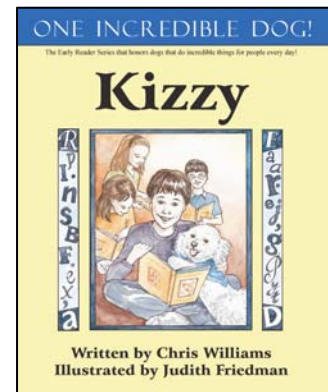


Contact: Diane Tinney
dtinney@keenebooks.com
845.987.7750 (fax-7845)
www.KeeneBooks.com

Working Dog Helps Kids Read



Warwick, NY – Publisher Keene Books of Warwick, NY announces the publication of *One Incredible Dog! Kizzy* by Chris Williams and illustrated by Judith Friedman. This wonderful nonfiction book in story format is told by Chris Williams and illustrated by Judith Friedman. Readers join Kizzy, a Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D.) from New York and his owner/trainer/handler, Judy Audevard, as they go through a typical day on the job. R.E.A.D. dogs work with children and adults to give them the encouragement to read and improve their literacy skills. R.E.A.D. dogs are specially trained to listen and respond to readers in a non-judgmental manner.

One Incredible Dog! Kizzy is the third book by Chris Williams for early readers ages 4-8. Chris takes readers through a typical day in the life of a working dog. His first children's book, *One Incredible Dog! Lady* followed Lady, a therapy dog, as she visited different patients in a hospital helping children and adults with physical therapy as well as providing comfort. In *One Incredible Dog! Boone*, readers learned all about a Search and Rescue dog named Boone who helps find lost children and apprehend criminals. Boone, Lady, and Kizzy are all real dogs who do these jobs in real life and do make appearances to do book signings (paw signings) whenever possible. Both books were praised by reviewers:

This book [Lady] is heartwarming and inspiring....Highly recommended.—Midwest Book Review

Lady [is a] "beautiful nonfiction book in story format....adorable and realistic illustrations....The perfect book for young readers.— Jennifer Leese, Children's Book Review Columnist

Boone's dedication and gentleness are penciled into every picture by the talented artist Judith Friedman....The very last page provides more information along with a list of resources about Search and Rescue dogs."
— Vi Gommer, Wordsmith Shoppe

[Boone and Lady are] great books for children who are dog lovers – or for those who aren't....Early readers will be able to read this very reassuring and educational book for themselves.
—Carole McDonnell, Preschool Entertainment

One Incredible Dog! Kizzy is sure to entertain as well as inform, and it honors the incredible things dogs do for people every day. For copies of press kits, to request a visit from Chris Williams, Judy Audevard, and Kizzy, or to order books, please visit www.KeeneBooks.com or contact Diane Tinney at dtinney@keenebooks.com.

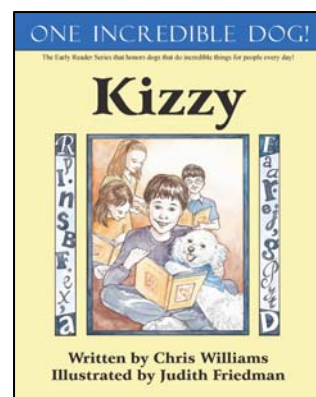
About the Author



A life-long resident of PA, Chris was born in Bristol and grew up in nearby Levittown. He currently resides in York County. Chris is the author of the acclaimed children's book *One Incredible Dog! Lady* and *One Incredible Dog! Boone* in addition to numerous published short stories and several children's eBooks: *Walter the Trolley*, *Eddie's Fabulous Fables*, and *The Real Adventures of Glip and Ha* (all published by London Circle Publishing). A broadcast veteran since 1975, Chris presently works as a newscaster at 98 YCR/WHVR in York, Pennsylvania.

Encouraging childhood literacy is a passion for Chris. His inspiration for writing *One Incredible Dog! Kizzy* is rooted in his strong belief that learning to read is empowering for both young and old. He loves the R.E.A.D. program because it seeks to help those that might "fall through the cracks" without this extra little help.

Chris is a long time Philadelphia *Phillies* fan. He also likes reading, exercising, and watching classic movies.



