

**A Northwest  
Indiana  
reading event  
for all ages!**



**READING GUIDE**

2008 Theme:

**Journeys  
and Quests**

Selections for three reading levels:

**ADULT – Shadow Divers**

**YOUNG ADULT – The Lightning Thief**

**PICTURE/EASY – The Journey**

*of Oliver K. Woodman*

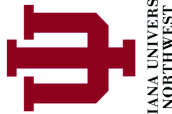


*“Before I can say more, you must officially take up the quest.”  
— The Lightning Thief*

PO Box 2245  
Hammond, IN 46323-0245  
www.books2bridge.org  
E-mail: info@books2bridge.org



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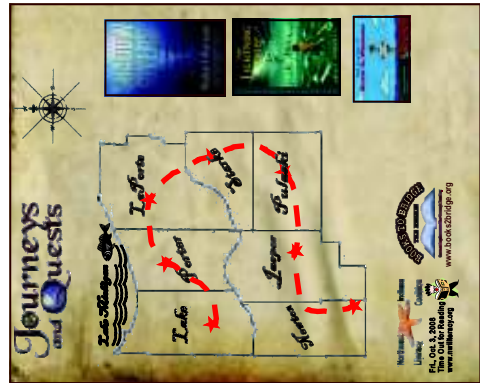


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Event sponsor: Jasper County Public Library, DeMotte Branch



**Event Hosts:**

- Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Valparaiso Borders, Merrillville
- Hammond Public Library
- Jasper County Public Library, DeMotte Branch
- Lake County Public Library, Lake Station-New Chicago Branch
- LaPorte County Public Library
- Frankie Woods-McCullough Academy for Girls, Gary
- Michigan City Public Library
- Porter County Public Library, Portage Branch
- Purdue University Calumet Academic Learning Center, Crown Point
- Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer
- Westfield Southlake Mall, Merrillville

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# Introduction

**Books to Bridge the Region** is a reading initiative for all ages encompassing seven Northwest Indiana counties: Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke.

**Books to Bridge the Region** is a collaborative effort, is not owned or managed by any one entity and does not intend to replace other area “One Read” programs. On the contrary, **Books to Bridge the Region** encourages participation in all programs that foster reading.

## 2008 List of Titles

**Adult Selection:** Robert Kurson’s *Shadow Divers*

**Young Adult Selection:** Rick Riordan’s *The Lightning Thief*

**Picture Book/Easy Selection:** Darcy Pattison’s *The Journey of Oliver K. Woodman*

## Goals

The goals of Books to Bridge the Region are to promote literacy, to create conversations among communities, and to foster critical thinking related to a topic.

## Rationale

**Books to Bridge the Region** uses a themed approach with selections at several reading levels so that families can read together and readers of all ages can enjoy the conversations generated by these books. The books chosen for this year’s theme, “Journeys and Quests,” portray three very different types of quests. *Shadow Divers* describes an aquatic quest for historical answers that becomes a diving obsession for two friends. *The Lightning Thief* sends a 12-year old boy on a classic quest to recover a stolen thunderbolt — if he can survive the plots and attacks of mythological monsters. *The Journey of Oliver K. Woodman* maps the cross-country travels of a wooden man that will re-connect family members from opposite coasts, providing geographical highlights of places in the United States. The books were selected for their subject matter, writing quality, and reading pleasure. We hope that participants will enjoy the books and find much to discuss with members of their families and communities.



## About the Illustrator: Joe Cepeda

A commercial artist whose work has appeared in numerous magazines and publications, Joe Cepeda has also established himself as a respected picture-book illustrator since 1995. Cepeda received his B.F.A. in Illustration from California State University, Long Beach in 1992 and also studied Engineering at Cornell University. He is the illustrator of award-winning picture books such as *What a Truly Cool World* and *Nappy Hair*. Mr. Cepeda received the Recognition of Merit Award for 2000 from the George G. Stone Center for Children’s Books. In 2002, Cepeda received a Pura Belpré Honor Award, an honor that recognizes Cepeda’s work as it “portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.” He currently lives in Southern California with his wife and son. His website can be found at [www.joecepeda.com/books/cliff.htm](http://www.joecepeda.com/books/cliff.htm).

“When I work on a picture book,” says Cepeda, “I like to concentrate on color, shape, and people. I try to surrender to what the story is calling for. I try not to illustrate just the words, but to write my own story in pictures, one that compliments the manuscript and is in harmony with it.”

