

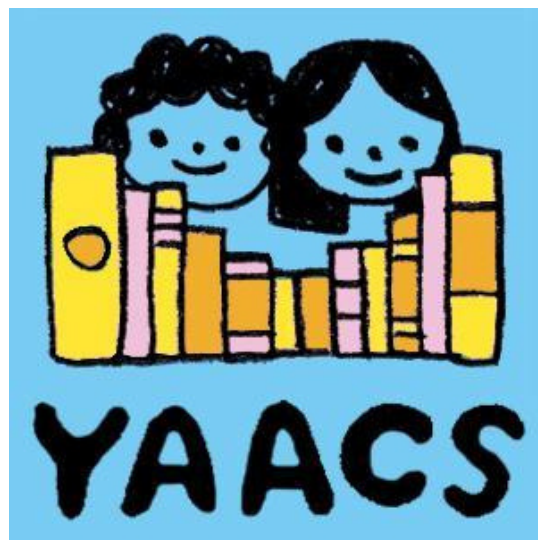
# YAACING

FALL 2022



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





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

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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 Səl̓ílwətaʔ/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](https://www.native-land.ca)*

# Message from the YAACS President

Dear fellow YAACCING readers,

Happy December! It's hard to believe we're nearing 2023. I hope you all take some time to congratulate yourselves for the amazing work you've done to support youth and families, not only in 2022, but in the past few years. Whether you are a library worker, a student, or a community member interested in youth services, I know that families in BC appreciate everything you do.

As usual I am excited to see the newest issue that our amazing YAACING team has created! From articles to book reviews to program ideas, the pieces in YAACING are always inspiring and informative. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue, and a big thank you to Sabrina, Emily, and Dawn for putting it together so beautifully.

As we get closer to the new year, we will start planning our spring Youth Services Institute. We would love your feedback on what the 2023 event will look like! Please consider filling out our questionnaire. I also invite you to attend our next meeting on Thursday, January 12 at 7:30pm, where we will be talking about the YSI and our other plans for the new year. To RSVP for our meeting or to find out more about volunteering for the YSI, please send us an email at [yaacsbc@gmail.com](mailto:yaacsbc@gmail.com)

Finally, I want to put out another call for interest in our open positions, including the position of Incoming President. YAACS would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers, and currently we do not yet have a President for the 2023/2024 year. If you are interested in this position, please get in touch!

And now I know that you are excited to find out what tips, stories, and ideas your fabulous colleagues have for you. So without further ado, grab a hot chocolate, curl up in a cozy spot, and enjoy this issue of YAACING!

See you in the new year,  
Rhiannon



# Message from the Editors

Hello library friends!

We have a very exciting issue for you and more excitement is on the horizon.

Firstly, I (Sabrina) am thrilled to introduce YAACING's new co-editor, Emily Gow. Emily has worked for libraries in Vancouver and on Bowen Island, and has years of experience on the Community-Led Interest Group.

In this issue we've got our usual Alphabet Books piece, New Books for your perusal, and a stellar roundup of youth services research from Jbrary. We're also excited to present a program report-back from Prince George PL's Nerf Night, a rundown of Reader's Choice Awards across Canada, and to announce the winner of this year's YAACS award!

We also have another lovely cover illustration from Dawn Lo. Dawn is not just our YAACING cover artist, she is also a rising star in the picture book world! Dawn has illustrated 3, count 'em 3! recently published or upcoming picture books. Dawn is a library worker and also creates greeting cards featuring her art. Check out her Instagram for more info and to see more of her work [@dawndawndawnillustration](https://www.instagram.com/dawndawndawnillustration) If you don't have Instagram, her website is <http://dawndawndawnillustration.com/>

Congratulations Dawn! We know her books will make fabulous additions to your library's shelves!

As YAACING approaches its 40th year in publication we want to hear from you to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our readers. Please see our "Switching it up" news piece to fill out our survey. We would also appreciate hearing from library workers who do not read or have not heard of YAACING, so please share widely with any colleagues interested in youth services. In addition to the survey, you can send any thoughts to us via email at [yaacing@gmail.com](mailto:yaacing@gmail.com)

Thanks and we hope everyone has a relaxing holiday season!

YAACING's editors,

Sabrina Gurniak  
and introducing Emily Gow

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## YAACING is Switching it Up!

YAACING has been around since 1984, and we have issues [available digitally on Issu](#) going back to 2013. For our 2023 publications the editorial team has decided to switch things up a bit. We will be publishing 3 special issues, each focusing on services for one of the age groups we serve.



Winter 2023 will be all about services for Teens!

Spring 2023 will focus on the Early Years!  
(babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers)

This is the YAACS Yak!  
Did you know we have  
a mascot?

Then we'll take a breather while everyone is focused on SRC

And our Fall 2023 issue will be all about the Middle Years  
(Kindergarten to grade 7 kids)

We would love to hear your ideas for and experiences with teens for our next issue (submission deadline is January 15th) and please hold on to your little kids and bigger kids ideas until later in the year.

Now is also a great time for your general feedback about YAACING. We would love responses to [THIS SURVEY](#) from readers and non-readers alike. Help us shape the future of this newsletter/magazine! Fill out the survey and share it with colleagues working with children and teens.

Thanks very much for reading! As always you can send feedback, questions, thoughts, and comments to [yaacing@gmail.com](mailto:yaacing@gmail.com)

Your YAACING editors,

Sabrina & Emily

## YAACS: Young Adult & Children's Service Award 2022

by Katherine Parker

I'm very pleased to announce the winner of the Young Adult and Children's Service award for 2022: Sonia Zagwyn of Powell River Public Library! Sonia works as the Children's Program Coordinator, and what an amazing job she does. In 2021, her focus was directed towards reconciliation, awareness of our natural environment, and acknowledging diversity and history in a fun, celebratory way that promoted literacy and learning.

A few of her outstanding projects that caught the committee's attention:

In collaboration with the authors of Powell River's first ʔayʔajuθəm (Ayajuthem) Board Book, *Welcome to Here* by Sosan Blaney, Megan Dulcie Dill and Claudia Medina, Sonia created a fantastic visual and audible display in the Children's Room that included the pronunciation of the words. The story was featured in *The PR Peak* in the article "PRPL highlights Indigenous Authors."

From September to November, Sonia joined forces with the local LIFT Family Place to host monthly "Stories in the Garden" at the VCH Hospital Garden. The Family Place brought their clients and children to the garden, and Sonia provided a special Storytime surrounded by nature.

Last year, the Powell River Museum & Archives connected with Sonia while looking to better engage with young people. The result is "Portal to the Past" - a dynamic, bi-monthly YouTube video where Sonia shares a picture book, and the museum contextualizes the story by sharing local history and photographs from the archives. For example, in November, the story *On the Trapline* by David A. Robertson & Julie Flett was combined with photos of Coast Salish peoples in our community living on the land. Sonia received feedback that SD47 teachers were using the video as a teaching tool: <https://youtu.be/67uPSbYSuS0>

In addition, Sonia is committed to supporting the awareness and learning of ʔayʔajuθəm (Ayajuthem) language beyond the traditional Land Acknowledgment. She reached out to the local Tla'amin Nation and was given permission to share a customized Storytime greeting, which she conducts every week (whether in person or via YouTube).

