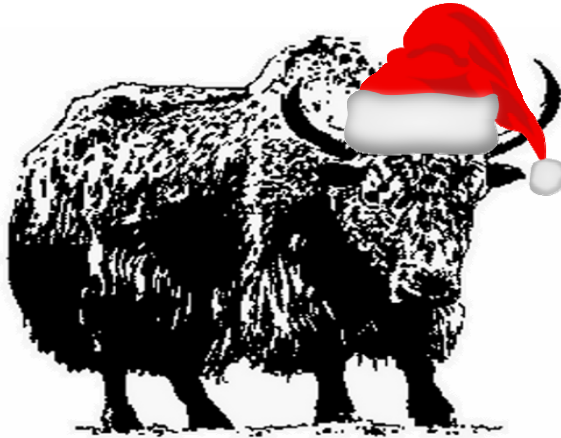


YAACING

The Newsletter of the Young Adult & Children's Services Section of BCLA
Winter 2013



Contents

Message from the Chair	1	Features	
Message from the Editors	1	Popular Books for Girls about Adventure and Friendship	9
News		<i>By Port Moody Public Library Staff</i>	
BC Summer Reading Club 2013: The Theme! The Artist!	2	At the Zoo! A Preschool Storytime	10
YAACS Award: Seeking Volunteers for the 2013 Committee	3	<i>By Elizabeth Bell and Lindsey Krabbenhoft</i>	
Columns		Oldies but Goodies: A Nostalgic Annotated Bibliography of Christmas-Themed Picture Books	12
<i>Teens Only:</i>	4	<i>By Megan Harris</i>	
Learning They're Not Alone: A book list for teens about bullying		The World Through Canada's Eyes	15
<i>By Amy Dawley</i>		<i>By Dana Horrocks</i>	
<i>Who's on the Felt Board?:</i>	5	Reviews	17
If You're a Monster and You Know It		Call for Submissions	18
<i>By Saara Itkonen</i>			
<i>Vintage YAACING:</i>	8		
A Program Idea for the Short Days of Winter			
<i>By April Ens</i>			

Message from the Chair

Another year is drawing near its close, and here I am of a nippy November night, snuggled cosily inside my home, listening to the snap of the fire in the woodstove and reflecting on what's happened with YAACS in 2012... Lots of changes, that's what! And here are a few more to announce:

We are pleased to welcome Maggie Hodge-Kwan, of Vancouver Island Regional Library, as our new Continuing Education Coordinator for Vancouver Island. Maggie jumped right in with great enthusiasm and brimming with ideas for potential continuing ed activities, so for all you YAACers on the Island, keep your eyes peeled for something fun and informative happening in your neck of the woods soon. YAACS is also very pleased to welcome a new representative from the Library Technicians and Assistants Section, Chris Findlay. Chris will act as Liaison between YAACS and LTAS.

YAACS' student chapter at UBC also saw a surge of fresh enthusiasm this fall and, in between hosting a whole flurry of back-to-school events on campus, they managed to recruit not one but *two* new student reps! Dana Horrocks joins Elizabeth Bell at the helm for the duration of the 2012-2013 academic year, and Kristy Woodcock is already on board to help run the show next year.

Now, I bet more than one of us has a holiday storytime to finish planning, so I'll leave off here and let you all get down to it. Here's to more positive changes to come in 2013!

- Tara Williston
YAACS Chair

Message from the Editors

This winter we are happy to present an issue full of booklists, from the seasonal (Christmas titles), to the unfortunately timely (a bullying list for teens), to topics of enduring popularity (multicultural books, and adventure and friendship books for girls). We hope that you'll find these inspiring and useful next time you're helping direct a young reader to a new book.

We're also thrilled to present an exciting (and gorgeous) felt story by Saara Itkonen, and a lively storytime program from MLIS students Elizabeth Bell and Lindsey Krabbenhoft. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue!

Spring will mark some changes for YAACING. April is expecting a new arrival, so will be reducing her YAACING hobby, and the wonderful Alicia Cheng (one of YAACS' website coordinators) is stepping up to help out at the editorial table. *Thanks Alicia!*

As ever, keep your submissions coming. We love hearing about the amazing work happening around our province and sharing your terrific ideas.

- April Ens and Pamela Fairfield
YAACING Editors
yaacing@gmail.com



BC Summer Reading Club 2013: The Theme! The Artist!

BC Libraries, dust off your wings, pump up your zeppelins, and strap on your jetpacks: In 2013, the BC Summer Reading Club theme will be

Up, Up and Away

Kids throughout British Columbia will take to the skies, voyage through space, and follow authors to other worlds. Aspiring aeronauts will seize the opportunity to launch their careers, and fans of fantasy will be floating on air.

Where can you go with Up, Up and Away? We've created seven weekly themes to illustrate the scope of the overall theme and to inspire your programs, events, displays, and contests:

1. **Living Things with Wings** | Birds, bats, and flying insects
2. **Pardon Me, You're Standing on My Cape** | Superheroes and superpowers, secret identities and secret lairs, _____ vs. _____
3. **Prepare for Takeoff** | Aircraft, airships, air sports, and flight
4. **Send Me a Postcard** | Journeys, quests, and expeditions
5. **Reading the Sky** | Sky mythology, stargazing, and weather
6. **Worlds Above and Beyond** | Fantasy worlds and future worlds
7. **To the Stars!** | Astronomy, space exploration, and tales set in space

Corresponding book lists and program ideas will appear in the SRC 2013 manual, available early next year on the librarian's website: <http://kidssrc.bclibrary.ca>. The kids' website will launch early in June 2013 and feature quizzes, colouring pages, and more: www.kidssrc.ca.

But who, you ask, will be the SRC 2013 artist? We jumped over the moon when illustrator **Eliska Liska** agreed to play that role. Originally from the Czech Republic, where she obtained a Masters Degree in Conceptual Art, Eliska lived in England, Mexico, and Latin America before settling in Victoria, BC. Eliska

identifies with foxes ("liska" means "fox" in Czech), and calls her skinny-legged partner Pollito ("chicken" in Spanish – they met in Mexico), so she sometimes draws their young daughter Lola as a chicken with a fox tail. Since coming to Canada, Eliska has illustrated the picture book *Suzie's Sourdough Circus*, written by Kathy Sager, and begun to obsessively draw bears, raccoons, and flying whales. She has a history of painting on walls in old factories and empty houses, preferring them to canvasses, and loves to paint on driftwood ("because it's beautiful and it's like 3/4 of the job is already done"). If she could choose to have any superpower, she would choose super-multitasking or the ability to breathe underwater. See her work at www.efox-art.cz.

