



One Book New Jersey

The One Book New Jersey program is a fun and exciting program sponsored by the New Jersey Library Association with generous support from the New Jersey State Library. The goal of the program is to bring people together by encouraging them to read and participate in discussions and other events about the same book. Although this program is modeled on other “One Book” programs throughout the country, New Jersey’s program is rather unique. We involve not just one community, but the whole state. We also felt it was important to reach people of all ages, so although we still call our program “One Book” it is in fact four books: an adult selection, a young adult selection, a book for older children and a read-to-me selection.

This year, 2005, will our third annual program.
One selected books this year are:

Adult: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Young Adult: Dunk by David Lubar

Middle Grade: The Hoboken Chicken Emergency by Daniel Pinkwater

Read to Me: Piggie Pie by Margie Palatini

In the past, over six hundred programs or events were held in every county of the state at a majority of the 464 public libraries in New Jersey. These events ranged from book discussions to storyhours, from contests to film showings for people from preschoolers to senior citizens. Past One Book New Jersey selections have been:

2004: Adult: The Pine Barrens by John McPhee

Young Adult: The Body of Christopher Creed by Carol Plum-Ucci

Middle Grade: Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Read to Me: How the Cat Swallowed Thunder by Lloyd Alexander

2003: Adult: Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Young Adult: Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Middle Grade: Regarding the Fountain by Kate Klise

Read to Me: Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester

More information about the One Book New Jersey program can be found on our website: www.onebooknj.org

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One Book New Jersey
2005 Featured Adult Book

To Kill a Mockingbird
By Harper Lee

This classic title has been recommended reading since it was first published in 1960. Through the eyes of Jem and Scout Finch, Harper Lee explores the attitudes toward race and class in the South in the 1930's. Lawyer Atticus Finch takes on the defense of Tom Robinson, a black man accused of raping a young white woman. This story shows the quiet heroism of his struggle for justice. As a second thread, the novel also deals with the myths that surround Boo Radley, a reclusive resident of Maycomb.

Many critics claim that this is one classic that still speaks volumes to each new generation. *To Kill a Mockingbird* just gets better with each re-reading.

To Kill a Mockingbird has garnered numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize. It has been translated into more than forty languages and made into an acclaimed movie starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch. According to the website of The Center for the Book (<http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/>) it has been selected more often than any other novel for "One Book" programs across the country, from Chicago to Miami, Syracuse to Seattle.

About the Author

Harper Lee was born in 1926 in Monroeville, Alabama. She moved to New York City in the 1950's where she began work on *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It is to date her only published book, although she has had a few magazine articles and essays published. Miss Lee has been the recipient of a number of honorary degrees, most recently in 1997 an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. Miss Lee does not often grant interviews and remains very reclusive. It is interesting to note that she was a schoolmate of another award-winning author, Truman Capote.

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One Book New Jersey
2005 Featured Young Adult Book

Dunk
By David Lubar

Chad, who lives on the Jersey shore, is fascinated by the Bozo in the dunk tank. Once the Bozo has selected his victim, he comes up with the perfect wisecrack—something funny but often cruel. Once insulted, target is bent on revenge, and he'll buy however many balls he needs to send Bozo plunging into the water. Chad would like to shout at the world from the safety of a cage—his dad ran out on him and his mom, and now people seems convinced that Chad will wind up a loser, too. This fateful summer, Chad is determined to win the job of Bozo for himself. Suddenly, Chad finds himself thrown into a new world, where humor has far more power than he ever imagined.

The plot crackles with humor and for all his "teen problems" Chad remains a sympathetic, real character.

Dunk is the 2004 winner of the Keystone State Reading Association Young Adult book award.

About the Author

David Lubar hails from Morristown, New Jersey and now lives next door in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Rutgers University. Mr. Lubar was the editor of Creative Computing Magazine for a few years and also designed and programmed video games for various companies. Mr. Lubar writes humor articles for magazines and has just begun a humor column for VOYA, a magazine about young adult books. In addition to *Dunk*, Mr. Lubar has also written *Hidden Talents*, an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults; *Dog Days*; *Monster Road*; *In the Land of the Lawn Weenies and Other Misadventures*; *Wizards of the Game* and his newest, *Flip*, a VOYA best of the year selection

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One Book New Jersey
2005 Featured Middle Grade Book

The Hoboken Chicken Emergency
By Daniel Pinkwater

When Arthur Bobowicz is sent out to bring home the family's Thanksgiving turkey, he returns instead with a 266-pound chicken named Henrietta. Arthur wants to keep Henrietta a pet, but this chicken has a mind of her own. Soon Henrietta is causing so much chaos in Hoboken that the mayor decides to hire a "chicken hunter." This humorous read works both as a read alone and a read aloud. The book's important message about fear of the unknown shines through the zany, rib-tickling fun. *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* has been making readers laugh since 1977. This story has been made into a successful play for children (and other discerning theatergoers!). A long awaited sequel, *Looking for Bobowicz*, was published this year by HarperCollins.

About the Author

Daniel Pinkwater is the author, and sometimes illustrator, of over eighty children's books. Born in Tennessee, Mr. Pinkwater grew up mostly in Chicago, but also lived for a number of years in Hoboken, New Jersey. He is commentator on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. Trained as an artist, he began his writing career in 1969 with a book called *The Terrible Roar*. Since then his books have won the outstanding and notable designations from the American Library Association, the New York Times, the International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council. Some of his other books include *Lizard Music*, *Blue Moose*, *Fat Camp Commandos* and a series called *The Werewolf Club*. Mr. Pinkwater has also written a number of picture books including *Tooth-Gnasher Superflash*, *Aunt Lulu* and *Irving and Muktuk: Bad Bears in the Big City*.

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One Book New Jersey
2005 Featured Read to Me Book

Piggie Pie
By Margie Palatini

Gritch the Witch (with her traditional pointy hat, broomstick and green fingernails) is all set for a delicious meal of piggie pie. But when she lands at MacDonald's farm she can't find a single pig. After a futile search, Gritch settles for inviting the Wolf home for lunch, with thoughts of a wolf sandwich dancing in her head. The snappy dialogue, with hints of the old children's song ("quack-quacked here, moo-mooed there") and the cleverness of the pigs make this a story that can be read aloud any time of the year. This wonderful story of some very ingenious pigs and a much thwarted witch has won numerous accolades. Since it was published in 1995, it has been honored with awards from Washington, Vermont, Kentucky, California, Pennsylvania and many others. It was also named an American Library Association Notable Book and listed on the National Education Association Children's Top 100 Book List.

About the Author

Margie Palatini was born and raised in Edison, New Jersey. She attended the Moore College of Art in Philadelphia. Ms. Palatini is also a partner in an interior design and decorating business. Ms. Palatini now lives in Plainfield, New Jersey. Since *Piggie Pie* was published, Ms. Palatini has also written a number of other picture books for young readers, including *Good as Goldie*, *Zak's Lunch*, *Moosetache*, *The Web Files* and *Zoom Broom*, also featuring Gritch the Witch.

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