

THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



and the *Friends of the Allen Public Library* say "Thank You" to the people, organizations and businesses that made this project possible for 2010-11!

TO INFINITY & BEYOND

- Allen Arts Alliance
- Allen Public Library
- City of Allen
- Foundation for Allen Schools
- HumanitiesTexas*
- Jeannette's Story
- Montgomery Farm



Texas State Library and Archives Commission

SUPER NOVA

- Allen ISD
- Allen Noon Rotary Club
- Homewood Suites by Hilton, Dallas/Allen
- Red Pepper Productions, Inc.

BLAST OFF

- Allen High Noon Lions Club
- Allen Kiwanis Club
- Barbara Buehler
- Borders Books

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www.allenlibrary.org | www.allenfriends.org | www.cityofallen.org



	<p>Welcome to <i>Coalwood</i> WV</p>
<p>2011</p>	
<p>THE SOVIET UNION LAUNCHES SPUTNIK I, THE FIRST ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE TO ORBIT THE EARTH, AND SO STARTS THE SPACE RACE AND MAN'S EXPLORATION OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.</p>	
<p>THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING MEMOIR THAT INSPIRED THE FILM OCTOBER SKY</p> <p><i>Rocket Boys</i></p> <p>Homer H. Hickam, Jr. AUTHOR OF <i>BACK TO THE MOON</i></p> <p>"A THOROUGHLY CHARMING MEMOIR... [AN] ELOQUENT EVOCATION OF A LOST TIME AND PLACE." —<i>The New York Times</i></p> <p>NOW WITH 8 PAGES OF PHOTOGRAPHS</p>	

ONE COMMUNITY



ONE BOOK

For the 4th year, Allen joins cities across the country participating in a community "one book" project that involves everyone reading and discussing the same book. The 2011 selection is *Rocket Boys* by Homer H. Hickam Jr. The two companion books, *T-Minus*, *the Race to the Moon* and *If I Built A Car*, communicate similar themes to younger readers. Everyone in Allen can have "one book" to share and discuss with their family and friends. Information and updates are available at www.allenfriends.org.

After You Read...

- Check out allenfriends.org for updates and links to discussion questions and activities for all three Allen Reads book selections.
- Share the book with others and join a discussion group.
- Attend one of many special events at the Allen Public Library and throughout the city

FAMILIES

MOVIE NIGHT @ THE LIBRARY

Tuesdays in January & February • 7-9 PM

Come for the fun in January to enjoy "campy" sci-fi adventures, then get more serious about the space race in February.

January 4 - *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951)

January 11 - *Forbidden Planet* (1956)

January 18 - *It Came From Outer Space* (1953)

January 25 - *When Worlds Collide* (1951)

February 1 - *October Sky* (1999)

February 8 - *The Right Stuff* (1983)

February 15 - *Apollo 13* (1995)

February 22 - *The Astronaut Farmer* (2006)

A NIGHT FOR THE STARS

Saturday, January 22 • 7-9 PM • Allen Public Library

Join the Texas Astronomy Club in the Library auditorium, first, to learn about what's in the night skies. Then, weather permitting we'll adjourn outside to take a look at the real stars and more.



CHILDREN

CARS & ROBOTS & SPACE-OH MY!

Monday, January 17 • 2-4 PM • Allen Public Library
 ALLen Reads related activities for children 4-10: a NASA speaker about the moon; local robotics clubs display and explain their projects; Boy Scouts demonstrate their Pinewood Derby racers; stories and more from the Children's Librarians; and lots of fun crafts, coordinated by the VolunTeens.

DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

Saturday, February 26 • 9-12 PM • Target North, Village of Allen
 Music by *The Catlett Sisters*, ALLen Reads and Dr. Seuss books read aloud, and complimentary goodies from Target.

TEENS

BOOK DISCUSSION

Friday, March 18 • 4:30-5:40 PM • Allen Public Library
 T-Minus: Race to the Moon

SPRING BREAK WEEK

Activities on Space & Robots (check www.allenlibrary.org for schedule)

ADULTS

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Sunday, February 27 • 2-3 PM • Library Meeting Room
 Join librarians Tami Burich & Debbie Vavra for a pre-author visit discussion of the main book for ALLen Reads 2010-11.