Our thanks go out to Eliska and many others:

Summer Reading Club is sponsored by the British Columbia Library Association and local public libraries with the assistance of the Ministry of Education, Libraries and Literacy, The Honourable Don McRae, Minister. The RBC Financial Group (Royal Bank) generously provides funding toward the completion medals that motivate so many young readers.

The 2013 Summer Reading Club Committee is piloted by Randi Robin of Burnaby Public Library, Chair, and Andrea Brown of Vancouver Public Library, Chair Appointee. We couldn't get off the ground without the 2013 Content Coordinators: Fatima Ferreira of Greater Victoria Public Library, Cindy Kloos and Kate Adams of Richmond Public Library, Susan McCowan of Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library System, Victor Or of Surrey Public Library, and Hilary Russell of Fraser Valley Regional Library. Once aloft, we rely on the superpowers of graphic designer Roger Handling; web wizards Neil Firkin and Jeannette Duguay (Jentekk Web Solutions); Library Consultant Mari Martin, Libraries and Literacy; and Annette DeFaveri, the Executive Director of BCLA, who has been known to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

We are all deeply grateful to Els Kushner, who took program to new heights over the course of more than five years as the BC SRC Coordinator, and who recently departed to focus on her full-time work as a children's librarian and her marvelously creative writing.

We are delighted to welcome Cynthia Ford as the new Coordinator. Cynthia has served children and families for some years in the Children's Division of Vancouver Public Library and is an ardent supporter of SRC. She brings exceptional organizational abilities, critical thinking skills, and knowledge of libraries and children's literature to the position. We look forward to working with Cynthia!



Questions or comments? We'd like to hear from you!
You can reach the BC SRC Chair at randi.robin@gmail.com and the BC SRC Coordinator at bcsrc@bclibrary.ca.

- *Randi Robin, SRC Committee Chair*

YAACS Award: Seeking Volunteers for the 2013 Committee

At the 2012 BC Library Conference, the Young Adult and Children's Services section was honoured to present the inaugural YAACS award to two worthy recipients: Sharon Freeman and Allison Taylor McBryde.

As 2013 rolls around, we are looking for a new set of committee members to receive nominations and select the winner of the 2013 YAACS Award.

We are interested in including representatives from libraries across the province, and with a range of experience, from new graduates to seasoned veterans. Committee members are not required to be currently working in youth services, only to have an interest in this area.

If you are interested in participating, please email YAACSaward@gmail.com.

- *April Ens, Member of the 2012 YAACS Award Committee*



Teens Only

Learning They're Not Alone: A book list for teens about bullying

By Amy Dawley

When I decided to become a librarian, I *knew* that I wanted to work with teens. I was passionate about giving them something that was theirs, offering teens programs that were special, and about being a supportive adult in their lives. Many of the teens that I see the most are outsiders—they don't fit in at school for whatever reason. One of the things that always comes up when we're all chatting while working on crafts or playing videogames is bullying. With the recent surge in media interest on bullying these conversations have been happening more often in our teen programs and I am grateful that teens feel safe enough to tackle these issues with each other at the library. I myself was bullied as a teenager and I firmly believe that it's one of the reasons I am so passionate about working with youth.

Whether we communicate it in person, via books, or within the informal discussion that happens during teen programs, it's important that teens know they are not alone. In this issue I'd like to share a resource list that has proven to be very popular in my teen section: teen books about bullying. Please note that some of these books address bullying in a more direct way, while others contain depictions of bullied or bullying characters. Many of these books would make excellent starting points for discussions and I often recommend books on this list to parents looking for ways to talk to their teens about bullying and peer pressure.

Fiction

13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher

Bad Apple by Laura Ruby

Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver

Breaking Point by Alex Flinn

Bullied by Jeff Erno

Bystander by James Preller

Cracked by K.M. Walton

Crossing Lines by Paul Volponi

The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin by Josh Berk

Diary of a Witness by Catherine Ryan Hyde

Endgame by Nancy Garden

Everybody Sees the Ants by A.S. King

Freak Show by James St. James

Hate List by Jennifer Brown

Leverage by Joshua Cohen

Nailed by Patrick Jones

Out of Shadows by Jason Wallace

Playground by 50 Cent

Schooled by Gordon Korman

Some Girls Are by Courtney Summers

Sweetheart of Prosper County by Jill Alexander

Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson

Vicious by Hope Vanderberg

Non-Fiction

Girls Against Girls by Bonnie Burton

Letters to a Bullied Girl by Olivia Gardner

Please Stop Laughing at Me by Jodee Blanco

Teen Cyberbullying Investigated by Judge Tom Jacobs

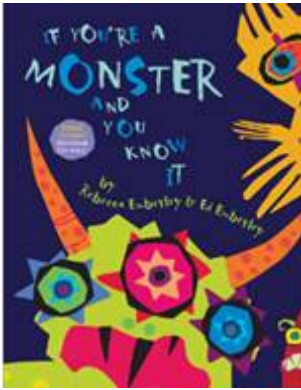
We Want You to Know by Deborah Ellis

Do you have any go-to resources for teens dealing with bullying? Did I miss any books you think should be included? I'd love to hear from you! E-mail me at adawley@lib.pg.bc.ca. Stay cozy everyone!

Amy Dawley is the Teen Librarian at the Prince George Public Library.



Who's on the Felt Board?



If You're A Monster and You Know It

*Original Book by Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley
Felt by Saara Itkonen*

This felt story is based on Rebecca Emberley's book/song that goes to the tune "If you're happy and you

know it". Kids really enjoy making all the monster sounds and actions to the song.

You start by putting up the head and body to begin with, asking kids if they know the original song and then explaining that this song is similar but with monsters.

