrums!

**Wroblewski, David.** *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle.* 2008. After a wrenching family tragedy, Edgar, who is young and mute, goes on the run with three loyal dogs. His quest for safety and belonging provides this classic coming of age story with an ironic twist.

**Young, William Paul.** *The Shack.* 2008. Mack's youngest daughter was abducted during a family vacation. Four years later, he receives a note, apparently from God, inviting him back to the shack where there is evidence of her possible murder. The answers Mack finds there are both astounding and transforming.

**Zusak, Marcus.** *The Book Thief.* 2006. Death narrates this book about nine-year-old Liesel, who has stolen a book for herself. As time goes on, she takes many more, learns to read and makes friends, while books carry her through many hardships.