

Animals to hog up the end Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales

What is the common name given to a stout-bodied short-legged omnivorous artiodactyl mammal with a thick bristly skin and a long flexible snout? Hint: this animal comes from the animal family (Suidae). Did you guess? If not, this definition applies to the common swine — as defined by Merriam Webster.

So what does this have to do with the library? Well, Saturday, two large swine, named Porkchop and Mudslinger, will be performing at 1:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Elementary Gym in Colby.

This program is being held as the grand finale to our Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales theme for children's programs this summer. Needless to say, the Top Hogs (as they are dubbed) are not typical pigs. For perhaps the first and maybe only time in your life you can watch 800 pounds of pork do things that even your dog can't do. Make



Jeff Friesen

• Pioneer Memorial Library Director

sure and get there early to ensure a good seat!

After searching the library catalog, it was evident that pigs were a far more popular topic for children than adults. A subject search on "pigs - fiction" returned 107 title hits. Every one of those titles was in the child/junior section. With the possible exception of Old Major, Napoleon, Snowball, and Squealer in "Animal Farm" by George Orwell, there are very few adult fiction books with pigs as a central theme.

I had to resort to a title search in

order to stay true to my theme this week of swine. Fortunately, I was able to find an adult fiction book titled "Pigs in Heaven" by Barbara Kingsolver. If you read the book however, you will quickly discover that pigs are certainly not a central theme.

Ironically, the plot of this story focuses on Turtle, a full-blooded Cherokee Indian illegitimately adopted out of the Cherokee nation. Taylor was not planning on becoming a mother but reluctantly accepts a plea from a woman at a bar begging her to take care of an abused

little girl named Turtle. For the next couple of years, Taylor carries on as normally as possible under the circumstances. Taylor's life is suddenly upended however, when a freak accident throws Taylor and Turtle into the national spotlight. A reputed Cherokee lawyer recognizes Turtle on a television show and shows up at Taylor's doorstep demanding that Turtle be returned to the Cherokee Nation. According to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, no one can adopt a Cherokee child without tribal permission. Taylor's reaction is to run away until she realizes that running does not solve the problem.

The philosophical question handled thoughtfully by Barbara Kingsolver for the rest of this book, is whether Turtle should remain where her former abuses occurred — but where her identity is intact or if she should assimilate into the life

of the white man and risk life-long alienation.

An interesting question and one which Kingsolver diplomatically frames with an insightful perspective into each.

Hope to see you Saturday. Sow long!

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 West Fourth St. and

open seven days a week. Summer hours are as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, call the library at 460-4470 or visit our Website at www.colbylibrary.com. As always, we are here to serve you.

Bestseller books

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "Phantom" by Terry Goodkind (Tor Books)
2. "Angels Fall" by Nora Roberts (Putnam Adult)
3. "The Ruins" by Scott Smith (Knopf)
4. "Twelve Sharp" by Janet Evanovich (St. Martin's Press)
5. "Pegasus Descending" by James Lee Burke (Simon & Schuster)

6. "Can't Wait to Get to Heaven" by Fannie Flagg (Random House)
7. "Break No Bones" by Kathy Reichs (Scribner)
8. "Beach Road" by James Patterson, Peter de Jonge (Little, Brown)
9. "Sleeping with Fear" by Kay Hooper (Bantam)
10. "The Husband" by Dean Koontz (Bantam)

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. "Marley and Me" by John Grogan (Morrow)
2. "Conservatives Without Conscience" by John Dean (Viking Adult)
3. "The World Is Flat (Updated and Expanded): A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century" by Thomas L. Friedman (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
4. "The One Percent Doctrine: Deep Inside America's Pursuit of Its Enemies Since 9/11" by Ron Suskind (Simon &

Schuster)

5. "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner (William Morrow)
6. "Cesar's Way: The Natural, Everyday Guide to Understanding and Correcting Common Dog Problems" by Cesar Millan, Melissa Jo Peltier (Harmony)
7. "Godless: The Church of Liberalism" by Ann Coulter (Crown Forum)

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