Then you build each part of the monster as you sing it:

If you're a monster and you know it snort and growl...
(nose and mouth)

If you're a monster and you know it smack your claws...
(arms)

If you're a monster and you know it stomp your paws...
(feet)

If you're a monster and you know it twitch your tail...
(tail, of course)

If you're a monster and you know it give a ROAR!
(roar)

If you're a monster and you know it and you really
wanna show it...

*Saara Itkonen is the Children's Librarian (Acting) at the
Britannia Branch of the Vancouver Public Library*







Vintage YAACING

A Program Idea for the Short Days of Winter

By April Ens

This issue we're featuring a short article about a short program for short days. Children's author, Sarah Ellis, then a librarian with the North Vancouver District Public Library, submitted this idea for the 2nd ever issue of YAACING, printed in February 1985. It's a wonderfully simple, but creative concept that could be adapted as a program for various ages.

For a current selection of NFB films that you might choose to include, start at www.nfb.ca/explore-all-films/. From this page you can filter for children's movies, and choose a maximum film length.

As to the short stories, I'm sure that everyone reading this already has their own favourites. If I were holding to the theme, I might tell Margaret Reid Macdonald's *Mabela the Clever* (Mabela being the smallest mouse in the village), or "Poppleton and the Grapefruit" from Cynthia Rylant's *Poppleton and Friends* (Poppleton being concerned that life is too short).

Do you have any favourite stories involving any manner of shortness? Let us know at YAACING@gmail.com.

April Ens is the Children's Librarian at the Kitsilano Branch of the Vancouver Public Library

PROGRAMMING IDEAS

"Short Day"

For that doldrum time between Christmas and New Years we celebrated Short Day at our library. We had film shorts, short stories and shortbread. We advertised it as open to anyone who is short, short-tempered, short-haired, short of cash, wearing shorts, or who is sympathetic to any of the above states.

Stories we used

A bed just so. From the picture book by Jeanne Hardendorf.

Where the Wild Thing Are. From the picture book by Maurice Sendak.

The King with the Terrible Temper. in With a Deep Sea Smile by Virginia Tashjian.

The Lady's Room from the same collection.

Films we used

The Great Toy Robbery . National Film Board 106C 0164 043

The Animal Movie NFB 106C 0166 014

The Tender Tale of Cinderella Penguin NFB 106C0181 011

Zea NFB 106C 0081 022

This was a good way of tying together a programme involving a lot of little things without it being too "bitty." We alternated stories and films and all gorged on shortbread at the end.

- Sarah Ellis, NVDL

Originally published in
YAACING Volume 1, Issue 2:
February 1985, Page 2.



Popular Books for Girls about Adventure and Friendship

By Port Moody Public Library Staff

There are plenty of exciting adventure books for young boys, but it can be hard to find appealing adventure books with strong female protagonists for the primary age group. These selections feature likeable girls who fearlessly take on the world and face the complex social and emotional issues that our own children tackle every day.

If you have girls aged 6-9 in your family, you may have already heard of the wildly popular **Rainbow Magic** series. In the stories, two best friends have fantastic adventures and help other characters in the fairy kingdom where they live. A huge part of the appeal of this series lies in the theme of friendships, which school-aged children are learning to understand and manage. The idea of doing things with a best friend or even just having a best friend is a wonderful concept; and the addition of fairies and adventure makes the series...well, magic.

Ivy and Bean is a wonderful and humorous choice for younger girls to read on their own. In this series, Ivy and Bean are best friends who decide to break a world record, create their own day camp, and expel a ghost, among other adventures. I recommend starting with the first book in the series (called simply **Ivy and Bean**) which shows that even people who are very different can become unexpected friends. **Ivy and Bean** is written by Annie Barrow, illustrated by Sophie Blackall and so far there are nine books in the series. Similar titles for younger independent readers would be **Ruby Lu, Brave and True** by Lenore Look, **Clementine** by Sara Pennypacker, or **Clarice Bean** by Lauren Child.

Girls who gravitate towards comics, graphic novels, or illustrated books will love **Thea Stilton**. Thea is the sister of the very popular Geronimo Stilton. Thea solves her own crimes in this multi-coloured universe of mice detectives. Thea hits all the right buttons for girls with adventure, lots of friends, and fun costumes and locations from around the world. The series is ostensibly written by Thea Stilton herself (though grown-ups know that some hard working writer is busily churning out the books behind the scenes!) You can find many copies of this series on the shelves at your local library or bookstore, or try putting a hold on the newest one at the library. For a more "tween" take on the girl-focused

graphic novel, kids can try **Babymouse**, by Jennifer L. Holm.

In all these series recommendations, there are very few problems between the friends. The focus is on adventure and fun. This is perfect for beginning readers of short chapter books who don't need or want a lot of controversy or strife as they are building their reading skills and gaining fluency. For girls who are strong readers and want a challenge, there are also longer, more complex adventure books with strong female leads.

Despite being awkward and impulsive, Anne from **Anne of Green Gables** is able to develop a lasting and precious friendship with Diana. Another story that features some wonderfully complex relationships is **Charlotte's Web** by E.B. White. Who can forget Wilbur's friendships with Fern and Charlotte? **Pippi Longstocking** has two dear friends who follow along behind her in fascination as she climbs houses, and conquers pirates (and best of all there are no parents in sight!). **The Rescuers** by Margery Sharp, features Miss Bianca, another intrepid mouse heroine and her trusty friend Bernard. Miss Bianca is a great role model for girls. She is brave and takes initiative but still likes to wear fur and diamonds. Newer titles with adventure and/or friendship themes and strong female characters include **The Sisters Grimm**, a mystery series by Michael Buckley, the **Princess Academy** by Shannon Hale, **The Star of Kazan** by Eva Ibbotson, the **Sammy Keyes** mystery series, and **Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat** series of books by Lynne Jonell. All these titles have more complex themes and issues, and may suit more mature readers.

These recommendations provide a broad range of perspectives on building, maintaining, and repairing friendships. The library also offers many nonfiction titles on social skills that can help when a girl is struggling to navigate the choppy waters of pre-tween relationships. Try **Real Friends vs the Other Kind** by Annie Fox, or the more light hearted **The Girls' Book of Friendship: How to Be the Best Friend Ever**, or just ask our Children's Librarians for a title to suit your family's needs.