Congratulations Sonia, and thanks for being a Children's Service leader and inspiration.

*Katherine Parker, Co-ordinator YAACS Award Committee*





## We'll Link to That: Recent Library Research for Youth Services

By Lindsey Krabbenhoft

First question: Do you know about the monthly research review put out by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC? Second question: Are you prepared to be overcome with a sense of awe and gratitude that someone else rounds up a ton of relevant research every month FOR FREE?

It is true, folks. [HELP's Human Development Research Review \(HELP Reads\)](#) "aims to expand awareness of topics in human development, particularly social epigenetics, social determinants of health, socio-emotional learning, Indigenous children and youth, and family policy." Every month I read through the citations with an eye for things that are of particular interest to the library world. In today's column, I'm highlighting a few articles I found that pushed me to think deeper about my work as a children's librarian.

### [Starting From Scratch: Building Young People's Digital Skills Through a Coding Club Collaboration with Rural Public Libraries](#)

This research study describes the challenges and successes of a 14-month community-based collaborative research project with the Western Manitoba Regional Library and the creation of coding clubs for kids ages 7 - 14. Acknowledging that access alone is not enough to bridge the digital divide in rural communities, the researchers (including Danielle Hubbard from Port Moody Public Library - way to go, Danielle!) looked into coding clubs that helped kids learn how to problem-solve and think critically, moving from consumers to creators. Researchers found that rural libraries can't make these clubs happen alone - they rely on skilled volunteers and equipment sharing to crowdsource the resources needed to offer the program. Volunteers with coding experience were especially important to overcome the lack of digital skills by the librarians themselves. Another key finding was the success of the CoderDojo curriculum which includes a peer learning aspect. Not only did kids make new friends, but they learned how to use technology together.

**Article recommended for:** Rural librarians looking for partnership inspiration, library staff who work with school-age children, and anyone interested in learning about a new coding club model that can be used in libraries of any size.

### [Extratextual Talk in Public Library Storytime Programs: A Focus on Questions](#)

It's been well established that shared book reading and dialogic reading aid in children's language learning and literacy skill development. The researchers of this article go a little deeper and investigate the types and placement of questions during storytime read alouds. They call this practice 'extratextual talk.' After observing and recording 68 storytimes spread over libraries from three states, they found that 1/3 of the talk generated was the reading of the text, while the rest contained discussions and extensions of the book. However, 10% of the talk focused on management issues (i.e. redirecting behaviour). Children contributed about 33% of all utterances, a finding the researchers highlighted for its implications of storytime as a place where communication and vocabulary building occur. They also found that librarians ask more basic types of questions during shared reading - yes/no, closed-ended, low demand - and that these types of questions are used to check for understanding and keep children engaged in a quick manner. However, the reliance on these types of questions "tends to decrease opportunities for children to fully engage during shared reading and relegates children to passive 'audience' member roles rather than active and fully engaged participants" (p.9).

Another concern noted is the lack of attention to vocabulary in storytime. Their recommendations for storytime practitioners include: planning ahead of time where you will stop to ask open-ended questions and which interesting vocabulary words you can define in storytime. They suggest thinking critically about the types of questions we ask in storytime and to try and vary choices to include vocabulary definitions, print conventions, characters' emotions, and connections to children's experiences. Lastly, to minimize disruption to the flow of the program, storytime leaders can direct children to share responses with their caregivers. And here's a fun fact: I've exchanged emails with one of the researchers, Maria Cahill, and know she's working on a study right now about the impact of virtual storytimes. She's a researcher to watch for sure!

**Article recommended for:** Anyone who does storytime!

### [The Emerging Role of Outdoor Public Librarianship: Understanding the Need for Strengthened Infrastructure](#)

I recognized author Kathleen Campana's name from her work on the [Supercharged Storytimes](#) project, so it's great to see her continue to research public libraries. Coining the term 'outdoor public librarianship' the authors surveyed hundreds of public library



staff to determine the types of library services and patron engagement occurring outside, particularly in 2021 amid the Covid-19 pandemic. After analyzing the survey results, their call to action is the big picture - more infrastructure (hi, managers) for this type of work, a better support system for peer-to-peer networking, and recognition and support from state/province and national levels. My biggest takeaway is the spectrum they present for an outdoor public librarianship model. On one end of the spectrum, the outdoors are viewed as a space to control and programs that used to happen indoors have been moved outside. On the other end of the spectrum, the outdoors is viewed as a new frontier - programs are developed that capitalize on deep connections to nature and were not a simple replication of existing indoor programs. This framework helped me think more critically about the purpose, goals, and content of outdoor programs. Lastly, they mention a forthcoming article that will act as Part 2 which examines the programs and services offered by librarians during the pandemic.

**Article recommended for:** Managers and directors, community librarians, and anyone interested in addressing nature deficit disorder.

Where do you find current research related to youth services? I'd love to know! Feel free to email me at [jbrary@gmail.com](mailto:jbrary@gmail.com).

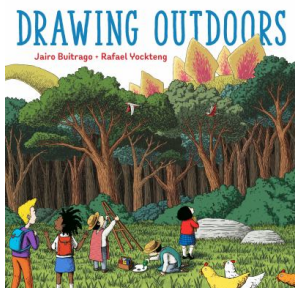
*Lindsey Krabbenhoft is a Children's Librarian in Vancouver, British Columbia and one half of [Jbrary](#), the online children's librarian treasure trove. She is also the co-founder of the [Library Services for Children Journal Club](#) and encourages any other research nerds to join. You can find Jbrary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

## New and Noteworthy Books

By Sadie Tucker

Just a few exciting titles for littles, kids, and teens. In this issue, Francesca de Freitas worked with me to select and annotate the picture books.

### Picture Books – Babies & Preschoolers



#### **Drawing Outdoors**

Buitrago, Jairo

3-7 years

When the teacher announces that the class is going to draw outdoors today, the class sets off to sketch any animals that they find. Fortunately, there is a wide variety of dinosaurs to observe. An understated, quirky book. Canadian.

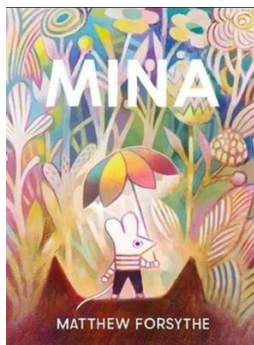


#### **The Big Scream**

Call, Kirsti

2-4 years

When a young child's request for more cookies is denied, he has a full-on meltdown. After a time out where he counts and breathes, he feels calmer and is able to go about his day. Limited text makes this suitable for a wide range of ages. A good selection for storytimes.

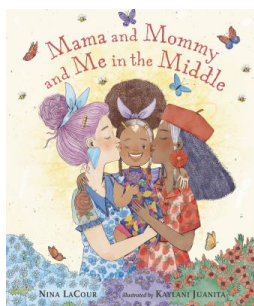


#### **Mina**

Forsythe, Matthew

3-7 years

Mina, a mouse, enjoys her own company while amiably indulging her father's quirky ideas. When her father brings a cat home, claiming it's a squirrel, Mina has reservations. Canadian.



