

THANK YOU FROM CARL HIAASEN!

May 19, 2014

To the young readers of Pennsylvania:

Thank you so much for picking *CHOMP* as the Pennsylvania Young Readers Choice book for 2013-2014. This is the second time I've received this honor, and it means even more to me now than it did ten years ago, when *HOOT* was chosen.

I've always said that young readers are the coolest audience because they're so sharp, so honest and so loyal. In the time between finishing the writing of *CHOMP* and when it was published, I often wondered whether kids would like the story and my characters, as odd as they might be. This award answers that question in a heartwarming way.

I'm proud and excited that *CHOMP* will have a place among the impressive list of past novels selected for the Pennsylvania Readers Choice award. I'm also grateful to all the school librarians who've made my books available to students throughout the state.

I wish I could come to Pennsylvania next May for the awards breakfast. Unfortunately, that's the same time I'm supposed to be finishing a new book manuscript – this one for grownup readers—so I'll be locked in my office, writing like a crazy person.

Once again, thank you for this fantastic award, and please don't stop reading. Books are a wide-open passport for your imagination.

With warmest wishes,

Carl Hiaasen
Vero Beach, Florida