We hope you enjoy finding these and other books at your public library.

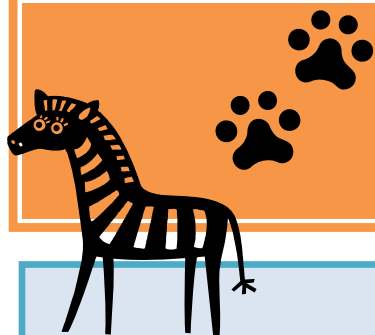
(Reproduced with permission from the Tri-City News column, Good Reads, November 2012)



At the Zoo!

A Preschool Storytime

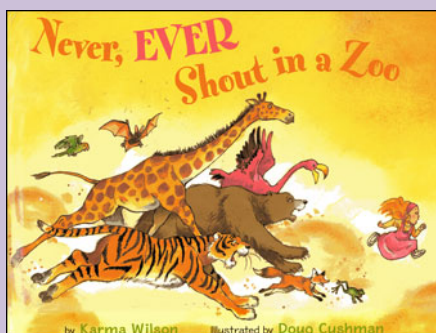
By Elizabeth Bell and Lindsey Krabbenhoft



Welcome Song: Hello Friends

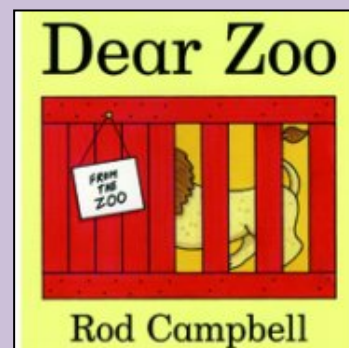
Hello, friends
 Hello, friends
 Hello, friends
 It's time to say hello.

Today's Books

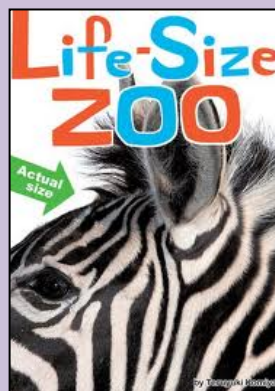


Never, Ever Shout in a Zoo
 Karma Wilson & Doug Cushman

Dear Zoo
 Rod Campbell



Life-Size Zoo
 Teruyuki Komiya



You Might Also Enjoy:

- ZooZical by Judy Sierra
- Peek-a-zoo! by Marie Torres Cimarusti
- My Heart is Like A Zoo by Michael Hall
- Zoo Ah-choooo by Peter Mandel

The Elephant

The elephant goes from side to side
 He's terribly big
 And he's terribly wide
 He has no fingers
 He has no toes
 But goodness gracious, what a long nose!



Five Little Monkeys

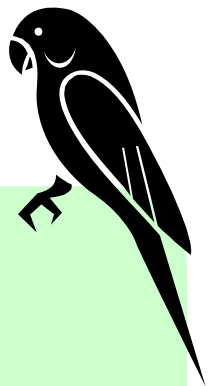
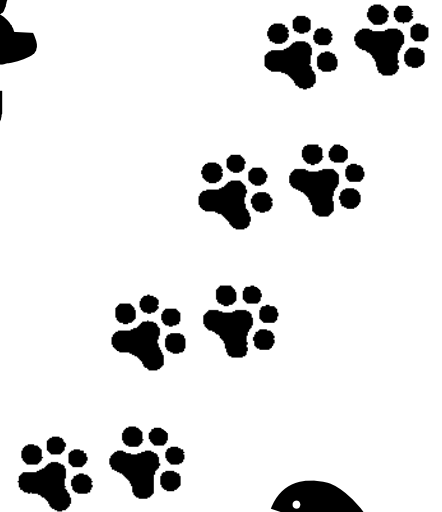
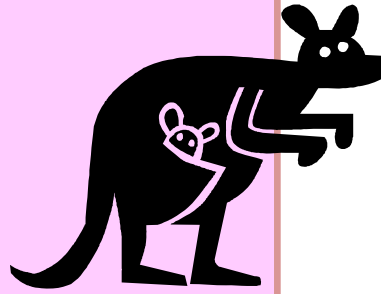
Five little monkeys swinging from a tree
 Teasing Mister Crocodile, "Can't catch me!"
 Along came Mister Crocodile, quiet as could be
 SNAP that monkey right out of that tree!

Four little monkeys...
 Three little monkeys...
 Two little monkeys...
 One little monkey...

No little monkeys swinging from a tree,
 I'd better watch out or he might catch me!

Five Baby Kangaroos

Five baby kangaroos standing in a row.
 And when they see their mothers,
 They jump just so.
 They jump to the left.
 They jump to the right.
 One jumps in his mother's pouch
 To sleep throughout the night.
[Repeat, counting down to 1]
 Now there's no baby kangaroos standing in a row.
 When they saw their mother, they jumped just so.
 They jumped to the left. They jumped to the right.
 They jumped down the road til they were out of sight.



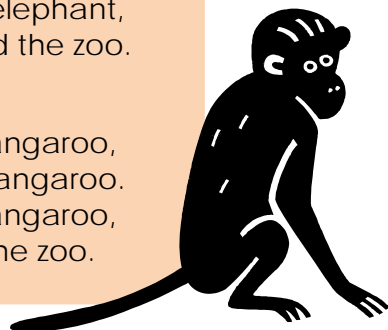
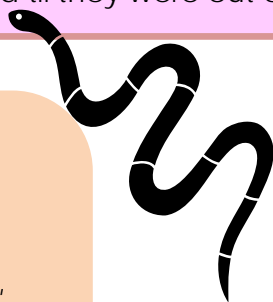
If I Were

Tune: The Mulberry Bush

Oh, if I were a tiny snake,
 A tiny snake, a tiny snake.
 Oh, if I were a tiny snake,
 I'd slither around the zoo.

Oh, if I were an elephant,
 an elephant, an elephant.
 Oh, if I were an elephant,
 I'd march around the zoo.