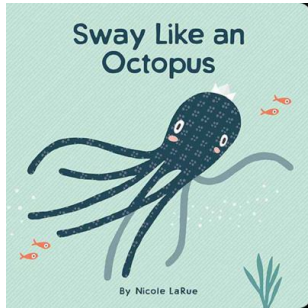
#### **Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle**

LaCour, Nina

3-7 years

When a little girl's Mommy goes away on a business trip for a week, the little girl misses her quite a bit. Fortunately, she still has Mama who is empathetic and supportive. A gentle book that doesn't minimize a small person's big feelings.



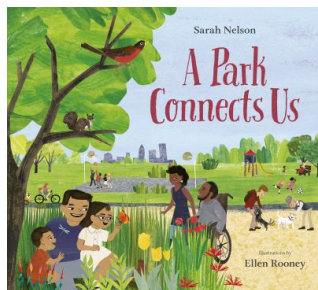


**Sway Like an Octopus**

LaRue, Nicole

2-4 years

"Moving calms your mind and body" starts off this board book that challenges readers to act like different animals. A great book for a rowdy storytime crowd. Illustrations are suitable for a small storytime group, but the text is great for storytimes of any size!

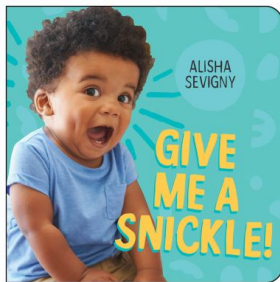


**A Park Connects Us**

Nelson, Sarah

3-8 years

Parks serve a number of vital functions in neighbourhoods and communities. From nature education to entertainment to community building, this book looks at the many important things that parks do for us. A good discussion starter for classrooms.

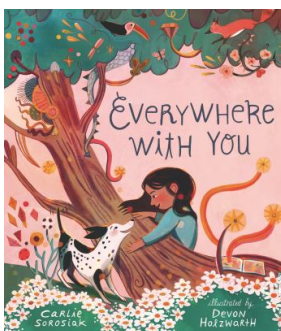


**Give Me a Snickle!**

Seigny, Alisha

0-3 years

What do you get when you combine a snuggle and a tickle? Why, a snickle, of course! Wordplay and cute photos of babies with their caregivers make this a winner for group storytimes. Canadian.

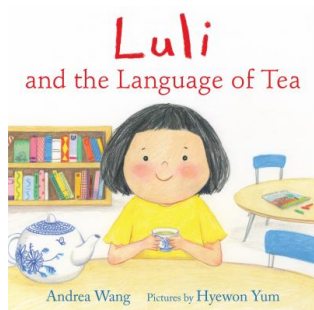


**Everywhere with You**

Sorosiak, Carlie

3-6 years

A dog lives in a backyard and is very lonely. When a little girl from next door begins to read to him, he makes his first friend but continues to be lonely when she is not there. When an opportunity arises, he seizes it to be with his girl. An emotional discussion-starter about animal welfare and empathy.



**Luli and the Language of Tea**

Wang, Andrea

3-6 years

While Luli's mother learns English, Luli spends time in a childcare centre. Usually, the children all play by themselves because none of them speak the same language. Fortunately, Luli has a plan. A sweet and simple story that can open up conversation about communication, world cultures, and tea.

## Picture Books – Big(ger) Kids

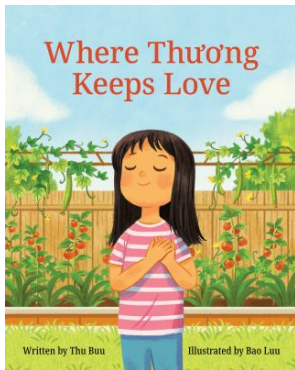


### **The Cot in the Living Room**

Burgos, Hilda Eunice

4-8 years

The young protagonist in this story is envious of those who get to sleep in her family's living room. Her family hosts many children overnight and they usually get special treatment. Unfair! When she gets the chance to sleep in the living room, her perspective shifts. A charming discussion starter about empathy.

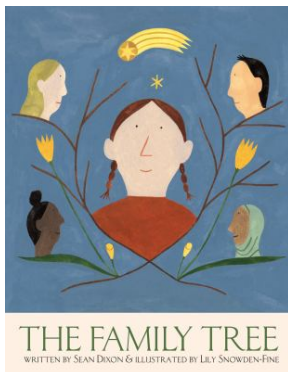


### **Where Thương Keeps Love**

Buu, Thu

5-8 years

Thương talks with her friends and family about where they hold their love. A useful discussion about how we express love and care to those around us. The afterword compares how American and Vietnamese cultures express affection differently.

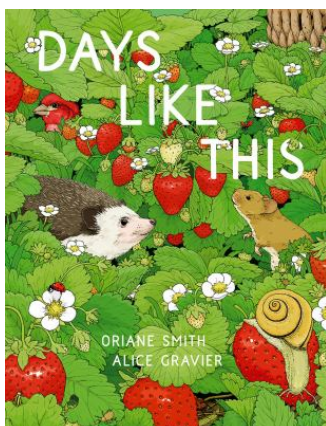


### **The Family Tree**

Dixon, Sean

5-9 years

Ada has been given a blank family tree by her teacher and doesn't know how to complete it. Her family is complicated and just doesn't fit the template. As she and her parents talk with various family members, a beautiful scene unfolds on her worksheet that is so much more than a tree. Canadian.

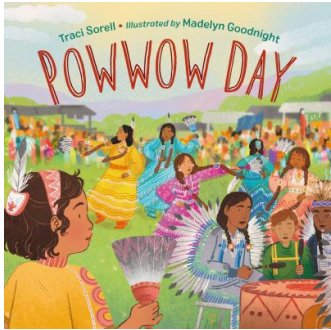


### **Days Like This**

Smith, Oriane

3-10 years

Some days are good and some are bad, but that is the ebb and flow of life. Thoughtful text is repeated on each side of a spread, accompanied by the same scene from a different perspective. The kind of book you pore over. Canadian.

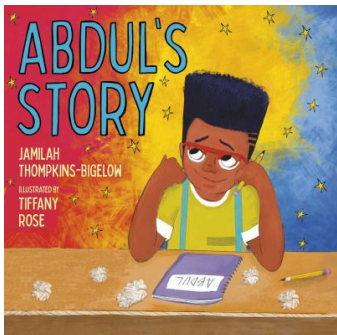


**Powwow Day**

Sorell, Traci

4-7 years

River is recovering from a serious illness and is sad that she cannot dance at the powwow. As she watches with her family, she feels the beat in her heart but continues to feel melancholy. As the powwow nears its end, River gains hope and determination that she will dance at the next one.

