

Voices

Q: Tell us about your favorite book



My favorite book is “The Greatest,” the autobiography of three-time heavyweight champion of the world Muhammad Ali. It chronicles Ali’s life as a young kid from Louisville, Ky. He began boxing at age 12 when someone stole his new bicycle. A policeman stopped to help. Ali told him that someone stole his bike and if he found them he was going to beat them up. The officer asked Ali if he could fight. Ali replied no. So the officer said that before he attempts to beat up somebody he should learn how to fight. The officer ran a local boxing gym and invited the angry kid to the gym, and the rest is history.

**--Stephon Frost '84, home-school coordinator,
Arbor Hill Elementary School**

I recently read “Mountains” by Semour Simons. The book has many facts about the names, places and part mountains play in nature. I learned that lots of the mountains are very popular and many were formed by volcanoes. Hawaii was made from underwater volcanoes. Mountains have rigid edges and sides because of the glaciers. Mount Rushmore is another famous mountain with the carvings of famous Americans. I would recommend this book because you learn many facts and get to see the many different mountains in our country and in the world.

**--Allie Gardner, fourth grade,
North Albany Academy**



My favorite book is “May Bird” by Jodie Anderson. I like the story and how the author describes things. “May Bird” is about a 10-year-old girl who has to save the land of the dead. I know it sounds creepy, but by the middle of the book you will love everything about it. You won’t care if it is a little creepy! I love this book!

**--Makenzie Garrett, seventh grade,
William S. Hackett Middle School**

My favorite book that I read recently is called “Money Hungry” by Sharon G. Flake. I liked it because it is what people go through in real life today. The book is about a young girl named Raspberry that would do just about anything to have money. Raspberry and her mother were poor; they lived in cars for months and would ask just about anybody for money so they could eat and buy clothes. One day, Raspberry’s mother got tired of asking people, so she went out and found a job. After that they were in a two-bedroom house. Raspberry still wasn’t satisfied. Read the rest of the book to find out how it ends.

**--Itisha Jones, eighth grade,
Philip Livingston Magnet Academy**



Many of us may be familiar with Jamie Lee Curtis as an actress, but she is also a well-known author of children’s books, including “I’m Gonna Like Me,” “Today I Feel Silly” and her most recent, “Big Words for Little People.” My students enjoy listening to and reading her stories. Each captures their attention as it is told through a child’s point of view and voice. The illustrations are delightfully vibrant and depict a very diverse group of children with ideas and issues they can relate to. These books can also be used to construct and encourage an atmosphere of community among our students, which is an important ingredient to a successful school year!

**--Sandy Lee La, third-grade teacher,
Thomas O’Brien Academy of Science and
Technology (TOAST)**

One of my favorite books is “Angels and Demons” by Dan Brown. It is a mystery novel that is about a secret society called the Illuminati and the adventures of the protagonist, Robert Langdon, at the Vatican. This book incorporates anagrams, which contributes to its unique and suspenseful plot. It is the prequel to the best-selling novel “Da Vinci Code.” The “Angels and Demons” movie is coming out this spring, which I am very excited for and I highly recommend reading and/or seeing both.

--Avery Sohn, senior, Albany High School





One of the best books I have read so far this year is “Of Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck. This book addresses important issues such as friendship, disability and sacrifice. Through Steinbeck’s use of imagery and characterization, the story really comes alive. This book is easy to relate to because the characters’ emotions are expressed so well. Despite the sad ending, a glimmer of hope can still be found. I thoroughly enjoyed “Of Mice and Men,” and I will probably read it again someday.

**--Julia Steppich, sophomore,
Albany High School**

Do you like exciting stories? Well, “The Ghost, The White House and Me” is so cool. I just read the most sparkling book you will ever read because it’s about a girl whose mom turns into the president. Then she thinks the White House is haunted. I couldn’t stop reading it. That’s why I decided to read it a second time. It’s just breathtaking. If you read this book be ready to explode with enjoyment that will last forever, I’m sure. It’s amazing and exciting. You will love this book as much as I do, so be sure to read it.

**--Nyzairia Ussery, third grade,
New Scotland Elementary School**

