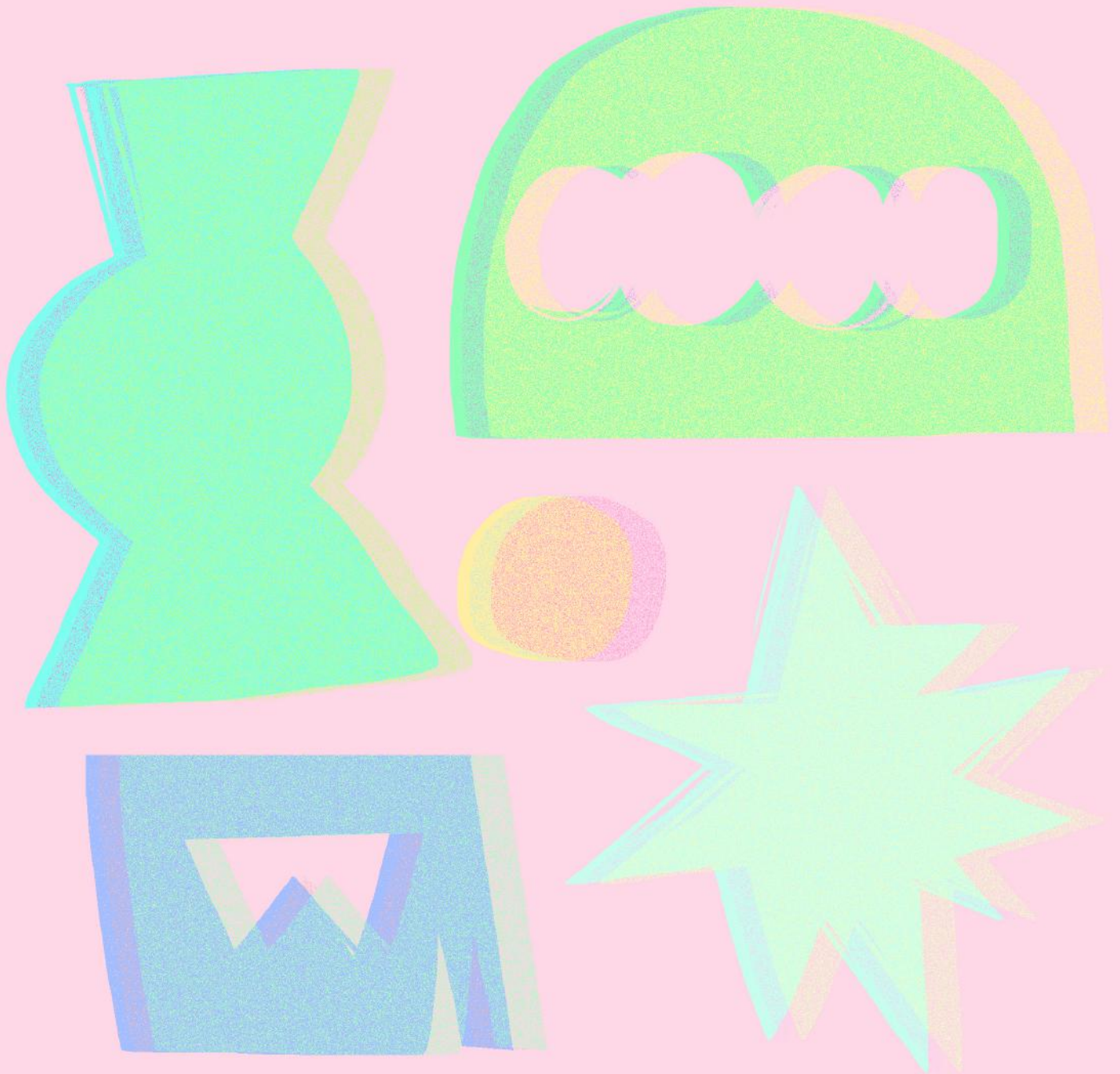
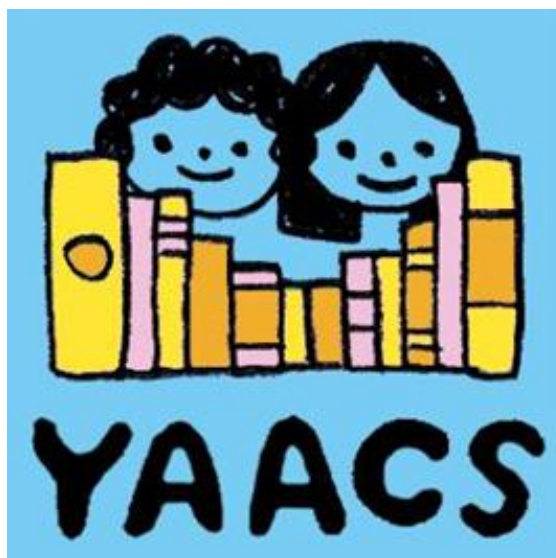


# YAAACING

SUMMER 2021



NEWSLETTER FOR THE YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SECTION OF BCLA



YAACing is the quarterly newsletter of the Young Adults And Children's Services section of the British Columbia Library Association. We publish articles by librarians and library paraprofessionals serving children and teens. Topics range from library programs and events, to book reviews, storytime ideas, literacy tips and more! If you would like to submit something for consideration, please email [yaacing@gmail.com](mailto:yaacing@gmail.com)

# Contents:

## [Message from the Chair](#)

## [Message from the Editor](#)

### **News**

[8](#)

YAACS Award Winner Announcement!

[9](#)

PNLA Young Readers Choice Awards: 2021 Winners  
and 2022 Nominees

Noreen Ma

### **Columns**

[11](#)

Jbrary: We'll Link to That!

Lindsey Krabbenhoft

[13](#)

New and Noteworthy Books

Sadie Tucker

### **Features**

[25](#)

Nature Walk Storytimes

Victoria Rezendes

[28](#)

Discord and Creating Organic Virtual Communities  
For Youth

Christopher Knapp

[30](#)

Graphic Novels and Trusty Sidekick Comics Save the  
Day

Emily Crowder

[33](#)

From Apple Pies to Astronauts: A Chronology of  
Alphabet Books with Aphorisms, Amusements,  
and Anecdotes - Part Three

Sarah Bagshaw

### **Call for Submissions**

**Editor:** Raoul Fernandes & Sabrina Gurniak

**Art Director:** Afton Schindel

Next Deadline: **September 15, 2021**

# Message from the Chair

It's June, hooray! The weather is getting warmer, vaccinations are ramping up, and things seem to be on track for a more "normal" summer. We can finally see the light at the end of what was a very long tunnel. This is a time when many of us are excitedly gearing up for another terrific season of Summer Reading Club as children across the province get ready to pour into our libraries and Crack the Case.

A huge shoutout to Stephanie Usher and her amazing, hardworking team that have put together this year's SRC. I can't wait to see what kind of activities our library neighbours and colleagues will be doing for SRC at their respective branches. Remember, the listserv is a terrific resource for finding out information from our colleagues and to share great or unique ideas that are working well for your branch and staff. I am in constant awe working in this field with so many wonderful people who are eager to share their knowledge so we can collectively grow as a profession.

April successes included our first virtual YSI which was full of insight from our exceptional keynote speakers J. Elizabeth Mills and Dr. Michelle H. Martin. We learned about the importance of designing and reflecting in our work to help us to become more thoughtful, engaged, intentional and effective in our programming. A tremendous thank you to the team that helped put YSI together this year: Patricia Lesku, Rhiannon Wallace, Jenna Lawrence, Julia McKnight, Alice Maahs and Maiya Letourneau. It truly would not have been the conference it was without your help and support. If you haven't yet, be sure to check out the resources that were shared on the [library toolshed](#).

During our YAACS AGM this year, we celebrated some exceptional people working in our profession with the 2021 YAACS Award going to Melodie Rae Storey of the Nelson Public Library. Congratulations, Melodie Rae! Your hard work and dedication to your field is commendable, and I especially love the pen-pal program that you created to connect folks during the pandemic. Well done!

I am also extremely pleased to share that Rhiannon Wallace has agreed to be the Vice Chair for the 2021/2022 YAACS year. Rhiannon has been involved with YAACS for a while now, and most recently was our lovely secretary. I look forward to a fantastic year working with Rhiannon and connecting with you all at our upcoming meetings on July 19, September 20 and December 20. More information about the meetings will be sent out closer to the dates.