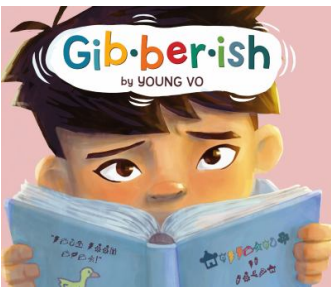


**Abdul's Story**

Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah

5-9 years

Abdul loves to make up stories. He knows he isn't a writer, though, because he has trouble spelling and writing neatly. When a guest teacher leads a writing workshop, Abdul is inspired but quickly becomes discouraged. Fortunately, the guest teacher isn't ready to give up on Abdul just yet.



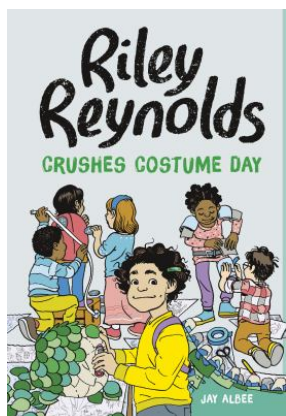
**Gibberish**

Vo, Young

4-8 years

Dat has taken several modes of travel to get to where he is. Now he has his first day of school. Unfortunately, everyone speaks in gibberish. As the day progresses, he becomes increasingly disheartened. Just in time, he finds a friend who makes things a little bit easier.

School Age Fiction - Primary



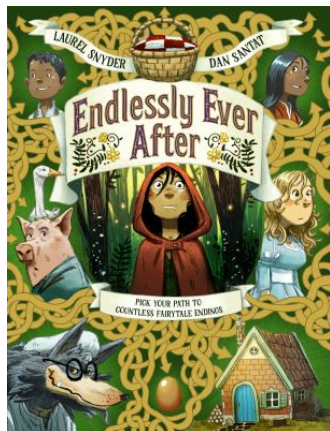
**Riley Reynolds Crushes Costume Day**

Albee, Jay

6-9 years

The first entry in a new series of chapter books featuring Riley Reynolds, a non-binary grade 4 student. It's book week at school and Riley knows exactly what their costume will be. Unfortunately, many of their classmates aren't sure what they want to dress up as. Fortunately, Riley loves to help!





**Endlessly Ever After: Pick Your Path to Countless Fairy Tale Endings!**

Snyder, Laurel

Fairy tale/Choose-your-own-adventure

5-11 years

This book starts off with you having been sent by your mother to check on your sick grandma. From there, your adventure takes a myriad of twists and turns - all depending on the choices you make. Readers will enjoy reading through the different story paths as well as poring over the lush illustrations.

School-age fiction - Intermediate



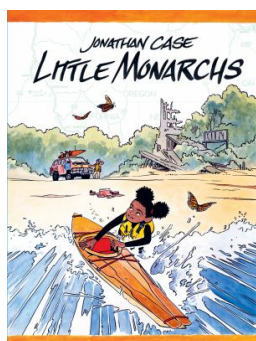
**The Ogress and the Orphans**

Barnhill, Kelly Regan

Fantasy

10 years and up

The town of Stone-in-the-Glen was once a warm and prosperous community. Following a series of calamitous events the town is now divided and distrust runs rampant. When a kindly ogress becomes the victim of dark rumours, it's up to the residents of the local orphanage to mend what has been broken.



**Little Monarchs**

Case, Jonathan

Apocalyptic fiction (graphic novel)

10 years and up

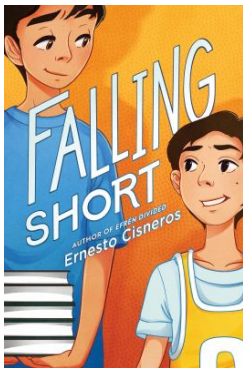
Starred reviews abound for this one, many praising its strong STEM content. Humans have been driven underground ever since the sun mysteriously shifted. Evie and her guardian have discovered a way to survive the sun but the vaccine can only be made in small batches. As they search for a way to mass-produce the serum they also look for Evie's parents who have been missing for years.



**Swim Team**

Christmas, Johnnie  
Sports fiction (graphic novel)  
9-12 years

Bree is excited about starting at her new school. The only problem is that the town is wild about swimming and Bree is terrified of the water. With the help of a retired pro, Bree faces her fear and joins the swim team. Now she might be the town's best hope at winning the big competition. Canadian.



**Falling Short**

Cisneros, Ernesto  
Contemporary/Sports fiction  
9-12 years

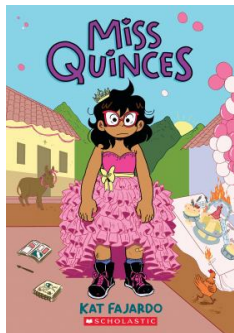
Isaac is a gifted athlete but flounders in school. Marco is a near genius but doesn't have an athletic bone in his body. Despite their differences these besties support each other through family drama and personal struggles. A read that rejects toxic masculinity and embraces the power of male friendships.



**Moonwalking**

Elliott, Zetta  
Historical fiction (novel in verse)  
10-14 years

When JJ's family moves to Brooklyn, he anticipates being bullied just like in his old school. While it isn't easy, he unexpectedly makes a friend bonding over art. When the two are embroiled in a police incident, their treatment at the hands of authority are very different - threatening their friendship.



**Miss Quinces**

Fajardo, Kat  
Contemporary fiction (graphic novel)  
10-13 years

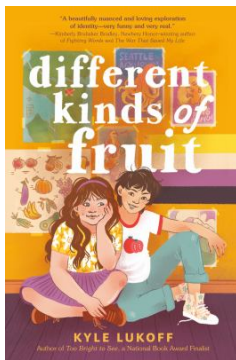
15-year-old Sue would rather be at camp and reading manga alongside her BFFs than in rural Honduras visiting family. To make matters worse, her mother has planned a surprise quinceañera for her - with a princess theme. Will combat-boot wearing Sue make it out of Honduras with her dignity intact?



**Jennifer Chan is not Alone**

Keller, Tae  
 Contemporary fiction  
 10-13 years

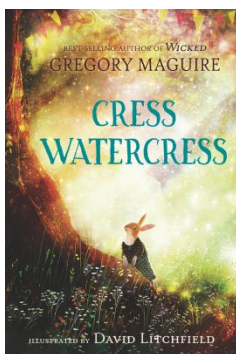
Mallory, who is part Korean and part white, is excited when Chinese American Jennifer moves into her predominantly white town. But Jennifer doesn't fit in at school. After Jennifer goes missing, Mallory searches Jennifer's journal for clues. As she investigates, she realises that her actions likely led to Jennifer's disappearance. A powerful afterword rounds out a moving, compassionate story.



**Different Kinds of Fruit**

Lukoff, Kyle  
 Contemporary fiction  
 9-11 years

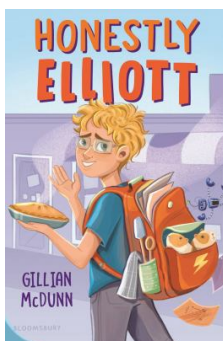
Sixth grade brings excitement and change when a new student, Bailey, who is nonbinary, arrives at Annabelle's school. Thus Annabelle makes a new friend and experiences her first crush. When her parents disapprove of Bailey's gender, Annabelle discovers that her father is trans.



