



Selections from the State Librarian

Fall 2010

Jan Walsh, Washington State Librarian, announces her Fall 2010 book selections. Her theme this season is "Memorable Reads: A final note from Jan Walsh, Washington State Librarian".

In the fall of 2003, I began the Washington Reads program of selecting Washington books for all ages on specific themes. I hoped to shine a light on the wealth of excellent books relevant to our state. The themes varied from locales within the state (Mount Saint Helens, Olympic Peninsula, etc.), history, genre such as mysteries and beach reads, Washington centric topics such as geology, artists, tastes of Washington, and the themes of Courage, Diversity, Washington Screams, Washington Inspires, Washington Works and others. We discovered Twilight before it became an international phenomenon. I had superb reader's advisors in Kathryn Hamilton-Wang and Sean Lanksbury, who continue to be experts in northwest history and literature. Some believe I had a ghost reader, but I honestly did read each of these books, and decided that, with the opportunity to do that, I had the best job in the world.

Now, as I close my chapter as State Librarian, I am issuing the last episode of my favorite selections of Washington Reads. My goal was to select the books that had made an imprint on me and the state. Doing so wasn't easy, as Washington has scores of incredibly gifted authors, and many of the books will have an impact on future generations. I am surprised to find that, of the books on this select list, two are Lewis and Clark themed, two are set in fictitious islands, two have become major movies, and two involve Japanese internment camps. There are also numerous works of fiction, reflecting my firm belief that the literature of a region mirrors the stories of the state, rounding out our history by showing the feelings and emotions integral to our past.

I hope that in looking at this list, you are inspired to go back over the past themes or to seek newer books that feature Washington and its exceptional literature. Please join me in continuing the celebration of the remarkable reads of Washington.

Jan Walsh, State Librarian, August 2010

Jan's comments about each book can be found on the State Library's web page at:
http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/wa_reads/WashingtonReadsSummer2010.aspx

Blomgren, Jennifer. **Where Do I Sleep?: A Pacific Northwest Lullaby.** Sasquatch Books, 2001. unpagged.

NW OVERSIZ 813.54 BLOMGRE 2001

Eubank, Patti Reeder. **Seaman's Journal: On the Trail with Lewis and Clark.** Ideals Children's Books, 2002. unpagged.

NW 813.54 EUBANK 2002

Alexie, Sherman. **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian.** Little, Brown, 2007. 229p.

NW 813.6 ALEXIE 2007

Meyer, Stephenie. **Twilight.** Little, Brown and Co., 2005. 498p.

NW 813.6 MEYER 2005

Lynch, Jim. **The Highest Tide: A Novel.** Bloomsbury USA: Distributed to the trade by Holtzbrinck Publishers, 2005. 247p.

NW 813.6 LYNCH 2005

Guterson, David. **Snow Falling on Cedars.** Harcourt Brace, 1994. 345p.

NW 813.6 GUTERSO 1994

Ford, Jamie. **Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet.** Ballantine Books, 2009. 290p.

NW 813.6 FORD 2009.

King, Laurie R.. **Folly.** Bantam Books, 2002. 400p.

NW 813.6 KING 2002.

Randlett, Mary. **Mary Randlett: Landscapes. Introduction by Ted D'Arms; with an essay and poems by Denise Levertov; contributions by Barry Herem, Jo Ann Ridley, and Joyce Thompson.** University of Washington Press in association with Tacoma Art Museum. 118p.

NW OVERSIZ 779.36 RANDLET 2007

Ziak, Rex. **In Full View.** Moffitt House Press, 2002. 214p.

NW 917.8042 ZIAK 2002

Washington State Library

Office of the Secretary of State

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