

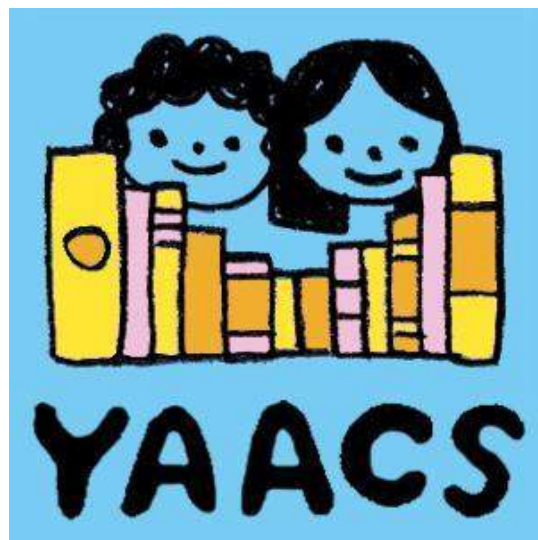
YAACING

WINTER 2022

HELLO!



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.

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YAACING's editors would like to acknowledge that we work on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples including the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. This issue features pieces from what is currently known as Metro Vancouver which includes ancestral and unceded territory from many nations. If you would like to learn which territories you occupy, we recommend native-land.ca

Cover Art by Dawn Lo

Editors: Raoul Fernandes and Sabrina Gurniak

Artistic Director: Sabrina Gurniak

Next Deadline: May 15, 2022

Message from the Chair

It's a new year, with new possibilities and excitement! There are many things to look forward to in 2022. Restrictions are lifting, the weather is improving, there truly is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Achievements so far this year include our Terms of Reference being approved by the board! It is a huge relief to finally have this work completed and to not be the very last BCLA Section to have it done. Phew! Thank you to Patricia Lesku and Rhiannon Wallace for their efforts in helping to create this important document.

For a brief period it looked as though we might be able to host an in person YSI this year, however as Omicron surged on, and decisions had to be made, we elected to follow the lead of BCLC and made the difficult choice to offer YSI as an online event again for 2022. This half day event which will be held on Thursday, April 14 will showcase presentations from HELP BC (Human Early Learning Partnership) as well as an author from CWILL (Children's Writers and Illustrators) along with the return of our ever popular Lightning Talks! I'm confident it will be a wonderful day full of learning and inspiration. Keep an eye on the Listserv because registration will be opening very soon. If you have any questions about YSI 2022, I encourage you to get in touch with me.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sabrina Gurniak who has generously offered to take on the role of Artistic Director, in addition to her existing role as co-editor. The last issue that she created was beautiful and I am confident that YAACING is in good hands under her keen artistic eye.

Lastly, I know that some folks have recently been experiencing an increase in spam, especially from emails that look like they originated from a YAACS Executive member. Please know that I have spoken with Rina who has looked further into the matter and the breach has been corrected. Further, all personal emails have been removed from the website leaving only our YAACS email addresses. If you continue to receive YAACS related spam, please send me an email at yaacsbcc@gmail.com.

For now, have a terrific start to 2022, take time to breathe and take time for yourself. I look forward to "seeing" you at YSI in April.

Kate Wood
Chair 2021-2022
YAACS, BCLA Section

Message from the Editors

Hello colleagues!

This is our Winter Issue but in some parts of the province it feels downright Spring-like! We hope that wherever you are reading this, you're able to stay cozy. We've got lots of exciting pieces for you this quarter, starting with announcements from the Red Cedar Award and the Pacific Northwest Library Association's Young Reader's Choice Awards. We've also got a write-up from Vanessa Bedford Gill promoting the upcoming PICTURING CANADA exhibit by SLAIS students at UBC's Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) & Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

There are so many stories to share this issue! Jbrary's Lindsey highlights her favourite books for storytime from 2021 and gifts us with extension ideas for each pick! Sadie's New and Notable Books list keeps growing and so does this editor's "to be read" pile! We're very excited to feature an introduction to the creative team and a sneak peek at the art work for this year's BC Summer Reading Club. The SRC theme is All Together Now and we can't wait to see the rest of the illustrations! We're also featuring Rhiannon and Elizabeth from West Van Memorial Library's Tools for Virtual Coding Programs full of excellent resources and tips, and we have the next segments of Anita's Arabic Children's Literature series and Sarah's Alphabet Exhibit. Thanks to all of our stellar contributors!

We hope to connect with some of our readers at this year's Youth Services Institute, and please take a look at the BCLA member's website to make sure you're a YAACS member before our AGM! As always, please reach out if you have an idea for a contribution; we'll be happy to work with you. This issue is Vancouver-centric and it would be great to feature some other parts of the province! We're also always open to suggestions of what you want to read in YAACING if you're not looking to contribute a piece.

Your YAACING editors,

Sabrina Gurniak
Children's Librarian
Vancouver Public Library

Raoul Fernandes
Library Public Service Associate
Vancouver Public Library

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Something to share on social media?



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Thursday, April 14, 2022

YOUTH SERVICES INSTITUTE (VIRTUAL)

With presentations from:

- HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership)
- CWILL BC (Children's Writers and Illustrators)

REGISTRATION RATES:

BCLA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: \$20

BCLA INDIVIDUAL NON-MEMBERS: \$30

STUDENTS: \$10

REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

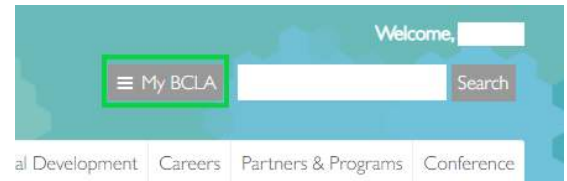


There's still time to make sure you're officially a YAACS member!

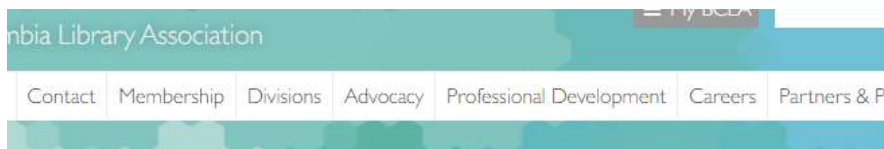
Do you love YAACS and all it has to offer? Did you know that in order for YAACS to maintain our designation as an official BCLA Section, we need to meet minimum membership requirements? This is separate from the YAACS listserv so if you're a BCLA member, please take a moment to make sure you're an official member of the section.

1. Log in to your BCLA account at bclaconnect.ca

2. Click on My BCLA in the top right corner



3. From your MyBCLA Home page, click on "Sign up for Sections, Committees, Interest Groups"



MyBCLA Home

MyBCLA Dashboard – View all your past transactions

[Sign up for Sections, Committees, Interest Groups](#)

[Edit Profile](#) – Update your profile information, including your mailing and email addresses

4. Make sure that your email address is correct and that the box for the Young Adults and Children's Section is ticked! You can also sign up for any other Sections, Committees, and Interest Groups you'd like here.



BCLA Mission

Advancing Libraries Together

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Please choose the Sections, Committees, Interest Groups you are interested in participating in.

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- Sections:
- BC Academic Librarians Section
 - Library Technicians & Assistants' Section
 - Young Adults and Children's Section



5. Click "Save" at the bottom of the page.

Red Cedar Book Awards: BC's Kids Voter Choice Awards



By: Marilyn MacPherson, President,
Young Readers' Choice Awards of British Columbia.

Did you know that the Red Cedar Book Awards is BC's only kids' choice award? That means that kids in grades 4-7, read and vote for their favourite fiction and non-fiction books. The reading starts in September, voting takes place in May, and the results are announced in June. The Award's goal is to get kids excited about Canadian kidlit and to let them know more about Canadian publishing and how a book is created - from story idea to sitting on the bookstore or library shelf.

Only in BC you ask? You can find young readers' choice book awards (YRCAS) across Canada from the Atlantic provinces' Hackmatack Award, to the Rocky Mountain Award in Alberta. For a complete listing, take a look at the [Red Cedar Book Awards list](#).

The Award was started in 1996 as a school-based literacy program and the first book awards went to [In Flanders Fields: The Story of the Poem](#) by John McCrae for non-fiction and to [Amy's Promise](#) by Bernice Thurman Hunter for fiction in 1998. You may notice the two year gap between when the Award started and the first posted winners. This is because before the Award could start, the organizers had to create a society under the BC Societies Act. This society, the Young readers' Choice Awards Society of British Columbia, ensures that both it and the Award are compliance with provincial, federal, and international laws and regulations.

While the Award first started out as a school-based program, the Society realized that this focus needed to be widened to include all readers in the province. The other YRCAS are also starting to expand their programs beyond school walls.

This year there are some awesome books to be read. [Bringing Back the Wolves](#), and [How I Survived](#) are just a few of the inspiring and informative non-fiction titles that you can find on the Red Cedar Non-fiction Nominee list. While Red Cedar Fiction nominees range from [The Barren Grounds](#) to [Yara's Spring](#).

Both the Award and the Society are run by volunteers and we invite you to join one of the great teams from Social Media to Selections to the Society itself. And this is a great time to join as we are in an exciting new phase of growth!

For more information about the Award, please take a look at the Red Cedar Book Awards website. Or drop us a line at redcedaraward@gmail.com.

Marilyn MacPherson is a children's librarian, passionate supporter of Canadian Kidlit, and becoming an enthusiastic long-distance bike rider.

Young Reader's Choice Award 2022 Nominees

Since 1940 young readers in the Pacific Northwest (Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington) have been participating in the Young Reader's Choice Award (YRCA). The award was established in 1940 by Harry Hartman, a Seattle bookseller, who believed every student should have an opportunity to select a book that gives him or her pleasure. The Young Reader's Choice Award is sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Library Association and continues to be the longest-running children's choice book award. It is also the only international award with young readers in both Canada and the United States participating in the program.

Anyone in grades four through twelve in the Pacific Northwest who has read (or has listened to) a title(s) from the list can vote. Voting takes place from March 15 - April 15. Happy Reading!

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

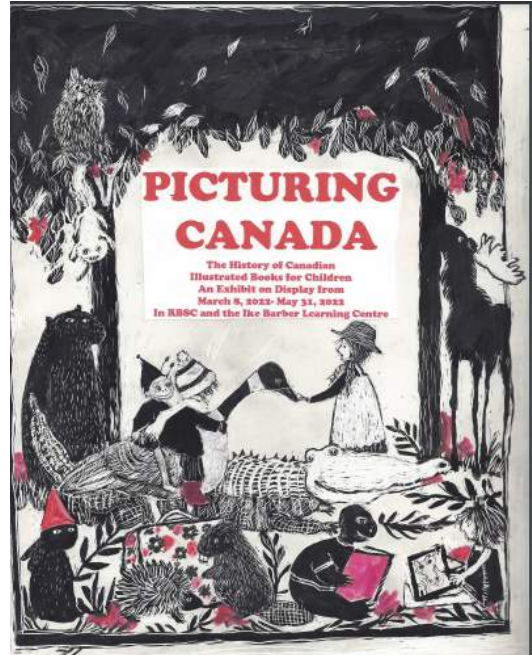


Noreen Ma is the Pacific Northwest Library Association's BC Rep for the Young Reader's Choice Awards. She can be reached at nma75@shaw.ca

PICTURING CANADA: An Exhibit on The History of Canadian Illustrated Books for Children

By Vanessa Bedford Gill

Sometimes, the process of curating and designing an exhibition is a journey, not a destination. This is certainly true for the seven UBC MLIS students who are navigating the choppy waters of the pandemic and campus closures to bring Picturing Canada to life this month. We have spent the last six months researching and selecting over 120 Canadian children's books, representing nearly two hundred years of Canadian illustrated literature.



The 12 cases include displays of early Canadian books, Governor General Award books, picture books with Indigenous authors and illustrators, and an Anne of Green Gables collection. The exhibition is divided between the RBSC library and the second floor of the Irving K. Barber building. It would be remiss of me not to mention two important people who are helping us to the finish line. Enter UBC adjunct professor, Dr. Kathie Shoemaker and RBSC Librarian, Chelsea Shriver. These two book lovers have answered endless questions, assisted with curation decisions and helped to blend all of our book choices into a cohesive display.

