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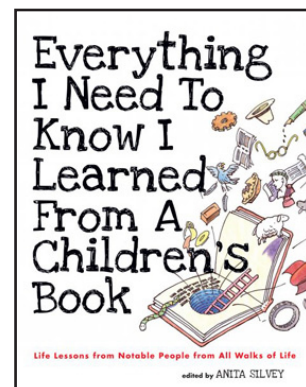
## One Community, One Book

### Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book

#### Involve Your Community!

This book provides an ideal opportunity for people of all ages in your community to gather together to talk about their love for reading and to share books that will inspire others to read.

Anita Silvey encouraged noted celebrities from many professions to talk about and write about the children's book that most influenced their life. People such as Kirk Douglas, Steve Forbes, Leonard Marcus, Sherman Alexie, Lesley Stahl, Les Moonves, and Tiki Barber have funny, warm, endearing, and uplifting stories to tell, all centered around a common theme.

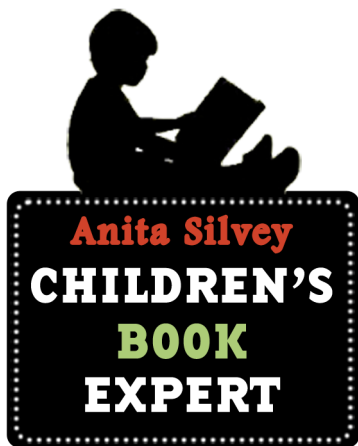


As Anita writes in her introduction, "A single illustration from *Treasure Island* created by N.C. Wyeth made his son Andrew want to become a painter and inspired Robert Montgomery to become an actor." William DeVries, the surgeon who implanted the first artificial heart, has carried with him a line from *The Wizard of Oz*, "I will bear all the unhappiness without a murmur, if you will give me a heart."

Several groups have already created a One Community, One Book program based on *Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book*. From their experiences, we have learned that community members of all ages and from all walks of life are eager to take part. We know that public libraries, school districts, colleges, and community organizations can take the lead in making this book event a successful literacy-based project.

We've gathered materials we believe will help your group plan and implement a One Community, One Book program. You'll find it to be one of the easiest One Book projects to plan ... your resources are as close as your neighbors and your choice of books is classic and current, picture book to young adult, engendering a lot of good reading and discussion.

When you've wrapped up your project, we hope you'll let us know how your program evolved. What worked well? We'll share what you learned on Anita Silvey's website. On Anita's site, you'll find a way to submit one or two photos, a summary of your experiences, and suggestions you'd like others to know as they plan their own program.



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# One Community, One Book

## **Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book**

### **10 Steps to Organize a One Community, One Book Event**

1. Invite various members of your community, across a broad spectrum, to participate: fitness center trainer, gas station attendant, YMCA director, Girl Scout leader, rabbi, theater director, mayor, university professor, parents who are active in school activities. Children as young as kindergarten can participate if you explain the difference between a "favorite" book and a book that has "influence" in their lives.
2. Share with them essays from *Everything I Need to Know...* and ask them to write about their most influential children's or teen book.
3. Post the essays, as they arrive, on the event's website. We suggest a blog format so other members of the community can comment and share their own thoughts.
4. Plan one or more events that will celebrate your community's contributions.
5. Document your events with photos, video, and scrapbooks. Create a PowerPoint presentation for each event (see suggestions included in this brochure).
6. Invite your nearest television station or community access channel to film this important event. Talk with them about showing the resulting video at a specific time each week, perhaps during the evening news or local talk show.
7. Create a YouTube channel to show the videos that are created from your One Community, One Book event. With *Everything I Need to Know* at the core of your programming, you'll discuss many different books that will intrigue a wide variety of people.
8. Invite your local newspaper to print each essay, along with a photo of the contributor and a cover of the featured book.
9. Purchase enough copies of *Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book* to circulate in your public and school libraries. Your patrons will want to know what other people wrote as they prepare to write their own essays. Create a display window featuring books included in Anita Silvey's interviews.
10. Involve the booksellers in your community. Make them aware that customers will wish to purchase copies of *Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book*. This project is not only about sharing personal experiences with reading but encouraging people to explore books they may have missed. The books described in *Everything I Need to Know* will appeal to a wide spectrum of readers.

