

Grab a Winning Book To Read on March 3



What are your plans for Read Across America Day? Each March, students in many schools celebrate great books. This year, some kids have something very special to celebrate. Their school librarian wrote one of the best books of the year!

If you are looking for a great new book to read, you might grab *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz. Schlitz is the librarian at a school in Maryland, and her book has been awarded the John Newbery Medal for 2008. Each year, the American Library Association (ALA) awards the Newbery Medal to the best new book of the year.

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! is a collection of speeches written by characters that Schlitz created. She created the characters to help bring to life a period of time known as medieval times, or the Middle Ages. She knew her students liked read-aloud plays, so she created 16 characters that might have lived in an English village about 750 years ago. She wrote speeches in which the characters talk about their lives. Students can read the speeches by themselves or as a play.

NEWS WORD BOX

librarian	medieval
village	speeches
award	celebration

So what will you read on Read Across America Day? Will you pick up *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!*, or will you read some other good book? Read Across America Day is a great day to read any book you enjoy. The special day is celebrated early in March in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. This year's celebration is planned for March 3.

MORE NEWBERY WINNERS

Do you know any of these former Newbery Award winners?

Holes by Louis Sachar (1999)

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse (1998)

The Giver by Lois Lowry (1994)

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan (1986)

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Members of the American Library Association read a lot of books before they pick their favorites. What are some of the qualities you think they might be looking for as they read?