

Mary Baldwin College Alumnae/i Book Club

April 2007

What we are reading in
2007/2008:

Apr 5: *Handmaiden's Tale* by
Margaret Atwood

May 3: *The Glass Castle* by
Jeanette Walls

June 7: *The Bean Trees* by
Barbara Kingsolver

July 5: *The Last
Witchfinder* by James
Morrow

Aug 2: *Snow Flower and the
Secret Fan* by Lisa See

Sept 6: *Tortilla Curtain* by
Alice Sebold

Oct 4: *The Girls Who Went
Away* by Ann Fessler

Nov 1: *The Same Sweet
Girls* by Cassandra King

Dec 6: *The Secret Agent* by
Joseph Conrad

Jan 3: *I Got Somebody in
Staunton* by William Henry
Lewis

Feb. 7: *Love* by Toni
Morrison

Mar 6: *The Kite Runner* by
Khaled Hosseini

Apr 3: *The Lovely Bones* by
Alice Sebold

April 12 National D.E.A.R. Day!!!

What is National D.E.A.R. Day?

D.E.A.R. stands for Drop Everything and Read. National D.E.A.R. Day is a special reading celebration to remind and encourage families to make reading together on a daily basis a family priority.

Who Is Leading the National D.E.A.R. Day Celebration?

The National Education Association (NEA); Parent Teacher Association (PTA); HarperCollins Children's Books; the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association; Reading Rockets; First Book; the Newspaper Association of America Foundation (NAAF) and Ramona Quimby.

When is National D.E.A.R. Day?

The National D.E.A.R. Day partners are marking the birthday of beloved author Beverly Cleary as the official event date, April 12th. Ramona Quimby, who was in charge of spreading the word about National D.E.A.R. Day last year, is relinquishing the National Spokesperson role in 2007 to actress Emma Roberts, star of Nickelodeon's *Unfabulous* and the upcoming *Nancy Drew* movie.

Why is National D.E.A.R. Day celebrated on Beverly Cleary's birthday?

Beverly Cleary receives thousands of letters a year from young readers, many who have participated in D.E.A.R. at school. Their interest in and enthusiasm for this special reading activity inspired Mrs. Cleary to give the same experience to Ramona Quimby, who gets to enjoy D.E.A.R. time with the rest of her class in *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*.

How Can I Participate?

Schools, libraries, bookstores and other organizations are being asked to host Drop Everything and Read events on April 12. You can attend an event in your community or participate right in your own home by reading for 30 minutes!

We are on the MBC website!!
www.mbc.edu/alumnae

Join us online!!
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MBCAlumBookClub>

If you are in the Richmond, VA area we would love for you to join us! All meeting times are 7pm and last approximately 1 hour.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Theresa Cash Lewis '99 at tLewis41203@yahoo.com or the Alumnae/i office at 1-800-763-7359.

Drop-everything Reads **Favorite Read Aloud titles for families of D.E.A.R. readers**

For Families with Soon-to-be Readers (Age 4 and under)

Amelia Bedelia's Family Album by Peggy Parish
Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman
Baby Says by John Steptoe
Bigmama's by Donald Crews

For Families with Up-and-Coming Readers (Age 5 to 7)

Big Max by Kin Platt
Chato's Kitchen by Gary Soto
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett
Days with Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel

For Families with Growing Readers (Age 8 - 11)

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Dragonwings by Lawrence Yep
Freaky Friday by Mary Rodgers

For Families with Sophisticated Readers (Age 12 and older)

Boy by Roald Dahl
The Cry of the Wolf by Melvin Burgess
The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Compiled by children's reading experts from Reach Out and Read, NEA, and Reading Rockets

Here's something else that might make you drop everything—a mouse on a motorcycle! Read your local newspaper and you can follow Ralph S. Mouse on the ride of his life in Beverly Cleary's *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. The Newspaper Association of America Foundation, HarperCollins Children's Books and National Drop Everything and Read Day have teamed up to offer *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* in serial format to newspapers around the country. Newspapers interested in participating and running the serial should visit www.naafoundation.org. Interested readers should contact their local newspaper or local Newspaper in Education program to find out if *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* will be available in the local paper.

For more book suggestions, downloads (bookmarks, flyers, stickers) and information please visit www.dropeverythingandread.com.