Tuesday, March 1 • noon-1 PM • Library Meeting Room
 Bring your lunch and be part of a lively discussion with the Noontime Pageturner's book group.

The Companion Books

CLICK ON EACH BOOK AT www.allenfriends.org TO SEE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

T-Minus, the Race to the Moon

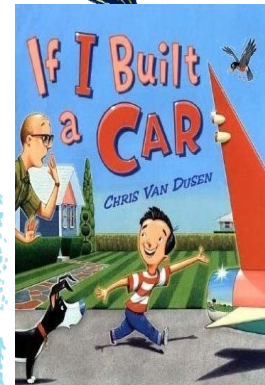
Written by
 Jim Ottaviani, Zander Cannon &
 Kevin Cannon



The "companion book" for our 4th-8th grade readers. It is a graphic novel told through illustrations as much as dialogue. This non-fiction drama takes place in the same time period as the main book and chronicles the tensions and excitement of the space race. *Discussion questions are available on the ALLen Reads website.*

If I Built a Car

Written and illustrated by
 Chris Van Dusen



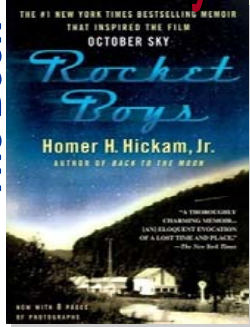
With Dr. Seuss-style rhyme and Jetson-like illustrations, the reader/listener experiences a joy-ride through the author's imagination.

Discussion questions are available on the ALLen Reads website.

Be sure to put **January 17, 2011, 2-4 PM**, on your calendar for a fun day at the library sharing all kinds of adventures related to this reading.



Rocket Boys



is a wonderful story told with wit and humor about coming of age in Coalwood, West Virginia, in the late 1950's, when football was the only ticket out of the mines until the day that some boys had a dream: ROCKETS.

Homer Hickam Jr.,



was born and raised in Coalwood, West Virginia. He is a registered NASA engineer who fulfilled two of the key dreams of his youth: to build rockets and to be a writer. Besides *Rocket Boys*, he wrote two more books to complete his memoir trilogy: *The Coalwood Way* and *Sky of Stone*. He has written other books as well, been a scuba instructor and consults on a variety of aerospace projects. He lives with his wife in Huntsville, Alabama — Rocket City, U.S.A.

Saturday, March 12 • 10:30 AM
Allen Public Library

Come and meet world-renowned author Homer Hickam. After he speaks in the library auditorium, he will sign books in the meeting room. BORDERS will be on-site for you to purchase books or you can bring your own.

Suggested Questions for Discussion—HS/Adult

The following questions were contributed by members of the Allen community. Generate your own questions with your book club or group. Additional questions available at www.allenfriends.org. Keep the discussion going!

1. It is important to place this book into historical context. Share what you know about Sputnik and the Space Race of the late 1950's-early 1960's.
2. There were many failures in the rocket development, both in the U.S. and Russian space programs and for the Rocket Boys. Should they have been deterred by these? Would you have been? What motivated each to keep trying?
3. There's a saying, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." How is this true in *Rocket Boys*? Do you see this in your own community?
4. Everyone in Homer's family wanted to get out of Coalwood except his father. How did the other members of the family deal with their desires? Why did Homer's father want to stay?
5. Homer's relationship with his father changed over time— describe how and why. Was Homer's father a "good" father? Why or why not?
6. Other family relationships affected Homer, too. What part did his mother play in his success? How did his relationship with his brother affect his life?
7. What does this story tell you about the challenges of breaking out of an expected pattern? Can you find an example of this in your life/family?
8. What does Homer say about the value of education in his story? Do you think your education has made/will make a difference in your life?
9. Do you think Homer Sr. and Elsie loved each other? Can people care about each other when they disagree strongly on something?
10. With which character did you identify most? Why?
11. In the story, Rocket Boy O'Dell says, "A rocket won't fly unless someone lights the fuse." He's talking about more than just a rocket...What do you think he is saying?
12. Could this story have only taken place in Coalwood, WV, or is this a "universal" story? Why or why not?