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About the Illustrator

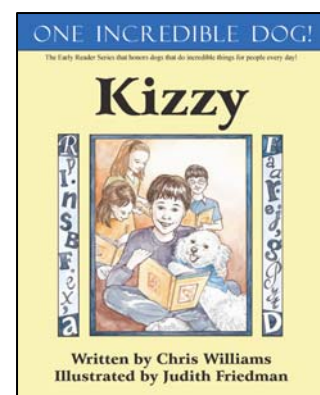
Judith Friedman was born in Hungary and grew up in France. After studying at the École De Ganneron in Paris, Judith continued her studies at the Art Institute of Chicago. A long time resident of Illinois, and then Wisconsin, Judith has moved back to France with her husband and works as a free-lance illustrator, portrait artist, and painter.

Judith's career is as broad as she is worldly. An award-winning children's book illustrator with dozens of children's books to her credit, Judith has also designed record covers, illustrated storyboards for TV, developed cookware designs for Eco Housewares, designed numerous advertisements, and illustrated for magazines such as *Business Week*, *Cricket Magazine*, *Crain Chicago Business*, and *School Zone*. Publishers such as *Follett*, *Whitman*, *World Book*, *Laidlaw*, *Lerner/Kar-Ben*, *Nystrom*, *Pearson/Scott-Foresman*, and *McDougal-Litel* have all looked to Judith for quality illustration on a regular basis. While living in Illinois, Judith taught several for-credit classes at the Art Institute of Chicago, at her own studio, and for various schools and libraries. She continues to lecture about art, exhibit her artwork for nonprofit organizations, and serve as a judge at numerous art shows. When not working, Judith enjoys sailing, traveling, and cooking.

About the Dog

Kizzy was adopted by Judy and Bob Audevard through the Greater New York Bichon Frise Rescue Group. Soon after adopting him, they realized he had a special talent and enrolled him in the Therapy Dogs International (TDI) program. Kizzy enjoyed class and soon received his TDI certification, including the prestigious award for being an Active Outstanding Volunteer (AOV). At the time of this publication, Kizzy has made over 175 documented therapy visits. In addition, he has a Canine Good Citizenship (CGC) award through the American Kennel Club. CGC is a certification program that is designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. Kizzy went on to be a registered Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D.) with Intermountain Therapy Animals. The mission of the R.E.A.D. program is to improve literacy and communication skills of children and adults through the assistance of registered Pet Partner® teams as literacy mentors.

Kizzy works with children and adults at libraries, schools, hospitals, and where ever folks need a nonjudgmental reading audience. His favorite pastimes are running races with his neighborhood friends and chasing the squirrels in the backyard. He especially loves playing “Kizzy tag” with the boys and girls.



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About the Owner/Trainer



Judy, a former founder and CEO of a marketing/training company, and her husband Bob adopted Kizzy from the Greater New York Bichon Frise Fanciers Rescue Fund. Soon after they brought Kizzy home, it became apparent that Kizzy had special skills. Judy's mom had had a stroke two years prior, and although she had extensive therapy, she was unable to move her right arm and her speech was hardly audible. Judy placed Kizzy on her mom's lap to take a picture of the new pup. Her mother held him with her left hand and started stroking him with her right just as the picture was being taken. Judy asked her mom if she realized what she was doing and she said ever so clearly, "Of course, I do, I'm petting Kizzy!" A few days later, Judy saw Kizzy sitting

with her mom while her mother tried to read a magazine article to the dog. And Kizzy appeared to be listening to her! That was the beginning of their story together. She soon researched and began the road for Kizzy to be certified as a Therapy Dog and then registered as a R.E.A.D. dog.

When not fulfilling her role as Kizzy's R.E.A.D. partner, Judy enjoys exercising, reading, and being a part of her grandchild's life. She always wanted to bring her dog to work and now she has found a gratifying way of doing it!

Reviews & Testimonials

As we wait for published reviews to come in, here are some early comments from independent sources:

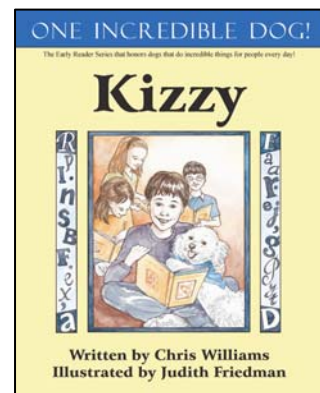
Early Acclaim for *One Incredible Dog! Kizzy*:

Writer Williams and illustrator Friedman have produced a remarkable book for beginning readers of all ages—a valuable edition to our library.