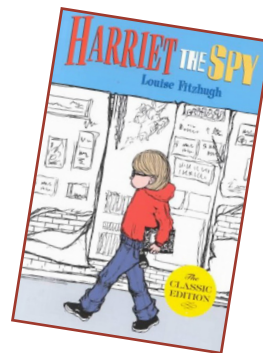
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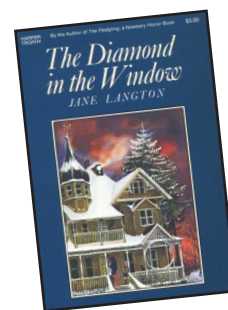
### Programming Suggestions

Here are some other ideas for ways in which you might program your One Community, One Book event.

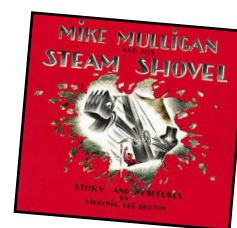
- Ask each participant for a photo and a 3-line biography.
- Request a Release from each participant so you have permission to post photos, essays, audio files, video files ... whatever you need for your programming. We've included a sample in this brochure.
- Involve the library, schools, colleges, universities, churches, businesses, nonprofit organizations, literacy proponents, and individual boosters in your program.
- Involve newspapers, neighborhood newspapers, regional magazines, radio stations, television stations, community websites, and any other media in your area to feature essays or testimonials. Do this early in your planning. Let them provide suggestions for success.
- TV and internet are visual media. Provide interesting backgrounds, materials, photos, and people for interviews, filming, and storytelling.
- Invite local celebrities to take part but don't forget the people you meet every day. It's important for us to remind each other that everybody reads, whether it's a magazine at the beauty salon or a newspaper at the coffee shop or a book in front of the fireplace or something digital on the internet.
- Will you give awards or prizes? Does everybody win?
- Consider creating a "READ" poster (software available from the ALA Store) for each of the people who participates as a speaker or essayist. Post them all over your community as promotion for your events.
- Have a special bookmark created using the book cover for *Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book* and the dates and locations of your events. A bookmark is particularly well-suited to this event and they are fairly inexpensive to have printed in color at places like VistaPrint.com.
- Offer raffle tickets (if this is allowed) for one autographed copy of *Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book*, five of the most often-mentioned children's books, a personalized READ poster, and lunch with one of your local celebrities who takes part in your program.



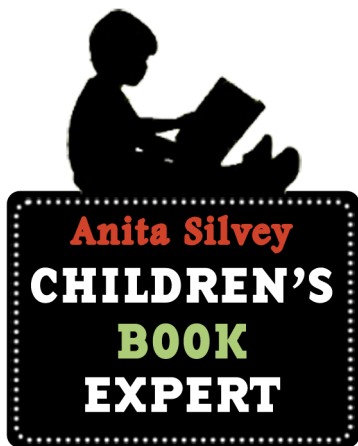
Selected by Dr. Perri Klass, pediatrics and journalism professor at NYU.



Chosen by Gregory Maguire, *New York Times* bestselling author, who discovered he lives near the home that inspired the book.



Comedian Jay Leno remembers this book showing him how important an audience can be for inspiration.



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# One Community, One Book **Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book**

## PowerPoint Presentation Samples

Here are samples you might use to pattern your own presentation.

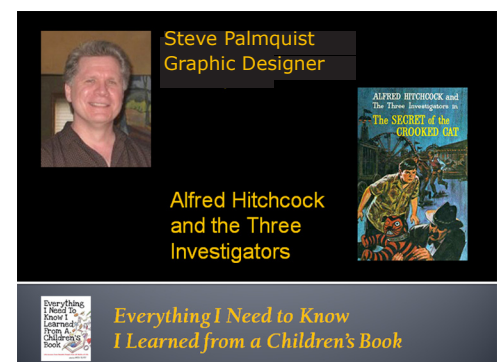
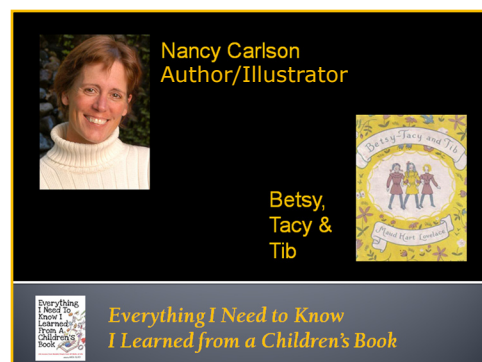
Remember that a list of names and book titles isn't as powerful as the stories we have to tell about the way these books influenced our lives.

