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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SIXTH ANNUAL NEWBURYPORT LITERARY FESTIVAL
Offers Fun, Games and Learning for Children and Teens**

"Freak the Mighty" author Rod Philbrick to read from his new book "The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg"

NEWBURYPORT, Mass. – They can dress up like a princess, make a magic wand, beaded masterpiece, or bunny-shaped paper chain, "shower" a room with snowflake animals, play pirate trivia, get a free drawing and caricature of themselves, and relax with free lemonade and cookies. The Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF) promises a day of fun and learning for everyone, especially children and teens. Here's what's happening especially for them at the Festival on Saturday, April 30th. All events are free and will take place at the Newburyport Library, 94 State Street, downtown Newburyport.

9:30 am: Children

Free drawings and caricatures at Eye Candy: The Art of the Picture Book

Join talented artist Elisha Cooper as he takes children on a visual journey exploring the world of picture book creation. While reading from *Farm*, his wonderful glimpse into an important but vanishing lifestyle, Cooper will draw farm animals on a big board, talk about how farms work to bring us corn and the food we eat everyday, and explain why the book was a personally important one for him to make. He will be drawing caricatures and giving away free drawings during and after his presentation.

10:00 am: Children

Make a beaded masterpiece at Read and Bead

Join West Newbury author Elizabeth Atkinson as she reads from her latest novel, *I Emma Freke*. Participants can make their own beaded masterpiece from materials supplied while they listen.

11:00 am: Children

Dress like a princess and make a magic wand at Calling All Princesses!

Glittering blue and green! Sparkling pink and purple! Children are invited to attend in their best princess finery and come listen to Stephanie Greene, author of more than 20 children's books, read from *Princess Posey and the Perfect Present*, the newly published second book in her early chapter book series. Attendees will make and decorate their very own magic wand to take home.

11:00 am: Middle Grades/Young Adult

Meet Rod Philbrick at The Mostly True Adventures of a Full-time Novelist

Come hear Rod Philbrick describe how he stumbled upon the idea for *Freak the Mighty* about a couple of outsider kids that evolved into this modern classic. Philbrick, also known for writing adult mysteries and thrillers, will read from his highly acclaimed recent middle grade book, *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, a Newbery Honor Book.

1:00 pm: Children

Make a bunny-shaped paper chain and shower the room with snowflake animals at Paper Chains and Snow Showers

During this program Judith Moffatt share her secrets on making clever cut paper critters with kids, starting with a

reading from *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, her imaginative "Ribbons Book". Afterward, everyone celebrates both winter and spring by creating their own unique, bunny-shaped paper chains and "showering" the room with snowflake animals. All ages comfortable using a pair of scissors are welcome.

1:30 pm: Children

Enjoy free lemonade, cookies and a sneak peek of The Lemonade War's sequel at Lemonade Wars, Criminalized

Jacqueline Davies, author of *The Lemonade War*, is here to provide a sneak peak preview of the soon-to-be-released sequel, *The Lemonade Crime*. She'll talk about the books, what it's like to be an author, how to become a better writer, and promises to share Evan and Jessie's top ten tips for how to have the best lemonade stand ever. Children will also have the opportunity to share ideas for the title of the third book in the series.

2:30 pm: Children

Play pirate trivia at Fish Tales

Author Gregory Mone will introduce the audience to some of history's wildest buccaneers and talk about his novel *Fish*. He will talk about what life on a pirate ship was really like, and how *Fish* figured out how to use his brain--not a sword--to fight back. There will be pirate trivia throughout and maybe a chance to reenact a scene.

2:30 pm: Middle Grades/Young Adults

Share a laugh at What's So Funny?

Like anyone looking to make life more exciting, Leila Sales and Jack Ferriolo imagine they lead secret lives as CIA assassins, or glamorous runway models. Actually, they're authors of very funny books for kids—Leila's *Mostly Good Girls* and Jack's *The Big Splash*. Join Sales, whose new book, *Past Perfect* comes out this fall, and Ferriolo, whose new book *Sidekicks* will be published in May, as they help us understand what's funny, how to write funny, and how to make people laugh at the results.

The NLF is made possible through the generosity of our founding sponsors who are the Institution for Savings, Measured Progress and the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. Additional support is provided by the Provident Bank, the Massachusetts Cultural Councils, the Newburyport, Newbury, West Newbury, Amesbury, and Merrimac Cultural Councils and the Newburyport Rotary Club.

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The Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF), organized by the Newburyport Literary Association, annually celebrates reading, and the love of books. The 2011 NLF features more than 80 writers of distinguished fiction and non-fiction – including short story writers, children's authors, biographers, nature writers, critics, screenwriters, poets, novelists, and journalists – who will read and discuss their work in venues throughout Newburyport's historic downtown.

For more information on the 2011 NLF, including authors and their work, please visit
www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org