In the meantime, soak up some vitamin D, take some time for yourself, and enjoy the first few months of summer. I wish you all luck with the beginning of SRC and look forward to working more closely with you over the coming year.

Be safe, be well, and have a fabulous Summer!

Kate Wood  
Library Assistant  
Greater Victoria Public Library

# Message from the Editor

Hello colleagues!

The days are getting longer, gathering is allowed, and summer reading club is upon us! We hope you're enjoying the little bit of normalcy we've been tip-toeing towards and taking care of yourselves.

There have been quite a few exciting opportunities to connect with each other across the province for brainstorming meetings, discussions on important topics, the Youth Services Institute, and BCLA. We hope that these opportunities to connect continue now that it's easier to meet virtually. We're also thrilled to announce that YAACS socials are back! The incomparable Sadie Tucker is taking over our channels. If there's anything you would like YAACs to share on Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Pinterest, or Instagram, email [yaacsweb@gmail.com](mailto:yaacsweb@gmail.com)

We're so excited to congratulate the incoming YAACS Chair, Kate Wood, on her new position. Kate has officially graduated from her YAACING editor role and was crucial in on boarding the current editing team. We thank her for her advice and support and look forward to seeing what she does at the helm of YAACS!

We're proud to bring you this summer issue of YAACING, full of programming inspiration from connecting with teens on gaming chat servers to getting out into nature using tracking apps, reader's advisory gems, and stellar contributions from our columnists. Thanks to our contributors for sharing their insights and ideas!

For our next issue we would like to hear about your return to in-person programming. What do you hope to do differently, and what will stay the same, when we're able to gather in the library again?

On behalf of your YAACING editors,

Sabrina Gurniak  
Children's Librarian  
Vancouver Public Library

Raoul Fernandes  
Library Public Services Associate  
Vancouver Public Library



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**Something to share on social media?**



yaacsweb@gmail.com

# YAACS Award Winner Announcement!

## YAACS Award Winner Announcement!

The YAACS Award Committee met on April 11 via Zoom, with the near impossible task of choosing one winner from a list of eight impressive nominees. All the nominees made us very proud of our profession, seeing the myriad ways libraries rose to the challenge of Covid-19 to bring socially distanced children, teens, and families together.

However, much to our dismay, there could only be one winner, and I'm so pleased to announce that Melodie Rae Storey, Teen and Literacy Services Coordinator at the Nelson Public Library, is this year's winner; her name was mentioned again and again by each committee member. She stood out for the breadth and reach of her innovative programs. Melodie Rae was nominated for the award by the Executive Director of the Kootenay Library Federation, Melanie Reaveley.

Melodie Rae has an impressive list of programs she initiated, including:

- The Leadership Journey certificate program she offers in partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust - a six session leadership certificate course for 12-18 year olds.
- Her simple but effective idea for connecting people - a Kootenay wide pen pal club, a brilliant idea for connecting people who can choose to correspond with or without using a computer!
- *The Awaken Your Inner Activist!* program (monthly themes include the environment, anti-racism, and being an ally).
- *Under the Umbrella*, with community partner Nelson Youth Action Network, welcoming all LGBTQ+ people and their allies.

The Kootenay Teen online book club began in July 2020 which also goes beyond just Nelson to the wider Kootenays. Guest authors have included Susin Nielsen, Susan Juby, Kenneth Oppel, Jennifer Nielsen, and Gordon Korman. The program can attract up to 67 teens participating each month! Bringing isolated teens together in this time when they are so distanced is truly inspiring.

The committee was impressed by those working in smaller communities, who lack a larger network of colleagues compared to those of us in larger centres, and still manage to be so impactful in their communities. Melodie Rae is an excellent example of this spirit. So congratulations to Melodie Rae on this much-deserved award!



*From the YAACS Award Committee: Ginny Dunnill, Ashley Machum, Vruti Patel, Karen Sharkey and Katherine Parker.*



# PNLA Young Reader's Choice Awards

Noreen Ma, BC Representative, PNLA, YRCA



This year, B.C. young readers submitted 631 votes. And, a total of 7,065 votes were received from the young readers throughout the Pacific Northwest: Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana and Washington.

The 2021 PNLA Young Reader's Choice Winners are:



## Junior Division (Grades 4-6)

*Wings of Fire. The Dragonet Prophecy* by Tui. T Sutherland; adapted by Barry Deutsch and Rachel Swirsky – received 1038 votes



## Intermediate Division (Grades 7-9)

*City of Ghosts* by Victoria Schwab – received 252 votes



## Senior Division (Grades 10-12)

*Five Feet Apart* by Rachael Lippincott – received 233 votes

## 2022 PNLA Young Reader's Choice Award Nominees

### Junior Division (Grades 4-6)

1. *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
2. *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
3. *Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly
4. *Dragon Pearl* by Yoon Ha Lee
5. *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga
6. *A Wolf Called Wander* by Roseanne Parry
7. *A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying* by Kelley Armstrong
8. *Indian No More* by Charlene Willing McManis

### Intermediate Division (Grades 7-9)

1. *The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman
2. *Sorcery of Thorns* by Margaret Rogerson
3. *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia
4. *Spin the Dawn* by Elizabeth Lim
5. *We Contain Multitudes* by Sarah Henstra
6. *White Rose* by Kip Wilson
7. *I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day
8. *I Love You So Mochi* by Sarah Kuhn

### Senior Division (Grades 10-12)

1. *The Fountains of Silence* by Ruta Sepetys
2. *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo
3. *Frankly in Love* by David Yoon
4. *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking up with Me* by Mariko Tamaki
5. *We Set the Dark on Fire* by Tehlor Kay Mejia
6. *Patron Saints of Nothing* by Randy Ribay
7. *Pet* by Akwaeke Emezi
8. *Onyx and Ivory* by Mindee Arnett

Voting for YRCA nominees takes place between March 15 and April 15. You can create your print ballot using the nominees above. Submit votes through our online voting link for BC <https://pnla.org/young-readers-choice-award/yrca-voting/> or compile your votes and submit them to me, your PNLA YRCA BC Rep at [nma75@shaw.ca](mailto:nma75@shaw.ca).

*Happy Reading!*

*Noreen Ma is a BC Representative for the PNLA Young Reader's Choice Awards.*



## We'll Link to That!

### Dial-a-Story and Podcast Adventures

When the pandemic started last year and libraries closed their doors to the public many of us found ourselves looking for creative ways to reach our communities. For our littlest library users, virtual story-times became the obvious choice for continuing to support early literacy development. But some libraries transitioned to new services - things that were on the backburner that became an immediate need to make a reality. Other libraries have been doing these things for years and found themselves primed for marketing. Two such services are Dial-a-Story and podcasts. Dial-a-Story in particular stands out as an internet-free option for those who no longer have reliable access. Here's a small round-up of these services to inspire you to provide an auditory experience for your community.

#### Toronto Public Library's Dial-a-Story

The oldest one on the block! They offer stories in 16 languages for kids up to age 12. When you call you only get one story per age group, but they change the stories often as their collection is huge - almost 5,000 stories! I like how the storyteller introduces themselves before jumping into sharing the story. Apparently I'm [not the only one](#) who appreciates this service.

#### Orillia Public Library's Dial-a-Story

A monthly rotation of stories for kids, teens, and adults. I'd like to draw attention to the design of their website page as the book covers immediately grabbed my attention and made it easy to see what's on deck. They offer picture book read-alouds, book reviews by staff and teen volunteers, and short stories.



#### Washington County Library System's Dial-a-Story

Aimed at young children, caregivers can call in and hear a story read by a volunteer actor. There are no options when you dial-in: you listen to one story and that's it. But they do provide 4 other stories each week on their website, and they have an [extensive archive](#) which is easy to navigate.

## York County Library's Dial-a-Story

Aimed at all ages - kids to adults - this service has something for everyone. You'll hear stories, music and songs, poetry, jokes and riddles, history tidbits, trivia, and more. You can dial in or listen to each month's picks directly on the library's website. They get points for targeting all ages and providing access to the last month's archive for extra goodies.