*“Mr. Oliver has the loveliest manners.”*

## Activity Ideas

- Create a new journey for Oliver. Use a map to show where he goes.
- Write a letter or postcard that Oliver might send.
- Design your own stamp, postcard, or stationery.
- Make your own travel journal, keeping track of your favorite things about a trip, like the food, scenery, activities, and weather.

*Additional questions, activities and materials may be found at [www.books2bridge.org](http://www.books2bridge.org).*

## Discussion Questions

- If Oliver came to visit you, what kinds of things would you do together?
- What are some problems that Oliver and the people who help him might face in trying to get him from one place to another?
- Why do you think Oliver was such a good traveling companion?
- If you were Oliver, what places would you visit in the United States? Why? What would be pictured on the postcard you sent from each of those places?
- What do we learn from the journey that Oliver takes?

*“We don’t know how he ended up way out there, and he’s not telling.”*

## Related Materials

Don Brown	<i>Alice Ramsey’s Grand Adventure</i>
Kate DiCamillo	<i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i>
Vera Williams	<i>Stringbean’s Trip to the Shining Sea</i>
Lynne Cherry	<i>The Armadillo from Amarillo</i>
Joanna Cole	<i>Fun on the Run: Travel Games and Songs</i>
Jo Pink	<i>Car Games: 100 Games to Avoid “Are We There Yet”</i>
Holly Schroeder	<i>The United States ABCs: A Book About the People and Places of the United States of America</i>
Peter Sis	<i>The Train of the States</i>
Jim Aylesworth	<i>My Sister’s Rusty Bike</i>
Nancy Willard	<i>The Magic Cornfield</i>
Cynthia Rylant	<i>Tulip Sees America</i>

## Schedule of Major Events

### Friday, October 3

10:00 a.m.

Time Out for Reading — Join thousands across Northwest Indiana, and “Put Your Nose in a Book!” For more information go to [www.nwliteracy.org](http://www.nwliteracy.org). (Sponsored by Northwest Indiana Literacy Coalition, Hammond Reads, and literacy partners.)

### Monday, October 6

6:00 p.m.

Cris Kohl, author of *Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes*, and Joan Forsberg, president of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, present a program at the LaPorte Co. Library  
Darcy Pattison, author of *The Journey of Oliver K. Woodman*, speaks to writing students at the Purdue University Calumet Academic Learning Center in Crown Point.

7:00-9:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 7

9:30 a.m.

Darcy Pattison visits with students at the Frankie Woods-McCullough Academy for Girls in Gary.

2:00 p.m.

Darcy Pattison visits with local school children and elementary education majors at St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer.

6:30 p.m.

Darcy Pattison reads *Oliver K. Woodman*, meets readers and signs books at Borders, Westfield Southlake Mall, Merrillville.

### Wednesday, October 8

12:00 p.m.

Darcy Pattison speaks to students and teachers at LaPorte Public Library.

7:00 p.m.

*Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes* presentation at the Hammond Public Library.

### Thursday, October 9

7:00 p.m.

*Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes* presentation at the Jasper County Public Library, DeMotte Branch.

### Saturday, October 11

2:00 p.m.

*Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes* presentation at the Lake County Public Library, Lake Station-New Chicago Branch.

### Saturday, October 18

2:00 p.m.

Robert Kurson, author of *Shadow Divers*, speaks to readers at Porter County Public Library, Portage Branch.

7:30 p.m.

Robert Kurson, author of *Shadow Divers*, is featured at Michigan City Public Library’s Writing Out Loud program.

### Saturday, October 25

11:00 a.m.

It’s All Greek To Me! Storyteller Dan LeMonnier presents a program on mythology at Barnes & Noble Bookseller, Valparaiso.

2:00 p.m.

It’s All Greek To Me! mythology presentation at Jasper County Public Library, DeMotte Branch.

Events in **bold type** are open to the public. Many area libraries host book discussions and other Books to Bridge the Region events. Contact your local library for more information, or check the events calendar at [www.books2bridge.org/calendar.htm](http://www.books2bridge.org/calendar.htm).