PICTURING CANADA: An Exhibit on The History of Canadian Illustrated Books for Children runs March 8 to May 31, 2022 at UBC Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) & Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

Vanessa is a second-year MLIS student and a student librarian at WVML and UBC Biomedical Library.

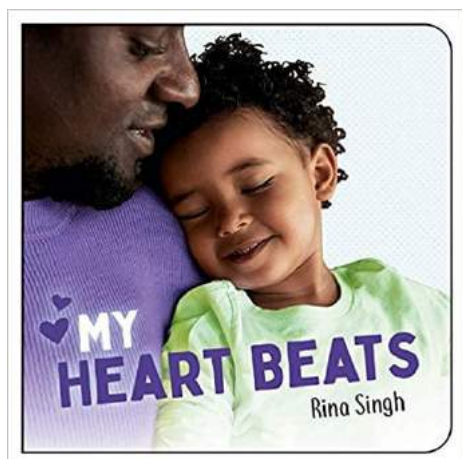


Jbrary: We'll Link to That! : 2021 Storytime Books

By Lindsey Krabbenhoft

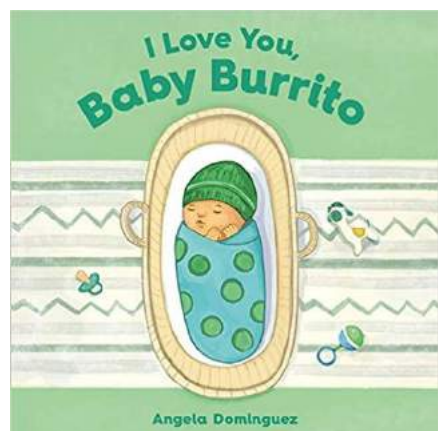
January is a great month. In the midst of the freezing temperatures and post-holiday blues comes a shining gift from me to you: My [annual storytime favourites list](#)! I've been rounding up my favourite storytime books published each year since [2013](#). This year there are 46 beauties waiting to be the star of your next storytime. I've picked out some of my favourites from the group and added an extension activity for some extra inspiration. Whether you are sharing these in-person, outdoors, or online, I hope the magic of telling stories with families brings you joy this year.

For Babies



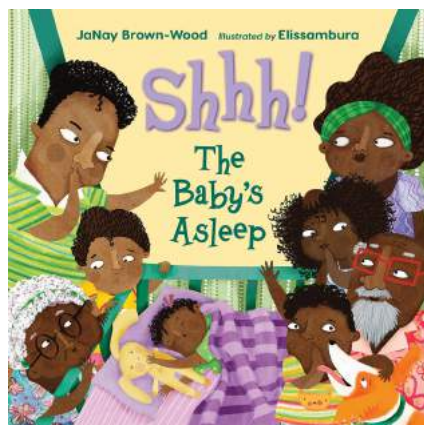
My Heart Beats by Rina Singh

Practice making all the sounds of a heart beating in this photograph-filled board book. Caregivers can pat out the thumping on their baby's back or tummy. For a personalized version, sub in the names of the babies at your program. Follow it up with [Put Your Puppet on Your Heart](#) as a lovely way for caregivers to continue interacting with their little one by patting the parts of the body as you sing.



I Love You, Baby Burrito by Angela Dominguez

Welcome baby home with a mix of Spanish and English. My favourite pages are the swaddling demonstration which could lead to a group sharing exercise after the book. Try making a set of April's [adorable hearts](#) with "I Love You" written in different languages to go along with the song [Yo Te Amo](#).



Shhh! The Baby’s Asleep by JaNay Brown-Wood; illustrated by Elissambura

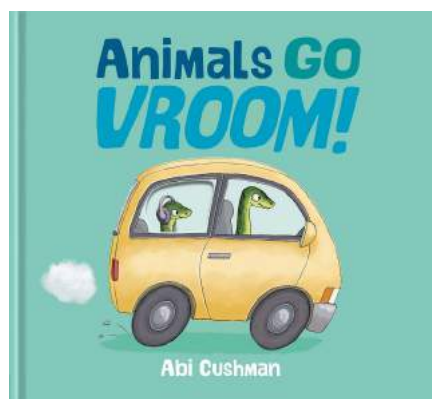
Will this noisy family be able to stay quiet while the baby sleeps? Find out in this sound-filled family endeavor. Get caregivers to say the repeating title phrase with you to maximize the power of the shush. If reading it to toddlers and preschoolers, you can't miss a chance to sing [Sleeping Bunnies](#) after the book.

For Toddlers



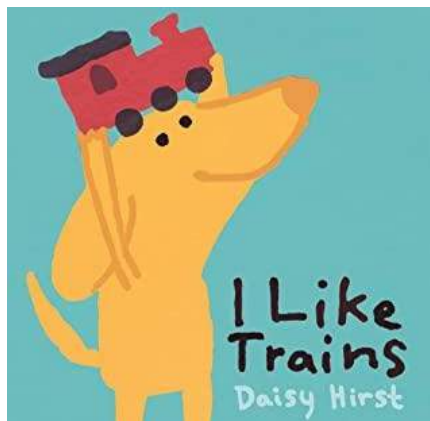
We All Play by Julie Flett

I love how Flett mirrors the natural and human world in her exploration of playfulness. The text is brief and repetitive. It works for all ages and virtual storytimes. To extend the theme, check out this [guest post](#) with tons of ideas for modeling pretend play at storytime.



Animals Go Vroom! by Abi Cushman

Guessing game gold! If you have wriggly toddlers this is the book to pull out. It's fast and fun and families will be begging to check it out afterward. Want another guessing game? Why not try one of the many variations of [Little Mouse, Little Mouse](#).



I Like Trains by Daisy Hirst

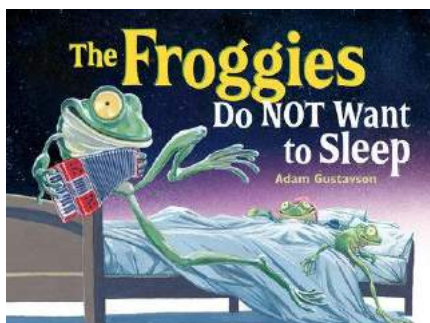
We all know the kid who comes to storytime and asks for books about trucks, diggers, airplanes, and anything else that goes. This book is for them! The big bright pages translate well to a socially distanced audience. See if you can spot another train book on the list - they'd make a great pair at storytime! I'm dying to make a [train flannel set](#) to use after reading.

For Preschoolers



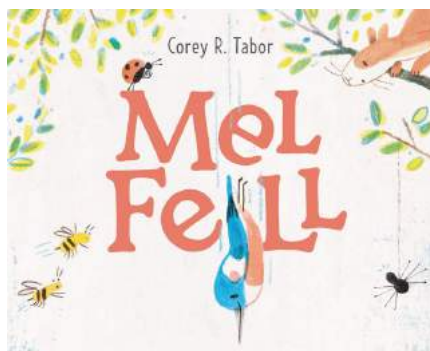
Best Day Ever! by Marilyn Singer; illustrated by Leah Nixon

Stories featuring kids who use wheelchairs are hard to come by, and I am always looking to diversify my storytime picks. In this one a boy and his dog go from the best day to the worst day to the best day again. I recommend it for preschoolers all the way up to grade 2. Get the kids up and moving afterward with something like [My Dog Rags](#).



The Froggies Do NOT Want to Go to Sleep by Adam Gustavson

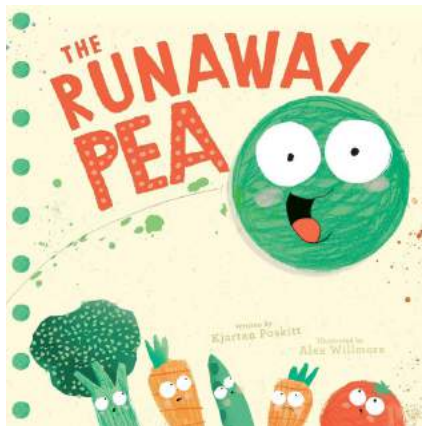
I usually skip books about frogs because the illustrations creep me out. I'm still a little weirded out by these frogs but the storyline got me! If you do pyjama storytime this is a must-read. The frogs think of every outlandish excuse not to go to bed. If you want to keep with the amphibian theme try [5 Green and Speckled Frogs 5 Ways](#).



Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor

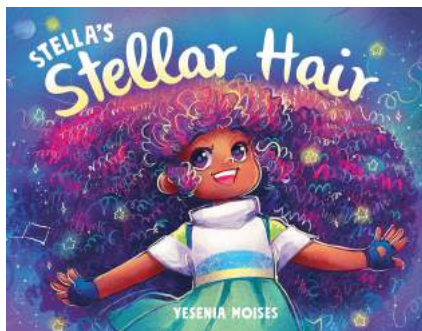
Tabor is one of my new favourite writers of storytime books. Follow a kingfisher's flight path that will require some fun book manipulation. It would be super fun to sing [all 9 verses of Two Little Blackbirds](#) (Kingfishers?) before diving into this one.

For School-age Kids



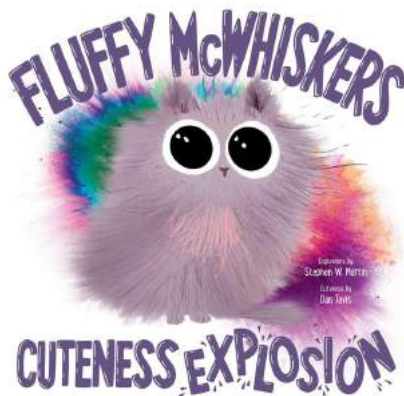
The Runaway Pea by Kjaratan Poskitt; illustrated by Alex Wilmore

A butt is literally on fire in this book. I mean it's a pea butt but still! School-age kids will giggle the whole way through this rhyming story of escape. It pairs perfectly with the [Fruit Salad song](#) as you can encourage kids to think of their own veggie verses.



Stella's Stellar Hair by Yesenia Moises

A book about outer space AND cool hairstyles? Yes, please! Join Stella as she travels around on her hoverboard visiting her aunties for a hair emergency. The rhyming and repetition are spot on. I think it pairs well with [Interstellar Cinderella](#) for a girl power space storytime.



Fluffy McWhiskers: Cuteness Explosion by Stephen W. Martin; illustration by Dan Tavis

Major lolz in this cautionary tale of a cat so cute it makes everything explode. Fluffy tries to tame the cuteness but all her efforts are in vain. School-age kids will get this level of humour and enjoy the cartoon-like illustrations. I'd follow it up with a rendition of [Cool Cat](#) using the names of the kids in your group.

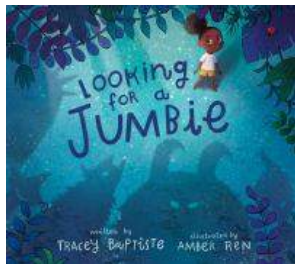
[Visit Jbrary](#) to see the complete list and browse lists from years past! Did you have a favourite I missed? Feel free to leave a comment on the blog post or email jbrary@gmail.com.

New and Noteworthy Books

By Sadie Tucker

So many books, so little time. This column gets longer with each issue, but I just can't help myself! Here are some (okay, a whole bunch of) recent titles that I am excited about.

Picture Books – Babies & Preschoolers

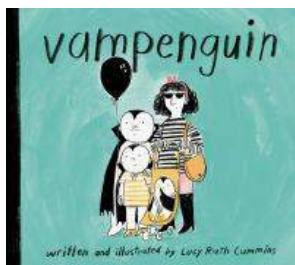


LOOKING FOR A JUMBIE

Baptiste, Tracey

3-6 years

It's the perfect night to find a jumbie. A scary one at that! As a young girl traipses through the woods in search of scary jumbies, she runs into quite a few friendly ones. A fun contender for monster or creature-themed group storytimes.

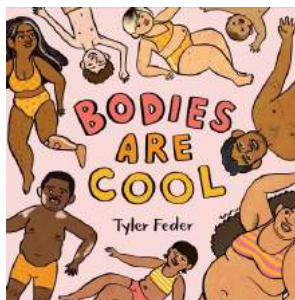


VAMPENGUIN

Cummins, Lucy Ruth

3-6 years

The Dracula family is spending the day at the zoo. As they visit exhibit after exhibit, they are so enamoured of the animals that they don't notice that their toddler has switched places with a penguin. The dry text pairs nicely with the illustrations, creating a droll picture book that will have young readers laughing.

