

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, without the guidance of my adviser, Professor Daniel Brayton of Middlebury College, I would have been at a loss so many times during this daunting process. Thank you for believing in my project from the very beginning. Thank you for your guidance, your sense of humor, your thorough feedback on lengthy drafts, your encouragements, and your compassion.

I am indebted to Professor Susan Cohen of Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland. She guided me in finding sources, answered my queries, and helped shape my work in countless ways. Thank you for your generous spirit and inspiring scholarship on Chesapeake Bay literature.

I am thankful to the community that raised me by the Severn River, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. To my river swim team coaches, compassionate neighbors, and middle and high school teachers who encouraged us to get out on the Bay and explore, I appreciate all you did to raise me as a citizen of my home.

I was very lucky to have the chance to interview authors Margaret Meacham and Priscilla Cummings, who took time out of their schedules to complete a lengthy interview with me this summer. I appreciate their time, inspiration, and encouragement, and am proud to include their works and words in my essay.

I am very grateful for Leah Nagel, a fellow senior at Middlebury, who was so gracious to exchange essay drafts with me as we considered didactic children's literature in different time periods for our respective essays. Her editorial advice and encouragement were extremely valuable.

To my mother, who sent me rare sources from home, always supports me, and finds time to listen, thank you.

With thanks to my dad, whose sense of humor made me laugh even when I had loads of work still to complete.

To my brother, whose Boy Scout Eagle Project exposed me to the needs of the Bay at an early age, thank you for your inspiration.

And finally, to my Middlebury friends, who kept me smiling this fall without fail—thank you.