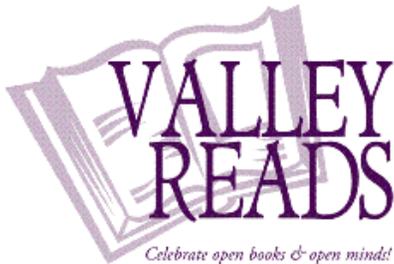


VALLEY READS BOOKLISTS



Here are the selected readings for Valley Reads, the St. Croix Valley annual community-wide reading program. Note: The year's readings are given in order: for adult, teen, and child. For more information about Valley Reads contact ArtReach St. Croix at (651) 439-1465, or www.artreachstcroix.org.

2012 "A River of Readers"

- **Red Earth, White Earth**, by Will Weaver
Having fled his family's farm at eighteen with a promise never to return, Guy Pehrsson is drawn back into his past when he receives his grandfather's ominous letter "Trouble here. Come home when you can". He returns to discover a place both wholly familiar and barely recognizable and is cast into the center of an interracial land dispute with the exigencies of war.
- **Wingshooters**, by Nina Revoyr
Michelle LeBeau and her white-Japanese family are forever changed when a black family moves into her all-white town in 1974.

2011 "Telling Time"

- **Tinkers**, by Paul Harding
An old man lies dying. As time collapses into memory, he travels deep into his past where he is reunited with his father and relives the wonder and pain of his impoverished New England youth.
- **Tuck Everlasting**, by Natalie Babbitt
The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing older.
- **Black and White**, by David Macaulay
Four brief "stories" about parents, trains, and cows, or is it really all one story? The author recommends careful inspection of words and pictures to both minimize and enhance confusion.

2010 "Welcome Home"

- **The Latecomer: a Hmong Family Memoir**, by Kao Kalia Yang
In this beautiful memoir, Yang recounts the harrowing journey of her family from Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand to the U.S. Eventually settling in St. Paul, Minnesota, their struggle was not over.
- **Weeping Under This Same Moon**, by Jana Laiz
Based on the true story of two teenage girls from different cultures, whose paths intertwine, dramatically altering the course of their lives.
- **Grandfather's Journey**, by Allen Say
A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries.

2009 "Wildness"

- **Ordinary Wolves**, by Seth Kantner
A white boy transplanted from Chicago to the Arctic tundra of Alaska finds himself struggling to adapt to his new home, where he must learn to hunt, fish, and live off the land, separated from the constant call of consumer culture.
- **My Side of the Mountain**, by Jean Craighead George
A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.
- **Antler, Bear, Canoe**, by Betsy Bowen
Introduces the letters of the alphabet in woodcut illustrations and brief text depicting the changing seasons in the northern woods.

2008 "Resilience of the Human Spirit"

- **Broken for You**, by Stephanie Kallos
Margaret Hughes, a septuagenarian living in Seattle, takes in a series of boarders who help her cope with her illness, and whose lives become unexpectedly connected to each other.
- **Hana's Suitcase**, by Karen Levine
A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.
- **Joseph Had a Little Overcoat**, by Simms Tabac.

2007 "All in a Day's Work"

- **Nickel and Dimed**, by Barbara Ehrenreich
The author decides to see if she can scratch out a comfortable living in blue-collar America. What she discovers is a culture of desperation, where workers often take multiple low-paying jobs just to keep a roof overhead.
- **When Zachery Beaver Came to Town**, by Kimberly Willis Holt
During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.
- **Victor Vitto and Freddie Vasko**, by Laurie Berkner.
Two polar bears take a road trip across the United States to find exciting new foods to serve at their Klondike Cafe.

2006 "Harvest of Change: Family Stories of Love, Loss, & the Land"

- **The Witness of Combines**, by Kent Meyers.
When Meyer's father died of a stroke, there was corn to plant, cattle to feed, and a farm to maintain. The author recounts the wake of his father's death and reflects on families, farms, and rural life in the Midwest.
- **Hoot**, by Carl Hiaasen.
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully.
- **Owl Moon**, by Jane Yolen and illustrated by John Schoenherr.
On a winter's night under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl.