

Build Your Kingdom . . . READ!

2010 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES 3-4 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

Compiled and annotated by Judy Durand

Benton, Jim. *Dear Dumb Diary: My Pants are Haunted.* 2004. Jaime Kelly leads the typical, difficult life of a girl in middle school until she gets a new pair of jeans. When her friend Isabelle hatches a master plan to help them rise up the popularity ladder at school, things go from bad to worse! A late-night horror movie reveals the cause of Jaime's problems—her jeans are haunted!

Cleary, Beverly. *Ramona Forever.* 1984. There's a lot going on in the Quimby house and everything around Ramona seems to be changing. Just when it seems things have gone totally wrong, Ramona steps up to save the day, in her lovable, honest way.

Dahl, Roald. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.* 1965. The gates of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory are opening at last, and only five children will be allowed inside. When poor little Charlie Bucket finds one of the golden tickets, his life is changed forever.

DeCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Desperaux.* 2006. Desperaux Tilling, the new baby mouse, is different from all other mice. Sadly, his unmouselike spirit leads him to be banished by his own father to the foul, rat-filled dungeon. How can a light-loving rat and slow-witted girl possibly connect to help this tiny mouse hero live happily ever after?

Duffield, Rick. *Adventures of Wishbone: Salty Dog.* 1997. There's buried treasure in Oakdale! To find it, Wishbone, Joe, Samantha and David must enter a condemned barn. This reminds Wishbone of the high-seas tale of *Treasure Island*. Follow Wishbone through this tale of excitement and treasure!

Haas, Jessie. *Jigsaw Pony.* 2005. Twins Fran and Kiera agree it would be wonderful to own a pony, but that is about all they agree on. When their father brings them Jigsaw, a Shetland pony who needs a new family, the twins find it hard to share. This pleasing tale told from the pony's point of view is the perfect story for pony fans.

Hunter, Erin. *Warriors: Into the Wild.* 2004. For generations, four clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their warrior ancestors, but now there is trouble. In the midst of this turmoil appears an ordinary house cat named Rusty, who may turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.

Jackson, Edgar. *Green Mountain Hero.* 1988. Life is difficult for Solomon, his mother and their family in pre-Revolutionary Vermont, as they face the threat of Indians and aid the Green Mountain Boys.

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.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time.* 1962. One dark, stormy night, Meg and her brother meet an unearthly stranger who claims to have been blown off course. He explains to them that there is such a thing as a "tesseract," which is a wrinkle in time.

Could this explain the sudden disappearance of their father, who was experimenting with time-travel? They embark on a journey through space to outwit evil forces as they search for him.

Martin, Ann. *The Doll People*. 2003. A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for 100 years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow the Doll Code of Honor.

McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody Goes to College*. 2010. The substitute teacher thinks Judy's math skills need improving, so Judy starts meeting with a math tutor from the local college. Things turn out much better than Judy anticipated, and pretty soon, more than her math skills begin to improve.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *A Goodnight for Ghosts*. 2009. Jack and Annie are on their second mission to inspire artists to bring happiness to millions. After traveling to New Orleans, Jack and Annie come head to head with some real ghosts, and they discover the world of jazz when they meet a young Louis Armstrong.

Park, Barbara. *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook*. 1997. A terrible thing has happened to Junie B. Jones! Someone took her new black furry mittens and kept them! So when Junie B. finds a wonderful pen on the floor, she should be allowed to keep it, too. Right? Junie B. is in for more troubles!

Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief*. 2006. Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. He soon learns why—the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea, and Percy is a demigod. After spending the summer at Camp Half Blood, Percy and friends set out on a quest to prevent a catastrophic war between the gods. Greek mythology is alive and well in the United States!

Smith, Jeff. *Bone 1: Out from Boneville*. 2005. In the first volume of a nine-book epic, the three Bone cousins—Fone Bone, Phoney Bone, and Smiley Bone—are separated and lost in an uncharted desert. Little do the Bones know that there are dark forces conspiring against them!

Rawls, Wilson. *Summer of the Monkeys*. 1998. Jay Barry Lee discovers 29 monkeys living in the creek bottoms near his parents' homestead. He soon discovers that monkeys are much smarter and harder to catch than he would have thought possible!

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. 2002. Harry Potter is midway through his training as a wizard and is curious about the mysterious event that is supposed to take place at Hogwarts this year. The competition between two other rival schools of magic hasn't happened for a hundred years. This one could prove to be deadly.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *By the Shores of Silver Lake*. 1953. The adventures of Laura Ingalls and her family continue as they move to the wilderness of the unsettled Dakota territory. Pa has a job with the railroad and a chance to finally buy his own land on the shores of Silver Lake. However, now the Ingalls family must do whatever it takes to defend their beautiful land.