## New York Public Library's Storytime

Every week you can call to hear a new story in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Russian, and Japanese. Each story is a picture book read aloud lasting about 5 minutes. To increase access, they've added some of the stories as podcasts which you can subscribe to on Spotify, Apple, or Amazon. Instructions are clear and simple; fresh stories each week keep people coming back for more.

## Denver Public Library's Phone-a-Story

A 24/7 service that lets people call in and listen to stories, songs and rhymes in English, Spanish, Amharic, and Vietnamese. While the stories and songs don't appear to change, they do offer choices for different age groups in English. They get props for reading in animated, lively voices and for including instructions in Spanish.

## Little Learners Storytime Podcast

Launched this year, Miss May from Orem Public Library provides a monthly auditory storytime with songs, a story, and early literacy ideas for caregivers. They use Anchor by Spotify and record podcasts on the desktop or mobile app. Anchor distributes the podcast to seven different podcast platforms that range from Apple Podcasts to Radio Public. They also have another podcast for kids called [Check It Out!](#) featuring the latest and greatest book recommendations.

## Storytime Seedlings

Provided by the Santa Clara County Library District, this podcast features "books, fingerplays, rhymes, stories and songs for a screen-free storytime experience, anytime." After taking a few months off, this podcast is back to regularly releasing episodes. Each episode lasts about 25 minutes so it's equivalent to an in-person storytime experience.

Is your library offering Dial-a-Story or podcasts for your communities? I'd love to hear about it! Please email me a [jbrary@gmail.com](mailto:jbrary@gmail.com).

*Lindsey Krabbenhoft is a Children's Librarian in Vancouver, British Columbia and one half of Jbrary, the online children's librarian treasure trove. She is also the co-founder of the [Library Services for Children Journal Club](#) and encourages any other research nerds to join. You can find Jbrary in its own little corner of the internet at <https://jbrary.com>*

# NEW AND NOTEWORTHY BOOKS

By Sadie Tucker

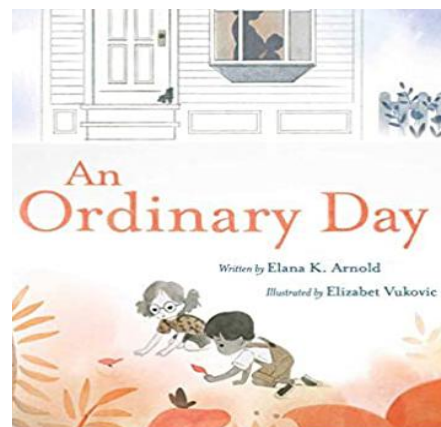
So many books, so little time! Here are some recent titles that I am excited about.

## AN ORDINARY DAY

ARNOLD, ELANA K.

5 YEARS AND UP

It's an ordinary day in a suburban neighbourhood. During this ordinary day, a vet visits one house and a midwife enters the one next door. One is there to help a beloved pet pass on, while the other is there to usher in new life. Gentle and emotionally moving. Beautiful.

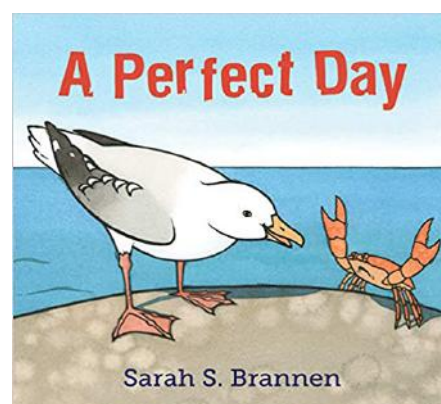


## A PERFECT DAY

BRANNEN, SARAH S.

3-7 YEARS

A seagull thinks it's a perfect day, but its crab friend begs to differ. As the crab points out the things marring the day, the seagull counters with the potential benefits of said drawbacks. Will they manage to convince each other? Simple text that speaks volumes. The illustrations complement the text perfectly and are suitable for group read alouds.



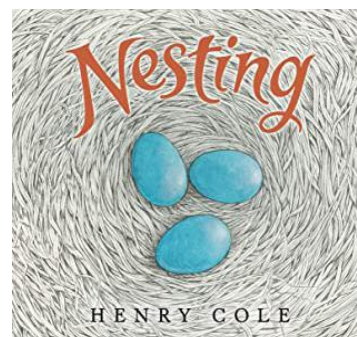


## NESTING

COLE, HENRY

3-6 YEARS

Accompanied by lovely, detailed pen illustrations, this picture book follows a pair of robins as they build a nest and raise four chicks. Simultaneously sweet and matter-of-fact, young readers will learn about bird behaviour while enjoying the story.

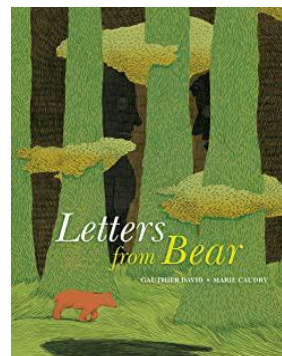


## LETTERS FROM BEAR

David, Gauthier

5 years and up

Bird left to fly south for the winter and Bear misses them terribly. Deciding to travel south instead of hibernating, Bear sets off on a long journey to rejoin their friend. As they travel, they write letters to Bird and send them on the wind. A thoughtful book that draws the reader right in and is full of palpable longing.



## JUST LIKE A MAMA

DUNCAN, ALICE FAYE

3-7 YEARS

Haunting, lovely illustrations depict the experience of a group of animals as their forest turns into an inferno. Their shock and fear is followed by hope as they return to their blackened territory and reassure the reader (and themselves) that the land will recover and be green again.

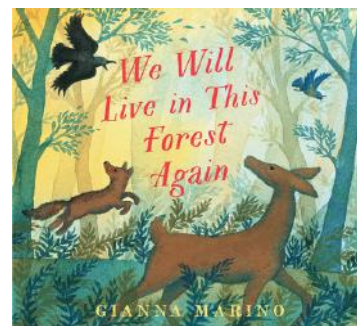


## WE WILL LIVE IN THIS FOREST AGAIN

MARINO, GIANNA

3-8 YEARS

Haunting, lovely illustrations depict the experience of a group of animals as their forest turns into an inferno. Their shock and fear is followed by hope as they return to their blackened territory and reassure the reader (and themselves) that the land will recover and be green again.





## GRANDPA GRUMPS

MOORE, KATRINA

4-7 YEARS

Daisy is so excited to meet Yeh-Yeh, her grandfather! When he arrives from the airport, though, it turns out he's kind of grumpy. Daisy tries all sorts of things, like tea parties and art, to get a smile but all Yeh-Yeh does is grunt. Is there anything that can cross the language barrier and make Yeh-Yeh smile?



## INSECTS

MUSGRAVE, RUTH A.

0-2 YEARS

Part of National Geographic's "Little Kids First Board Book" series, this non-fiction title features crisp photographs and just enough information to engage a toddler.



## HIKE

OSWALD, PETE

4-8 YEARS

A lovely, wordless picture book that follows a child and their father as they head out for a day of hiking. A warm and utterly charming book.

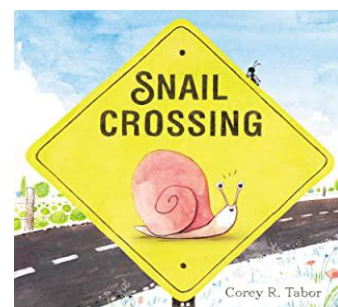


## SNAIL CROSSING

TABOR, COREY R.

3-7 YEARS

Snail has seen a delicious cabbage across the road and is determined to go over there and eat it. Unfortunately, he encounters a few hurdles on the way - such as bossy ants and a hungry crow. Will he ever get to eat that tantalizing cabbage? This would work well as a kindergarten read aloud.

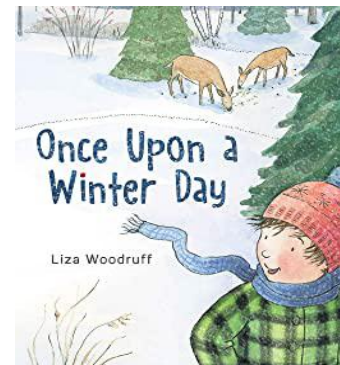


## ONCE UPON A WINTER DAY

WOODRUFF, LIZA

4-8 YEARS

When a boy's mom doesn't have time to tell him a story, he sulkily goes outside. Then he discovers that nature tells its own kind of story in the form of animal tracks and fallen leaves.