2008 Adult Selection:

# Shadow Divers

By Robert Kurson



In the fall of 1991 in the frigid Atlantic waters sixty miles off the coast of New Jersey, weekend scuba divers, John Chatterton and Richie Kohler, made a startling discovery: a sunken World War II German U-boat that, according to all the official records, simply shouldn't have been at that location. Over the next six years, an elite team of divers embarked on a quest to solve the mystery. Some would not live to see its end. Chatterton and Kohler, at first bitter rivals, were drawn into a deep bond of friendship. As the men's marriages frayed under the pressure of a shared obsession, their dives grew more daring, and each realized that he was hunting for more than the identities of a lost U-boat and its nameless crew.

## Awards and Reviews

2005 Book Sense Book of the Year Award  
(American Booksellers Association)

2005 Alex Award (Best adult books for young adults, as chosen by *Booklist* magazine and the Young Adult Library Services Association)

"Riveting...Kurson's descriptions of some of these forays inside the sub were so harrowing that I frequently caught myself holding my breath... A great book." —*Chicago Tribune*

"Exciting...Some of the most haunting moments occur on land, as when the divers research the lives of the doomed German sailors whose bones they swim among. Once underwater, Kurson's adrenalized prose sweeps you along in a tale of average-guy adventure." —*The New Yorker*

"Absorbing...Even a great story needs the right storyteller, and Chatterton and Kohler couldn't have asked for anyone better than Kurson. From U-boat history to the mortal dangers of diving...Kurson explains it all, even as he's spinning a fantastic yarn that happens to be true." —*Newsweek*



## About the Author: Darcy Pattison

Pattison has a B.A. from the University of Arkansas and an M.A. from Kansas State University. She lives in North Little Rock, Arkansas with her husband and four children. She has written non-fiction for children for *Kids Wall Street News* and fiction for *Clubhouse Magazine*. She has written about writing for *Writer's Digest*, *SCBWI Bulletin*, *Children's Writers & Illustrators Market 2000*, *2001*, *2002* and *2003*, *Children's Writer*, and *Children's Book Insider*. For six years, she was the Children's Book Reviewer for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. In 1999, Darcy created the Novel Revision Retreat, which she teaches nationwide. She currently teaches creative writing at the University of Central Arkansas. She is a member of the Author's Guild and the 2007 recipient of the Arkansas Governor's Art Award for Individual Artist. Her website can be found at [www.darcypattison.com](http://www.darcypattison.com).

Pattison grew up in a family that both told and read stories. "Stories matter," she says, "whether you're a reader, swept away by a story, or a writer, creating those sweeping stories. In today's busy world – more than ever before – we all need stories that strike deep chords. I help others write the stories they need to tell."

*"He's an easy fella to travel with.  
He never needs bathroom stops."*

Darcy Pattison participates in several 2008 Books to Bridge the Region events. See the Schedule of Major Events in this guide for dates, times, and additional information.

Book cover: Courtesy Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Text from THE JOURNEY OF OLIVER K. WOODMAN, copyright © 2003 by Darcy Pattison, reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Darcy Pattison photo by Dwight Pattison Joe Cepeda photo: courtesy of Joe Cepeda

2008 Picture Book/Easy Selection:

# The Journey of Oliver K. Woodman

By Darcy Pattison



The journey begins when a young girl invites her Uncle Ray, who lives in South Carolina, to visit her in California. Unable to get away, Uncle Ray builds a life-sized wooden man named Oliver to send to California instead of him. He puts Oliver beside the road with a note asking travelers who pick him up to send postcards to Ray along the route. In this way, he is able to track Oliver's adventures as postcards arrive from Arkansas, New Mexico, Utah and other places along Oliver's journey to California.

## Awards and Reviews

Grand Canyon Reader Award for Picture Books 2005

2003 Book Sense Book of the Year Award for Children's Books  
(American Booksellers Association)

2003 Christopher Award: Books for Young People

Off the Cuff Award 2002

Booklist Editor's Choice Award 2002

"Vibrant, textured, rainbow-hued, with a mostly cheerful multi-cultured cast...." —*Booklist*

"Small, interesting details abound, and children will be pleased with the satisfying conclusion. A map at the back shows Oliver's route. A fresh, unusual tale." —*School Library Journal*

"...it's plain that Oliver has a great personality and should be making a return trip." —*Kirkus Reviews*



## About the Author: Robert Kurson

Robert Kurson grew up in the Chicago suburbs. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin, then a law degree from Harvard Law School. He practiced real estate law, but quit to pursue a writing career. To make ends meet, he worked full time as a drapery and window blinds installer, then as a Wal-Mart options trader at the Chicago Board Options Exchange. He was hired by the Chicago *Sun-Times* as a data entry clerk, a position which led to a full-time features writing job. In 2000, *Esquire* published "My Favorite Teacher," Kurson's first magazine story, which became a finalist for a National Magazine Award. He moved from the *Sun-Times* to *Chicago* magazine, then to *Esquire*, where he is a contributing editor. His stories have appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and other publications. He lives in the Chicago suburbs. Kurson's latest book is *Crashing Through*. His website can be found at [www.robertkurson.com](http://www.robertkurson.com).