—Barbara Cole, Salem Public Library

A wonderful story that shows how valuable our little furry friends can be. A great read aloud book. The students in my school enjoyed the story and it provided a great lead into our 'community helpers' curriculum.

—Mona Kreitzer, Librarian, Fishing Creek Elementary School, Lewisberry, PA



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Sample Interview Questions

One Incredible Dog! Kizzy With Author Chris Willams

Author at a glance:

Literacy is a passion of mine, which in turn inspired me to write Kizzy. I realize that it might sound simplistic but I believe that learning to read is empowering for both young and old. I love the R.E.A.D. program because it seeks to help those that might “fall through the cracks” without this little extra help.

What does it feel like to be a published book author?

I don't feel much different now than I did before the first book in this series (LADY) was released in 2004. Don't get me wrong—it's gratifying to see some of my work in print. But I'm like a little kid each time a new book travels from my desktop through the various stages of the publishing process and finally is in the hands of a reader. That's just the best. That reader at the end of the process, that that person enjoys the story and smiles, that's the best reward for me.

What are some of your favorite children's books?

My all-time favorite is *The House on Pooh Corner* by A.A. Milne—what a wonderfully funny and heart-warming book! How I wish I could write like that! I also love Marguerite Henry's *Misty of Chincoteague* and *Brightly of the Grand Canyon*; and just about everything written by Dr. Seuss prior to 1970.

Would you count these authors as your main inspirations for writing children's literature?

Yes and no. Has their work had a profound impact on my writing? Certainly. But at no point in my career did I say to myself things like “I want to be just like Dr. Seuss!” or “I'm going to be the next A.A. Milne!” Creating good children's literature that's fun to read is what inspires me. I love reading and want children to love it too.

Your bio says that you're a 26 year radio veteran. Has your announcing experience influenced your work?

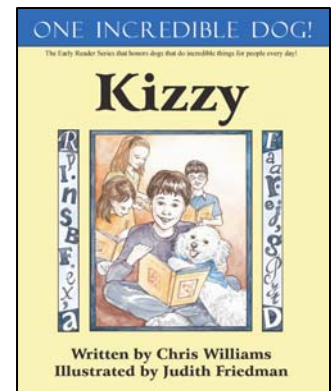
Of course. But don't ask me how! Seriously, I think the discipline of having to say what needs to be said in as few words as possible has helped me creatively. In most cases, shorter is better when you open the mike and I'm convinced it's the same when you write.

Do you own a dog? If so, what kind?

Yes, I do. My current canine pal is a sweet-tempered Lab-Border Collie mix named Shadow.

Is Shadow an “incredible dog”?

Of course! But I don't think I'll be writing a book about her. She's very shy and wouldn't enjoy going on book signings and other public events.



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Any ideas for future *One Incredible Dog!* topics?

I'd really like to do a book on a military working dog. They do important work and I wouldn't have any problems filling 16 pages with exciting text. I also have this nebulous idea floating around in my brain about doing a book about some sort of dog involved in entertainment. Nothing concrete right now but along with being educational, it would have to be fun and of course, entertaining.

What advice would you give new authors and authors looking to be published?

Chris to supply inspirational, yet realistic advice...



Sample Interview Questions

One Incredible Dog! Kizzy

With Owner Judy Audevard

Dog Owner/Trainer at a glance:

Every time Kizzy and I visit someone, to help them with reading, I come away with this overwhelming feeling of awe. That a rescued dog could provide such hope and joy to children and adults struggling with reading and communication skills, it's just wonderful to witness. I cannot think of anything I'd rather be doing with my time than being Kizzy's partner.

What is this *One Incredible Dog! Kizzy* book about?