## SCHOOL AGE - PRIMARY

### STARLA JEAN – WHICH CAME FIRST: THE CHICKEN OR THE FRIENDSHIP?

ARNOLD, ELANA K.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

GRADES 1-2

When Starla Jean sees a chicken in the park, her father jokingly tells her that if she catches it she can keep it. Well, Starla Jean does catch it and names it Opal Egg. Her parents keep saying that chickens aren't meant to be housepets, but Starla Jean is pretty sure that if an animal is in the house it is automatically a housepet.



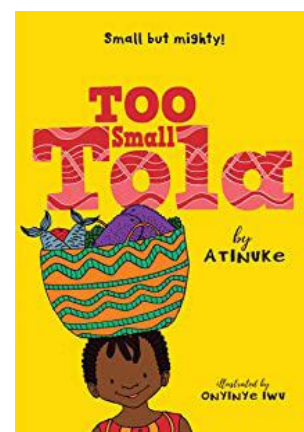
### TOO SMALL TOLA

ATINUKE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

GRADES 2-4

Tola is the smallest in her family (comprising her two siblings and their grandmother), but that doesn't mean she can't help! From carrying a large load of groceries home, to lugging water from a nearby well, to helping their neighbour (a tailor) measure clients, Tola can do whatever she sets her mind to.



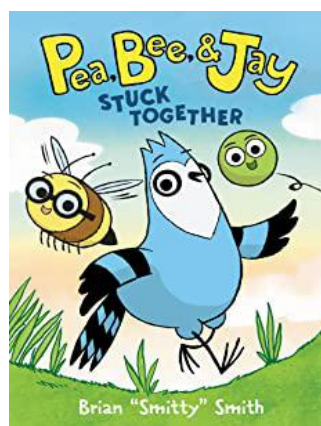
## PEA, BEE, & JAY

SMITH, BRIAN

ANIMAL FICTION (GRAPHIC NOVEL)

GRADES 2-4

When a lone pea finds itself far from home, he teams up with a bluejay and a bee to make his way back. First in a series.



## SCHOOL AGE - INTERMEDIATE

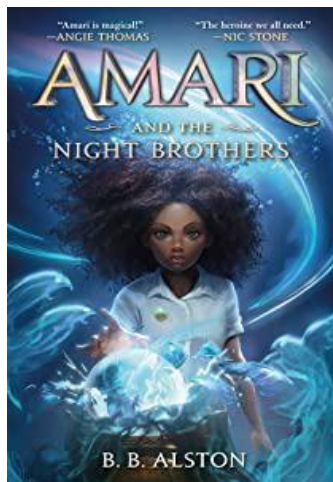
### AMARI AND THE NIGHT BROTHERS

ALSTON, B.B.

FANTASY/CONTEMPORARY FICTION

GRADES 3-7

Amari's brother has gone missing and she's just been kicked out of her elite private school after reacting to her classmates' disdain for her being Black and poor. Just when things couldn't seem much worse, she receives an invitation to the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. It turns out that magic is real and Amari has it! Most importantly, Amari now has a clue as to what happened to her brother.

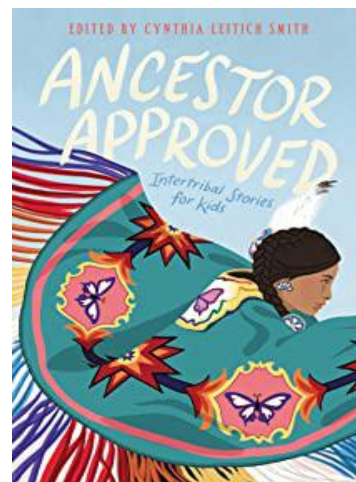


### ANCESTOR APPROVED: INTERTRIBAL STORIES FOR KIDS

SHORT STORIES

GRADES 3-7

Every story or poem in this book can be read on their own, but together they weave an overarching narrative. Set at the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow, families, friends, and strangers meet. Some face changes in their lives, while others make new discoveries. Kirkus says, "Senses of goodwill and humor pervade the book as well as the spirit of community, intersection, resilience, and a desire to remember the past."





## THE SEA IN WINTER

DAY, CHRISTINE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

GRADES 4-6

Maisie experienced a serious injury that has kept her from ballet. Ever since the injury, she has been irritable, something she feels bad about but can't seem to help. On a road trip, Maisie not only learns about the history of her step-father's people but also begins to emotionally heal with the help of her family.



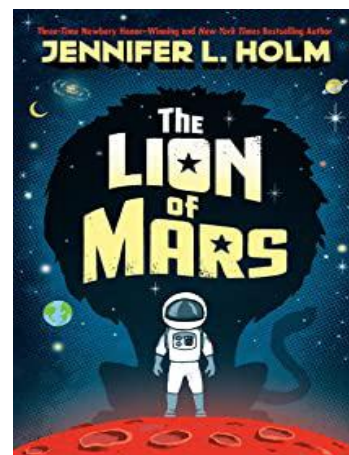
## THE LION OF MARS

HOLM, JENNIFER L.

SCIENCE FICTION

GRADES 3-7

Bell has grown up on Mars in a small settlement and is the youngest in his unit. When the adults begin to sicken with a strange illness, he and the other kids must decide whether they should break one of the settlement's cardinal rules: Never contact other countries' colonies.



## TWINS

JOHNSON, VARIAN

CONTEMPORARY FICTION (GRAPHIC NOVEL)

GRADES 3-7

Maureen and Francine are identical twins and have always been as close as close can be. When they enter middle school, however, Maureen wants to spread her wings while Francine just wants to fit in. As the two find their interests both diverging and coming into conflict, they begin to explore who they are independent of the other.



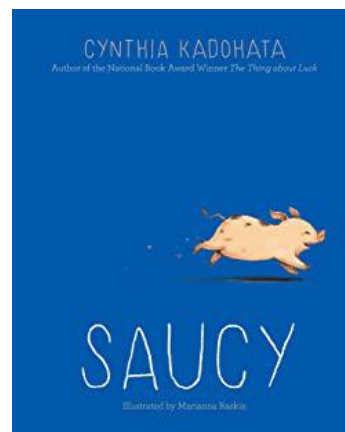
## SAUCY

KADOHATA, CYNTHIA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

GRADES 3-6

Becca is the only girl in a set of quadruplets and, as far as she can tell, the only one without a special gift. When she finds a sick piglet while out on a walk, she manages to convince her family to let her nurse it back to health. Soon Becca and Saucy (the piglet) are fast friends and the pig has endeared herself to the family. But Saucy is growing bigger and bigger, leaving destruction in her wake. What can Becca do?



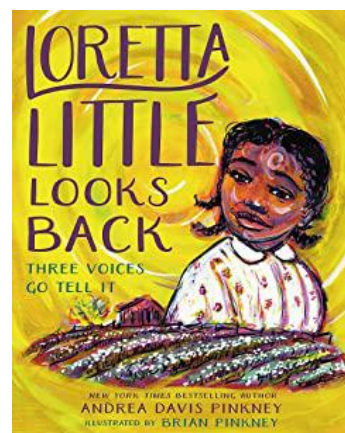
## LORETTA LITTLE LOOKS BACK

PINKNEY, ANDREA DAVIS

HISTORICAL FICTION/MONOLOGUES

GRADES 5-8

Told through a series of monologues recounted by three generations of a family: Loretta who was a child in the late 1920s; to her younger brother Roly, who grew up in the 1940s; to Roly's young daughter, Aggie B., who along with her family fought for voting rights in the United States. Reviewers have noted that this unique title is perfect for readers' theatre.



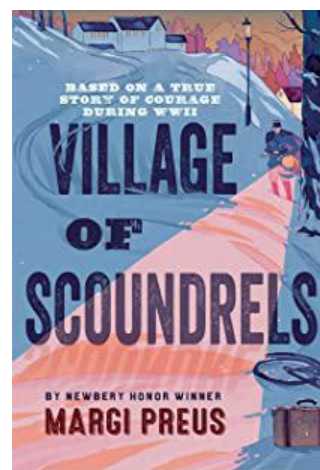
## VILLAGE OF SCOUNDRELS

PREUS, MARGI

HISTORICAL FICTION/SUSPENSE

GRADES 5-9

In a small French town, the Resistance is strong. Residents of all ages work to subvert the Nazi regime and protect Jews from its evil intentions. When the town comes to the attention of the government, the danger increases ten-fold. Inspired by true events and thoroughly researched.



