

## **Dog-Gone Good Reads**

by Marianne Brennan, Children's Assistant, Wyckoff Public Library

There's nothing like finding that next great book, especially if that book has a dog in it! There are numerous pawesome children's books out there. Many of them touch on the themes of love, friendship, kindness, and empathy - all the things that make dogs wonderful!

*Stormy: A Story About Finding a Forever Home* by Guojing is a gorgeously illustrated wordless picture book that will touch the hearts of children and adults alike. A woman comes upon a scraggly dog hiding under a park bench. With patience and kindness, a trust forms, and a friendship grows as Stormy and the woman find their forever homes in one another. Another picture book about finding a forever home is *Can I Be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings. In this humorous and heartwarming story, dog, Arfy, writes letters to the residents of Butternut Street, explaining why he would be the perfect dog for them.

For beginning readers, the *Barkus* series by Patricia MacLachlan is sure to be a hit with its simple text and small chapters. Currently a 2-book series, young readers will enjoy tagging along on the adventures of 7-year-old, Nicky, and Barkus, the smartest dog in the world.

There's a reason dogs make the best of friends. Their capacity for empathy and kindness is boundless, and they often come into our lives just when we need them most. This couldn't be more true in *Wish* by Barabara O'Connor. 11-year-old, Charlie Reese, is miserable about having to move to live with an aunt and uncle she barely knows. When she meets Wishbone, a stray dog, though, things begin to change, and she starts to realize maybe she can be happy in this new place after all.

Another story about a dog showing up at the right moment is *A Dog Called Homeless* by Sarah Lean. Since the death of her mother, a year ago, fifth grader, Cally Fisher, has been seeing her mother's ghost. When no one believes her, though, she decides to stop speaking. Then one day her mother's ghost is accompanied by a dog. Believing this dog is the last connection she has to her mother, Cally sets out to convince her dad they need to keep him, but that isn't easy when you don't speak. Fans of *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo are sure to connect with this Schneider Family Book award-winning middle-grade novel about a dog helping a girl heal and find her voice.

Some additional woofastic books include *Harvey Comes Home* by Colleen Nelson, a middle grade novel about a runaway dog who helps an elderly man recall decades-old memories. The sequel, *Harvey Holds His Own*, is out now. As is the sequel to Katherine Applegate's beloved

*The One and Only Ivan* -now a motion picture- *The One and Only Bob*, a book sure to resonate with dog-loving readers as they follow Bob on his journey of finding his one true family.

Please visit or call the Rizzo Children's Library at 201-891-4866, x3 for suggestions on finding great reads for children of all ages, and ask about joining one of our book clubs for children in grades 1-5.