



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

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DAVE BARRY AND RIDLEY PEARSON, BEST-SELLING CHILDREN'S AUTHORS, NAMED HONORARY CO-CHAIRS OF MWA:READS

NEW YORK—New York Times best-selling authors Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson will serve as the 2007-2008 Honorary Co-Chairs of MWA:Reads, Mystery Writers of America's youth literacy outreach. The program joins authors of juvenile and young adult mysteries with American children, parents, teachers, and librarians in a year-round celebration and promotion of mystery writing and reading designed to foster literacy, deductive reasoning, and critical thinking skills.

The announcement was made by Daniel J. Hale, Executive Vice President of Mystery Writers of America, the world's preeminent organization devoted to the crime genre. Hale said that Mr. Barry and Mr. Pearson's participation would begin immediately.

Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson assume the honorary role previously held by a long list of esteemed personages, including R.L. Stine, Katie Couric, and First Ladies Laura Bush and Hillary Clinton. Barry and Pearson are co-authors of the best-selling *Peter and the Secret of Rundoon*, *The Starcatchers*, and *Never Land*, suspense-filled action books for children of all ages that prequel the life of J.M. Barrie's beloved Peter Pan.

Since its inception, MWA:Reads (formerly Kids Love a Mystery) has served the needs of school-age children all across the United States. MWA members and others in the general public have supported the program by donating time, autographed books, and funds. Through MWA:Reads, thousands of children have participated in a wide variety of events, including the annual Joan Lowery Nixon Award mystery writing contest in which students compete for cash prizes. MWA:Reads is chaired by Chris Freeburn. Log on and learn more about this exciting program: www.mysterywriters.org/MWAreads

About Mystery Writers of America:

Mystery Writers of America (MWA) is the premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime writing field, aspiring crime writers, and those who are devoted to the genre. MWA is dedicated to promoting higher regard for crime writing and recognition and respect for those who write within the genre. It provides scholarships for writers, sponsors MWA:Reads (our youth literacy program), sponsors symposia and conferences, presents the Edgar Awards, and conducts other activities to further a better appreciation and higher regard for crime writing. With 11 chapters covering the 50 states, membership is open to the public, and you need not reside in the U.S. to join. MWA is a nonprofit organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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