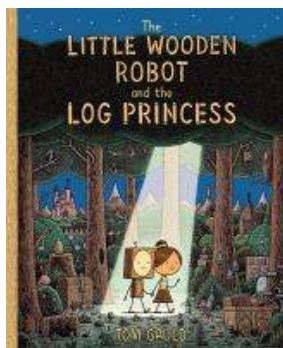


BODIES ARE COOL

Feder, Tyler

3-8 years

A rhythmic ode to the wonder of bodies and all the forms that they take. From hair to scars to specific body parts (like eyes) the text and pictures celebrate the diversity of humanity. The busy illustrations include a vast array of people. An affirming read.



THE LITTLE WOODEN ROBOT AND THE LOG PRINCESS

Gauld, Tom

3-8 years

When a king and queen long for children, they engage the services of an inventor and a talented witch. The result is a wooden robot and a log princess that are beloved by their parents. The siblings love each other very much, so when the log princess is lost the wooden robot does not hesitate to set out and find her. A charming and fresh fairytale.



DUMPLINGS FOR LILI

Iwai, Melissa

3-6 years

Lili is helping her Nai Nai to make delicious baos! When her grandmother discovers that they don't have any cabbage, Lili agrees to ask a neighbour if they have some. It turns out that Babcia has cabbage, but needs potatoes. Perhaps Granma upstairs has some potatoes that Babcia could borrow? But what if Granma needs something, too...?

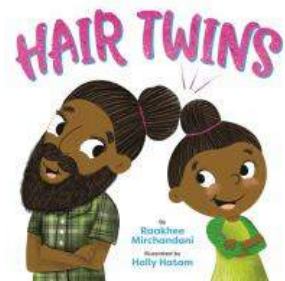


THE MORE THE MERRIER

Martin, David

2-5 years

A great option for an active storytime read! Bear is moving through the forest, stepping high and stepping low. Then moose comes along. Moose can't step like bear, but they can galumph! As various animals join one by one, they do their own special move like slithering, jumping, and skipping.

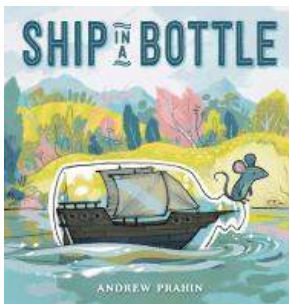


HAIR TWINS

Mirchandani, Raakhee

3-7 years

A little girl and her dad both have long hair and have many fun rituals around hair care: From combing it with coconut oil to doing a little dance when freeing it from a braid or bun.

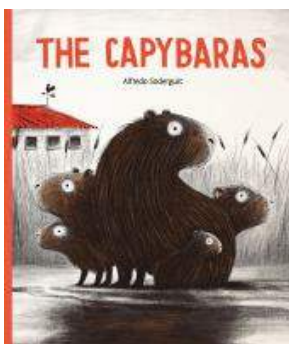


SHIP IN A BOTTLE

Prahin, Andrew

3-7 years

Mouse has set off to find a new home, preferably where there is not a cat who would like to eat her. As she journeys down the river in her ship-in-a-bottle, she encounters lovely landscapes and new animals. But will she manage to find a community that doesn't just want her for her gingersnaps? A gentle journey with a warm ending.

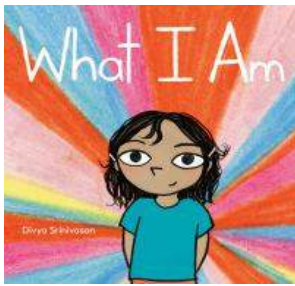


THE CAPYBARAS

Soderguit, Alfredo

3-8 years

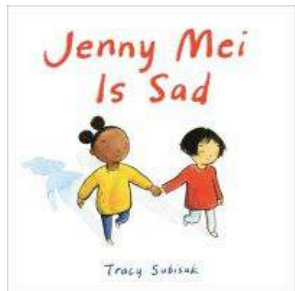
A group of chickens live on a farm and their lives are peaceful. Sure, the farmer occasionally removes a chicken who is never seen again, but the chickens know what is expected of them and do it with equanimity. When a family of capybaras appear, seeking refuge from the hunting season, the chickens allow them to stay if they remain in the water and don't interact. A quiet, understated book with a thoughtful and slightly subversive message. While the story is simple, school age readers will find juicy material to talk about.



WHAT I AM

Srinivasan, Divya
3-8 years

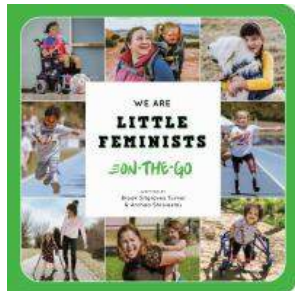
When a child is asked "What are you?" she embarks on an exploration of her identity and personality. Like everyone, she contains multitudes, some of which contradict.



JENNY MEI IS SAD

Subisak, Tracy
3-7 years

The narrator's friend, Jenny, is sad but it can be hard to tell sometimes. Jenny still acts silly and shares with classmates, but she also gets angry and acts out. During those times, the narrator asks if she is okay and then they get popsicles. Illustrations suggest that Jenny's sadness originates from a family upset or loss. Straight-forward, yet nuanced, and a fantastic discussion starter.



ON-THE-GO

Turner, Brook Sitgraves
0-3 years

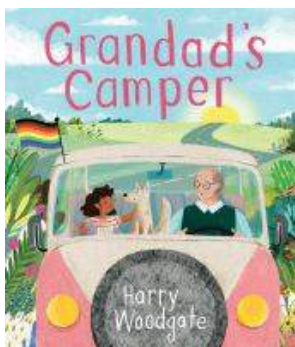
One of three titles in the "We Are Little Feminists" series (the other titles being "Hair" and "Families"). Each book demonstrates outstanding inclusivity. The text is simple and clearly displayed, demonstrating thoughtful design. Unfortunately, the books' small size makes them difficult to share in group settings.



LITTLE WITCH HAZEL: A YEAR IN THE FOREST

Wahl, Phoebe
3-7 years

Little Witch Hazel lives in the woods alongside magical creatures like dryads and small animals that can talk. In this collection of four stories, one for each season, readers witness the witch's kindness and the good-natured community that she lives in. Charming, evocative illustrations are quietly subversive in places. As Betsy Bird points out: "Anyone might write it off as a sweet looking bedtime book. And it IS a sweet bedtime book. It's just also smart, sassy, upsets the gender normies, is pro-breastfeeding in public, has a heroine that doesn't shave her legs, is body positive, portrays the differently abled... and is about a tiny witch in the woods."



GRANDAD'S CAMPER

Woodgate, Harry
3-7 years

A little girl loves visiting Grandad and Grandad loves telling her stories about when he and Gramps used to travel around in a camper van. Ever since Gramps died, the camper van has gone unused. Will the girl be able to convince her grandfather to fix it back up?

Picture Books – Big(ger) Kids

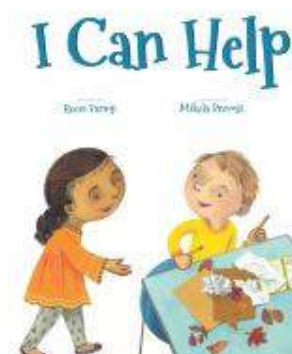


THE GREAT WHIPPLETHORP BUG COLLECTION

Brashares, Ben

K-gr.3

Chuck's family has just moved into a new neighbourhood and he's bored. Upon learning that his grandfather collected bugs as a kid, Chuck decides to follow in his footsteps. He doesn't have the stomach to kill the bugs in order to mount them, but he figures out something better. A great story that features wry humour and gently pushes back against traditional expectations of males' roles and responsibilities.



I CAN HELP

Faruqi, Reem

K-gr.4

Zahra loves helping a classmate named Kyle. He has trouble with things like cutting and writing, but is a great artist and drummer. When Zahra overhears another student making fun of Kyle and judging those who help him, Zahra stops helping Kyle. Based on the author's own experiences, this story does not have a tidy ending - heightening the impact of the protagonist's actions and her regret.

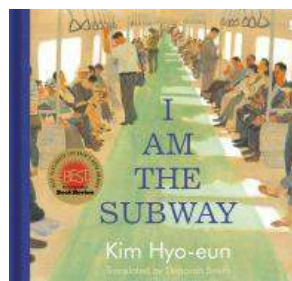


OUT INTO THE BIG WIDE LAKE

Harbridge, Paul

K-gr.3

When Kate goes to stay with her grandparents for the summer, she is pretty nervous. The trip involves lots of firsts - in particular, helping to navigate her grandparents' small boat over the lake to deliver groceries to local residents. When her grandfather falls ill, will Kate be able to do it on her own?



I AM THE SUBWAY

Kim, Hyo-ün

K-gr.4

A subway that travels all around Seoul introduces some of its favourite passengers. Each one provides a short autobiography, highlighting the internal lives and unique histories that can be found inside each one of us.



WHAT ARE YOUR WORDS? A BOOK ABOUT PRONOUNS

Locke, Katherine

PreK-gr.3

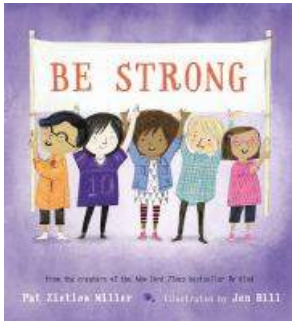
Ari's Uncle Lior has come for a visit. As they walk through the neighbourhood heading to a summer party, they meet many neighbourhoods and discuss their "words": Their pronouns (including xe/xir, ey/em, and zie/zer) and adjectives that sum up their personality and current mood. Unfortunately, Ari is having a difficult time deciding what words to use today!



HOW TO MAKE A BIRD

McKinlay, Megan
K+

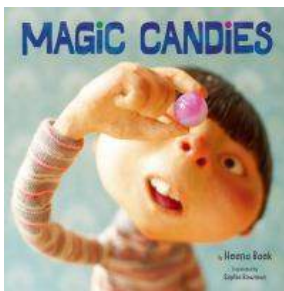
Narrated in the second person, this haunting, ethereal picture book narrates how to make a bird. By assembling hollow bones, feathers, and something for its sharp eyes, a bird is created. The bird is then given life by being held up in the air. The final step? Letting it fly free.



BE STRONG

Miller, Pat Zietlow
PreK-gr.4

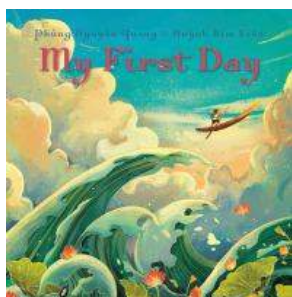
Tanisha can barely get onto the climbing wall at school, never minding getting to the top. Fortunately, she knows that strength doesn't mean just physical strength. It means trying your best, practicing even if you only improve in small steps, and helping others. An important exploration of values and the meaning of strength. The text may feel a bit childish for those in grade 4, but it can serve as a vital discussion starter.



MAGIC CANDIES

Paek, Hui-na
K-gr.4

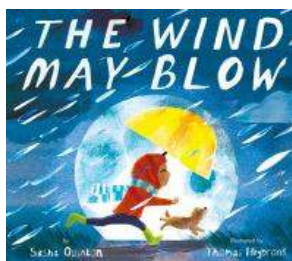
When Tong Tong buys a variety pack of strange candies, he is not prepared for them to be magical. Each candy gives him the ability to hear the words of something he previously could not communicate with (like the couch). Will the candies help him to open up with those close to him? Some criticism has been thrown at the title for being about hallucinogens but, while strange, the story is really about words unspoken. Truly lovely and sweet.



MY FIRST DAY

Phung, Nguyen Quang
K-gr.3

A boy sets off in a boat all by himself for the first time. It's a little scary and his imagination sometimes gets the better of him, but he bravely travels through the lush and beautifully illustrated jungle. Where could he be going?

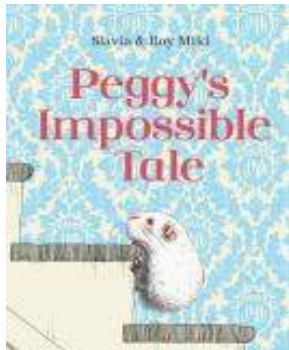


THE WIND MAY BLOW

Quinton, Sasha
PreK+

A child is told that things may not always go as planned and the skies may turn grey, but then are reassured that they will make it through and come out the other end whole. Lyrical text and creative book design make this a lovely read for young and old.