This PowerPoint could be used while contributors speak in front of a large screen projecting these images. It helps the audience connect with the book by seeing the book's cover.

You might also consider recording the commentary your contributors provide. By synchronizing the audio to the video, you could run this PowerPoint at various community events, library programs, or in your schools.

Consider putting the combined audio/visual PowerPoint on your organization's website. Be sure to ask permission from each participant featured in the PowerPoint before you post their names and photos online.

All of these efforts promote discussion, participation, and literacy.



# One Community, One Book

## Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book

### Sample Release Form

One Community, One Book

Organization

Address

City, State, Zip

### Permission to Use Photograph / Video / Essay

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

I grant to [insert organization], the right to (take photographs of) (post videos including) (print essays by) me and my family in connection with the above-identified event. I authorize [insert organization], its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that [insert organization] may use such (photographs of) (videos of) (essays by) me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, newspaper articles, and Web content.

I have read and understand the above:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

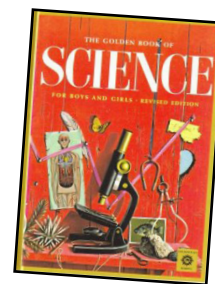
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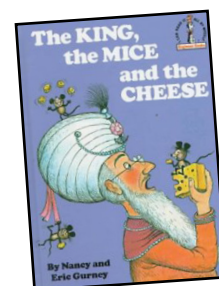
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

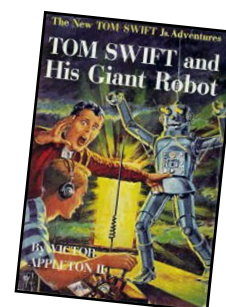
parent or guardian (if subject is under age 18)



Author and illustrator David Macaulay was “so positively affected by this book that [he] wanted to make others like it.”

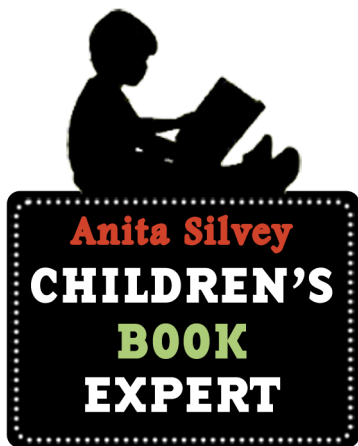


Taking a lesson from this book, climate scientist Andrew Weaver feels it “should give all scientists pause before taking extreme measures to mess with Mother Nature.”



Tom Swift inspired Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple, with “the ability to find solutions to problems.”





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## **Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book**

### **Grant Applications**

You might consider applying for grant money to help fund your project.

- Your description could include that this is a program promoting literacy and awareness of the ways in which books and reading guide and shape our lives.
- You could emphasize that the program models reading at all ages.
- State your intentions to involve a good cross-section of the people in your community by age, profession, gender, culture, and recognizability.
- Be sure to mention your grant-giving sponsors in your promotional materials.

### **Fundraising**

You can turn public events into fundraisers by selling the discussed books. In this way, you can fund next year's One Community, One Book program or help to cover the costs of this year's event. Involve the booksellers in your community. Make them aware that customers will wish to purchase copies of *Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book*. (We suggest having at least 40 on hand.) At a public event, they may also wish to buy the books that people are recommending by talking about their most influential books. Make sure you know what those books are ahead of time, so the bookseller can order a few copies of each book (one or two should be sufficient).

If you're going to print programs to let your neighbors know about the One Community, One Book events, consider selling ad space to local businesses. Be sure to tell them this is a community-wide literacy effort.

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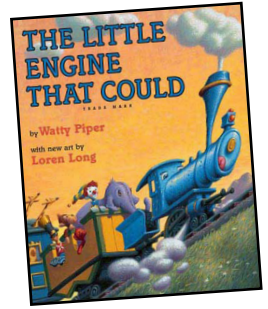
### Invite Anita Silvey to Speak at Your Event

Anita has often shared her stories about interviewing the well-known personalities included in this book. She talks about Kirk Douglas, Pete Seeger, Andrew Wyeth, Steve Forbes, Julianne Moore, and a host of fascinating people and their reactions to being requested to share their most influential children's book. Surprisingly, no one had to think hard. Most people knew their answer quite quickly.

You may contact Winding Oak, Anita's booking agency, to inquire about her availability to speak with your community. You would pay her daily honorarium, customary travel expenses, and a per diem meal expense.