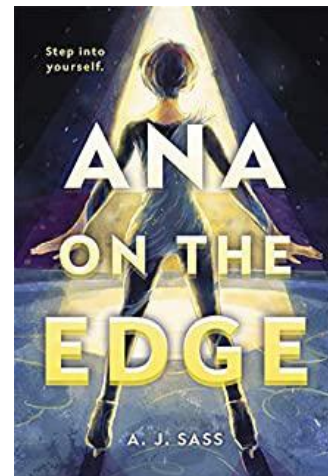
## ANA ON THE EDGE

SASS, A.J.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

GRADES 4-7

Ana has met with great success in her figure skating career. Unfortunately, figure skating is an expensive sport and Ana worries that her mom can't afford it. When she meets a transgender boy named Hayden, Ana also begins to question her gender identity (having previously never known that was something you could explore). As she struggles with how to save her mom money and ponders her own identity, Ana will discover that she has a rock-solid support system.



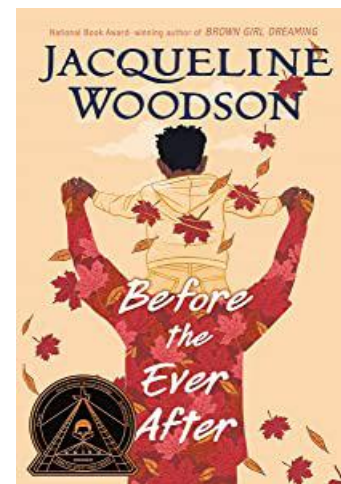
## BEFORE THE EVER AFTER

WOODSON, JACQUELINE

HISTORICAL FICTION/VERSE NOVEL

GRADES 5+

ZJ's dad is a famous football player and has great success in the NFL. But now his dad is experiencing mood swings and memory lapses and no one seems to know what's going on. As ZJ tries to reconcile his happy memories of his father with the unpredictable man who has taken his place, ZJ will lean on his friends and family to make it through.





# High School

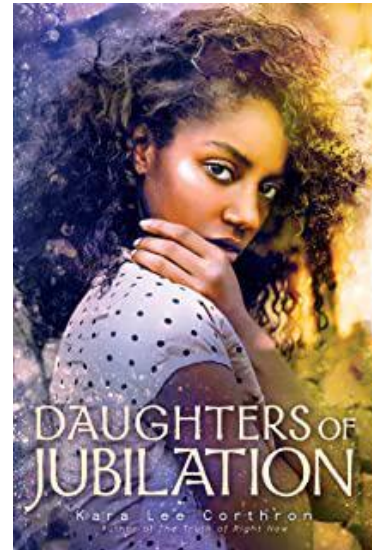
## DAUGHTERS OF JUBILATION

CORTHON, KARA LEE

FANTASY/HISTORICAL FICTION

GRADES 9+

Evvie has a lot to juggle. Her family is Black so that already makes things tough in the Jim Crow South. On top of that, she's helping her single mom with her sister while exploring a burgeoning relationship with her crush. Managing her growing telekinetic powers is just another thing to do. But it also might be the most important if she wants to protect her family. School Library Journal warns, "This historical fantasy contains elements of romance and sex, some violence, as well as strong language."



## GIRL ON THE LINE

GARDNER, FAITH

CONTEMPORARY FICTION/ROMANCE

GRADES 9+

Journey has bipolar disorder and tried to kill herself a few months ago. Now she, her parents, and friends are trying to figure out where to go from here. As her narrative travels back and forth in time, it recounts the events leading up to Journey's crisis and the rough road of recovery. This is, without a doubt, a tough read but worth the effort. Kirkus says, "Trigger warnings are absolutely necessary, but the masterful handling gives the book bibliotherapeutic potential for readers struggling with the same issues or those who want to better understand the journeys in their lives."



## THE LAST HALLOWEEN

HOWARD, ABBY

HORROR/HUMOUR (GRAPHIC NOVEL)

GRADES 9+

10-year-old Mona just wants to go trick-or-treating, but her parent can't go with her. Now, she finds herself amidst a group of supernatural creatures, searching for the heir of the Phagocyte - the cosmic balancer of all things. If the motley group fails in their search, humanity will be overtaken by monsters. First in a proposed series.



## A COMPLICATED LOVE STORY SET IN SPACE

HUTCHINSON, SHAUN DAVID

SCIENCE FICTION/ROMANCE

GRADES 9+

One night, Noa goes to bed in his Seattle home and wakes up alongside two other teens in a spaceship that is about to explode. No sooner have they prevented that calamity, then another challenge befalls them ... and then another. While taking part in an action-packed struggle to stay alive and out of trouble, Noa is rather surprised to also find himself falling in love.



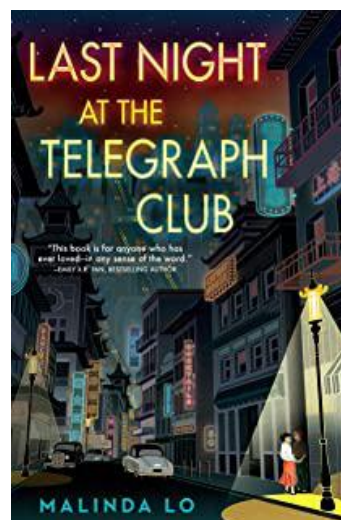
## LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB

LO, MALINDA

HISTORICAL FICTION/ROMANCE

GRADES 9+

It's 1954 in San Francisco and Lily largely stays within the confines of her Chinese American community. The fear of communism is at an all-time high and those of Chinese descent are lying low. Then she discovers the Telegraph Club, a lesbian bar, and meets Katherine, her first white friend. As Lily and Katherine's feelings for each other grow deeper, Lily is faced with living a double life. Despite the heavy themes, this is an ultimately hopeful novel that was carefully researched.



## TIGERS, NOT DAUGHTERS

MABRY, SAMANTHA

MAGICAL REALISM

GRADES 7+

A year ago, four sisters planned to run away from their widowed father, but the eldest fell out of her bedroom window and died. Now the three surviving sisters grieve in their own way and continue to feel trapped. When their home begins to have strange occurrences, they wonder whether their sister's angry spirit has come back to haunt them.



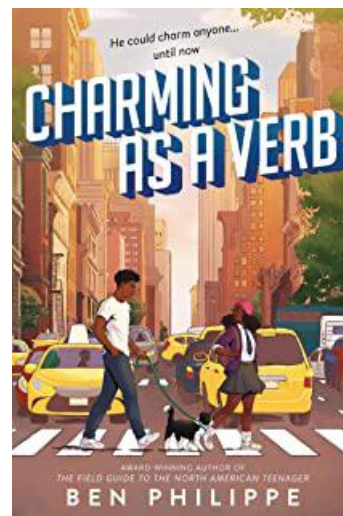
## CHARMING AS A VERB

PHILIPPE, BEN

CONTEMPORARY FICTION/ROMANCE

GRADES 9+

Henri is driven, charismatic, and popular. He also has big dreams. When a classmate uncovers his less-than-aboveboard dog-walking practices, she blackmails him into helping her improve her school image. As the two grow closer, Henri begins to reevaluate his priorities.



## THE PROJECT

SUMMERS, COURTNEY

THRILLER/MYSTERY

GRADES 10+

Lo lost her parents in a car accident and was seriously injured herself. During her stay in the ICU, her sister, Bea, joined The Unity Project. Now Lo hasn't seen her sister in years. When she gets the opportunity to investigate The Unity Project through her job at a news office, Lo leaps at it. But there is far more going on than she knows. Told through both Lo and Bea's eyes and jumping around in the timeline, this will keep readers guessing all the way through.





## THE MAGIC FISH

TRUNG, LE NGUYEN

CONTEMPORARY FICTION (GRAPHIC NOVEL)

GRADES 7+

Tiến is fluent in English but his parents struggle with it, while they fluently speak Vietnamese and Tiến doesn't. Despite the barriers to free-flowing communication, Tiến and his mother bond over fairy tales. He reads her the Western stories he has checked out from the library and she in turn shares Vietnamese fairy tales with him. As Tiến experiences his first romance, he tries to figure out the best way to communicate to his parents that he is gay.