School Age Fiction – Primary



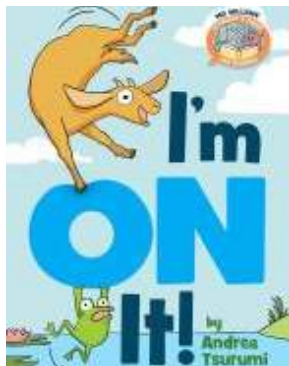
PEGGY'S IMPOSSIBLE TALE

Miki, Slavia

Animal fiction (illustrated fiction)

K-gr.3

Autobiography of a guinea pig? Yes, please! Peggy the guinea pig is special and so is her person, Lisa. Peggy can climb stairs and walk on a leash - unheard of! Chapters are a page long and mostly stand on their own, making this a fantastic choice for transitioning readers. It's adorable to boot!



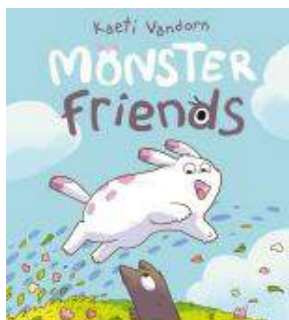
I'M ON IT!

Tsurumi, Andrea

Humorous fiction (reader)

Pres-gr.3

When Goat shows off standing on a wood stump, Frog decides to show off standing on a rock. Soon, a fierce competition develops as Goat and Frog take turns adding items to their precarious towers.



MONSTER FRIENDS

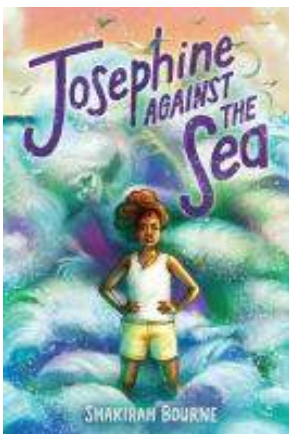
Vandorn, Kaeti

Fantasy (graphic novel)

Grades 2-5

Reggie, a one-eyed creature, is house-sitting his cousins' place over the summer while mentally recovering from a scary adventure. While there, he meets bouncy Emily who challenges him to try new things and to come out of his shell.

School Age Fiction – Intermediate



JOSEPHINE AGAINST THE SEA

Bourne, Shakirah

Paranormal fiction/Fantasy

Grades 4-7

Josephine has been able to scare away every woman that her father has dated since her mom died. Until now. Mariss just won't go. Even worse, she seems to have a hypnotic effect on others. Something about Mariss isn't right and Josephine will stop at nothing to figure out what it is.



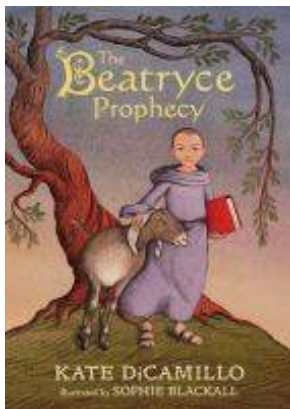
GENERATION MISFITS

Bowman, Akemi Dawn

Realistic fiction

Grades 4-7

Millie has finally convinced her parents to let her attend an actual school, but their expectations of her are still sky-high. When she secretly joins a J-Pop club, she finally makes some friends and they begin to plan a performance. But every member of the group has their own challenges and skeletons, and sometimes it's those secrets that can get in the way of true friendship.



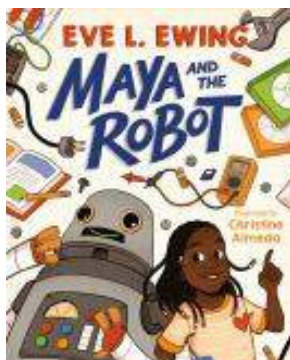
THE BEATRYCE PROPHECY

DiCamillo, Kate

Fantasy

Grades 3-6

When Beatryce is found at a monastery there is much confusion between the monks. How did she get to the monastery? Why did she go into the meanest goat's pen? How did she lose her memory? When the monks learn that she can read, she is thrown out to fend for herself. Accompanied by her new goat friend, a local boy, and an idealistic monk, Beatryce must figure out where she came from and why people are chasing her.



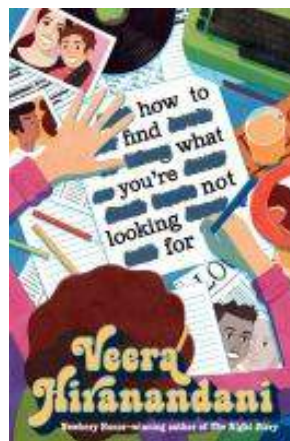
MAYA AND THE ROBOT

Ewing, Eve L.

Contemporary fiction/Science fiction

(illustrated) Grades 3-6

Maya is in a class without either of her friends, so she is feeling pretty lonely. When she discovers an incomplete robot, she decides that finishing it up is the key to problems. Her success leads to a new, robotic addition to her family but also brings along some problems.



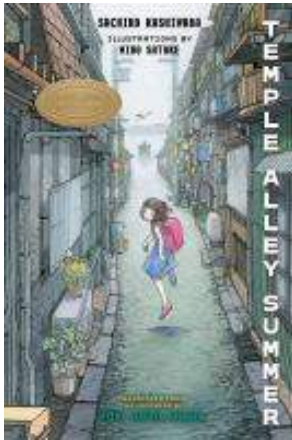
HOW TO FIND WHAT YOU'RE NOT LOOKING FOR

Hiranandani, Veera

Historical fiction

Grades 4-7

Ariel's beloved older sister has married a student from India in defiance of their parents and is now estranged from the family. Now Ariel is on her own trying to navigate her parent's xenophobia and judgment while also trying to keep her head down in order to avoid antisemitic bullies at school. Faced with all this change and stress, Ariel must find her voice. Told using a second person viewpoint in present tense.



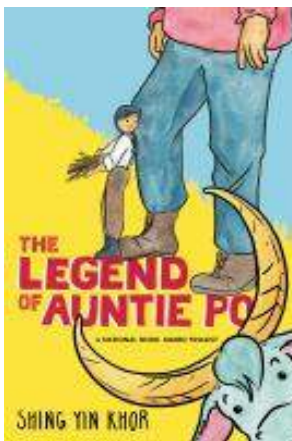
TEMPLE ALLEY SUMMER

Kashiwaba, Sachiko

Paranormal fiction (graphic novel)

Grades 3-7

After seeing a ghostly figure exit from his house one night, Kazu goes to school and encounters a new student that everyone swears has always been there. Having learned that his home sits on the site of an old temple rumoured to be able to bring people back to life, he and the once ghostly girl team up to ensure that she can stay with the living.



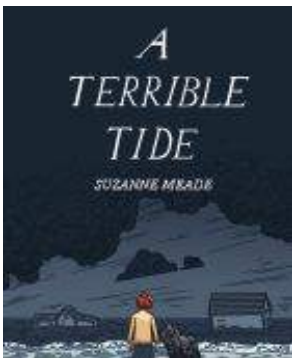
LEGEND OF AUNTIE PO

Khor, Shing Yin

Historical fiction/Fantasy (graphic novel)

Grades 5-8

Every night, Mei regales her father's logging crew with tales of Auntie Po and her magical water buffalo (clearly inspired by Paul Bunyan). When the entire logging crew, including her father, is fired, Mei begins to lose hope that things will ever become better. Then Auntie Po appears. A touching story, with an excellent author's note at the end. School Library Journal calls it, "A moving read that skillfully explores themes of racism, privilege, and identity."



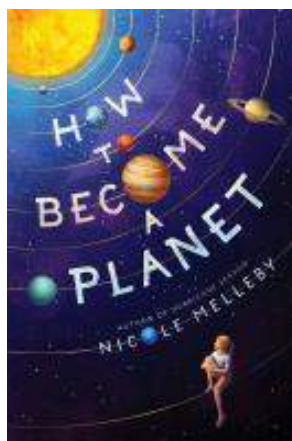
A TERRIBLE TIDE: A STORY OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND TSUNAMI OF 1929

Meade, Suzanne

Historical fiction/Survival

Grades 4-7

When a tsunami destroys 12 of the 17 houses in CeeCee's village, severs their newly installed phone line, and steals all but one of the village's dinghies the community is faced with a grim winter. Well researched and inspired by real events.



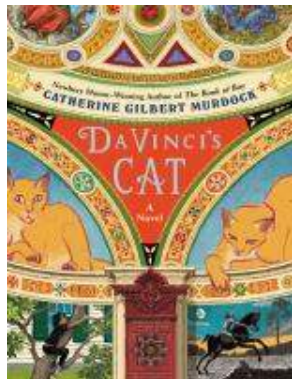
HOW TO BECOME A PLANET

Melleby, Nicole

Realistic fiction

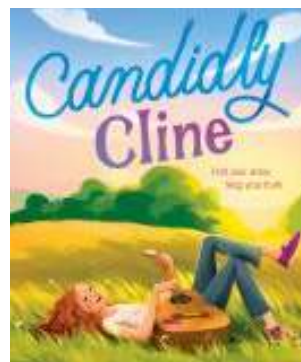
Grades 4-7

After a month of staying in bed and no longer wanting to do the things that she used to, Pluto has been diagnosed with depression and anxiety. While she has started medication and is scheduled to see a therapist, she devises her own plan for becoming the Pluto that she used to be. But is it really possible to revert back to her old self? What if that isn't possible? A number of reviewers have commended this title for accurately portraying the experience of depression.



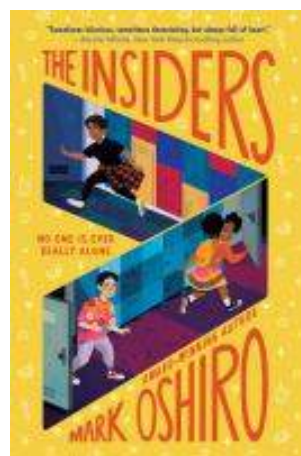
DA VINCI'S CAT: A NOVEL
Murdock, Catherine Gilbert
Fantasy/Mystery/Historical
Grades 4-7

Federico lives in 16th century Rome and leads a pampered, but isolated, life as a hostage of the pope. Bee lives in 21st century New Jersey and wants to help her elderly neighbour resolve her financial struggles. When the two meet, thanks to a mystical cupboard that transports people through time, the two form an unlikely friendship while trying to fix the timeline that they inadvertently broke.



CANDIDLY CLINE
Ormsbee, Kathryn
Realistic fiction
Grades 5-8

Cline has been raised on country music and dreams of becoming a star. When the opportunity arises to attend a musicians' workshop, she tells some fibs to get in. The workshop is amazing and her assigned partner gives her butterflies. A charming coming of age novel.



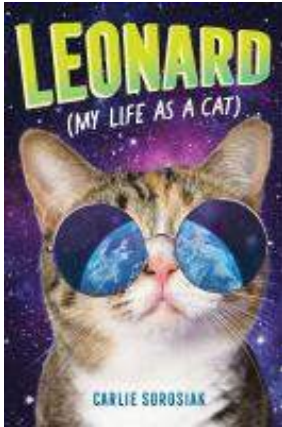
THE INSIDERS
Oshiro, Mark
Magical realism
Grades 4-7

When Héctor discovers a magical refuge in a supply closet, he soon meets two other kids from different corners of the country who have also stumbled upon the much-needed haven. As the year progresses, they become fast friends and navigate the often treacherous waters of both school life and intersectional identities.



SUMMER OF BRAVE
Parks, Amy Noelle
Realistic fiction/Romance
Grades 5-8

Lilla is quiet and doesn't like confrontation. She finds it easiest to keep her opinions to herself and, more than occasionally, tell white lies to avoid unhappiness. But sometimes you need to get a little uncomfortable in order to get what you need.



