



February, 2016

Dear Readers of Lewiston-Porter Central School District,

I am unsqueakably happy to hear that you are reading THE WORLD ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY for your One District, One Book event. I hope you have as much fun reading it as I did writing it!

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY was my first middle grade novel. It was inspired when I was in my son's science classroom where the walls were lined with cages and tanks for all kinds of animals. They even had a boa constrictor! I remember thinking, "I wonder what these animals see and hear in the classroom?" I thought it would be fun to write a book looking at a classroom through the eyes of an animal. That's how Humphrey was born.

The best part of being a writer is the chance to see the world through other people's eyes, or, in Humphrey's case, through the eyes of a hamster! We may be different species, but Humphrey is quite a bit like me: easily excitable, longing to be helpful, (though I'm not nearly as successful at it as he is), and VERY-VERY-VERY curious!

There are twelve books following Humphrey through his first year in Room 26 and beyond: THE WORLD ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, FRIENDSHIP ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, TROUBLE ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, SURPRISES ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, ADVENTURE ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, SUMMER ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, SCHOOL DAYS ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, MYSTERIES ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, WINTER ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, SECRETS ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY, IMAGINATION ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY and SPRING ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY.

If you want more info on me and the books – and HUMPHREY – please visit my website at [www.bettybirney.com](http://www.bettybirney.com). Humphrey even has a Facebook page you can *Like*!

I'm sorry I can't get to New York and meet you in person, but we are still connected through the pages of a book – and that's the real reward of writing for me.

HAPPY-HAPPY-HAPPY reading!