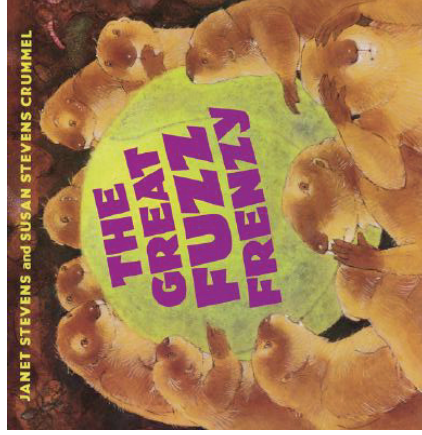


The Great Fuzz Frenzy

By: Janet Stevens

When Violet the dog accidentally drops her tennis ball down a prairie dog hole, she creates all sorts of havoc. The residents of the hole love the fact that the ball is fuzzy and start pulling off pieces of fuzz to wear. Prairie dogs come from all over to get a piece of the fuzz and eventually the whole place gets into a huge “fuzz reaction” as they fight over the pieces of fuzz.

Big Bark, one of the residents of the prairie dog town, steals the fuzz and declares himself king of the fuzz. When he is captured by an eagle, it is Pip Squeak who rallies the prairie dogs and helps save the day.



Discussion Topics

The Great Fuzz Frenzy —Picture Book

- ◆ Why is Big Bark being mean and not playing with the fuzz?
- ◆ *Abacadabra! Magic with Mouse and Mole*—Early Elementary
 - ◆ Mouse shows Mole all sorts of “magic” that happens in nature. Discuss some of the other “magical” things that take place every day.
- ◆ *Peter and the Starcatchers*—Older Elementary
 - ◆ The author takes a well-known book and writes about what happened before the story we know. What are some other books that you’d like to know the “before” story behind the book?
- ◆ *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*—Junior High
 - ◆ Throughout the book, Scott promotes reading to his friends and family. Do the people around you read? If not, why not? What books would you recommend to them?
- ◆ *Airborn*—High School
 - ◆ Using information you’ve learned from the types of jobs Matt performs, write a “Help Wanted” ad for his position.

What is “Read the Same Book?”

Communities across the U.S. have discovered that choosing a book to read together brings together friends and strangers to discuss good literature and ideas. *Idaho Statesman* writer Dan Popkey introduced the concept to Boise in late 2000, modeled after a similar program in Seattle. Boise began its program in 2001 with *Housekeeping*, by Marilynne Robinson. Children’s titles were added in subsequent years so that the whole family could participate.

Books are chosen by a committee that includes representatives from local libraries, plus teachers, writers and readers of all ages. The committee chooses a book based on literary merit and relevance to local readers.

As you and your family read a book, we encourage you to talk about it with friends and neighbors, and to attend related programs in the community. We hope you’ll find it an avenue for exploring new ideas and making new reading friends.

2009 Adult Selection: Ada Community Library, Boise Public Library, The Cabin and The Idaho Statesman are partnering once again to offer The Big Read, a one-book program for adults. A national initiative from the National Endowment of the Arts, The Big Read also encourages literary reading by inviting communities to come together to read and discuss one book. This year’s title is *The Maltese Falcon*, by Dashiell Hammett.

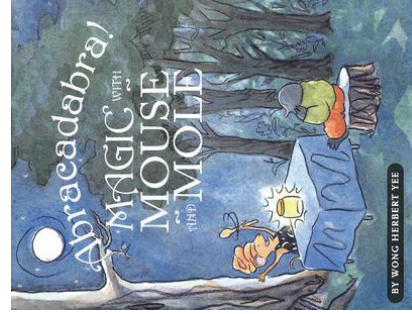
Watch for related activities and programs at your library, or visit www.idahokidsread.org.

Abracadabra! Magic with Mouse and Mole

By: Wong Herbert Yee

Mouse and Mole are very excited. Minkus the Magnificent is in town—ONE SHOW ONLY!—and they can't wait to sit in the front row and see his tricks. After the abracadabras happen, though, something goes a bit wrong—and Mole is very disappointed to discover that magic is sometimes not exactly what it seems. How will Mouse help her friend realize that there is magic happening right in front of their eyes all the time?

Wong Herbert Yee gives readers a grand adventure with two best friends, Mouse and Mole, who, despite their different outlooks on life, manage to show each other that friendship itself is a magical event!



Peter and the Starcatchers

By: Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson



Eight-year-old Peter is the leader of a group of orphaned boys on board the ship *Never Land*. The boys are being sent off to work as servants in King Zarboff the Third's court.

Peter meets 14-year-old shipmate Molly Aster who is an apprentice Starcatcher, which is part of a secret society formed to keep evildoers from stealing “starstuff” which has magical powers. Peter helps Molly keep a mysterious trunk full of starstuff out of the clutches of the pirate Black Stache, a host of other interested parties, and ultimately King Zarboff the Third.

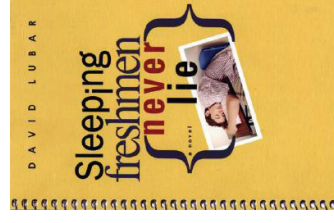
Along the way they meet a whole cast of fascinating characters including talking porpoises, stinky rogues, possible cannibals, a flying crocodile and biting mermaids.

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie

By: David Lubar

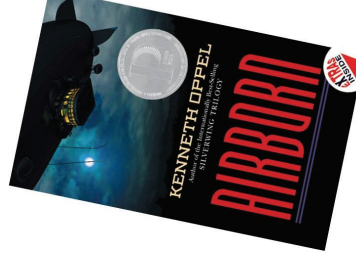
For Scott Hudson, being a freshman in high school is like trying to navigate a mine field. It doesn't help that he's small, constantly lost and gets picked on by various upper-classmen. His attempts to woo Julia, the girl of his dreams, all seem to backfire.

Scott's about to become a big brother so much of this story is told through the very funny survival guide to life that he is writing for “Smelly,” his not-yet born sibling. Scott's quick wit and wonderful sense of humor will prove to be his saving grace as he plunges head-long through his first year of high school.



Airborn

By: Kenneth Oppel



Matt Cruse is a cabin boy on a luxury airship called the *Aurora*. Being on the airship sailing high above the ground is a life Matt has always dreamed of. One night he helps rescue a balloonist; before he dies the man tells Matt about seeing beautiful creatures swimming in the air above an uncharted island.

A year later Matt meets Kate de Vries—the granddaughter of the man he rescued. She is on a mission to prove her grandfather was not crazy and that the “cloud cats” really do exist. After an attack by pirates, a badly damaged *Aurora* manages to land on an island and Matt and Kate are thrown into a world of danger, adventure and fantastic creatures.