

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits are available to library patrons for use by home and community discussion groups, as well as teachers in the classroom setting. Each kit contains a set of thirty identical soft-cover books accompanied by a book discussion guide. The guides feature information about the author, reviews of the book, discussion questions, suggested further readings, and other pertinent information. Each kit is packaged in a canvas tote bag and may be borrowed for six weeks.

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits may be reserved and sent to the library branch of your choice for pick up. If you would like to reserve a kit, please stop by your local library branch or call **574-1611**. The kits may also be reserved through our website www.lfpl.org. A list of all the kits may be found in the LFPL catalog by typing **Book Discussion Kit Young Adult** at the title prompt.



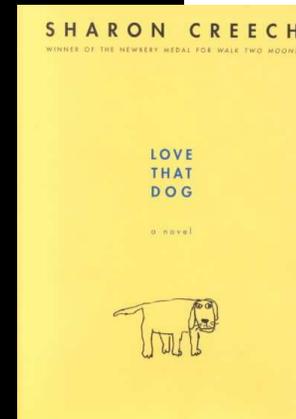
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Information for this flyer was partially gathered from the following resources:

"Sharon Creech" *Contemporary Authors*. Gale Literary Databases.
<http://galenet.com> (5/15/2003)

"A Writer Who's 13 At Heart" *Time*, August 27, 2001.

<http://www.sharoncreech.com> (5/15/2003)



A Reader's Guide to
Juvenile Book
Discussion Kit #232
Love That Dog
By Sharon Creech

Just Good Books
Just Good Books
Just Good Books
Just Good Books
Just Good Books

**Juvenile Book
Discussion Kits**



In this novel in verse we meet Jack, a reluctant student of poetry. Throughout his school year in Miss Stretchberry's class he learns the power of words and how to express himself through poetry.

About the Author

Sharon Creech says, "I grew up in a big noisy family in a Cleveland suburb, with hordes of relatives telling stories around the kitchen table. Here I learned to exaggerate and embellish, because if you didn't, your story was drowned out by someone else's more exciting one." Creech worked in Washington, D. C. for several years after graduate school, but found she was not interested in writing about "politics and facts". She then moved to England in 1979 where she lived for 18 years as an English teacher. She moved back to the United States in 1998 and now lives in New Jersey.

The author says, "Most of my characters bumble along in some area and feel at times less than capable, and yet they have a certain sort of stubborn determination, and the way they tell about these failings is often humorous." She says this includes the character Jack from *Love That Dog*.

What the Critics Say...

"Creech has created a poignant, funny picture of a child's encounter with the power of poetry."
- Lee Bock, *Booklist*

"Not only has she [Creech] shown young readers what a poem can do, she's also shown what a novel can do."
- Meg Wolitzer, *New York Times Book Review*

"Told with insight and humor that are as rare to the subject of poetry as they are to young boys, *Love That Dog* is not to be missed.... Newbery Medal-winner Sharon Creech reminds us once again that words can change lives"
- Courtney Williamson, *Christian Science Monitor*

Awards and Recognition

1995 Newbery Award for *Walk Two Moons*

2001 Newbery Honor book for *The Wanderer*

2001 Christopher Award for *Love That Dog*

2003 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award for *Love That Dog*

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think of Jack's poetry especially at the beginning of the book? Do you think what he writes is really poetry?
2. Where does the book's title come from? What does it mean?
3. A reviewer wrote, "Creech conveys a life truth: pain and joy exist side by side." Do pain and joy exist side by side in this book? If so how?
4. Did reading Jack's verses remind you of any real-life experiences?
5. What emotions did you feel while reading this book?
6. Do you see Jack's change of heart about poetry as believable?
7. How do you feel about poetry? Do you have a favorite poem or poet?

Suggested Titles for Further Reading

How to Be the Greatest Writer In the World
by Matt Cibula (J 808.042 CIB)

Strider
by Beverly Cleary (J)

Because of Winn-Dixie
by Kate DiCamillo (J)

Harlem: a poem
by Walter Dean Myers (J 811.54 M992h)

Sideways Stories from Wayside School
by Louis Sachar (J)

Other Works By the Author

Absolutely Normal Chaos (J)
Bloomability (J)

Chasing Redbird (YP)

Fishing in the Air (JP)

A Fine Fine School (JP)

Pleasing the Ghost (J)

Ruby Holler (J)

Walk Two Moons (YP Newbery)

The Wanderer (YP)