

# Build Your Kingdom . . . READ!

## 2010 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES 9-12 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

Compiled and annotated by Mary Linney and Marilee Attley

**Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Twisted*. 2007. After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl. When life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

**Barnes, John.** *Tales of the Madman Underground (An Historical Romance 1973)*. 2009. As the school year begins in his depressed Ohio town, high-school senior Kurt Shoemaker determines to be "normal," despite his chaotic home life with his volatile, alcoholic mother and the deep loyalty and affection he has for his friends in the therapy group dubbed the Madman Underground.

**Bray, Libba.** *Going Bovine*. 2009. After sixteen-year-old Cameron Smith is diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob (aka mad cow) disease, he and a death-obsessed video gaming dwarf he meets in the hospital set off on a road trip in an attempt to find a cure. 2010 Printz Award winner.

**Brown, Dan.** *The Lost Symbol*. 2009. Symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned unexpectedly to the U.S. Capitol Building, where the night takes a bizarre turn. A disturbing object—artfully encoded with five symbols—is discovered in the building, and Langdon immediately recognizes the ancient code. Should he follow the symbol's command or risk losing his lifelong mentor and friend?

**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.

**Eggers, Dave.** *Zeitoun*. 2009. Eggers tells the compelling true story of Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a Syrian-born painting contractor who decides to stay in New Orleans and protect his property while his family flees. When the levees break, he uses a small canoe to rescue people, but then he is arrested by an armed squad and swept powerlessly into a vortex of bureaucratic brutality.

**Flanagan, John.** *The Siege of Macindaw*. 2009. Now a full-fledged Ranger, Will must rescue his friend Alyss from a rogue knight and uncover vital information needed to ward off a Scotti invasion. Book 6 in the *Ranger's Apprentice* series.

**Forman, Gayle.** *If I Stay*. 2009. While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

**Garcia, Kami and Margaret Stohl.** *Beautiful Creatures*. 2009. In a small South Carolina town, sixteen-year-old Ethan is powerfully drawn to Lena, a new classmate with whom he shares a psychic connection and whose family hides a dark secret that may be revealed on her sixteenth birthday.

**Gruen, Sara.** *Water for Elephants*. 2006. Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant who gave them hope.

**Huxley, Aldous.** *Brave New World.* 1931. "Community, Identity, Stability" is the motto of Aldous Huxley's utopian World State. Here everyone consumes daily grams of soma to fight depression, babies are born in laboratories, and the most popular form of entertainment is a "Feelie," a movie that stimulates the senses of sight, hearing and touch.

**Ness, Patrick.** *The Ask and the Answer.* 2009. Alternate chapters follow teenagers Todd and Viola, who become separated as the Mayor's oppressive new regime takes power in New Prentisstown, a space colony where residents can hear each other's thoughts.

**Peck, Dale.** *Sprout.* 2009. Moving from Long Island to Kansas after his mother dies, a teenaged boy nicknamed Sprout is surprised to find new friends, a fascinating landscape, and romantic love.

**Pfeffer, Susan Beth.** *This World We Live In.* 2010. When the moon's gravitational pull increases, causing massive natural disasters on Earth, Miranda and her family struggle to survive without cities or sunlight and wonder if anyone else is still alive. Follow-up to *Life As We Knew It* and *The Dead and the Gone*.

**Picoult, Jodi.** *My Sister's Keeper.* 2004. By age thirteen, Anna has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions and shots so her older sister Kate can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate—a life and a role that she has never challenged...until now. Anna makes a decision that will tear her family apart and may have fatal consequences for the sister she loves.

**Pollan, Michael and Richie Chevat.** *The Omnivore's Dilemma.* 2009. This best-selling book is available in a (slightly) shortened version that will appeal to thoughtful, socially responsible teens.

**Shusterman, Neal.** *Unwind.* 2007. In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs—and, perhaps, save their own lives. 2010 Green Mountain Book Award winner.

**Small, David.** *Stitches.* 2009. In this profound and moving memoir, Small, an award-winning children's book illustrator, uses his drawings to depict the consciousness of a young boy. 2009 National Book Award finalist for Young People's Literature.

**Smithson, Ryan.** *Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-year-old GI.* 2009. Kirkus Review said, "He lucidly recounts the intensity of battle and the pain of losing comrades. For Smithson, the war is a source of personal enlightenment, and this memoir is a remarkable, deeply penetrating read that will compel teens to reflect on their own thoughts about duty, patriotism and sacrifice."

**Stockett, Kathryn.** *The Help.* 2009. It's 1962 in Jackson, Mississippi, and there are lines that are not crossed. With the civil rights movement exploding all around them, three women start a movement of their own, forever changing a town and the way women—black and white, mothers and daughters—view one another.

**Stork, Francisco X.** *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors.* 2010. Seventeen-year-old Pancho is bent on avenging the senseless death of his sister, but after he meets D.Q., who is dying of cancer, and Marisol, one of D.Q.'s caregivers, both boys find their lives changed by their interactions.

**Welch, Diana and Liz Welch.** *The Kids Are Alright: A Memoir.* 2009. The four Welch children, orphaned in their youth in the mid-1980s, recount by turns their memories and impressions of that painful time.