*"In a world where even the moon had been traveled, the floor of the Atlantic remained uncharted wilderness, its shipwrecks beacons for men compelled to look."*

Robert Kurson participates in 2008 Books to Bridge the Region events. See the Schedule of Major Events in this guide for information.

Cover art: Courtesy Random House/Ballantine Books

Text from SHADOW DIVERS, copyright © 2004 by Robert Kurson and U869 Partnership; reprinted by permission of Random House.

Robert Kurson photo and biography: courtesy of Robert Kurson

## Discussion Questions

- Would you define deep wreck diving as an adventure, a quest, or a fatal obsession?
- In what ways do Chatterton's and Kohler's backgrounds and earlier lives prepare them for their quest to identify the U-Who? What attributes enable them to persevere?
- How do Chatterton and Kohler solve the dilemma of searching for historical artifacts without disturbing the dead?
- The divers discovered to their dismay that historical facts provided to them during their search were not always correct. How has your view of history changed by reading this story?
- Divers continue to debate the ethics of removing artifacts from shipwrecks. When is it proper to take artifacts from wrecks? Does your answer change if there are human remains onboard?
- One of the divers gave up diving for two years in an effort to keep his family together. Must a person surrender his true passion in order to live a happy and fulfilled life?

*“To them, diving was about exploration, about aiming for the everywhere of the unknown.”*

## Activity Ideas

- Encourage friends or family to read *Shadow Divers*, and get together to talk about it, or attend a book discussion in your area. You can find more questions to stimulate discussion on our website ([www.books2bridge.org](http://www.books2bridge.org)). Serve sub sandwiches!
- Visit the U-505 exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago to get a real feel for life on a German submarine in WWII.
- Explore a new hobby. Take scuba lessons at a local dive/scuba shop.

## Related Materials

### Books Related to Mythology:

Bernard Evslin	<i>Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths</i>
Mary Pope Osborne	<i>Favorite Greek Myths</i>
Bruce Coville	<i>Juliet Dove, Queen of Love</i>
Stephanie Spinner	<i>Quiver and Quicksilver</i>

### Books About Other Journeys & Quests:

Christopher Paolini	<i>Eragon</i>
Cornelia Funke	<i>Inkheart</i>
Sharon Creech	<i>The Wanderer</i>
Christopher Paul Curtis	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>
T. H. White	<i>The Once and Future King</i>

### Websites:

- Hyperion Books For Children Reader's Guide  
[www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com/data/books/dgpdf/07868562971506.pdf](http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com/data/books/dgpdf/07868562971506.pdf)
- Teacher's Guide with various links from Rick Riordan's site  
[www.rickriordan.com/Teacher\\_Guide\\_to\\_Percy.htm](http://www.rickriordan.com/Teacher_Guide_to_Percy.htm)
- Literature Units by Kids' Wings  
<http://suzyred.com/2006lightningthief.html>
- Greek mythology site  
<http://techcenter.davidson.k12.nc.us/springs5/goddess2/index.htm>
- Another Greek mythology site  
[www.wingedsandals.com](http://www.wingedsandals.com)
- NEH lesson plan  
[http://edsitement.neh.gov/view\\_lesson\\_plan.asp?id=234](http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=234)

*“ ...I knew I had to do this last part of the quest by myself.”*



## Discussion Questions

- What is a *hero*? Does that definition change at different stages in the book? The hero's journey or quest is a common element in literature, including trials/adventures, supernatural elements or monsters, guides, certain companions, tool or weapons, etc. Plot Percy's journey as a hero. What is the purpose of his journey? What does he learn or bring back?
- Percy's learning disabilities become strengths in a different context. What seem to be attention problems allow him to be aware of all sides of attack during a battle. While he struggles to read English, he masters Greek easily. Do you have characteristics that might seem like weaknesses in one setting, but become strengths in another?
- What strength does each of the three companions bring to the quest? How have your friends helped you complete something that was important to you?

