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**BEA**

Boise Education Association

**BOISE STATE**  
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## 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.

**2010 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 *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

## Discussion Topics

*Mrs. Muddle’s Holidays* —  
Picture Book

- ◆ What holiday would you like to create, and how would you celebrate it?

*Countdown*—  
Older Elementary

- ◆ Have you ever met someone from a different country or culture? If you did, what would you want to know about their lives? What questions would you ask them?

*Wednesday Wars*—Junior High

- ◆ Holling is convinced Mrs. Baker is out to get him. Have you ever had this experience with a teacher? Like Holling, did your opinion change with time? What experiences have helped you to like or respect a teacher more? What can you do on your own to make school more interesting and rewarding?

*Life As We Knew It*—High School

- ◆ After the disaster, so much of Miranda’s life changes. Imagine yourself in the same situation. What things would be hardest to live without? What new coping strategies would you have to develop? Would you do things differently than Miranda and her family did?

Watch for related activities and programs at your library, or visit [www.idahokidsread.org](http://www.idahokidsread.org).

Tenth Annual

Kids

Read  
the Same  
Book

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2010 Resource Guide

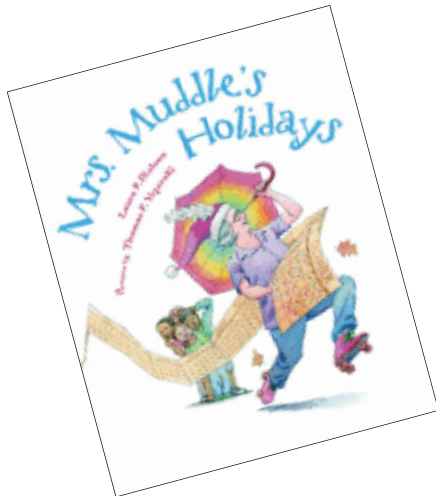
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## *Mrs Muddle's Holidays*

*By: Laura Nielsen*

There are already plenty of holidays on the calendar, but Mrs. Muddle finds a world of special things to celebrate and special ways to celebrate them. There's First Robin Day, perfect for making peanut-butter-and-birdseed cookies for the birds to enjoy, or Earthworm Appreciation Day. The whole neighborhood joins in the fun, and little Katie creates a holiday even Mrs. Muddle hasn't thought of!



## *Countdown*

*By: Ben Mikaelson*



Fourteen-year-old Elliot Schroeder is chosen for the opportunity of a lifetime – the chance to be the first Junior Astronaut in NASA's new space program. He trains long and hard to earn his spot on the space shuttle Endeavor.

Halfway around the world, Vincent Ole Tome struggles with his life as a young Masai herder, and longs to attend the village school, to learn about life and people outside his world.

One of Elliot's duties on the mission is to make contact with people on earth, via short-wave radio. As Endeavor passes over West Africa, Elliot finds himself talking with Vincent over the radio at the village infirmary. The two boys don't see eye-to-eye on much, and over the course of several conversations, find that they are more than worlds apart.

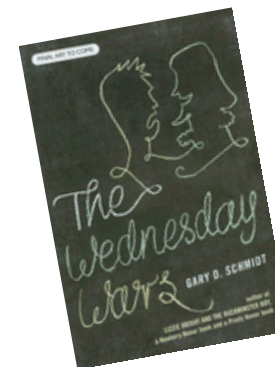
But when the unthinkable happens, and Endeavor is in trouble, Elliot and Vincent must find a way to overcome their differences and meet as friends.

## *Wednesday Wars*

*By: Gary D. Schmidt*

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class?

But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.



## *Life As We Knew It*

*By: Susan Beth Pfeffer*



Miranda and her family are outside one evening to watch an astronomical phenomenon – a meteor colliding with the moon. What scientists are not expecting is the strength of the impact, and that the collision will actually push the moon closer to the earth which causes all sorts of cataclysmic changes to the earth.

Tidal waves wipe out populations living in coastal areas. The earth's crust buckles, causing earthquakes and volcanoes long dormant to erupt; and the ash begins to block out the sun, bringing massive climate changes. With oil and gas shortages, transportation stops. ~~Transportation stops with gas and oil shortages.~~ No TV, no radio, no way of knowing what's going on in the next town, let alone the rest of the world.

Miranda and her family slowly face the reality that life as they knew it has ended, and despite their frantic preparations of storing food and necessities of life, there may come a time when the food runs out, and a choice must be made – who lives and who dies.