Oh, if I were a kangaroo,
 A kangaroo, a kangaroo.
 Oh, if I were a kangaroo,
 I'd hop around the zoo.



Zoo Animals Song

Tune: If You're Happy and You Know It

If you want to be a lion, roar out loud!
 If you want to be a lion, roar out loud!
 If you want to be a lion, if you want to be a lion,
 If you want to be a lion, roar out loud!

If you want to be a parrot, flap your wings!
 If you want to be an elephant, swing your trunk!

Goodbye Song: Goodbye Friends

Goodbye, friends
 Goodbye, friends
 Goodbye, friends
 It's time to say goodbye.



Sources of Lyrics and Inspiration

Handout Design: Gillis, Jessica. (2012). *Preschool Storytime: Dogs and Frogs*. YAACING: The Newsletter of the Young Adult & Children's Services Section of BCLA. Summer 2012. 14-16.

Hello/Goodbye Song: Tune and Sign Language from: <http://www.youtube.com/user/kathleenmacmillan>

The Elephant and Five Little Monkeys: VPL's Wild Animals Storytime Kit

Five Baby Kangaroos: Scott, Barbara A. (2010). *1,000 Fingerplays & Action Rhymes*. New York : Neal-Schuman Publishers.

If I Were: <http://www.preschooleducation.com/szoo.shtml>

Zoo Animals Song: <http://www.story-lovers.com/listsmonkeystories.html>

Dear Zoo Feltboard: <http://storytimekatie.com/2010/12/05/dear-zoo-flannelboard/>

Animal Images: Microsoft Clipart

Elizabeth Bell and Lindsey Krabbenhoft are MLIS students at the School of Library Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia. This program was developed for the class LIBR 527: Services for Children.

Oldies but Goodies: A Nostalgic Annotated Bibliography of Christmas-Themed Picture Books

By Megan Harris

While there is an abundance of high-quality, popular, Christmas-themed picture books published in recent years, it's awfully fun to reminisce about old favourites once in a while, isn't it? The very brief nature of this assignment offered me a much-appreciated opportunity to peruse some beloved favourites from my own childhood Christmas picture book collection, and the result is the following annotated bibliography. Conceived as a list of tried-and-true read-aloud successes for parents, teachers, and especially librarians, it is meant to serve as a kind of suggested capsule collection, in addition to inspiring revivals of titles perhaps forgotten, or even just a bit of the nostalgia enjoyed by this author.

As a subject-based annotated bibliography it is intended as a list of suggested readings for children during the holiday season, and while it focuses specifically on Christmas stories, it is of course intended as a complement to other seasonal lists; in context, similar bibliographies would accompany it, representing stories of Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, for example. The titles have been selected with young readers in mind, primarily ages 4-8, but all are best suited for reading aloud, and they certainly hold appeal for older children as well. These selections aim to provide suggestions for

caregivers looking for Christmas-themed stories for bedtime or other read-aloud opportunities.

While some deal more directly with the biblical and Christian roots of the holiday, others adopt folktale or legend styles to address various Christmas traditions, symbols, and practices. With different formats, tones, and narratives, each book includes wonderful illustrations, and deals with the spirit and magic of Christmas Eve and the Christmas season. Taking variously sentimental, funny, and fantastical approaches to the subject matter, this small collection offers young readers chances to learn more about the history of Christmas and where its many traditions come from, to see reflections of their own family preparations and celebrations of the holiday, and to reflect on and share in the feelings of generosity, love, and magic so particularly and popularly associated with this time of year. Above all, these selections provide seasonally topical and visually appealing options for children to read or to be read to, whether at home, at school, or in the library.

Berenstain, Stan and Jan. *The Berenstain Bears' Christmas Tree*. New York: Random House, 1980.

The prolific and popular Berenstains invite readers to reunite with their favourite anthropomorphised bear family for a Christmas-themed adventure in this edition of their Big Chapter Books series. Readers will be able to follow along with descriptions of familiar Christmas traditions before embarking on the eponymous quest:



Papa and the cubs go searching for a Christmas tree after finding the lot sold out. Over the course of their snowy mountain climb they encounter all kinds of animals living in and around the trees they are sizing up, and as a result the family goes home empty-handed. A Christmas surprise awaits them at home, however, in a display of eco-friendly peace, harmony, and Christmas spirit. The illustrations are familiar and sweetly-executed as always; simple and colourful, they effectively portray the sense of adventure described in the text, and provide fun details to be noticed over the course of several readings. The size of the book and its illustrations, and the charming rhyming format make this a perfect book for reading aloud; the scheme pushes the story along at a lively pace that will appeal to both young and older readers, and makes it easy for new readers to follow along with the text. Carrying an appealingly universal message within its Christmas theme, this fun, fast-paced story will find favour with long-standing Berenstain fans and with newly-acquainted readers alike.

Brett, Jan. *Christmas Trolls*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1993.

Just as with Brett's other works, this appealingly large, hardcover picture book will attract parents and children at least as much for its exquisite illustrations as for the accompanying story. Told from the point of view of a young girl named Treva, the story follows her and her younger brother as they begin to prepare their household for Christmas. Noticing that some of their decorations are going missing, they are led to the treehouse of two local trolls; in the ensuing days, Treva and Sami help them to decorate their house and to learn about the meaning of Christmas. Brett's highly-detailed, textile-like illustrations depict a snowy, Scandinavian world, providing a familiar, wintry and "Christmas-y" setting in addition to glimpses of traditional Scandinavian culture and aesthetics. The subject matter, illustrations, and perhaps especially the illustrated borders, which characterise Brett's work and which act as whimsical foreshadowing devices, all create a fantastical element in this story that adds to the impression of a special, magical quality of Christmas, and to the themes of generosity, friendship, and Christmas spirit. Filled with descriptions and images of Christmas preparations, this is a perfect story for the weeks leading up to Christmas; its wintry theme and atmosphere offer a magical take on winter, while the domestic activities and scenes depicted will appeal to readers as they make their own preparations at home and at school for the coming season.

DePaola, Tomie. *The Legend of the Pointsettia*. New York: Scholastic, 1995.