**Cress Watercress**

Maguire, Gregory  
 Animal fiction (illustrated fiction)  
 8-11 years

When Cress' father disappears, her mother moves the rabbit family to a run-down apartment located in a dead tree. As Cress adjusts to her new life and the loss of her father, she discovers new perils, community, and even adventure.

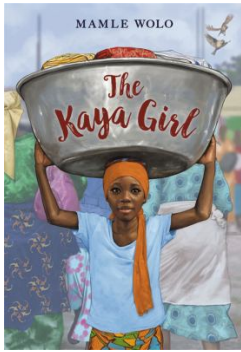


**Honestly Elliott**

McDunn, Gillian  
 Contemporary fiction  
 9-12 years

Elliott has ADHD and ever since his best friend moved away it's been spiraling. The only place Elliott feels in control is in the kitchen cooking. When he is paired with the smartest kid in school for a project the two unexpectedly bond.





**The Kaya-Girl**

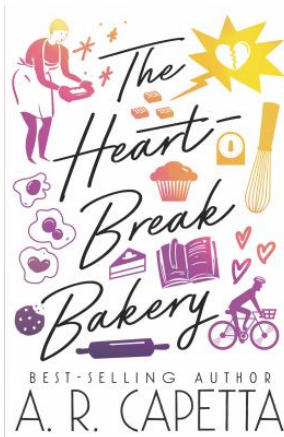
Wolo, Mamle

Contemporary fiction

9-13 years

Abena and Raiza are from different worlds: Abena is from a wealthy family and Raiza works as a porter in a busy market. Despite their differences the two become close friends. As Abena slowly realises the degree of her privilege, Faiza runs into good luck that could help her rise out of poverty.

High School



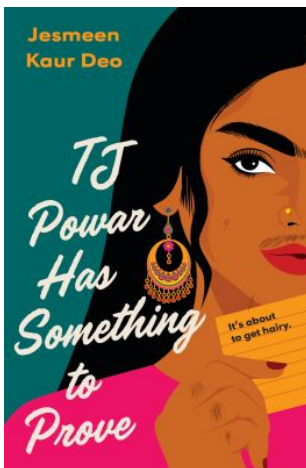
**The Heartbreak Bakery**

Capetta, A.R.

Magical realism/Romance

14 years and up

Syd has just experienced a break-up. Now, Syd's brownies seem to cause break-ups wherever they go. With newfound friend Harley, who might be something more, Syd needs to fix these brownie-caused relationship disasters and get to the bottom of their new magical ability.



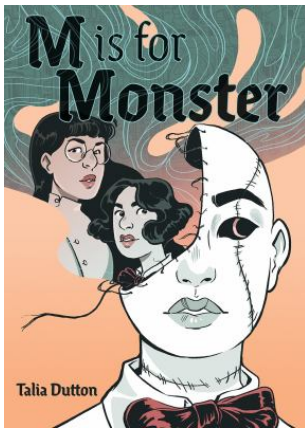
**TJ Powar Has Something to Prove**

Deo, Jesmeen Kaur

Contemporary/Romance

12 years and up

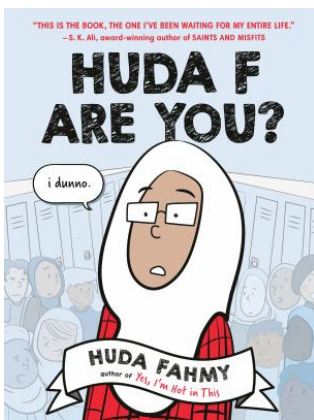
TJ is popular, pretty, and meticulously groomed. When she and her cousin are featured in a cruel meme, TJ decides to stop removing her body hair. As she becomes visibly hairier, TJ's popularity tanks. But it's not just others' perceptions of her that shift. Can TJ convince \*herself\* that she is attractive and worthy with a unibrow and a hairy back? Canadian.



**M is for Monster**

Dutton, Talia  
 Fantasy (graphic novel)  
 14 years and up

Frankie and her sister Maura are scientists who run outlandish experiments. When Maura dies during one of their procedures, Frankie revives Maura's body. But the body no longer houses Maura's soul - it has a new one, called M. Fearing what Frankie will do if she discovers the truth, M makes a pact with Maura's ghost to impersonate her. Deftly balancing heavy themes with quirky humour, this will mesmerize Shelley and non-Shelley fans alike.



**Huda F Are You?**

Fahmy, Huda  
 Contemporary/Humour (graphic novel)  
 12 years and up

Huda has just moved from a small town to a city with a large Muslim community. Sounds great, right? Well, it's a problem if your identity has, up to this point, been focused on being the only one in school who wears a hijab. How is Huda supposed to stand out now?



**Valiant Ladies**

Grey, Melissa  
 Historical/Action  
 14 years and up

Ana and Kiki are socially acceptable women during the day, but at night they take to the streets and enact vigilante justice against those who prey on the weak. When Ana's brother is murdered, they delve into the criminal underworld to unearth the killer. All while trying to resist their love for each other.



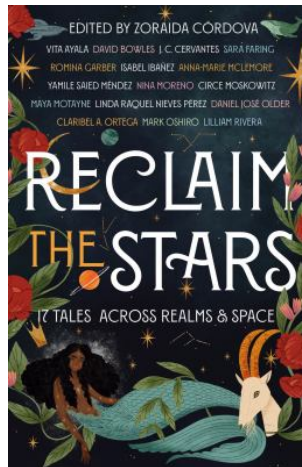
**A Magic Steeped in Poison**

Lin, Judy I.

Historical fantasy

14 years and up

Ning blames herself for her sister's critical illness. In a desperate attempt to get needed medical supplies, she enters a competition to become the royal shennong-shi, who makes tea for the royal family. The competition is cut-throat, but so are the politics that swirl around the event. Great for readers who like complex world building and detailed descriptions of food. First in a duology. Canadian.



**Reclaim the Stars: 17 Tales Across Time and Space**

Short story anthology/Speculative fiction

14 years and up

A collection of short stories set in the present and future, featuring the diversity found within Latin American diaspora communities. Stories cover a variety of themes but are mainly hopeful and self-affirming. A number of queer identities are represented, including a sweet polyamorous relationship.



**Hell Followed with Us**

White, Andrew Joseph

Dystopian/Horror/Romance

14 years and up

Benji has escaped the Angels, the cult that brought about the apocalypse, but not before they changed him. Now he has joined up with the crew from the Acheson LGBTQ+ Center to resist the eco-fascist Angels' horrific plans. Will he be able to control his monster for the good of the world or will he be the harbinger of the end?

*Sadie and Francesca are children and teens' librarians at the Vancouver Public Library.*





## Expanding Program Possibilities - Hosting a Library Nerf Night

By Victoria Ellis

### Breaking the Programming Mold

We all know that libraries offer far more than just books. This includes, but is not limited to digital collections, online course access, maker spaces, and programs. Programs, both passive and staff lead, are at the heart of libraries; they drive circulation while fostering creativity and meaningful connections with patrons. Youth and children’s programmers all have their bread-and-butter offerings like arts and crafts and storytimes but what about something novel, library pun included? When you think of libraries, does high-octane come to mind? No? Well, there is no reason it should not! Pushing the boundaries of programming is evolutionary and Nerf Tag is one way to do so. Nerf is a fantastic activity for people aged 10+. It is great exercise, fosters teamwork and creativity, and allows patrons to connect with libraries in a new way.

