

# Reading Can Take You Anywhere!

## 2009 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES 7-8 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

**Abrahams, Peter.** *Into the Dark.* 2008. Thirteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes aficionado Ingrid Levin-Hill tries to clear her grandfather's name when he is accused of murdering an environmental activist found dead on his farm. DCF Nominee 2009-2010.

**Asher, Jay.** *Thirteen Reasons Why: A Novel.* 2007. Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by a classmate who committed suicide. He spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

**Balliet, Blue.** *The Calder Game.* 2008. Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village, along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn, and his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him. DCF nominee 2009-10.

**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell.** *The Boy Who Dared.* 2008. In October of 1942, 17-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls how he came to dedicate himself to bringing the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

**Bradbury, Jennifer.** *Shift.* 2008. When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trip the summer after graduating, only one of them returns. The FBI wants to know what happened. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Colfer, Eoin.** *Airman.* 2008. In the late nineteenth century, Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king. He is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape by way of a flying machine that he must design, build, and then trust to carry him to safety.

**Collins, Suzanne.** *The Hunger Games.* 2008. In a future North America, the rulers maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people against one another. Sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Dowell, Frances O'Roark.** *Shooting the Moon.* 2008. When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world in which she has grown up. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Farr, Richard.** *Emperors of the Ice.* 2008. The youngest member of Robert Scott's expedition to Antarctica in 1910, who is known as Cherry, shares his adventures. He and Edward Wilson try to learn the evolutionary history of emperor penguins, and nearly die in the process. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Ferraiolo, Jack D.** *The Big Splash.* 2008. Matt is an average middle schooler with a glib tongue and a knack for solving crimes. He uncovers a mystery while working with "the organization," a mafia-like syndicate specializing in forged hall passes, test-copying rings, black market candy selling and hits with water guns. 2009 Edgar Award nominee.

**Frost, Helen.** *Diamond Willow.* 2008. In a remote area of Alaska, Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she's not at school, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Gaiman, Neil.** *The Graveyard Book.* 2008. After the murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. 2009 Newbery Medal winner. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Gardner, Sally.** *The Red Necklace.* 2008. Sido, the twelve-year-old daughter of a self-indulgent marquis, and Yann, a fourteen-year-old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.

**Goodman, Allegra.** *The Other Side of the Island.* 2008. When Honor's parents have an illegal second child and are taken away, it's up to Honor and her friend Helix to uncover a terrible secret about their Island and the Corporation that runs everything. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson.** *Found.* 2008. Two adopted teens learn that they were discovered on a plane that came out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board. This time travel mystery brings up many interesting questions. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Hale, Shannon and Dean Hale.** *Rapunzel's Revenge.* 2008. Rapunzel is raised in a grand villa surrounded by towering walls, but she dreams of a different mother and climbs over the wall to find out the truth. In this Old West retelling in graphic novel format, Rapunzel uses her hair as a lasso and takes on outlaws. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Herlong, M.H.** *The Great Wide Sea.* 2008. Still mourning the death of their mother, three brothers go with their father on an extended sailing trip off the Florida Keys and have a harrowing adventure at sea. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Hiaasen, Carl.** *Scat.* 2009. Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

**Law, Ingrid.** *Savvy.* 2008. When Mibs Beaumont turns thirteen, she discovers her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. 2009 Newbery Honor Book. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Nicholl, Sally.** *Ways to Live Forever.* 2008. Eleven-year-old Sam has leukemia. During the last three months of his life, he writes a book in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.

**Patterson, James.** *The Final Warning.* 2008. While on a mission to Antarctica to save the world from global warming, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride and the other members of the Flock are pursued by their creator, who wants to auction them off to the highest bidder.

**Preller, James.** *Six Innings: A Game In the Life.* 2008. Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies plays Northeast Gas & Electric in the Little League championship game. Sam, who has cancer and is in a wheelchair, has to call the play-by-play instead of participating in the game.

**Shusterman, Neal.** *Antsy Does Time.* 2008. Fourteen-year-old Anthony "Antsy" Bonano learns about life, death, and a lot more when he tries to help a friend with a terminal illness feel hopeful about the future. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Spradlin, Michael P.** *Keeper of the Grail.* 2008. In 1191, fifteen-year-old Tristan becomes a Templar Knight's squire during the Third Crusade and soon finds himself on a mission to bring the Holy Grail to safety. DCF nominee 2009-2010.

**Vail, Rachel.** *Lucky.* 2008. As Phoebe and her clique of privileged girlfriends get ready to graduate from eighth grade, a financial scandal threatens her family's security and Phoebe's social status. Ultimately, it teaches her the real meaning of friendship.