Popular children's author and illustrator Tomie dePaola once again re-tells and illustrates a folk myth in this Mexican take on a Christmas tale. The story takes place in a small town and tells the story of a young girl and her family. As the Christmas Eve Mass approaches, Lucida and her mother promise to provide a blanket for the church's Nativity scene; when Lucida's mother gets sick, however, she is unable to finish the weaving and must attend the service alone and empty-handed. This softcover picturebook is full of colourful folk art typical of dePaola's books, which add to the folkloric tale and setting. Conveying themes of family, generosity, and Christmas spirit, this story offers readers a glimpse into traditional Mexican life, while telling a familiar type of tale about a Christmas miracle. The book is ideal for reading aloud to young children but is also suitable for older children starting to read by themselves; the images are simple, but clear and detailed enough to allow readers to follow along with the plot as it develops. The book's familiar ending and appealingly kitsch illustrations will find favour with long-time dePaola fans and newcomers alike, offering a little-told version of the traditional tale of the Christmas miracle.

Houston, Gloria. *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree*. Illustrated by Barbara Cooney. New York: Penguin, 1988.

Gloria Houston presents a lore-like tale set in a small, early twentieth-century Appalachian village, creating her own version of the Christmas tree's beginnings in American culture. With young Ruthie as the good-natured and sympathetic protagonist, the story depicts her and her mother as they struggle to reach the top of a mountain in order to bring the promised tree to the church on Christmas Eve, while Ruthie's father is away at war. The book's dialogue is full of old-fashioned Appalachian jargon, while Caldecott award-winning illustrator Barbara Cooney's paintings capture the delicately yet determinedly sweet nature of the family and village depicted in the text. These painterly images show tiny characters in the midst of vast, mountainous landscapes, and doll-like figures in wood-cabin and church scenes, giving readers a glimpse into a traditional American way of life, alongside some historical context. It will be best suited for reading aloud; its themes of determination, courage, and family love will appeal to both young and older children, and its charmingly old-fashioned, folkloric feel will find favour among adults as well.



Ketteman, Helen. *The Christmas Blizzard*. Illustrated by James Warhola. New York: Scholastic, 1995.

This softcover picturebook by Helen Ketteman weaves a tall tale into a myth of origin about a fictional town in Indiana, and the story of a very unusual winter. A heat wave at the North Pole prevents Santa's elves from making toys, and as a result the workshop moves to Lizzard, Indiana, which is experiencing very cold temperatures. The story is told by old Maynard Jenkins to a young girl, as he reminisces about the events he experienced as a boy. The text, in his telling of the story, is peppered with old-fashioned Midwestern colloquialisms, which add to the humour of both the text and the illustrations. Colourful, playful paintings of a sunbathing Santa Claus, and frozen clouds falling from the sky to crush houses, sum up the tone of this book, which is sure to elicit laughter in addition to a satisfying suspension of disbelief with its exaggerated tale of an oddball Christmas miracle. The text is suitable for older children to read on their own, but is ideal for reading aloud in order to best convey the humour and dialogue. This book presents a fun, light-hearted and upbeat Christmas tale, and indeed provides ample appeal outside of its Christmas theme. Ketteman and Warhola offer a refreshingly funny take on this season, which can all too often be too somberly depicted.

Moore, Clement C. *The Night Before Christmas*. Illustrated by Douglas Gorsline. New York: Random House, 1975.

This particular illustrated version of Clement C. Moore's classic and beloved Christmas poem presents an image of Christmas Eve in a traditional, small-town American setting. The illustrations, shaded heavily in fine-tip black pen, depict a rather mysterious, seemingly heretofore unseen world of nighttime, showing cut-away views of a sleeping household, stockings hung in anticipation, and epic views of Santa's sleigh in the night sky. The rhyme provides a soft, lulling rhythm perfect for reading aloud at bedtime, though the still, almost eerie feel of the illustrations create enough suspense to hold readers' attention, even as they begin to chant the familiar words in anticipation of the next page. A requisite highlight in any Christmas collection, this classic poem is brought to life with darkly soothing images and represents the spirit of anticipation and the promise of morning that characterise this most celebrated of nights.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Follow That Star*. Illustrated by Kim LaFave. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1994.

Based on the biblical passage Luke 2:8-14, this book by Kenneth Oppel achieves a fine balance of spirituality and humour. Telling the tale of Zach, a young shepherd, as

he tries to make his way to Bethlehem with his sheep in tow, the story is accompanied by vibrant illustrations, full of movement and reminiscent of Disney animation. Painted in deep blues and purples, the nighttime desert images create an exciting, mystical atmosphere in which to set the Star of Bethlehem, transforming angels, and bands of thieves. This book offers a funny and poignant take on a biblical narrative, portraying the shepherd as an unlucky but well-intentioned boy trying to catch up to his friends. It will be an excellent read-aloud story, and a good choice for more confident young solo readers as well. Themes of adventure, determination, and wonder, and episodes of catapulting sheep will make children laugh, and effectively transform this ancient story into a modern, accessible, and thoroughly enjoyable read.

Price, Moe. *The Reindeer Christmas*. Illustrated by Atsuko Morozumi. New York: Gulliver Books, 1993.

This big, beautiful hardcover book tells the story of how the North Pole reindeer came to be Santa's preferred mode of transportation. Moe Price weaves a very simple but engaging myth-like tale, as he describes how Santa's elves first built the famed sleigh and auditioned the different kinds of animals that wished to pull it. Methodically introducing different species, the story is repetitive in a way that will appeal to young children as they point out familiar animals, while Price's take on the details of this popular myth is imaginative and yet straightforward. Morozumi's watercolours are soft and hazy, depicting naturalistic but charming animals, sweet bearded elves, and romantic landscapes. They are reminiscent of fairytale illustrations, and contribute to the magical tone of the setting and story. With a simple theme of the magic of Santa and Christmas, this book is likely to become a favourite more for the gentle charm and enchanting feel of its illustrations than for the appeal of the story itself.

Spier, Peter. *Peter Spier's Christmas!* New York: Doubleday, 1983.

