

## Book Beat

Book reviews by Andrea Barilla

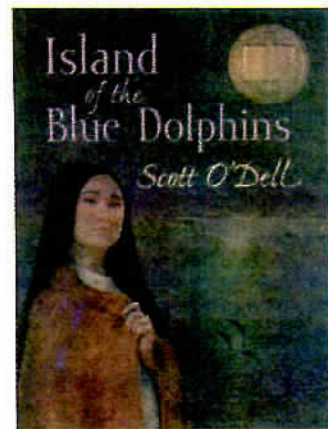
### The Flag of Childhood: Poems From the Middle East Selected by Naomi Shihab Nye

As our newspapers and televisions show horrific images of smoky streets, burning buses and missile fire, these poems remind us there is more to the Middle East than conflict and confusion. There are a strong people, whose love for family, nature, and the simple gifts of rice and color and moments to sit and drink tea with a friend allow them to survive in the shifting political ground upon which they stand. These poems span the range of experience and emotion—from a picture of daily market life, of figs and roasting coffee alongside soldiers manning the streets, to a family sewing "thread by thread" the broken hearts of those around them. A collection from such locations as Palestine, Israel, Iraq and Egypt, these poems are wonderful to read one at a time with a child, along with the author's biography at the end of the book. Ages 8-adult.



### Island of the Blue Dolphins Scott O'Dell

Karana has been left behind on the Island of the Blue Dolphins when her tribe went away with the white men. Now she is alone in her people's village. O'Dell's language allows us to step inside Karana's world; it is restrained and rational, yet the change in Karana is evident as she discovers happiness as well as survival in her solitary life. She learns how to build a home for herself, go exploring around her island, and sometimes dresses in her homemade skirt of cormorant feathers while walking along the beach with her friend Rontu. A story that reminds us of the beauty of nature, of afternoon rain beating on the roof, of the pleasure of a job well done, and the steady companionship animals can provide. Based on a true story. Newbery Medal Winner. Ages 9 to adult.



## Local Storytimes

### Barnes & Noble Mayfaire Town Center 850 Inspiration Drive (910) 509-1880

Toddler Storytime (Tuesdays at 10 am for ages 1 - 3)

June 15: "I Love My Daddy Because..." by Laurel Porter-Gaylord

June 22: "Buzz, Buzz, Busy Bees," by Dawn Berntley

June 29: "I Like Myself," by Karen Beaumont

Preschool Storytime (Thursdays at 10 am for ages 4 - 6)

June 17: "Hop on Pop," by Dr. Seuss

June 24: "Lovely Ruby and the Mermaid," by Nancy Trott

Monday Night Children's Book Clubs

Each Monday night (June 14, 21, 28) at 7 pm features a selection from a favorite children's series including American Girl, Magic Tree House, Boxcar Kids, and others. Each storytime is followed by a discussion and a related activity. This is a great way to encourage more summer reading!

Storytime With Miss Rita

Join Miss Rita in the Children's Department at Barnes & Noble Friday evening June 25 at 7 pm for children's storytime, followed by a craft activity. For ages 5 - 12.

Special Guests at the new Barnes & Noble

\*Clifford the Big Red Dog will be featured in the first storytime at the new Barnes & Noble location on Thursday, June 10 at 10 am.

Clifford, himself, will attend storytime and all will enjoy a selection of books by author Norman Bridwell.

\*Join an adventure into the fantasy world of "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak, complete with a visit from one of the wild things! The event takes place on Friday, June 11 at 7 pm. It may be a little bit scary, but also lots of fun!

\*A reading and book signing by Nancy Roberts is scheduled for Friday, June 18 at 7 pm. Ms. Roberts will read from her book, "Ghosts From the Coast!" that features real ghost stories and legends from our area. Appropriate for ages 8 and up.

### Books-A-Million 3737 Oleander Dr.

### 452-1519

Storytime at Books-A-Million takes place every Saturday afternoon at 3:30 pm. Children will enjoy a story, followed by a craft activity. The program lasts approximately one hour.

### New Hanover County Public Libraries

New Hanover County Public Libraries offer storytime programs for toddlers (18 - 36 months), and preschoolers (3 - 5 years old) at the Main Library (798-6303), Myrtle Grove (452-6414), Northeast Regional (256-4468). All programs are free and open to children of the appropriate age group. To arrange an on-site storytime at your day care center, please call 798-6308.

\*Toddler Time (18 - 36 months)

A 20-minute program of stories, songs, and fingerplays for little ones and their adult chaperone.

Main Library: Tuesdays at 10 am

Myrtle Grove: Wednesdays at 10 am

Northeast Regional: Thursdays at 10 am

\*Preschool Storytime (3 - 5 years)

30 minutes of stories, songs, and activities for preschoolers.

Main Library: Tuesdays at 10:30 am

Myrtle Grove: Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Northeast Regional: Thursdays at 10:30 am

### Growing Readers

Growing Readers is a Smart Start funded program that provides a range of library-based activities to New Hanover County children ages birth to five, their parents, teachers, and child care providers. Programs include: storytime programs at child care facilities and family child care homes, theme book bag literature collections, workshops for parents and teachers, and library materials for children, parents, and teachers. For more information, contact the New Hanover County Public Library at 798-6308. Information is also available at [www.newhanoverkids.org](http://www.newhanoverkids.org).

### Pender County Public Libraries

Burgaw Central Library (259-1234)

Storytime for young children takes place on Thursdays from 10 - 10:30 am. Includes stories, songs, and fingerplays. Call for summer schedule.

Hampstead Branch Library (270-4603)

Preschool storytime on Tuesdays from 10 - 10:30 am includes a story and age-appropriate activity. Call for summer schedule.

### Brunswick County Public Libraries

Southport (457-6237)

A Summer Reading Club will take the place of regular storytime every Monday at 11 am. This program is designed for children of all ages. Call for details.

Oak Island (278-4283)

A Summer Reading Club will take the place of regular storytime every Wednesday at 11 am. This program is designed for children of all ages. Call for details.

Leland (371-9442)

The Leland Library will host a Summer Reading Club every Tuesday morning, June 8 through July 13. Sessions in June are scheduled for 6/8 at 11 am (features Ponderosa Farms petting zoo); 6/15 at 10 am (features Mr. Magic); and 6/29 (features NC Museum of Natural Science). Registration 6/1 - 6/15. All children pre-K and up are welcome to sign up. (The regularly scheduled storytime at 10 am and the 4 pm craft session will not take place during the Summer Reading Club session, 6/8 - 7/13.)

Shalotte (754-6578)

The Rourk Branch Library will sponsor a Summer Reading Program on Thursdays, starting June 10 at 11 am. The feature on 6/10 is "Dinosaur Days," appropriate for all ages. Mr. Magic will be present on 6/17 at 10 am for pre-K - 6 years and 11 am for ages 7 and up. On 6/24, the "Moonstone Minstrel" will be featured at 10:30 am at the National Guard Armory for all ages. Registration 6/1 - 6/18. (Regularly scheduled storytimes and craft sessions will not be held while the Summer Reading Program is in session, 6/10 - 7/15).