

# Build Your Kingdom . . . READ!

## 2010 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES 5-6 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

Compiled and annotated by Kelly Rounds and Julia von Ranson

**Avi. *Night Journeys*. 2000.** Eight years before the American Revolution, orphan Peter York is adopted by a strict Quaker farmer. Peter decides to break away by capturing a runaway indentured servant for reward money, but this leads to consequences he didn't foresee.

**Barry, Dave. *Peter and the Starcatchers*. 2004.** This #1 BookSense Pick follows a young orphan and his mates as they are dispatched to an island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. A fast-paced, impossible-to-put-down adventure.

**Carbone, Elisa. *Blood on the River: Jamestown, 1607*. 2006.** Young orphan Samuel Collier narrates this gripping historical fiction from his viewpoint as Captain John Smith's page.

**Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. 2008.** In a post apocalyptic 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?

**Dahl, Roald. *The Twits*. 1990.** Mr. and Mrs. Twit hate everything—except playing mean jokes on each other, catching innocent birds to put in their Bird Pies, and making their caged monkeys, the Muggle-Wumps, stand on their heads all day. But the Muggle-Wumps have had enough. They don't just want out, they want revenge.

**DuPrau, Jeanne. *City of Ember*. 2008.** It is always night in the city of Ember. Among the many other things the people of Ember have forgotten is their past and a direction for their future.

**Fleischman, Sid. *The Whipping Boy*. 1986.** In this Newbery Award-winning tale, a street boy endures life as the prince's whipping boy until they both are taken hostage and must swap identities.

**Funke, Cornelia. *Dragon Rider*. 2004.** Firedrake is the only dragon to heed a warning from his colony's senior resident. Accompanied by an orphaned boy who becomes his dragon rider and a large group of other supporters, Firedrake fulfills an ancient prophecy and safely returns to his ancestral home.

**Haworth, Danette. *Violet Raines Almost Got Struck by Lightning*. 2008.** This debut novel tells a classic tale of best friends, budding romance and bad storms, and features a charming young tomboy who finds that growing up doesn't mean she has to change who she is.

**Hemingway, Edith Morris. *Drums of War*. 2006.** Based on an actual person, *Drums of War* is a novel that transports you to the front lines of the war between the states. You will march alongside Charley right up to the stunning, gut-wrenching conclusion.

**Jacques, Brian. *Redwall*. 1986.** What can the peace-loving mice of Redwall Abbey do to defend themselves against a battle-seasoned army of rats? Teeming with riddles, humor, memorable characters and high adventure, *Redwall* launched a series that captured the world's attention.

**MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah Plain and Tall*. 1987.** In a near-perfect miniature novel, two children experience the apprehensions and joys of the possibility of a new mother when their father invites a mail-order bride to their prairie home.

**Mass, Wendy. *Finally*. 2010.** Rory has a list of things she longs to do when she turns 12, including staying home alone, shaving her legs, babysitting, wearing makeup and drinking coffee. But those long-anticipated experiences bring some disconcerting surprises.

**Meadows, Daisy. *India: The Moonstone Fairy*. 2007.** Jack Frost is up to no good again! This time, he's stolen the seven jewels from Queen Titania's crown. Without them, the Jewel Fairies can't do their jobs and the magic in Fairyland is fading fast. India the Moonstone Fairy is in charge of dream magic. Can Rachel and Kirsty help find the moonstone before everything turns into a nightmare?

**Nix, Garth. *Mister Monday*. 2003.** Arthur Penhaligon's school year is not off to a good start. On the the first day, he suffers an asthma attack while running cross country and dreams that a mysterious figure hands him a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock. When he wakes up, he actually has the key, and very strange things begin to happen.

**Pattou, Edith. *East*. 2005.** In the rural villages of Norway, there is an ancient belief that children inherit the qualities of the direction in which they are born. *East* melds traditional fairy tale motifs of both *Beauty and the Beast* and *East of the Sun and West of the Moon* with the haunting icy lore of medieval northern lands.

**Rinaldi, Ann. *Girl in Blue*. 2005.** Sarah disguises herself as a Union soldier, shoots her first Rebel and then carries out a dying man's poignant last request. When the secret of her gender is discovered, she is pressed into service as a Pinkerton spy and thrust undercover as a maid for a notorious Confederate socialite, who is also a spy.

**Riordan, Rick. *Lightning Thief*. 2005.** Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school again, and that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. Worse still, he's angered a few of them, and now that Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, Percy is the prime suspect.

**Shusterman, Neil. *Antsy Does Time*. 2008.** Antsy, the wisecracking teenager introduced in the award-winning *The Schwa Was Here* takes a second ride on the emotional roller coaster of life. Classmate Gunnar Umlaut announces that he is going to die in six months, and Antsy Bonano prints up a contract that signs over a month of his own life to his buddy.

**Soup, Cuthbert. *A Whole Nother Story*. 2009.** For kids who love *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, here is a new series featuring the three Cheeseman children, their father, their psychic dog and a sock puppet named Steve, all of whom are on the run from international super-spies.

**Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. 2007.** After Reynie Muldoon responds to an advertisement recruiting "gifted children looking for special opportunities," he finds himself in a world of mystery and adventure. The 11-year-old orphan is one of four children to complete a series of challenging and creative tasks, and he and his friends become the Mysterious Benedict Society.

**Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*. 2009.** It's the cusp of World War I, and the European powers are arming up. The British Darwinists employ fabricated animals as their weaponry. Their Leviathan is a whale airship, the most masterful beast in the British fleet. With the Great War brewing, Alek's and Deryn's paths cross in the most unexpected way, taking them both aboard the Leviathan on a fantastical around-the-world adventure.