

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"A Great Winter Read"

"Though the weather outside is frightful," the winter season is an ideal time for mom, dad, and the kids to settle-in, where it's nice and warm, and enjoy reading great books together. Your Columbus Public Library has lots of new and classic hits that are sure to be enjoyed by the whole family. Now, when the weather man says that winter storms are headed our way, my family and many others head to the library to "stock up" on the essentials – you know – awesome read-aloud books. We would not want to get snowed in at home with nothing to read. Oh yes, we also get bread and milk – just in case.

Now, for those of you who want to prepare for that BIG snow day, I want to recommend "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo. Kate DiCamillo is one of the best children's writers of this generation, and she has given us an amazing read-aloud. Destined to become a children's classic, this book was named to School Library Journal's list of their top 100 chapter books of all time. To put this in perspective, the list also includes "Charlotte's Web," "The Hobbit," and "Winnie-the Pooh." So, be prepared, and get ready for a new classic.

DiCamillo has written us a story about Edward Tulane, a china doll rabbit, who enjoys a privileged life with an adoring young lady, but does not appreciate all that he has and those who care about him. However, fate steps in to change his life when a terrible accident happens during a family vacation at sea, and he is lost overboard. Is this the end of Edward? Of course, it is not; Edward has much to learn and much to grow. Parents and children will be intrigued reading the tale of the very self centered, self absorbed, china-doll rabbit, following Edward on his life changing journey.

While we are the subject of Kate DiCamillo as an author, readers should also remember that she is winner of two major writing awards for children's literature: Nebraska's Golden Sower award winner for 2003, "Because of Winn-Dixie" and the Newbery award winner for 2004, "The Tale of Despereaux." In addition to these books, the library also has several other of her books, including a series of books for younger readers, about a vivacious porcine, entitled Mercy Watson. "Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride" was a Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book in 2007.

So before the cold and snow become too unbearable, you are encouraged to visit the Columbus Public Library and checkout, or download, a great book like "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo, or any of her timeless classics. I am sure no matter which you choose, it will be one that is sure to fire your imagination, and keep the whole family feeling Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book in 2007 warm and toasty!