Peter Spier once again shows his skill for detail in this classic picture book. With several illustrations on each page, sometimes in graphic novel-like panel format, this book contains nearly a hundred images and no text. Each illustration is warmly-executed in Spier's characteristically cartoon-like style, giving glimpses into the life of an idealised and yet very relatable family. Beginning twelve days before Christmas, and ending twelve days after, the images follow a couple, their three children and two pets as they prepare for and celebrate the holiday: buying and wrapping gifts, decorating the house, preparing the meal, visiting relatives, going to church, and cleaning up when it's all over. Spier conveys all of the anticipation, excitement, love, joy, and even a



few moments of stress associated with Christmas, portraying both public and private moments that readers will recognise from their own families and experiences that succinctly represent the images, memories, and feelings of a kind of seasonal collective unconscious. The format of the book allows children of all ages and reading levels to look through it on their own, interpreting the images as they go. It also makes it a perfect "read"-aloud book, as children can listen to parents or teachers as they tell a story, providing the potential for a different reading each time, and inviting plenty of input and interaction. This book is intended for preschool-aged children but also appeals to older children, and adults as well; it works just as well to open it up to a middle page to discuss one or a few images in particular, as it does to read through the entire book. Depicting all of the chores and routines of Christmas in a way that still captures all of the excitement and magic of the season, this book offers an up-close-and-personal look at the ups and downs of one family's Christmas in a way that is appealingly familiar and yet timeless in its charm, and will no doubt continue to provide much-anticipated readings, and countless re-readings for years to come.

Van Allsburg, Chris. *The Polar Express*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1985.

This Caldecott Medal winner by Chris Van Allsburg, now the subject of a popular film, is a long-time, tried-and-true favourite. The story takes on the theme of every child's Christmas dream: after his friend suggests that Santa Claus doesn't exist, the protagonist (who remains nameless) is chosen to visit Santa's workshop at the North Pole on Christmas Eve. Told from the point of view of an adult remembering his boyhood, Van Allsburg is nevertheless incredibly convincing as he gives voice to a child's perspective, and his simple telling of the story, in its awe and excitement, fits in seamlessly with his illustrations. Dark, muted, and fuzzy, the images create a sense of mystery and nostalgic enchantment. With both the illustrations and the story, Van Allsburg is reserved and subtle - even mysterious, perhaps in a nod to the book's themes of belief and youthful imagination, which are captured by the aptly simple but beautiful symbol of a silenced sleigh bell. The descriptions and images of old-fashioned objects, outfits, and perhaps especially the figure of the steam-engine train, along with the dark, snowy setting of nighttime, the outdoor scenes of the journey now somehow reminiscent both of Robert Frost's woods and Harry Potter landscapes, all combine to create one of the most memorably magical settings and atmospheres found in children's literature, or in visual-literary interpretations of Christmas. Sure to remain a favourite for years to come, and ideal for reading aloud throughout the Christmas season, this

book magically and yet un sentimentally confirms imagination as the essence of youth.

Megan Harris is a dual MLIS/MAS student at the School of Library Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia. This annotated bibliography was originally written as an assignment for LIBR 520: Survey of Literature and Other Materials for Children in March 2011.

The World Through Canada's Eyes

By Dana Horrocks

The following is a collection of Canadian picture books and novels published between 2008-2012 which have international and multicultural themes. Come explore the world as seen through the eyes of award winning Canadian authors and illustrators!

Picture Books

I Like to Play by Marla Stewart Konrad. Illustrated by Various Photographers. Tundra Books, 2010
Ages 3-6

A beautiful collection of images of children all over the world engaged in play, paired with simple text. This book is part of a series of four titles and is the result of a collaboration between Tundra Books and World Vision Canada.

Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Schools Around the World by Susan Hughes. Illustrated by Various Photographers. Owlkids, 2011
Ages 6-12

This book celebrates education in fourteen countries around the world and includes stories of the children who attend schools which look very different from our own.

Winterberries and Apple Blossoms: Reflections and Flavors of a Mennonite Year by Nan Forler. Illustrated by Peter Etril Snyder. Tundra Books, 2011
Ages 5-12

See the world through Naomi's eyes as she narrates the joys of life in her Mennonite community with poems and recipes for each month of the year.



Owls See Clearly at Night: A Michif Alphabet by Julie Flett. Simply Read Books, 2010
Ages 4-12

This alphabet book introduces young readers to the Michif language and Métis culture through beautiful images and text. The book also includes more information on the Michif language and pronunciation.

Weber Street Wonder Work Crew by Maxwell Newhouse. Tundra Books, 2010
Ages 4-8

Canadian painter Maxwell Newhouse has created a beautiful book with simple text which celebrates the diverse abilities of the children of Weber street to build community. Portrays people of all ages and abilities with dignity and warmth.

Pussycat, Pussycat, Where Have You Been?
by Dan Bar-el. Illustrated by Rae Maté.
Simply Read Books, 2011
Ages 4-8

In this gentle exploration of a classic nursery rhyme children are transported to places real and imaginary as they are introduced to concepts of travel, fear, and dreams.

Kishka for Koppel by Aubrey Davis. Illustrated by Sheldon Cohen. Orca Book Publishers, 2011
Ages 5-10

This is a humorous re-imagining of a classic folktale in which three wishes are granted to an elderly Jewish couple. The playful paintings paired with rapid dialogue make it a great read-aloud.

Yuvi's Candy Tree by Lesley Simpson. Illustrated by Janice Lee Porter. Lerner Publishing Group, 2011
Ages 5-9

This book recounts the real journey of five year old Yuvi Tashome as she fled Ethiopia for Israel with her family and other Ethiopian Jews. The beautiful illustrations and uplifting text convey the serious dangers of hunger, robbers and their desert surroundings while maintaining a sense of hope and faith.

Novels

One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists by Janet Wilson. Orca Book Publishers, 2008
Ages 10 and up

Janet Wilson combines full colour paintings, photographs, poems and doodles which tell the stories of child activists from all over the world and the issues they fight for.

No Ordinary Day by Deborah Ellis.
Groundwood Books, 2011
Ages 10 and up

Deborah Ellis has created another character who will capture the hearts of readers as she flees a violent home, navigates India's streets and comes to terms with the disease which could claim her life.

