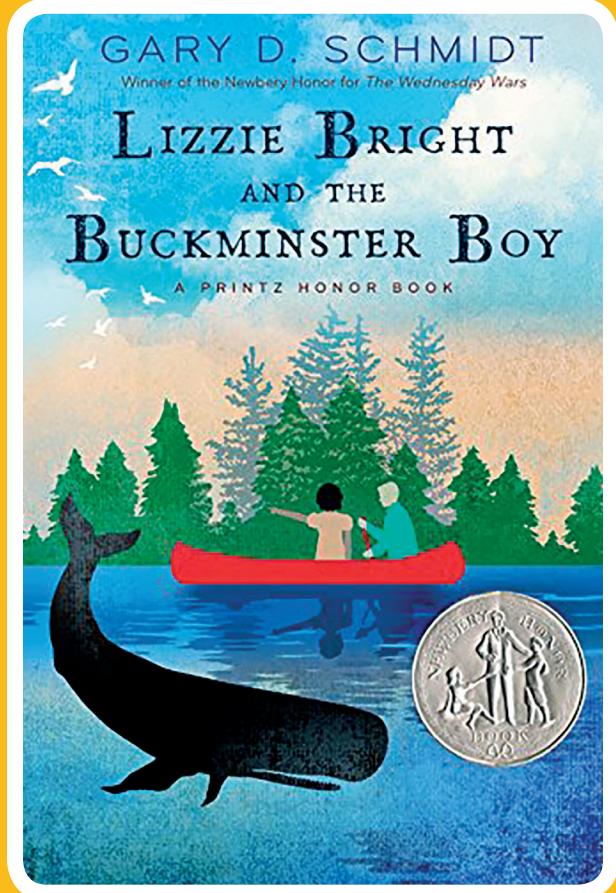




GARY SCHMIDT is the author of numerous young adult novels, including the Newbery Honor-winning novels *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* and *Wednesday Wars* as well as *Orbiting Jupiter, Trouble, and Okay for Now*. He is a professor of English at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Many of his books are about or set in Maine.

SCHMIDT attended Gordon College in Massachusetts and graduate school at the University of Illinois, earning a Ph.D. in medieval literature. He has been a professor of English at Calvin College for more than 25 years. Gary lives on a 150-year-old farm in Alto, Michigan, where he splits wood, plants gardens, writes, and feeds the wild cats that drop by.

For more about Gary and his books, visit: WWW.HMHBOOKS.COM



GARY SCHMIDT

LET'S TALK

1. When Turner Buckminster first arrives in Phippsburg he has a series of bad luck: he strikes out at baseball, breaks Mrs. Cobb's window, has a fight with the Deacon's son, and hits himself in the nose with a rock. Why do you think the author started the book this way? How do these incidents move the story forward?
2. Being a minister's son seems to come with a lot of rules that make Turner stand out. Can you name a few ways he is different from the children of Phippsburg and how these differences affect him?
3. Why is Mrs. Cobb so concerned with her "last words"? Do you think a person's last words make a difference in how they are remembered? What were her last words?
4. Why is it easier for Turner to be friends with Lizzie than with the boys of Phippsburg?
5. Mrs. Hurd's house is the only one that is different in Phippsburg. What did her colors represent and why do you think she did this?
6. Seeing and finally touching the whale became the catalyst for Turner's emotional release. What do you think he "saw" in the eye of the whale and how was it the same as his father's eyes as he fell?

<https://mainestatemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Lesson-4-Going-Beyond-Lizzie-Bright-and-the-Buckminster-Boy-Revisiting-Malaga-Island-with-Civil-Action.pdf>

LET'S CREATE

When Turner arrives in Phippsburg, he notices the houses all looked the same except one. He also mentions the church and a few other buildings. Draw a map of what Phippsburg and Malaga Island look like from Turner's descriptions. You can use photos from the website below on Malaga Island for inspiration. <https://mainestatemuseum.org/learn/malaga-island-fragmented-lives-educational-materials/the-history/>

Turner is fascinated by the whale's eye that he compares to his own father's. Imagine you are the whale that swims beside Turner and Lizzie and write a short story from the whale's perspective.

Watch this video to have a similar view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kISRNUCzXJ0>

GARY SCHMIDT

LET'S DIG DEEPER

The site below has a lot of information from the Maine State Museum on Malaga Island.

<https://mainestatemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Lesson-4-Going-Beyond-Lizzie-Bright-and-the-Buckminster-Boy-Revisiting-Malaga-Island-with-Civil-Action.pdf>

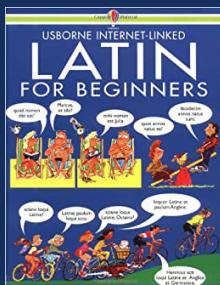
Below is a site with pictures of the real Malaga Island.

<https://mainestatemuseum.org/learn/malaga-island-fragmented-lives-educational-materials/the-history/>

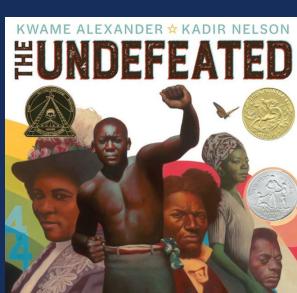
Most of the children of Phippsburg went to the public school, but Turner's education was very different from theirs. He was taught Latin and classics at home by his minister father. Below is a site with pictures of how schools looked 100 years ago, see what it was like to go to school back then.

<https://www.rd.com/list/what-school-was-like-100-years-ago/>

LET'S READ MORE

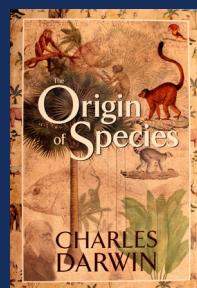


*Usborne Latin for
Beginners*
by A. Wilkes &
J. Shackell

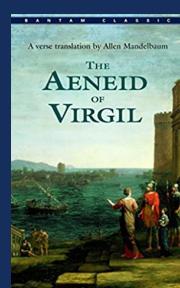


The Undefeated
by Kadir Nelson

Books that Turner Reads:



*The Origin
of Species*
by Charles Darwin



*Anied
Virgil*