



Book Selection Criteria

The APPR book is selected based on criteria laid out by the APPR planning committee. The selection needs to:

- **have broad appeal.** Books like *Zorro* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* work very well because people of all ages have heard of but not necessarily read them. APPR selections need to engage people of all ages from all backgrounds.
- **be suitable for adaptation to the stage.** Two productions occur each year as part of All Pikes Peak Reads: one for families, adapted by UCCS THEATREWORKS, and one for children, adapted by Manitou Art Theater. In 2005, UCCS and Colorado College co-produced the play in a first-ever collaboration. In 2006, *Razzmatazz* created a puppet show from the text as well.
- **be written at a sixth- to ninth-grade reading level.** APPR has found its niche in families and students of all ages. Unlike many One Book projects, we have found that our program is truly appealing to children and young adults and selecting a text that is appropriate to that audience and that can be read aloud is very important.
- **Be a book of reasonable length.** This is necessary to accommodate the scope of audience abilities and the time frame of the project.
- **be a book in print.** Selecting a title and version that can be purchased in volume at an affordable price is critical to maintaining and increasing the project's scope. Thousands of copies are purchased by the District and other participants in the project. Some suggested titles have not been available in a suitable format or are no longer in print.
- **be available in multiple formats.** In addition to an acceptable paperback version of the text, several other formats need to be purchased as well, including large print, audio book, multiple languages. Every effort is made to invite everyone in the community to participate.
- **have multi-media support.** Movie Screenings are an important part of APPR, again offering a way to engage nontraditional library users and nonreaders in activities and discussion. All selections to date have offered wonderful films, fostering great dialog.

- **contain issues relevant to residents of the Pikes Peak region.** APPR seeks to foster dialog across social, cultural, and generational lines through a media that is both familiar and thought provoking. In several past selections the content for discussion is obvious, and in others it is less so. In 2004, the community read Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. It is an entertaining adventure story, but also offered the opportunity to talk about coming of age, heroes, and role models, topics that many participants reportedly enjoyed discussing.
- **when possible, be public domain.** While not a strict criteria, the selections used to date that have been public domain have been easier to adapt to the stage and have afforded the opportunity to publish the scripts developed for the program.

The APPR planning committee is comprised of local primary, secondary, and higher education professionals, community volunteers, nonprofit and arts representatives, and Library staff. It is a very active and committed group of individuals who work hard to produce an interesting project. Their potential book selections are gathered in several ways:

- suggestions are taken from the public both in writing and through the suggestion form on APPR's page at ppld.org;
- selections from other One Book projects are continually reviewed; and
- approved reading lists from local institutions are referenced as well.

Suggestions and input are always appreciated and continually encouraged.