This book is a children's book written by Chris Williams and illustrated by Judith Friedman that takes you through a typical day in the life of a Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D.). The story is based on the work that Kizzy and I do. In the story, a news reporter follows us to the library, a school, a juvenile facility, and a house where an aged grandma recovering from a stroke. Kizzy helps each of them with their reading and communication skills. At each stop everyone has an opportunity to read to Kizzy. He makes reading fun and stimulating. Just imagine a dog at a school or a library!

How was Kizzy trained to do this?

Kizzy is certified as a Therapy Dog. That is the requirement in order for an animal to then be registered by the Intermountain Therapy Animals R.E.A.D. program.

Does Kizzy actually read?

No! He listens. That's what R.E.A.D. dogs do. He is non-judgmental, relaxed and thoroughly enjoys lying down and listening while each child reads to him.

What exactly is the R.E.A.D. program?

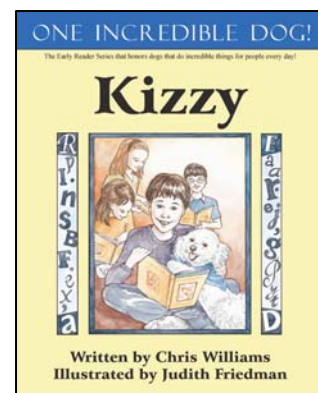
R.E.A.D. is a program of Intermountain Therapy Animals based in Salt Lake City, Utah. The mission of the Reading Education Assistance Dogs® (R.E.A.D. ®) program is to improve the literacy and communication skills through the assistance of registered Pet Partner® therapy teams as literacy mentors. Each individual is given a private opportunity to practice and enjoy reading. Children who have difficulty reading often fear making mistakes in front of their friends and classmates. With a dog, there is no criticism or judgment if a mistake is made. As one child has said, "When I read, I stutter a little bit, but when I read to the dog, it didn't make fun of me."

How can our listeners learn more about the R.E.A.D. program?

I'd suggest visiting their Web site at: www.therapyanimals.org or they can write to them at Intermountain Therapy Animals, P.O. Box 17201, Salt Lake City, Utah 84117

How do you and Kizzy do R.E.A.D. work at a library or school? Can you give us a picture of how that works?

Sure. We go to a quiet spot in the library or school and have the kids choose a book. Often times they will choose a book because they think that Kizzy will like it. We all settle down on a blanket, chat a little and the child starts reading. The possibilities are endless. The child is not embarrassed or self conscious. Kizzy is trained to look at pictures on command, or help turn a page with his paw or nose.



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What are the benefits of the R.E.A.D. program?

The child is usually petting and stroking the dog while he/she is reading, which induces relaxation and lowers blood pressure. Before you know it, the child forgets how hard he thinks reading is and starts to look forward to it.

Sometimes kids who are learning to read get stressed, not because they aren't capable of reading, but sometimes because they get nervous and self conscious, they worry about making mistakes, they worry about looking dumb-and all those worries make it hard to focus. They dread reading in front of their friends, so they often "freeze up" and things just get worse.

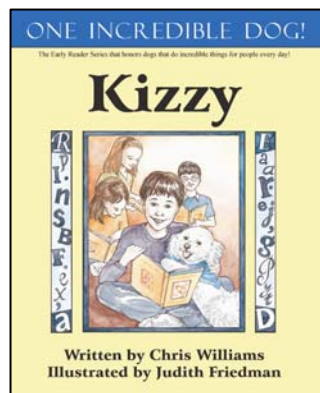
When they read to a dog, almost immediately they start to relax, and then they forget about feeling self-conscious or nervous. Before they know it they are enjoying the experience of reading instead of dreading it, they're even looking forward to the next time. It is such a simple concept that works beautifully!

The same is true when we help adults learning English as a second language and adults working on speech therapy.

Why did you want to tell your story?

I think it's important for people to know the positive power and influence animals have on humans. Kizzy and I have been witness to miracles. Kizzy was adopted through the Greater NY Bichon Frise Rescue Group and I think that his story is important to tell. He has worked very hard to become a therapy dog and R.E.A.D dog.

Fact Sheet



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Publisher Contact Information:

Diane Tinney, President & Publisher
Keene Publishing (SAN 254-8631)
PO Box 54
Warwick, NY 10990
845.987.7750 (fax -7845)
dtinney@keenebooks.com
www.keenebooks.com

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