LEONARD (MY LIFE AS A CAT)

Sorosiak, Carlie
 Animal fiction/Science fiction
 Grades 4-7

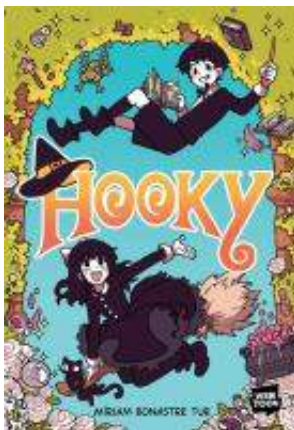
Leonard is an alien who has been granted a month to live like a human. Unfortunately, he loses his focus during his journey and arrives as a cat instead. Rescued by an 11-year-old girl of whom he is growing increasingly fond, Leonard only has a month to get to his rendezvous point. If he misses it he'll become mortal and be stuck as a cat forever. But would that really be so bad?



FAST PITCH

Stone, Nic
 Realistic fiction/Sports fiction/Mystery
 Grades 4-7

Shenice is the captain of her fast-pitch softball team and has a lot of responsibility on her shoulders. Her team, the only all-Black team in the league, is headed to the regional championships. When she finds out that her great-grandfather may have been framed for theft in order to prevent him from playing in the majors, Shenice's focus splits - the last thing you want when your team is depending on you.



HOOKY

Tur, Míriam Bonastre
 Fantasy/Adventure (graphic novel)
 Grades 4-7

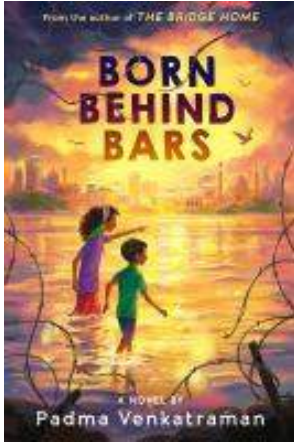
In this adaptation of a popular Webtoons comic, twins Dani and Dorian find themselves trying to prove that they are not traitors while simultaneously unravelling an evil conspiracy. A number of readers on GoodReads have exclaimed this title to be a Harry Potter read-alike. It ends on a cliffhanger, so a sequel is guaranteed.



ERIK VS. EVERYTHING

Uss, Christina
 Humorous/Realistic fiction
 Grades 3-6

Erik's family embraces their Viking roots. So much so that they each have mottos that they embrace and goals that they pursue with ferocity. Erik does not fit the family's mould, as you'll find him on the sidelines avoiding danger at any cost. This summer, his sister is going to help him change that... whether he wants her to or not.



BORN BEHIND BARS

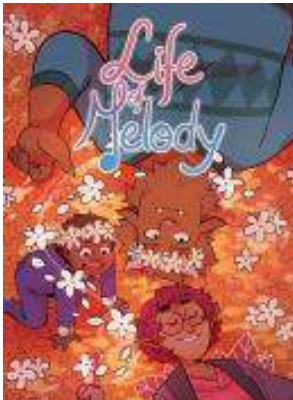
Venkatraman, Padma

Realistic fiction

Grades 4-8

Kabir was born in the prison in which his mother is being unjustly kept. Suddenly kicked out when the guards decide he is too old to be there, Kabir decides to track down his father's family and to find justice for his mother who is still in jail. Alongside a new friend, Kabir learns about life in India and navigates the complicated and harsh realities of being low-cast and poor.

High School



LIFE OF MELODY

Costa, Mari

Fantasy/Romance/Humorous fiction

Grades 7-10

When a fairy godfather and a beast man happen upon an abandoned human baby at the same time, they reluctantly agree to co-parent her in the human world. Now it's just the two of them in a ramshackle house with an infant. Will these two opposite personalities discover that they are perfect for each other?



EAT YOUR HEART OUT

deVos, Kelly

Horror/Satire

Grades 8+

Vivian is none too pleased to be going to a weight-loss camp, no matter how posh it is. She's healthy and sees no need to change her body even if the camp has a "miraculous cure" for being fat. The real threat to her health? The zombies that have just shown up.



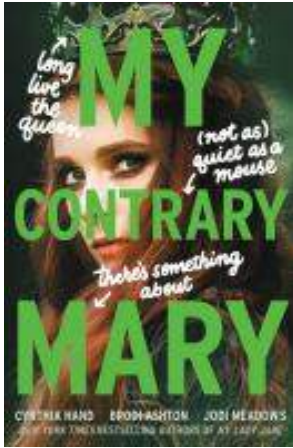
HOME IS NOT A COUNTRY

Elhillo, Safia

Contemporary fiction/Magical realism

Grades 7+

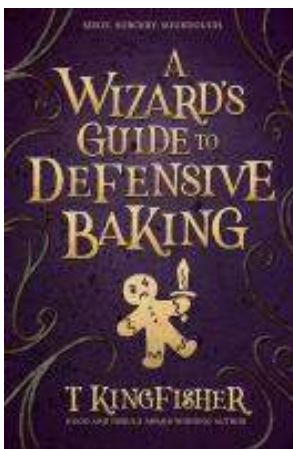
Nima lives with her single mother, mourning the life she could have had. If only she had been named Yasmeen instead of Nima. If only her father was still alive. If only they hadn't come to America. As she struggles to stay afloat amidst persistent bullying and the loss of her only friend, Nima meets Yasmeen, the person she could have been if everything was different.



MY CONTRARY MARY

Hand, Cynthia
 Historical fantasy/Humorous fiction
 Grades 8+

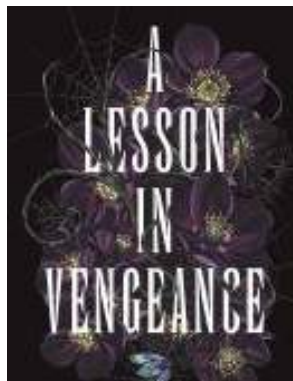
Mary Queen of Scots has lived in Paris most of her life and is betrothed to the crown prince, Francis. Her future is uncertain, however, as she can change into a mouse at will. The powers-that-be do not think kindly of shapeshifters. In fact, they execute them. Can she, Francis, and a seer who has visions strikingly similar to modern day blockbusters ensure that Mary's ability stays secret? First in a trilogy.



A WIZARD'S GUIDE TO DEFENSIVE BAKING

Kingfisher, T.
 Fantasy/Humorous fiction
 Grades 6-10

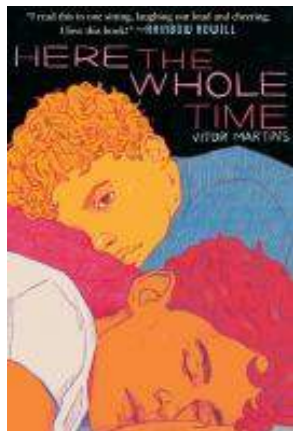
Mona's magic is all about baked goods. When she finds a dead body in the bakery, she discovers that there is an assassin on the loose who has it in for magic users. The local government has been turning on the wizard community causing magic users to leave in droves, which will make finding the culprit difficult. Even worse? The city is being threatened by a magical horde and there are no defensive or offensive wizards left to protect the city. Professional reviews are nearly non-existent, so the grade range is based on GoodReads comments.



A LESSON IN VENGEANCE

Lee, Victoria
 Mystery/Thriller
 Grades 9+

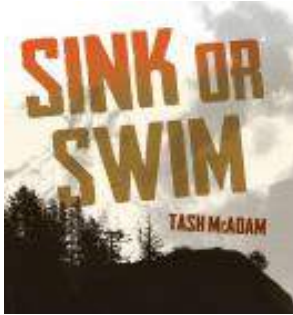
Felicity didn't finish out her senior year at Dalloway School due to the tragic death of her girlfriend. Felicity has returned to the boarding school, but is determined to leave behind the mysteries, stories, and black magic surrounding the death of 5 students centuries before. Alas, it is not to be.



HERE THE WHOLE TIME

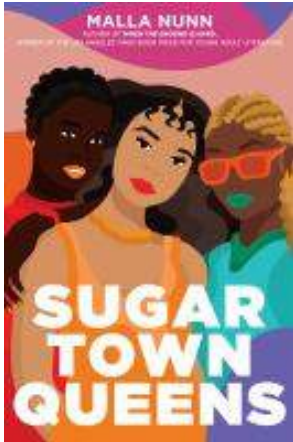
Martins, Vitor
 Realistic fiction/Romance
 Grades 9+

Felipe is fat and gets bullied for it. His therapist has recommended that he try reaching out socially but he prefers to keep to himself. When discovers that his neighbour, who he's had a crush on for years, will be sharing his room over winter break, Felipe is horrified. How can he chill out and be himself while simultaneously sharing space with Caio?



SINK OR SWIM
 McAdam, Tash
 Survival (hi-lo novel)
 Grades 7+

Quiet, reserved Bass isn't wild about skipping school for his first date with outgoing, athletic Rosie, but he's infatuated. When their, ahem, borrowed boat crashes onto a deserted island and Rosie is injured, Bass will risk it all to get help.



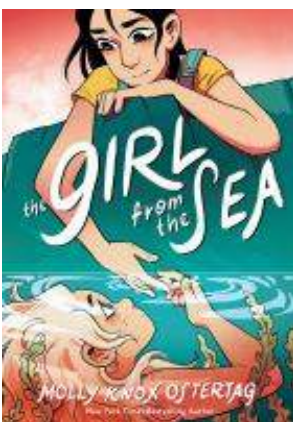
SUGAR TOWN QUEENS
 Nunn, Malla
 Realistic fiction
 Grades 7+

Amandla does not know who her father is, though her mother has always said that he would come back one day. She knows he's Black, since she is too and her mother is white, but that's it. She also knows nothing about her mother's family or history. When Amandla discovers a clue as to her mother's background, she discovers that her mother's family is wealthy. Why, then, have Amandla and her mother spent the last 15 years in a shanty town?



ALL OUR HIDDEN GIFTS
 O'Donoghue,
 Caroline Paranormal
 fiction Grades 9+

Maeve's desire for attention and popularity has had more than a few consequences, including losing her best friend, Lily. When she discovers an old tarot deck during detention she envisions a new avenue to her goals. But the fortunes she gives are eerily accurate and then a new card appears in her deck during a session with her ex-friend. Now Lily is missing and Maeve must figure out what happened to her before it's too late.



THE GIRL FROM THE SEA
 Ostertag, Molly
 Romance/Magical realism
 Grades 7+

Morgan likes leading a regimented life, marching towards the time she can leave her island community and truly be herself. When she falls into the ocean and is rescued by a selkie, called Keltie, her carefully laid plans go out the window. Now she has a burgeoning romantic relationship with a selkie who has just found her human legs and refuses to stay quiet. Will Morgan open up to both Keltie and her community or will she adhere to her self-imposed reticence?



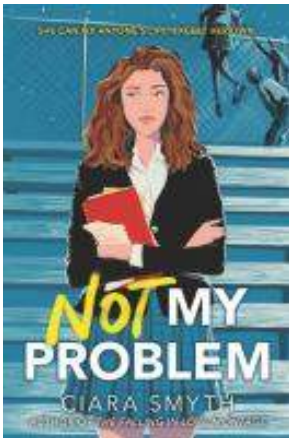
BLOOD LIKE MAGIC

Sambury, Liselle

Urban fantasy

Grades 9+

In order to ascend into her power as a witch, one of Voya's ancestors has decreed that she must kill her first love. Now Voya has a month to find her first love using a genetic matchmaker, fall in love, and then kill him. If she fails? Her entire family loses their power - which is their livelihood. First in a series.



NOT MY PROBLEM

Smyth, Ciara

Humorous fiction/Realistic fiction

Grades 8+

When Aideen finds her nemesis broken down in tears, overwhelmed with all of her extracurricular activities, Aideen offers a solution: A short tumble down the stairs and a sprained ankle. Her nemesis agrees to the plan and it works perfectly. Now other students are asking for solutions to their problems. Who is she to say no? As she gains friendships and an unexpected romance, Aideen begins to face the problems in her own life that are not so easily solved.

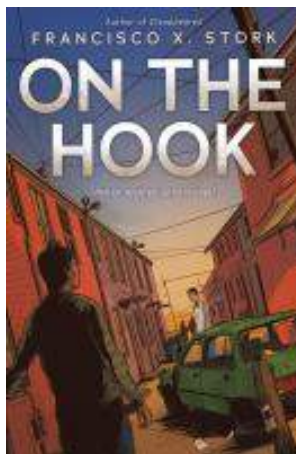
ON THE HOOK

Stork, Francisco X.