### Equipment to Acquire



*Images: Two styles of single-shot Nerf blasters (left). The “Jolt” model is fantastic for its compact size, affordability, and can be dual-wielded if participants should so choose for maximum shenanigans (right).*

- Nerf Pistols- Purchasing the right tactical gear for a Nerf program can be daunting as there are many blaster models to choose from. Although the larger blasters are flashy, they are not cost-effective when over twenty units need to be acquired. Small, single-shot pistols work best. They do not jam, aim relatively true, and launch darts rather far.



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- **Ammunition-** Having several hundred to a thousand foam darts, or enough to fill a large plastic bin, fuels the fun and accounts for any darts that become damaged or lost. People will stuff their pockets with ammo at the start of a game, so having plenty of darts is crucial. Foam balls should be avoided as they tend to shoot faster and the blasters are less cost-effective than the smaller single-shot pistols.
- **Safety Glasses-** Wearing safety glasses at all times is a necessity during Nerf games. No one wants a participant or library staff member getting hit in the eye! Ensure there are enough for both participants and program hosts, plus several extras as backups. Also, acquire two styles of glasses to accommodate individuals with and without prescription eyewear.
- **Rubbermaid Bins-** Having three large bins to hold Nerf blasters, safety glasses, and Nerf darts respectively will help keep things organized and easy to handle. The bins will also prevent the darts from getting squished, which shortens their playable lifespan.
- **Bandanas-** Pick two vibrant, coloured bandanas that are easily differentiated from each other. They will serve as flags during gameplay.
- **Coloured Nametags-** Select nametags with a solid colour that match the bandanas. For example, the orange team has both an orange bandana and orange nametags. Alternatively, sports pinnies could be used but these will need to be washed after every event and multiple sizes will need to be acquired.
- **Music-** If your library has CDs, use those. Alternatively, music streaming services without ads, such as Spotify Premium, work beautifully. Spy music from James Bond, The Pink Panther, The Man from U.N.C.L.E, Mission Impossible, or even Perry the Platypus's theme song from Phineas and Ferb are highly recommended. Music really helps set the mood for goofiness and can bolster shy participants into action. Just ensure that the music is on-theme and age-appropriate.
- **A Megaphone or Whistle-** These are invaluable to signal when a game starts and ends. This will also save the programmers from yelling for hours straight and losing their poor voices.
- **Caution Tape-** This can keep participants and any non-moveable or expensive items safe. Taping off glass walls, or equally hard-to-see locations is recommended. Moreover, caution tape can be used to mark off the play area.

### **Registration and Hosting a Nerf Night**

Registration capped at about twenty participants works well at the Prince George Public Library (PGPL) to create a fun environment, but select the appropriate number for your library space. If you have a small space, have a lower registration cap. Aim for enough players to make the space lively but not too many for the play area to be cramped. Two hosting staff members for up to twenty participants has also worked well at the PGPL. One staff member greets and checks in pre-registered participants while the other does any last-minute setup. Send reminder calls or emails outlining drop off and pick up times and locations is highly encouraged prior to the program. Moreover, if your library does not have a water fountain adjacent to the Nerf play area, encourage participants to bring their own water bottles.

Host the program after normal operating hours. Why? To play in the stacks of course! Ensure participants check-in prior to closing and have them wait in a designated area. Play some icebreaker games such as Duck, Duck, Goose or board games to allow for proper closing procedures and for staff who are not participating to leave the building. As parents drop off their children, remind them of the designated pickup location, such as the main lobby or parking lot.

Break participants into two teams while waiting. Count out 1, 2, 1, 2, etc to keep the teams even but use your judgment and whatever means you see fit to create teams. Once teams are formed, give each of them one of the nametag colours. This will make team identification easy on the fly while participants are moving. Have participants leave their personal belongings in a safe area that will not impede movement and migrate to the designated Nerf area.

Once everyone has migrated, go over the basic rules. For example, designate a safe zone where people can catch their breath and not be targeted, only shots below the neck are permissible, safety glasses must be worn at all times, any areas to avoid, and so on. Once the rules have been covered, give out safety glasses, Nerf guns, and foam darts. Arming participants before stating the rules will result in people not listening or literally running away before the programmers are ready.

### **Games to Play**

Start with a free for all, then progress to other games. Whether the program is for adults or children, everyone will be eager and full of energy at the start. A chance to play freely helps to both break the ice between players and burn off some steam. Let

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the players go for about 10-20 minutes, then call everyone back to the safe zone for another game type. The following games are tried and true suggestions but let your inner child shine and play what works well for your staff and participants. While playing, encourage people to stay hydrated and take breaks as needed.

**Capture the Flag:** There are many different versions of this but the core goal is to have each team hide a bandana on different ends of the play area and to retrieve the other team's bandana to win. Before starting the game, have a staff member inspect each team's bandana for visibility and make adjustments if needed. State how teams can win by either getting the opponent's bandana into the safe zone or back into their own team's zone. Shot players respawn by going to the safe zone. This can be played once or, if participants are enjoying it, play 'best two out of three' to see which team wins.

**Zombie:** This is a game of attrition where zombies infect players resulting in only one uninfected being the last survivor. Have a few players start as zombies without Nerf guns and everyone else as regular players with Nerf guns. Zombies move about and gently tap uninfected players to turn them into zombies, while the uninfected can shoot zombies to buy themselves time to escape. In true horror film fashion, the zombies get back up and start moving again after a few seconds on their endless quest to infect all the regular players.

**Medic:** The goal of this game is to eliminate the other team. To start, each team selects a player to be a medic who can revive shot players by gently tapping them on the shoulder. Everyone gets a Nerf gun, medic included. Teams begin on opposite sides of the play area and move around until they get shot. Once downed, players stop moving, drop to their knees or equivalent for persons with mobility considerations, and call out to their medic for help. The medic then tries to evade flying Nerf darts to revive players on their team. If the medic is shot, they become a normal player and the number of live players will dwindle until only one team is left standing.

**Last One Standing:** The name of this game hits the nail on the head. This is a free for all where it is every player for themselves and, once hit, players spectate from the safe zone to see who the last one standing will be.

After everyone is thoroughly winded, have all participants help with the cleanup. Full disclosure that Nerf darts will be found in nooks and crannies for months following the program. Have parents pick up their children at a predesignated location to ensure everyone connects with their caregivers safely.



*Image: My lovely co-worker and fellow Library Assistant, Elizabeth Hannah (left), and myself (right) up to Nerf tomfoolery in the stacks.*

### Conclusion

Nerf is a unique library program that brings people together. It reveals the inner child in adults while letting children strategize and work collaboratively. Simply put, it is an absolute blast! As libraries evolve and strive to be the living rooms of our communities, Nerf and other modern offerings will continue to diversify what libraries are known for and the patrons we reach.