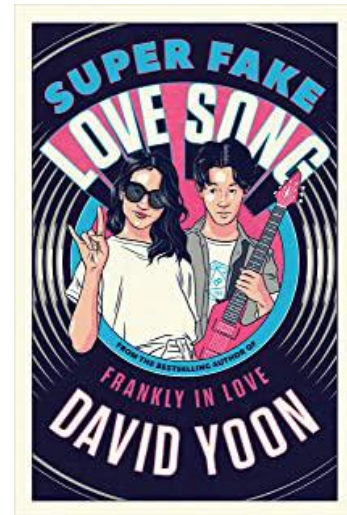
## SUPER FAKE LOVE SONG

YOON, DAVID

ROMANCE/CONTEMPORARY FICTION

GRADES 7+

What do you do when the girl you have a crush on mistakes your musician brother's room for your own? Why create your own fake band, of course! The next order of business is learning how to play an instrument...



*Sadie Tucker is a Children and Teens' librarian at the Vancouver Public Library.*

# NATURE WALK STORYTIME

BY VICTORIA REZENDES



## The Program and How It All Started

The Prince George Public Library is running a virtual series called Nature Walk Storytime. The program is aimed at families with young children ages 0-9 and operates using the free GeoTourist app. The idea for the current program was born from pandemic restrictions and a hope of facilitating literacy through fun outdoor exploration. The brainchild of Larissa Clotildes, a fellow Library Assistant, she wanted to create a portable program that limited screen time while promoting social distancing. The hope for the program was to allow families to connect to their world through physical activity, early literacy, and environmental awareness. I have picked up the program and have been expanding it since.

## GeoTourist - What It Is and How It Works

GeoTourist is a platform that allows users to create their own guided tours. It has both a website and a downloadable app, much like the popular Zoom app. On the GeoTourist website, a user can make a free account, then begin designing a tour. Tour designing is straightforward and walks users through making each tour point. Titles, written descriptions, pictures, and audio-clips can be uploaded, which makes a tour accessible to patrons who are learning to read or rely more heavily on hearing. The GeoTourist app is free, readily downloadable, and allows people to search for and participate in tours.

## Approaches for Designing A Tour

When I am designing a tour, researching the tour location either online or in-person really helps to visualize how I want a tour to be mapped out. Choosing a public space like a nature trail, park, or local

attraction are all great places to consider for tours. Once a tour location is chosen, consider things like the location's accessibility to the audience, what weather or wildlife need to be considered, and is the location dog friendly. Now comes the most exciting part! I start brainstorming stories, sensory activities, songs, and nursery rhymes to incorporate into the tour. Consider what age ranges will be engaged and that there is something for every participant throughout a tour. I like having an assortment of short, medium, and long stops; altered pacing helps keep the audience engaged and energetic. Also, think about how long you want a tour to be. If the target audience is older, a longer tour may work well but, if you are planning for families with young children, a shorter tour lasting an hour or less may be best. Lastly, determine if the order in which people visit tour points matters. GeoTourist can automatically start playing audio clips when participants get within range of each tour point and, if you have points that build in succession on each other, not all locations are suited to this. If you are working with a location that does not have an obvious linear layout, designing self-contained points works well. If a location has one main entrance and exit, tour points that build on each other successively could work. It all depends on whether you can easily direct your audience to the correct locations.

With the major brainstorming complete, I add a picture, text, and audio for each tour point. Pictures really add life to a tour and assures your audience that they are going the right way. When each tour point is completed, the tour can be easily published using a clear publish/unpublish button. I then physically do the tour myself to ensure everything is running smoothly and, if there are any issues, the tour can be unpublished until they are resolved.

## Pros of GeoTourist

GeoTourist is free to download and use.

Tours can be performed without a data connection and can be downloaded in advance.

User-friendly interface on both the GeoTourist website and app.

GeoTourist provides a simple "Create Your Own Audio Tour" tutorial on Youtube that walks through account creation to making and editing a tour.

Tracks the number of views each tour receives, which can be helpful for keeping statistics.

Tours are available at all hours once published and can be taken at anyone's leisure.

Tours can be expanded into series. Our library currently runs one tour per season at a local park, with additional tours at other locations throughout the year.

## Cons of GeoTourist

I have experienced newly created tours either not saving at all or edits to pre-existing tours not saving. To remedy this, I would strongly recommend saving after entering information in each individual field. For example, upload a photo, saving, upload an audio clip, and saving again. Repeating these steps for each tour point minimized technical issues while creating or editing tours.



Audio clips may need to be uploaded several times as they may not upload properly at first. Checking each one immediately after uploading it to a tour point minimized technical issues.

Although total views are tracked, this does not accurately represent the total number of individuals participating in a tour.

## Conclusion

Overall, GeoTourist can be a wonderful tool for engaging patrons in early literacy and it can be applied to people of all ages. People in our community have praised the program and appreciated that it got their families away from screens, especially with many current programs taking place virtually. I am expanding the number of tours our library offers and intend to include new trail networks, parks, and local historic sites.

*Victoria Rezendes is a Library Assistant in Children's Services at the Prince George Public Library. She can be contacted at [vrezendes@pgpl.ca](mailto:vrezendes@pgpl.ca) if you would like more information about this program. She has worked as a tutor for the library's free Homework Help Program for three years and has recently started her new position with the Children's Services team.*

# DISCORD AND CREATING ORGANIC VIRTUAL COMMUNITIES FOR YOUTH

By Christopher Knapp

For those in Generation Z (ironically known as the Zoomer generation), the Internet is meant to be more of a recreational, creative, and most importantly, social space. In a recent virtual meeting discussing Teen programming on Zoom, screen fatigue and Zoom burnout amongst youth was a topic of discussion. Why? For as much as we, librarians, can plan engaging virtual programs, create inventive take and make kits, or put digital materials in the hands of the youth we serve, it may not be meeting those social needs which youth seek.

While a wondrous tool for connecting people in times of a pandemic, Zoom, as an interactive tool, just does not work to engage youth. As great as it is for meetings, it is not a virtual medium capable of providing for continued growth, interactivity, or digitally organic communities to be fostered and nourished.

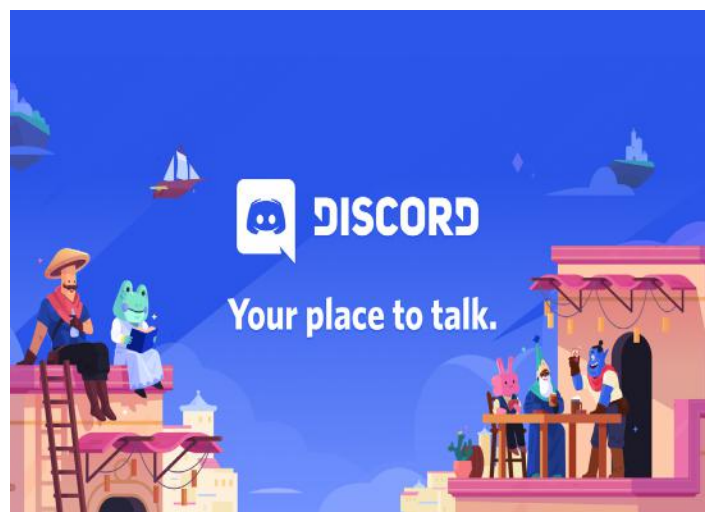
With this dilemma in sight as I concluded my 2020 Summer Programming season, I decided it was a time to try something different, and that is when I turned to Discord.

Discord, as a virtual platform, is nothing new. Released in 2015, the communication platform primarily catered to a PC and console gaming audience that were looking for ways of talking with one another without the limitations imposed by not having the same game, or not sharing the same console platform. Discord provided a way for gamers of all ages to come together and converse in a simple and intuitive manner. As quoted from their website, when answering What Makes Discord different?, their response is “[Discord] is a place to call home. Discord gives you the power to create your own place to belong. Your Discord server is your home, shared with only the special people you invite.” (Discord.com)

So, with the mindset, “your own place to belong... your home,” I turned to Discord. After months of my once-regular-in-person youth attendees seemingly not attending anymore, I realized it was not due to a lack of interest, but rather the one-directional, impersonal nature of Zoom programming that they did not enjoy.