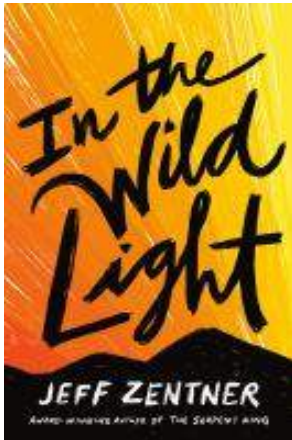
Realistic fiction

Grades 9+

Things have been tough for Hector and his family, but he's in a good place and thriving academically. The future looks bright until a threat and then a horrific act of violence leads to retaliation. Now Hector and the young man who murdered his brother are in the same reformatory school. Will Hector's deep-seated anger and thirst for vengeance destroy him or will he find another way?



Kirkus says, "Hector is an expertly crafted protagonist, roiling with guilt, grief, and a thirst for violence that threatens to consume him if he doesn't shift his perspective. What starts as a quiet drama quickly escalates to a potent, fiery story while remaining a deep meditation about cycles of violence." A re-envisioning of one of the author's previous titles.



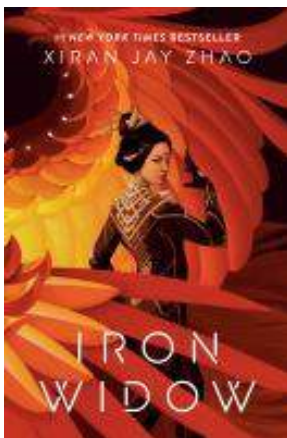
IN THE WILD LIGHT

Zentner, Jeff

Realistic fiction

Grades 9+

Cash is content in his small Tennessee town, wandering nature and living with his grandparents. Then his best friend discovers a fungus with antibacterial properties and suddenly the two are heading to a prestigious prep school. Thrust into a large and diverse student body, Cash struggles but finds solace in new friendships and poetry. Kirkus says, "The beauty of the language will invite readers to linger over sentences that speak to deep truths. A brilliant treasure of a book that holds up a mirror to the best parts of our humanity."



IRON WIDOW

Zhao, Xiran Jay

Science fiction

Grades 9+

Humanity is mired in an unending war with the Hunduns. In order to fight, they use large robots powered by male and female qi. The female pilot usually loses her life in the process, but no one seems to object. Until Zetian. In order to avenge her sister's death, she has willingly enrolled as a pilot concubine. Things will never be the same.

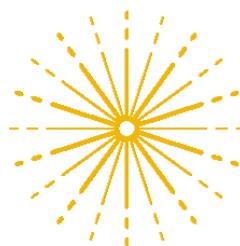
Sadie Tucker is a Children and Teens' librarian at the Vancouver Public Library.



All Together Now for BC Summer Reading Club 2022

By Stephanie Usher, Provincial Coordinator, BC Summer Reading Club

This summer, children and their families will celebrate this year's BC Summer Reading Club with our All Together Now theme at their local libraries. The theme is centred on creating connections and building communities in various shapes and



BRITISH COLUMBIA
**SUMMER
READING
CLUB**

forms. As we enter a second full year of living through the COVID-19 pandemic, library staff members across the province voted for a theme that signals hope and relationship building during an unprecedented and unpredictable time. While at the time of writing this article, it seems that we are still actively finding ways to pivot and readapt our programming and services for children and their families, we hope that this year's theme will encourage and inspire young people to find meaning in building connections to their libraries, communities, and their peers in a way that feels safe and inviting, while sharing the magic that is BC SRC.

We're excited to announce that we will be adding some additional features for libraries to the Online Reading Tracker and can't wait to share the updates at this year's virtual BCLA Conference and on our website in the Spring.

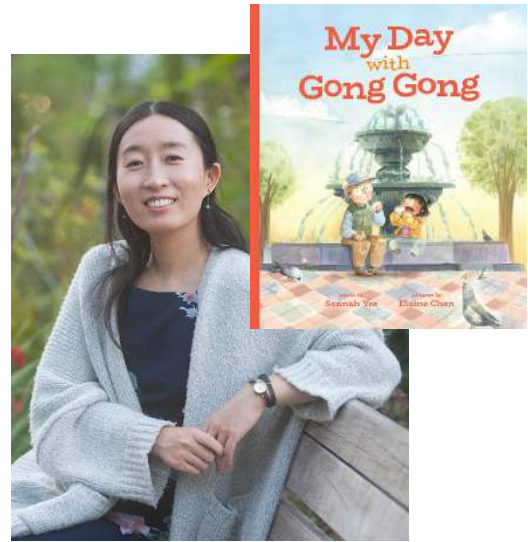
At this time, we also thank our Past Co-Chair Laura Zaytsoff and the Castlegar & District Public Library for all of the wonderful contributions made to BC SRC over the last three years. Laura helped the BC SRC make new strides towards a hybrid program and brought in her programming expertise and knowledge in working in a rural community. We are wishing Laura the very best and thank her for her dedication and hard work over these last three years.

Thank you!

FEATURES ●

This Year's Artwork

We are absolutely delighted to be working with Elaine Chen, a Vancouver-based artist and illustrator. Elaine's beautifully soft and whimsical illustration-style go perfectly hand in hand with this year's theme and we cannot wait for you to see the full collection of her illustrations. Be sure to check out Elaine's illustrations in *My Day with Gong Gong* by Sennah Yee and you can learn more about Elaine and her work at elainechen.ca.



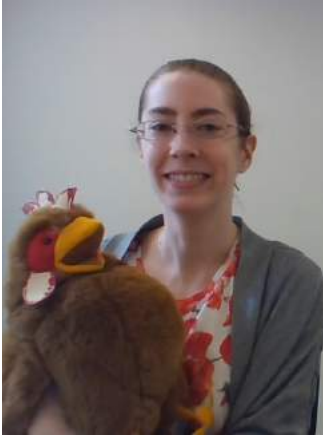
This Year's Sub-themes

This year, our wonderful co-chairs came up with the following sub-themes that best embodied All Together Now in all of its iterations:

- Community Connections - my neighbourhood, friends, school, & community helpers
- Hello World - travel & moving, world languages, international celebrations
- Dream Team - sports, organized group activities & games
- Great Outdoors - exploring our connection to the environment & the natural world
- Together, Apart - Internet & phone technology, long-distance communication (letters, postcards)
- All Kinds of Families - families (including found families) & family celebrations
- Let's Play Together - Working together, cooperation, & teamwork

Meet the Team

This Year's Co-Chairs



Alicia Dobbs, New Westminster Public Library, Outgoing Co-Chair

“I have been involved with the BC Summer Reading Club at the New Westminster Public Library since 2013, and I have been thrilled to work on the program as a co-chair since 2020. I think that this year’s “All Together Now” theme is particularly timely for this summer, when hopefully we will be able to do exactly that! Elaine Chen’s artwork has also done a fantastic job of capturing the warmth and joy of this theme, and I can’t wait for everyone to see the finished product.”



Jennie Castleton, Surrey Libraries, Incoming Co-Chair

“My name is Jennie Castleton and I'm a Youth Services Librarian at the Fleetwood Branch of Surrey Libraries. I've been in my position for 15 years and involved with SRC for all of them. I'm looking forward to doing programming this summer and connecting to our community. This year's theme is perfect for reconnecting with our SRC participants. We are "All Together Now" at the library (whether virtual or in person).”

BC SRC is currently looking for a new co-chair for BC SRC 2023! The term would begin in summer 2022 to begin the planning of next year’s program. Term commitments are for two SRC programs (in this case, 2023 and 2024). If you love all things BC SRC and currently work in one of BC’s public libraries and are involved with SRC in your library, please do not hesitate to apply. This is a wonderful professional development opportunity to get more involved with BC SRC on a provincial level, while sharing your insights into creating an inclusive, accessible, engaging, and dynamic program. For more information about applying, please visit bcsrc.ca/staff/volunteer

Applications will be accepted until May 31 and the position will begin in July 2022.

FEATURES ●

This Year's Content Creators

Every year, BC SRC produces a manual to help library staff across the province come up with fun and inclusive programs, storytimes, activities, and booklists to support their SRC programming. The manual is made possible by the support and resources from our Content Creators and their library systems. A special thank you goes to the following:

- Mehjabeen Ali and Surrey Libraries - Activity Sheets
- Corene Maret Brown and Port Moody Public Library - Storytimes
- Alicia Dobbs and New Westminster Public Library - Booklists
- Gina Gaudet and Vancouver Public Library - Programs, Younger Kids (ages 5-8)
- Wiena Groenewald and Fraser Valley Regional Library - Programs, Older Kids (ages 9-12)

A special thank you also goes out to Dr. Tess Prendergast and her LIBR 527 Students at UBC's iSchool for their work on the inclusion review.



Top left to right: Mehjabeen Ali of Surrey Libraries, Corene Maret Brown of Port Moody Public Library, and Gina Gaudet of Vancouver Public Library

Bottom left to right: Wiena Groenewald of Fraser Valley Regional Library and Dr. Tess Prendergast of UBC's iSchool

FEATURES ●

For more information about this year's BC SRC, please make sure to subscribe to the YAACS mailing list, follow [@BC SRC on Twitter](#), and visit www.bcsrc.ca/staff for updates.

Stephanie Usher lives, works, and plays on the traditional unceded homelands of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. She is the Provincial Coordinator for the BC Summer Reading Club, as well as a Library Technician in the Vancouver Public Library's Children's Library and MLIS candidate at UBC's iSchool.



**VOLUNTEER
WITH BC SRC**

We are looking for...

New BC SRC Co-Chair (two term commitment)	Content Creators for Annual Manual
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Why volunteer?

- Great way for you and your library to get involved with SRC
- A great professional development opportunity

VISIT BCSRC.CA/STAFF FOR MORE DETAILS INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSITIONS

Tools for Virtual Coding Programs

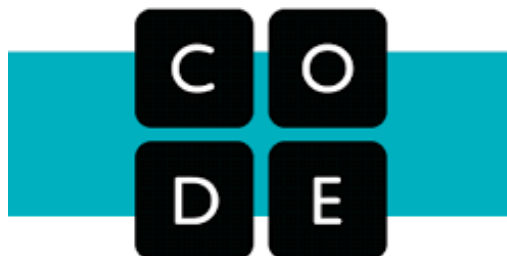
By Rhiannon Wallace and Elizabeth Bassett

During the pandemic, West Vancouver Memorial Library (WVML) has transitioned its youth technology programming online. Children and families have participated in Zoom sessions focusing on coding, graphic design, storytelling, and other topics using a variety of online tools and websites. As acting Digital Access Librarians, we have been introduced to a number of these tools and have used them both in already-existing programs and to develop new programs.

We have found that our participants, usually eight to twelve years of age, are especially interested in learning and practicing coding skills. With that in mind, we would like to share our thoughts on some of the tools that we have used in our virtual coding programs. Most of these use block coding, a visual form of coding that works well for beginners. In some of our programs, we also use the programming language Python and the markup language HTML.

[Code.org](https://code.org)

This is a great resource for instructors who are newer to coding because it has pre-made lessons that you can use for your programs. For example, WVML uses Code.org's tutorials in programs where participants use block coding to design virtual [dance parties](#) and code their own [flappy bird](#) games. Code.org's tutorials are free and openly available to use under a Creative Commons license. You can also do the lessons ahead of time to learn some new coding skills yourself. With a teacher account, you can conveniently set up classroom sections to keep track of student progress. For programs with higher enrollment, we find that setup can be time-intensive: each participant needs a separate invite with their own unique login code.



