

Anything is Possible with Books!

2011 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES 9-12 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

Compiled and annotated by Marilee Attley

Bageant, Joe. *Deer Hunting with Jesus*. 2007. Returning to his hometown of Winchester, Virginia, after 30 years, Bageant examines class warfare in a community hit by hard times.

Barrie, J.M. *Peter Pan*. 1911. The timeless story of Wendy, Captain Hook, the Lost Boys and Peter--the boy who refused to grow up.

Burke, Jan. *Bones*. 2001. Reporter Irene Kelly undertakes a personal mission to find Julia Sayre, a young mother of two. Four years later, convicted murderer Nick Parrish, as part of his plea bargain for a life sentence, offers to lead authorities and Irene to Julia's grave in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The group sets out, not realizing the extent of the man's deviousness or his murderous intent.

Cast, P.C. *Marked*. 2007. In 16-year-old Zoey Redbird's world, vampires not only exist but are also tolerated by humans. Those whom the creatures "mark" as special enter the House of Night school where they will either become vampires themselves or die.

Cole, Teju. *Open City*. 2011. Feeling adrift after ending a relationship, Julius, a young Nigerian doctor living in New York, takes long walks through the city while listening to the stories of fellow immigrants until a shattering truth is revealed. Cole will be in Brattleboro in mid-October.

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. 2008. In a future North America, the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual survival competition that pits young people from each district against one another in a televised fight to the death.

Dumas, Alexander. *The Count of Monte Cristo*. 1846. Dashing young hero Edmond Dantes, betrayed by his enemies and thrown in a secret dungeon, is doomed to spend his life in a dark prison cell until a miraculous escape enables him to exact his carefully wrought revenge.

Fisher, Catherine. *Incarceron*. 2007. To free herself from an upcoming arranged marriage, Claudia, the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, a futuristic prison with a mind of its own, decides to help a young prisoner escape.

Flinn, Alex. *Beastly*. 2007. In this modern retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" from the point of view of the Beast, a vain Manhattan private school student is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form.

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Outliers: The Story of Success*. 2008. Why do some people succeed, living remarkably productive and influential lives, while so many more never reach their potential? Gladwell examines the hidden advantages, extraordinary opportunities, and cultural legacies that allow some people to learn and work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot.

Harris, Charlaïne. *Dead to the World*. 2004. Sookie Stackhouse, a waitress with a talent for reading minds, comes to the aid of Eric, a sexy vampire with amnesia, as she tries to save him from whomever took his memory and now wants his life.

Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. 1999. As European powers were carving up Africa at the turn of the 20th century, King Leopold II of Belgium carried out a brutal plundering of the Central Africa territory surrounding the Congo River, resulting in the deaths of 10 million Congolese.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. 1960. Eight-year-old Scout describes growing up as the daughter of widowed lawyer Atticus Finch in a small Alabama town during the 1930s. When her father courageously defends an African American man wrongly accused of rape, Scout and her brother Jem witness firsthand the devastating effects of prejudice, adult injustice and violence.

Mass, Wendy. *A Mango-Shaped Space*. 2003. Mia, 13, has always seen colors in sounds, numbers, and letters, a fact she has kept secret since the day she discovered that other people don't have this ability. When she discovers that she has a rare condition called synesthesia, her life changes.

Mezrich, Ben. *The Accidental Billionaires: The Founding of Facebook*. 2009. A high-energy tale of how two socially awkward Ivy Leaguers, trying to increase their chances with the opposite sex, ended up creating Facebook.

Simone, Ni-Ni. *Upgrade U*. 2011. When groupies threaten her relationship with NBA prospect Josiah Whitaker, 17-year-old Seven McNight wonders if she should turn to her friend Zaire St. James for comfort.

Sniegowski, Thomas. *The Fallen*. 2003. On his eighteenth birthday, Aaron begins to hear strange voices and is convinced he is going insane. Then a mysterious man begins following him, a man who knows about Aaron's troubled past and his new powers. He also has a message to deliver--as the son of a mortal and an angel, Aaron has been chosen to redeem the Fallen.

Stiefvater, Maggie. *Shiver*. 2009. In all the years she has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house, Grace has been particularly drawn to an unusual yellow-eyed wolf who, in his turn, has been watching her with increasing intensity.

Whyman, Matt. *Goldstrike: A Thriller*. 2010. After escaping a high-security prison where he was sentenced after becoming embroiled in a plan to rob Fort Knox, eighteen-year-old Carl Hobbes begins a new life in London. He attempts to program a highly intelligent supercomputer to help protect him from the CIA and the assassins who are pursuing him.

Waters, Daniel. *Passing Strange*. 2010. Karen, a zombie teenager, attempts to pass as human and prove her zombie friends' innocence when they are accused of murder.