When I first set up my initial programming servers on Discord – namely one for Dungeons & Dragons, another for our Tens to Teens Video Gaming Hour, and lastly one for our library’s Queer-Straight Alliance (aka Teen Alliance) – what I quickly discovered was how many of my teens already had Discord accounts and inherently knew the inner workings of the software. Often, it was my regular youth participants who were the ones showing me “the ropes” of Discord and how it worked.

28 YAACING | Summer 2021



What soon took place was that in-between my own weekly updates to our programming, youth were taking the time to actively reach out to me for book or game recommendations, asking for help with school research projects, or just telling me about something interesting or cool they had found. Discord opened up a more spontaneous and organic form of communication that had seldom occurred with Zoom programming.

Furthermore, as each of the servers were specialized and locked into specific interest groups, the communication between youth during non-programming times increased significantly. What started with participants sharing humorous memes with one another on our Dungeons & Dragons channel, quickly turned into sharing other forms of social capital with one another.



*Examples of a teen attendee's Dungeons & Dragons character, Luca, posted on our Pokémon homebrew campaign Discord channel*

For example, a regular teen attendee who had a beginning interest in music production, started to create and sample some of their music and used their inclusion in one of our Discord channels to share their projects with others. Though this may have been something the teen would have done in-person, it was interesting to see how the organic relationship building and friendship developed within the Discord server, providing an outlet for this one youth to share their creative musical talents with others.

While youth have been able to see their closest friends and acquaintances at their respective schools due to the 'social pod' method used within BC schools, what was often the greatest joy for many of my youth participants who attended in-person programming at our library was the chance to meet other youth from different schools. In turn, what Discord has provided to them is the virtual equivalent of this, but with a more nuanced focus. They know that other youth they meet in a specific Discord server, such as the Tens to Teens Video Gaming Hour server, will be ones with like-minded interests and hobbies.

While this will hopefully not be a long-term solution to library programming, it has been a fantastic solution in the short-term. Bridging the gap between being a safe and welcoming space with like-minded peers, and a space that can grow organically as a community during each programming session, Discord is the perfect platform to use and engage youth with. And, as many of our youth participants are likely to be using this platform in 2021, it provides a great opportunity as Children's and Youth Librarians to have small learning opportunities where it is the youth who can take pride and ownership in the knowledge that they can pass on to other peers and adults in their lives.

*Christopher Knapp is the Youth Community Engagement Librarian at the Prince George Public Library.*

# GRAPHIC NOVELS AND TRUSTY SIDE-KICK COMIC BOOKS SAVE THE DAY

By Emily Crowder

How do you get a reader who sees themselves as “too big” for picture books but is frustrated with chapter books interested in reading? Try comics! Comics have short text blocks and striking images; there is drama and tension between the words and drawings, and it only takes a page to be fully immersed in the story.

My older brother struggled with reading in elementary school. I was impressed when I learned he'd been scolded in class for holding a comic book inside the larger book he was supposed to be reading for school. He loved reading but wasn't interested in the books they were covering in class. His teacher claimed Asterix wasn't “real reading”, but *Les Lauriers de César* is rated at a grade 3-6 reading level and my brother loved it despite being six years old. This was a missed opportunity for the teacher and for my brother, who never did become a big reader.

As the blog *Reluctant No More* says, “There are no reluctant readers, just under-served kids, and, yes, we can change that!” Comics can be a bridge between picture books and novels. Many children have no problem finding a story and plot within images, as many of them have been reading picture books since they were very young. Comics and graphic novels build on this written foundation, creating a world where the story is driven by images and enhanced with language. Comics and graphic novels capture emotional nuance which might otherwise be missed in literature written for children and teens.

Comics have been perceived as low-quality reading

materials, but many are written at a grade 4-6 reading level, comparable to YA novels, Time magazine, and plenty of bestsellers. The goal of readers' advisory for children is to find reading materials that spark a lifelong love of reading and a curiosity that lends itself to reading widely. Comics and graphic novels are widely available at appropriate reading levels for children, and captivating enough to get them coming back for more. They are particularly important in school libraries, as many school districts have Silent Reading time. Both comics and silent reading time can build a love of reading.

Anything a reader can enjoy in prose, fiction or nonfiction, can be found in a comic book. This is great news for librarians who aren't familiar with comics and graphic novels as the readers' advisory interview skills they have will work as well with comics and graphic novels.

Libraries can and should support their existing comic and graphic novel fans as they do other readers. The Vancouver Public Library offers a Tween Manga Program, run by Jane Whittingham. In the Winter 2018 edition of YAACING she says, “Participants are invited to share any manga that they've been reading recently, and there's time set aside for the facilitator to highlight a couple of books or series in the collection that participants might enjoy reading.” The meetup acts as a kind of group readers' advisory where the facilitator learns what the children are reading and interested in, which they can consider for advising other readers and make note of for collection-building. Participants can hear about books and series they have yet to discover and may take someone else's enthusiasm as encouragement to try a title they would not have

otherwise reached for.

As with visual and written media, there are many opportunities for extension activities with comics and graphic novels. At the Manga for Tweens meetup, the tweens have a discussion while working on a craft. In YAACING, Whittingham details a bookmark craft with collaged images. Whittingham notes "...crafts are a great icebreaker, especially for new group members or kids who might feel shy or less comfortable speaking in front of others. It's often a lot easier to share your feelings when everyone's looking down at their crafts, and not directly at you!" Other options might include a comic or graphic novel-specific Summer Reading Club, book lists, Pro-D Day camps with crafts, cosplay, or a film viewing, or even a field trip to a Comicon. Librarians can also include comics and graphic novels in their special topical displays for holidays, theme months, and days like Black History Month and Trans Visibility Day.

Once children and teens are familiar with graphic novels and comics and have found their favourite titles and series, librarians and teachers can suggest comic adaptations of other genres. While literary classics can be intimidating with their length, images can break up the monotony of the chapter and invite readers into the story, making most any title more accessible.

Adaptations can entice children and youth to explore older titles by giving them a fresh feeling. A few examples of literary classics that have been adapted to comics and graphic novels include:

- *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeleine L'Engle
- *The Metamorphosis*, by Franz Kafka
- *The Book of Genesis*, by R. Crumb
- *Kindred*, by Octavia Butler
- *Prince of Cats (Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet)*, adapted by Ronald Wimberly, and
- *The Graphic Canon*, Vol. 1-3.

Comics and adaptations are not only for readers who have been struggling; anyone can enjoy using their brains in a new way, as a story unfolds in both words and pictures. Readers who like text-only books may find comic adaptations get them into advanced reading, or they might enjoy adaptations of their favourites the same way folks like to watch film adaptations of favourite books. For example, *Jo: An Adaptation of Little Women (Sort Of)* by Kathleen Gross reimagines Jo March as an eighth grader who writes for the school paper and is dealing with her friend's confession of love and her own feelings for her editor. While not a strict adaptation of the original, it is relatable and interesting to children and tweens. Readers who enjoy period dramas can get into comics and graphic novels through adaptations and vice versa; the same is true for every genre.

When a reader falls in love with graphic novels and comics, an entire universe unfolds for them. Within adaptations there may be multiple styles of each title, like *Little Women*, which is available as manga, and versions for younger and older audiences. *Anne of Green Gables* is another title that has been adapted for multiple age groups and in different styles. Many titles belong to a series so once a child is in, a whole world of reading unfolds in their laps.

As S. R. Ranganathan proposed in 1931, there is a reader for every book and a book for every reader. Comics and graphic novels have wide appeal, tempting children, teens and adults alike and it is worthwhile for librarians to become familiar with titles and series they should add to their catalogue and get into the hands of readers. They can be a gateway for the reader who feels that the library isn't for them, helping them find community. They can lead readers on adventures in any direction they choose, be it into a new series, through adaptations of familiar titles, or into a whole subculture. They can make complicated storytelling easier to parse and challenge readers of all ages, and they can make overwhelming topics manageable. Sequential



illustrations and text bring stories to life with a third layer of information, where the images and the words inform each other. With so much variety available, I would argue there is a reader for every comic book and a comic book for every reader as well.