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CoSpaces

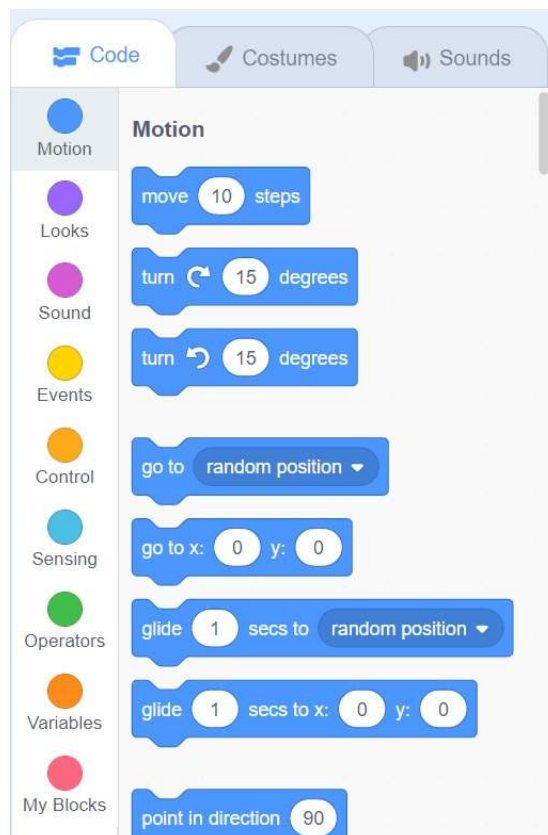
CoSpaces is an extended reality tool that includes coding along with other tools to create virtual 3D worlds. It has its own block coding language called CoBlocks, and there are more advanced coding options that we have not yet tried. We have found that participants get creative in CoSpaces, often adding code to their 3D worlds even when it's not explicitly part of the “challenge” in the class. The possibility of coding instructions and seeing them play out in a three-dimensional setting is an exciting element of CoSpaces that isn't necessarily present in other tools. CoSpaces requires a paid subscription while the other tools mentioned here are free.

MakeCode Arcade

On this free, open-source resource developed as part of the [Microsoft MakeCode](#) platform, kids can use block coding to create retro-style computer games. MakeCode Arcade's nostalgic feel can be a great way to encourage families to code together. Parents, grandparents, and other caregivers might be prompted to share their memories of playing similar games when they were young. Microsoft MakeCode also offers other types of activities and products that we haven't used yet.

Scratch

Scratch is a well-known tool that some of your participants may have already used in the past. Like Code.org, it is run by a nonprofit organization with the goal of providing education for children and youth. Scratch uses a Creative Commons license which allows you to tailor resources to your needs and remix existing projects created by other users. Like most of the other resources mentioned here, Scratch uses block coding. WVML program participants have used Scratch for a variety of projects, from telling animated stories to making games. As an instructor, you can adapt an existing project, base your program on a Scratch tutorial, or make something completely new!



Trinket

Trinket is a great tool for teaching well-known programming and markup languages like Python and HTML. It can feel a bit intimidating if you are new to teaching coding, because it's less visual and a little more 'bare-bones' than block coding tools like Scratch and Makecode Arcade. Don't let that stop you! Trinket includes some great tutorials for beginners and



we have found that the layout is simple to use. One advantage of using Trinket is that participants don't need to install anything on their computers to get started with a programming language like Python—they can do it all directly on the website. They will need an account in order to save their work, but they can also just experiment with coding as a 'guest' user.

Learning how to teach coding skills virtually has been challenging but also rewarding. It's exciting to see kids problem-solving in real time, and they constantly surprise us with their creativity. We encourage other library workers to consider these types of programs even if they are not themselves expert coders! The two of us are both new to many of the programming languages and coding tools we are using in our classes, and we recognize that teaching digital literacy skills can feel intimidating. It's also very rewarding—we've found that families appreciate the programs we're able to offer. We acknowledge our level of experience and try to stay open to learning as we go. Kids with some coding experience of their own are often enthusiastic about teaching us new things, which is beneficial to everyone in the class!

Rhiannon Wallace and Elizabeth Bassett are Acting Digital Access Librarians at West Vancouver Memorial Library

Building an Arabic Children’s Literature Collection - Part 2

A three part series on building Arabic children's collections in Canadian public libraries.

By Anita Fata

Challenges and Tips

An Arabic collection for children aged 0 to 5 should include the same diversity of formats found in an English collection. Baby board books, alphabet books, and picture books all play an important part. Based on demand, information books, early readers, chapter books and novels can also be considered. There are considerable challenges to building an Arabic children’s collection in Canada; linguistic differences, Arabic publishing conventions, price, and language barriers facing non-Arabic reading librarians. However, there are many creative ways to meet those challenges head on.

One challenge for librarians attempting to circulate Arabic children’s materials are the tensions between Standard Arabic and colloquial Arabic. In English, ‘Arabic’ refers to Standard Arabic, which is the official language of 26 states. Arabic is spoken by 400 million speakers, and is the fifth most spoken language in the world. While Arabic is a formal, literary language that residents hear on the radio and television, read in newspapers and learn in schools, it is not a language spoken daily.

Rather, there is a great diversity of mother-tongue languages in countries where Arabic is an official language, including dialects of Arabic (collectively referred to as colloquial Arabic) such as Iraqi and Egyptian, minority languages such as Kurdish, and other languages such as French or English. While children in these countries can learn to read Arabic through the same materials, differences in dialects mean that



A Lesson For a Bird, part of the Qaws Quzah (Rainbow) series published by Dar al-Fata al-Arabi from 1975 to 1986. Retrieved from: <https://cargocollective.com/qawsquzah/10603147>

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neighbouring countries can conversationally understand each other easier (for example, a Palestinian can understand a Syrian easier than an Iraqi). The difference between Arabic in children's books, and the colloquial Arabic of a family puts Arabic speaking children in Canada in a unique position. Some of the library's young patrons may be speaking colloquial Arabic at home, reading books in Standard Arabic, while using English or French at school.

For a library, this means that an Arabic book collection can support multiple communities that are all reading the same language, but may not be speaking it together. It is up to the librarians to ensure that the children's collection serves a variety of communities and that the Arabic language materials portray a variety of characters, cultures and contexts that convey the diversity and richness of the Arabic speaking world.

While Arabic storytelling has ancient and deep roots, writing for children has not been a focus of publishing until recently. There have been separate projects, such as the influential Dar al-Fata al-Arabi¹² (The Arab Children's Publishing House) launched in 1974 in Beirut, Lebanon, which was one of the first Arabic publishing houses to focus on children. Since the early 2000s, there has been a growing and shifting focus towards Arabic children's literature, with increased production of Arabic children's books, emergence of new publishing houses focused on children, increases in translating children's best-sellers (such as *The Hungry Caterpillar*), and an overall improvement in the quality of titles offered to young readers.

While the quantity of quality Arabic children's literature increases each year, there is ongoing criticism that it remains unappealing to children due to overly formal, complicated, literary language, excessive amounts of descriptive text, and an over emphasis on morality. Anecdotally, quality books can be difficult to find in some



Dar Al Fata Al Arabi 1986 Catalog. Retrieved from <https://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/dar-fata-al-arabi-catalog>



Sinbad, purchased in 2021 from Baghdad, Iraq.

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countries like Iraq, where books for children are more likely to be low-quality, cheaply-produced versions of traditional tales, or poorly-written contemporary morality lessons. Shown here is a recently published version of Sinbad that has shoddy copy-editing, poor grammar, illustrations and sequencing.

However, there are many new publishers emerging, with a focus on appealing to children through engaging stories and illustrations and quality materials, such as [Civilian Publishing](#). In 2009 the Arab Children's Book Publisher's Forum established the [Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature](#), and Arabic books are increasingly recognized in the [White Ravens](#), an annual list of recommended international children's and youth literature organized by the [International Youth Library](#). Unfortunately, Arabic books can be expensive, with shipping and customs costs adding to the already hefty price.

Even in Arabic speaking countries, the price of books can be a major barrier for families. This is an area where Canadian public libraries can meet their communities' needs by circulating a high quality collection.

Building an Arabic Book Collection

The good news is that most public libraries' collections will likely already have Arabic books. Even without staff that can speak or read Arabic, librarians can do many things to enhance this collection. When building a youth world languages collection in Ohio, American librarians Becky O'Neill and Robin Gibson recommend starting by searching for materials already catalogued and circulating in the library, examining materials stored outside of the children's section. Then bringing together any materials relevant to children, both nonfiction and fiction in one location, to make a prominent and visible Arabic Children's Section, with signage in both Arabic and English. Librarian Isabella Rowan also recommends checking the catalogs of other public libraries for Arabic language materials, contacting collection development librarians to discuss their selection processes and vendors, and then attempting to get the same titles. By grouping together books in the children's area, the library can increase awareness amongst Arabic speaking patrons, making it visible to adults, and encouraging children to browse through the collection at their own leisure. Some libraries may wish to incorporate Arabic titles with English titles, dispersing the books in the children's area by topic or format. In either case, child-friendly Arabic spine labels can increase discoverability, as can brochures listing Arabic materials, or in a digital collection such as the Vancouver Public Library's Arabic Collection.

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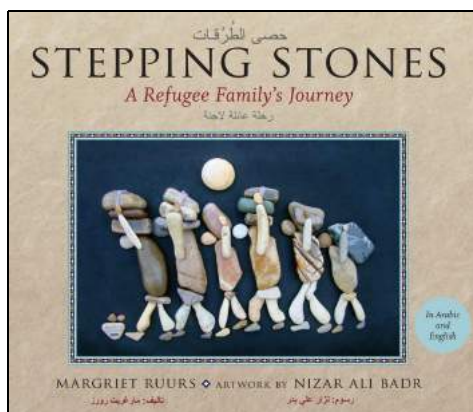
Beyond reaching out to colleagues and library vendors, Rowan suggests that librarians consult online resources. Librarians can find information on quality Arabic books through international awards, while keeping an eye on the ALA's [Batchelder Award](#) (which has yet to award an Arabic title). Librarians can also stay involved with [Ibby](#), the International Board on Books for Young People, and the [International Federation of Library Associations and Institution](#) (IFLA), which releases [The World Through Picture Books](#), a catalogue of internationally recommended titles. Librarians can search [Kirkus Reviews](#), [ArabKidLitNow!](#), [Arab America](#), [World Kid Lit](#), and [DiverseBookFinder](#) to find translated titles, and then attempt to order them. Additionally, there are more booksellers focused on selling Arabic children's books in English speaking countries, such as [Maktabatee Books](#) and [Sanabil Books](#), both of which currently deliver to Canada.



Wordless books

Even if your public library has no Arabic materials for children, you already have books that can serve this segment of your community: wordless picture books! You can increase awareness of wordless books by applying a child-friendly spine label, creating displays in multiple languages highlighting that these books can be read by anyone, and advertising in brochures and online. If the Arabic collection is limited, consider creating a collection of wordless books within the children's section, with Arabic signage and displays promoting these books. For

families struggling with the standard Arabic found in Arabic-language materials, wordless books are an excellent opportunity to read to their children in colloquial Arabic (such as Moroccan or Syrian).



Bilingual Books

After wordless books, bilingual books may be the easiest to find, assess, and purchase. Bilingual books can be easier for librarians to find, review for quality, and catalogue, and may be more readily available from library vendors and booksellers. Bilingual books have the capacity to support children learning English, as well as heritage learners learning Arabic. Bilingual books also supports

intergenerational reading, by encouraging relatives and friends to read along with the children in their lives, in multiple languages.

Picture Books



How to Catch a Star. Written by Oliver Jeffers. Publisher .unknown Arabic translated from English (كيف تلتقط نجمة)

Picture books, including baby board books, may be translations of popular English titles such as Oliver Jeffers' *How to Catch a Star*, while others may be originally written in Arabic. An advantage of purchasing Arabic translations of English titles is that non-Arabic speaking librarians may be familiar with the title, and better able to assess for quality. However, these books are less likely to feature characters, settings, and values that represent the diverse peoples that live in Arabic speaking countries and may be a missed opportunity to increase representation in the collection.

Information Books



AlifBaa (أبت). Written by Masarra Touqan. Illustrated by Dina Fawakhiri. Published by Kalila Wa Dimna.

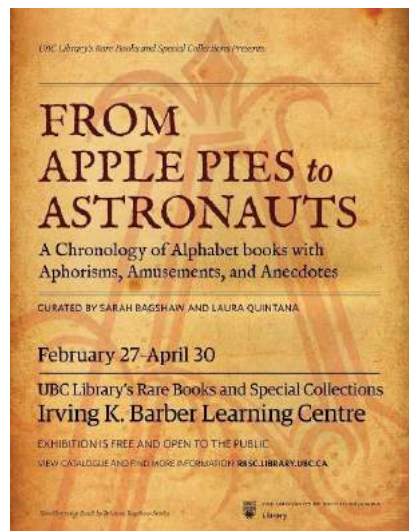
Information books include Arabic alphabet books, and visual dictionaries. Depending on the needs of the community, you may prefer to purchase Arabic or bilingual alphabet books. Arabic alphabet books with English transliterations of the Arabic are a great resource for multilingual families and heritage learners of Arabic, as English-speaking caregivers can support a child's vocabulary.

