

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reading Tub Showcases an All-Dad Collection of Children's Writers

The Reading Tub's® Author Showcase for Winter 2009 features four men who are walking-the-talk when it comes to reading. These first-time children's book authors have written books for all audiences ... but they know first-hand how important it is that we engage boys as readers.

Charlottesville, VA March 1, 2009. The Reading Tub, Inc. is pleased to announce its Author Showcase for the Winter 2009. The current slate of featured guests – Mark Dennis, Craig Feigh, Bob Hicks, and Andrew Smith – are dads who published widely-acclaimed books in 2008.

"The Winter 2009 Showcase opens the fourth year of our featured author program. I have been hoping for a while that we could do an 'all dad' slate, and here it is!" says Terry Doherty, Executive Director of the Reading Tub. "We want all of our kids to be successful readers, but various studies and surveys tell us that keeping boys reading past age 8 is hard. It's so great when parents can find great books ... written by role models!"

The Reading Tub, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity promoting literacy for children. The organization's goal is to help every child be a successful reader by showing families how important – and easy – it is to read with kids at home. The organization's Author Showcase is an interview program to introduce parents, teachers, librarians, and the public to authors and new books that they probably don't know about.

"There are more than 20,000 books for kids produced each year. Very few of these authors are invited to the talk shows, but they have great books that deserve a voice, too," says Doherty. "The Showcase is one of my favorite projects in the Reading Tub®. By listening to the story-behind-the-story, I am always learning about ways to connect kids with books."

Despite his best efforts to remain elusive - Andrew Smith is becoming a household name. His debut young adult novel *Ghost Medicine* is raking in national and local awards. Andrew is passionate about engaging boys as readers ... and he plans to do everything he can as a father, teacher, and author to promote that. [To see the Reading Tub Feature with Andrew Smith and read our interview, go to <http://www.thereadingtub.com/displayAuthor.asp?id=67>]

Bob Hicks, a retired college professor, has renewed his passion for teaching by writing children's book. His first children's picture book, *Tommie Turtle's Secret* has earned four awards in three years ... and inspired him to write more. [To see the Reading Tub Feature with Bob Hicks and read our interview, go to <http://www.thereadingtub.com/displayAuthor.asp?id=65>]

Although Craig Feigh didn't grow up with computers, he understands how they are an integral part of the lives of today's kids. When he couldn't find a book featuring computer-based characters, he decided to write one. His *Little Bit and Big Byte* picture book series introduces young kids to computers - from the inside. [To see the Reading Tub Feature with Craig Feigh and read our interview, go to <http://www.thereadingtub.com/displayAuthor.asp?id=66>]

In creating his first novel, *Song for a Summer Night*, Mark Dennis - a self-described "country dentist" - has poured all that he loves about great books into his story. In return, the critics have compared this inaugural work with modern classics. [To see the Reading Tub Feature with Candi Sparks and read our interview, go to <http://www.thereadingtub.com/displayAuthor.asp?id=64>]

The Author Showcase continues to be a very popular venue for the Reading Tub, Inc. and a very worthwhile outlet for the authors who participate. To learn more about the Author Showcase, visit the Reading Tub® Web site. Once there you can learn more about all of the authors and literacy advocates, read reviews of their books, and read our interviews. Just go to http://www.thereadingtub.com/author_showcase.asp

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