Ollie's Field Journal: A 9/10th Happy Story From Africa by Patti McIntosh. Illustrated by Tara Langlois.
Maggie and Pierrot, 2008
Ages 8-10

This scrapbook style book tells the story of Ophélie (aka Ollie) as she travels to Niger to visit her mother who is working "hunger season" to prevent the effects of malnutrition. Ollie records her findings, events and excellent information based on the work of Médecins Sans Frontières. While at times sad, Ollie's journal provides hope as she finds ways to make a difference.

The Paper House by Lois Peterson.
Orca Book Publishers, 2012
Ages 9-12

Set in Nairobi this novel tells the story of ten year old Safiyah as she cares for her grandmother by selling items she finds at the garbage dump. While grim in setting, the character's resilience and everyday worries about friends and family will capture young readers' attention.

Dana Horrocks is an MLIS student at the School of Library Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia. This annotated bibliography was originally written as an assignment for a directed study.



Reviews



This is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen.
Candlewick Press, 2012
Audience: Preschool/Primary
Grades

Klassen's follow-up to the brilliant and much lauded *I Want My Hat Back* is as understated and subtle as its predecessor.

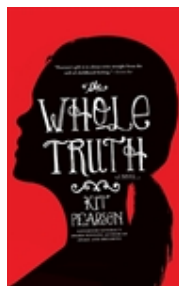
In the dim light of an undersea landscape, another hat has been stolen, and this time our fishy protagonist is the thief rather than the owner of said hat. But as he cockily narrates his escape plan and justification for his actions, the big fish he has stolen from awakens and begins a silent pursuit.

Like *I Want My Hat Back*, this is a very sophisticated picturebook that my appeal to children in early elementary grades as much or more than to preschoolers. The text itself is spare and simple, but the story has complexity and depth. All three characters are morally ambiguous: the little fish justifying his theft, the big fish assumedly consuming the little fish (behind the scenes), and a small red crab promising (and failing) to conceal the little fish's location. Emotions are conveyed solely through characters eyes, which is well-done but somewhat unnerving. One wonders what these characters really feel.

Klassen develops tension through dramatic irony, and it is exciting and rare to read a picturebook where the action and the text do not match. And exciting also, when the text ends with three double-page spreads left, leaving the conclusion to be told through art alone. The subtext, of course, is that the narrator is no more.

Of the two, I still far prefer *I Want My Hat Back*. The characters resonate with me, and I can see possibilities of adapting it as a puppet story to tell with young elementary grades. But *This is Not My Hat* stands alone with beautiful art and a well-crafted narrative. It is a masterfully done picturebook that I expect will have a long life on library and home bookshelves.

- April Ens, Vancouver Public Library



The Whole Truth by Kit Pearson.
HarperCollins, 2011
Audience: Intermediate Grades

Set in Canada during the Depression in 1932, Kit Pearson's *The Whole Truth* depicts nine-year-old Polly's life as it changes dramatically, and she enters adolescence. Polly and her fifteen-year-old sister Maud leave

Winnipeg to live with their grandmother on an island close to Victoria, British Columbia. The girls leave everything they know behind them, moving from a large prairie city to the mountainous small island with their family, who they've never met. Pearson beautifully captures the mind and heart of young Polly as she struggles to adjust to the move, to her sister being away at school and to island life, all while learning to love her new family. Polly is resilient and adaptive and ever honest to herself and the reader. But Polly has a secret that is becoming increasingly difficult to keep, and her family is keeping secrets from her too. As Polly grows up on the island, she learns that the truth really can set you free.

Kit Pearson is a gifted and eloquent writer and what makes her books enduring is her uncanny ability to understand and empathize with the adolescent mind. Author of *A Perfect Gentle Knight* and the award-winning *Guests of War* series, her delicate prose and realistic child protagonists capture the hearts of readers. Kit Pearson has written a careful, charming observance of a young child dealing with hardship and the weight of secrets. Bringing reality and respect to the feelings of a child, Pearson teaches us that time does heal, but honesty and forgiveness of others and of oneself will ultimately bring peace. Almost every important character in *The Whole Truth* undergoes some kind of transformation or struggle with the truth, and Pearson's text encourages her readers to try to see them in shades of grey rather than black and white. Although the novel seems aimed at a younger teen readership, the hard-earned but simple lesson Polly learns is of value to readers of any age: people are complex – they can and do change, and that's the truth.

- Stephanie Gauvin, School of Library Archival and Information Studies (MACL Program), UBC





Shadows Cast By Stars by Catherine Knutsson. Atheneum, 2012
Audience: Teen

Cassandra Mercredi is a young Métis woman in a future where plague is decimating North America's population and for some reason the blood of First Nations people holds the only cure.

Natives can be captured for processing by the authorities if they deem it necessary to fight plague outbreaks.

While this scenario sounds overwhelmingly grim, the book leaves it behind quickly, as Cassandra escapes with her father and twin brother to the sanctuary of the Island. The Island is a refuge for the natives who live there, protected by a spiritual Boundary that the regime cannot cross. On the island they can live their old ways in relative peace. Of course things aren't that easy.

From there it becomes a story of Cassandra and her family trying to find places for themselves in the culture of the Band. Cassandra and her twin brother have different spiritual gifts that lead them into different kinds of difficulties integrating with their new community.

While the story has first kisses and explorations of a person's own strength, what makes this not just a *Hunger Games* clone is how Cassandra isn't just engaged in a trial of self-discovery but community discovery as well.

My main issue with the book is that it is written as the first volume of a series, so things are not fully resolved by the end. Future books look like they will explore the regime of the world beyond the Island. I hope it's as well-imagined as this story.

- Justin Unrau, Vancouver Island Regional Library

Call for Submissions

YAACING is published four times per year and is always looking for submissions that might interest children's and teen specialists in BC libraries. We accept news items, articles, program descriptions and ideas, conference reports, and much more. If you would like to write a regular column, send us a brief pitch.

Submissions should be no more than 2500 words, sent as Word or text files. Please include a byline with your job title and workplace, or for students: your school, program and class information, if applicable.

YAACING invites your contributions to our Review 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 Spring 2013 issue of YAACING is **February 15, 2013**. Email your submissions to the editors at YAACING@gmail.com

