

每月作家  
Author of the Month



**Gary D. Schmidt** is an award-winning American author. He writes books for children and teenagers. He lives in Alto, Michigan, and teaches English at Calvin University. Gary D. Schmidt was born in Hicksville, New York, in 1957. He shared that teachers in elementary school once thought he wasn't very smart. They put students into different groups based on how well they learned. Schmidt was placed in a group for kids who were thought to be "Track Three," or not as bright. But a caring teacher helped him discover a love for reading. This important moment later inspired his book *The Wednesday Wars*.

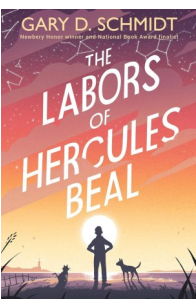
In the mid-1970s, Schmidt went to Gordon College. He earned a degree in English in 1979. After that, he studied at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign. He got his master's degree in English in 1981. Then, he earned his PhD in medieval literature in 1985. Since then, he has been a professor at Calvin University.

In 1996, Gary D. Schmidt faced a serious illness. During his treatment, he met many other patients. Their stories gave him ideas for his future books. These experiences also encouraged him to write mostly for children and young adults. Schmidt and his late wife, Anne, had six children.

Gary D. Schmidt has won many awards for his books. In 2005, his novel *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* received a Newbery Honor. It also won a Printz Honor. In 2008, he earned another Newbery Honor for his book *The Wednesday Wars*. His book *Okay for Now*, which came out in 2011, was a finalist for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature. It also won a Children's Choice Book Award in 2012. *The Labors of Hercules Beal* received the Josette Frank Award for Fiction in 2024 ("Gary D. Schmidt").

"Gary D. Schmidt Facts for Kids." *Kiddle*, 1 Nov. 2025, kids.kiddle.co/Gary\_D.\_Schmidt. Accessed 9 Dec. 2025.

 Library Collection (Primary)



**[The Labors Of Hercules Beal](#)**

**2024 Josette Frank Award for Fiction** 

**Call number: JF SCH**

Hercules Beal, named after the mythical hero Hercules, is the smallest kid in class. When his teacher tasks him with replicating Hercules's feats, he feels skeptical— after all, there are no Nemean Lions or Hydras anywhere around.



**[Okay For Now](#)**

**2011 Finalist for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature** 

**Call number: JF SCH**

Doug Swietek calls his new home "The Dump" in upstate New York, arriving in summer 1968. He faces a troubled home life with a lost father, a brother accused of robbery, and an eldest brother returning from Vietnam.