

Build Your Kingdom . . . READ!

2010 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES K-2 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

Compiled and annotated by Kathy Michel

P=Picture Book, E=Early Reader, T=Transitional/Early Chapter Book

P. Amato, Mary. *The Chicken of the Family.* 2008. When her older sisters tease her into believing that she is actually a chicken, Henrietta runs off to a farm to be among her own kind. Big-eyed children and bright colors fill the pages of this 2009 Red Clover nominee.

P. Barrett, Judi. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.* 1978. Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes and blows storms of hamburger—until the weather takes a turn for the worse.

E. Clements, Andrew. *Ringo Saves the Day!* 2001. In this true story, a young woman and her husband are glad that they gave a stray kitten a home when it saves their lives by alerting them to a gas leak.

P. Dewdney, Anna. *Llama Llama Mad at Mama.* 2007. When little llama wants to play but must go shopping with his mother instead, he gets angry and makes a mess at the store.

P. Frazee, Marie. *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever.* 2008. Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at Eamon's grandparents' beach home during summer vacation.

P. Friend, Catherine. *The Perfect Nest.* 2007. Jack the cat gets much more than he bargained for when he decides to build the perfect nest to attract the perfect chicken.

E. Gibala-Broxholm, Scott. *Scary Fright, Are You All Right?* 2002. After playing with a new human friend, Scary Fright begins behaving strangely—choosing a kitten for a pet, developing a taste for pizza, and drawing rainbows on her wall.

T. Gutman, Dan. *My Sunny is Funny!* 2008. Second-grade graduate A.J. and his family rent a beach house, but summer vacation is ruined when annoying Andrea shows up and develops a crush on the lifeguard. From the series *My Weird School Daze*.

T. Harper, Charise Mericle. *Just Grace.* 2007. Misnamed by her teacher, seven-year-old Just Grace prides herself on being empathetic, but when she tries to help a neighbor feel better, her good intentions backfire.

T. James, Will. *Smokey, the Cow Horse.* 1994. This winner of the Newbery Award chronicles the experiences of a mouse-colored horse from his birth in the wild, through his capture by humans and his work in the rodeo and on the range, to his eventual old age.

P. Jenkins, Steve. *Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember.* 2009. This guide to wild animals presents the unique skills many creatures, including pythons and tigers, have developed to protect themselves from harm—skills that can also render them unexpectedly hazardous to humans.

P. Kerby, Mona. *Owney, the Mail-Pouch Pooch.* 2008. In 1888, Owney, a stray terrier puppy, finds a home in the Albany, New York, post office and becomes its official mascot. He rides the mail train through the Adirondacks and beyond, criss-crossing the United States, Canada and Mexico, and eventually travels around the world by mail boat in 132 days.

T. Kinney, Jeff. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days*. 2009. In the latest diary of middle-schooler Greg Heffley, we read about his attempts to spend his summer vacation sensibly indoors playing video games and watching television, despite his mother's other ideas.

P. London, Jonathan. *Let's Go, Froggy!* 1994. Froggy and his father search the house for the mislaid items they will need on their bike trip. Don't miss the other Froggy stories.

T. Lowry, Lois. *Gooney Bird Is So Absurd*. 2009. Mrs. Pidgeon's second-grade class studies poetry, and her students write haiku, couplets, free verse and finally, a tribute to Mrs. Pidgeon's mother organized by the irrepressible Gooney Bird Greene.

E. Madearis, Angela Shelf. *We Eat Dinner in the Bathtub*. 1996. A young boy visits a friend who lives in a topsy-turvy house.

T. Milne, A. A. *Winnie the Pooh*. 1926. Some of the adventures of Christopher Robin and his friends, in which Pooh Bear uses a balloon to get honey, Piglet meets a Heffalump, and Eeyore has a birthday.

E. Minarik, Else Holmelund. *A Kiss for Little Bear*. 1968. Little Bear's thank-you kiss from grandmother gets passed on to him by many animals and greatly aids the skunks' romance.

T. O'Connor, Barbara. *Greetings from Nowhere*. 2008. In North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains, a troubled boy and his mother, a happy family seeking adventure, a man and his lonely daughter, and the widow who must sell the run-down motel that has been her home for decades, meet and are transformed by their shared experiences.

P. Pilkey, Dav. *Dogzilla*. 1993. A monstrous mutt terrorizes the residents of Mousopolis.

T. Selden, George. *The Cricket in Times Square*. 1960. A country cricket with unique musical abilities lands in New York's Times Square. With the help of a newsboy, a cat and a mouse, he brings joy to the residents of the city.

P. Scotton, Ron. *Russell the Sheep*. 2005. Russell the sheep tries all different ways to get to sleep. Which one will finally work?

P. Seuss, Dr. *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*. 1949. The King, tired of rain, snow, sun and fog, commands his magicians to make something else come down from the sky. When oobleck falls in sticky greenish droplets, Bartholomew Cubbins saves the kingdom.

P. Soman, David. *Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy*. 2009. Lulu, dressed as Ladybug Girl, goes to the playground and makes several new friends, including Bumblebee Boy.

E. Willems, Mo. *My Friend is Sad*. 2007. Gerald the Elephant is sad and Piggie is determined to cheer him up. After many tries, Piggie finds that it only takes the simplest thing to change Gerald's mood.

P. Winter, Jeanette. *Wangari's Trees of Peace*. 2008. This true story of Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a shining example of how one woman's passion, vision, and determination has inspired great change.

E. Yolen, Jane. *Commander Toad and the Planet of the Grapes*. 1982. In search of new worlds to explore, Commander Toad and his crew land their space ship "Star Warts" on the strange Planet of the Grapes.