If you would like one of the other personalities interviewed in the book to speak as well, we'll do our best to make that happen. Some of the more famous celebrities won't be available, but there are other intriguing people who would be just as interesting for your community to hear.

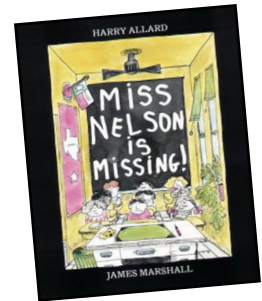
If you would like to ask about having Anita join you for an event, please send an e-mail to [booking@windingoak.com](mailto:booking@windingoak.com).



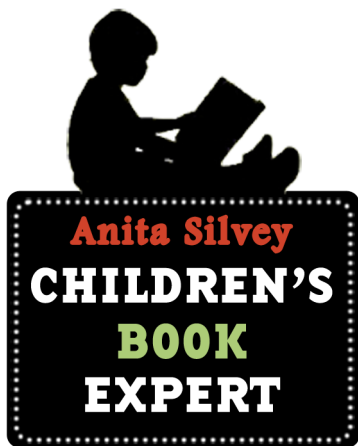
Sports figure and author Tiki Barber credits *The Little Engine That Could* with teaching him about "the power of a positive attitude."



Profoundly moved by the emotions in this book, Peter Sis credits it with guiding him to a career as an illustrator.



In her essay, Linda Johnson Robb says, "Children's books stabilize me; they are my roots; they help me in times of stress."



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### Anita Silvey Biography

The author of *100 Best Books for Children*, *500 Great Books for Teens*, and *Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators*, Anita Silvey has devoted 39 years to promoting books that will turn the young—and families—into readers. She has appeared frequently on NPR, "The Today Show," "60 Minutes," and various radio programs to talk about our best books for young people.

*Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Children's Book* (Roaring Brook Press, 2009) has received plaudits for its contributions by a wide variety of influential people who reflect on the importance of children's books in their lives, accompanied by Ms. Silvey's essays about those books.

Currently writing a daily column for the "Children's Book-a-Day Almanac," Anita shares the stories she knows about the children's books we love, associating books with a particular day. Legions of avid followers share their thoughts each day.

Anita explored the little-known history of women who fought as soldiers in the American Civil War, in *I'll Pass for Your Comrade* (Clarion, 2008). Her picture book about a lesser-known hero of the American Revolution, *Henry Knox: Bookseller, Soldier, Patriot*, illustrated by Wendell Minor (Roaring Brook, 2010) tells the story of the man who brought heavy artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to relieve the siege of Boston.

As publisher of children's books for Houghton Mifflin Company from 1995-2001, she oversaw all the children's and young adult publishing for both the Houghton and Clarion lists, including such well-known authors and illustrators as H. A. and Margret Rey, Virginia Lee Burton, David Macaulay, Lois Lowry, Allen Say, David Wiesner, Karen Cushman, Linda Sue Park, and Chris Van Allsburg.

In a unique career in the children's book field, Ms. Silvey has divided her time equally between publishing, evaluating children's books, and writing. But her lifelong conviction that "only the very best of anything can be good enough for the young" forms the cornerstone of all of her work.

Ms. Silvey served for eleven years as Editor-in-Chief of *The Horn Book Magazine*, a publication many call "the Bible of children's literature." Ms. Silvey served on the board of the United States section of the International Board on the Books for Young People. She chaired the 1989 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award Committee and the New England Round Table of Children's Librarians. Ms. Silvey co-founded a literary publication, *The Boston Review*. She served as president of the Children's Book Council. Currently, she is a member of the Editorial Board of *Cricket Magazine* and the Board of Directors for the Vermont Center for the Book, as well as teaching "Modern Book Publishing" at the Simmons College Graduate School of Library Science in Boston, "Children's Book Publishing" in the Simmons Children's Literature Program, and "Children's Book Author Studies" at St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vermont.

Ms. Silvey has been given numerous awards, including The Women's National Book Association Book Women Award in 1987. In October 1994, for a bicentennial celebration, she received an award from the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana, as one of the thirty-eight famous sons and daughters of the city. In July of 2000 she was awarded an honorary MFA in Children's Book Writing by the Vermont College of Fine Arts. In January of 2008, she received the Ludington Award of the Educational Paperback Association for her lifetime of dedication to children and books.