### Contact

Victoria Ellis is a Library Assistant in Children's Services at the Prince George Public Library. She can be contacted at [vellis@pgpl.ca](mailto:vellis@pgpl.ca) if you would like more information about this program. She started working as a tutor for the library's free Homework Help Program for three years and made a lovely jump to Children's Services team in April 2021.



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# Young Readers' Choice Book Awards Across Canada: What and Why?

By Marilyn MacPherson, President, YRCABC

As a member of the Young Readers' Choice Awards Society of British Columbia, I am often asked, "Just what is this Society and what does it do?" Fair questions!

The Young Readers' Choice Book Awards Society of British Columbia (YRCABC) is a registered provincial society whose purpose is to support and promote the Red Cedar Book Award (a really super fun literacy program!). This annual award is presented to authors whose books have been chosen by kids across British Columbia. Unlike many other children's book awards which are often chosen by adults, it is the kids who get to decide what is their favourite fiction or non-fiction book of the year. Currently, the focus of the award is kids who are in grades 4-7.

This type of award is not unique to British Columbia. Each province or region across Canada has a similar award ranging from the Atlantic Provinces **Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award** to Alberta's **Rocky Mountain Book Award**. What these Readers' Choice Awards have in common is that they are run primarily by volunteers and supported by grants and donations. As well, all of these Awards are committed to developing children's literacy and supporting Canadian authors, illustrators, and publishing.

But not all the Awards are the same! Each Award has its own organizational structure. Ontario's **Forest of Reading** operates under the umbrella the Ontario Library Association, whereas the **Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Awards Inc.** ("MYRCA") is a non-share, not-for-profit corporation, **as explained in their bylaws.** Some have paid staff, while others are run entirely by volunteers. The awards also have different funding structures. YRCABC does not charge a registration fee, as one of its core values is that the Red Cedar Book Award should be freely accessible to all children in BC.



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But doesn't the same title win across Canada? No! This is what is wonderful about having provincial and regional awards. If you look at each award you may notice similarities, but also many differences in the nominated lists and winners. Having provincial and regional awards is important and essential to giving children in every geographical area a voice in their award's outcome, as well as supporting regional writing and publishing.

Please take a look at the Red Cedar Book Award website <https://www.redcedaraward.ca/> to learn more about this award. And, of course, please consider joining the YRCABC team. Thank you for reading this article; I hope that it gave you a brief introduction to Young Readers' Choice Awards in BC and across Canada.



## RED CEDAR BOOK AWARD

2022 - 2023

### FICTION NOMINEES



### NON-FICTION NOMINEES



*Marilyn MacPherson is a children's librarian and advocate for children's literacy.*



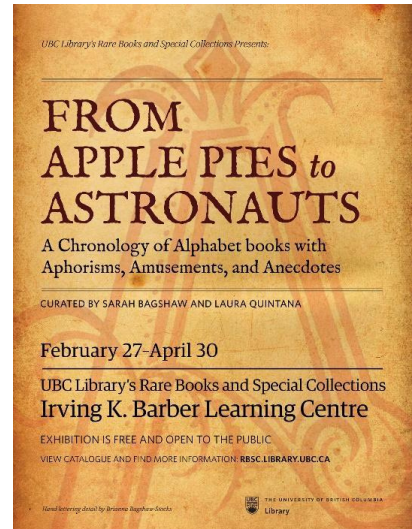
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# From Apple Pies to Astronauts: A Chronology of Alphabet Books with Aphorisms, Amusements, and Anecdotes – Part Seven

By Sarah Bagshaw

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



*In February 2017 I mounted a display of alphabet books in the Rare Books and Special Collections library @ UBC. This was done with Laura for a directed study project under the supervision of Kathie Shoemaker and Chelsea Shriver. The display was opened in time for attendees of the Vancouver Children's Literature Round Table spring conference to visit on their breaks (held in Irving K. Barber building where Rare Books is). We had so much fun researching the development of children's literature, ABC books, picture book illustration, and looking at some incredibly old books as well as many new ones. I thought I could share some of the writing and images from this display in a multi-part series with YAACING members as a welcome distraction from our Covid-influenced lives. Our journey continues through the alphabet with the case representing S, T, and U and the 1970s and 80s.*

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## S T U - 1970s and 1980s Alphabet Books



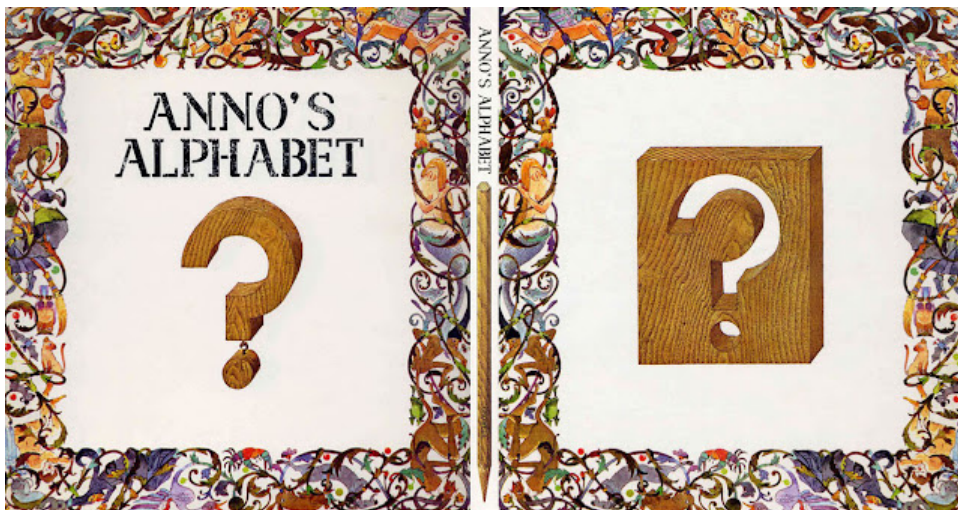
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During the 1970s and early 1980s, children and young adult literature became more pluralistic. The purpose was to reflect an increasingly diverse society and to give voice to those who did not have one. An effort to enrich the landscape of children's books with different perspectives became essential for both authors and publishers. There was also an increase in the publication of non-fiction and art books. Writers took on complexity as an important endeavour experimenting with new narrative styles.

Alphabet books of the time show this effort for pluralism and complexity. One example of this is *Two by two / ¿Dos por dos?*, an alphabet bestiary by Toby Talbot, that was published in 1974 in both English and Spanish. Another example is *Jambo Means Hello*, a Swahili alphabet book by Muriel and Tom Feelings, also published in 1974. The alphabet format can be used to inform children about other cultures and places in the world. Themed alphabet books coupled with an interactive “seek-and-find” component led to alphabet books enjoyed by older children.

Case Seven representing S, T, and U contained the following items plus extra information about a few:



Anno, Mitsumasa. *Anno's Alphabet*. London: Bodley Head. 1974.

