



# The WRITERS at Fort Plain

Thursdays • 3 p.m. • The Fort Plain Free Library



January 19<sup>th</sup>  
2023

## Poem of the Week

### **Dave Lape - Racing Legend**

From the pen of a hack (aka Curtis D. Leip)

Started racing at a very young age  
His future in racing a bet that he'd wage  
He raced them, built 'em, and promoted them too  
The races that he won much more than a few

He raced at Malta and also Utica-Rome  
But Saturday nights Fonda was his home  
Learned from Corey, Wimble, and the Shoe  
His idol and mentor was always big Lou

Went against Bugs, Fred, and Denny Giroux  
Cook, Geoff Bodine, and even Richie too  
He switched to dirt exclusively no more asphalt  
After this move his career would catapult

Won in New York, Vermont, and Canada too  
One hundred ninety-one! That's quite a few  
Won at the Point, the Port, and the Devil's Bowl  
Five in five nights when he got on a roll

The Wheels, Orange County, and the Moody Mile  
Done with humor, class, wit, and friendly smile  
Door-to-door with Jumpin' Jack and Wily Will  
Slideways, Jet, Doctor, Barefoot Bob, and Coville

The fabled twenty two in Victory Lane  
Greatness quite evident and easy to explain  
Fifty years racing and Halls of Fame  
Fond memories of Dave remain the same

*David Lape was my friend. He and I met in 1971. He lived up the street from my house at the time. For the next 10 or so years we grew very close. Of course life happens along the way. I had gone to college and joined the Air Force. I went to work in corporate America, and raised a family. David kept racing. He joined forces with my friend Jackie and raised a daughter Jessica. This poem is to commemorate his remarkable career. David Lape Career Highlights include: 50 years racing Against the Wind, 99 Fonda Speedway wins, 191 Career wins, 13 Track Championships, 1977 Mr. DIRT, Hall of Fame Career. "Just Keep Going!" -- Curtis D. Leip*



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## Story Starter

“I had never been to Paris before; and, I thought, as I pulled my hood lower and glanced over my shoulder, I wished it could have been under better circumstances...”

*Where can you imagine this story going next?*

## Quote of the Week

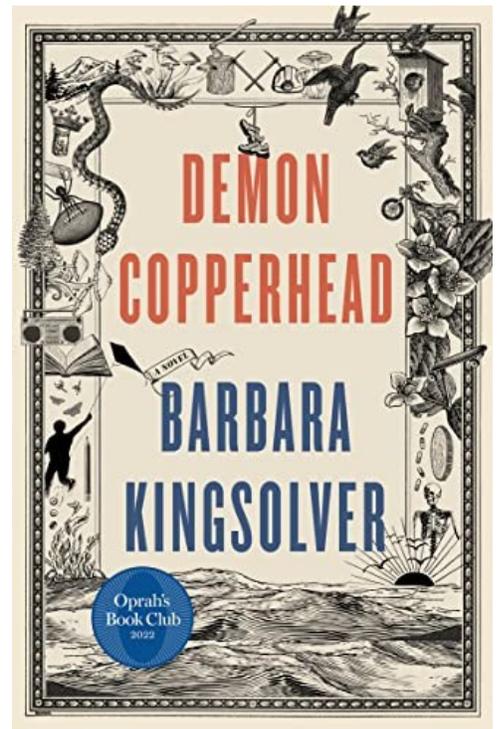
“Don't say it was delightful; make us say delightful when we've read the description. You see, all those words (horrifying, wonderful, hideous, exquisite) are only like saying to your readers ‘Please will you do the job for me.’”

— C.S. Lewis

## Book Recommendation

### **Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can't imagine leaving behind. -- *From Publisher*



Have a book or poem suggestion? Want to see something new featured, or even have your own story printed? Stop by the Writer's Group, or email the library at [fpfl@mvls.info](mailto:fpfl@mvls.info)!