### Resources

[12 Graphic Novel Series for Kids from Everyday Reading](#)

[10 Must-Read Graphic Novel Adaptations from IGN](#)

[18 Superb Graphic Novel Adaptations for Kids and Teens from School Library Journal](#)

[8 Children's Classics as Graphic Novels from Amp Kids](#)

[65 Graphic Novels for Kids Starring Mighty Girls from A Mighty Girl](#)

[Graphic Novel Reviews from Common Sense Media](#)

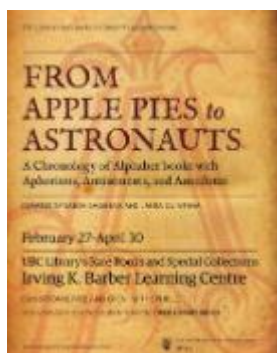
[Graphic Novel Adaptations: Modern Literature from Provo Library](#)

*Emily Crowder is a Library and Info Technology student at Langara. She is currently reading the graphic novel "My Begging Chart" by Keiler Roberts. The full paper this piece is adapted from is available with sources and reading lists by emailing her at [ecrowder00@mylangara.ca](mailto:ecrowder00@mylangara.ca)*



# FROM APPLE PIES TO ASTRONAUTS: A CHRONOLOGY OF ALPHABET BOOKS WITH APHORISMS, AMUSEMENTS, AND ANECDOTES – PART THREE

By Sarah Bagshaw



*Revisiting the curated display created for iSchool@UBC LIBR594 – Directed Study done in conjunction with UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections.*

*Adapted from the exhibit and case labels written by Sarah Bagshaw & Laura Quintana. Exhibition poster = Jeff Porter Designs. All photographs from Sarah Bagshaw.*

In February 2017 I mounted a display of alphabet books in the Rare Books and Special Collections library @ UBC. This was done with Laura for a directed study project under the supervision of Kathie Shoemaker and Chelsea Shriver. The display was opened in time for attendees of the Vancouver Children's Literature Round Table spring conference to visit on their breaks (held in Irving K. Barber building where Rare Books is). We had so much fun researching the development of children's literature, ABC books, picture book illustration, and looking at some incredibly old books as well as many new ones. I thought I could share some of the writing and images from this display in a multi-part series with YAACING members as a welcome distraction from our Covid-influenced lives.

Our journey continues through the alphabet with the case representing G, H, and I - and the turn of the century.

G H I



The last half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century has been called “The Golden Age of Children’s Literature” due to the publication of many books for children that became and remain classics. During this period of time there was a significant change in the perception of children and childhood, mostly due to the influence of romantic poets. They associated the idea of childhood with innocence and happiness, not hardships and responsibilities. Children’s books focused more and more on entertainment rather than didacticism and morals because the intention was to stimulate and develop children’s imagination. As paper and printing became more affordable, the publication of books greatly increased. New technological advances in lithography allowed for the less costly printing of colour illustrations.

Rhymes offered in alphabet books first moved from religious to secular themes in the late nineteenth century and were also written in a new more elaborate and sophisticated manner. Tales such as ‘Alphabet of Old Friends’ in *The Song of Sixpence Picture Book* (1909), and the ‘Baby’s Own Alphabet’ in *The Sleeping Beauty Picture Book* (1911), brought the alphabet genre into a literary format by using its structure to retell fairy tales. This opened the way to an increase in narrative alphabet books, and to the diversification of their content. This diversification is evident in the examples featured in this case.



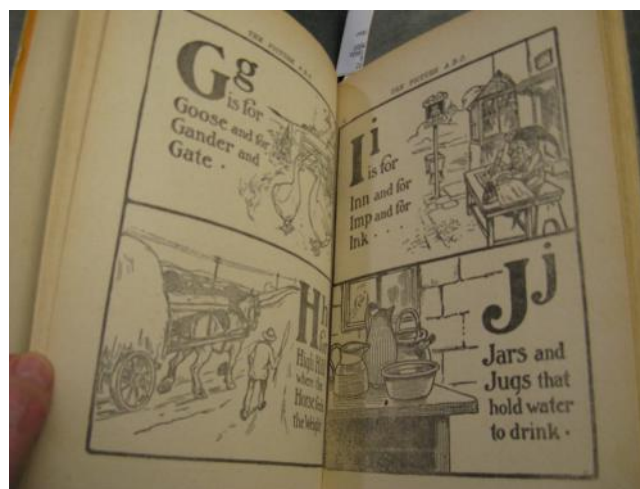
Case Three representing G H I (See photo) contained the following items plus extra information about a few:

- Crawhall II, Joseph. *Old Aunt Elspa's ABC*. London: Scolar Press, 1978. Originally published 1884.
  - This book is another twist on the “A was an Archer, and shot at a Frog” rhyme. Crawhall (1821-1896) was a wood engraver, writer, and patron of the arts in Newcastle. In *Aunt Elspa* he states after the first two lines of the original verse:
  - “Tuts! These are the Rhymes/That our Grandmothers knew;/They’re far too old-fashioned:/Let’s have something new.”
  - He accompanies his changes with simple woodcuts that reference the illustrations from the previous century, as well he uses a much older style of typeface. This creates a cheeky, yet entertaining alphabet book for both children and the adults who may also be reading this book with them.

Even though most people knew this rhyme, by the late 1800s it was considered “old”! The book was priced at one shilling, or you could pay two-and-sixpence to have it “coloured throughout”.



- *My Own First Book: a picture alphabet for little folks.* New Jersey: Charles E. Graham & Co, 1890.





- *Little Housewife ABC: Father Tuck's Little Folks Series*. London: Raphael Tuck & Sons, 1900.
  - This book is a good example of a themed alphabet book. All the text and illustrations revolve around the management of the home and kitchen by little girls posing as “housewives”. The verses give instructions on different aspects of household management as well as exhorting the young female reader (this particular Little Folk book was clearly aimed at young girls!) to work hard and do all these jobs properly.
- Nister, Ernest. *Noah's Ark: an Alphabet of Animals*. Illustrated by Montefiore, Stanley E.B. London: Ernest Nister, 1900.
  - Ernest Nister (1842-1909) owned a printing company in Germany which opened offices in London in 1888. He produced a wide-range of illustrated materials, including books for children. This alphabet book, with both black and white, and colour pictures focuses on the animals to be found on Noah's Ark. Each letter and animal has a jaunty verse to accompany it, but not all of the verses have a corresponding picture.
  - Nister is best known for the moveable books his company started producing in the 1890s. The company introduced books with automatic pop-ups using pull-tabs and discs that were put together by hand.
- *My ABC Book*. Ohio: Saalfield Publishing, 1904.
  - Part of the Arkley Collection of Early and Historical Children's Literature.
  - Saalfield Publishing was started in 1900 in Ohio and became one of the largest publishing companies to produce books for children in the US. They published works by many famous authors such as Louisa May Alcott, Dr. Seuss, Anna Sewell, Herman Melville, and Johanna Spyri.
  - This alphabet book is part of their cloth book series printed on muslin... may be the start of parents teaching “enfants” or toddlers by reading alphabet books to them at home. The colours appear as bold now as when it was first made.



G H I

To be continued in the next YAACING newsletter...

If you are interested in the full display text and accompanying bibliography, please email Sarah directly:  
[Sarah.Bagshaw@vpl.ca](mailto:Sarah.Bagshaw@vpl.ca)

*Sarah Bagshaw is a Children's Librarian at Vancouver Public Library, a book-lover, fibre enthusiast, gardener, and all-round geek.*



# Call for Submissions

YAACING is published quarterly and is always looking for submissions of interest to children's and teen specialists in BC libraries. We accept articles, program descriptions and ideas, conference reports, reviews, felt stories and more. If you would like to write a regular column, send us a brief pitch. Submissions should be no more than 1500 words, sent in an editable format (not PDF). Please include a byline with your job title and workplace; for students, please include a byline with your school/program. YAACING invites your contributions to our Reviews and Felt Story sections.

**Reviews:** Please send us reviews of books, blogs, websites, or other resources. Submissions should be no more than 300 words. Longer reviews may be considered for publication as featured articles.

**Felt Stories:** Share your creativity! YAACING is looking for felt story patterns. Submissions should include a printable pattern, photograph of the finished product, and related rhyme or note about the origin of the story.

**The deadline for the next issue of YAACING is September 15, 2021. Please email your submissions to the editors at [YAACING@gmail.com](mailto:YAACING@gmail.com).**