- Anno was born in 1926 in Japan and created his first book for children in 1968. His most famous picture book is *Anno's Journey*, a wordless travel through mediaeval landscapes using a perspective technique developed in Edo, Japan in the seventeenth century. Anno's books have widespread and enduring popularity. This is due to his ability to marry ancient styles with current techniques, as well as adding in optical illusions and quirky personal touches.
- Both the alphabet books created by Anno are wordless and spare. Anno's



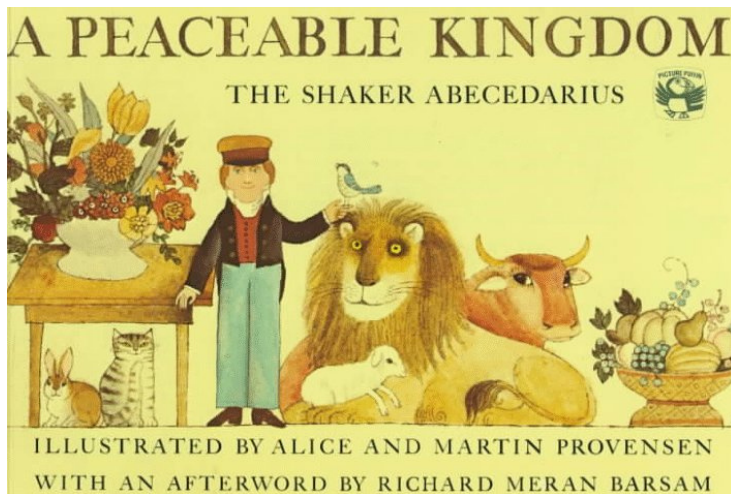
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Alphabet uses a wooden Escher-style letter on the left side and an image of an object that starts with the letter on the right side. However, this book falls into the “interactive” type of alphabet book. There are other things that start with the letter to find in the picture and the borders. Anno’s Magical ABC is an anamorphic alphabet, a style of illustration whose “purpose is solely to mystify and amuse”. A cylinder with a reflective surface is required to see the images on the page correctly, otherwise all the letters and objects remain distorted on the page.

- Anno has won numerous awards including the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award in 1975 for Anno’s Alphabet, the Graphic Award, Bologna Children’s Book Fair in 1980, and the Hans Christian Andersen Award for lasting contributions to children’s literature in 1985.

Peterson, Roy. The Canadian ABC Book. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishing. 1977.



Peaceable Kingdom: The Shaker Abecedarius. Illustrated by Alice & Martin Provensen. Markham, Penguin Books Canada Ltd. 1981.

- A Peaceable Kingdom: The Shaker Abecedarius published in 1978 was inspired by Shaker books created to introduce their way of life to their children. This alphabet was originally published in the

Shaker Manifesto 1882, a monthly periodical produced by the United Societies of Shakers of America. It uses rhyming and nonsense paired with illustrations of animals. This alphabet book still resonates with today’s children due to its rhythmic text and the illustrations of wildlife life paired with Shaker imagery.

- The Provensens both trained at the Art Institute of Chicago and met during WWII working at the Walter Lantz Studio. They illustrated many Little Golden Books and Martin designed Tony the Tiger – the Kellogg’s mascot. They won the Caldecott Medal in 1984 for The Glorious Flight.

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Harrison, Ted. *A Northern Alphabet*. Montreal: Tundra Books. 1982.

- Ted Harrison (1926 – 2015) emigrated from England with his wife and children to the town of Carcross, Yukon in 1967. He came as a teacher but turned into an artist. His colourful, distinctive style is known around the world. It was influenced by his stay in New Zealand and the landscapes of the Yukon. He wrote books for children because he wanted the Cree children of his area to have books that spoke to them. This alphabet book is quintessentially “Canadian” to both those that live here and those abroad.

## a northern alphabet

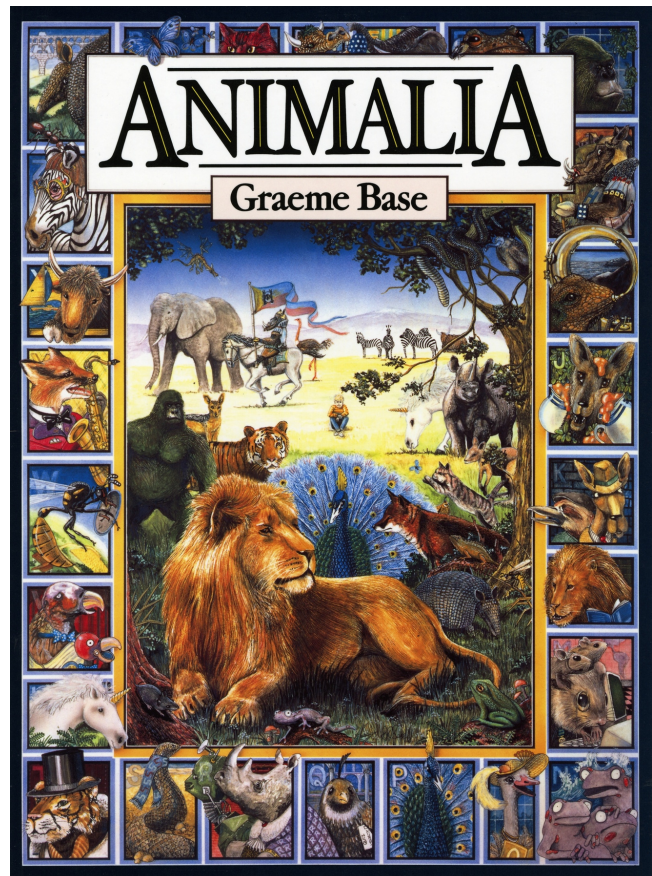


Ted Harrison

- Harrison was awarded the IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) Honor List for Illustration in 1984, New York Times Best Illustrated Books list in 1987, and the Order of Canada in 1987.

Base, Graeme. *Animalia*. Toronto: Stoddart Publishing Co. Ltd. 1993. (Originally published in 1986).

- Australian writer and illustrator, Graeme Base is another children’s book creator who studied graphic design and worked as a commercial artist before switching careers. *Animalia* took three years to create and was an immediate success in the realm of picture books and has sold over three million copies.
- Base's illustrations fill the page and are saturated with colour. In his hands, the traditional alphabet book was changed into an intricate art piece. Each illustration is full of



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objects that start with that letter. Some objects are obvious, and others hidden. Base carries on the alliteration and “seek-and-find” elements of the modern alphabet book with *Animalia*. It is an alphabet book for all ages with the letter and phoneme learning taking a back seat to the visual appreciation of the pictures.

- Base was awarded the Young Australian’s Best Book Award – Best Picture Story Book in 1987, the Picture Book of the Year: Honour Book for 1987 from the Children’s Book Council of Australia, and the Picture Book Winner in 1988 from the Kids Own Australian Literature Awards.



S T U

To be continued in the next YAACing newsletter...

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



# 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! Fill out [THIS SURVEY](#) or send us an email!

For our Winter 2023 issue we are focusing on TEENS! If you work with teens please chat with us about a submission!

The deadline for the next issue of YAACING is **Jan. 15, 2023**

Please email your submissions to the editors at [YAACING@gmail.com](mailto:YAACING@gmail.com)