*“We only had one day left until the summer solstice. One day to complete our quest.”*

## Activity Ideas

- Talk about the ways in which myths were used to explain everyday situations (sunrise, seasons, storms, etc.).
- Prepare an artistic representation of a god/goddess or a poster listing the attributes of various gods. Which trait/power would you most like to have?
- Discuss some examples of real life quests. Have you ever searched for a lost pet (a quest to find someone or something)? Are there questions you've researched for hours because you just had to know the answer (a quest for knowledge)? Have you worked very hard to earn money to buy something you want (a quest for reward)?

## Related Materials

Books related to Deep Water Diving:

Bernie Chowhury	<i>The Last Dive: A Father and Son's Fatal Descent into the Ocean's Depths</i>
Cris Kohl	<i>Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes</i>
Kevin McMurray	<i>Deep Descent: Adventure and Death Diving the Andrea Doria</i>
PBS NOVA series	<i>Hitler's Lost Sub</i> (DVD)

Books About Other Journeys & Quests:

Jonathan Safran Foer	<i>Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close</i>
Elizabeth Gilbert	<i>Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia</i>
Miguel de Cervantes	<i>Don Quixote de la Mancha</i>
Yann Martel	<i>Life of Pi</i>

Websites:

- U-505 Submarine exhibit at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry [www.msichicago.org/whats-here/exhibits/u-505/](http://www.msichicago.org/whats-here/exhibits/u-505/)
- PBS NOVA site about the U-869 [www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostsub/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostsub/)
- Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum [www.shipwreckmuseum.com](http://www.shipwreckmuseum.com)
- John Chatterton's website [www.johnchatterton.com](http://www.johnchatterton.com)
- Richie Kohler's website [www.richiekohler.com](http://www.richiekohler.com)

*“Early deep-wreck divers had a measure of pirate in their blood.”*

# The Lightning Thief

By Rick Riordan



What if the gods of Olympus were alive in the 21st Century? What if they still fell in love with mortals and had children who might become great heroes – like Theseus, Jason and Hercules? What if you were one of those children? Such is the discovery that launches 12-year-old Percy Jackson on the most dangerous quest of his life. With the help of a satyr and a daughter of Athena, Percy must journey across the United States to catch a thief who has stolen the original weapon of mass destruction – Zeus’ master bolt. Along the way, he must face a host of mythological enemies determined to stop him. Most of all, he must come to terms with a father he has never known, and an Oracle that has warned him of betrayal by a friend.

## Awards and Reviews

- Best Book of 2005 Award  
(*School Library Journal*)
- VOYA Top Shelf Fiction List 2005  
(*Voice of Youth Advocates*)
- YALSA Best Book for Young Adults 2005  
(Young Adult Library Services Association)
- 2006 Notable Children’s Book  
(National Council for Teachers of English)

“An adventure with a hip edge.” —*School Library Journal*

“Packed with humorous allusions to Greek mythology...along with rip-snorting action sequences, [this] book really shines.” —*The Horn Book*

“Riordan’s fast-paced adventure is fresh, dangerous, and funny. Because Riordan is faithful to the original myths, librarians should be prepared for a rush of readers wanting the classic stories.” —*Booklist*



## About the Author: Rick Riordan

For fifteen years, Riordan taught English and history at public and private middle schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Texas. In 2002, Saint Mary’s Hall honored him with the school’s first Master Teacher Award. The Percy Jackson novels draw on Riordan’s experience teaching Greek mythology and his interaction with students who have learning differences. Film rights for *The Lightning Thief* have been purchased by Twentieth Century Fox, and a feature film is in development. Rick Riordan now writes full-time, but he still harbors hopes that someday he will return to the classroom. There are currently four books in the Percy Jackson series: *The Lightning Thief*, *The Sea of Monsters*, *The Titan’s Curse*, and *The Battle of the Labyrinth*. Riordan’s most recent novel is *The Maze of Bones*, the first book in The 39 Clues series. When asked how to pronounce his last name, Riordan tells people that the first syllable rhymes with “fire.” He lives in San Antonio with his wife and two sons. His website can be found at [www.rickriordan.com](http://www.rickriordan.com).

*“Heroes, on the other hand, have certain privileges. They can go anywhere, challenge anyone, as long as they’re bold enough and strong enough to do it.”*

See the Schedule of Major Events in this reading guide for activities related to *The Lightning Thief*.

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