

# Reading Can Take You Anywhere!

## 2009 READERS' CHOICES FOR GRADES 9-12 • WINDHAM COUNTY READS

**Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Wintergirls.* 2009. Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.

**Blundell, Judy.** *What I Saw and How I Lied.* 2008. In 1947, Evie's jovial stepfather Joe is back from the war and family life is returning to normal, but Evie is smitten with a handsome young ex-GI who seems to have a secret hold on Joe. Soon she finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies with devastating consequences. 2008 National Book Award winner.

**Bradbury, Ray.** *Fahrenheit 451.* 1953. This novel presents a future American society in which the masses are hedonistic and critical thought through reading is outlawed. Vermont's Big Read book

**Cashore, Kristen.** *Graceling.* 2008. In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing, and she teams up with another fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

**Clare, Cassandra.** *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones.* 2007. Suddenly able to see demons and the creatures called Darkhunters, fifteen-year-old Clary Fray is drawn into a bizarre world when she is almost killed and her mother disappears. Part of a popular trilogy.

**Doctorow, Cory.** *Little Brother.* 2008. After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state. He decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

**Flanagan, John.** *Ranger's Apprentice: Sorcerer of the North.* 2008. Now a full-fledged Ranger responsible for a sleepy fief, Will finds a new adventure seeking the traitors who poisoned the king, investigating rumors of sorcery, and trying to rescue his friend Alyss, who is taken hostage. Book five in the popular Australian series.

**Freeman, Castle.** *Go With Me: A Novel.* 2008. In the hills of Vermont, a local man has decided to make life hell for Lillian, a young woman from parts elsewhere. When the sheriff's department proves useless, Lillian decides to fight back on her own, enlisting an unlikely pair of allies in old-timer Lester and naive teenager Nate.

**Going, K.L.** *King of the Screwups.* 2009. Popular high school senior Liam never seems to live up to his wealthy father's expectations. After getting in trouble yet again, he is sent to live in a trailer park with his gay "glam-rocker" uncle.

**Gould, Peter.** *Write Naked.* 2008. When Victor finds an old Royal typewriter at a yard sale and takes it to his uncle's isolated cabin in the woods to write, he meets up with an unusual girl. Together they explore their concerns about the world, themselves, and each other.

**Green, John.** *Paper Towns.* 2008. One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin basks in the predictable boringness of his life. Then the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, his neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and mysteriously disappears. 2009 Edgar Award for YA.

**Guevara, Ernesto Che.** *The Motorcycle Diaries*. This is a freewheeling account of an extended youthful road trip undertaken in the early 1950s by the future poster boy of Communist insurrection.

**Johnson, Maureen.** *Suite Scarlett*. 2008. Fifteen-year-old Scarlett is stuck in New York City for the summer working at her quirky family's historic hotel, but her out-of-work actor brother's attractive new friend and a seasonal guest who offers her an intriguing and challenging writing project improve her outlook.

**Juby, Susan.** *Getting the Girl: A Guide to Private Investigation, Surveillance, and Cookery*. 2008. Sherman Mack investigates the "Defilers," a secret group at his British Columbia high school that marks certain female students as pariahs, at first because he is trying to protect the girl he has a crush on, but later as a matter of principle.

**Lockhart, E.L.** *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*. 2008. Sophomore Frankie starts dating senior Matthew Livingston, but when he refuses to talk about the all-male secret society that he and his friends belong to, Frankie infiltrates them by assuming an alternate online identity. 2009 Printz Honor Book.

**Lutz, Lisa.** *The Spellman Files*. 2007. Cracking the case can get complicated and outrageously wacky when a family of detectives is involved. Izzy Spellman reluctantly agrees to take on a cold case with 14-year-old sister Rae and parents who have no qualms about bugging their children's bedrooms. When Rae suddenly disappears, Izzy and her family must learn some serious lessons in order to find her. First in the series.

**Moore, Alan and Dave Gibbons.** *Watchmen*. 2005. First published in 12 issues for DC Comics, this graphic novel presents an alternate history of the United States, where freelance superheroes are outlawed and a retired group of heroes become involved in a murder investigation. A Time magazine top 100 book of the 20th century.

**Oppel, Kenneth.** *Starclimber*. 2009. As members of the first crew of astralnauts, Matt Cruse and Kate De Vries journey into outer space on the Starclimber and face a series of catastrophes that threaten the survival of all on board. This is the third title in a popular series.

**Otsuka, Julie.** *When the Emperor Was Divine*. 2002. A story told from five different points of view chronicles the experiences of Japanese Americans caught up in the nightmare of World War II internment camps. Vermont Reads 2009 book.

**Pfeffer, Susan Beth.** *the dead & the gone*. 2008. After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters in the chaos of New York City.

**Pratchett, Terry.** *Nation*. 2008. When a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives. 2009 Printz Honor Book.

**Reinhardt, Dana.** *How to Build a House*. 2008. Seventeen-year-old Harper Evans hopes to escape the effects of her father's and stepmother's divorce by volunteering her summer to build a house in a small Tennessee town that has been hit by a tornado.