

Build Your Kingdom . . . READ!

2010 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES 7-8 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

Compiled and annotated by Mary Linney

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains.* 2008. At the start of the Revolutionary War, Isabel is sold to a cruel Loyalist family even though her former owner had promised her freedom. Shipped to New York, she meets Curzon, who convinces her that the only way to freedom is to help the rebels by spying on her new owners.

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *Anything But Typical.* 2009. Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. DCF Master List 2010-2011.

Collins, Suzanne. *Catching Fire.* 2009. By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families. However, since they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion.

Dashner, James. *The Maze Runner.* 2009. Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Fleming, Candace. *The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum.* 2009. This is a fascinating biography of P.T. Barnum, showman and founder of the Barnum & Bailey Circus. DCF Master List 2010-2011.

Greenwald, Lisa. *My Life in Pink and Green.* 2009. When the family's drugstore is failing, seventh-grader Lucy uses her problem solving talents to come up with a solution that might resuscitate the business and help the environment.

Hale, Shannon and Dean Hale. *Calamity Jack.* 2010. In this graphic novel interpretation of a well-known tale, Jack is a born schemer who climbs a magical beanstalk in the hope of exacting justice from a mean giant and gaining a fortune for his widowed mother. Consider reading *Rapunzel's Revenge* as well.

Hartinger, Brent. *Project Sweet Life.* 2009. When their fathers insist that they get summer jobs, three fifteen-year-old friends in Tacoma, Washington, dedicate their summer vacation to fooling their parents into thinking they're working, which proves to be even harder than having real jobs would have been. DCF Master List 2010-2011.

Lupica, Mike. *The Million Dollar Throw.* 2009. Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind. When he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the half-time of a New England Patriots' game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

Paterson, Katherine. *The Day of the Pelican.* 2009. After her thirteen-year-old brother is captured and beaten by the Serbian police, Meli and her family flee their homeland in search of safety. 2010 Vermont Reads title.

Paulsen, Gary. *Mudshark.* 2009. Principal Wagner confidently deals with a faculty washroom crisis, a psychic parrot and a terrorizing gerbil, but when sixty-five erasers go missing, he enlists the help of the school's best problem solver and locator of lost items, twelve-year-old Lyle Williams, aka Mudshark.

Peters, Julie Anne. *Define "Normal".* 2003. When she agrees to meet with Jasmine, a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home.

Potter, Ellen. *Slob.* 2009. Picked on and overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past so he can find out what happened the day his life changed forever. DCF Master List 2010-2011.

Preller, James. *Bystander.* 2009. Thirteen-year-old Eric discovers there are consequences to standing by and watching as the bully at his new school hurts people, and there are also consequences to breaking his silence and speaking out. A thought-provoking book with no easy answers. DCF Master List 2010-2011.

Riordan, Rick. *The Red Pyramid.* 2010. Reunited siblings are brought together at the British Museum by their father in hopes of a reconciliation; instead he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives.

Scrimger, Richard. *Into the Ravine.* 2007. Three teen boys build a raft and float it downstream through a series of adventures.

Slade, Arthur. *The Hunchback Assignments.* 2009. In Victorian London, fourteen-year-old Modo, a shape-changing hunchback, becomes a secret agent for the Permanent Association, which strives to protect the world from the evil machinations of the Clockwork Guild. DCF Master List 2010-2011.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *After Ever After.* 2010. Jeff and Tad make a deal to help one another overcome the after-effects of their cancer treatments as they prepare for eighth-grade graduation, but Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa. Sequel to *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*.

Spradlin, Michael. *Trail of Fate.* 2009. In the Middle Ages, a young squire, a King's archer and a Muslim assassin work together to protect the Holy Grail as they travel across France toward England. Sequel to *Keeper of the Grail*.

Vail, Rachel. *Gorgeous.* 2009. Ninth-grader Allison has always been the least attractive among her sisters, but when she allows the devil to possess her cell phone in exchange for appearing to be gorgeous, she must confront the power and deceptiveness of appearances. Companion to *Lucky*.

Wood, Maryrose. *The Mysterious Howling.* 2010. Fifteen-year-old Miss Penelope Lumley, a recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, is hired as governess to three young children who have been raised by wolves. She must quickly teach them to behave in a civilized manner in preparation for a Christmas ball.