Part 3 will feature a booklist of Arabic picture book titles, publishers and other resources. Anita Fata is a recent MLIS graduate (UBC iSchool). A version of this report was written for the class Survey of Literature and Other Materials for Children. She would like to thank Tess Prendergast for her encouragement, Waleed Nesyif for sharing his family's books, and Marcia Lynx Qualey at [ArabLit Quarterly](#) and [ArabKidLitNow!](#) and Gihan Faisal at [Jeem Books](#) for reading over the original report.

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

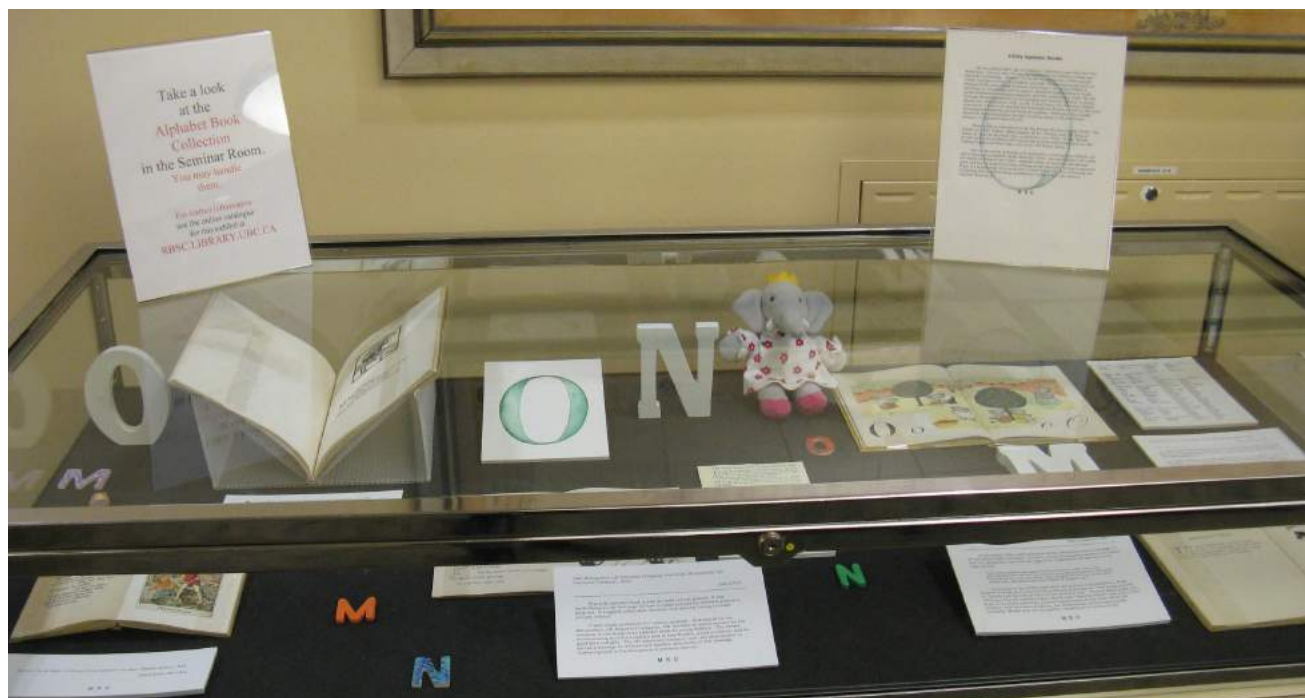
Revisiting the curated display created for iSchool@UBC LIBR594 – Directed Study done in conjunction with UBC Library’s Rare Books and Special Collections. Adapted from the exhibit and case labels written by Sarah Bagshaw & Laura Quintana. Exhibition poster = Jeff Porter Designs. All photographs from 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 M, N, and O and the 1930s.

M N O - 1930s Alphabet Books



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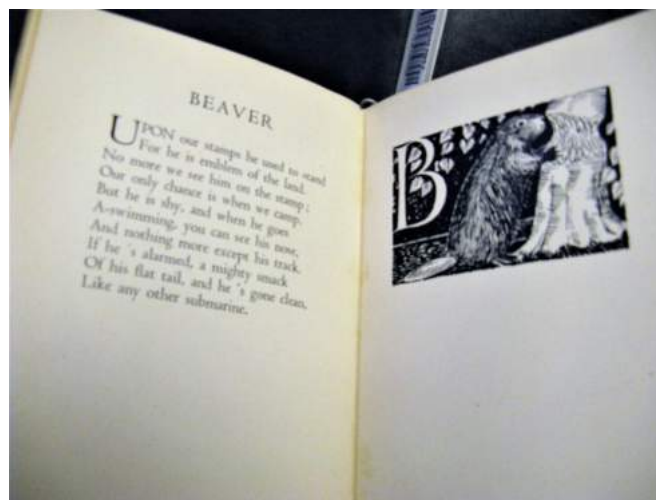
The so-called Golden Age of Children's Literature ended with the First World War. Directly after the war, the publication of children's books was reduced considerably. However, in the UK during the late 1920s and the 1930s, interest in fiction for children returned. The UK Carnegie Medal awarded for an outstanding new book for children or young adults was established in 1936. In the United States, the American Library Association created and awarded the first Caldecott Medal in 1938 for the most distinguished American picture book for children.

Due to the variety of themes and approaches, contemporary children are still reading many alphabet books from the 1930s, our sensibilities and tastes are similar. Alphabet books as teaching aids became more and more common in school settings as the twentieth century progressed. There is a broad range of art and style in these books with the continuing use of rhyming text or poetry being matched with either black and white or coloured illustrations.

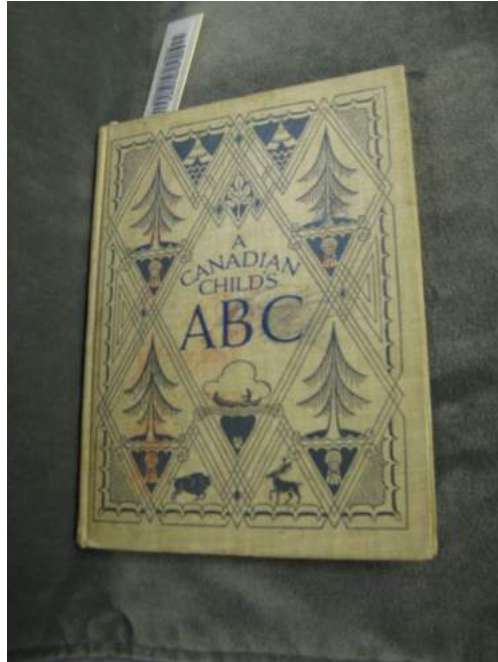
Case Five representing M, N, and O contained the following items plus extra information about a few:

Lort, Ross. *All Creatures Great and Small*. Vancouver: Charles Bradbury, 1931 (Canadian).

- Ross Lort (1889 – 1968) was a leading architect in Vancouver from the 1920s until his death in 1968. As well, he was active in Vancouver's arts community serving on the Arts Council and working for the Vancouver Art Gallery.
- In 1931 while designing and overseeing the construction of Casa Mia, a grand Spanish Colonial Revival mansion for George C. Reifel, Lort created woodcuts for this abecedarian book: *All Creatures Great and Small*. It was a limited-edition print run used as gifts for his clients, friends, and family.



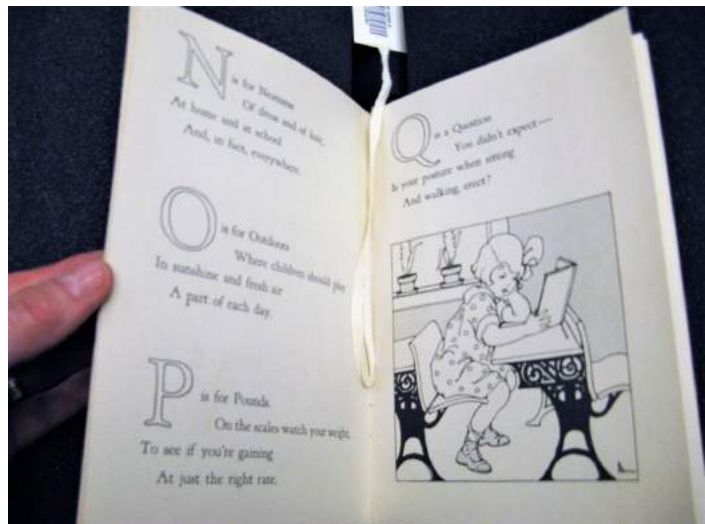
FEATURES ●



Gordon, R.K. *A Canadian Child's ABC*. Illustrated by Thoreau Macdonald. Toronto and Vancouver: Dent, 1931.

- A Canadian Child's ABC embodies all the elements of what is thought of as quintessentially Canadian. Gordon's verses encapsulate moments in history and our geography, but from the very white Anglophone perspective of the time-period.
- In Canada in the 1930s there were few printers and publishers. Most children's books were imported from Britain and America. Few books printed in Canada had the colours seen in the previous case. Thoreau Macdonald, son of Group of Seven member J.E.H. Macdonald, used his father's Arts and Craft's style in the black and white woodcut illustrations of this book.

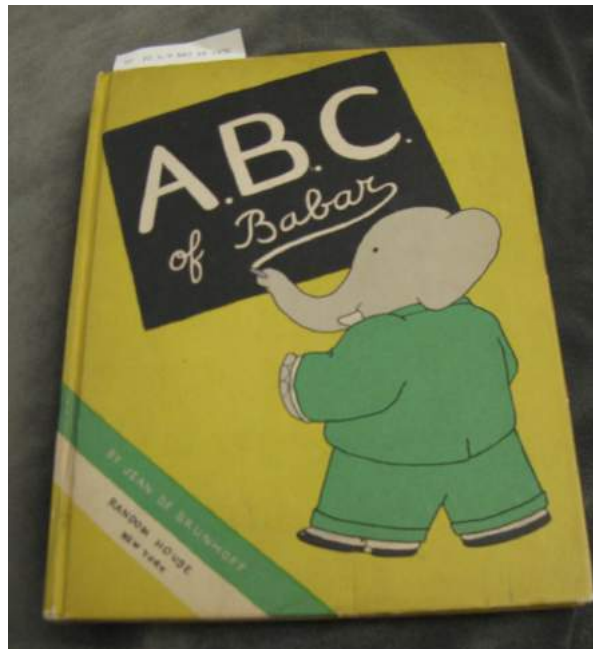
Barker, Cecily Mary. *A Flower Fairy Alphabet*. London: Blackie & Son, 1934.



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ABC Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. New York: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 1935.

- This little alphabet book is also an early colouring book! It has instructions on the first page for how to make colours for children without a paint set. It suggests onion skin, beetroot, and laundry bluing to make primary colours.
- It was clearly published for “ulterior motives”. Distributed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, ABC is really an advertisement for the company in the shape of an alphabet book for young children.



de Brunhoff, Jean. *A B C of Babar*. New York: Random House, 1936.

- Jean de Brunhoff illustrated the stories of Babar that his wife Cécile had told their children. After he passed away in 1937, his brother published two more of Jean’s Babar stories. Then after WWII, his son Jean continued to keep the Babar stories alive.
- *A B C of Babar* is a unique alphabet book. This is a wordless book, with only print and cursive representations of the letters accompanying the illustrations. At the back of the book are lists of words for each letter of the alphabet. These are the words for the objects found in the pictures and are in both French and English, for both those audiences.
- This early “seek-and-find” alphabet book promotes children’s alphabetic knowledge through visual literacy. The *A B C of Babar* is a good example of a more modern alphabet book that is for learning and entertainment.



M N O

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

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, and 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.

We want to hear from you! What do you want to read in YAACING? Do you read every issue cover to cover or jump around to what's most interesting? Do you click on the links? If there are any recent contributions that have been especially helpful to you in your work we'd love to hear about it!

The deadline for the next issue of YAACING is May 15, 2022.

Please email your submissions to the editors at YAACING@gmail.com