

1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.
Charleston, WV 25305
Telephone: 304.558.3978 or 800.642.9021
Fax: 304.558.1612

MEDIA ALERT AND FOR RELEASE:

12:00 p.m. EDT, Friday

June 11, 2010

Lori Smuthkochorn
Communications–Public Information Specialist
West Virginia Library Commission
(304) 558-2534 / lori.l.smuthkochorn@wv.gov



West Virginia children have chosen the books they would read more often

W.Va. Children's Choice Book Award recipients announced

Charleston, W.Va. – The West Virginia Children's Choice Book Award Committee has collected the tally sheets statewide and the results are conclusive, *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kenny has won by a landslide! Children from grades three through six read books from the 2009-2010 West Virginia's Children's Choice Book Award nominees list then voted for their favorite book. The award is based solely on the children's votes and thereby allows young readers to have a voice about the types of books they enjoy and would read more often.

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid is the first book in the popular Wimpy Kid series and was the hands down favorite all over the state. The hilarious story of Greg's struggles to survive middle school is highlighted by hand drawn illustrations of his trials and tribulations. A strong second place finisher was the beautifully illustrated story, *Beowulf: A Hero's Tale Retold* by James Rumford. The text and illustrations combine to create an exciting tale of monsters and heroes. In the afterword, the author notes that only words existing during the Anglo-Saxon era were used in the text. Third place was a familiar name to West Virginia readers, native author Anna Egan Smucker. In this piece, Smucker has written a picture book for all ages with *Golden Delicious: A Cinderella Apple Story* based on the discovery of West Virginia's most famous apple.

Across the state, teachers receive official ballots and tally sheets to submit on behalf of students, however, any child studying at these grade levels in the fall is eligible to vote. Visit www.wvcenterforthebook.org in July/August to download an informational packet for WVCCBA 2011 including a nominees list, official ballot, vote tally sheet, and bookmarks. Children may begin reading the selections when they are posted and submit ballots independently if they prefer. For more information contact Suzy McGinley, Youth Services Consultant, suzy.s.mcginley@wv.gov or 1-800-642-9021 option #2.

- MORE -

West Virginia children have chosen the books they would read more often

Page 2

About the West Virginia Children's Book Award

Established in 1981 by teachers Joyce Lang and Patty Benedum, this program was administered through the West Virginia Children's Book Award Committee until 2007. The West Virginia Children's Book Award's stated purpose is to "enrich the lives of children grades three through six by encouraging reading books of literary quality." It is now hosted by the West Virginia Library Commission in partnership with the West Virginia Center for the Book and is located in Charleston, West Virginia.

For additional information about the program in West Virginia, contact WVLC Youth Services Consultant, Suzy McGinley at suzy.s.mcginley@wv.gov.

About the West Virginia Center for the Book www.wvcenterforthebook.org

Established in 2001 as an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the West Virginia Center for the Book celebrates the rich literary heritage of West Virginia through its projects and programs. It is hosted by the West Virginia Library Commission in partnership with the West Virginia Humanities Council and is located in Charleston, West Virginia. For additional information about the program in West Virginia, contact WVCFTB Coordinator Karen Goff at 304-558-3978.

About the West Virginia Library Commission <http://librarycommission.lib.wv.us>

The mission of the West Virginia Library Commission is to promote, assist, and support the development of effective and efficient library services that ensure all citizens in the state access to the highest quality library services and information resources to meet their needs.